

Five things you need to know today



Oaklands Special School – Last minute Christmas presents – Have a WHALE of a Christmas – Traffic Free Holyrood Park for Christmas -Videos

Staff and pupils at Oaklands Special School on Ferry Road were celebrating this week when they were awarded the MOVE quality mark and a lovely flag to show off the fact! [Read more here.](#)

There is always something to be bought at the last minute. Even in the days of tightening belts chocolate always goes down a treat.... [Read our advertorial here](#) for inspiration! (and news of a shop which is open on Christmas Day!)

WHALE Arts in Wester Hailes is a community arts organisation which really does make a difference. And here they wish you a Happy Christmas in their own unique way!

Visitors to Holyrood Park in Edinburgh will be able to enjoy a safe, traffic-free environment during four days of road closures over the festive season.

There will be road closures on December 25th, December 26th 2012, January 1st and January 2nd 2013.

There will also be additional road closures on Saturday January 5th and Sunday January 6th for the International Cross Country races and 5 Km public races.

The closures, which operate from 8am till 4pm on the 25th and 26th and 8am till 5pm on the 1st and 2nd, will be put in place at Queen's Drive and Duddingston Low Road.

Martin Gray, Ranger and Visitors Services Manager for Historic Scotland at Holyrood Park, said : "These closures follow on from the success of previous years closures, encouraging people to use the Park in a safer, traffic-free environment and to take their new bikes and other Christmas presents outside for the first time.

"The closures will also allow us to welcome back several popular events as part of Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations including Dogmanay and the Tri-athlon. In addition we are also closing the Park over the weekend of Saturday 5th January to accommodate the International Cross Country and public 5km race.

"We would like to thank drivers for their understanding, particularly during the festive season when the Park is so busy."

The High Road loop will remain open to cars on the 25th, 26th and 2nd, weather permitting, and drivers can leave their

vehicles as usual at the Park's Holyrood Palace, Meadowbank and Duddingston car parks which are free of charge on these dates.

The Reporter has been having a bit of a video fest over the last week or so and in particular yesterday when we were out at [Gogar watching the tram being put through its paces](#). We have also just found this rather long but very interesting video on YouTube of Edinburgh trams in the 1950s. Scroll to about 54minutes and you will see a tram on Princes Street. It will be 2014 before the tram is on Princes Street again.

If you have a story that you think would be best told on video then get in touch with us and we will happily film it for you. You can see our other videos on our YouTube channel but here is a short one of the Galloping Horses to keep things festive.

And Edinburgh's Queen Margaret University lecturer, Walid Salhab, has published his lovely time lapse video of Edinburgh on Vimeo by way of a Christmas card to everyone in Edinburgh. How lovely this is!

[Kinetic Edinburgh II](#) from [walid salhab](#) on [Vimeo](#).