

Five charged with disorder in Niddry Street



Police in Edinburgh have arrested and charged five people in connection with disorder in the Capital that took place on the 29th June.

At the time of the incident, which happened on Niddry Street, numerous arrests were made and through inquiries a further five were arrested on Wednesday (20th November).

The males aged 21,24,42,45 and 47 are due to appear in Court at a later date.

In a separate case a 21 year old man has been arrested and charged under the Firearms Act after Police in Edinburgh recovered ammunition from an address in Saughton Mains Place on Wednesday 20th November.

He was due to appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court today.

4G is capital news for Edinburgh



It appears from 02's website that they have already rolled out 4G in Edinburgh just this week. You can see [here](#) on their website that their coverage checker confirms that 4G which is

known as Mobile Internet is available across the city, and they have now blogged about their progress [here](#).

Councillor Frank Ross, Convener of the Economy Committee, said:- “This is great news for individuals and businesses who want to access increased connectivity speeds while doing business or accessing personal information while they are out and about enjoying Edinburgh. The Council is committed to Edinburgh being a Connected Capital and this adds a further element to realising that vision.”

Image from Facebook.

Councillor Robson appointed as Play Champion

Councillor Keith Robson was appointed yesterday as the council's Play Champion. He is the recently appointed Labour group representative for Liberton/Gilmerton Ward with a background in education so was naturally interested in putting himself forward for the position.

The Scottish Government started the ball rolling with its National Play Strategy including the idea that there will be a network of Play Champions appointed throughout Scotland. The report is clear as to what this government initiative will achieve.

“Children's play is crucial to Scotland's well being; socially, economically and environmentally. Our people are our

greatest resource and the early years of life set the pattern for children's future development."

✖ So what does a Play Champion do? The Edinburgh Reporter spoke with Councillor Robson this morning to find out.

"Initially my job it is to chair the inaugural meeting of the Play Forum. There has already been across-departmental and a multi-party steering group working on the issue so far, but now we have to widen that out and decide on a programme of work and we have to develop a play strategy.

"There will be a report to the council in May, so we have a bit of a deadline. I have to work out who should be invited to the meeting. It is early days but this morning has been a blur of phone calls and nobody is on or off the list as yet! There will be a variety of different organisations with an interest and also some parents invited.

"We are just trying to get the whole process started at the moment. Our intention is that a rolling chair will be appointed to run the Play Forum on an ongoing basis.

"This project will only be delivered through partnership with the voluntary sector and parents. We will only see success if there is a genuine partnership between the council and a variety of other people. "

"The Scottish Government launched its [play strategy](#) in June and last month issued its action plan so the council had to appoint someone as Play Champion, but it means we will also have a national strategy to benchmark ourselves against. Individuals have been working on this for a number of years. Play is a massively important part of a child's development, to ensure they have fun. The challenge for me is not to sound like a patronising politician! One of our objectives is that we want to ensure that communities recognise the importance of play for children.

“The world has changed. How children play and their access to places to play has changed dramatically to how it was when I was a child.

The Reporter asked what the tangible results might be – will there be many more play areas across the city?

“I am quite open to what the results will be after this group gets going. I can give you few examples, as I don;t want people coming to a meeting thinking I have all the answers, but one idea I have is to establish Play Streets – cities like Bath and Bristol have actually closed down streets at certain times for this purpose. Edinburgh Council has been running National Play Day with the Play Bus outside the City Chambers for a number of years, but Play Streets would be more than that. So that is one potential project we could work on, but ahead of any meetings I am genuinely open-minded about this and how it will develop.

“My own background is in Youth and Community work from Jordanhill College I worked within education all through my career and I have a five year old son. I have a real interest in the subject area and I was keen to put myself forward for the role. I am not holding myself up as an expert, but I can bring the different groups together then we can find the targets and benefits of such a scheme.

“I would be happy to receive any and all comments from anyone interested in sharing their thoughts with me. They can contact me through Twitter or my council email address which is keith.robson@edinburgh.gov.uk.”

You can also contact Councillor Robson on [Twitter](#)

Alex Cole Hamilton, Convenor of Together (the Scottish alliance for childrens rights) said:-“The right to play is a fundamental pillar of the United Nations Convention on the

Rights of the Child. It is incredibly important for children's development on a number of levels and I am delighted to see the City of Edinburgh Council embrace the aspirations of the Scottish Government's Play Strategy. Knowing Keith personally I am fully aware of his commitment to children's rights and he will make an excellent inaugural Play Champion for the city."

Book Choices for World Book Night 2014



The choices for the 2014 World Book Night, when publishers go a little mad and give away books for free, have now been made. Held on 23 April each year this event is now a firm fixture in booklovers' calendars.

Anyone can apply to be book givers in their local areas and are then charged with the responsibility of receiving a delivery of loads of books and then handing them out on the night.

You can apply to be a book giver from 23 November 2013.

World Book Night has these stated aims:-

- To raise the profile of reading through a mass

engagement project which works at a grass roots level to inspire those who don't regularly read to do so

- To place books into the hands of those who don't regularly read
- To raise the profile of reading for pleasure through a series of celebratory events
- To improve literacy in the UK and Ireland
- To bring communities together

Here are the books that will be given away, and remember that the authors waive their rights to royalties on these books given away for free and the publishers fund the printing costs.

Rivers of London by Ben Aaronovitch

Four Warned by Jeffrey Archer

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne

After the Funeral by Agatha Christie

Short Stories by Roald Dahl

Confessions of a GP by Dr Benjamin Daniels

Hello Mum by Bernardine Evaristo

Getting Rid of Matthew by Jane Fallon

Theodore Boon by John Grisham

The Humans by Matt Haig

The Perfect Murder by Peter James

Tales of the City by Armistead Maupin

Today Everything Changes by Andy McNab

Geezer Girls by Dreda Say Mitchell

CHERUB: The Recruit by Robert Muchamore

Whatever it Takes by Adele Parks

Black Hills by Nora Roberts

The Boy with the Topknot by Sathnam Sanghera

Gorky Park by Martin Cruz Smith

59 Seconds by Richard Wiseman

The event is also sponsored by a variety of charities and libraries across the UK, and Yodel who arrange the distribution.

More information about how it all works is on the World Book Night [website](#).

Talk about organ donation in IKEA this weekend

IKEA SHOPPERS URGED TO SIT AND CHAT ABOUT ORGAN DONATION

Retailer teams up with Organ Donation Scotland

Sofas in IKEA Edinburgh will be put to good use this weekend, as shoppers are encouraged to have a comfy seat and a wee chat about their organ donation wishes.

The Straiton Road store will host the national organ donation tour over the next two weekends, offering families who visit the IKEA Edinburgh Living Rooms Department free tea bags so they can chat over a cuppa.

With 600 people in Scotland waiting for a life-saving transplant, the tour will highlight how saying the seven words 'I want to be an organ donor' could save up to seven lives, and staff will be on hand to sign people up to the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Statistics show that over the past five years, almost two thirds (62 %) of organ donors in Scotland were not on the NHS Organ Donor Register at the time of their death, highlighting why its important to consider your organ donor wishes and talk them through with loved ones.

Marie Renwick, IKEA Edinburgh said:-

"We're really excited to be working alongside Organ Donation Scotland on the upcoming leg of the nationwide tour. It's a truly fantastic initiative that is close to many people's hearts, both those working at IKEA and Scotland as whole."

Professor John Forsythe, Scotland's Lead Clinician for Organ Donation and Transplantation said:

"Organ donation means a tragedy has occurred but something positive can come out of that tragedy.

"Transplant is immensely successful. People who are very close to death can be transformed within a matter of a few weeks, and, for example one year after a liver or kidney transplant, 90 per cent of people will be alive and well.

"Therefore I would urge people to consider what they would want to do in terms of organ donation and discuss their decision and wishes with their family. That decision, and more importantly that discussion, could one day allow another person to live."

Scotland continues to lead the rest of the UK, with 41 per cent of people on the NHS Organ Donor Register, compared to 31 per cent nationally.

However with three people in the UK dying every day due to not getting the organ they need in time, joining the NHS Organ Donor Register and sharing your wishes can save and transform lives.

Join the NHS Organ Donor Register at www.organdonationscotland.org.

James Collins hopes new

attacking style will lead to improvement in goal tally



Hibs' striker James Collins is hoping that the new tactics employed by Terry Butcher and Maurice Malpas will lead to an increase in his goal tally following a poor start to his Easter Road career after a big money move from Swindon Town in the summer.

Speaking at the weekly press conference ahead of this weekend's game against St Mirren, the 22 year old said: "The manager has pinpointed changes he wants; he wants us to push up the park and get a lot more attacking crosses into the box. He's drilled that into us in the past week and obviously he wants us to work harder than the opposition, which we've been working on as well. Strikers need opportunities to get the ball into the net, so when you've got a manager that wants to get the ball into the box as often as possible then, as a striker, you can't ask for any more."

We've had a couple of double sessions last week and this week. The boys are fit here anyway. Nobody's saying they weren't fit, but there's that high intensity now the new manager has come in because we all want to do well."

The tactics are not the only change at the training centre following the departure of Pat Fenlon as Collins explained: "The gaffer's got a great sense of humour; he has a laugh with the boys. We have meetings and we have things like the worst player in training has to make the coffees for the staff. Little bits like that get the team morale going and gets everyone wanting to work hard and do well for the manager. I've had to make the coffees once. Me and Owain Tudur Jones made them because it was a split decision. That sort of stuff

is always good for the team spirit. It's a good set of lads here and I think they're all an honest, hard-working bunch."

The Republic of Ireland Under 21 internationalist is hoping to partner fellow countryman Paul Heffernan up front against an on-form St Mirren side who have won four of their last five games, and believes that this partnership can pay dividends for the remainder of the season.

"In Paul's career, he's scored a lot of goals wherever he's gone," said Collins. "I don't know what the gaffer's going to do for Saturday, or what formation he's going to play, but if he gives the two of us the nod then hopefully we can hit the ground running. I think once one goes in there will be many more to come."

Meanwhile, Hibs are considering an appeal against a touchline ban imposed on Terry Butcher following an incident in a League Cup tie against Dundee United when he and Darren Jackson were ordered from the technical area.

Five things you need to know today



Luminous Muirhouse today! – Budget consultation event – Palace of Holyroodhouse art exhibition – Ceilidh next Friday – Edinburgh University open day

Later today Muirhouse will be glowing in the dark! The award winning tenants group TRIM have organised for a spectacular

art project to be staged opposite the church from 4pm today. The event is free. More details [here](#).





A new exhibition of work by one of the wittiest and most popular caricaturists of Georgian Britain opens at The Queen's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse today.

High Spirits: The Comic Art of Thomas Rowlandson presents over 90 prints by Rowlandson (1757–1827), many of which have not been shown in Scotland before. The artist's work satirises life at the turn of the 19th century – the absurdities of fashion, the perils of love, political scandal and royal intrigue – and offers a new perspective on an era perhaps best known through the novels of Jane Austen.

Read more [here](#)



Ceilidh club @ The Picture House on Lothian Road with Teannaich next Friday 29 November 2013. Doors open at 7:00pm with dancing kicking off shortly after that. What better way could there be to build up to your St Andrew's Day? You can get your tickets [online](#) or in person from the Picture House box office, Tickets Scotland (Rose Street), Ripping Records.

Edinburgh University are holding an open day for postgraduates today. Interested in studying for a further degree? More details [here](#).



Stockbridge Photography Club Photo of the Week



This week's photo is a minimalist view of the changing rooms in Inverleith Park by Ross Nowson.

The Stockbridge Photography Club is a non-profit photography club that aims to operate in a different way from the traditional photography club mould. They have informal monthly meetings where they discuss their photos over a cup of coffee and learn about the month's theme.

Outside of this, they arrange photowalks and trips to various locations and landmarks in and around Edinburgh, providing their members with something interesting to photograph, whilst always having someone on hand to answer any questions.

Their exhibition is ongoing, and Rosie McKenzie has kindly extended the running time. Why not pop into her gallery on St Stephen Street? Everybody is welcome, and all proceeds go to charity.

More info about the club is on their [website](#)

Submitted by [Stockbridge Photography Club](#)



Kezia Dugdale MSP asks you to Save Our Police Services



A fortnight ago the Scottish Labour Party used its allocated parliamentary business time to discuss Local Police Services in the Debating Chamber. I was delighted to take part in this debate and have the opportunity to ask questions to Kenny MacAskill, the Scottish Government Justice Secretary. I chose to discuss the changes to Police counter services in the constituency I live in, Edinburgh Eastern, where Mr MacAskill serves as the local constituency MSP.

Police Scotland recently carried out the Public Counter Service Provision review that looked at how many people were coming into local police stations across the country and why they were visiting their local station. I was asked as Member of the Scottish Parliament to make a response to the review. In order to do this I felt I needed to speak to some of the communities involved. Just to be clear I've set out below the proposed changes to Police Stations within Edinburgh. It

represents a cut of almost 600 hours week, effectively 25 days lost across the City per week.

Station Current Opening Hours Proposed Changes:-

Portobello 7am – midnight, 7 days per week 8am-6pm, 7 days per week

Craigmillar 7am – midnight, 7 days per week Transfer public counter to South-East neighbourhood hub

Corstorphine 7am – midnight, 7 days per week Transfer public counter to West neighbourhood hub

Balerno 9am – 5pm Close

Oxgangs 7am – midnight, 7 days per week Close

South Queensferry 9am – 5pm Close

Howdenhall 7am – midnight, 7 days per week 9am – 5pm, Monday to Friday only

Bonnyrigg, Tranent, Linlithgow, Armadale and West Calder will also close their front counters to the public.

I wrote out and invited 2,000 people to carry out a survey in regards to the proposed changes and their feelings in regards to local policing. I received 188 responses from residents in Portobello and others from across the Lothians region. Within the Portobello area, where Mr MacAskill was elected to represent, it showed that 96% of respondents did not support the changes to Portobello Police Station, which has been the an integral part of Portobello High Street for over a century.

88% also said they preferred face to face interaction with the police and were not convinced that using the 101 non-emergency number would be as effective. This number would also cost 15 pence to call every time you wanted to make contact with a police officer. You can read a full break down of the responses I received by clicking [here](#). They have been anonymised for data protection purposes.

I used my four minutes during the debate to ask Mr MacAskill directly about the stations within his constituency –

Portobello, Craigmillar and Howdenhall. I have even discovered that in the last few weeks Mr MacAskill has had his own survey dropping on the doors of Portobello residents as he is concerned on the number of housebreakings that have taken place in the area recently. This at the very same time he is cutting or closing their police stations, you couldn't make it up.

Mr MacAskill's response to me in Parliament was that I should be speaking to the Inspectors at the Police Station. My response was that I had reported the concerns of the local community and that as their local constituency MSP he should be well inclined to hear their views and represent them. Last year alone, according to official figures saw housebreakings increase by 54% in the Portobello/Craigmillar Council ward.

I would like to note that I am absolutely behind the idea of joined-up services and I regularly visit the Craigmillar hub to meet constituents and community groups. The fact that it has a library, a café and a host of council services is fantastic and I agree that it makes sense to have a police presence as part of that, but when you look at the figures from the Police Scotland review they are telling us that there were 1,201 asks of the station assistant in two weeks – that's a huge volume of demand. Do we want the same amount of people walking into the hub every fortnight or does it suggest that having a police presence at the hub and an active open Craigmillar police station would be a better fit. It shouldn't be one or the other.

I also supported and voted for the creation of a single police service. The single police force was meant to boost support for our police officers on the beat, in our communities. Instead, under the SNP, the concept of local policing is fading. Under this SNP government almost 1,200 police support staff have been cut. There were 7,862 in March 2010 and by June this year that number was down to 6,701. When these cuts take place, it's the frontline police officers that have to step in and become "backroom bobbies", they're not as the SNP

likes to tell you, out in the front line of policing; they're doing paperwork in the offices covering for the cuts this government has inflicted on our Police service.

These cuts will only continue further under this government and Police Scotland Chief Constable Sir Stephen House has already said that they cannot keep the number of officers the same under the funding conditions they face. We must do more for our police services and our local communities.

The SNP are causing our thin blue line to get stretched thinner and thinner. I'm supporting the Edinburgh Evening News 'Save Our Stations' campaign and will continue to call on Kenny MacAskill to condemn the practice of backfilling which is taking our police officers off the street to plug the gaps in staff cuts and to defend local accessible policing that has serves our communities and residents.

He needs to not only do this for the whole of Scotland in his role as Justice Secretary but for his own constituents of Edinburgh Eastern and not chastise those who come forward with views on their behalf.

Submitted by [Kezia Dugdale](#)



Queen's Gallery Exhibition opens today – High Spirits



A new exhibition of work by one of the wittiest and most popular caricaturists of Georgian Britain opens at The Queen's

Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse today.

High Spirits: The Comic Art of Thomas Rowlandson presents over 90 prints by Rowlandson (1757–1827), many of which have not been shown in Scotland before. The artist's work satirises life at the turn of the 19th century – the absurdities of fashion, the perils of love, political scandal and royal intrigue – and offers a new perspective on an era perhaps best known through the novels of Jane Austen.

Rowlandson made his name poking fun at politicians, foreign enemies and even members of the royal family, who both feared and admired his incisive wit. George III (1738–1820) and his family were favourite targets of the many caricaturists of the day. The apparent miserliness of the King and his consort, Queen Charlotte, and the supposed corruption of their son, Frederick, Duke of York, were popular subject-matter. Above all, it was the extravagance and immoral lifestyle of George, Prince of Wales (1762–1830) that came in for the harshest treatment. Yet, despite often finding himself the butt of the joke, it was the Prince of Wales, the future George IV, who began the collection of around 1,000 Rowlandson prints in the Royal Collection today.

Satirical prints, the precursor of the newspaper cartoon, were a key part of life in Georgian Britain. Collected by fashionable society, they were also enjoyed by the crowds that gathered in front of the latest productions in print shop windows to gossip about and laugh at the scandals of the day. Favourite themes were drunken gatherings, runaway coaches, rowdy theatregoers, impoverished artists and 'loose' women.

Caricatures were passed around at dinner parties and in coffee houses, pasted into albums and used to decorate walls in homes and coffee houses. They were even applied to decorative screens, which could easily be folded away so not to offend female guests with the often bawdy imagery. A folding screen dating from 1806-7, decorated with hundreds of figures and

scenes painstakingly cut from Rowlandson's satirical prints, has been conserved for the exhibition and goes on public display for the first time.

Few of the leading political and society figures of the day escaped Rowlandson's attention. Among the works on display are depictions of the glamorous Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who was claimed to have traded kisses for votes in elections, and the politicians William Pitt and Charles James Fox, alternately championed and satirised. In 1784 Rowlandson produced both the pro-Fox print, *The Champion of the People*, and the anti-Fox print, *The Covent Garden Night Mare*, and was quite happy to work for whichever side would pay him more.

Kate Heard, Senior Curator of Prints and Drawings at Royal Collection Trust said:- 'Satirical prints were powerful tools for influencing public opinion, and it is understandable they were both disliked and admired by their targets. The superlative collection of works by Rowlandson in the Royal Collection shows that the Georgian royal family was just as able to laugh at caricatures as be offended by them.'

The exhibition includes a video animation of Rowlandson's caricatures, narrated by the actor Brian Blessed. The prints by Rowlandson in the Royal Collection can be enjoyed on the Royal Collection Trust [website](#).

High Spirits: The Comic Art of Thomas Rowlandson is at The Queen's Gallery, Palace of Holyroodhouse, 22 November 2013 – 2 March 2014.

Tickets and visitor information, T +44 (0)131 556 5100.

Former Hibs star Kim Little signs for Seattle Reign



Former Hibs and Scotland star Kim Little has signed for Seattle Reign in the US National Women's Soccer League.

The 23-year-old joined Hibs eight years ago from Buchan Girls, after travelling down from Aberdeen at three times a week for training.

Kim made her debut as a 16 year old in a Champions League game against Barcelona, and then marked her Scottish Women's Premier League debut with a hat-trick against Hutchison Vale.

At that time Hibs had by far the strongest squad in the country and Kim helped the club win the SWPL title, the Scottish Cup, the Premier League Cup and competed in the UEFA Champions League twice.

In the 2006/07 league campaign Hibs won every match with Kim scoring a phenomenal 55 goals in just 30 appearances, and she carried on where he had left off the following season, scoring a further 33 goals in 18 appearances. Her performances unsurprisingly caught the eye of the top English clubs, with Arsenal Ladies, the biggest club in the UK and major player on the European scene securing her signature.

Kim made an immediate impact, scoring in a 4-1 victory at the Emirates over London rivals Chelsea, and since then she has helped the north London club win five League titles, two WSL Continental Cups, three FA Cups and one Premier League Cup.

Although only 23, Kim has already been capped 86 times by Scotland and was part of the British Olympic team that reached the quarter-finals of the London 2012 Olympics.

At Arsenal Kim won an incredible four league titles, three FA Cups and four League Cups.

The English FA Women's Player of the Year told the official Arsenal website: "Playing in America has always been an ambition of mine. To get the opportunity to play in the professional league and work with Laura Harvey (Former Arsenal Manager) is my main reason for joining Seattle Reign. It's obviously very difficult to leave Arsenal – I've had a great six years here. I've worked with so many great players so it was a very difficult decision but it's one that I feel has been made at the right time.

"I've had a lot of great memories at Arsenal – probably too many to mention. Winning the Women's Super League title and the two cups last season are probably my highlights."

Seattle Reign manager Laura Harvey, speaking on Reign's twitter page, added: "We sat down at the end of the season and made a list of players to pursue in the off season, Kim was number one on that list. Kim is world-class. Her talent and proven experience will be a huge asset for our team in the coming seasons."

Mentoring to help the next generation of entrepreneurs

Supporting Scotland's Business Leaders of The Future

Whilst Scotland's business and entrepreneurial ecosystem continues to improve and businesses are regaining confidence to recruit again, it is important to support and sustain the country's next set of business leaders in order to transform

Scottish companies into renowned international businesses.

The Saltire Foundation, an independent charity, was established in 2009 to hone the business skills and entrepreneurial drive of Scotland's talent, creating the next generation of business leaders.

The initiative is being sponsored by leading Scottish recruitment business, Eden Scott, as an Inaugural Ruby Corporate Partner.

The sponsorship involves Eden Scott mentoring David Manson and Liz Watson. David is a final year student at the University of Strathclyde studying for a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering, and Liz has over 10 years' experience of the manufacturing sector.

Eden Scott recognises that The Saltire initiative is immensely important to the career development of Scotland's brightest minds and potential leaders. The sponsorship goes beyond supporting the initiative financially. Michelle Lownie, Director of Eden Scott, consults and assists the programme with their acquisition and assessment strategies, in order to find, fuel and spark Scotland's finest talent potential.

Saltire Foundation CEO Sandy Kennedy stated:- "The Saltire Foundation and Eden Scott share a common commitment to sourcing talent and helping to grow with a winning team. Through this partnership we are able to utilise Eden Scott's expertise to help build the next generation of confident, ambitious, entrepreneurial and global Scottish business leaders".

Director of [Eden Scott](#) Guy Martin commented "It's a pleasure to be partnering with The Saltire Foundation to support and nurture Scotland's talent of tomorrow. Eden Scott fully understands the distinct entrepreneurial needs of Scotland's start-up, SME & larger company landscape, and we strive to further position ourselves at the heart of this "war for

talent” and hope to help Saltire, and indeed the country, capitalise on the exciting times ahead for Scottish industry”.

Submitted by [Jamie Armstrong](#)



Hearts creditors meeting adjourned

Hearts administrators, BDO, have announced that this Friday’s creditors’ meeting, seen as a key step for Hearts hopes of coming out of administration, has been postponed for a week until next Friday 29 November. The meeting was adjourned at the request of the administrators of Ukio Bankas and UBIG and it is understood the week’s adjournment is to allow Lithuanian shareholders and creditors more time to consider a company voluntary arrangement (CVA). Hearts former owner Vladimir Romanov had a controlling interest in UBIG which had its assets frozen in April. The CVA requires approval of creditors representing 75% of the club’s debt.

Following this announcement, the Foundation of Hearts, the group who are bidding to take over the Edinburgh club, released the following statement.

“We note today’s news that the creditors meeting to consider a CVA tomorrow is to be adjourned at the request of the administrators of Ukio Bankas and UBIG. Whilst we understand this is an anxious time for everyone involved in Hearts, we fully understand the request for the administrators to have more time to consider the proposal. The overall timescales do not change, and we remain calm, steadfast and focused towards

our objective.

“The continued patience of the supporters is appreciated as we do all we can to get Hearts out of administration.”

If their bid is successful, Foundation of Hearts would make a payment of £2m for the sale of the club and its assets. Another half a million pounds would be paid by the Foundation over a ten month period.

Hearts were deducted 15 points by the SPFL for entering administration back in June.

Terry Butcher issued with touchline ban for debut game



New Hibs' manager Terry Butcher has been banned from the dugout for his first match in charge at St Mirren Park on Saturday.

The former England captain was also fined £1000 by the SFA for “acting in an aggressive manner towards players of the opposing team during former club Inverness CT's League Cup win over Dundee United earlier this season.

Butcher was sent from his technical area, along with Dundee United coach and former Hibs player Darren Jackson, by referee Kevin Clancy for his part in a disturbance following a red card for United forward Nadir Ciftci.

Ironically, Butcher normally prefers to sit in the stand during games whilst his assistant Maurice Malpas issues

instructions from the dugout.

The game will be shown live on Sky TV with a 12.45pm kick off and a large Hibs' support is expected to travel to Paisley.

Leith Links initiative helps kids attend games at Easter Road



Generous Hibs' supporters from all over the world have donated an impressive £1800 to pay for 20 season tickets to allow children, who would not normally have the opportunity of attending games, the chance to do so.

So far a number of charities and community groups have taken up the offer and Hibs' fan Susan Linn who was behind the idea told the Edinburgh Reporter about the scheme: "Dolls, cars, trains, model aeroplanes: we probably all had a childhood obsession. Mine? The cabbage. The Hibeers. Hibs. The Arsenal of the North. OK, I've probably taken that too far but you get the drift. Yes, I am 100% madly in love with Hibernian Football Club. I am not ashamed to say it and I am definitely not ashamed to let you know about a wee fund I've set up, Leith Links, to help enable children to join the Hibee family.

"Hibs have run a scheme called Kicks for Kids (KfK), since 2002, to enable businesses and individuals to purchase season tickets for children who wouldn't normally have the chance to attend games at Easter Road. However, the one downside to this worthy endeavour is that you need £150 upfront to buy a ticket

for the child and one for their adult companion to take them. So I, the pushy female Hibs addict, approached the club and asked for their permission to open a bank account so one-off donations/Direct Debits/standing orders could be accepted. The idea is to pool all monies received and when able, purchase the corresponding number of KfK season tickets. Hibs thankfully agreed and Leith Links was launched.

“So, since August this year, we have raised an astonishing £1800 and have so far purchased 20 season tickets. The support has come in green bucket loads from the Hibs family, far and wide: Australia, Qatar, Norway, the US of A and even Engerlund. In other words, the Hibbies have done themselves and their club proud. Our plan is to continue collecting and to purchase even more season tickets next season. The beauty of the scheme is that contributors can suggest an organisation they think may benefit from the tickets and Hibs will contact them.

“So far, the Multi-Cultural Family Base (MCFB), Richmond’s Hope, Maggie’s Centre, Kids in Care, the Canongate Youth Project, Magdalene Community Centre, St. Ninian’s Youth Club and the Pentland Community Centre have all benefitted. Only last week, an email was received from the MCFB, advising that ‘one boy said it was the best day of his life and went to school on the Monday still clutching his ticket’. Fair warms your green heart.”

So, how do you find out more and how do you donate?

Info: www.leithlinks4kids.com

Email: leithlinks@live.co.uk

Facebook: [/leithlinks4kids](https://www.facebook.com/leithlinks4kids)

Twitter: [@leithlinks4kids](https://twitter.com/leithlinks4kids)

Ammunition recovered from house in Saughton Mains Place



Police in Edinburgh have recovered firearms ammunition as part of ongoing activity to target serious organised crime groups in the Capital.

Officers carried out a search of a property in Saughton Mains Place yesterday (Wednesday) and recovered a number of bullets and shotgun cartridges from the address.

Other items were also seized for further enquiry and police are continuing with their investigation to identify those responsible for possessing the ammunition.

Detective Inspector Stuart Harkness said: "Information from the public is a vital tool for tackling serious organised crime and recovering illicit materials before they can harm our communities.

"In this instance, intelligence we received resulted in a number of different bullets and cartridges being seized and our enquiries are ongoing to trace anyone linked to this ammunition.

"I would urge members of our communities to continue to come forward with information concerning criminal activity, which will be acted upon in the strictest confidence by police."

Those with information can contact Police Scotland on 101 or alternatively, the charity Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Owain Tudur Jones convinced that Butcher is the man to restore Hibs' players confidence



Owain Tudur Jones thought he had seen the last of the famous Terry Butcher temper when he swapped Inverness for the capital in the summer, but he is delighted that the former England captain has made the same journey.

In fact, it was Butcher's reputation in the game that attracted the Welsh internationalist to Scotland in the first place and he is convinced that he is the man to lead Hibs to greater things. Although Butcher dropped several place down the table when he accepted the job, Tudur Jones is adamant that the players are in place to rectify that and it is just a question of confidence although he is not expecting any favours when the team is picked for Saturday's game against St Mirren.

Speaking at the club press conference at the Training Centre, Tudur Jones said: "Have I seen his temper? I've seen it plenty. In fact, it's harder to remember a game where it didn't happen! When we went up to play Inverness recently the wall next to his office had been plastered up, and there was a big hole the size of his fist there.

"I've also seen a water cooler destroyed to 30 different pieces, which was springing around the dressing room. But you know what you get from him. If you play well and give

everything he won't be like that. He only shows his temper at times when he feels your application and performance isn't good enough.

"We can adapt to what he's looking for pretty quickly. What attracted him here would have been the size of the club. But this also isn't a team who are languishing at the bottom of the table.

"He's not coming here to take over a bunch of chumps who are unfit and can't play. But he'll know we're low on confidence and we're the lowest scorers in the league. It's up to him to try to rectify that. We have to make things happen on the pitch but the gaffer will be giving his utmost to make sure we go out there free of pressure. It's about making Hibs a team others fear."

"When you meet him it's his character that shines through – and his reputation as a player. "When I first signed for Inverness I didn't know a lot about the club but I knew a whole lot about Terry Butcher. So he's a big pulling point. He has an aura about him.

The 29-year-old is not concerned that Butcher will hold a grudge about him turning down a new contract with Inverness in the close season. He continued: "He was fine about me leaving Inverness. My reason was because it was a new challenge and I wanted to help Hibs grow into the top six. If anything that has been justified by the gaffer making the same move, but I'm not expecting any favours just because I played under him previously."

TERLive! – Council meeting 21 November 2013

✖ The penultimate council meeting of 2013 takes place at the City Chambers this morning. You can view proceedings live or later on the council's webcast feed but we hope to add a little to the event with our own live commentary from the floor of the Chambers.

This morning the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland the Rt Rev Lorna Hood will talk to the councillors before the meeting.

You can view all the council papers [here](#).

Castleview Primary get a visit from the Minister for good behaviour!



Parents, pupils and teachers at Castleview Primary in Edinburgh will today receive a visit from the Minister for Learning, Sciences and Scotland's Languages, Dr Alasdair Allan, following a positive inspection report by Education Scotland in September.

Inspectors who visited the school earlier this year found Castleview Primary are committed to the spirit of the new

curriculum and take an active role in bringing it to life, for example through their Craigmillar Castle Tour Guides Programme. Pupils are attired in historic costume and offer tours to local schools of the historical Craigmillar Castle, which is located near the school and where Mary Queen of Scots once stayed.

It is this kind of work that has helped Castleview Primary achieve 2 excellent evaluations out of the quality indicators for: the curriculum and meeting learning needs, and 3 very good evaluations for: improvements in performance, learner's experiences, and improvement through self-evaluation.

Inspectors found the School supports its pupils to develop and learn with real progress across the school in implementing the new curriculum at all stages. Teachers are developing a whole-school approach to helping all children understand their next steps in learning and providing outstanding levels of support. This is creating a good environment for the teachers, children and young people at Castleview Primary, encouraging them to do their best.

Minister for Learning Sciences and Scotland's Languages, Dr Alasdair Allan MSP, said:_ "This inspection report shows that the pupils at Castleview Primary are getting invaluable support and this is having a very positive impact on their learning.

"I have been looking forward to visiting the school since they received this good news. I would like to wish them the very best and encourage them to keep up the good work."

Bill Maxwell, Chief Executive of Education Scotland said: “Our inspection has shown that Castlevew Primary is ensuring children achieve highly across a broad and challenging curriculum.

“Pupils are developing a wide range of key skills as a result of the school’s innovative approaches to curriculum design, capitalising effectively on the flexibility which Curriculum for excellence offers.

“Our report shows the school is on track for realising children’s full potential and is playing a strong role in helping close the gap in attainment”.

P7 pupils Maryam Zaki and Josh Dailly said: “The school is a fantastic because it has wonderful caring teachers and there are lots of fun activities to do.

“It’s amazing because we are an active school, an eco-school and we all look out for each other.”

Cllr Paul Godzik, Education Convener for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: “I’m delighted that the inspectors found such a high standard of education at the school and praise must go to all the staff for all their hard work in achieving this.

“This reinforces the Council’s commitment to ensure every child in Edinburgh has the best start in life.”



Late show on the cards at Tynecastle

Cast your mind back a couple of months to 21st September. Hearts travelled to Dingwall to take on Ross County and led 1-0 until three minutes from the end. Backed by a superb travelling support of nearly 1,000 fans who sang non-stop all afternoon, Hearts looked on their way to three vital points until the metaphorical roof fell in and Ross County scored twice in the dying moments to clinch a 2-1 win. Hearts had snatched defeat from the jaws of victory and the message I received after the game from my former manager, Ross County aficionado and now Chief Executive of the Scottish Social Services Council which said 'I can't hear the Hearts fans singing now' was taken in the spirit in which it was intended (if you're reading this, Anna, I hope you have a thoroughly miserable afternoon on Saturday!)

Many observers thought the Hearts youngsters had been taught a harsh lesson that day in the Highlands – namely, keep your level of performance up for the whole 90 minutes – and more. However, there was perhaps a certain degree of 'karma' in the result. Little more than four months earlier at the end of season 2012/13, Ross County performed admirably at Tynecastle and deservedly led Hearts 2-1 going into the final ten minutes of their SPL game. Then, three goals in a devastating five minute spell from Jason Holt, Michael Ngoo and an own goal from Ikonomou turned the game around and Hearts won 4-2.

There's something particularly satisfying about coming from behind to rescue a point or three. Intriguingly, there have been a few examples of Hearts and Ross County doing this throughout the years. Hearts previous visit to Dingwall in February this year saw another late show from the home side when a goal from Iain Vigurs a minute into injury time snatched a 2-2 draw after Hearts led for the final 25 minutes.

At the end of October last year, the Highlanders looked to be on their way to their first league victory at Tynecastle when second half goals from Brittain and Kettlewell turned a 1-0 half-time deficit to a 2-1 lead – only for Jambos striker John Sutton to grab an equaliser in the 93rd minute. It's remarkable to think that of the Hearts starting eleven that afternoon only three players – Jamie MacDonald, Ryan Stevenson and Callum Paterson – are likely to feature this afternoon.

Ross County's rise to SPFL status has been one of football's more recent success stories but even when they've played Hearts on cup business there has been late drama. Back in 1998, County – then in the Third Division – headed to Tynecastle for a League Cup tie against a team who had lifted the Scottish Cup just four months earlier. Yet, the Highlanders took the game to the Scottish Cup winners and led by a Roy McBain goal with 20 minutes to go when substitute Derek Holmes scored an equaliser for Hearts – who then had Paul Ritchie ordered off. Extra time ensued but Hearts needed a penalty shoot-out to clinch their place with some relief in the next round.

Hearts weren't so lucky in another cup tie with the Highlanders that went to a penalty shoot-out back in 2001. This time, Hearts were in Dingwall for a midweek League Cup tie and after a goalless 120 minutes, the tie had to be decided by penalty kicks. County keeper Tony Bullock was the hero of the night for the home team as he saved efforts from Steven Boyack and Thomas Flogel to send Hearts crashing out.

It's not just in competitive games between County and Hearts that comebacks feature. In a testimonial match for Ross County's Gordon Connolly in Dingwall in 1997, Hearts let slip a 4-1 lead for a final score of 4-4 while in a pre-season friendly in Dingwall in 1984, as part of Hearts tour of the Highlands, Alex MacDonald's side – despite two goals from Gary Mackay – conceded an equaliser ten minutes from the end and had to settle for a 2-2 draw with the then Highland League

side.

Hearts supporters have been nothing short of magnificent this season and their support in Dingwall a few weeks ago was quite brilliant – something Gary Locke and the players readily acknowledge. Even at Tynecastle and even when facing defeat, few of the Jambo Army leave early, preferring to stay until the end to show their support for this young Hearts team. Given some of the previous encounters between Hearts and Ross County, staying right until the end of this Saturday's game is advised.

You're likely to miss a comeback or two if you don't!

Five things you need to know today



Full council meeting today – Edinburgh to Doha direct – Christmas is coming! – Exploring Independence – Castleview Primary

The council meets this morning to discuss what may be a fairly short agenda. We will be reporting from the floor of the City Chamber from 10 this morning under our [TERLive!](#) section.

Qatar Airways has announced that it will commence operations between Edinburgh and Doha on 28 May 2014.

The Middle Eastern carrier will fly Scotland's first scheduled 787 Dreamliner five times per week from Scotland's capital, linking the country with over 120 destinations worldwide. Qatar Airways, Skytrax Airline of the Year in 2011 and 2012, is renowned for its five-star service and quality.

Seen as a missing piece for many years in the capital city's route network, this new route will mean that many Scots will now not need to travel across the country to access a Middle East hub airport. A direct connection to Doha will further strengthen Edinburgh's links to Asia, helping to drive vital trade routes and tourism.

Having connections to Australian hubs in Perth and Melbourne will also make it easier for Scots to travel between the two continents to go on holiday or to visit friends and relatives.

Edinburgh Airport was supported in its negotiations with Qatar Airways by Team Scotland, the collaboration between VisitScotland, Transport Scotland and Scottish Enterprise and this is very much a victory for Scotland.

Scotland will be a huge draw to millions of visitors wishing to take part in the Year of Homecoming. The international community will be able to take full advantage of this new route and be part of a fantastic year of celebration for Scotland.

Transport Minister Keith Brown said:- "This new direct service is excellent news for Scotland's aviation sector and provides yet more evidence of the strong bonds we are building with Qatar.

"The Scottish Government has worked hard to foster links with the Gulf States, promoting Scotland as a market leader in oil and gas and a great place to do business.

"Direct services make Scotland a more attractive destination for both tourists and businesses by removing the need for

extra connecting flights. This not only helps the economy by boosting tourism, but also encourages overseas trade and investment.

“The eyes of the world will turn to Scotland in 2014 with a programme of events that includes the Commonwealth Games, the Ryder Cup and a second Year of Homecoming and we are keen to share these exciting times with our friends around the world.”

Chief Executive Gordon Dewar said: “We’ve been promising our friends and partners across the city and the country a Middle Eastern route for a number of years now. I am ecstatic to be sharing this news today and would like to thank all for their patience and support.

“Aviation is a team game and we would not have been able to secure this route without the support and hard work of Team Scotland.

“This announcement today is the result of real understanding and collaboration. I hope that it can continue as I think that it gives our country a real advantage when talking to airlines and making the case for Scotland.

“We rebranded our airport for a reason. We wanted to reflect our ambition and raise our aspirations. We can now say with growing confidence that Edinburgh is where Scotland meets the world.”

Commenting on the announcement Mr Keir, MSP for Edinburgh Western said:- ‘This is terrific news and I congratulate the management at Edinburgh Airport and Qatar Airways on this announcement, not only is it another direct flight from Edinburgh adding to recent announcements of flights to Philadelphia and Chicago, it is also the first using the new 787 Dreamliner aircraft and from Doha links onward to the Far East and Australia.’ He added, ‘it is good news for the city of Edinburgh and increases passenger choice .’



All the information you need to get ready for the official Christmas light switch on is over [here](#)...and it is looking good! Sir Chris Hoy will be doing the official part on Sunday afternoon.

We can't wait to try out the new Big Wheel!

ON 26 November 2013 the White Paper on Independence will be published. A few days later, on Saturday 30 November 2013, The Future of the UK and Scotland – an ESRC-funded programme based at the University of Edinburgh – will hold an event to unpick and examine what the Scottish Government has proposed.

What would happen if Scotland votes Yes in September 2014? Would we be wealthier, fairer, or greener? Would we be safe in the world?

This special event will provide a unique opportunity to bring together leading academics, politicians and representatives of civic Scotland and the voting public to discuss and debate the implications of independence, and to scrutinise the vision set out in the White Paper.

Registration is free, but space is limited to 200 people. Please register your place on [Eventbrite](#)

The event will be at the University's Playfair Library, Old College, 9.30am until 3.30pm. More information [here](#).

Castleview Primary is having a visit from the Minister today, but not just any old minister, this one is the Minister for Learning, Sciences and Scotland's Languages, Dr Alasdair Allan, who is coming along to congratulate them on getting such a good report recently.

Read more here soon!



Edinburgh's Christmas – Opening Ceremony this Sunday



LIGHT NIGHT will officially launch the festive season in Edinburgh on George Street on Sunday 24 November between 2.30pm – 5pm. This is a free event for all with 63 local community groups performing and over 1300 performers over 12 stages including the switching on of the the lights by Sir Chris Hoy.

The theme of this year's Light Night, Christmas's Opening Ceremony, is *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

The Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, The Rt Hon Donald Wilson said: –“What a fantastic spectacle Sunday’s event promises to be – a fitting start to six fun-filled weeks of celebration here in the Capital. There can be few places as magical as Edinburgh at Christmas and we are immensely proud that so many people choose to share their festive break with us, enjoying everything our wonderful city has to offer.”

It will be all-singing, all-dancing extravaganza not to be missed, hosted by one of Edinburgh’s most familiar voices, Arlene Stuart from Forth Radio. This year there is a VERY special guest turning on the Christmas lights: none other than six-time Olympic champion cyclist, **Sir Chris Hoy**, who will be joined on stage by local girl, Amy McBeath from the Edinburgh charity **Cash for Kids**, whose work Light Night is very proud to support.

Sir Chris Hoy said:- “ I’m really looking forward to being involved in Edinburgh’s Christmas ceremony – to be asked to switch on the lights in your home town is a massive honour and I cant wait”.

With 12 stages set along the length of George Street, this event is for the community and by the community. We have 63 school, community and other local groups with an estimated total of 1,300 performers, each performing an act, a dance, a song or a piece of music to celebrate one of the 12 Days of Christmas. This will be one of the largest and most ambitious events ever staged on George Street. With groups showcasing a range of skills from hula hooping to swing dancing, bag-piping to African drumming, Gaelic singing to acting, Edinburgh’s community can expect a fantastic array of performances which encapsulate the true spirit of Christmas and celebration.

✘ **Charlie Wood and Ed Bartlam**, directors of Underbelly, and the directors of the Light Night event, said:- “After so many years of working in Edinburgh in the summer festivals, we’re incredibly delighted to be bringing Light Night, the advent of Edinburgh’s Christmas to George Street. In re-imagining Christmas for the city, we’ve worked hard to remember what made Christmas special for us as children, and indeed, continues to make it special. One of the best memories we both have is watching shows and performing in them, to our schools and families. We can think of no better way to crown the Christmas celebrations than by creating an event that allows over 60 schools and community groups to perform one of the days of Christmas to an expected audience of 18,000 people.”

On the Gold Stage, there will be seasonal performances from Edinburgh Gorgie Salvation Army Band, Sing in the City, Edinburgh University Chamber Choir and Musicians from Hordaland and finally the Edinburgh Rock Choir will lead the assembled masses on George Street in a festive sing-a-long.(song sheets provided).

✘ With an estimated audience of 18,000 people, **Light Night** culminates with Sir Chris Hoy switching on of the Edinburgh Christmas lights attended by the **Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh** and **Deputy Convener of Hordaland County Council, Norway**. Then look to the skies and witness a spectacular firework display in the very heart of our iconic City.

Pete Irvine, Director of Unique Events, said:- “Light Night launches an exciting and reinvigorated Christmas Programme,

which, together with our world renowned Edinburgh's Hogmanay Celebrations at the end of December, will make the city the go-to destination for visitors from around the world this winter.

World Forum on Natural Capital begins today

The inaugural World Forum on Natural Capital, will begin today.

Attended by almost 500 people from 35 countries, the UN-backed World Forum on Natural Capital will help business and sustainability leaders to identify the economic value of natural capital – the world's natural resources such as water, forests and biodiversity, on which our economic and social wellbeing depend. The conference will bring together business leaders, environmental experts and government representatives to help businesses identify opportunities and risks, and agree action.

The UN is targeting 2020 for the incorporation of biodiversity values into national accounting and reporting processes.

The opening of the event will include messages of support from Nick Clegg and Prince Charles.

The line-up of speakers includes:

- Alex Salmond, First Minister of Scotland

- Sir Philip Hampton, Chairman, The Royal Bank of Scotland
- Katherine Garrett-Cox, CEO of Alliance Trust
- Peter Bakker, President of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- David Jones, Global CEO of Havas and Co-Founder One Young World
- Julia Marton-Lefèvre, Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Pushpam Kumar, Chief Ecosystem Services Economic Unit, UNEP
- Monika Weber-Fahr, Director of Knowledge, Learning and Results, World Bank
- Jason Clay, Senior Vice President, Market Transformation, WWF
- Mike Wilkins, Managing Director, Infrastructure Finance Ratings, Standard and Poor's
- Richard Spencer, Head of Sustainability at the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Twitter: @natcapforum #natcap13

More information on the [website](#).

Fruitmarket after hours....



It might be a bit spooky to be in the art gallery after hours, but loads of other people could be there too...

This November, come in from the cold, have a hot toddy and settle in for the night in The Fruitmarket Gallery's new exhibition, Louise Bourgeois: *I Give Everything Away*. This

exhibition includes Bourgeois's remarkable *Insomnia Drawings*, a suite of 220 drawings and writings created in the suspended state between sleeping and waking which between them contain all the major themes of Bourgeois's work and reveal the close link between drawing and writing that is such a key part of her practice. As part of Book Week Scotland, we are inviting people to embrace insomnia and stay up all night in the exhibition with a range of activities to draw you closer to Bourgeois's creative world.

We will start with a drawing workshop with Glasgow-based artist Kate Davis, then listen to readings from David Hopkins and Vahni Capildeo. A stripped back session from Edinburgh band eagleowl will lead us into the long watch of the night, during which there will be live writing by JL Williams, a 3am reading from Samantha Walton and a selection of film screenings. Refreshments will be available throughout, and comfy rest areas for anyone who needs forty winks. We close with an early morning reading of JL Williams's night-time production, coffee and croissants then send participants, bleary eyed onto their next adventure.

BOOK NOW by calling the Bookshop on 0131 226 8181 or email bookshop@fruitmarket.co.uk. Places are limited so book now to avoid disappointment.

Wee Small Hours

29 November, 10pm–7am

£12/£10 conc.

Royal Edinburgh Hospital

staff launch walkways project



NHS Lothian today (20 November 2013) celebrated the opening of a new project marking out walking routes around the Royal Edinburgh Hospital site.

Patients and staff came together to celebrate the launch of the 'Walkways Project' which aims to encourage patients, staff and visitors to boost their well-being by walking in the hospital grounds.

The collaborative project has involved NHS Lothian staff designing walking routes which accommodate varying levels of mobility and fitness of patients and employees.

The green, blue and red walks take between 15 and 30 minutes and pass through the extensive grounds; including areas of historical interest such as the old curling rink, the Hive and the farm. There are wayward markers along the site, and maps have been erected on the grounds as well as on each ward, along with accessible brochures which point out areas of interest.

Patients drew the original walkways maps and, with support from Artlink and the Volunteer Hub, patients have also been involved in painting the bollards and taking photos on site for the brochure.



Laura Hamilton, Senior Health Promotion Specialist, NHS Lothian, said: "Taking part in regular physical activity has an abundance of health benefits, from the treatment and prevention of a range of illnesses including diabetes, cancer and dementia to reducing levels of anxiety, depression and stress.

“Activity that raises your heart rate and gets you feeling a bit warmer is the most benefit to health, which also includes boosting self-esteem, getting a better sleep and increasing feelings of overall well-being. A great way to achieve this is a brisk walk on the walkways; and by sitting less and walking more. Starting out walking for 10 minutes at a time to build up to 30 minutes a day is the right step forward to meeting the physical activity recommendations.

“We have really valued working with all of our partners on this project and thanks to go them as well as colleagues and patients who have all contributed to the project’s success. We look forward to staff, patients and visitors experiencing the benefit of using the grounds in a therapeutic way by including a walk in their day to day activities.”

Kevin Lafferty, Health and Recreation Advisor, Forestry Commission Scotland said: “This is a brilliant project which actively encourages more visitors, patients and staff to get some gentle exercise in the surrounding green space and woodland.

“Being more active really can help with improving your health and simply getting out for some fresh air and relaxation can be just the tonic needed. Woodlands and green space are the natural health service.”

James Gillespie’s first phase opened today



The first phase of the £42 million James Gillespie’s campus

project was officially opened today.

Construction work began on site in January 2013 and the first phase has involved replacement of the existing nursery and gym at James Gillespie's Primary School, along with the creation of two new primary classes within the existing school building.

The new classrooms opened at the start of the new school year in August 2013, with the gym and nursery opening their doors to excited pupils following the September break.

With increasing birth rates in many parts of the city, there has been pressure for nursery places in south Edinburgh. The new nursery will provide an extra twenty part time places for local parents, with forty places available in the morning class and forty in the afternoon class.

The two additional classrooms will also support rising rolls and allow the school to meet demand for places from children living within the school catchment area.

This opening formally marks the end of the first phase of the campus project. Moving to the second phase the existing James Gillespie's High School will be completely replaced in two stages. Demolition work is now well underway on the main school site to allow the construction of the new main teaching block, stage one, to get underway early in the new year.

The development of a new sports complex and an expressive arts complex will be built in the final phase of the project which is due for completion by summer 2016. In addition, the A-listed Bruntsfield House at the centre of the campus is also undergoing a major refurbishment.

Councillor Paul Godzik, Convener of Education, Children and Families said:- "The James Gillespie's campus project is unique in that it will provide improved facilities for children from three to 18 years on the same site.

“The new facilities at the primary school have been welcomed by parents and staff and give an early indication of the high quality facilities that will be built at the high school.”

Paul McGirk, Chief Executive of Hub South East Scotland, said:-“We are delighted with the progress being made on the James Gillespie’s Campus. The completion of the nursery and gym represents the first significant milestone in the redevelopment of the whole campus and, as we now begin the construction of the new High School, we look forward to continuing our successful partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, ensuring children and staff will benefit from modern, fit for purpose facilities.”

The project is funded by the Scottish Government through their ‘Schools for the Future Programme’ which is managed by the Scottish Futures Trust. Morrison Construction have been appointed contractors for the project

New advertising campaign for VisitScotland

New £5.3 million ‘Brilliant’ marketing campaign uses real people to motivate visitors to experience Scotland in 2014

A paramedic, a wildlife ranger, a chef, a swimmer, a youth golfer and a whisky ambassador will join six-time Olympic champion and Glasgow 2014 Ambassador, Sir Chris Hoy, to inspire the world to make Scotland their top destination in 2014 in a new multi-million pound marketing drive.

The £5.3 million VisitScotland Brilliant Moments campaign, launched today by First Minister Alex Salmond in Edinburgh includes a £3 million investment in TV involving 'real' people reading a specially penned poem, against a backdrop of dramatic Scottish locations.

As a surprise element, three well known Scottish faces deliver the final line of the poem in different versions of the advert, designed to promote the headline events of 2014 – Homecoming Scotland, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the Ryder Cup at Gleneagles.

Sir Chris Hoy will deliver the final line within the 30-second master TV advert and also within the Commonwealth Games-specific version. Scottish musician and Classic Brit Award winner Nicola Benedetti will feature in the version which highlights the year of Homecoming. And Ryder Cup captain Paul McGinley will deliver the final line of the advert to promote this epic golf tournament at Gleneagles.

The advert will play on television screens across the UK from November 2013 and throughout 2014, and will also reach new international audiences through social media and e-communication.

The 'real' people in the advert include:

- Jenny Campbell – Scottish Natural Heritage Ranger, at the Ring O'Brodgar and Orkney Nature Festival
- Sonn Breslin – Glasgow swimmer and Commonwealth Games hopeful, at Tollcross Swimming Pool
- Lewis Breslin – Junior golfer at Blairgowrie, host course of the 2014 Junior Ryder Cup
- Ian Millar – Global Brand Ambassador of Glenfiddich, at Spirit of Speyside
- Ely Nathan – Chef at Gleneagles
- Graeme Hay – Paramedic and hobbyist Boatman at Portsoy Boat Festival

Alongside the TV campaign, VisitScotland will run extensive marketing activity including direct mail, sales promotion, print advertising, e-communications, social media and PR, all with a Brilliant Moments theme.

Launching the new Brilliant Moments campaign, the First Minister Alex Salmond said:-“2014 is a great year for Scotland – one full of brilliant moments – the Ryder Cup, Commonwealth Games and the second Year of Homecoming. Scotland welcomes the world next year, and this campaign shows that our people, our natural landscapes and our culture are tremendous adverts in themselves.

“The XX Commonwealth Games will be the biggest multi-sport event Scotland has ever hosted and the Ryder Cup will boldly reinforce our status as ‘The Home of Golf’, both events displaying Scotland as the perfect stage during our Year of Homecoming 2014.

“The Brilliant Moments campaign showcases Scotland as a must-see holiday destination but it’s also about Scots enjoying events right on our doorstep. We want to see your brilliant moments by sharing them with us on social media, using #brilliantmoments. 2014 will provide an ideal opportunity to inspire and engage people of all generations – from the Ring of Brodgar to the National Museum of Scotland.

“We’re creating a lasting legacy for the visitor economy: a lasting legacy for Scotland that is tangible, visible and carries with it long-term benefit.”

Mike Cantlay, Chairman of VisitScotland said:-“We are excited to finally be able to launch this campaign to the world. The whole idea behind Brilliant Moments is real people. Yes, the campaign draws strength from the global events taking place in Scotland in 2014, but also demonstrates the friendliness and welcoming nature of people living in Scotland.

“From those talking in the television advert to those talking

about the wonderful experiences they have had online through social media, it's a time to celebrate all our awe-inspiring country has to offer. The real question is – what will be your brilliant moment in 2014?"

The TV advert has been directed by Richard Oliver, who has worked on a number of big brand campaigns, most recently Road Safety Scotland, starring David Coulthard. The poem spoken within the advert, penned by creatives at Edinburgh's Union Advertising Agency, is:

Every country has its moment. Its time to shine.

When the universe conspires and planets align.

Scotland invites you, our stage is set.

For one brilliant year we'll never forget.

Homecoming, the Commonwealth Games and the Ryder Cup.

A year of surprises. A calendar filled up.

We welcome the world to come and to share.

So you too can say 'yes, I was there'.

Brilliant Moments will replace the VisitScotland 'Surprise Yourself' campaign which has been running for nearly 3 years.

New car launched at Edinburgh dealership



A night of stars and cars as Peter Vardy unveils the stunning new X5 at newly-refurbished Edinburgh dealership

A star-studded line-up of celebrities and sports personalities toasted the latest in luxury driving last week as the Peter Vardy automotive retailing group unveiled both its stunning newly-refurbished Edinburgh BMW dealership and the brand new addition to the BMW range at a fabulous red-carpet event.

Rangers legend Ally McCoist hosted the glittering occasion which allowed valued clients at the Peter Vardy BMW dealership in Scotland's capital an exclusive preview.

Luxury car lovers were treated to the first sight of the stunning new **X5**, the German giant's new SUV for 2014.

Fashionistas got front-row seats at a hot-ticket catwalk fashion show by sexy, modern, iconic and design-led Reiss, the global brand which, like BMW, has an uncompromising commitment to innovative and original products fusing exceptional design and quality.

Foodies were catered for as well, with champagne and canapes specially created by award-winning chef Tom Lewis, of the Monachyle Mhor Hotel, one of the stars of BBC TV's Great British Menu.



Specially invited guests were met by a piper and enjoyed a cocktail reception with specially-created drinks before mingling with well-known faces from the worlds of Scottish football, Scottish rugby and television.

But, of course, with BMW, the cars are the stars and guests at the sparkling state-of-the-art showroom at 19 Seafield Road East in Edinburgh were given the opportunity to book a test

drive in the new models.

The **2014 X5** – which was an instant sales success on launch in 2000 – is lithe and light (200 lbs lighter, in fact) and, for the first time the range includes a rear wheel drive model. Its dramatic new styling has a positive effect on aerodynamic performance.

Peter Vardy, the company's chief executive who welcomed the celebrities and guests and unveiled the new models, said: -“It is a great pleasure dealing with cars as rewarding as BMWs – and the discerning people who drive them.

“The modern BMW package is a subtle composite of cutting edge technology and stunning design. The 2014 X5 is the latest in a long line of exceptional successes.

“We have enhanced significantly our premises to give them a more contemporary feel and are very proud of our new, state-of-the-art indoor handover bays, which provide customers with an exceptional audio-visual experience when they collect their new cars.

“We are pleased, too, with our all -new consultation areas where customers can relax while specifying their new vehicles. Refreshments are also available from our new Isetta bar where they can get coffees and even fresh non-alcoholic cocktails.

“We had a wonderful launch event and were delighted to introduce regular and new customers to a new era in BMW driving pleasure.”



Trams – overhead wires now live along whole route



Overhead power lines between the Bankhead Tram Stop and York Place have been switched on meaning the whole airport to city centre route is now live.

The 750 volt dc power lines are over five metres (around 18 feet) above the tracks and do not pose a danger to pedestrians and motorists at ground level or to those living and working in the vicinity of the tramway.

The power lines, which were switched on just yesterday, will not be on constantly at all points along the route at this stage but should be considered live at all times.

Transport Convener Lesley Hinds said:-“This is another significant milestone as we push towards completion of the project and as we prepare for testing. At ground level the live wires will go unnoticed but anyone who needs to carry out works within a ten metre vicinity needs to be aware of important safety measures. We’re urging residents and businesses along the route to read the guidance and approach us to agree a safe way of working.”

Authorisation is needed for any of the following works either on or near the tramway:

- Any work where part of the site such as tools, materials, machines, suspended loads or where people could enter the Edinburgh Tram Hazard Zone. For example, window cleaning or other work involving the use of ladders.
- Any work which could force pedestrians or road traffic to be

diverted into the Edinburgh Trams Hazard Zone.

- Piling, using a crane, excavating more than two metres or erecting and dismantling scaffolding within four metres of the Edinburgh Trams Hazard Zone.
- Any excavation within three metres of any pole supporting overhead lines.
- Any work on sites near the tramway where vehicles fitted with cranes, tippers or skip loaders could come within the Edinburgh Trams Hazard Zone when the equipment is in use.

The Council has issued guidance to residents and businesses along the tram route and to other key organisations who may carry require access along the line.

See our full [guidance](#) on how to get permission to work near a tram way.

The tram project remains in line with the revised budget (£776m) approved by the Council in September 2011, with work either ahead of schedule or in line with the revised timescale reported in December 2011. A passenger service is scheduled for operation in May 2014.

Full route tram testing is scheduled to begin in December 2013.

People affected by ‘Bedroom Tax’ may not be asking for

help

HALF 'BEDROOM TAX' TENANTS FAILING TO APPLY FOR EXTRA HELP

Nearly half the Council tenants in Edinburgh subject to the UK Government's [under-occupancy charge](#) have not applied for extra help to pay their rent despite facing growing arrears and debt, the Council's Housing leader Councillor Cammy Day revealed today.

Almost 3,000 tenants are under-occupying their home and face paying between £14 and £25 per week as their housing benefit doesn't pay for their extra room.

Only around 1,500 tenants have applied for extra help available from the Council through [Discretionary Housing Payments](#).

The Council was awarded extra funds from the Scottish Government in September this year, bringing the total available for Discretionary Housing Payments to over £3 million.

Recent figures from the Council's housing service showed an estimated £1.25 million of arrears are attributable to people not paying the under-occupancy charge.



Speaking at the East Neighbourhood Office in Craigmillar today, where he met Council tenants who have benefited from the extra help, Cllr Day said:

“It's critical that hard-pressed tenants seek the extra help the Council is offering in the form of Discretionary Housing Payments, otherwise they face getting deeper into debt.

“Staff from the Council and advice agencies have been holding special surgeries and writing to, visiting and calling tenants

over the last few months but ultimately tenants need to apply for the assistance available or they will lose out. I would urge any tenant who hasn't yet applied for extra help to get in touch with their local housing office without delay."

The [under-occupancy charge](#) was introduced to encourage tenants with a spare room to move to a smaller home. On average there is only ever one single bedroom property available to let for every 80 under-occupying households in the city.