Five things you need to know today

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Photography exhibition — Waste and recycling — Historic Scotland have big plans for 2014 — EdinburghReportage calling all cyclists! — Dance your way into the New Year

The RNLI are staging an outdoor photography exhibition in Castle Street from today until 24 January. The photographs have been taken by Nigel Millard a volunteer crewman, and the exhibition is entitled The Lifeboat: Courage on our Coasts. More details here.

Let us know what you think!

If your bins were due to be collected on 1 January then they ought to be picked up today instead. All details about waste and recycling here.

And if you have a real Christmas tree to get rid of?

Here are the guidelines:-

Christmas tree recycling

You can recycle your real Christmas trees at the kerbside, no matter where you live.

To enable trees to be recycled residents are reminded to:

- Remove all decorations from the Christmas tree
- If the tree is 6ft tall or more, please cut it in half
- Do not place trees in plastic bags, as this means we cannot recycle it.

Christmas trees can be recycled at any of our three Community Recycling Centres — these are open as normal after 3 January.

If you have a brown bin or live in a brown bin area, place your tree at the kerbside, next to your bin, by 6am on your next garden waste day.

We will also collect trees from communal bin areas during January. See below for dates in your area:

- City Centre and Leith Monday 6, 13, 20
- East Tuesday 7, 14, 21
- North Wednesday 8, 15, 22
- West and South West Thursday 9, 16, 23
- South Friday 10, 17, 24

In the year of Homecoming Scotland 2014 Historic Scotland have lots of places for you to visit. All details of events to be held at Historic Scotland venues can be found here. At Edinburgh Castle later this month for example, there will be an opportunity to learn more about Robert Burns. Meantime the Herald continues to highlight the story of the former CEO of Historic Scotland who they say has received a total of £300,000 on quitting the job after 30 months.

We know there are many cyclists among our readers. Now we would like to know what your bike looks like! Does it have two wheels or three? Are there many recumbent cyclists out there? What is special about your trusty steed? Where will it take you this weekend if you brave the weather?

Add your photos, text or video here.

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The Edinburgh branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society have been in touch with The Edinburgh Reporter to tell us about their dance classes which start again on Tuesday.

Dance Scottish — What better way to keep fit, make friends and have fun than to join one of our Scottish dancing classes? Our classes re-commence on 7th & 9th January 2014 so start thinking about that New Year's resolution now.

Our Beginners class @ Bruntsfield starts Tuesday 7th January 2014. We also have Improvers (Calton Centre) and General (Cluny) classes on a Tuesday and Very Advanced on a Thursday in Murrayfield.

Check out our website for full details of all our classes

Join in at any time from January to May Keep Fit, Have Fun and Make Friends Learn New Skills to live music & great teaching

No experience, partner or special equipment required.