

Jail for drunk driver who killed pedestrian



A man who killed a pedestrian after driving drunk has been jailed.

At the High Court in Edinburgh today, Keith McCardle, 51, was sentenced to five years in prison for causing the death of Gavin Fulton.

The 43-year-old was returning home from a Christmas night out in the early hours of 8th December 2012 when he was struck by McCardle's vehicle on Dundas Street.

McCardle had previously pled guilty to causing death by dangerous driving and drink driving after getting behind the wheel whilst intoxicated.

Road Policing Inspector Tracey Robinson said: "Keith McCardle made a choice to drive while drunk and as a result of his actions, he was responsible for the death of Gavin Fulton.

"Mr Fulton's family continue to be affected by their loss and our thoughts are with them.

"I hope motorists that drink and drug drive understand it will not be tolerated and police robustly monitor the roads to identify anyone driving while in an unfit state.

"The chances of being caught driving under the influence have never been higher and once caught, you will then be prosecuted and must live with the implications of a criminal conviction for the rest of your life."

No chance of Jamie Murphy joining Hibs during January transfer window



Hibs manager Terry Butcher has confirmed that Sheffield United player Jamie Murphy was very much on his radar, but the recent upturn in his form means that there is no chance of him joining the Easter Road club during the January transfer window.

Speaking at the weekly press conference ahead of tonight's game against Aberdeen, Butcher said: "Jamie Murphy has scored three in four games. He will not be joining us. I've spoken to Nigel [Clough] and he will not be joining us.

"I was very interested in Jamie. I know him very well and he would have done very well for us. But he's doing very well for Sheffield United and fair play to him. He's one of the guys we've talked about who has now done well for his team! It's frustrating. You could say it's good judgement to have been interested in him, thank you very much. But I could say 'Oh no, Lionel Messi has scored again' – we certainly weren't after him."

Butcher also confirmed that he has spoken to a number of players regarding their future at Easter Road but insists that these conversations were private and so far no-one has been released. He continued: "What I will say is I've spoken to several players at the club about moving on. Those conversations will remain private until something does happen. But players are players, they want to play. And I can

understand their frustration if they're training during the week and not playing at the weekend."

"It's very amicable, it's part of football life. These guys continue training with us, all training together. There are certain things you can do as a manager, if you want to be nasty, but there's nothing like that here. If you are honest to players and players are honest with you, things will work out. It's just a natural progression, the evolution of any football club. Players move on, players change. Managers change, too. But that's a different story.

"I'm not saying that players leaving this football club are bad players. Certainly not. But I've got my opinion on how we should play, it's a formula that has worked pretty well so far, and I will stick to it. You will make tweaks here and there."

Speculation surrounds Kevin Thomson, Rowan Vine, Tom Taiwo and Tim Clancy who has been linked with a move to Derry City.

When asked whether any new faces would depend on players leaving, he responded: "I don't have to let players go in order to bring people in, not at all, and no-one has been released. Not as yet."

Photo by John Preece

<http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

Alex Harris named in

Butcher's squad for Pittodrie



Hibs' teenage winger Alex Harris is in the squad for tonight's game against Aberdeen at Pittodrie.

The highly rated youngster injured his ankle in the opening league match of the season against Motherwell in August, and boss Terry Butcher believes that the news is like a new signing for him.

Speaking to Hibernian TV, Butcher said: "Alex has been training very well and he has been close to being in the squads for the matches against Hearts and Dundee United.

"But he'll be in the squad against Aberdeen and we'll see if he can get onto the bench or not; it's good to see him back.

"Sometimes you have got to be careful with younger players that have had their first major injury that you don't bring them back too quickly.

"Unfortunately with the under-20s being away in Turkey and with their Christmas and New Year shut down there have not been a lot of games that he can play in.

"If we try to play bounce games we don't have that many bodies that we can field two teams. We haven't been able to give him games and the match sharpness that he requires but he'll get there, he's young and there is a lot of adrenaline in his body – and I'm sure there will be when he gets his recall to the first-team.

"It is exciting to have someone like that coming back and it's like a new signing for me, so I'll just be very happy to see him back on the pitch.

"It is a big boost and it is nice to have him available, and

we want to keep everyone as fit and sharp as they can be.

“They’ve got good competition and I keep going on about that because players are now looking over their shoulders and saying: ‘He’s coming back’ or ‘he’s fit and available and itching to get into the team’.

“The players are doing well in training and trying to impress. It’s good and we want to keep that going, we’ve set a standard now in the last eight or nine games and we want to maintain that and improve on that because there is always more.”

Striker Paul Heffernan returned to first team action against Dundee United on Sunday and Butcher believes the Irishman will contribute goals to the team.

He added: “Paul has been like a pogo the last couple of days because he has been so stiff. The first 10 minutes he said he thought he only had half a lung because he couldn’t breathe and it was his first competitive 90 minutes for a long time.

“He only had five minutes against St Mirren in our first match, so he had bided his time with the injury, but he has got great experience and you can see in his link-up play, his two snap-shots with his left foot in the last two games that he has played he has nearly scored, so you think that goals will come.

“The sharper he gets and the more used he gets to the pace of the Premiership and the way that we want to play – the better. He is a very good asset to us, but he will be an even better asset when he can forge a partnership with James Collins.

“We have also got alternatives to Heffers, we’ve got the younger players Jason Cummings and Danny Handling who want to get back into the team, so we’ve got good competition there.”

Photo by John Preece

<http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

Witness appeal following fatal crash in East Lothian



A 21 year old woman has died and four people are in hospital after an accident on the A1 near Dunbar in East Lothian which occurred at 7.45pm last night.

The collision involved a Ford Ka and a Ford Focus.

Firefighters attended the scene and had to use hydraulic cutting gear to free the people from the vehicles.

Three of the injured parties were airlifted to Edinburgh Royal Infirmary by a search and rescue helicopter from RAF Boulmer, near Alnwick in Northumberland. The other casualty was taken by ambulance to the same hospital.

The road was closed for several hours while Road Police officers dealt with.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "Police in East Lothian are investigating following a fatal road collision on the A1.

"The incident happened around 7.40pm on Thursday 9th January near to the Torness Power station when a Ford Ka was involved in a collision with a Ford Focus.

"A 21-year-old female passenger, who was travelling within the Ka, sustained serious injuries and passed away at the scene.

"The 21-year-old female driver of the Ka and another female passenger, aged 20, were also taken to hospital along with the 23-year-old male driver and 20-year-old female passenger from

the Focus after all occupants suffered various injuries.

“Road Policing officers carried out a thorough inquiry at the scene and the road was closed for around six hours.

“Anyone who witnessed the collision or who has information that can assist police with their investigation is asked to come forward immediately.”

Five things you need to know today



Flood Prevention works – Portobello High School – Edinburgh Bus Geeks – Fettes College and the Great War – EdinburghReportage

The council is starting to look at the next phase of flood prevention works to be carried out on the Water of Leith. Ahead of the Transport and Environment Committee meeting next Tuesday they have issued a report which outlines new measures to ensure that the next phase of the project does not run into problems. There were insufficient funds to carry out all of the works needed in one go, so in 2009 the council decided to divide the £106m scheme into three phases. Phase 1 included defences at Stockbridge and Warriston, St Mark's Park and Bonnington, and was completed last year, although it ran considerably over budget.

The council is now adamant that they want to learn from mistakes made in carrying out works on the first phase to

ensure that none of these errors are repeated.

One of the ways in which the council will keep a tighter grip on the project is that they have appointed a project manager who is employed by the council to oversee it. Rob Leech is a Chartered Engineer and senior Programme Director who has over 20 years experience in construction. He also has over 10 years experience of high value capital projects. Mr Leech worked on the multi billion euro Metro North project in Dublin. He is now the project manager for the Flood Prevention Works.



Flood prevention works at Stockbridge

By May 2014 an independent consultant will have been appointed to review the design which will check all aspects of the works to limit any risk in the contract.

One of the main problems encountered on the Braid Burn scheme complete in 2010 at a cost of £28.7m, was the discovery of munitions which then had to be cleared. During some ground investigation work at Murrayfield an unexploded WWII bomb was revealed, and some further investigation will be required to reduce any extra expense from this kind of problem.

Phase 2 is estimated to cost around £25.5m although there is only £19.9m left in the council coffers after completion of the works downstream. The Transport Convener is certain the additional funds can be found from within the council's budget, and the committee voted last June to go ahead with the next part of what are deemed essential works.

The Transport and Environment Committee meets for its first 2014 meeting next Tuesday at 10am.

Paul Wheelhouse Minister for Environment and Climate Change made a statement about recent flooding yesterday in Holyrood. Although most of the flooding in December and January was confined to the west coast of the country, historically there

have been huge problems within Edinburgh itself with areas of flooding from Murrayfield to Balcarres Street in Morningside. The minister said during his speech:-“We have continuously maintained and protected our support for SEPA and, in conjunction with our partners in the [Convention of Scottish Local Authorities](#), we have maintained the element of the local authority settlement that is identified for flood protection. The Scottish Government has continued to invest in supporting actions to reduce flood risk, including protecting SEPA’s budget at £37.5 million and increasing it, in challenging financial circumstances, to £39.5 million in 2015-16. Local authorities can also apply for funding for large new flood protection schemes using capital funding worth £42 million a year. That investment is making a difference and will stand us in good stead.”

Sarah Boyack Lothians MSP asked the minister whether phase 2 of Edinburgh’s vital flood scheme will be eligible for funding from the £42 million to which the minister had referred. She also pointed out that the much-delayed £25 million scheme is currently £6 million short. In his response the minister did not rule out the possibility of some Government funding being made available.

The minister replied:-“In the case of the [Water of Leith](#), we have a historic scheme that has been funded to date, so we have already committed funding. I appreciate the difficulties that the [City of Edinburgh Council](#) faced in procurement. It has ended up with more expensive contracts than it anticipated and faces exceptional costs.

“We have to try to fund a number of other schemes. We have legacy schemes from previous legislation. There is the Brechin scheme, and the Ettrick scheme and other schemes, which will apply by the 21 January deadline, have come forward.

“All that I can say is that I will happily meet [Sarah Boyack](#)—I met Mr Biagi to discuss a similar issue—to explore the detail

in that case and explain the circumstances in relation to the current funding package.”

A new Portobello High School is becoming more of a reality now that the Scottish Parliament considered the bill in a session yesterday afternoon and MSPs then voted on the bill giving it universal approval.



Convener of
Education – Paul
Godzik

Councillor Paul Godzik, Convener of the Education, Children and Families Committee, welcomed the decision.

He said: “This marks another major milestone in our bid to build a new Portobello High School on Portobello Park. We are pleased that the Scottish Parliament has unanimously agreed the general principles of the City of Edinburgh Council (Portobello Park) Bill and that the Private Bill can proceed to the consideration stage. This means we are getting closer to delivering a fantastic new school that the people of Portobello rightly demand and pupils of Portobello deserve.”

Green MSPs at Holyrood include Lothian MSP and former Edinburgh councillor, Alison Johnstone, who spoke in the debate. She said that the issue had been handled badly by the council and admitted that it was deeply divisive for the community, but that, many years after the council first took its decision, it was right to support the legal mechanism to get the school built. She called for a strengthening of assurances and protections for compensatory green space and the common good status of the land being built on.

The Lothians MSP blogged about the bill [here](#).

Two guys Chris and Neil known to many as [@LothianBusGeek](#) set out yesterday morning to try and ride on all Lothian Buses from number 113 back to number 1 while at the same time running 20 miles between stops. They had to ride the buses for at least five stops. The aim of this was to raise money and after some Twitter exchanges, they decided to raise the money for local charity It's Good 2 Give.

As at 11.00pm last night they had raised around £1800 for the charity. Hooray for them! You can donate to It's Good 2 Give [here](#).

Here they are waiting for their last bus....

Here we are! <http://t.co/vnEUHTXZNK> [#edinbusgeek](#)

– Chris and Neil (@LothianBusGeek) [January 9, 2014](#)

Fettes College prepared for the Great War by drilling many of their pupils in the school's cadet corps. Find out more about all of this 100 years on from the start of the war in 1914. Edinburgh Reads are running a talk by David McDowell who teaches at the school and you can book your tickets [here](#).



We would love you to do one thing for us today. Please register on our new site EdinburghReportage [here](#) and upload a photo or video or some text to our storyboards.

Today we would like to see what you are having for your breakfast... Go on! Are you a serial cereal eater or a yodelling

yoghurt slurper? Or are you spoiling yourself today, the first Friday back at work for some, with something more substantial?

Show us – join in the fun over [here](#).

Former Hibs' captain Chris Hogg announces his retirement from football



Former Hibs captain Chris Hogg has officially announced his retirement from football.

The 28 year old defender left Inverness Caledonian Thistle at the end of last season, despite being offered an extension to his contract by Terry Butcher.

Announcing his retirement on Twitter, he wrote: “Just to let people know, I decided to retire from professional football in the summer (2013). Not through choice but lack of the right opportunity.

“It’s been hard to take but with my young family it was the right thing to do. It’s changed days in the pro game and to drag them around the country every year or so just wasn’t good.

“Abroad, options were not really viable and to stay pro at the levels available just wasn’t for me.”

Hogg made 169 appearances for Hibs in six seasons, after being

signed by Tony Mowbray from Ipswich Town, and partnered Rob Jones in the heart of the defence when the club won the CIS League Cup in 2007.

John Hughes appointed Hogg as captain but he was subsequently freed by Colin Calderwood in January 2011.

After leaving Hibs, Hogg joined Terry Butcher and Maurice Malpas at Inverness Caledonian Thistle but his appearances were limited following a serious knee injury against Dundee United, described by Butcher at the time as one of the worst he had seen.

Hogg last played for Caley in a 1-0 defeat at Ross County on May 19 last year.

He captained England at Under-15 level and was also capped at Under-16, 17, 18 and under-19 levels.

Russell Latapy to join Inverness Caledonian Thistle as Assistant Manager



John 'Yogi' Hughes hopes to make former Hibs' team mate Russell Latapy his new assistant at Inverness.

The pair played together under Alex McLeish at Easter Road before being reunited at Falkirk when Hughes became manager there.

'Yogi' has held talks with Latapy while he has been on his

coaching course and he hopes to have him in the technical area for the match at Aberdeen on 18 January.

"Russell is my number one target," Hughes told BBC Scotland.

"He is currently working at Boavista in Portugal but is in Scotland at the moment doing his pro licence."

"He is involved at Boavista at the moment and he would want to do things the proper way there before joining us"

"He is a great guy with great experience and, if he can pass that on to the players here at Inverness, it would be fantastic.

"I'm hopeful of having him with us sometime next week, but he is involved at Boavista at the moment and he would want to do things the proper way there before joining us."

Latapy began his career with Trintoc and Port Morant United in his homeland before moving to Portugal with Académica, Porto and Boavista.

In 1998, he signed for Hibs and made his competitive debut came at Somerset Park against Ayr United in a 3-3 draw with Hibs scoring two late goals to secure a point. Following his debut, he played in a further 22 games, winning an incredible 19 times and losing only once, to secure promotion as champions.

He maintained his form in the Premier division, but an arrest for drink driving resulted in him being released and he joined Rangers where he won a League Cup winners' medal.

Latapy then had a spell with Dundee United before joining Hughes at Falkirk where he became a fans' favourite.

When Trinidad and Tobago were struggling through the final round of CONCACAF qualifying for the 2006 FIFA World Cup, a phone-call from Dwight Yorke saw Russell return to the

international stage where at the ripe old age of 37 he helped the Soca Warriors qualify for their first ever Finals.

Russell was inducted into the 'Falkirk Hall of Fame' on 29 November 2008, and to mark the occasion the club hosted a 'Russell Latapy Day' which appropriately was against Hibs at the Falkirk Stadium.

He left the club in January 2009, having appeared in 194 games, scoring 29 goals before signing with Caledonia AIA in his homeland.

In September 2011, Russell returned to Easter Road where he took part in a Hibs Legends team as part of Ian Murray's testimonial match, and aged 43, still looked as though he could play at the highest level.

The following month, he came out of retirement to sign for East of Scotland Football League club Edinburgh City, ahead of its Scottish Cup tie against Irvine Meadow, and hundreds of Hibs fans turned out to watch the master at work. Once again he didn't disappoint.

Russell's impressive list of personal honours are as follows:

Along with Pat Jennings and Dwight Yorke, Russell holds the record for number of participations in different World Cup competitions – six (1990, 1994, 1998, 2002, 2006 and 2010).

Inducted into Trinidad & Tobago's Sports Hall of Fame in 2011

Inducted into Falkirk FC's Hall of Fame in 2008

GLOSS (Gems, Laventille, Outstanding, Spirit and Soul) award in 2006

Scottish Premier League Player of the Month (for August) with Falkirk in 2006

Trinidad & Tobago Chaconia Medal Gold (World Cup Squad) in

2006

Scotland's Division 1 Player of the Year in 2004/2005

Scotland's Division 1 winner's medal with Falkirk in 2004/2005

Bell's Cup winner's medal with Falkirk in 2004

Nominated for the BBC Scotland "Off The Ball" Overseas Player of the Year in 2004

Scottish First Division Player of the Month (for April) with Falkirk in 2004

Scottish League Cup Winners Medal with Rangers 2002

Trinidad & Tobago Olympic Committee Sports Personality of the Year in 2000

Nominated for the FIFA World Player of the Year in 2000

Scotland's Division 1 winner's medal with Hibernian in 1999/2000

Scotland's Division 1 Player of the Year in 1999/2000

Hibernian's Player of the Year in 1999/2000

Edinburgh Evening News Sports Personality of the Year in 1999

Hibernian's Player of the Year in 1998/1999

Portuguese Super Cup winner's medal with Boavista in 1996/1997

Cup of Portugal winner's medal with Boavista in 1996/1997

Trinidad & Tobago Humming Bird Medal Gold (for Sport) in 1996

Trinidad & Tobago Footballer of the Year in 1996

Portuguese SuperLiga winner's medal with FC Porto in 1995/1996

Portuguese SuperLiga winner's medal with FC Porto in 1994/1995

Trinidad & Tobago Chaconia Medal Silver (World Cup Squad) in 1989

Trinidad & Tobago Footballer of the Year in 1989

Trinidad & Tobago Footballer of the Year in 1985

Trinidad & Tobago Footballer of the Year in 1983

Five things you need to know today



Lothian Bus Geeks – Talking Buses – The Railway Man – Fundraising for Maggie’s – Edinburgh’s Hogmanay

Today two guys [Chris and Neil](#) tweeting as @LothianBusGeek are trying to ride every Lothian Buses service in Edinburgh to raise money for local charity It’s Good 2 Give. It did not start off that way. They only started up their fundraising page when a friend suggested it. Then Lynne McNicoll the charity founder tweeted to them to say that she hoped they would get on her bus (It’s Good 2 Give is Lothian Buses’ charity of the year and they have a bus embellished with photos and the charity message) and they decided to do the fund raising for It’s Good 2 Give. This fits very well with the charity’s own challenge this year to get small teams to raise £1000 each.

Help get the [@LothianBusGeek](#) boys more followers as they start their adventure riding all of [@on_lothianbuses](#) tmw!

'our' bus too I hope!

– Lynne McNicoll (@itsgood2give) [January 8, 2014](#)

The pair have been on the buses all day and expect to continue till just after midnight when they might have completed their goal...or not. The drama is amazing. Follow on Twitter using the hashtag [#edinbusgeek](#)....

Lynne McNicoll told The Edinburgh Reporter this afternoon:-“I am stunned at the fundraising that @lothianbusgeeks have generated from their bus adventure today which is ongoing – yesterday they hadn't heard of It's Good 2 Give and tonight their fundraising total is over £850. It has been fun watching them on Twitter and we really are so grateful to them for choosing to fundraise for us. This has been social media fundraising at its best!”

Here are just a couple of examples of their tweets....

Considering how well this has gone for [@itsgoodtogive](#), we hope you'll agree it's right to continue.

– Chris and Neil (@LothianBusGeek) [January 9, 2014](#)

Overwhelmed by your positive tweets telling us to keep going. Two hungry, tired and sweaty blokes are feeling pretty good on the 29!

– Chris and Neil (@LothianBusGeek) [January 9, 2014](#)

One of us had never tweeted until yesterday. What fun!
[#edinburghbusgeek](#)

– Chris and Neil (@LothianBusGeek) [January 9, 2014](#)

Speaking in a debate in the UK Parliament on access to transport for disabled people, Mark Lazarowicz MP strongly backed the Talking Buses campaign for next stop audio-visual announcements, praising the lead taken by Lothian Buses here in Edinburgh.

Mark said:-“Audio-visual announcements are a vital tool to help visually and hearing impaired passengers to be more independent when using public transport but many UK bus operators have failed to introduce them.

“I congratulate Lothian Buses on the initiative they have shown in equipping many of their buses with audio-visual announcements – 54 vehicles so far and another 20 to come in the summer.

“A missed stop can affect somebody’s confidence and even endanger their safety where they are completely unfamiliar with an area. Audio-visual announcements are also appreciated by other passengers, particularly by tourists and visitors.

“Yet the UK Government refuses to make them mandatory – disabled people should have a right to expect the Government to set standards not leave them with a postcode lottery.”

Mark has strongly supported the campaign by Guide Dogs to make talking buses mandatory. UK legislation currently leaves it entirely up to bus operators and local authorities.

Edinburgh has also provides a good example when it comes to wheelchair access to buses with 100% of Lothian Buses and in future trams accessible for wheelchairs even though there can still be difficulties of course for passengers in wheelchairs

if cars are parked in the wrong place for example.


The Railway Man opens tomorrow at [The Filmhouse](#) and other cinemas across the city. The film was partly filmed at the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway. The true story of Eric Lomax, a former POW who worked on the Death Railway and starring Colin Firth and Nicole Kidman is bound to be a crowd puller.



If you are all for planning ahead then here is an idea for you. You can book tickets now for Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2014/15... without even knowing who is headlining or what is happening!

Booking details [here](#).

Free cooking course with Canny Families

 Edinburgh Community Food and Changeworks team up to offer a free 6 week affordable cooking course.

Open to families with children under 16 you will learn how to make quick, easy and affordable meals each week. In addition to this you will be given recipes to take away.

You will also be able to attend a FREE kitchen canny workshop to help you to reduce food waste in your own home.

Courses starting

14th January @ Leith Academy from 09.30am till 11.30am

15th January @ Pentland Community Centre from 09.30am till 11.30am

16th January @ Slateford Green community Centre from 09.30am till 11.30am

To book your place or for more information: Contact Stephanie

Telephone- 0131 467 7326

Email- sscott@edinburghcommunityfood.org.uk

Submitted by [Robert Pearson](#)

Charity issues plea for new foster families in Scotland

Record numbers of fostered children mean that at least 850 new foster families are needed across Scotland in 2014, according to leading charity Fostering Network.

Due to increased demand, almost 5,300 children are living with over 4,375 foster families across Scotland. More foster families are needed not only to replace the 12 per cent who leave each year, but also to ensure that children who come into foster care are provided for immediately with carers who are right for them and have the skills and qualities they need to give children a secure, loving home.

The most sought-after foster families are those who can provide homes for teenagers, children with disabilities and sibling groups. Without enough foster families willing and able to offer homes to these groups, some children will find themselves separated from their siblings, living away from family, school and friends or being placed with a foster carer who does not have the ideal skills and experience to meet their specific needs.

Research by the Fostering Network in 2013 found that in the previous two years a third of foster carers had felt under pressure to take children – usually teenagers – who they were not trained or supported to look after. Many fostering relationships are broken down as a result of an unsuitable match between foster family and child. The Fostering Network hopes that a wider pool of foster carers will make it more likely that fostering services can find the right foster home for each child at the first attempt.

Sara Lurie, director of the Fostering Network Scotland, said:-
“Children and young people come into care for a wide range of reasons, but all come needing professional, dedicated and compassionate support. Foster carers are remarkable people who open their homes to some of society’s most disadvantaged children and young people.

“Fostering services are working really hard to find more foster carers, but recruitment remains an ongoing challenge. We need to attract a diverse range of foster carers who can meet the needs of children in care and who can offer as much choice as possible so that they can find the right home for each child, first time.

“We urgently need people who believe that they have the right skills and qualities to foster to come forward and make a long lasting positive difference to the life of a child. In particular, foster carers are needed to provide homes for teenagers and children with disabilities, and to help sibling

groups stay together.”

Details about how to become a foster parent in Edinburgh are on the council website [here](#).

Details of fostering services and more information about fostering and becoming a foster carer are available from couldyoufoster.org.uk

BAFTA 2014: The Round Up



Film lovers this morning woke up early on Wednesday morning to catch the announcement of the BAFTA's 2014 Film Awards, sponsored by EE.

As 2013 was one of cinema's greatest years in quite a while, it seems there was some stiff competition to gain a position in this years nominations.

Leading the way with 11 nods was Alfonso Cuarón's space epic, Gravity. Following closely in second, Steve McQueen's 12 Years A Slave and David O. Russell's American Hustle with 10 nominations each.

Here's a breakdown of the major categories, who's favourite to win and who is likely to walk off with the gongs on the night.

BEST PICTURE

12 Years A Slave (Director: Steve McQueen)

American Hustle (D: David O Russell)

Captain Phillips (D: Paul Greengrass)

Gravity (D: Alfonso Cuarón)

Philomena (D: Stephen Frears)

It seems to be a two horse race between 12 Years A Slave and Gravity, with 12 Years A Slave edging out slightly due to its all round critical acclaim. There's some rather noteworthy omissions in the form of Nebraska and The Wolf of Wall Street, although Nebraska's rather limited release and the latter's UK release not coming until later on in the month, its understandable that the Scorsese/DiCaprio feature wasn't appreciated by BAFTA.

BEST DIRECTOR

Steve McQueen (12 Years A Slave)

Alfonso Cuarón (Gravity)

David O. Russell (American Hustle)

Paul Greengrass (Captain Phillips)

Martin Scorsese (The Wolf of Wall Street)

It's likely McQueen will pick this one up and sweep the awards season this year, but it would be nice to see Cuarón's impeccable work appreciated. Although his large scale, wailing, CGI-filled blockbuster was mistaken by some as vacuous and poorly written, Gravity was an epic, human led drama that was reined in wonderfully by its director. Saying that, this is anyone's game with previous Oscar bait Russell and Scorsese involved.

BEST ACTOR

Leonardo DiCaprio (The Wolf of Wall Street)

Christian Bale (American Hustle)

Chiwetel Ejiofor (12 Years A Slave)

Bruce Dern (Nebraska)

Tom Hanks (Captain Phillips)

It seemed like all eyes were on Dern for his authentic performance in Nebraska, with critics hailing him the winner for months on end. That was until Ejiofor's performance was fully witnessed, meaning the British actor is more likely to take home the gong. There's no sign of Robert Redford for All Is Lost, which seems to have engrossed audiences since its

release.

BEST ACTRESS

Amy Adams (American Hustle)
Cate Blanchett (Blue Jasmine)
Emma Thompson (Saving Mr Banks)
Sandra Bullock (Gravity)
Judi Dench (Philomena)

Bullock was always the bookies favourite after early screenings of Gravity engrossed critics. However, it seems unlikely that anyone but Blanchett will take home this one. In Woody Allen's comical drama 'Blue Jasmine', she gives a career defining performance. Perhaps Judi Dench could come around as stiff competition. It would've been nice to see a nod for Brie Larson's wonderful performance in Short Term 12, or one of the female leads in Blue is the Warmest Colour (Lea Seydoux is nominated in the Rising Star category), to mix up this fairly predictable category.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR

Matt Damon (Behind the Candelabra)
Bradley Cooper (American Hustle)
Barkhad Abdi (Captain Phillips)
Daniel Brühl (Rush)
Michael Fassbender (12 Years A Slave)

This category is pretty much a level race, with no clear winners. It's likely the 12 Years A Slave bug will effect this category too, giving Fassbender a great chance. The critics were also significantly impressed by Abdi's debut performance, giving him a good boost too. Surprising omission in this category is Jared Leto's unrecognisable performance in Dallas Buyers Club, for which he is tipped to take the Academy Award. It's nice to see Damon given recognition for Behind the Candelabra, although another more light hearted nod for the late James Gandolfini's performance in Enough Said would have rounded out this category nicely.

BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS

Jennifer Lawrence (American Hustle)

Julia Roberts (August: Osage County)

Lupita N'yongo (12 Years A Slave)

Sally Hawkins (Blue Jasmine)

Oprah Winfrey (The Butler)

Perhaps the most surprising category, with only two predicted nominations in the form of front runners Jennifer Lawrence and Lupita N'yongo for her sublime performance in 12 Years A Slave. It seems likely N'yongo will take this one with Lawrence's shower of awards last season for her lead performance in Russell's last effort, Silver Linings Playbook. Nevertheless, there could be some surprises this year. It's lovely to see Sally Hawkins receiving a worthy nomination for Blue Jasmine, as well as Winfrey and Roberts returning to the awards circuit once again. It seems unlikely any of this talented trio will beat Lawrence or N'yongo, though.

What else to look out for:

- Scotland has been wonderfully represented this year by the fantastic Paul Wright with his dramatic seaside debut, For Those In Peril. The film, which had its UK premiere at the Edinburgh International Film Festival this year, has been nominated for Outstanding British Debut.
- The festival's wonderful repertoire is also evident in the Best Documentary category, with We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks being nominated, as well as Monsters University having a Best Animation nod. Both films had their UK premiere at the EIFF last summer.
- Expect the majority of the technical awards to be dominated by the spectacle that is Gravity. It seems unlikely that anything will hold a candle to the epic, after leaving audiences in awe over the past few months.

Read the full list of nominees over at BAFTA [here](#).

What do you think has a good chance of winning? Is there anyone you felt should have been nominated that wasn't? Leave a comment below and let's talk films!

Don Pasquale brings a taste of Rome to Edinburgh this winter



Edinburgh will play host to the sights and sounds of the Italian capital as the Scottish Opera presents Donizetti's masterpiece *Don Pasquale* for the first time since 1977.

In a brand new production for Scottish Opera, director Renaud Doucet and designer André Barbe are bringing their talent for storytelling back to Scotland after their five-star production of *Manon* in 2009. *Don Pasquale* is a comic opera which focuses on Rome on the cusp of the Swinging Sixties.

Barbe said:- "We feel that the creative energy of Rome in the 1960s presents the perfect setting to showcase the clash of generations. By working faithfully with Donizetti's dramatic score and the libretto, we want use the passion and energy of the setting to help tell this wonderful story."

This production of Donizetti's opera buffa tells the story of Don Pasquale, who owns a run-down boarding house and has a fondness for – but a tragic allergy to – cats. As his years advance, he worries that his nephew Ernesto will squander his inheritance by marrying the impoverished young widow Norina,

so he determines to find a wife of his own to share his time – and his money – with. But married life does not turn out to be the solution for Don Pasquale, who finds himself at the mercy of the young couple's trickery in his old age.

Doucet said:- “We’re really looking forward to bringing the warmth of Rome to Scottish audiences this winter. It’s the perfect story to lift the spirits – quirky, quick-witted and colourful.”

Alfonso Antoniozzi, Nicholas Lester and Aldo Di Toro are set to play the leading roles of Don Pasquale, Dr Malatesta and Ernesto, respectively, while Scottish Opera Emerging Artist Andrew McTaggart sings the baritone Notary.

Former Scottish Opera Music Director Francesco Corti makes his return to conduct The Orchestra of Scottish Opera.

The production will run at the Festival Theatre on Tue 18, Thu 20, Sat 22 February at 7.15pm.

Booking details [here](#).

Rider Diary: Dig in at the Dock Cyclocross Race



5 January dawned, and it was time for the battle of Bo’ness, with 150 riders battling for bragging rights to being King and Queen of the Dock, at Scotland’s most popular cycle race – Dig in at the Dock cyclocross race.

My race was a story of two slow parts. By design, cyclocross

racers are devilishly fast – an hour flat out race to the finish, so the trick is to bury yourself, there are not many tactics to be deployed. The first slow part was the start: with 150 riders pushing and shoving to get on the front line it's easy to imagine the difficulty of actually getting there. I held back and was about 6 lines back, with all the pre-race favourites, David Lines of Starley Primal Pro-Cycling, Rab Wardell of Orange Monkey Mountain Bike Team and Gareth Montgomerie of Pedal Power among others at the front. I was not expecting much having been off the bike over the festive period with man-flu. So that made for a slow start picking my way through the masses; however in retrospect it may have been a good thing as during the cyclocross season I had made a bit of a habit of starting rapidly and firing to the front of the race before 'blowing a gasket' (most spectacularly at the Strathclyde park where I actually led the race in the first lap, only to later chuck all the toys out of the pram and quit the race vowing never to ride cyclocross again).

After a few laps I was settled into a small group of riders, containing a few of the riders I'd had a few battles with in prior cyclocross events, like Addy Pope of VC Moulin, Dougie Shearer of Innerleithen CC and my arch nemesis Ruari Yeoman of East Kilbride RC, and was pretty comfortable. Unlike other cyclocross venues the harbour at Bo'ness is that flat and exposed that there is actually an



Me in my first group with 'arch nemesis' Ruari Yeoman of EKRC in the background

advantage by sitting in a group and getting a bit of drafting, so that was the way the race was panned out, with the leaders group containing the likes of Montgomerie, Wardell and Lines

and other riders such as Gary MacRae the out and out dominating Veteran cyclocross racer of the season, with small groups all the way back to where I was.



Reigning King Rab Wardell
(right) does battle with
eventual winner Gareth
Montgomerie (left)

After sitting in the group for a while, however, I felt that I was perhaps too comfortable for a cyclocross race, and coming through the start/finish area decide to put in an attack and see if I could bridge to some other higher placed riders. Luckily it worked and eventually I caught Graeme Warren of VC Moulin and we quickly worked into a rhythm of taking spells at the front eventually swallowing Kevin Barclay of Bicycleworks into our group. Meanwhile at the front of the race disaster struck for reigning king of the Dock Rab Wardell as he punctured requiring a bike change and putting himself out of the running for the overall prize.

As the race neared its end I was again feeling comfortable in my new group so in the last lap coming out of the portage (for the uninitiated; forced running section) I went on the attack to bid for 14th place. I managed to get a gap (good) but suddenly heard a loud crack (bad) and looked down to see my rear derailleur was sheared off the frame rendering the bike un-rideable which meant I had to run the last quarter lap. Up ahead Gareth Montgomerie took the sprint finish to win from David Lines, who has dominated Scottish Cyclocross all season, with veteran, and rider of the day in my opinion Gary MacRae of Leslie Bike Shop who rounded off the male senior podium. My team-mate, at Team Thomson's Cycles, Harry Johnston took the junior prize whilst Isla Short, also a team-mate, was first female to round off an excellent cyclocross season.

I eventually finished in 20th place, running instead of riding over the line.



You're supposed to
ride the bike!

Photos by John Preece // <http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

Bittersweet start to the year for ice cream parlour



If you thought you had a sore head on New Year's Day, then spare a thought for Mary's Milk Bar in the Grassmarket. The owner of the ice cream parlour, which has been trading for just six months, had a rough start to the year when she discovered that Hogmanay revellers had smashed the front windows in.

But following her plucky posts on social media, owner Mary Hillard says the business is better placed than ever to survive the coming year.

Hillard, 27, told the Edinburgh Reporter that, “I didn’t know what to do at first, but loads of people came down, giving me numbers of glazers and buying ice cream. There was a really nice spirit about it.”

“I don’t usually use social media – I don’t have a personal account or anything like that, and only started getting involved with it since I went into business. But the response has been brilliant.”

Posting about the shattered window was a stroke of genius from her boyfriend, said Hillard. “When I was boarding the window up, he said there’s two ways you go about this; you can be sad about it, or you can be positive and use it.”

And the extra attention the Milk Bar received proved to be a boost for the business, during a time of year when New Years’ Resolutions might dampen punters’ appetite for gelato.

“There’s been an upturn in business, definitely in the first few days, because so many more people came in to buy ice cream and help me out. To be honest I’m quite enjoying it. I’ve had people say we’re now more noticeable since we look a bit derelict, to someone who thought it wasn’t real, like some chic Berlin pop-up shop or something.”

The ice cream parlour, already renowned for its inventive flavour combinations, recently bagged a place as one of the ‘Best Newcomers in Scotland’ in the Skinny’s Food and Drink Survey 2014.

Bunny Burns Supper Charity Ceilidh Night

✖ [Buddies Bunny Rescue](#) are putting on an 'alternative' Burns Night event in aid of two local Animal Welfare Charities, the main theme being that of rabbit welfare & suitable for Vegetarians / Vegans – after-all, Bunnies don't eat meat either!

Joint fundraiser for Rabbits Require Rights (Scotland) SC044268 & Buddies Bunny Rescue SC043193

Bunny Burns Supper Charity Ceilidh Night

Sat 25 January 2014

6.30pm till 11.30pm, food served 7.30pm

St Peter's Church Hall,
14 Lutton Place,
Edinburgh
EH8 9PE

£16 ticket – available from RRR website [here](#).

Tickets Scotland <http://www.tickets-scotland.com>

or email rabbitsrockscotland@hotmail.co.uk for payment by cheque/postal order

Fill your boots with 3 courses of Traditional Scottish (Veggie/Vegan) cuisine

Broth

Veggie Haggis, Neeps n Tattie

Cranachan

Live music – a fine performance from our very own bonny lass,

Tartan Heather

& Norloch <http://www.norloch.net/>

with a one off performance from the Bun Wallace Choir

Raffle – & prizes for the best Scottish Bunny Ears

Joint fundraiser for Rabbits Require Rights (Scotland)
SC044268

& Buddies Bunny Rescue SC043193
<http://www.buddiesbunnies.co.uk>

Get your Highland Binky on & help the Buns!

Submitted by [Karen Gray](#)

Film Review: 12 Years a Slave

There are very few films where the audience leave the cinema without saying a word, (Schindler's List was one of them) such is the impression left by what they have seen. Another one has just been added to the short list : "12 Years a Slave"

The film is a serious period piece of pre-civil war drama with a heavy-weight starring cast (Chiwetel Ejiofor, Brad Pitt, Benedict Cumberbatch, Michael Fassbender, Sarah Paulson). It is based on the real-life memoir by Solomon Northrop which he wrote in 1853 after his time in slavery. Solomon was a free man in upstate New York, tricked and abducted in to slavery, leaving his wife and 2 children without them knowing where he

had gone. It lays bare the brutal cruelty meted out to slaves who are treated as property, which is harsh and often uncomfortable viewing. Racist language is widely used but to take it out of the film, would be like removing spices from a curry; it would make the film bland. By doing so, it makes you appreciate the freedoms that we take for granted here today.

The acting is superb and it is a powerful film that will leave a lasting impression on you; an essential history lesson on slavery. To miss this film at the cinema would be an injustice to you and to the people who crafted it. There are no slick special effects, fictionalisation or other trickery just drama at its supreme best.

Let's Face the Music and Dance at the Church Hill Theatre this spring



Janice Bruce's wish has come true. She is producing and choreographing a show in aid of charity, Leukaemia CARE.

"It is mainly a dance show with dancing and singing from over fifty musicals," said Janice. "Shows I have choreographed in the past, together with some new ones I have always wanted to do, for example El Tango de Roxanne from Moulin Rouge. The response from dancers and singers to be part of this great cause has been overwhelming, everyone is giving their time for free, even the band members."

“One of my friends in MGA has given their dance studio over to us for rehearsals, while the cast have paid for a church hall for other rehearsals.”

After 36 years working as a Visual Merchandise Manager Janice Bruce is leaving the John Lewis Partnership. In her spare time Janice is a choreographer and director for amateur musical shows in Edinburgh, and now she has her own show. Ever since her mum died a few years ago, it has always been Janice’s wish to put on a dance show for charity.

With the number of costumes Janice has made over the years and the contacts she has made, the show will be well kitted out. The only costs should be the hire of the theatre itself together with sound and lighting.

The main thing is to get as big a cheque as possible for Leukaemia CARE and that’s where you come in. If you would like to lend your support, please do buy tickets to see the show. Let’s Face The Music and Dance runs from Thursday 17th April to Saturday 19th April 2014 at the Church Hill Theatre Morningside Road. The show starts at 7.30pm with a Saturday Matinee at 2.30pm. All tickets are £15 which includes a free prize draw. Call 07751282710 for tickets.

Submitted by [JANICE BRUCE](#)

**Edinburgh streets cleaner
than ever say Keep Scotland**

Beautiful



Edinburgh's streets are the cleanest they've ever been according to the latest cleanliness assessment by Keep Scotland Beautiful.

A report to be discussed at the next Transport and Environment Committee will consider the Cleanliness Index Monitoring (CIM) scheme results in more depth.

A total of 97% of the streets assessed under the scheme in September last year were found to have an acceptable level of cleanliness – the highest result to date.

The independent assessment, which is carried out for the Council four times a year, grades a selection of streets depending on the presence of litter, graffiti and dog fouling and provides a snapshot of the condition of Edinburgh's Neighbourhoods during the month.

September's assessment showed an improvement across the city, with the level of streets deemed of an acceptable standard up 2% and the overall cleanliness index score four points higher than the previous June.

All six of Edinburgh's Neighbourhoods and all 17 wards received a cleanliness index result of 67 or above, achieving the national standard target, while three out of the six Neighbourhoods and nine out of 17 wards met the Council target of 72. A total of seven wards attained a result of 100% of streets surveyed meeting the acceptable standard of cleanliness – increasing on five wards in June 2013.

Clean Up Edinburgh, a city-wide awareness-raising campaign aimed at tackling the issue of litter, was launched in October 2013 and seeks to change public attitudes, urging individuals

and groups to take responsibility for keeping their local community clean.

A day of action was held on 29 November as part of the campaign, which saw volunteers, staff, schools and businesses group together for a series of clean-ups in locations across the capital. Further activities and initiatives are planned to raise awareness as the campaign continues throughout the year.

Councillor Lesley Hinds, Transport and Environment Convener, said: "These are encouraging results for the city and demonstrate the dedication of our street cleaning and environmental warden staff who do such a great job keeping Edinburgh clean.

"However we need to keep this up and a change in attitude is essential to achieving this. Initiatives like Clean Up Edinburgh have shown the important role the public play in making the city a better place to live and we hope the campaign will make people think twice before dropping litter."

Carole Noble, Head of Environmental Services at Keep Scotland Beautiful said: "The City of Edinburgh Council has been at the forefront of implementing best practise in environmental monitoring, allowing Council resources to be focused in the most effective way possible. These results are further encouragement that improvements are being delivered.

"However, there is no room for complacency, and we welcome the Council's enthusiastic introduction of the Clean Up Edinburgh campaign which will help to further highlight the impact of those who irresponsibly dispose of litter or who allow their dogs to foul our streets and green spaces."

Kevin Thomson told that he can leave Hibs



Terry Butcher has told Kevin Thomson that he can leave the club during the January transfer window.

After speculation in the media this morning regarding Thomson and team mates Tom Taiwo, Tim Clancy and Rowan Vine, the news was 'confirmed' on twitter by former team-mate Leigh Griffiths who tweeted: ""Gutted to hear that a good mate of mine has been told he can leave, Kevin Thomson is one of the best players in SPL, big loss to Hibs".

Thomson has made just two substitute appearances since Butcher arrived in the capital in November.

The 29-year-old midfielder who was called into the Scotland squad earlier in the season is under contract with the Easter Road side until the summer.

He re-joined Hibs in March after agreeing to leave Middlesbrough by mutual consent and played the remainder of last season without wages before signing a deal for this season.

Thomson was one of the 'golden generation' of youngsters who came through the ranks at Easter Road before moving on to bigger clubs.

He joined Rangers in 2007 for a reported £2m, shortly before Hibs won the CIS League Cup and spent three successful year at Ibrox, winning two league titles and three domestic cups before moving to Teeside.

Injuries restricted his appearances at the Riverside Stadium under Gordon Strachan and Tony Mowbray.

Thomson has been linked with a move to Dundee United.

Photo by John Preece

<http://www.photoboxgallery.com/jlp-photography>

Operation RAC – Two men appear in court



Two men have appeared in court in Edinburgh following inquiries by police in the capital in relation to Operation RAC.

Steven Graham, aged 23, and 26 -year-old Alan Elder appeared from custody at Edinburgh Sheriff Court on Monday after they were charged with two theft by house-breaking, one attempted house breaking with intent, one count of shoplifting and a number of road traffic offences.

The alleged house-breakings relate to incidents in Bleachfield, Edinburgh and Murrayfield Gardens and property to the value of £50,000 has been recovered.

Operation RAC was launched in December to tackle housebreaking in many communities throughout the country where the issue was identified as a local priority.

A number of arrests have already been made within Edinburgh and officers continue to pursue offenders throughout the region.

Corstorphine Hill murder trial starts at Edinburgh High Court



The trial of a 40 year old Irish man accused of beheading and dismembering his mother then burying her on Corstorphine Hill started at the High Court in Edinburgh today.

James Dunleavy, also known as Seamus Dunleavy, denies murdering Philomena, 66, of Marino, Dublin between 30 April and 7 May last year, and attempting to defeat the ends of justice by trying to cover up the alleged murder and destroy evidence.

The murder charge that he inflicted “blunt force trauma” by means unknown, compressed his mother’s throat and cut off her head and legs.

The charge further alleges that he put his mother’s torso, severed legs and head into a suitcase and took the dismembered body to Corstorphine Hill where he buried her.

Prosecutors also claim that Mr Dunleavy vacuumed and washed his flat to remove blood stains and set fire to a bed and mattress.

At the time of the incident Mr Dunleavy, had been living in a flat in Edinburgh’s Balgreen Road.

Earlier today the court heard from a cyclist who discovered the remains of Mrs Dunleavy on 6 June last year who was the first witness to be called.

The trial at the High Court in Edinburgh continues and is expected to last up to a month.

Homecoming Scotland 2014 – A year of brilliant moments right on your doorstep



A new marketing campaign designed to encourage Scots and those in the north of England and Northern Ireland to uncover the Homecoming Scotland 2014 events on their doorsteps was launched today by Tourism Minister Fergus Ewing at the Filmhouse in Edinburgh.

The £500,000 campaign, which involves a dedicated TV advert as well as additional press, radio, digital and promotional activity, will demonstrate how easy it is to attend at least one of the record number of 430 Homecoming events (and counting) which stretch across Scotland.

The advert, to be shown across Scotland, the north of England and Northern Ireland, depicts different family groups stepping out of their front doors straight into one of the many Homecoming events including:

- Grandparents with their 2 grandchildren enjoying the Lochearnhead Highland Games
- A couple taking the CalMac ferry to Islay to enjoy the Islay Festival of Music and Malt
- A young couple at the Wickerman Festival in Dumfries and Galloway

- A couple on the High Street enjoying the Edinburgh Festival Fringe
- A mum and her two young children at Return to the Ridings in the Scottish Borders

The 30-second advert is aimed primarily at the domestic market to encourage Scots to attend not just one, but many of the vast, diverse activities happening across Scotland in 2014 and get involved in what is set to be the biggest programme of events for Homecoming that the country has ever seen.

As well as the TV advert, a promotional campaign has been launched on radio and in print and a special [Homecoming App](#), also launched today, will allow users to search events, bookmark favourites, check in while at events and take photos to seamlessly share with friends and those around them. Visitors can also download a [special e-brochure](#).

Fergus Ewing, Tourism Minister said:

“The world-class events planned for Homecoming 2014 create a huge opportunity for Scotland, boosting our tourism industry and wider economy and positioning our country on the international stage as a dynamic and creative nation. We have already seen Lonely Planet name Scotland as one of the three top countries in the world to visit in 2014. CNN recently listed Edinburgh as a top ten city to visit this winter. This fantastic news further adds to the momentum building through spectacular events such as last week’s Hogmanay celebrations.

“The Doorsteps TV advert showcases some of the other inspirational events and activities happening across Scotland in 2014 and warmly invites our people and visitors closer to home to join the celebration. This year, Scotland will also play host to the Ryder Cup, Commonwealth Games and the MTV Europe Awards – which will broadcast to nearly 700 million households through MTV’s global network of channels.

“2014 will be an extraordinary year for Scotland and this

advert, alongside the Homecoming app and enhanced information on the wider events programme which are also now available, will help us to share it with as many people as possible.”

Mike Cantlay, Chairman of VisitScotland said:-“From the Orkney Nature Festival in the north to the Big Burns Supper in the south, Homecoming Scotland events are sweeping across the country in 2014 and we want everyone to get out there and enjoy them, whether it’s just one, or all 430 – now there’s a challenge! Homecoming is not only about Scottish people welcoming others from around the world to celebrate their home country, it’s about Scots themselves, opening their doors to the rich culture and history all around them. It’s going to be a truly amazing year.”

The Homecoming ‘doorsteps’ advert was created by Edinburgh-based The Leith Agency and directed by Martin Wedderburn. The adverts will appear on television in Scotland, Northern Ireland and the north of England from 8 – 27 January, when millions of people will see the advert. Further bursts of activity are planned for early March and May.

The ‘doorsteps’ advert complements the VisitScotland ‘Brilliant Moments’ campaign, launched in November 2013, which promotes Homecoming, the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup to national and international audiences through TV advertising, radio, print, outdoor and online.

The end frame to the ‘doorsteps’ advert states “A Year of Brilliant Moments, right on your doorstep,” to link the campaigns. The advert will also promote the homecomingscotland.com website and twitter handle: #Homecoming2014.

Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh Airport incident – Free School Meals – Wester Hailes Digital Sentinel – Your cats – National Librarian to retire

✖ Edinburgh airport was evacuated yesterday around 2:00pm ✖ due to a scare over a piece of hand luggage. It took until just after 5:00 until the police lifted restrictions and allowed the airport to reopen.

Two of our readers had arrived at the airport around 2:00pm only to find that their incoming aircraft had landed but they were not allowed into the building to check in. On getting home later in the evening, they told The Edinburgh Reporter:- “We are now due to fly tomorrow – the airport was totally chaos – if only someone had come out and let us know what was going on. I could have done better – we ended up letting airport staff know what was going on, as we received more news on our smart phones, than they received... That can’t be right... Our airline staff were brilliant however.”

Families and young people across Scotland will benefit from millions of pounds of additional support after First Minister Alex Salmond announced a significant expansion of free school meals and childcare provision.

As part of a £114 million package for young people over two years, every one of Scotland’s P1 to P3 children will have the option of a free meal in school from January next year,

improving health and wellbeing, increasing attainment and saving families at least £330 a year for each child.

Speaking during a parliamentary debate on poverty and the early years yesterday afternoon, Mr Salmond also announced that free childcare provision would be expanded to every two year-old from a workless household in Scotland – around 8,400 children or 15 per cent of all two year-olds – by August this year.

And by August next year, free childcare provision would be extended further, reaching 15,400 children – 27 per cent of all two year-olds – by widening entitlement to families that received certain welfare benefits such as Jobseeker's Allowance.

The First Minister said the extension to childcare provision would ensure that, by August 2015, Scotland will deliver 80 million hours of childcare to pre-school children – the greatest amount in the UK and 6.5 per cent more than if Scotland followed Westminster's approach in England.

But he warned that, only with independence could a truly transformational shift in childcare be funded, because the economic gains and revenues generated by such a policy will go to a Scottish exchequer and not the London Treasury.

✖ The First Minister said:

“The announcements that we are making today will have the greatest possible effect, given the limited resources available to us.

“Under this government, Scotland has made free meals available in primary school to families which receive child and working tax credits – a step which hasn't been taken in England and Wales, and which contributed to 10,000 more pupils registering for free school meals.

“Now, we can go further. I can announce today that – after discussions with our partners in local government – we will fund free school meals for all school children in primary 1 to primary 3 from next January.

“This measure will build on, and learn from, the pilots we established in five local authority areas in 2007 and 2008. It will remove any possibility of free meals being a source of stigma during the first years of a child’s schooling; it will improve health and wellbeing; and it will be worth at least £330 a year for each child to families across the country.

“The measure has been supported by a powerful alliance of campaigners against child poverty, including Child Poverty Action Group Scotland, Children in Scotland, One Parent Families Scotland, the Church of Scotland and trade unions.”



Do you live in Wester Hailes? Would you like to get involved in a new project to bring the local news to life? Then get along to WHALE today from 1:00pm or Wester Hailes Library from 5.30pm to find out how you can help find and report on the news for the Digital Sentinel. Today’s session is all about audio, learning how to record it and produce it for publication on the internet. Age does not matter, but enthusiasm is required!

More information on the Digital Sentinel website [here](#).

Do you have a cat? Would you like to show them off to us and our readers? Then head over to EdinburghReportage where there is a new storyboard waiting to be filled with photos of your moggies! Register over [here](#)....





After 11 successful years, Martyn Wade is to retire from his post as National Librarian and Chief Executive of the National Library of Scotland (NLS).

Mr Wade joined NLS, one of Scotland's premier cultural institutions, in 2002 and led a significant period of innovation that widened public access to its world class collections.

Mr Wade's tenure has seen many significant developments at NLS. Highlights of his period in post include the acquisition of world renowned John Murray Archive in 2006, the opening of a public visitor centre in 2009 and of a special collections reading room in 2012, all sited in the Library's flagship building on George IV Bridge in Edinburgh. He also led the merger of the Scottish Screen Archive (SSA) with NLS, contributed to the current plans to find the SSA a permanent home in the Kelvin Hall in Glasgow and is currently leading the development of an innovative new National Sound Archive for Scotland.

Online access was expanded in 2010 when over a million resources previously only available by a visit to NLS in Edinburgh were made available at the click of a button for people all over Scotland. Mr Wade also played a key part in the introduction of e-legal deposit, which enabled NLS and the five other legal deposit libraries to begin collecting and storing websites and born-digital material in the same way that printed material has been collected for centuries.

Mr Wade said: 'After 11 years, I feel the time is right to move on and I'm very proud to have been part of the organisation during such a period of development and innovation.'

The Chair of the Library's Board, James Boyle, said: 'Widening access to the public has been the cornerstone of Martyn Wade's contribution to NLS. Martyn has ensured that many more people use the collections in person or online, attend events, or simply visit the Library to enjoy exhibitions and use the cafe and shop. Under his leadership, the Library has taken major steps forward and we thank him for all that he has achieved.'

Before joining NLS, Mr Wade was Head of Library, Information and Learning at Glasgow City Council, the largest public library and information service in Scotland. He is active in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) where he chairs a committee on Freedom of Access to Information and Freedom of Expression. He has been a member of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals since 1976; in 2010 he was appointed as a Fellow of the Department of Information Studies at Aberystwyth University, and in 2011 as Honorary Professor at Robert Gordon University's Department of Information Management, in recognition of his contribution to the leadership of library and information services in Scotland.

Mr Wade retires at the end of March 2014.

Edinburgh Airport reopens after suspicious package found in hand luggage



Police Scotland have confirmed that an incident at Edinburgh Airport following the discovery of a suspicious bag has been resolved.

The alert was raised at around 1.50pm today (Tuesday, January 7th) and the building was subsequently evacuated, with a 100m cordon put in place to ensure the safety of the public.

The EOD was immediately contacted and attended along with the emergency service agencies. A thorough examination of the bag was undertaken and the contents were deemed safe.



Chief Inspector David Campbell from Police Scotland's Border Policing Command said: "As part of a routine bag search at the airport, suspicions were raised about the contents of one item of hand luggage and the decision was taken to evacuate the airport while the appropriate enquiries could be carried out.

"We are now satisfied there isn't, nor was there ever, any risk to the public and the airport will now begin to reopen.

"We would like to thank the public for their patience and co-operation during the emergency service response."

Edinburgh Airport not accepting incoming flights



Edinburgh Airport remains closed and has announced that it is not accepting incoming flights

The public have been advised not to travel to airport but should contact their airlines for more information.

This news follows the discovery of a suspect package within the terminal building at 1.50pm today.

The Edinburgh Reporter understands that a male passenger was stopped by security staff and his baggage is being examined.

As at 16:30 emergency alarms were still ringing in the terminal building.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "Police at Edinburgh Airport have implemented a closure of the building and the access roads following the discovery of a potentially suspicious bag within the central search area at around 1.50pm today.

Reacting to the news, MSP for the Edinburgh Western Colin Keir said 'This is very concerning news for travellers and all those working at the airport. My thoughts are for their safety. At this stage it is best to let the security services do their job by identifying the threat and dealing with it.'

Edinburgh Airport evacuated after suspect package discovered



Edinburgh Airport terminal and all access roads have been closed after a suspect package was found at 1.50pm today.

The building has been evacuated and the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Bomb disposal experts are at the scene.

A spokesman for the Airport said that an investigation was under way but could not yet comment on whether flights have been affected.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "Police at Edinburgh Airport have implemented a closure of the building and the access roads following the discovery of a potentially suspicious bag within the central search area at around 1.50pm today.

"The Explosive Ordnance Disposal are currently in attendance to inspect the item and officers are maintaining a cordon to ensure the safety of the public."

An update is expected later today

Police hunt two men following Granton baker's shop robbery



Police are investigating following a robbery at a Greggs' baker's shop in Boswall Parkway in the early hours of this morning.

Just before 6am a female shop assistant arrived at the premises to open up the store by raising the shutters and unlocking the front door. Two armed males then forced their way in behind her and stole an amount of cash before running off in the direction of Crewe Place.

One suspect was then seen getting into a vehicle, which was lost to sight at the junction of Crewe Place and Pilton Avenue.

The first suspect is described as white, 5ft 10in, early 20s, slight build, wearing dark clothing with the hood up and a black balaclava or a scarf covering the face and wearing gloves and with a local accent.

The second suspect is described as white, early 20s, 5ft 8in, slight build, wearing a red hooded top with the hood up and dark body warmer on top, a scarf over his face up to his nose, and with a local accent.

The vehicle is described as a dark hatchback.

Detective Constable Alison Wyllie from Police Scotland said: "This was a terrifying experience for the female assistant who was opening up the shop alone and in the early hours of the morning. We ask that anyone who recognises the description of the suspect or witnessed events unfold, to contact police immediately."

Anyone with any information should contact Police Scotland on 101 or the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

New board members for The National Galleries of Scotland



The National Galleries of Scotland has a board of trustees who direct its work in the arts world and today the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, Fiona Hyslop MSP, announced the appointment of six new Trustees.

The body cares for, develops, researches and displays the national collection of Scottish and international art and, with a lively and innovative programme of activities, exhibitions, education and publications, aims to engage, inform and inspire the broadest possible public.

Alistair Dodds has held senior management positions in the Highland Council over a period of 18 years in HR, Corporate Governance, and was Chief Executive for over six years until August 2013.

He is a former Company Secretary to Eden Court Theatre, Inverness and has a keen personal interest in the arts, having been a Friend of the National Galleries of Scotland for many years.

Mr Dodds has an Economics degree from Edinburgh University, a post graduate Diploma in Personnel Management from Strathclyde University and an MBA (Distinction) from Dundee University.

Edward Green is a specialist in jewellery and antiques. During his 30 years career, he has held the positions of Deputy Chairman of Garrard the Crown Jewellers and Managing Director, Mappin & Webb, and was responsible for taking both companies into Asia. Following that, he was a main board director of Asprey and President of Asprey in the United States.

Mr Green graduated from Strathclyde University with a BA in business and administration (HCM).

Benny Higgins began his career at Standard Life where he qualified as an actuary and progressed to RBS and subsequently HBOS where he was Chief Executive of their Retail Banking divisions. He took the helm at Tesco Bank in 2008 following Tesco's buyout of the RBS share.

He is a member of the Glasgow Economic Leadership Board and the Commonwealth Games Legacy Board. He is also a non-executive director of Buccleuch Group, a member of the Scottish Government's Financial Services Advisory Board (FiSAB) and a Princes Trust Ambassador.

Tari Lang is an international advisor to corporations and governments/government bodies providing senior specialist counsel on reputation risk and management, and leadership development. Ms Lang was the Founding Partner of Reputation Inc, a reputation management consultancy in London, Dublin and Dubai and before that, CEO of Edelman Public Relations Worldwide in London.

Ms Lang currently sits on the Board of the National Theatre of Scotland, the Edinburgh International Festival Council and the Nominating Council of Women of the Year.

Professor Nick Pearce holds the Sir John Richmond Chair of Fine Art at the University of Glasgow. Since joining the University in 1998, he has held the position of Head of History of Art and latterly Head of the School of Culture & Creative Arts within the College of Arts. A specialist in the arts of China, his career has straddled both academe and museums, having previously held curatorial positions at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, The Burrell Collection in Glasgow and the Oriental Museum at the University of Durham.

Professor Pearce is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and of the Royal Society of Arts. He is also a Visiting

Professor on the Smithsonian Institution's Masters Program in the History of the Decorative Arts in Washington D.C. and a Trustee of the Textile Conservation Foundation.

Willie Watt is chief executive of Martin Currie Investment Management Ltd. He joined Martin Currie as chief executive in January 2001. Before that, he spent 16 years with 3i Group, latterly as a managing director responsible for the Scottish part of its UK business. He ran specialist venture, buy out and the oil and gas teams.

Martin Currie has developed over the last ten years as a specialist international equities boutique focussing on Global, Asian and Emerging Markets.

Mr Watt received a First-Class Honours degree in Geography from the University of Aberdeen and then went on to complete a 3 year Carnegie research scholarship in Geography and Archaeology.

These appointments are for four years. The appointments of Alistair Dodds, Edward Green, Benny Higgins and Tari Lang will commence on 1st January 2014. The appointments of Nicholas Pearce and Willie Watt will commence on 1st October 2014.

Lassies with Lungs urge women to be aware of cancer



A host of celebrities and sports persons have joined a campaign to raise awareness of lung cancer.

Scots including Edinburgh-born singer-songwriter Nina Nesbitt, 19, Judy Murray, 54, and Yvie Burnett, 45, have called on ladies to be more aware of lung cancer as the rate amongst women has risen by more than a quarter, with women aged 55 and over more at risk of the disease.

The team of women who rely on their lungs for their profession, have thrown their backing to the campaign as figures show that the incidence of lung cancer in women has increased by 28 per cent in the last 25 years in Scotland, whilst the figure has decreased by 41 per cent amongst men.

The Scottish celebrities are backing the drive to reduce the number of deaths from lung cancer in Scotland by urging people to be more conscious of any changes to their breathing, cough and chest and to visit their GP as soon as they can with any concerns.



‘Stay Out’ singer, Nina Nesbitt, said: “It’s scary to hear that someone you love has cancer but everyday more and more people are surviving the disease. The key is to spot any signs as early as possible and see a doctor as soon as you can. If you are concerned about your lungs or those of a loved one, please don’t ignore it. Our lungs are so important and we all need to fight this horrible disease together.”

Judy Murray, Wimbledon champion Andy Murray’s mum, is backing the campaign as she is aware of how important our lungs are to our health. She said: “While it’s scary to hear that lung cancer is Scotland’s most common cancer, the disease is no longer a death sentence. When it’s detected at an early stage, lung cancer can be treated. There have been huge advances in treatment that can help to extend life and improve the quality of it. If you have any worries about your lungs, breathing or chest, please see your GP at the earliest opportunity.

Former X Factor and The Voice vocal coach, Yvie Burnett knows how devastating it is to lose a parent to lung cancer – she lost her father to the disease. She explained: “Working with singers every day on breath control, I’m really aware of my lungs. I’m aware when I’m feeling unfit and I’m aware if I have a cough or something just doesn’t feel right. Don’t ignore feeling out of breath or having a cough that won’t budge. Get to your GP and get checked as soon as you can.

Health Secretary Alex Neil said: “I am delighted that these inspirational women are backing our Detect Cancer Early programme and asking more women to make what could be a life-saving appointment with their doctor. I’m sure their stories say so much about the importance of being checked early.

“While lung cancer is the most common cancer in Scotland it is much more treatable than it used to be. The earlier it is detected the easier it is to treat and the better the chance of a successful outcome.

“Let’s make 2014 the year that we do even more to improve survival rates from Scotland’s most common cancer. Don’t get scared, get checked.”



Hugely successful Scottish sportswomen are also supporting the campaign. Olympic Gold Medallist, Dr Katherine Grainger CBE, added: “As an athlete I’m very aware that healthy lungs are vital for training and competition. Any small problem can impact on my performance, so even a chest infection needs to be dealt with immediately to prevent more serious problems developing. Whilst crucial in sport, health awareness is equally important in our every day lives.

“A couple of years ago, the mother of a very good friend of mine was diagnosed with lung cancer and sadly passed away. It was understandably a very difficult time for the whole family. We all wish more could have been done earlier but the

diagnosis came too late.

“The good news is that people do survive lung cancer and there have been huge advances in treatment that can help to extend or improve quality of life. Lung cancer is Scotland’s most common cancer but one of the main reasons death rates are still so high is because lung cancer is not being detected early enough. Please get any concerns checked as soon as possible and give yourself and your family the best chance.”

Racing driver Susie Wolff, 31, said: “Driving extremely fast cars can put a strain on your body, which means I have to be really focussed and in tune with my body and my breathing in particular. This means maintaining healthy lungs, being aware of their capacity and not ignoring anything that feels off. But this is true for everyone, our lungs play a massively vital role within our bodies and looking after them is so important. If you have any concerns then visit a GP straight away.”

Other celebrity supporters include television presenter Jenni Falconer, Olympic athlete Eilidh Child, Deacon Blue singer Lorraine McIntosh, and Eddi Reader.

Athlete Eilidh Child knows how important her lungs are to her sport. She said, “I absolutely rely on my lungs to do my job as an athlete so I know just how important it is to look after them. I wouldn’t be able to run as well even with the slightest infection to my lungs, so I’d advise anyone who is worried about a change to their breathing or a cough, to go to their GP straight away. Being Scottish, I’m well aware that the impact lung cancer has on people. But being aware of any change to your chest and doing something about it is the first step to detecting cancer early.”

✘ Television presenter, Jenni Falconer, said: “Being fit and healthy is important to me. Cancer is a scary thing for anyone to address but it is not a death sentence anymore. More

people than ever in Scotland are surviving lung cancer compared to 25 years ago because more people are getting checked earlier. The early detection of lung cancer is key so please visit your doctor if you have any concerns about your chest, breathing or cough."

"I sadly never met my father-in-law who was a victim of lung cancer over 20 years ago-it was a painful and unbearable time for everyone. Don't let this happen to you and your family."

Lorraine McIntosh, singer with the hugely successful Scottish band Deacon Blue, knows how important it is to be aware of any changes to your lungs. She said: "Being a singer, I'm reliant on my lungs to do my job and I'm conscious of any changes or illnesses I feel coming on which affect my voice. We should all know the signs and symptoms of lung cancer and be ready to spot any concerns early, whether that's with yourself, a partner or a parent. I urge anyone who is worried about their lungs to go to their GP as soon as they can."

Singer-songwriter Eddi Reader said: "Get interested in the body that carries you, notice it and give it the respect it deserves. Check for cancer early and treat yourself to peace of mind. Lung cancer can be caught and treated. You are precious, give yourself the gift of care"

Hibs' youngsters begin winter training camp in Turkey



Hibs' under-20s began their first day of their winter training camp in Turkey at the weekend, in glorious sunshine on the

training pitches at the Kremlin Palace Hotel in Antalya.

The trip is being funded through the Leonardo da Vinci scheme and over the next two weeks, the players will train on a twice daily basis as they prepare for the second half of their SPFL U20 League and East of Scotland campaigns.

Several other clubs are based at the hotel and the dining room at meal times is awash with the colours of teams from Belgium, Holland, Italy and Turkey.

Later in the week Hibernian's under-20 squad will attend the Galatasary against Ajax match which is part of the Antalya Winter Cup.

The players will attend the match and improve on their match analysis skills by focusing their attention on the players who play in their position and producing a match report for Head of Academy Coaching, James McDonaugh.

McDonaugh believes the overseas trip will be hugely beneficial to the group after a 46-game start to the season, in all competitions, but also a sombre experience with the squad still all coming to terms with the fact team-mate and friend David Paul tragically passed last month.

McDonaugh told the club website: "The trip will be really beneficial to the squad and will help to lift the players after we sadly lost David.

"The two weeks together as a group has come at a great time for us; we need to get back to working hard and playing football."

The Leonardo da Vinci Scheme also helped fund the transport to the Galatasary-Ajax game and the purchase of match tickets. The under-20s will also play a minimum of one friendly match with full details to be announced in due course.

At this point in the campaign, Hibs' under-20s are top of both

the SPFL U20 League table, the Central Taxis First Division and the East of Scotland Qualifying Group – scoring a phenomenal 148 goals in the process.

Following the training camp, the team are next in action away to St Mirren on Wednesday 22 January in the SPFL U20 League and McDonaugh says his players will be ready for the re-start.

He said: “The players are looking forward to it; we know we’re leading the league at Christmas but we don’t expect to win the under-20 league. That’s not even the objective to be honest.

“If we can win it then it would be fantastic, but we just want to get somebody else in the first-team and we’re going to try our best to achieve that.”