



**EDINBURGH'S
HOGMANAY**

PRESS RELEASE

Media information:

MONDAY 5 DECEMBER 2011

www.edinburghshogmanay.com

EXTRA BUS SERVICES LAID ON FOR EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY REVELLERS

Revellers at the world famous Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations will not have to worry about their journey home this New Year – the party's organisers, together with the City of Edinburgh Council, have confirmed that there will be free buses in Edinburgh for all out enjoying the festivities in the city on New Year's Eve, while Citylink Buses are operating services to Glasgow, Stirling, Perth and Dundee.

Additional services have been added to the timetable on Sunday 1st January to ferry Loony Dookers and spectators from the city centre to South Queensferry where the annual New Year's Day dip under the shadow of the Forth Bridge will take place at 11.00am.

The free travel on the city's bus networks operated by Lothian Buses will run from 12.15am to 4.00am on Sunday morning (1st January), and is open to anyone out enjoying Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party, Concert in the Gardens or The Keilidh.

Pete Irvine, Creative Director of Edinburgh's Hogmanay, said "We are delighted that there is, once again, a safe, reliable and free transport system at the end of the night on New Year's Eve. Over 18,000 revellers took advantage of this invaluable service last year to get them home. For the first time, thanks to Citylink, there are transport options for revellers to get home in Edinburgh and across the central belt."

Councillor Steve Cardownie, Festivals and Events Champion for the City of Edinburgh Council, said: "It's vital that we do what we can to help people get home safe and sound after seeing in the bells at the World's Greatest Street Party. Revellers can celebrate the arrival of 2012 safe in the knowledge that they can hop on the bus home afterwards.

To board a free bus home this Hogmanay, passengers just need to wait at one of the designated departure points around the city. No advanced booking required. Details including location of bus stops and a timetable of the bus services are available to view online at www.edinburghshogmanay.com.





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For the first time Edinburgh's Hogmanay have teamed up with Citylink Buses to offer late night buses to destinations outside Edinburgh after the Hogmanay celebrations. Revellers will be able to travel home from the world famous Street Party to a range of destinations in Glasgow, Fife including Dunfermline, Kirkcaldy and St Andrews, Dundee, Perth and Kinross. Tickets cost £30 and can be booked on-line at www.citylink.co.uk or by calling 0871 266 3333. Passengers wishing to travel on these services are required to pre-book their ticket to guarantee a seat.

Nicola Campbell, Marketing Manager for Scottish Citylink, said: "Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party is one of the highlights of the year and Citylink are delighted to help support such a world famous event. Travelling by coach is the most economical, hassle free way to get home from the Street Party and we are encouraging people to book up as early as possible to ensure their travel plans are taken care of and they can concentrate on having a good time."

For the hardy, the Loony Dook – the annual New Year's Day dip in the River Forth - will start off with a Dookers Parade through South Queensferry featuring pipers and a host of entertainment, followed by the brave (or daft) Loony Dookers. For those not quite brave enough to take the plunge, there are plenty of vantage points to watch the action and spectators are welcomed. First Bus are providing additional services to ensure Dookers can get to and from South Queensferry – see www.firstbus.co.uk for details. The Loony Dook is supported by Haggis Adventures.

Revellers can obtain tickets for the Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party, Concert in the Gardens and The Keilidh, in one of three ways:

- Online at www.edinburghshogmanay.com
- by calling the Edinburgh's Hogmanay Box Office on 0844 573 8455
- or in person at The Fringe Office, 180 High Street; Tickets Scotland, 127 Rose Street & 237 Argyle Street, Glasgow or Ripping Records, 91 South Bridge, Edinburgh.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay is part of Scotland's Winter Festivals and the Edinburgh Sparkles winter celebrations.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

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or





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Notes to Editors

1. On-Sale Details:

Tickets for all Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2011/12 events and registration are available now on a first come first served basis in the following ways:

Online: www.edinburghshogmanay.com

By phone: Edinburgh's Hogmanay Box Office: 0844 573 8455

Tickets can also be purchased through associated ticket agents as follows:

The Fringe Office, 180 High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1QS

Phone: 0844 573 8455

Opening Hours: 10am - 6pm Monday - Saturday

Tickets Scotland, 127 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 3DT

Phone: +44 131 220 3234

Opening hours: 9am-6pm (until 8pm Thursdays). 11am-6pm Sundays

Ripping Records, 91 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 1HN

91 South Bridge, Edinburgh EH1 21HN

Opening hours: 9am-6pm (12.30pm-5.30pm Saturdays)

2. Ticket Prices:

Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party: £15.00 administration + booking fee

n.b. Entry to Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party on 31 December is strictly by ticket only. There are no restrictions on the quantity of tickets which can be purchased. Travel Trade & Accommodation Providers can reserve tickets by emailing: groups@edinburghshogmanay.com

Concert in the Gardens: **Enclosure – SOLD-OUT**, Gardens - £35.00 + booking fee

n.b Tickets to Concert in the Gardens also grant access to the Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party.

The Keilidh: £35.00 + booking fee

n.b Tickets to The Keilidh grants access to the Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party.

Subject to booking fee.

Torchlight Procession: Torches available for purchase in advance for £6 each or buy them on the night for £7.00

Candlelit Concert in St Giles' Cathedral: £16.00 + booking fee

n.b This event is not suitable for babies or young children.

Loony Dook: £6.00 Registration Fee (includes donation to RNLI)

n.b Participants MUST register for the Loony Dook prior to the event. There will be no registration on the day and availability will be on a first come first served basis.

The Official Edinburgh's Hogmanay After Show Club: Tickets available from www.ticketweb.co.uk or www.ticketsoup.com

3. About Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party: Described as the original and best New Year's Party, Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party annually attracts tens of thousands of residents and visitors from around the globe. Taking place on 31 December along Princes Street in the centre of Scotland's capital, party-goers come together to sing, dance, hug, kiss and celebrate the New Year. Featuring a selection of stages brimming with live music and entertainment, the iconic Midnight Fireworks display, singing and dancing all set against the magnificent backdrop of Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party really is *the* place to be to see in the New Year in true Scots style. This year features live music stages, DJ stages, giant screens and a spectacular midnight moment. For tickets and more information: www.edinburghshogmanay.com





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4. About the Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival: Edinburgh's Hogmanay Festival runs from 30 December 2011 until 1 January 2012. Full programme details of events and activities across the festival will be announced early November. Now in its nineteenth year. For more information and to register for updates visit: www.edinburghshogmanay.com

5. About Scotland's Winter Festivals: Scotland's Winter Festivals begin with St Andrew's Day on 30th November and includes Scotland's Hogmanay celebrations on 31st December, culminating with Burns night on 25th January. Scotland's Winter Festivals bring together three of our cultural celebrations, showcasing Scotland as a great visitor destination and the perfect stage for events all year round. Scots and Scots at heart, both at home and abroad, celebrate Scotland's unique heritage and distinctive culture through our St Andrew's Day, Hogmanay and Burns. Many of Scotland's top visitor attractions will open to the public for free over the St Andrew's Day weekend, offering everyone a way to celebrate our national day and experience world class visitor attractions on our own doorsteps.

You can find further information and listings of events across Scotland at www.scotland.org/winter

6. Edinburgh Sparkles promotes the city as 'the best place in the UK to enjoy Christmas and New Year', due to Edinburgh's magical setting, host of festive things to enjoy and an unparalleled atmosphere. For more information visit www.edinburghsparkles.com

7. About Citylink Buses: The buses will leave from Morrison Street from 1.20am, and travel to Harthill Services, Baillieston – Road End, Glasgow – Buchanan Bus Station, Dunfermline Bus Station, Kinross Park and Ride, Perth Broxden Park & Ride, Dundee Bus Station, Kirkcaldy Bus Station, Glenrothes Bus Station, St Andrews Bus Station.

How to Book

To book tickets, simply log on to the Citylink website at www.citylink.co.uk and enter your travel information in to the Journey Planner. Alternatively, you can call our contact centre on 0871 266 3333. Services are available to book online using "Edinburgh, Morrison Street before Grove Street" as the destination. Passengers wishing to travel with these special services from Citylink are required to pre-book their journey to guarantee them a seat.

8. Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2011/12 funders and sponsors:

Edinburgh's Hogmanay 2011/12 is funded by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Supported by EventScotland, Scotland's Winter Festivals, The Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals EXPO Fund.

Sponsored by G4S, Crabbies, Arnold Clark Car & Van Rental, Haggis Adventures.

Media sponsors The Scotsman, Radio Forth.

9. Edinburgh's Hogmanay is a City of Edinburgh Council initiative created and produced by Unique Events.