

Five things you need to know today



RNLI rescue a Christmas tree – Happy Christmas from Lothian Buses – Free Football in Gorgie and Dalry – My Place Awards – Reminder about your bin collection

In Anstruther the RNLI were called out to save the day when the town's Christmas tree toppled into the sea! Watch the rescue here:-

Lovely video Christmas card here from Lothian Buses!

Tomorrow morning Saturday 22nd December at Dalry Park from 10am-2pm

If you're aged 8-18 and live in the Gorgie/Dalry Area, come and have a game! As part of Operation Cipher Lothian and Borders Police and Dunedin Canmore are holding free football sessions through December and the New Year. Girls and boys welcome, just bring comfortable clothes and trainers, and an emergency contact name and telephone number.

Christmas is the time of year for the whole family and the latest partnership project with the Police, the Council's South West Neighbourhood Team, the Fire Service, Dunedin Canmore Housing and Castlerock Edinvar are keen to include all age groups in their events too.

Based in Gorgie, Dalry and Fountainbridge, Operation Cipher 2 follows on from the recent success of the first Operation Cipher, which was based in the Calders area of the city. The aim of the project is to speak with local people and encourage them to work with the different agencies involved to improve the area. Since this project started in November the teams have been dealing with antisocial behaviour issues in the area such as dog fouling, fly tipping, smoking related litter, graffiti and noisy neighbours. However, what really marks out this project though are the different methods by which the teams are engaging all sections of the community.

From hosting games of football with local teens on a mobile pitch to meeting with older reading groups in the local library the teams have been working hard to make sure that they engage as wide a range of residents as possible.

“What we want to do is speak to as many local residents as possible. We want them to tell us where the problems are in the area and how they want to see us deal with them. All the agencies involved are professionals at what they do but what we’re looking for are local residents to give us their local knowledge of what’s going on in the area. Rather than waiting for people to come to us we’re going out into the community, to local supermarkets, local youth clubs and the local library to make it as easy as possible for people give us their thoughts.”

If you live or work in Gorgie, Dalry or Fountainbridge and want to get involved in this project contact the South West Neighbourhood Office on 0131 527 3800 or email southwestteam@edinburgh.gov.uk

The Scottish Civic Trust is inviting entries and nominations for their My Place Awards. Community based groups including civic societies, amenity groups, history and heritage societies, preservation trusts, community councils, development trusts, and other local voluntary groups can enter. The winner in 2012 was the Maryhill Burgh Halls in Glasgow.

In 2013 a Scottish Civic Trust My Place Award will recognise a building, landscape or public realm project that has had a positive impact in a local neighbourhood and has delivered tangible benefits to that community. Also, a Scottish Civic Trust My Place Civic Champion Award will be presented to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to the promotion and protection of their local heritage. Any community based group can nominate a project or person.

Entry is free and there is still plenty of time as the deadline for the 2013 Awards is 31 January 2013. Full details of the award can be found at www.myplaceawards.org.uk

Entries must be recently completed projects. These can be new build, restoration, conservation, redevelopment, landscape or public realm projects. Entries for both categories will be published online and the winning and commended entries will be presented at a special ceremony at The Lighthouse in March 2013.

The council are reminding you that the rescheduled collections over Christmas and New Year [can be checked here on their website](#). Failing that there are community recycling areas open for all your extra rubbish. Any problems you can email the council at waste@edinburgh.gov.uk

