

TAX TIPS

By David Wheeler,
 managing director
 of the Grangemouth
 office of
 RSM Tenon



ARE you a landlord letting residential properties and looking to reduce the amount of tax you are paying on the profits you have made from your properties? Do you know that residential landlords who install energy saving items in their rental properties, such as loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, solid wall insulation, draught proofing, insulation of hot water systems, and/or floor insulation, can claim an income tax deduction for these expenses of up to a maximum of £1500 per let property against their rental profit? This type of expenditure would otherwise be treated as capital expenditure and would not be tax-deductible from profits.

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Singing star lends a hand as Michael takes tartan to New York



▶▶ **TARTAN DUO:** Michael Lemetti of Clan Italia with Scots singer Paolo Nutini

Paulo puts business on a pedestal

By Jill Buchanan
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SCOTTISH recording star Paolo Nutini is singing the praises of a Falkirk business. The chart-topping musician was in America during last month's New York Tartan Week – and was dressed to thrill in a custom-made suit by Clan Italia. Set up by Camelon chip shop boss Michael Lemetti, the company produces clothes and accessories made from Italy's national tartan. Paisley-born Paolo took to the stage at

the 'Dressed to Kilt' event in the suit and afterwards personally thanked Michael, as well as ordering a pair of jeans made from Italian tartan. Michael, managing director and creator of the Italian tartan, said: "It was one of my proudest moments when Paolo stepped on to the stage to perform the event's opening song Caledonia. People may think a tartan suit is twee, but I don't think anyone who saw Paolo that night left thinking that! He showed the world that tartan can be cool and he told me that he loved wearing it."

Dressed to Kilt is held annually in New York to showcase Scotland's flourishing fashion industry. Clan Italia's 'Kiltie' apron was worn by waiters at the event and is now proving popular back home, being sported by staff from the Lavita Group restaurant chain in Glasgow.

After attending last month's show, Clan Italia now has interest from companies such as First National Bank of Long Island and Michael has even approached business magnate Donald Trump about a venture.

He is also about to embark on collaborations with young Scots designers, including Iona Crawford and David Ogilvie.

Michael has been receiving support from Business Gateway, which provides practical help, advice and support to new and growing firms.

He added: "I am indebted to them. If it hadn't been for the advice and support I wouldn't have benefited as much from the visit to New York. My adviser has given me a huge amount of confidence in my business, pointing me in the right direction and helping me focus on how to best meet the growing demand from overseas."

"Since returning, I've had hundreds of e-mails from companies, such as the bank, interested in buying products for corporate gifts. I've also just taken the first orders for Italian tartan kilts on the back of the event. While I was in New York, I asked Donald Trump if he'd be interested in upholstering his Scottish golf club venture in our tartan and he told me to speak to his son."

Businesses in profile

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and impartial advice to help first time parents, and empathy for more experienced parents, so come visit us for all your baby's needs, down by the riverside!



▶▶ **HOME FROM HOME:** Just some of the beautifully appointed layouts at the Stirling Pram Centre, which help to give an idea of the vast range of goods on offer. The company is proud to have served generations of families

Hotel has ideal package for you



EVERYONE'S idea of a perfect wedding is different – which is why the Grange Manor Hotel's wide range of packages make it the ideal place to tie the knot. The hotel has four packages – Winter Wedding, Summer Wedding, Whirlwind Wedding and Midweek Romance, meaning there is definitely something for everyone. And if you want to see the venue at its best, then this weekend's wedding open day is the ideal opportunity.

As you enter the beautiful sandstone building, you will be greeted by attentive staff and will be able to enjoy a glass of bubbly as you are shown around the venue's function suites and ballroom which can cater for weddings for anything from 20 to 180 guests. Visitors will also be able to take a stroll through the scenic grounds – the background for that all-important wedding photography. The hotel's bedrooms will also be open

so you can view the tastefully designed suites. As well as exploring the venue, there will be displays from a number of high-quality wedding suppliers who will be offering a wide range of special deals on the day. The open weekend is the ideal time to check out the fantastic service, style and packages on offer at the Grange Manor Hotel and book your big day in the perfect venue.

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Stacie nails beautician title at new awards night

BEAUTICIAN Stacie Hopper is on top of the world after picking up a special award – thanks to her customers.

She took the title of Therapist/Beautician of the Year at the first Scottish Health and Beauty Awards on Sunday.

The 24-year-old, who runs Glow Hair, Nails and Beauty in Princes Street, Falkirk, was nominated by the clients who have been going along since the salon opened in September 2007.

They cast their votes on the 5pm. co.uk website, the reservation site which has over 200,000 registered users.

Stacie, who was presented with her award at the Girls' Day Out event at the SECC in Glasgow, said: "I was shocked to learn that I was on the shortlist and delighted to win. What makes it even better is that it is the customers who come into the salon who voted for me – I can't thank them enough."

A former student of Forth Valley College, Stacie is both a beauty therapist and nail technician.

After the awards ceremony, she and fellow recipients, including celebrity hairdresser Taylor Ferguson who received a Lifetime Achievement Award, attended a special dinner at the Corinthian, where guests included TV presenters Justin and Colin and Miss Scotland, Nicola Minnagh.

Stacie said: "It was a wonderful night and I was just happy to be part of it. My ambition now is to keep increasing my business and open an even bigger salon."

Charles Shaw, chairman of 5pm.co.uk said: "Scotland has a quality, thriving health and beauty sector and we wanted to celebrate and reward the hard work that goes into making a salon or spa truly great."



▶▶ **WINNER:** Stacie Hopper

Hairdressing salons come together

THE owners of Hair Oasis, one of Cumbernauld's longest established hairdressers, are delighted to announce the amalgamation of their two salons. From next Tuesday, May 17, stylists Joanne and Claire will be based in the Cumbernauld Town Centre salon at 50 Teviot Walk, where the standard of service offered to all male and female customers will be as high as ever. Owners of the highly-regarded family

business, Derek Mitchelson and son, Derek junior, better known as Mitch, are sad their salon in Abrohill is closing its doors after 25 years, but are looking forward to an exciting future for the business. Derek said: "The decision to amalgamate the two salons has been made to help us maintain the high standards we set for ourselves and ensure every customer receives the

kind of service we are passionate about delivering. "We would like to reassure our customers that the sterling service they have become accustomed to from us will still be available at the Cumbernauld Town Centre salon. "All of the stylists that our clients have grown used to will still be on hand, offering our wide range of products and expert services."



▶▶ **ALL TOGETHER:** The staff of the amalgamated salon, right, and the town centre shop front, above.



Hair Oasis
 Ladies Salon & Barber Shop

ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THE AMALGAMATION OF OUR 2 SALONS FROM TUESDAY 17 MAY

All stylists will then be working in the Town Centre salon and we look forward to welcoming our Abrohill patrons

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01236 456200