

Five things you need to know today



Well now we are really in the grip of Festival Fever as The Edinburgh International Book Festival got off the starting blocks on Saturday and the official festival began its odyssey into all things Oriental on Friday.

For those of you who have been missing Guardian Beatblogger, Michael MacLeod, you can follow his posts on the [Guardian Blog](#) about the Edinburgh International Book Festival for the next two weeks.

Whilst we enjoy or endure the festivals depending on your outlook, ordinary civic life goes on and this week will bring the hotly contested Edinburgh City Centre ward by-election. If you live in the area concerned then you should already know the names of the candidates, but if not then they are here in [our earlier article](#). We are working on interviews with all candidates and you should check our Politics section for updates in the next few days.

More adverse comment appears today in [The Scotsman](#) about the proposal to sell off the army barracks in the city and move the army out to new purpose-built premises at Kirknewton. This time Brigadier Alan Alstead criticised the plan as impractical, and said that the idea was one generated by bean counters.

The torrential rain last week meant that some parts of the cycle path were closed due to flooding. You can keep up to date with the news about this and other cycle related items on the [Innertube Map](#). This is the project to produce a map based on the London Tube concept funded by the People's Postcode Lottery. You can also follow them on [Facebook](#).

