



AWARD WINNER:
Charlie Bloe from
Bonnybridge

Training aid prize

A HEALTH worker from Bonnybridge has won a top award for his innovative work in stroke care.

Charlie Bloe (51), a clinical manager at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, developed an online training programme to educate health professionals on the link between atrial fibrillation and strokes.

His work was recognised by landing first prize at the prestigious Thrombus Innovation Awards in London, the only contender from Scotland.

The interactive e-learning programme helps healthcare professionals identify atrial fibrillation, a common heart rhythm responsible for 15 per cent of all strokes.

A former St Mungo's High School pupil, Mr Bloe said: "I am absolutely delighted to have won such a prestigious award. It is particularly pleasing to have done so as the only entry from Scotland in the final shortlist."

"Strokes that occur as a consequence of atrial fibrillation tend to be more severe and disabling, often with truly awful consequences for the victim and their families."

"Our educational course has been undertaken by over 7000 healthcare professionals to date. We know that as a consequence many of them have increased their surveillance of patients to detect atrial fibrillation and will have prevented strokes."

Michael's dash to castle with kilt delights Bublé

BY JILL BUCHANAN
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A FALKIRK businessman's tartan dash made a visit to Scotland memorable for one of the world's top recording stars.

Michael Lemetti delivered a kilt for Canadian crooner Michael Bublé in just three hours when he was at Stirling Castle to appear in a festive TV special.

The singer was so delighted with it, he plans to wear it at his next Scottish concert.

Michael Bublé was in the area to perform alongside Rod Stewart and Kylie Minogue on the show which was broadcast on STV earlier this month.

As he flew in, Michael was desperately trying to get his measurements to be able to have the surprise gift made up.

He eventually got the information and with the help of a Motherwell-based kiltmaker was able to hand it over in person.

As well as running the family chip shop business in Camelon, Michael is also the boss of Clan Italia which produces Italian national tartan.

It has already been worn by a number of celebrities over the years, including Paolo Nutini, Antonio Carluccio, Sir Rocco Forte and the Italian rugby team.

However, his latest tartan challenge proved tricky to deliver due to the short timespan involved.

Michael said: "Like myself,



Michael is half Italian and when I heard he was coming to Stirling I was desperate to kit him out in his very own Italian national tartan kilt.

"After numerous phone calls I managed to speak to the TV production manager on the morning of his performance to find out his waist size, and from there I had the kilt made within three hours thanks to the endeavours of Glenisla Kilts.

"When I turned up at Stirling Castle I was delighted with how well I was received, and was even ushered in to personally meet him.

Michael was thrilled with the kilt and even thanked me on-air on the STV special."

Clan Italia is Michael's brainchild. He created and registered the first approved ethnic tartan in Scotland.

He said the Italian national tartan was designed to represent "the strength and pride of the Italian people, each colour is significant to the Italian heritage to embody the culture, traditions and history". It has been in production for the last eight years.

He added: "To have an incredible artist like Michael

Bublé rave about my tartan was a very proud moment and it would be an honour, as well as a tremendous thrill, if he wore it on stage."

Clan Italia has also designed and registered the Milan Club Scozia tartan for the AC Milan Scottish Supporters Club, and a new Brazilian national tartan is currently in preparation ahead of the forthcoming World Cup in Brazil.

TARTAN BUDDIES:
Falkirk businessman
Michael Lemetti with
crooner Michael Bublé
at Stirling Castle

... while auntie Ella makes progress

AN 85-YEAR-OLD woman who was left with shattered bones after a traffic accident is now on the road to recovery.

Family members say Ella Lemetti, who was fighting for life after being struck by a vehicle in Main Street, Camelon last month, is now breathing on her own without requiring a ventilator and is undergoing rehabilitation.

Irene Vannucci, Ella's cousin, said: "She broke bones in her neck and legs and broke her ribs - which led to one of her lungs being punctured. She underwent an operation and is now able to breathe without assistance."

"She is now very alert and asking to do her Christmas list from her bed. It's amazing for an 85-year-old to have even survived this, never mind be doing as well as she is at the moment."

"After the accident she told the ambulance staff she just wanted to be taken home for a cup of tea. She's a real fighter."

Ella is understood to have got off a bus from Edinburgh on Saturday, November 10, at 7.15 p.m. and was on her way home, crossing the street near The Coppertop, when the accident happened.

She was rushed to Forth Valley Royal Hospital in Larbert and taken straight to intensive care.

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