

Five things you need to know today

✖ The Book Festival is in full swing now. Our very own Ali George has been there to see one of her literary heroes A.L.Kennedy, and has written about it [here](#). Also [The Guardian](#) has a round up on its Book Blog of what to see today – which includes Ian Rankin.

At The Edinburgh International Festival Haruki Murakami's *The Wind-up Bird Chronicle* at The King's is getting mixed reviews including a 1 out of 5 from [The Independent](#), four stars from [The Telegraph](#) and three stars from our reviewer, [David Kettle](#). Not exactly an easy read, Murakami's novels often deal with dark subjects, but the adaptation to stage has not been universally approved by the critics.

[The Caledonian Mercury](#) claims that house prices in Edinburgh which are the most expensive in Scotland have gone back to the level they were at about four and a half years ago. Good news for dinner party chat.

[The BBC](#) reports that some recently hatched chicks have been saved on Howdenhall Road earlier today.

Ahead of Thursday's Council meeting when trams are again on the agenda, Brian Ferguson writing in [The Scotsman](#) warns that many small businesses could face financial disaster if the tram works proceed.