

Witness appeal after attempted bag snatch in Lasswade Road



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses following an attempted handbag snatch.

The incident happened around 10am on Saturday morning (14th December).

The 46-year-old victim was stood at a bus stop on Lasswade Road near to the entrance of Murrays Brae.

When the number 31 arrived at the stop, the victim attempted to board the bus. As she stepped on, the suspect approached her and grabbed her handbag.

The victim fell to the ground but kept hold of her handbag before the man fled the scene, running into The Murrays Brae housing estate, where he was lost to sight.

The suspect is described as white, 20-23-years-old, 5ft 10ins tall, slim build, wearing a plain grey/blue zipped up hooded top (with hood up), black trousers, white footwear, a striped scarf pulled up over the lower half of his face and black gloves.

Detective Constable John Mcshane, from Police Scotland, said: "While the victim wasn't seriously injured, she was badly shaken as a result of this incident, and we are keen for any information that can assist our inquiries.

"We are keen for anyone who was at the bus stop, on the bus or lives in the Murrays Brae who may have witnessed the incident, or has any other information that can assist our inquiries, to

contact police immediately.

“We believe this to be an isolated incident, however we would urge people to be vigilant and keep their belongings secure.

Anyone with information can contact Police Scotland on 101, or anonymously through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Five things you need to know today




Haymarket Station – Give us Time to Cross campaign – Score Scotland Social Event – End of term – Rose Street pub given thumbs down

Now that the tram project is looking more likely that it will soon be a real form of transport, we turn our attention today to Haymarket Station which is to be opened this morning with a plaque unveiling by Transport Minister Keith Brown.

Network Rail has spent £25m on the redevelopment of the station which they now consider to be one of the most accessible in Britain. There is more space for passengers and more shops for them to use when travelling.

The Edinburgh Reporter will be at the ceremony this morning and we hope to bring you photos and video later.

 The Transport Minister has also added his support for charity Living Street's calls for more time to cross at

pedestrian crossings. Living Streets is campaigning for a review of the assumed walking speed at crossings which was apparently first calculated in the 1950s. It now appears that 75% of over 65s have trouble crossing the road in time.

Living Streets is calling for an average of just 3 more seconds green man time on our crossings to allow everyone to cross the road in comfort. More details on the campaign [here](#).

The Green Party want to have research done on the subject as well as a rollout of more 20mph zones and better street design.

Alison Johnstone Lothians MSP who asked Keith Brown MSP to look into the matter said:-“We need to put the needs of people on foot back at the heart of our street design, and there is a convincing case for longer crossing times. I’m pleased to see the Scottish Government backing this campaign, but there’s more they can do right now to improve safety for pedestrians. I want to see 20mph as the norm in residential and shopping areas and a complete redesign of our worst road junctions.”

]



Term ends today for most schoolchildren in Edinburgh and the

new one starts on 7 January 2014. All details of school term dates can be found [here](#).

Yesterday Boroughmuir High School was evacuated due to a bomb threat.

One pupil told The Edinburgh Reporter that police were already at the school on arrival at just after 8.30. The pupil said:- "I was told to walk on the pavement on the opposite side of the road but was not allowed to go in. I had to wait outside until a teacher from Bruntsfield Primary came and took us back there. We were seated in the main assembly hall for two hours and allowed to watch a video. Mr Dempster came to speak to us and told us it had been a bomb hoax. The whole school was searched but nothing was found. I was allowed to go home for the rest of the day.

Boroughmuir High School's [website](#) reports that all end of term activities will take place today as planned.

The council decided yesterday to refuse the planning application by Waxy O'Connors to convert the Charlotte Baptist Chapel into a 900 person pub. Neighbours were delighted at the outcome which ran contrary to the official recommendation to allow the pub with secondary glazing and additional noise baffling.

This part of yesterday's Development Management Committee meeting was treated as a hearing and was webcast. You will be able to watch the recording [here](#) soon.

Today's photo courtesy of [Thomas Haywood](#).



Brave Scots lose out in seven goal thriller



The Scotland Women's football team suffered their third defeat in the prestigious Brazil Women's International Tournament last night despite a brave performance against Chile.

The game took place at the 68,000 capacity Estadio Nacional Mane Garrincha which hosted the opening match of the FIFA Confederations Cup earlier this year and will also host seven FIFA World Cup matches next summer, including a quarter-final.

Hibs' goalkeeper Shannon Lynn made her first appearance in the tournament replacing skipper Gemma Fay.

The Scots started brightly with both Haley Lauder and Leanne Ross going close before Chile took the lead against the run of play when Maria Rojas raced clear to send a low shot past Lynn.

Scotland were level within three minutes. Former Hibs and Arsenal star Kim delivered a fine cross for Jane Ross, who

beat her marker to flick the ball high in to the net.

Christine Murray added a second just before the break after good work from Lauder then Jane Ross drew another save from Endler while Lynn did well to save at the feet of Maria Rojas as both teams pushed forward.

Ross and Little continued to cause problems for the Chilean defence, but it was the South American's who scored next when Francisca was first to react to a free-kick and flicked the ball in to the net.

Chile then scored two goals in four minutes to secure the victory. Araya got on the end of a cross in to the box to fire in to the net, before Saez blasted in a shot from close range.

Substitute Lana Clelland had a chance to pull one back for Scotland but Endler raced off her line to smother the ball and deny her.

Both sides continued to create opportunities, before another Scotland substitute Sarah Crilly picked up the ball on the edge of the box and unleashed a terrific effort to beat Endler to make the score 4-3.

Scotland will face either Canada or Brazil in the 3rd/4th place match on Sunday.

Scotland

Lynn (GK), Love, Corsie, Beattie, Lauder, L Ross, Crichton, Sneddon, C Murray, Little, J Ross

Stockbridge Photography Club

Photo of the Week



This week's photo is from Col Walder, who has captured a long exposure image of the Star Flyer in St Andrew Square. The long exposure technique means that the camera will pick up all of the ride's movement, and create light trails.

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.

Our brand new website launched last week, and over the coming months we plan to add new features! Visit their [website](#) for more information.

Submitted by [Stockbridge Photo Club](#)



Second space now let at Bankhead office development



Dialog Semiconductor plc chooses Birch House for major Edinburgh expansion

Cosmopolitan Investments has secured a second significant letting at Birch House, the company's office development at Bankhead in West Edinburgh.

The latest tenant is Dialog Semiconductor plc, which already occupies 14,000 sq ft of space at Multrees Walk, adjacent to St Andrew Square in the city centre.

Dialog has taken just under 1,200 sq ft of space on a ten year-lease at an initial rental of £12 a sq ft with a tenant break option after five years.

The letting is a result of expansion by Dialog, who will use the additional space secured at Birch House primarily as a test centre for components such as microchips which eventually form part of tablets and MP3 devices produced by some of the world's leading consumer electronics companies.

Dialog's biggest single client is Apple inc. The Stuttgart-based company achieved \$774 million in revenues in 2012 and is recognised as one of the fastest-grown public semiconductor companies in Europe.

This deal comes in the wake of a recent letting to Hollander International Systems which has taken 3,480 sq ft of accommodation (the ground floor east suite) on a ten-year lease. This means that Birch House is now 50 per cent let just five months after Cosmopolitan Investments began a marketing campaign to fill space vacated by the previous occupant,

Petroleum Geo-Services.

Iain Mercer, group managing director, Cosmopolitan Investments, said: “We began re-marketing Birch House confident that the suites available met an under-supplied part of the market in West Edinburgh, where there are very few sub-2,000 sq ft suites outwith the serviced office sector.

“Although Birch House is geared to provide business and R&D space, its roots lie in development and manufacturing (the building once formed part of the Ethicon surgical sutures factory) so it’s great to have a pioneering and innovative company such as Dialog continue that tradition in the consumer electronics industry.”

Mr Mercer also said that the proximity of Birch House to the tram stop at Bankhead Estate “cannot be underestimated” as it meant that Digital staff will, from next year, be able to transfer between both their Edinburgh offices in under 15 minutes. “Commercial connectivity of this nature will at least be one benefit of the long-awaited tram line.”

Cosmopolitan was represented in both deals by Eric Young and Co and Lambert Smith Hampton.

Submitted by [Ken Houston](#)



Edinburgh Larder offers 5

courses for £45 this Hogmanay

The Edinburgh Larder is a bit of a find. Situated in a lovely light basement in Alva Street at the West End, the food is exquisitely prepared and served, and is sourced as locally as possible. Where better to start off your Hogmanay evening before going off to see the Pet Shop Boys and the fireworks?

All details of Edinburgh's Hogmanay are [here](#).



Edinburgh MP invites entries for Rock the House



Edinburgh's Liberal Democrat MP, Mike Crockart, is calling for musicians and film makers to enter Parliament's largest competitions, Rock the House and Film the House.

Founded by Intellectual Property Advisor to the Prime Minister, Mike Weatherley MP, the competitions are sponsored by industry and supported by celebrity Patrons.

Both competitions offer the opportunity for Edinburgh's creative minds to have their work judged by the leading lights of industry and win prizes ranging from festival slots, studio time, equipment, and the opportunity to have your work premiered in London's West End to name a few!

Commenting, Mr Crockart said:-"I want to encourage any budding

film directors or musicians to apply for this competition. Edinburgh is a vibrant city with a wealth of talented individuals and this competition is the perfect opportunity for this talent to be showcased in Parliament.

“The prizes and judges get better every year and I would be delighted to support and promote any acts from Edinburgh West in the 2014 competition. It would make me immensely proud to see a winner from Edinburgh and it would reinforce my view that I represent one of the most talented constituencies in the UK.”

“For more information on how to enter Rock the House go to www.rockthehouseHOC.com/apply; and for Film the House www.filmthehouse.com/apply.”

Rock legend and actor, Alice Cooper said:-“Rock the House is a great project which celebrates the fantastic diversity of the British music scene and gives musicians a vehicle through which to hold their legislators accountable about protecting the music industry’s intellectual property.”

Competition Founder Mike Weatherley MP said:-“Every year the competition gets bigger and better and my thanks go to our Patrons, Sponsors, Judges, the entrants, the MPs who take part. If you’re a musician or a film maker, make sure you take part in the 2014 competition!”

Golf sales to tee off next summer at Bonhams

GOLF SALES COMING HOME TO BONHAMS SCOTLAND

Bonhams is to hold golf memorabilia sales in Scotland starting

in June 2014.

The sales will take place twice a year at the Bonhams saleroom at 22 Queen Street, Edinburgh and will coincide with the existing Sporting Sales.

Bonhams is well known for selling sporting memorabilia from its Chester saleroom which has now become a sourcing and valuation office. Past successes for golf memorabilia include the sale of rare preliminary sketches for the famous painting by Charles Lee commemorating a game at St Andrews in 1841 that hangs in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh. The three sketches were sold as separate lots for a total of £31,920. A putter owned by the legendary golfer Samuel Ryder fetched £18,000 and a Silver King golfing advertising model sold earlier this year for £8,125.

The decision to base golfing sales in Edinburgh will make Bonhams the only international auction house to hold golf sales in Scotland.

Managing Director of Bonhams in Scotland, Miranda Grant, said:- "Scotland is famous the world over as the home of golf so we're very excited at the prospect of holding golf memorabilia sales for the many thousands of collectors and fans both here and overseas."

Butcher's reaction to touchline ban



Hibs' boss Terry Butcher will be banned from the dugout and tunnel area for Saturday's fixture against St Johnstone at Easter Road.

Butcher was sent to the stand along with former Hibs star Darren Jackson during a League Cup tie between Inverness Caledonian Thistle and Dundee United earlier in the season.

He was initially banned for two games, one of which was suspended until the end of the season and fined £1000, however his appeal was heard at Hampden Park yesterday and although the ban stands, the fine was rescinded.

Afterwards Butcher told Hibernian TV: "I've still got a one match ban which comes into effect on Saturday against St Johnstone with one suspended until the end of the season and the thousand pound fine has been scrubbed. Also the thousand pounds that the club had to pay for the appeal has been repaid because the appeal was successful. It's the best result I could have hoped for and now I just want to draw a line under it and move on.

"We have to look at Saturday of course and I won't be in the dugout bit I'm used to watching games from the stand at Easter Road and Maurice (Malpas) has already had a result there in charge of a team too, so I have a fantastic deputy and a fantastic guy on the touchline so I have no worries on that score. We had a similar situation last year against Ross County in the Highland derby when Maurice took charge and we won 3-1 so we know what to do. It's not nice and it's something I regret but it's happened."

At that game Butcher used a runner to communicate with the bench, however the distance between the director's box and the tunnel in the West Stand makes that impractical although he has total confidence in his assistant Maurice Malpas who will direct affairs from the touchline.

He continued: "In the end I won't need to communicate much as Maurice is a very experienced coach and is really another manager in many aspects and he knows what to do.

"It won't affect the match day plans all that much. I'll give the team talk at 1.40pm and at 1.55pm I have to be away from the dressing room and tunnel area and go upstairs so there's not really much of a change as the players go out at 2.20pm

for a warm up anyway.

“The hardest thing is at half time when you can’t go down to the dressing room but that’s where I trust Maurice implicitly 100% to get the job done and to make any adjustments he needs to do. We will be in touch by phone or walkie talkie but I have to adhere to the regulations and I will do.

Photo by John Preece

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

Commander Hadfield lands in Edinburgh



Commander Chris Hadfield, the Canadian astronaut who we all came to love so much when he was in charge of the International Space Station was in Edinburgh today, giving a short talk and signing books in Blackwells on South Bridge. One of the best questions from the audience was from a young man who wanted to know where all the waste goes in space...



There were long queues of people waiting to meet the author of the new book “An Astronaut’s Guide to Life” which he was happy to sign for those who had booked.



He is also talking this evening at the Royal Observatory but unfortunately that event is already sold out.

Blackwell's website describes the book:-

"In his book, *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*, Chris Hadfield takes readers deep into his years of training and space exploration to show how to make the impossible possible. Through eye-opening, entertaining stories filled with the adrenaline of launch, the mesmerising wonder of spacewalks and the measured, calm responses mandated by crises, he explains how conventional wisdom can get in the way of achievement – and happiness. His own extraordinary education in space has taught him some counterintuitive lessons: don't visualise success, do care what others think, and always sweat the small stuff."



Glencorse Centre to open in January



The new Glencorse Centre, a state-of-the-art community centre in Auchendinny, a little over a mile north-west of Penicuik in Midlothian, has been completed and the building has been handed over to the Glencorse Association.

The Centre, which is scheduled to open next January, has been built with the support of Midlothian Council and a loan from

Charity Bank, which lends solely to charities, community organisations and social enterprises. It will open to the public on 11 January 2014.

The Glencorse Association story

[The Glencorse Association](#), originally the Auchendinny Village Association, was formed in 1966 to provide facilities for the Glencorse Parish and wider surrounding area and to ensure that all the facilities and land remained community-owned and community managed. The focal point of the association is the local village hall, built in the early 1970s, which has been home to many social, recreational and sports groups. The hall has been used by the Dalmore Boys Club (the local football team) and has hosted many competition matches and weekly training sessions. Regular social dances were attended at the hall and social groups including a weekly youth group, a nursery group and regular dog training classes also used the facilities. Local children made daily use of the outdoor space and play park.

By 2007, the community hall was at the end of its lifespan and due to health and safety regulations was forced to close, leaving the community without a vital resource. Since the hall's closure, The Glencorse Association has planned to demolish the old hall and build the Glencorse Centre – a new, environmentally-sound and fit-for-purpose facility to accommodate the changing needs of the community. With an estimated construction cost of just over £1.2m, the project was allocated funding through two grants. The first grant of around £386,000 comes from the Midlothian Council from a developer contribution and the second of around £823,000 from a successful application to the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP), an EU funding scheme. These funds will cover the full cost of demolition and the rebuild, the creation of a multipurpose sports pitch, resurfacing of the car park and some external landscaping, as well as provisional costs for the children's play park.

The challenge

The issue faced by The Glencorse Association was that the invoices from their contractor had to be approved by the SRDP in order for them to receive matching grant payments, a process that could take up to three months. During this time they would need working capital to meet the regular payments for the project until they were able to receive the grant funding.

This would happen each time an invoice was received from the contractor. The Association's solution was to look for a loan to be used as bridging finance but, due to the large size of the loan and lack of apparent tangible security, The Glencorse Association was turned down by a number of high street banks and other social lenders. The Glencorse Association approached Charity Bank via Midlothian Council as the last possible potential provider of the required loan facility.

The solution

Charity Bank worked with The Glencorse Association to understand better the risks involved. Satisfied that this was a viable project, and having secured Midlothian Council as guarantors of the loan, Charity Bank agreed a bridging loan £450,000, which has enabled work on the project to begin and will allow it to complete.

Ngeme Ntuli, The Glencorse Association Treasurer, says:

“Not unreasonably, Midlothian Council and the Scottish Rural Development Programme have very strict rules governing grants. We'd have to provide invoices before they would release the grants, but without support we couldn't pay those invoices without having first got the grant monies. The delay could be

up to three months.

“It was all a bit chicken-and-egg, and with this apparent lack of security no other lender was ready even to give our project a chance. Fortunately, Charity Bank’s expertise in this kind of specialised lending was brought to our notice and both I and Midlothian Council approached the bank.

“We were extremely impressed at how Charity Bank took time and care to understand the problem and to ensure that the risk to itself and ourselves was minimised, and so were able to offer us the bridging finance that no one else would. Quite simply this project would not have happened without Charity Bank, and the people in the parish of Glencorse and nearby would have been left without this vital community centre.”

Cllr Owen Thompson, Chair, Community Planning for Midlothian Council says:

“The Council was delighted that Charity Bank was able to support this project when no other lender would. By providing the bridge financing, The Glencorse Association was able to use the grant funding that it had worked so very hard to secure thereby allowing the construction of an important new community asset to proceed. We have been pleased with Charity Bank’s critical engagement in the project and have recommended it to other organisations in our Council area.”

John Barnett, Charity Bank’s Regional Manager in Scotland says:

“Charity Bank not only comprehends the sector but we have a regional presence that helps us better understand local requirements, employing a network of regional managers who offer free consultations for organisations looking for finance. Our knowledge can be invaluable in helping organisations work their way through the loan application process and also give them insights into their own capabilities, as well as determine if a loan is their best

option.

“It has been an inspiration to work with the dedicated volunteers at The Glencorse Association and their supporters at Midlothian Council. The bank is delighted to have been of assistance but the real stars are the people in the community who brought this challenging project to fruition. I am looking forward to seeing the completed building at the official opening.”

Nominations needed to mark Year of Natural Scotland

 Countdown to nominations for Commemorative Plaques to mark Year of Natural Scotland

There are only two weeks left to submit nominations for your chosen historic figure to receive a Commemorative Plaque to mark the Year of Natural Scotland.

This is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of historic figures who have been inspired by the beauty of the stunning landscapes in Scotland, from artists to writers to conservationists, architects and many more.

The closing date for applications is 31st December 2013

Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs said: “The Commemorative Plaque Scheme is a wonderful way to celebrate and commemorate individuals who have contributed so much to Scotland.

“It is also a way of ensuring that future generations will be aware of historic figures who may have been overlooked in the

past, but whose accomplishments have put Scotland on a world stage.

“I am sure that there will be many nominations for people whose talent has been inspired by the outstanding beauty of Scotland’s diverse and dramatic scenery.”

All you need to do is fill out an application form on Historic Scotland’s [website](#) with up to 1,000 words, answering two questions explaining why you think your chosen person deserves a Commemorative Plaque.

There will be a maximum of 12 plaques awarded every year and these will be decided by an independent academic panel, still to be announced.

Twelve plaques were put up for the Year of Creative Scotland for the following people:-

Dudley D Watkins – Dundee based cartoonist for DC Thomson.

John Logie Baird – Television pioneer and inventor.

Archibald Findlay – Fife potato geneticist, father of 75% of modern crop.

Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir – Gaelic poet

Louis Dickson – Bo’ness cinematographer and film pioneer.

Adam Christie – Sculptor and artist from Shetland

Louisa Stevenson and Christian Guthrie Wright – Founders of Queen Margaret College and Edinburgh School of Cookery and leaders in social equality movement.

Francis Campbell Boileau Cadell – ‘Scottish Colourist’ of the late 19th century.

Norman McLaren – Experimental filmmaker and electronic music pioneer.

Hamish MacCunn – One of Scotland’s outstanding composers.

Francis (Fra) Newbery – Former Head of the Glasgow School of Art.

James Watt – Steam pioneer

Hibs' youngsters top table after 6-1 victory over Aberdeen



Hibs' Under 20s will go into the festive period as SPFL U20 League leaders after an impressive 6-1 away win against Aberdeen who had seven players with first team experience in their starting line-up.

James McDonaugh included first team squad players Alan Maybury, Tim Clancy and Abdellah Zoubir as well as the prolific Jason Cummings who has appeared from the bench in the last two first team games.

After a goalless first half, Aberdeen opened the scoring with McKenna's header adjudged to have crossed the line on 51 minutes.

Fourteen minutes later Cummings equalised despite the protestations of the home side for a hand ball.

Euan Smith gave Hibs the lead in the 70th minute with a fine strike into the top corner added a second with another long range effort.

A quick-fire double from Cummings and Zoubir extended the lead to 5-1 and Smith grabbed his hat-trick from the spot in time added on.

After the game, Head of Academy James McDonaugh said: "I think

they had seven players that had played first-team football for them and good players at that, but I thought we were the better team in the first-half, it was 0-0 but we had the best chances and created the best openings.

“Then the second half started and we went a goal behind and you think ‘where did that come from?’ but what a response from the players and everybody played their part and I was delighted for them and delighted in them.”

He added: “They had Magennis, Shankland, Storey who is a Scotland player, Clark in the middle of the pitch, Cammy Smith who has played a number of games in the Premiership and Gregg Wylde. That is an exciting front six for Aberdeen and could also be a first-team front six for Aberdeen.

“But to be honest I thought that my front six were better. I thought that Sinclair’s passing was brilliant today and it was his best game for a while and it was Martin’s first start for the under-20s and he was good. Zoubir and Cummings were exciting up-front too.

“Todd and Smith were exciting on the wings – it was a really good team performance. The full-backs as well where Andy Black made sure that Wylde didn’t have a kick of the ball and Baptie made sure that Smith never had a kick of the ball.”

“Smith got his hat-trick so it stood out in terms of his goals and in the first-half he always looked dangerous. In the second-half he had come alive a wee bit more and obviously he gets his first goal.

“That was something that we had worked on in training the day before and he turned and hit it with his right foot, it was a really good goal. His second goal was left foot and into the top corner and he won’t hit a strike any sweeter and then he stepped up and scored the penalty.

“Euan is a good lad, he works hard and I’m delighted for him

to get his hat-trick really, I'm chuffed for him."

"Jason could have had the penalty and it was between him and Euan, but Euan won the battle to take it and scored it. Jason is a threat when he gets in behind and he must be a nuisance to play against.

"I'm delighted for him again and another couple of goals to his tally and I think recently we have been free-scoring and that is 18 goals in three games now."

"You always hit a patch where you look back at it and get a bit frustrated. Inverness, Partick and St Johnstone – we didn't get a point from any of those three games, so to think about that and be top of the league after that is brilliant.

"They've played about 45 competitive games – that's a season's worth on its own – and we're top at Christmas so we've managed that quite well.

"We keep saying that it is about player development, but part of that development is to know how to win games and be able to win games and in the last two or three weeks that has been brilliant."

Hibernian under-20s: Dougie Horne, Andrew Black, Ryan Baptie, Scott Martin, Tim Clancy, Alan Maybury, Euan Smith, Jordan Sinclair (Jamie Beaton, 82), Jason Cummings, Abdellah Zoubir, Max Todd. Unused substitutes: Kleton Perntreou, Bob Wilson, Tom Gardiner, Lewis Allan, Neil Martyniuk, Jay Doyle.

Photograph Abdellah Zoubir by John Preece

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

Boroughmuir High School evacuated after a bomb threat.



Boroughmuir High School was evacuated this morning after a bomb threat.

The call was received at the school at 7.25am from a person claiming that there was a bomb in the building.

Officers from Police Scotland attended and cordoned off the scene before carrying out an extensive search of the premises.

Roads in the vicinity of the school were closed and pupils in S1 S2 S3 S4 pupils are currently being accommodated in St Oswald's and Bruntsfield Primary School.

Pupils in S5 and S6 were sent home and asked report to the Dominion cinema 12:00 for a planned trip.

A Police Scotland spokesman said: "Police in Edinburgh attended at Boroughmuir High School at around 7.25am this morning following a suspected hoax call.

"The main school building is currently being searched, with pupils being accommodated in an annex building. The school remains open and there is no risk to pupils, staff or members of the public in the area. It is anticipated that pupils will start to return to the main building during the course of the morning.

Christmas Wish list presented to MSPs



Young care leavers Wish List calls on MSPs and Scotland to give them better this Christmas

Young care leavers are calling on MSPs to grant their wishes for a better Christmas this and every year as they presented their Christmas Wish List yesterday.

For the first time a group of care leavers made a plea to MSPs outside the Scottish Parliament asking politicians and the public to show they care by pledging their commitment to help change the futures of generations of care leavers to come.

Who Cares? Scotland , the leading charity for young people in care were joined by Young Scot and other youth organisations to ask MSPs to help get a fairer deal for youngsters as they enter Stage 2 of the Children and Young People Bill.

Ashley Cameron, a 23-year-old care leaver from Stirling, said:- “At this time of year it’s hard being away from your family. When you are in care at Christmas it can be really emotional especially if you know your friends are going to have a Christmas at home with their families. It makes you think about all the problems in your life and can leave you feeling like there is no hope. All we want at Christmas is to know that people really do care.”

Duncan Dunlop, Chief Executive of Who Cares Scotland said:-
“We are asking MSPs to help grant their Christmas wish this

year and every year – by delivering on their promise and the commitment they have shown to date, and help to make Scotland the best place to grow up for all children and young people. And we want to see that for all of our looked after young people in Scotland too.”

“The young care leavers here today are excellent examples of success with many of them dedicating their careers and free time to helping create a brighter future for other generations of care leavers – as well as showing amazing resilience to overcome a range of issues in their young lives.”

On behalf of the 16,000 children in care in Scotland and the 1,300 care leavers each year, the young people will ask the politicians to grant their Christmas Wish List containing five top wishes.

- All care leavers in Scotland live long and happy lives, that they control with support where needed
- No care leaver in Scotland ever experiences homelessness
- All care leavers in Scotland are surrounded by stable, loving relationships and get a chance to fulfil their dreams
- Scotland continues to care for care leavers
- Scotland listens to the voice of young people with care experience

Figures consistently shows kids in care are more likely to suffer from mental ill health, more likely to be homeless, and more likely to suffer periods of unemployment.

Who Cares? Scotland is also asking for members of the public to support the young people’s Christmas wishes by pledging their commitment to its *It’s time to listen* campaign.

Mr Dunlop said: “These wishes are important to care leavers for many reasons. Given a chance, these young people can

achieve their dreams and live a life full of success. What care leavers really want this Christmas is for the ordinary Scot to play a more active part in helping and supporting young care leavers to live successfully in communities up and down Scotland.”

Tam Baillie, Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People said: “Young people leaving care are like any other young people – full of hopes and dreams. Yet they leave care at a much younger age than those leaving home and they do not have the option of returning if things do not work out. We need to provide them with care for longer so that their transition into adulthood allows them to have the same life chances of other young people – and that they too can realise their aspirations of a safe, secure and healthy lifestyle that they have a right to expect. We should take the opportunity through the Children and Young People Bill to make progress in this endeavour.”

Already 2,500 people have shown their support. To pledge to listen to children in care, visit the [website](#).

Five things you need to know today



Edinburgh Trams – Recommendations for improvement at Saughton
– Lord Provost Fair Trade Awards – Food poverty – Carer

Support payment

Transport Convener Lesley Hinds was delighted to present the new tram to Edinburgh yesterday morning in St Andrew Square. This is the first time that the Transport for Edinburgh livery has been on display, with its shades of maroon and platinum. New uniforms were also worn by some of the bus and tram drivers who attended the event.

There is also a new Edinburgh Trams [website](#) that will become fully operational when the tram service launches.

The first meeting of the new board of Transport for Edinburgh the new body to look after public transport in the city will be held later today.

A new report by the Chief Inspector of Prisons has been released today highlighting the areas where improvements can be made to the running of HMP Edinburgh. The buildings in Saughton now accommodate women prisoners as well as men which has meant some changes and more responsibility for the Governor. The prison is designed for 870 prisoners but actually held 907 at the time of the inspection of which 174 were on remand and at the other end of the scale 90 were serving life.

This report reflects the terms of earlier report by previous inspectors of prisons in recommending that more is done to occupy prisoners during their time there. In particular the inspector David Strang points out that while the Learning Centre in HMP Edinburgh is well-equipped, it is underused.

He also mentions that while relations between prisoners and prison staff seem positive, there is a large number of minor assaults between inmates which he is concerned about.

While the prison is given a satisfactory rating, nonetheless

the inspector finds 69 areas where he makes recommendations for change or improvement.

You can read the whole report produced to the Scottish Ministers [here](#).

The Lord Provost has put out a call for nominations for the Lord Provost's Fair Trade Awards.

There are four categories which nominees can be entered for:- Achievement Award; Newcomer Award; Faith Community Award; and Fair Trade Schools Award.

You will have seen the Fairtrade mark which now has wide recognition. But this is about more than coffee and bananas. The movement aims to improve the return for the farmers producing the goods and tries to ensure that they have decent working conditions, local sustainability and that they can trade their goods on fair terms.

If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else then you should read the Lord Provost's blog [here](#).



Barnardo's have assessed the food poverty situation in Scotland and claim that more people are having to resort to food banks than ever before.

Read more [here](#).

Only yesterday the First Minister visited a foodbank in south east Edinburgh:-

If you are a carer then you might like to know about the scheme which the council have set up to offer a payment of £250 to you. The Carer's Support Payment is to acknowledge the support unpaid carers give. This one off payment of £250 is for unpaid carers to spend on themselves to maintain their health and wellbeing or for a short break from caring.

Applications are on a first come first served basis and should therefore be made as soon as possible and no later than 28 February 2014 and can be made [here](#).



Five times more families using food banks

✖ While some people are watching TV programmes and deciding how best to cook the feast for their family, children's charity, Barnardo's warns that more people are resorting to food banks than ever before.

The report issued by [Barnardo's](#) reveals that Christmas dinner may be a food parcel for many children this year, since rising living costs and changes to the welfare system are driving increasing numbers of vulnerable families to use emergency food services. The report comes as the charity prepares to take part in ITV's Text Santa appeal, raising funds to support families struggling financially.

The [report](#) also follows the revelation in Scotland that there has been a fivefold increase in families accessing Trussel Trust food banks.

Between 2007 and 2012, food prices rose between 19 per cent and 47 per cent. The cost of essentials such as food and fuel also increased, as benefits were cut, reducing the income of the poorest households.

"Food poverty unwrapped: When Christmas dinner is a food parcel", a UK-wide survey of Barnardo's services which examines families' growing use of emergency food schemes, finds 94% of the Barnardo's projects surveyed reporting an increased or high demand for food banks or vouchers in the past year. You can read the full report below.

Vulnerable groups, such as care leavers and young parents, are being particularly hit by food poverty the report reveals. One project reports care leavers at College or University, who lack the parental support many other students receive, routinely skip meals to stay in education. Another reports

that their work with pregnant women now focusses on ensuring they have enough to eat.

Nearly half the services reported they'd been providing Christmas dinners or parcels over the past three years, and 92% reported demand for these was increasing or high.


The charity has warned that vulnerable children may increasingly face spending Christmas day hungry. Barnardo's Assistant Director of Policy and Research Neera Sharma commented: "It's a tragedy that in one of the world's richest countries, the most vulnerable families can't afford to buy Christmas dinner for their children.

"No child should have to face an empty plate due to hardship, and whilst vouchers and food banks are crucial as a last resort to stop children going hungry, food poverty must be tackled throughout the year.

"The most vulnerable must not be punished for the rising cost of living, the UK Government can help by making sure that struggling families have enough regular income to feed their children without turning to emergency services."

<http://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/2013-12-16-food-poverty17-December.pdf>

Edinburgh sportsmen support Police White Ribbon campaign

 Police in Edinburgh are teaming up with players from the world of football and rugby as part of a festive campaign to

tackle violence against women, in collaboration with the White Ribbon campaign.

Hibs goalkeeper Ben Williams, Hearts goalkeeper Mark Ridgers and Steve Lawrie from Edinburgh Rugby all attended former Lothian and Borders Police Headquarters at Fettes to show their support for the campaign which will run from 24th December to 5th January 2014 and aims to make people aware that violence against women will not be tolerated.

Players for Hibs, Hearts and Edinburgh Rugby will also wear special white ribbon badges and t-shirts in support of the campaign in matches over the next couple of weeks, including the Edinburgh Derby on 2nd January 2014.

The clubs' show of support is part of a Police Scotland campaign to combat domestic abuse over the festive season when violence against women typically escalates.



Detective Inspector Dougie Moran from Police Scotland said: "Police Scotland's priority is to tackle domestic violence year round. Unfortunately, during the festive period, incidents of domestic abuse are known to increase. We will investigate all reports of domestic abuse and pursue repeat offenders.

"Police Scotland is actively trying to raise awareness of this issue and of organisations which can provide support, advice and assistance.

"The White Ribbon Campaign is one of many initiatives we support in an effort to reduce the suffering faced by those unfortunate enough to find themselves in an abusive relationship.

"The campaign is in line with our push towards prevention, addressing the root causes of crime through targeted

initiatives and increased co-operation with agencies in the public and private sectors.”

Callum Hendry from White Ribbon Scotland said:” White Ribbon Scotland welcomes the support of Police Scotland, Edinburgh Rugby, Hibernian FC and Heart of Midlothian FC in taking a proactive stance towards violence against women. The White Ribbon Scotland Campaign engages men in Scotland to speak out and take action to prevent the drastic levels of abuse in our society. This is an issue for all of us to tackle and through this awareness raising campaign we hope to see more men playing an active role in challenging the attitudes which perpetuate violence against women.

Photographs by Thomas Brown

Appeal for witnesses following a fire on a bus in Oxfangs



Police in Edinburgh are appealing for witnesses after a bus was set alight in the Oxfangs area.

The fire broke out on the number 4 service on Oxfangs Road around 10.30pm on Monday night (16th December).

Shortly before the incident was reported, a youth was seen to alight the bus next to Oxfangs library. He is described as white, aged 14-16 years, wearing a dark hooded top.

Detective Inspector Rory Hamilton said: “The bus has suffered

extensive damage, as a result of this fire, which we believe was started deliberately.

“Luckily no one was injured as a result of this reckless act.

“We are appealing to anyone who noticed any suspicious activity on the number 4 bus or in the area of Oxbgangs Road from 10.30pm on Monday night, when the fire was reported, to contact police.

“Anyone else who has information that they think can assist our inquiries should also get in touch.”

Anyone with any information should contact Police Scotland on 101, or make an anonymous report through Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

VIDEO – Transport for Edinburgh livery revealed today



The tram now standing at St Andrew Square is all painted up and ready to go...

The newly liveried tram was at St Andrew Square this morning along with front line staff wearing their uniforms to mark the launch of Transport for Edinburgh brand.



Today also marks the formal handover of the section of track between the Gogar Depot to Edinburgh Park Station from

contractors to the Council.



Man charged with fireraising in west of Edinburgh



Police in Edinburgh have arrested and charged a man in connection with fire-raising in the West of the city that took place on the 6th July.

The incidents involved three cars – an Alfa Romeo, Volkswagen Jetta and Volkswagen Golf and a garden shed. These took place in Saughton Mains, Stenhouse and Carrick Knowe.

A 28-year-old man will appear at Edinburgh Sheriff Court at a later date.

Edinburgh police launch housebreaking initiative



Police in Edinburgh have today launched their local campaign to tackle housebreaking across the Capital.

The Police Scotland initiative, Operation RAC, was officially launched on Monday 16th December as the Force looks to address an overall 4% increase in housebreaking offences since last year.

In Edinburgh, reports of housebreaking have increased by over 40% in comparison to the last year and the issue has been identified as a policing priority for many local communities.

A specialist team of around 50 officers, who will specifically focus on investigating housebreaking, are supporting the city's Operation RAC activities.

Prior to the national launch, police in Edinburgh had already undertaken significant levels of investigation into Capital housebreaking and since Friday 7th December a total of 44 people have subsequently been charged or reported to the Procurator Fiscal for over 120 offences.

In addition, property worth around £22,500 has also been recovered.

Operation RAC enquiries and action will continue within Edinburgh anyone found to be involved in housebreaking or associated offences can expect to be dealt with by police.

Detective Inspector John Kavanagh, who is leading Operation RAC activities in Edinburgh said: "We recognise that the rise in housebreaking offences, particularly from sheds, garages and outbuildings, is a concern for a number of our communities and we are carrying out targeted action to address this matter as part of our commitment to keeping people safe.

"Dedicated teams of officers are actively investigating a number of offences reported within the Capital and every day we are making more and more arrests and recovering property so it can be reunited with its rightful owners.

"Our communities have identified housebreaking as a local

priority and we will use all resources at our disposal to tackle the issue and bring offenders to justice.

“Housebreakers should be left in no doubt that we are working alongside our partner agencies and the public to identify you; find you and arrest you.”

Get set for Hogmanay – tickets selling fast



You are encouraged to plan for Hogmanay as tickets are selling fast for all the events. But you can still get down and dance at the biggest street party going if you're quick.

Organisers of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, produced on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council, today confirmed that tickets for The Keilidh and Candlelit Concert at St Giles' Cathedral have sold out. Limited final tickets for the Enclosure at Concert in the Gardens on 31 December have been released for sale today, and there are still some Gardens tickets available giving revellers the chance to party with the world famous Pet Shop Boys, The 1975, Nina Nesbitt and The 10:04's.

The hottest ticket in the Capital this year is for Edinburgh's Hogmanay **Street Party** as 'Scotland's Big Year Starts Here' with an incredible all Scottish line-up and the multi-media **REWINDER** – turning the city centre into the world's biggest outdoor dance floor.

To celebrate Edinburgh's Hogmanay's milestone 21st anniversary, **REWINDER** returns to the Mound Stage with a unique

and ground-breaking ambition to tell the story of Scotland and its impact on the modern world to a soundtrack of irresistible floor filling tunes. Scotland's biggest artists have performed at Edinburgh's Hogmanay over the last 21 years and many of these will feature in a four hour soundtrack with music from Primal Scream, Mylo, Calvin Harris, Edwyn Collins, Biffy Clyro and Franz Ferdinand. The playlist will also include those with a Scottish connection like Rod Stewart, Snow Patrol and Iggy Pop making up a 'best of' show of unstoppable music to dance to.

DJ Swiss and VJ's Buttercup and Pixels will rock the Street Party in a one-off bespoke 4 hour **REWINDER** show. Mixing Scotland's most celebrated film and television moments with some of our world-changing discoveries such as penicillin and the telephone, the development of colour photographs and Scotland's second favourite drink – Irn Bru – as well as the great sporting achievements of modern-day home-grown heroes Andy Murray and Sir Chris Hoy, eight giant screens will host a multi-media mash up showing Scotland's remarkable entrepreneurial and creative influence on the world through state of the art effects and animation. It is often said that Scotland punches above its weight. Believe it here and dance to the tune! For a sneak preview visit this [website](#).

The world famous **Street Party** offers an uniquely Scottish line up across three stages with performances from Django Django, Chvrches, The Rezillos and William Douglas on the Waverley Stage; King Creosote, Treacherous Orchestra and Fiddlers' Bid on the Scottish Stage in Frederick Street. All stages go live at 9.00pm.

Councillor Steve Cardownie, Festivals and Events Champion, City of Edinburgh Council, said: " Scotland's Capital has forged a much-envied reputation as *the* best place to see in the New Year since our famous Hogmanay celebrations began 21 years ago.

“Given the strength of the line-up this year, I am not surprised that tickets are going so quickly. For those unable to secure a ticket for the Concert in the Gardens, then there’s plenty more to enjoy in the Street Party, with three stages boasting the best in Scottish talent and, of course, the Rewinder show, a great addition to the programme last year.”

Pete Irvine, Director of Unique Events who have created, produced and managed Edinburgh’s Hogmanay on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council since its inception, said “Scotland’s big year starts here! And to celebrate we’re bringing the greatest Scottish Playlist to the Street Party – all our favourite floor filling tunes and inspirational moments – Rewinder will get the Street Party revellers rocking to the same beat along the length of Princes Street.”

Countdown fireworks, including the 2014 Homecoming Scotland bespoke sequence, will lift from Edinburgh Castle at 9.00pm, 10.00pm and 11.00pm with the spectacular midnight moment fireworks from Edinburgh Castle and Calton Hill being set to music. Free bus transport home throughout the city will be available for revellers at the Street Party, supported by Lothian Buses and Diageo, the world’s leading premium drinks company.

This year sees a new partnership between Unique Events and Underbelly to produce Edinburgh’s Hogmanay and Edinburgh’s Christmas on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council.

Revellers can purchase tickets for the world famous Street Party, and Gardens tickets for Concert in the Gardens, in one of three ways: by calling Edinburgh’s Hogmanay Box Office on 0844 573 8455; [online](#) or by calling into the Hogmanay Box Office at The Fringe Office, 180 High Street, Edinburgh. Revellers can join in with all the Edinburgh’s Hogmanay conversations on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by using the #blogmanay.

Edinburgh College training broadcasters for Commonwealth Games



Edinburgh College hosts training day to prepare broadcast students for Commonwealth Games work experience

Edinburgh College has been hosting training for students involving state-of-the-art outside broadcast equipment for a scheme that will give some the chance to work covering next year's Commonwealth Games.

The training was part of the Host Broadcaster Training Initiative (HBTI), a key part of the Glasgow 2014 games' legacy programme that will give creative industries students and lecturers from 13 education institutions across the country the opportunity to learn how to use the latest broadcast equipment. More than 200 of the best-performing students will then be chosen to take part in broadcast work experience during the games.

Telegenic, one of the chosen outside broadcast facilities companies for the Commonwealth Games, brought one of its £4.5million outside broadcast trucks and a support vehicle to the college to give students and staff training in the latest HD recording and output equipment.

Fifty nine students and staff from the college and six students from Edinburgh Napier University were given tours of the truck and hands-on training in the use of its vision, sound, VT, cameras and operations facilities. Some of the

individual items of equipment were worth tens of thousands of pounds.

By giving students the chance to work at the biggest sporting event ever held in Scotland, the project aims to give the next generation of broadcasters the skills and experience to cover major sports and music events. By also including lecturers in the training, they will be better equipped to deliver training in new skills. Projects such as this, that aim to leave behind a lasting legacy following the games, are a main focus for the games' organisers.

Fraser Mansell, lecturer in Digital Film and Television Production at Edinburgh College, said: "The students found it absolutely inspirational and I can't emphasise enough how much they've gained from the experience. The Telegenic team's enthusiasm and willingness to explain all the processes involved was fantastic, and the hands-on experience they provided our students with was a rare privilege.

"Our students did themselves proud and really impressed the professionals. Projects like this are helping them build links with industry while they're still studying, which will make them stronger job candidates and help their transition into the professional world. Hopefully some of our students will get the chance to take what they've learned to the Commonwealth Games next year."



Telegenic commercial manager Eamonn Curtin said: "Getting the time to come and see students and show them how we operate is really important to us. Outside broadcast is a really specialised area and being able to broaden the pool of talent in this niche field is vital. The students were great – really enthusiastic and they already have excellent knowledge. By giving them training now, the students who come to do work experience at the games will be better prepared, which

benefits both them and us.”

HND Audio Visual Technology student Grant Kibble was one of the students given training on the outside broadcast equipment.

Grant said: “The training was brilliant. We had the chance to work with some amazing equipment, like a lens that was worth about £130,000, so we learned loads. They showed us how the different sections of the broadcast team work together and how important it is that they’re all communicating properly for it all to work. That’s the most important thing I learned and I’d love to take that forward and work at the Commonwealth Games next year.”

The Host Broadcaster Training Initiative is being jointly managed and delivered by SVGTV, the host broadcaster for the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games, and Creative Loop, Scotland’s talent development hub for the creative media industries.

For more information on the HBTI visit www.creativeloop.org.

Edinburgh job – Programme Development Officer

✖ Edinburgh International Festival are advertising for a Programme Development Officer. This is a temporary position beginning in January. Applications must be in by Friday 20 December 2013.

This is the job advert which you can also access [here](#).

9 month fixed term contract – Jan – Sept 2014)

Salary – £24,000 FTE pro rata

Full time

We are looking for a candidate with experience in event administration and project management to assist in the delivery of the year round public engagement programme of the Edinburgh International Festival.

The post is based in the Programme Development Department of the Festival which delivers the year round schools and public engagement programme in addition to the Festival talks and lectures series.

The successful applicant will have at least 3 years or equivalent of event management and the necessary organisational and administrative skills needed for the post.

[Download the job pack here](#)

To apply, please send your current CV with a covering letter explaining how you feel your skills and experience would help you to fulfil this role to: Edinburgh International Festival, The Hub, Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NE tel 0131 473 2087 or email to recruitment@eif.co.uk

Closing date: 2pm, Friday 20 December 2013

Wester Hailes wins big on Big

Lottery Fund

Prospect Housing based in Wester Hailes have won an award of £115,830 from the Big Lottery Fund in an announcement made today.

Prospect Community Housing will now be able to run their Switched On Wester Hailes project offering welfare and budgeting advice, as well as a drop in centre for people facing hardship.

Carol Cawood, Director of Prospect Community Housing, said:-
“The Big Lottery Fund’s generous support will mean that people affected by hardship living in Wester Hailes are better equipped to deal with the current issues they face and better prepared to withstand future changes. We identified the reduction of fuel poverty, the provision of welfare benefits advice and the promotion of digital inclusion as areas where support could still make a significant difference to people’s income levels.

“This grant will enable us to offer local residents practical energy efficiency advice within their homes, welfare benefits advice in familiar community venues, and to deliver increased access to IT resources and training through local computer suites. Switched On In Wester Hailes will also create a stronger, more connected network of organisations and volunteers across the area so that local residents receive effective and ongoing support.”

This year the Big Lottery Fund, Scotland has pledged over £19 million to support communities in Scotland deal with increasing hardship. And today, just in time for Christmas, 64 projects across the country are sharing £9,200,690 through the Support and Connect programme. The funding means a range of activities providing essential lifelines including local food banks, money advice services, community clothing and starter

pack projects can now take place.

Maureen McGinn, Big Lottery Fund Scotland Committee Chair, said: “When we opened Support & Connect to applications, our research showed a need for projects specifically to support families and communities across Scotland which are struggling to cope with immediate financial, emotional and physical pressures.

“Enabling people to find a way through these challenges is at the heart of our work at the Big Lottery Fund. Today’s funding, in addition to that previously announced in July, will support organisations across Scotland which are providing essential support. It is a measure of the absolute need for these services that we have almost doubled our original budget for this from £10 million up to £19 million since March this year.”

Projects funded through Support and Connect will for run two years and are aimed specifically at improving local support for people experiencing hardship. The fund will also help organisations, who work with people experiencing hardship, become much better connected so that individuals dealing with complex problems get the right blend of support they need.

Five things you need to know today



Tram news – Read our LiveBlog – Museum Staff to strike – Chris

Hadfield – Christmas jokes

In tram news there will be a liveried tram in St Andrew Square today showing off the colour scheme which will be used. Yes we know there is red in there – but the design and colours will not have been on display till now. The tram will be brought all the way in from Gogar this morning and then after the photo calls will go back out to the depot. So fear not! If you see the tram, your eyes are not deceiving you.

If you joined us yesterday evening for our liveblog with Chief Superintendent Mark Williams then you will already know that we covered a wide range of topics. He said it was the quickest hour and a half he had spent! There were many questions and the good thing is you can still read it all over [here](#) as it happened.



The [BBC](#) report that the staff at the National Museum of Scotland who are paid the minimum wage are to strike over enhanced pay for weekend working. It is not yet clear when the strike action might be taken.

Could you perhaps help us to get onto the local news list on

the BBC? You will see the list if you click [here](#). It includes Leith FM and Guardian Edinburgh, both of which were great but are now defunct....

If you email the BBC we might manage to get The Edinburgh Reporter onto the list! newsonlinescotland@bbc.co.uk

Commander Chris Hadfield is visiting Edinburgh tomorrow. He will be signing books at Blackwells and then later at the Royal Observatory Edinburgh where he will be giving a talk. Both events seem to be sold out, but you can always try! Details of the ROE event [here](#).

This snippet of news just allows us to use that YouTube clip again of Commander Hadfield on the ISS singing and playing his guitar. Fabulous as well as out of this world...

In the manner of Christmas we would like to get some Christmas jokes going now that it is just over a week to go until the big day... So over here on our [Facebook](#) page we might end up with a list of jovial Christmasness!



Terry Butcher's touchline ban appeal to be heard today



Terry Butcher will find out whether his appeal against a two match ban and £1000 fine imposed whilst manager of Inverness Caledonian Thistle is successful when he appears before an SFA appeals tribunal at Hampden today.

The Hibs boss has already admitted breaching SFA rule 203 of "misconduct at a match by failing to behave in a responsible manner as an occupant of the technical area by acting in an aggressive manner towards players of the opposing team" at a disciplinary tribunal on 21 November.

The appeal allowed him to take charge of the team against St Mirren in Paisley in a game which ended in a no scoring draw.

Butcher was sent to the stand with Dundee United coach Darren Jackson who has since been issued with a censure for misconduct, following an incident during a league cup quarter-final on 29 October.

A decision on the appeal is expected today, but if thrown out, Butcher will be banned from the dressing rooms, tunnel, pitch and match officials' dressing rooms from an hour before kick-off until 15 minutes after the full-time whistle for Saturday's game against St Johnstone at Easter Road.

Photograph by John Preece

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

Gaming companies surviving the recession

A [Scottish Government report](#) recently confirmed what many had suspected, but perhaps not dared to hope for. The economy was beginning to show signs of life, with an improvement in employment prospects, and economic growth that actually put Scotland ahead of the UK as a whole. These trends have continued through the year, with youth employment in particular looking relatively healthy.

Success Stories



For many, of course, the hard times were truly hard, and for many they still are. Some industries however seem to have been more or less recession-proof. Gaming, whether online or otherwise, is one of them. One of Scotland's success stories has been Edinburgh's own Rockstar North, founded (as DMA Design) in Dundee in 1988. Their first major success came with Lemmings in the early 90's, an addictive, slightly macabre puzzle game that ended up shifting more than 20 million units.

Grand Theft Auto, the first in the franchise, was a further triumph, with acres of free publicity centred around the violent (but often hilarious) scenes in the game. By the third version, GTA had become a gaming phenomenon. The current incarnation, GTA V, became one of the best-selling games of all time, garnering huge amounts of praise for its cinematic feel and attention to detail.



New Technology

Rockstar is just the most well-known of a [long list](#) of games and gaming-related companies based in Scotland. Edinburgh's Ingot Games is one of the newer operators, producing puzzle apps like BoxPlots for mobile devices. It's the spread of mobile gaming, as well as the easy availability of wi-fi and other connection methods, that have allowed smaller companies into the market.

The lower costs of producing games for iOS and Android devices allow developers like Edinburgh's Nevistech to come up with apps like Pet Roulette (think Russian Roulette with hamsters), without worrying about the multi-million pound budgets that the big console games have to deal with.

Casinos



Casino games, played both online and otherwise, have remained as popular as ever throughout the lean years, though the rapid growth of the online casino has affected the real-life version to some extent. The Genting Club Fountainpark continues to thrive on Dundee Street. Players who want to practise their card skills beforehand can try an online casino; [a good poker bonus to play online can be of help here](#). Gaming is now a very important part of the Scottish economy. Critics of video games and casinos would do well to remember that it's exactly these sorts of industries that have helped Scotland and the rest of the UK through an extremely difficult few years.

Featured article

(Images courtesy of wikipedia, gtanet.com, gentingcasinos.co.uk)

Two Libyan prosecutors appointed in Lockerbie investigation

The Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland has greeted the appointment of two Libyan prosecutors as a welcome development in the ongoing international investigation into the Lockerbie bombing.

The Lord Advocate Frank Mulholland has greeted the appointment of two Libyan prosecutors as a welcome development in the ongoing international investigation into the Lockerbie bombing.

He said:-“As we move towards the 25th anniversary of the bombing of Pan Am 103 over the town of Lockerbie we must not lose sight of the magnitude of the tragedy which claimed 270 lives. It is still the worst act of terrorism on UK soil. More than 400 parents lost a child, 46 parents lost their only child, 7 children lost both parents, 65 women lost a husband, 11 men lost a wife and more than 140 children lost one of their parents.

“The court found Abdelbaset Ali Mohamed Al Megrahi guilty of the bombing but recognised it was an act of state terrorism and he did not act alone. We are still looking for others and the evidence leads to Libya.

“I went to Libya in 2012 and a Scottish and US justice law enforcement delegation met with senior officials from the Libyan government earlier this year. Since then there has been ongoing contact and cooperation from the Libyan authorities.

“Recently they appointed two Libyan prosecutors who will work with Scottish and US prosecutors to assist with the investigation into the bombing. This is a very welcome development which I hope will bear fruit and result in bringing others to justice”.