


Lord Provost is game for the Loony Dook



Showing that there is more to keeping fit than just doing a 5k the Lord Provost the Rt Hon Donald Wilson is chilling out this Christmas ready for the Loony Dook on New Year's Day.

Part of the three day festival for Edinburgh's Hogmanay, the event will see over 1,000 'Dookers' cheered on by 4,000 spectators start 2015 with a dip in the River Forth in the shadow of the world-famous Forth Bridges.

 The Lord Provost, Councillor Donald Wilson, has signed up to take part in order to raise money for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution [RNLI], which provides a 24-hour lifeboat search and rescue service across the UK.

He commented: "The event is great fun and will be raising money for a fantastic charity. The South Queensferry branch of the RNLI will receive a 10 per cent donation from each registration fee for the event this year. I'm either brave or barmy to sign up, but I'm very glad to lend my support. I wish everyone taking part the best of luck and a happy – albeit chilly – start to the New Year!"

The Loony Dook is organised by Unique Events, who produce Edinburgh's Hogmanay on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council. Earlier this month, organisers confirmed that M&D's, who operate Scotland's Theme Park in Strathclyde Country Park and also run the Edinburgh's Hogmanay carnival, will be supporting the event. It is also funded by EventScotland and Scotland's Winter Festivals.

This year's event has been a sell out and no more spaces are available. It will start with a Dookers' Parade, led by the

Beastie Drummers, at 1.20pm followed by the Dook itself at 1.30pm on Thursday 1st January. Spectators are welcome to cheer on the Dookers from various vantage points along the route.

Story of the Leith man who signed up 100 years ago today



Record reveals the story of a Scot who signed up on Boxing Day in the last century.

A hundred years ago today a young man from Leith registered to join the British Army, pledging to play his part in the war that was supposed to end all wars.

Scotland's national archivists this week unearthed his registration certificate, issued on Boxing Day 1914 by the Army Recruiting Office then based in Cockburn Street, Edinburgh.

The discovery of the certificate, 'of a man who is willing to serve his King and Country as a Soldier for the War' prompted record keepers at National Records of Scotland to find out more about John's First World War story.

By 13 January 1915, John, a 20 year-old butcher, had formally enlisted in the Army and went on to serve in the 9th Battalion, Royal Scots Regiment, then in the 12th Machine Gun Corps.



John was one of more than 650,000 Scots who served in the First World War, leaving his parents, George and Mary Clapperton and their home in Dalmeny Street behind him.

After three years stationed in Kilmarnock and Grantham, Private John Warnock Clapperton was sent on active service to France, where he was badly wounded and left with no option but to have his right arm amputated in the field hospital.

The operation prevented John from completing his duties overseas and forced his return across the Channel, to hospitals in Reading and later in Edinburgh where he underwent further treatment. John's devastating injury in the field may have saved his life.

In February 1919 John Warnock Clapperton was discharged from both the Edinburgh War Hospital at Bangour and the Armed Forces.

Unlike more than 100,000 Scots who never returned, John survived the First World War – returning to Leith where later in life he married Catherine Martin in 1941. John died in 1966, aged 71.

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Europe and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop, said:

“The First World War claimed the lives of more than 100,000 Scots and left many more, like Private John Clapperton, injured or disabled. No home, workplace or community was left untouched by the brutal effects of that war, leaving John's family, and families across Scotland with no option but to come to terms with the devastating consequences.

“John's is a story that will be familiar to many whose fathers, grandfathers, uncles and brothers went off to battle a century ago. Through the work of the Scottish Commemorations Panel, from 2014 to 2019 the Scottish Government is encouraging people of all ages across Scotland to recognise

the significant and broad impact the First World War had on our nation and its people, and to reflect on its lasting social and civic legacy.

“John’s registration certificate has given us an interesting insight into the life of a young Scot whose wartime Christmas a 100 years ago would have been quite different to ours today.

“The document is one of millions proudly preserved in our national archive by National Records of Scotland. Its discovery demonstrates the rich heritage of Scotland’s people and shows how powerfully archives connect us directly to people and events in our past.”

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Not too late for the Loony Dook

Is your name Nicola or Nicholas? Free tickets here!

Exercise with a professional

At Talbot Rice in 2015

Museum may be closed today

Now that some of the main Christmas eating events are over you may think it time to challenge yourself to get outdoors. There are still some tickets left to take part in the Loony Dook at South Queensferry on New Year’s Day. Tickets cost £9. More details [here](#).

Edinburgh's Christmas is offering 450 free tickets today to anyone who turns up at their rides and who can prove their name is Nicola, Nick or Nicholas.

Details of all the rides are on the Edinburgh's Christmas [website](#).

Hotel guests looking to experience a fast-track – and healthy – tour of Edinburgh's famous landmarks can now do so with the help of one of the world's leading endurance runners.

The Crowne Plaza Edinburgh – Royal Terrace has created the perfect solution for on-the-go guests to combine business, site seeing and exercise.

Available 24/7 to all guests, The Energy Station is a dedicated unit within the hotel that provides a range of specially designed running, cycling and walking routes conceived by General Manager Lucja Leonard – using her skills as a leading super-marathon runner.

Lucja has six years experience competing in long distance running events and only last week returned from South Africa after finishing eighth in the gruelling Kalahari Endurance Marathon.

From running up Arthur's Seat, to experiencing the bustling Princess Street or the iconic Calton Hill, Lucja has designed three unique routes for guests to witness the world-reknewed splendour of Scotland's capital – at a time and pace that suits them.

Ranging from 3-5 miles, the routes are suitable for runners of all ages and experience and are designed to be completed within an hour, perfect for executive guests on a tight deadline.

Lucja is on hand to lead group sessions, be a running partner and give advice on warming up and warming down as well as overseeing the day to day management of the hotel.

She said: "Many of our guests are pressed for time, having the dedicated energy station allows them to choose a time or route that suits them and their working schedule, its open 24/7 so guests are always in control of their stay and trip.

"We understand the needs of today's modern business traveller and how vital it is to make every stay as productive and successful as it can be for them.

"Our guests are passionate about what they do and so are we, a business trip is seen as a positive opportunity to connect with others and our Energy Station and running routes are an extension of that."

The seven individual townhouses that make up the hotel date back to 1860 and provide the perfect starting point for a whistle stop tour of the historic city centre.

The Energy Station includes professional running maps and when guests return from their sight-seeing they can grab a towel, complimentary water and fresh fruit to replenish their energy.

Lucja added: "Not only does it provide an opportunity to see the world famous sites of Edinburgh, it provides a healthy environment to socialise and I have been a running partner more than once to guests, which I really enjoy.

"The feedback we have had from guests so far has been overwhelmingly positive, they said the maps were clear and direct and they enjoyed the views and exercise."

Located just five minutes from Princes Street, the Crowne Plaza Edinburgh – Royal Terrace, has recently undergone a dramatic face lift involving a £7.25 million investment.

The hotel specialises on meeting the needs of the modern business traveller, reinforcing the Crowne Plaza ethos of giving corporate guests the opportunity to keep connected and working, to refuel and to enjoy a rejuvenating night's sleep to be ready to tackle the day ahead.

As well as offering Crowne Plaza's exclusive Sleep Advantage™, which includes a range of features from luxurious bedding to quiet zones, each of the 97 rooms includes complimentary high speed internet and flat screen TVs.

In 2015 the University of Edinburgh's Talbot Rice Gallery celebrates its 40th birthday.

This landmark will see a series of celebrations and events throughout the year, accompanying a dynamic programme of exhibitions by local and international artists, plus new initiatives focused on supporting and developing young creative talent and developing academic collaborations with both staff and students from across the University.

[More details here....](#)

There is a possibility that the National Museum of Scotland on Chambers Street might not be open today as planned due to strike action by employees.

You might like to check [here](#) if the building is to be open. Here is the view from the roof for you if you don't get there yourself today!



If you are reading this article on paper and would like to visit the website then scan the QR code above with a

smartphone or tablet and you will be taken straight there.

Friday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



Edinburgh Zoo is open today! Please note: entrance charges apply, some animal houses close 30 minutes before the Zoo closes, Zoo opening may be affected by severe weather (see website for updates), and you will need a timed ticket to see the pandas. Full information re entrance prices, panda tickets, etc on [website](#). 9am-4.30pm, [Edinburgh Zoo](#), 134 Corstorphine Road.



The Royal Yacht Britannia is open today! 10am-3.30pm (last admission), [Royal Yacht Britannia](#), Ocean Terminal, Leith. Entrance charges apply: see website.

Edinburgh's Christmas: the rides, slides, workshops and skating rinks are open today (subject to weather). Admission charges apply, and advance bookings may be made via website. Remember Edinburgh residents who bring valid proof of an EH postcode address receive a 20% discount on most rides and events (not in the markets) – so don't forget your bank statement, driver's licence or bus pass! [Edinburgh's Christmas](#), various venues in Princes Street and St Andrew's Square.



The Camera Obscura is open today! An unusual way to see the city and learn about its history. See live moving images of Edinburgh projected onto a viewing table through a giant periscope: pick people up in your hands and squash them to pulp, and even make the traffic climb over paper bridges. 10am-6pm (last presentation begins approx 1 hour before closing), [Camera Obscura & World of Illusions](#), Castlehill, Royal Mile. Admission charges apply: see website.



Scottish Seabird Centre: if you like the sound of a trip out of town, the Seabird Centre is open today. If the weather is fine, you could take a bracing walk along the beach before warming up in the Centre's **cafe and shop**. You can also visit all of the Centre's **Discovery Zones**, which include cameras focused on islands in the Forth, a Scope Deck, Wildlife Theatre, Flyaway Tunnel and Turtle and Ray Zone, plus a Kids' Zone where the little ones can go wild, and a Kids' Corner for quieter playtime. 11am-4pm, [Scottish Seabird Centre](#), North Berwick. Free entry to shop and cafe (which has a viewing deck), charges apply for Discovery Zones – full details on [website](#). North Berwick is about 30 minutes drive from Edinburgh. Please note: no trains will run on the Edinburgh-North Berwick Line today.



The Soul Foundation: authentic Motown funk/soul from vocalist **Stevie Braxton** and his fresh new six-piece unit, with backing vocals and hot horn section. 9pm (entry from 8pm)-12 midnight, [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. £5/£4 on the door, cash only.

The Big Boss Jump/Jive Band: blues slide and rock guitarist **Dave Dixon** brings in his new five-piece band, 'delivering an intoxicating mix of fifties jump/jive, blues, RnB, rockabilly and ska, plus Funk DJ'. 12 midnight (entry from 11.30pm)-

late, [The Jazz Bar](#), 1a Chambers Street. £5/£4 on the door, cash only.



Boxing Day Night Only! Dance party with the DJs from **Club Spiegel at The Famous Spiegeltent**. 8pm-late, [The Counting House Bar](#), 36 West Nicolson Street. Advance tickets £3 each (subject to booking fee) from [Ripping Records](#) (South Bridge) or [Tickets Scotland](#), Rose Street. 'Life is short, and there will always be dirty dishes, so let's dance'.

Feast of St Stephen Masses: 10am, 11am (Polish), 12.45pm and 6pm (Polish), [St Mary's RC Cathedral](#), York Place.

St Stephen's Day Mass: 12.20pm, [Old St Paul's Episcopal Church](#), 39 Jeffrey Street.

The National Museum of Scotland is open today! From the age of dinosaurs to the technology of the future, the galleries contain treasures from around the world. 12 noon-5pm, [National Museum of Scotland](#), Chambers Street. Free entry (charges apply for some special exhibitions – see website for information).



The National Galleries, National Library, Edinburgh City Museums & Galleries and all Edinburgh Leisure venues (pools, leisure centres, council golf courses, etc) are closed today.

Christmas Day in Edinburgh – What's On Today



Serenity Cafe is open today and every day throughout the holidays for people who need a safe place to be. Today it will provide a Christmas meal for people in recovery who might otherwise spend Christmas alone. [Serenity Cafe](#), 8 Jackson's Entry, The Tun, 111 Hollywood Road. Serenity is Scotland's first Recovery Cafe, run by people in recovery for people in recovery, and for public customers who want good value, good quality food in a relaxed space. All events are drink and drugs-free and are family-friendly. For more information re opening hours, etc call the cafe on 0131 556 8765.

We love the project that Comas who run the cafe are firmly behind and The Edinburgh Reporter interviewed the CEO of Comas Ruth Campbell a week or two ago about the Twenty More Project. Watch this here:

[The Edinburgh Reporter NEWS Twenty More Project](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).



Social Bite Merry Christmas: Social Bite will be open today, offering a Christmas meal exclusively to anyone who is homeless. The founders, Josh and Alice, and some of their team will be at their shop in Rose Street, serving up Christmas dinner with all the trimmings. You can **donate the cost of a meal** by visiting any one of Social Bite's four shops (Rose St and Shandwick Place in Edinburgh, St Vincent St and Bothwell St in Glasgow). They also ask you to tell anyone you know who is homeless and who has nowhere to go today that they can come along to the Rose Street shop. 12 noon-4pm, [Social Bite](#), 131

Rose Street.



Edinburgh Zoo is open today! Please note: entrance charges apply, some animal houses close 30 minutes before the Zoo closes, Zoo opening may be affected by severe weather (see website for updates), and you will need a timed ticket to see the pandas. Full information re entrance prices, panda tickets, etc on [website](#). 9am-4.30pm, [Edinburgh Zoo](#), 134 Corstorphine Road.

A Selection of Church Services for Christmas Day



Christmas Day Family Service: 10am, [Polwarth Parish Church](#), Polwarth Terrace. All welcome.

Morning Worship: *Celebration*. Come and celebrate: all very welcome. 11-11.55am, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street.



Christmas Day Service: 10.30-11.30am, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), Greyfriars Place.

Mass of the Nativity: 10.30am, [St Mary Star of the Sea](#), 106 Constitution Street, Leith.

Christmas Day Service: 11am-12 noon, [St Cuthbert's Parish Church](#), Lothian Road.

Christmas Eucharist and Nativity Tableau (all children are invited to take part). Preacher: **the Bishop**, setting: Haydn *Missa Sancti Nicolai*. 10.30am, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place.

Christmas Day Masses: 9.30am (celebrant: **Archbishop Cushley**), 11.30am, 1.15pm (Polish) and 5.45pm (Polish), [St Mary's RC Cathedral](#), York Place.

Christmas Day Services: Communion: 9.30am, Family Worship Service: 11am, [Portobello and Joppa Parish Church](#), Brunstane Road North.

Christmas Day Service: 10am, [Morningside Parish Church](#), Cluny Gardens/Braid Road.

Sung Eucharist: with carols and baptism. 11am, [Christ Church Morningside](#), 6a Morningside Road.



Christmas Day Eucharist: 10.30am, [St Vincent's Episcopal Chapel](#), St Vincent Street.

Christmas Family Eucharist: 9.30am, [St John's Episcopal Church](#), Princes Street.

Service of Lessons and Carols: 11.15am, [St John's Episcopal Church](#), Princes Street.

Family Service: 10.30am, [Morningside United Church](#), 15 Chamberlain Road.

Christmas Day Family Service: 11-11.45am, [Canongate Kirk](#), 153 Canongate.

High Mass of Christmas Day: 10.30am, [Old St Paul's Episcopal Church](#), 39 Jeffrey Street.



Five things you need to know on Christmas Day Edinburgh!



Wishing you a very Happy Christmas

Christmas message from the Lord Provost


Enter our glamping competition!

Barrett donate to foodbank

Get along to the Christmas Day Football Party

We wish you a very Happy Christmas today however you choose to spend it and wherever you are and whoever you spend it with.

We would also like to thank you for reading throughout the year and hope that we fill a little gap in your lives!

 A Christmas message from the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh:

There can be few places as magical as the Capital at Christmas time. Thanks to the festive attractions and lights, Edinburgh at Christmas sparkles.

But of course, with the nights darker and the weather colder at this time of year, our thoughts turn to those who aren't lucky enough to have friends and family and around them this Christmas. Now is the time for everyone to show their true community spirit by helping vulnerable neighbours who may be facing difficulties.

Recently, the people of Edinburgh's thoughts and prayers have been with our neighbouring city and everyone that has been affected by Glasgow's George Square tragedy. One of the victims has now been named as an Edinburgh local, Gillian Ewing, and my heart reaches out to everyone that knew her.

This has been the year that marked 100 years since the First World War, yet conflict is not yet a thing of the past. Suffering continues in all corners of the world, which is why the Council has joined forces with the Global humanitarian organisation Mercy Corps this Christmas to offer support and funding for families who are on the run from war. Together let's help 2015 to be a brighter year for them.

The Christmas card I've posted this year features an image of 'The Christmas Truce', which I find to be a fitting reminder of Christmas as a time for neighbours to set aside differences in faith and politics and to forge friendships. I feel lucky to call this city home and I hope you get a chance to experience Edinburgh at this time of year.

Merry Christmas.

Donald Wilson

The RT Hon Lord Provost of Edinburgh

Just in case Santa did not bring you everything your heart desired why not enter our competition to win a break for up to four people to go glamping for two nights?

Enter [here](#).

Barratt Homes has donated 80kg worth of food to an Edinburgh foodbank, following a month long collection at their regional head office in the capital.

Since the start of November Barratt employees, friends and families have generously donated urgently needed goods like coffee, UHT milk, custard, tinned meat and chocolate.

The donations have now been collected by Edinburgh North West and Central foodbanks, which are part of The Trussell Trust Network, who will deliver the food packs to people who are in crisis.

Alison Condie, managing director Barratt East Scotland said; "We are delighted to be able to make this donation to the Edinburgh North West and Central Foodbanks. At this time of year we felt it was important to give something to those in need and we hope our donation makes a small difference to someone's Christmas."

Ewan Walker, operations manager, Edinburgh Food Project, added; "We need to receive over 4,000kg of food each month in order to meet demand and this increases by 50% in the run up to Christmas when we give out extras such as mince pies and selection boxes. We really appreciate large companies like Barratt making donations. Not only does it boost food donations, but it raises awareness of our cause with employees."

Get along to The Meadows for a game of football if you are free. Street Soccer Scotland is organising a football match from 11am till 2pm. There is also lunch after the match!

Post by [StreetSoccer Scotland](#).



If you are reading this article on paper and would like to visit the website then scan the QR code above with a smartphone or tablet and you will be taken straight there.

Hibs' players serve Xmas dinners for homeless



Hibs' captain Liam Craig (pictured) and vice-captain David Gray served up Christmas dinners for a homeless charity in Edinburgh on Monday.

Craig and Gray visited Streetwork in Holyrood Road and gave out tickets for Saturday's match against Rangers at Easter Road (27 December, kick off 12.15pm).

Craig believes it is important for Hibernian to be at the core of the local community and that our players can help to make a difference.

Craig told the club website: "It was another beneficial experience – it's the second year that I've attended.

"For a variety of reasons, there are a lot of people, who find themselves in this type of situation, so it's important that we as a club try to help make a difference.

"Dave and I put on the Santa hats and served up some dinners –

we got into the spirit of it all and everybody seemed to enjoy it.

“Hopefully the visit and the tickets we gave out have helped to brighten up some people’s Christmases.”

Photo by John Preece

SNP blame welfare cuts for rise in food banks

The SNP has said that families using food banks this Christmas Day is a result of the “Dickensian impact” of welfare cuts.

The Trussell Trust has said that between April and September of this year more than 15,000 children have used a food bank and figures show that 48% of people using food banks have done so as a result of benefit cuts and delays. Food banks are expecting a rise in demand over Christmas and will be open on Christmas Day.

The Child Poverty Action Group has estimated that by 2020 up to 100,000 more children will live poverty in Scotland, as a result of on-going tax and benefit changes. However, the proposals set out by the Smith Commission will leave key powers for tackling poverty and creating a fairer social security system at Westminster.

Commenting, SNP Work and Pensions spokesperson Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP said: “It is a disgrace that in a country as wealthy as Scotland food banks will be open on Christmas Day and will be relied upon by families with children. “Heartless Tory Ministers are cutting £6 billion from the incomes of the

least well-off in Scotland and fully £1 billion of these cuts will directly impact on children – and we are now seeing the Dickensian impact of these cuts.

“But with both the Tories and Labour committed to further austerity and social security cuts, we face the prospect of 100,000 more children living in poverty by 2020.

“In the New Year Scotland will have an opportunity at the General Election to send a message to Westminster that the Scottish Parliament must have the powers it needs to tackle poverty and inequality.”

The NEN has a list of the food banks which are open on Christmas Day [here](#).

Football Festival for Hibs' kids at Training Centre



Hibs' Community Engagement Officer Sue McLernon was delighted to welcome hundreds of Hibs Kids aged nine to 12 to the Hibernian Training Centre for the Football Festival on Sunday.

Sue was joined by newly appointed Head of Community Coaching Tom Elliott, and volunteers from the Healthy Hibeas programme, who teamed up to deliver this pre-Christmas treat for young supporters.

Several first team players visited the kids during the day, to participate in the event and to wish them all a Merry Christmas.

It was announced at the end that the four teams who had made it through to the finals will now get to play on Easter Road's hallowed turf at Saturday's game against Rangers.

Hibernian's vice-captain and right-back David Gray said: "It was great to see so many kids playing and enjoying themselves."

Tom Elliott Head of Community Coaching added: "Well done to everyone involved from the parents, first team players and army of volunteers in helping to make it a special day for all the kids".

Sue McLernon; Community Engagement Officer said: "It was a huge amount of fun – thanks to all the volunteers, who helped to make it happen and thanks to all the players, who made the event even more unforgettable.

"Our Hibs Kids are the next generation of Hibernian supporters and they enjoyed every minute of it. Seeing the smiles on their faces was brilliant."

To learn more about the Hibernian Community Foundation follow on Twitter @hibsincommunity

Hibs pay tribute to David Paul



Hibs have paid tribute to former under-20 squad player David Paul who sadly passed away just before Christmas last year.

This season, the under-20s have worn shirts with the CRY

(Cardiac Risk in the Young) logo in his memory.

A statement on the club website reads: “Hibernian remembers David Paul, who sadly passed away at this time last year. David was one of our own – a promising footballer who had risen up through the youth ranks at Hibernian to become a full-time member of the under-20s squad.

“In memory of David, this season’s under-20 team’s shirts carry the CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) logo.

“Educated at George Watson’s College, David, who joined the Academy from Inch Colts as a 10-year-old, was an articulate and sensible young man and a universally popular member of the under-20s squad.

“A skilful, attack-minded midfielder, David played the game as he lived his life with dignity, composure and integrity and his final goal was in the Scottish FA Youth Cup tie against Rangers at Ibrox on 24 November 2013.

“David continues to be hugely missed by everybody at Hibernian and he will never be forgotten.”

Voting now open for Hibs’ Board fans’ representatives



Voting is now open to decide the identity of supporter representatives on the Hibernian Board of Directors.

17 supporters are standing for election, and fans can view their personal statements via the club website

Voting is open to any supporters aged 18 or over with a Season Ticket Membership for seasons 2012/13, 2013/14 or 2014/15, or current shareholders (as of Thursday 23 October, when the nominations opened).

Whilst the club appreciate that this excludes a large number of supporters, a measure had to be put in place to ensure the authenticity of applicants and voters.

Supporters who are eligible to vote are invited to log in to the Hibernian Consultation website using your Client Reference Number and Post Code. Shareholders without a Client Reference Number can log in using other personal information.

Hibs will also provide a ballot box at Easter Road Stadium in January for those wishing to vote in person. Further details for this will be announced early in the New Year.

Supporters will be invited to vote for the two individuals they wish to fulfil the roles. Both counts hold the same weighting (i.e. it doesn't matter who you select first and second). Once supporters cast their vote they will be unable to change their mind or vote again.

The voting will be open until midnight on Sunday 18th January, with the successful candidates (the two with the highest number of votes) announced thereafter.

If supporters have any questions with the process or issues accessing the voting page please contact **Colin** on 0131 656 7090, or e-mail cmillar@hibernianfc.co.uk.

No rest for Edinburgh animal rescue centre this Christmas



The Scottish SPCA's animal rescue and rehoming centre in Edinburgh has 179 animals in their care this Christmas Day.

It was business as usual for the dedicated staff at the charity's centre in Balerno, which is open to the public 365 days a year.

Centre manager Diane Stewart said, "It's a heartbreaking reality that there are lots of pets without loving homes to call their own this Christmas time.

"However, thanks to our dedicated staff, no animal in our care spent Christmas Day alone and we even made sure they all got a little treat from Santa.

"The animals here are relying on us as they don't have anywhere else to go, so it's simply not an option for us to close over the holidays.

"We'll be here for them throughout Christmas and New Year, ensuring they're fed, watered and exercised every day as usual.

"Our inspectors and animal rescue officers will continue to rescue abandoned, neglected and injured animals over the festive period so we also need to be on-hand to take in any new arrivals and offer them a place of safety.

"We aren't rehoming young animals such as puppies and kittens until 3 January to prevent them being taken on by someone who just wants a new pet for Christmas.

"However, those genuinely wishing to offer a young animal a

permanent home can come along to meet them and they can be reserved.

“There are also lots of older pets in our care who are ready and waiting to find their forever homes right now.

“Locals are always welcome to pop in to our centre, whether it’s to meet an animal they’re interested in rehoming, donate food or toys for our homeless pets, or simply just to say hello.”

The Scottish SPCA’s animal rescue and rehoming centre is open from 10am-4pm seven days a week.

Wednesday in Edinburgh – What’s On Today



The Raymond Briggs Trilogy: *The Snowman* 29 mins (U), *Father Christmas* 26 mins (U) and *The Bear* (U) 26 mins. 11am, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Book [online](#) or call the box office on 0131 228 2688.

Teatime Acoustic: Graeme Mearns. A hat, a suit and a guitar, with a swing jazz acoustic style somewhere between Django Reinhardt and Richard Thompson – ‘familiar songs in a way you’ve never imagined’. 6.30-8.30pm, [The Jazz Bar](#), Chambers Street. Free.

Aki & Dave Guitar Duo: take a break from wrapping presents and get festive! Catch some super music from two of The Jazz Bar’s

regularly featured, top-class guitarists, **Aka Remally** and **Dave Wallace**. Is this a duo or a duel? Come in and find out – and will Santa drop in for a pint later? 9pm-late, [The Jazz Bar](#), Chambers Street. Free.

Edinburgh Libraries will all close at **5pm** today, re-opening on **27th December**, then normal hours until **31st December**, when they will again all close at **5pm**, re-opening on **3rd January 2015**.



Christmas Eve Welcome Home: Multi-Language Support invites you to exchange gifts, share food, play games and enjoy a warm Christmas Eve together. Tea, coffee, mulled wine, mulled cider and some snacks provided: please bring a small gift for the lucky dip and some food to share. 7-10pm, [19 Sciennes Road](#) EH9 1NX. £5 per person: please register via [eventbrite](#) if you plan to attend. **Welcome Home Multi Language Support** is an Edinburgh-based organisation of professional counsellors and psychotherapists who come from different countries with different cultural backgrounds, and whose aim is 'to support overseas residents in the UK who may be encountering difficulties and problems such as culture shock, loneliness, homesickness, depression, anxiety and isolation, and to provide a warm and homely place for people to share experiences'.



A Selection of Church Services for Christmas Eve:

Morning masses:

9am (Polish), 10am, [St Mary's RC Cathedral](#), York Place.

Lunchtime masses:

12.45pm, [St Mary's RC Cathedral](#), York Place.

12 noon, [St Mary Star of the Sea](#), 106 Constitution Street, Leith.

Afternoon Services for families and children:

Crib Service: a short telling of the Christmas story with carols and mince pies, suitable for children of all ages. 4pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place.

Children's Service: followed by refreshments. 5pm, [Christ Church Morningside](#), 6a Morningside Road.



Christingle Service for All Ages: children of all ages love this candle-lighting service. 5-5.30pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. All welcome.

Messy Nativity! 4-5.30pm, [Saltyard Cafe](#), 158 Dalry Road.

Christingle Service with nativity play: 4.30pm, [St John's Episcopal Church](#), Princes Street.

Crib Service: 4pm, [St Peter's Church](#), Lutton Place.



Christmas Eve Crib Service: 5pm, [St Vincent's Episcopal Chapel](#), St Vincent Street.

Christmas Eve Family Service: 4-4.45pm, [Morningside United Church](#), 15 Chamberlain Road.

Christmas Eve Crib Service: for children and families. 4pm, [Old St Paul's Episcopal Church](#), 39 Jeffrey Street.

Christmas Eve Service for Babies, Toddlers and Pre-School Children: with songs and stories. 4pm, [Portobello and Joppa Parish Church](#), Brunstane Road North.



Early evening services:

Christingle Family Service: 6.30pm, [Polwarth Parish Church](#), Polwarth Terrace. All welcome.

Christmas Eve Service: 5-6.30pm, [Greyfriars Kirk](#), Greyfriars Place.

Christmas Eve Family Service: 6.30pm, [Morningside Parish Church](#), Cluny Gardens/Braid Road.

Christmas Eve Service: 5pm, [German Church](#), Laudate House, 1 Chalmers Crescent.

Vigil Masses: 6pm and 9pm (Polish Vigil), [St Mary's RC Cathedral](#), York Place.

Carols & Mass of the Nativity: 7.30pm (carols), 8pm (Mass), [St Mary Star of the Sea](#), 106 Constitution Street, Leith.



Midnight services:



Image: Lofty

Midnight Mass. Preacher: the Provost, setting: *Vierne Messe Solonnelle*. 11.30pm, [St Mary's Cathedral](#), Palmerston Place.

Watchnight Service: readings, prayers and carols to keep watch until Christmas Day. 11.30pm (ends just after midnight), Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. All welcome.

Watchnight Service: 11.30pm, [St Cuthbert's Parish Church](#), Lothian Road.

Carol Service and Midnight Mass (celebrant: **Archbishop Cushley**): 11.30pm, [St Mary's RC Cathedral](#), York Place.

Christmas Songs and Carols followed by Watchnight Service: 11pm (Watchnight Service begins 11.30pm), [Portobello and Joppa Parish Church](#), Brunstane Road North.



Watchnight Service: 11.30pm-12.15am, [Canongate Kirk](#), 153 Canongate.

Carols by Candlelight followed by Watchnight Service: 11pm, [Morningside Parish Church](#), Cluny Gardens/Braid Road.

Midnight Sung Eucharist: 11.30pm, [Christ Church Morningside](#), 6a Morningside Road.

Watchnight Service: 11.30pm, [Morningside United Church](#), 15 Chamberlain Road.

Watchnight Service: 11.15pm, [Gorgie Dalry Church](#), 190 Gorgie Road.



Midnight Mass: 11.30pm, [St Vincent's Episcopal Chapel](#), St Vincent Street.

Festival of Sacred Music: Traditional Watchnight Service. Carols from 11.15pm, service begins 11.30pm, [Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church](#), 1a Mayfield Road.

Midnight Service: a service of Holy Communion for Christmas. 11.30pm, [St Peter's Church](#), Lutton Place.

Organ Music and Midnight Mass: 10.45pm (music), 11.15pm mass begins, [St John's Episcopal Church](#), Princes Street.

Midnight Mass of Christmas (by candlelight): 11.30pm, [Old St Paul's Episcopal Church](#), 39 Jeffrey Street.



Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



Edinburgh's Christmas

Blackwell's Giving Tree

Last minute present idea

Jobs with the Cyrenians

Work at the White House!

On Christmas Eve you can get a free go on the rides at Edinburgh's Christmas if you go along dressed as Santa, an elf, an angel or a Nativity character! There are 450 free tickets to be given away today.

More details about all the rides at Edinburgh's Christmas [here](#).



Christmas is the season of goodwill and giving, even if you more often find something for yourself on your shopping

expeditions rather than others. But here is an idea to make you feel a bit more charitable. Blackwells have set up a virtual tree so that you can give a book to children who might not otherwise get one this Christmas. More details on Blackwell's Giving Tree [here](#).

Juliette Binoche is starring in Antigone at the King's Theatre in August 2015.

The storyline is this:

When her dead brother is decreed a traitor, his body left unburied beyond the city walls, Antigone refuses to accept this severe punishment. Defying her uncle who governs, she dares to say 'No!'

Renowned for the revelatory nature of his work, Ivo van Hove is one of the world's most sought after theatre directors.

You might know someone who would like a gift of a ticket for one of the performances, and if so they are already on sale [here](#).

There are two jobs on offer with Edinburgh charity Cyrenians. The first is at the farm just outside Edinburgh as Farm Enterprise Manager which sounds like an exciting and challenging role and the second is to work as Depot Operations Assistant at the Good Food programme.

Edinburgh Cyrenians is an independent Scottish Charity (number SC011052) which was founded from a deep concern for people who felt as though they were on the outside of society and thought that they had no way back in.

Cyrenians vision is of an inclusive society where we all have

the opportunities to live valued and fulfilling lives. They travel towards their vision by supporting people excluded from family, home, work or community on their life journey.

More details [here](#).

Well it is a volunteer opportunity, but it is at the Whitehouse...in Craigmillar. The Whitehouse is our new find for 2014 where you get wonderful freshly cooked food at very reasonable prices. Read about the opportunity on offer below.



If you are reading this article on paper and would like to visit the website then scan the QR code above with a smartphone or tablet and you will be taken straight there.

Talbot Rice gearing up for 40th birthday year

In 2015 the University of Edinburgh's Talbot Rice Gallery will celebrate its 40th birthday.

This landmark will mean a series of celebrations and events take place there throughout the year, accompanying a dynamic programme of exhibitions by local and international artists, plus new initiatives focused on supporting and developing

young creative talent and developing academic collaborations with both staff and students from across the University.

Exhibitions Ross Birrell | March – May Ross Birrell's work is characterised by crossing boundaries, he works as an artist, composer and academic to produce work that revolves around the interrelations of art, philosophy, place, politics and music. For his first major solo-exhibition in Scotland Talbot Rice will be filled with colour and sound, designed and composed site-specifically for the Gallery.

Hanne Darboven | August – October For the 2015 Festival exhibition, Talbot Rice is delighted to present the first major solo show in Scotland by legendary German Conceptual artist Hanne Darboven. Darboven's interdisciplinary work explores time, music and world history through serialisation and numerical systems, realised on a vast scale.

Luc Tuymans | November – December Luc Tuymans is one of the most celebrated and influential painters working today. Acting as artist and curator, Tuymans will select a group of Henry Raeburn portraits from the University of Edinburgh's Collections to be shown alongside his own, newly commissioned work.

Round Room Programme 2015 will include the re-launch of the Round Room Programme. Operating as a residency and open studio space, the Round Room will offer emerging artists, both local and international, the space, time and financial support to aid the development of their practice. Audiences will benefit from the public outcomes of the programme, including exhibitions, public talks and performances.

Academic Collaborations As well as the ongoing gap in the air project, devised with the University of Edinburgh's School of Music, 2015 will include the continued development of academic collaborations with colleagues and students from across the University. To accompany the Ross Birrell exhibition, the

gallery will present the outcomes of an experimental collaborative project between Professor Raymond MacDonald, Head of the Reid School of Music, and Jo Ganter, Printmaking Lecturer at Edinburgh College of Art.

Raymond and Jo's work together explores the crossover between Music and Art, testing the possibilities of directing improvisatory musical performance through visual composition as well as conventional musical notation. This will be followed by the annual project with MFA students at Edinburgh College of Art. This Interim show allows students at the mid-way point of their Masters Degree to try out new ideas, gain professional experience of showing in the Gallery setting, whilst also offering audiences a preview of the work of the new crop of upcoming Graduates from ECA.

Towards the end of the year the gallery will present a unique exhibition of works from the ECA collections to coincide with, and complement the Luc Tuymans exhibition. Working in close collaboration with the University Collections Department, the project allows many items of the collection to be revisited, seen by the public for the first time, and presented in the unique context of the historic Georgian Gallery.

40th Birthday Celebrations Running from May 2015 – May 2016, there will be a series of special events and activity to mark the 40th anniversary of the Gallery. Including bespoke archival projects, keynote lectures and discussions, artistic commissions, plus many more celebratory events, these activities will be designed to revisit and consider the past, celebrate the present and look with ambition to the future.

Everybody's Having Fun – Aren't They?



So, here it is...Merry Christmas, everybody's having fun. Or are they...?

Chaos in the kitchen

Screaming grandchildren wreaking havoc

Mountains of wrapping paper which, having been carefully pieced together just days before, now lie in a crumpled mess all over the house

Inordinate amount of boxes of Celebrations, Roses, Quality Street and sweets you don't get at any other time of the year. No Brazilian nuts this year please...

Pairs of novelty socks or a novelty tie which you wouldn't be seen dead wearing

A woolly jumper which is too small and quite hideous

Wearing a bloody stupid paper hat and trying to keep the cheap plastic inserts from the cheap Christmas crackers away from the brats – sorry, loveable grandchildren (still wreaking havoc)

Inedible turkey covered in gravy which is too rich and accompanied by Brussel sprouts that are as hard as bullets

Roast potatoes which will crack laminated flooring if they fall off your plate

Christmas pudding which looks and tastes like something you wouldn't give to the dog

Listening to Granny's woes and how Christmas isn't what it used to be

Repeats of Morecambe and Wise and The Two Ronnies on the telly (because even the BBC recognise that much of today's comedians are frankly rubbish. David Mitchell? Jimmy Carr? Little Britain? I've had more fun visiting the dentist)

Thinking of many other places you would rather be (or is that just me?)

Thinking that Christmas today has become so commercial, relentless and expensive – and really not that much fun (again – is that just me?)

So here it is...Merry Christmas. To all Edinburgh Reporter readers, I sincerely hope your Christmas will be a happy one. Look to the future now – may 2015 be everything you want it to be.

Cowdenbeath 0 Heart of Midlothian 2

SPFL Championship, Tuesday 23 December 2014 – Central Park

Another impressive performance from Hearts tonight saw Robbie Neilson's side ease to a comfortable 2-0 victory at Cowdenbeath to stretch their lead at the top of the SPFL Championship to 12 points. The original game against the Blue

Brazil was postponed ten days ago because of a frozen pitch. But Hearts, backed by another magnificent travelling support of nearly 3,000 fans, made no mistake tonight to give those fans the perfect Christmas present.

Hearts suffered a pre-match blow when Alim Ozturk had to pull out of the game with a hamstring injury. On the plus side, influential midfielder Morago Gomis returned from suspension.

There were just three minutes gone when Hearts almost opened the scoring when Jamie Walker fired in a shot which struck the post. It was all Hearts in the early stages and they deservedly went in front after 25 minutes. After Walker had come close again, Adam Eckersley raced down the left wing and found James Keatings with a fine pass. The former Hamilton Accies striker did what he does best and finished with a first time effort into the corner. 1-0 to the visitors and Keatings almost made it 2-0 moments later when his 25 yard free-kick came back off the post. Brad McKay then headed straight at Cowdenbeath keeper Thompson when it seemed easier to score.

Half-time Cowdenbeath 0 Hearts 1

No doubt fired up at half-time by manager Jimmy Nicholl, Cowdenbeath began the second half in determined fashion. Higgins almost equalised in the 57th minute but his effort on goal was well saved by Neil Alexander.

Hearts then put the game to bed in spectacular style in the 62nd minute. Callum Paterson volleyed home from 25 yards out to give the Cowden keeper not an earthly and his magnificent goal put Hearts two goals ahead.

Soon after, Prince Buaben set off on a trademark run and his effort on goal from 20 yards went narrowly wide.

Neil Alexander produced a fine save late on but Hearts ended the evening with a fine, comfortable win – one which puts clear daylight between them and second placed Rangers. The Ibrox side visit Easter Road on Saturday. If Hibs can do their city rivals a good turn – and they beat Rangers at Ibrox last

time out – and Hearts maintain their winning run at Livingston, the gap at the top will be 15 points.

It would be difficult to see a so far unbeaten Hearts side throw away that kind of lead.

Cowdenbeath: Thompson, O'Brien, Wedderburn, Milne, Higgins, Kane, Miller, Johnston, Callaghan, Marshall, Halsman.

Hearts: Alexander, Paterson, Wilson, Ozturk, Gomis, Walker, Pallardo, Buaben, Keatings, McGhee, Eckersley.

Referee: Greg Aitken

Att: 3,500

Top man: Callum Paterson

New student housing



The Student Housing Company was set up in June 2011 to create purpose-built, high quality student accommodation in the UK and Europe and it is set to produce two new sites in Edinburgh next year.

Bringing a new energy and level of service to the student accommodation sector, they are focused on delivering high levels of service, security and attention to detail. As such the award winning student housing specialists seek regular feedback via student focus groups, to ensure they deliver the best student living accommodation possible as well as senior management staying in the accommodation wherever possible.

Bob Crompton, Chairman, explains: “Student feedback forms a key part of our design and development strategy enabling us to

create rooms that optimise space, storage and practicalities to meet modern day student demands. Our new rooms for 2015 for example, will incorporate practical features such as electrical sockets located directly under mirrors (for hair dryers/straighteners) and sockets set into bed surrounds (for mobile phones), plus huge pinboards on multiple walls to allow the students to personalise their space.

“We are also working with interior design specialists, Links, to create bespoke designed common rooms for our 2015 residences. These will feature separate zones and adjustable lighting to create a more relaxed environment for students to spend their leisure time,” Crompton continued.

Every residence offers rooms finished to a high standard with $\frac{3}{4}$ beds, deluxe en-suite shower rooms, and well thought-out study space. Studios have contemporary fitted kitchens in-room, while apartments come with large, modern lounge-diners. Each room also includes all utility bills, contents insurance and a 50Mb broadband connection at no extra charge. Plus friendly onsite management team to help with maintenance, repairs, customer service and inclusive social events.

Safety and security is paramount – each residence is only accessible using a secure electronic key. There is 24-hour CCTV, while our constant staff presence ensures our student accommodation is effectively monitored.

Two new sites have been added to the Student Housing Company portfolio in Edinburgh: Arran House and Brae House.

Arran House – EDINBURGH

- Will accommodate 302 students from September 2015.
- Located an easy walking distance from both Edinburgh University and Napier University and a short commute from Herriot Watt.

- The residence offers a range of spacious en-suite rooms in 2 – 6 bed apartments and studios.
- Rooms will be on sale from November 2014.

Brae House – EDINBURGH

- Home to 422 students from September 2015.
- Situated in the heart of Edinburgh's vibrant cultural district, just a few minutes' walk away from The Royal Mile, Holyrood Palace and Arthur's Seat as well as Edinburgh University.
- The residence offers a range of spacious en-suite rooms and studios.
- Rooms will be on sale from November 2014

For further information please visit:
www.thestudenthousingcompany.com



Woman Charged Under Dangerous Dogs Act



A woman has been charged with an offence under the Dangerous

Dogs Act after an elderly couple were attacked by a dog in the park at the junction of Boswall Parkway, Grierson Road and Boswall Drive on Friday 19th December.

The 49-year-old will now be reported to the Procurator Fiscal.

Council's Finance convener explains how they will make savings



While others are thinking of buying presents and Christmas pudding the council's Finance Convener Cllr Alasdair Rankin is still concentrating on the money that the council has to spend. Here he outlines for The Edinburgh Reporter how the council will deliver £67m of savings over the next three years.

Edinburgh is one of the fastest growing local authority areas in Scotland, we are facing an ever increasing demand for our services and the cost of providing these services is increasing. This sets us a big challenge with our annual budget as we must continue to deliver better services, keeping customers at the heart of everything we do.

Between 2015 and 2018, the Council's annual budget will remain around £950 million. However the cost of providing services is expected to be £1.01 billion. That means we need to save £67 million from our budget, over the next three years, to make sure we can provide the services that are important to the people of Edinburgh.

We will make the £67m savings with budget proposals over the next three years and through a plan to transform the way we work and deliver our services.

Part of the task in transforming the way we work is to help our staff to simplify the services we provide, give customers better access to them and focus our efforts and resources on responding to local needs. Everyone in the Council is involved in this work, bringing forward new ideas and suggestions through our Better Outcomes through Leaner Delivery (BOLD) programme. This means that we can be confident that we are delivering the right services to those in the community who need them, while building a stronger economic future for the Capital.

A huge amount of work is being carried out improving our online services to better meet the needs of Edinburgh residents. We're the first local authority in Scotland to offer a fully integrated online customer experience, with faster response times, automated transactions and responses to customers.

Our services have been designed and delivered with a customer first approach, with the aim of being easy to use and accessible. By improving our online services, this gives residents more choice of how they interact with us at a time that suits them best. As a Council, we want to encourage residents to move to the most cost effective and appropriate channel for them. Online transactions are 20 times cheaper than phone calls so for us, where customers have access to the web, this is a much more efficient way of doing business.

Since April, we've had over 10,000 transactional requests raised on our new online system and many of our highest volume transactions now available online, including reporting missed bins, broken streetlights and road problems.

This is a fantastic achievement and will help us to lower

costs by reducing phone calls and visits to our offices, helping us to meet our budget savings of £67 million over the next three years.

The budget engagement period ends today and this is your last chance to have your say on our draft budget proposals for 2015/16. So far around 1,700 people have taken Edinburgh's budget challenge, our online tool to find out how you would balance our books over the next three years. If you haven't already, I would encourage you to give your views today before the engagement ends. The Council will then consider the feedback before making the final budget decisions on 12 February.

The Edinburgh Reporter interviewed Councillor Rankin last week just ahead of the Council's consultation on their budget came to a close.

[The Edinburgh Reporter NEWS Council budget](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

Writing Opportunity with Talbot Rice Gallery



Here is an opportunity for you if you are interested in writing fiction or poetry in response to the current

exhibition Until Only the Mountain Remains at Talbot Rice Gallery.



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Flags flying at half mast in Edinburgh today



Flags are flying at half mast today over the City Chambers and other council owned buildings such as The Assembly Rooms in George Street as a mark of respect for those who were killed and injured in Glasgow yesterday.

Edinburgh's Lord Provost, Councillor Donald Wilson, responded to the tragic events:

"Like most people across Scotland, I was shocked to learn of the tragic events in Glasgow yesterday.

"On behalf of the people of Edinburgh, I would like to express our deepest condolences to the people of Glasgow and our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of those involved. I have written to the Rt Hon Lord Provost Sadie Docherty to offer our condolences and our support at this time.

Flags at the City Chambers and other Council buildings will fly at half mast on 23 December."



Geolotto working hard to give away easy money

It seems that we are a very cynical lot when it comes to taking money from strangers in the street. An offer of cash to a passer-by on the Royal Mile provoked an interesting if surprising response!

Geolotto have been visiting several cities around the UK trying to give away free cash. Many people are just too suspicious of David who is strolling around trying to hand out fivers and as much as £1000 in some instances.

You can find out more about Geolotto who are regulated by The Gambling Commission [here](#)

Three ducks found in Edinburgh over the weekend



The Scottish SPCA is appealing for information after three ducks were rescued in Edinburgh over the weekend.

Scotland's animal welfare charity was first called to collect a Muscovy duck found waddling down Buckstone Loan East on Saturday (20 December).

The Scottish SPCA was then alerted to two ducklings which had been abandoned in a stairwell on Howden Street on Sunday (21

December).

All three birds are now being cared for at the charity's Edinburgh and Lothians Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centre in Balerno.

Senior Inspector Jenny Scott said, "We think the duck found in Buckstone, who we've nicknamed Rudders, has escaped from home.

"Muscovy ducks aren't good fliers so we don't think he has travelled very far. They aren't native to Britain and Rudders is friendly and in good condition, so this would suggest someone has been keeping him as a pet.

"The ducklings discovered in the stairwell appear to have been abandoned as they were left inside a cage along with a bag of food.

"A resident found them in the morning and kept them in his bath until I arrived.

"No-one in the block knew who might have owned them so we are appealing to anyone with information to get in touch.

"We've named these lovely little ducklings Noel and Eve and we'll look after them until we can find them a permanent new home."

Anyone with information is being asked to contact the Scottish SPCA animal helpline on 03000 999 999.

Photo by Scottish SPCA

Effie Gray at The Filmhouse

✖ The film that Douglas Greenwood [reviewed](#) earlier in the year is now showing at The Filmhouse today and tomorrow.

In the review Douglas was generous with his praise so this might be one way of getting away from the Christmas shopping madness.

Effie Gray is a deftly crafted period drama that flourishes in the hands of its screenwriter and co-star, Emma Thompson. Often, her unique wit and intelligence shines clearly on screen even when she isn't there. She's a wonderful wordsmith, bringing issues to what could be a rather dreary, overdone idea and injecting it with great life. The story follows the couple through their wholly depressing relationship. The eponymous character lives a life of lustrous riches whilst appearing wholly unsatisfied, allowing the viewer to delve into a 19th century film that doesn't all revolve around a ball room and grand dinner table. In its more quiet moments, it can grow slightly lethargic almost grinding to a halt. But this relaxation makes you notice the finer details that appear in its beautiful shots.

Booking details [here](#).

Police launch 'Tradewatch'

scheme



Police have launched a partnership campaign with the city's second-hand retailers to help tackle acquisitive crime.

As part of the new 'Tradewatch' scheme, all stores in the Capital have committed to sharing information in relation to individuals attempting to sell on stolen goods.

A process has been agreed between the management from each business to alert one another as soon as anyone attempts to sell any items, which are suspected of being stolen.

Police will also be contacted and will progress any information received to identify offenders and seize the stolen property.

Tradewatch was developed as a result of the continued engagement and dialogue between second-hand retailers and Edinburgh Division's Search and Recovery Team.

To further assist the stores, each will be provided with a SmartWater Technology Ltd UV lamp, which can be used to examine any goods brought into the store and establish whether they have been stolen.

Detective Chief Inspector Stuart Houston said: "Those responsible for acquisitive crime will often attempt to sell on stolen goods for profit and regularly attempt to utilise second-hand retailers to dispose of valuable items.

"However, we have an excellent and long-standing relationship with these businesses in Edinburgh and staff regularly assist our Search and Recovery Team in reuniting stolen property with its rightful owner as well as helping us identify those responsible for the thefts.

"With the launch of 'Tradewatch', these premises will instantly and readily share information on any suspicious customers so that items that have been acquired illegally are not bought and sold within their stores.

"I would like to thank our second-hand retailer partners for their assistance and co-operation in helping to create this campaign."

Chief Inspector Richard Horan said: "Tackling housebreaking and robbery is a priority across the city and the 'Tradewatch' initiative is yet another tool in our armoury to bring those responsible for these crimes to justice.

"We continue to target and pursue those who steal through ongoing enforcement activity and partnership campaigns. The public also play a vital role in assisting us prevent these crimes, and making life difficult for criminals, by taking simple steps to safeguard their belongings.

"I would urge members of our communities to ensure their homes are always appropriately secured and that any items of value are stored safely out of public view. Details of the type of valuables within your property should never be disclosed to anyone you do not know or trust.

"Please remember that sheds, garages and other outbuilding are extensions of your home and should also be secured at all times.

"Our partnership with SmartWater Technology Ltd continues within the Capital and hundreds of homes have been issued with the unique chemical solutions to mark their property. However, additional home security measures such as alarms and motion-activated lighting should also be considered where possible. Your local community policing teams will be delighted to offer free crime prevention advice."

David Patrick, CEO of Cash Converters UK, the UK's largest

second-hand retailer, said: “We’re delighted to be working with the police and a part of the new Tradewatch scheme as we are committed to tackling the issue of stolen goods in our stores.

“We have a zero tolerance policy towards stolen goods and a number of processes in place to deter criminals. Anyone looking to sell an item to Cash Converters must present two forms of ID along with proof of address as per regulations set out by the Financial Conduct Authority. In addition they have to be photographed and sign an agreement confirming they are the legal owner of the goods.

We have a strong working relationship with Edinburgh Police and, as part of the Tradewatch scheme, are committed to sharing information with other businesses to help prevent crime and put a stop to stolen goods coming through our doors.”

Five things you need to know today Edinburgh!



NSPCC get out their Christmas message

New competition for you

Annual newsletter from Marco Biagi MSP

Free rides at Edinburgh’s Christmas today

Update from the Causey

[Post](#) by [NSPCC Scotland](#).

We have just launched our newest competition for you to win a two night break at Scotland's premier glamping spot Harvest Moon Holidays.

[Enter here!](#)

Marco Biagi is the SNP MSP for Edinburgh City Centre. He is also the newly appointed Minister for Local Government and Community Empowerment. This is his annual report.

[Annual Report e-mail version](#)

Edinburgh's Christmas is allowing 450 people to get on their rides for free today provided that you pitch up at the ticket office with at least two non-perishable food items which will be donated to the Trussell Trust for one of their foodbanks.

The Causey is the little triangle of concrete in the middle of a larger area between the buildings at East Crosscauseway. It is a place for which people have many dreams and hopes. Eventually things seem to be really taking shape after a few years of hard work on the part of the Causey Development Trust (CDT). This is their update:

A design team from [Ironside Farrar](#) has been appointed jointly by CDT and the City of Edinburgh Council. The role of the team is to develop a plan for The Causey based on the community's aspirations and ideas, with a final design expected in early 2015.

The design team, reporting back to CDT, has already done a large amount of background research on the various issues impinging on the design for The Causey, including understanding the needs of the churches and local businesses, the requirements for waste bins, recycling, bin lorry access, bus stops and parking. Foremost in the team's mind is how to accommodate all these with the needs of pedestrians and cyclists AND make The Causey a great place for people, which of course is the primary aim of the project.

Steering Group Meetings

CDT's steering group meetings are open to all. The next one, at the Southside Community Centre, Nicolson Street, is at 7 pm on **Monday 26 January 2015**.



If you are reading this article on paper and would like to visit the website then scan the QR code on the left with a smartphone or tablet and you will be taken straight there.

Tuesday in Edinburgh – What's On Today



Filmhouse Slackers Club: a free-to-join club especially for students offering members the chance to attend very special free monthly screenings. This month: The *Woman In Black: Angel of Death* (15). 9pm, [Cameo Cinema](#), 38 Home Street. Free: book [online](#) or call the Box Office on 0871 902 5723. You must join the Slackers Club before you can book tickets for this screening.

Festive crafts for children: 3pm, [Piershill Library](#), 30 Piershill Terrace. All welcome!



Stories Round The Tree: join storyteller **Fiona Herbert** for a magical afternoon of wintry tales and music around the Centre's Christmas tree. For anyone aged 4 or older! 1-1.45pm or 3-3.45pm, Storytelling Court, [Scottish Storytelling Centre](#), 43-45 High Street. £5 per adult, £3 per child/concession, family ticket (for 4) £14; book online [here](#) or call the Box Office on 0131 556 9579. (Note: sessions on 24th December already sold out).

eBook Surgery: get help with downloading free eBooks, emagazines and audiobooks. 2-3.30pm, [Central Library](#), George

IV Bridge. No appointment necessary – just drop in.

Santa Baby Cafe! A festive baby cafe with coffee, tea, chat and play, for babies and children 0-4 years and their grown ups. 10.30-11.30am, [Stockbridge Library](#), 11 Hamilton Place.



Cramond Kirk Christmas Club: games, crafts, music, drama, dance and baking! For all children aged 3+. 10am-1pm, Kirk Hall, [Cramond Kirk](#), Cramond Glebe Road. Snacks and refreshments provided. All very welcome: £5 per child. Booking is required: forms are available on the Kirk website [here](#) or from the Kirk office, The Manse, 16 Cramond Glebe Road (9am-12 noon).

Messy Nativity! 4-5.30pm, [Saltyard Cafe](#), 158 Dalry Road. Also at same times on Wednesday 24th December 2014.

Christmas Singalong – for all the family. Starts at 10.30am, [South Queensferry Library](#), Shore Road. Everyone welcome!



Greenman's Grotto at The Secret Herb Garden: instead of Santa asking a child 'what do you want for Christmas?', why not allow a child the chance to hear how to respect and care for something really special – **a tree**? Enter the **enchanted glasshouse** and follow a **fairy path** to a hidden **natural grotto** where the Greenman awaits; once here choose a bare root tree from six indigenous species: alder, rowan. silver birch, oak, scots pine or hawthorn. The Greenman will help you to pot up your tree and to choose a stone or shell to keep with it; there will also be advice on how to nurture your gift. Allow the tree to become part of your life, grow together through the changing seasons, and witness the magic unfold. 10am-4pm,

[The Secret Herb Garden](#), 32a Old Pentland Road, EH10 7EA (for more information re location see the [Secret Herb Garden's website](#) or call 07525 069773). £5 per child or adult, no booking required.

Music Among The Trees: Ross Gubby. Organ scholar Ross entertains visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival** on the Wells Kennedy organ. 12 noon-1pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free: all welcome.



The Raymond Briggs Trilogy: *The Snowman* 29 mins (U), ***Father Christmas*** 26 mins (U) and ***The Bear*** (U) 26 mins. 11am, [Filmhouse](#), Lothian Road. Book [online](#) or call the box office on 0131 228 2688. Also at same time on Wednesday 24th December.

Music Among The Trees: James MacNeill explores the range of the Wells Kennedy organ to entertain visitors to the **Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival**. 2-3pm, Sanctuary, [St Andrew's and St George's West Church](#), 13 George Street. Free: all welcome.

Retro Gaming Night: still trying to crack your top time of Super Mario Bros? A geeky night of retro and console games. 6-11.45pm, [The Counting House Bar](#), 36 West Nicolson Street. Free entry.



COMPETITION – Win a two night glamping break



Harvest Moon Holidays will welcome one lucky winner with up to three of their friends or family to stay for two nights in a safari tent or a treehouse on their site at Lochhouses, East Lothian.

This is a great place for families as the site is right next to the sandy beach where you can walk or run to your heart's content. Sandcastles are obligatory. The offer excludes Bank Holidays and is subject to arrangement with Harvest Moon Holidays and availability.

Just answer this simple question by 5pm on 31 December 2014.

[COMPETITION NOW CLOSED]

To enter you must be over 18.

Winners are chosen at random from all entries.

The winner's name and email address will be provided to Harvest Moon Holidays so that they can contact the winner to make suitable arrangements for the holiday.

No cash alternative is offered.

The competition may be altered at any time.



Third patient in C-diff cluster dies

✖ A third patient, involved in a cluster of cases of *Clostridium difficile*, has died.

The patient died at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh on Sunday from an underlying cause, following another illness.

The patient had the infection, commonly known as C-diff, but was very unwell from another illness for which they were receiving treatment.

Investigations are continuing into the cluster of cases of infection in wards, but no new cases have been identified.

Melanie Johnson, Executive Nurse Director, NHS Lothian, said: "I would like to express my sincere condolences to the family of the patient who died .

"Investigations are ongoing to establish if there is a link between the cases, but we don't expect to have the results of forensic samples until January, which is a normal timescale for this infection.

"In the meantime, infection control measures have been enhanced and will remain in place. No new cases have been identified.

"If a cluster emerges, we always act as if cases are linked and implement action to prevent cross transmission.

"Our robust surveillance procedures meant that we were able to identify these cases quickly and take the appropriate action."

Fourteen patients were originally affected by the infection, commonly known as C-diff, which was identified in early November.

Two of the 14 patients died from underlying conditions after also testing positive for the infection in the days before their death. The latest death brings the number to three.

Since the cluster was identified four patients have recovered and been discharged home.

The seven patients, who remain in hospital, are being cared for in isolation.

Infection prevention and control procedures have been reinforced to help protect them, other patients, staff and visitors. The five affected wards remain open.

Samples are currently being tested to establish if any of the identified cases are linked, although results are not expected until January.

Affected patients in the ward and their relatives have been told about the infection and the actions that have been taken so far have been explained to them.

Nursing and medical staff are on hand to answer any other questions or concerns from visitors and patients themselves.

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