

Five things you need to know today



Drama in Leith

Edinburgh Tram Inquiry


QMU in line for award

National Children's Day

Grow Wild Gardening

When the War Came Home – powerful drama in Leith Dockers Club, Thurs 18th June 7.30pm and Sun 21st June 3pm

June 2015 is Citadel Arts Group's sixth year at Leith Festival. Once again the group will present a play based on local history, this year about World War I and its impact on Edinburgh and Leith people. The play, scripted by members of the WEA Playwrights Workshop, features such historical figures as war poet Wilfred Owen and Sir George McCrae whose battalion included football players and supporters from both Hearts and Hibs. But the main focus is not on the famous but the ordinary people caught up in the Zeppelin raid that hit Leith's whisky bond, women doing dangerous munitions work and the many Leith soldiers who perished in the Gretna train disaster. Directed by Liz Hare, 'When the War Came Home' stars Mark Kydd, Andrea McKenzie, Rob Flett and Euan Bennet. Tickets £8/£5 conc from ftennick@hotmail.com or phone 01875 340717

 The Edinburgh Tram Inquiry is making progress with the chairman The Rt Hon Lord Hardie issuing a formal call for evidence earlier this week. Lord Hardie is keen to hear from

members of the public, local businesses, and other interested parties, on the consequences of the cost over-runs, delays and reduction in scope, so this is your chance to give evidence. Evidence can be submitted online [here](#).

The inquiry is examining the tram project under several headings and part of its remit is to look at the roles of the council and The Scottish Government in the project at all stages.

Queen Margaret University (QMU), Edinburgh, has been shortlisted for the second UK public relations award of the year in the 2015 Heist Awards.

The Heist Awards judging panel has named QMU's public relations team a finalist in the 'Best Communications or PR Campaign' category of 2015.

The internationally recognised annual Heist Awards for Education Marketing have evolved over more than twenty years to become the premier awards programme for marketing in the further and higher education sectors. The Heist Awards exist to recognise and celebrate professionalism, expertise and innovation throughout the sector, from the smallest regional college to global education brands.

Read more [here](#).

Free children's fun sessions and activity tasters are taking place in Edinburgh Leisure centres across the city today to celebrate National Children's Day.

It's all about raising awareness of the importance of play and activity time for children, with studies showing that this has reduced significantly in recent years.

A spokesperson for Edinburgh Leisure said: "Come and play with us on Sunday May 17th and see how kids of all ages can be active with Edinburgh Leisure all year round.

"We've got everything going on from tennis, climbing, diving and gymnastics to zorb balls, aquaruns, magicians and good old fashioned games and crafts.

"Not only can you have fun but we'll also be running some special promotions on the day."

A taster of what's on around the City can be found on this [link](#)

65th City of Edinburgh Rainbows were one of the recipients of the Grow Wild scheme seed kits, supported by the Big Lottery Fund and led by Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. These kits are aimed at youth groups and encourage community events to enjoy the out-of-doors and create areas for wildlife and people. They have told us about their recent seed-planting event at the beginning of May:

"We carried out a seed-planting event on Thursday 7th May (as the Primary Schools were closed it allowed parents more time to be involved), inviting friends and families to join us planting the seeds in the local Community Woodland and it was a very successful afternoon. Along with the leader and young leader of the unit, 10 girls attended, with 7 parents, older and younger siblings and a dog! Even a neighbour came out to see what was happening and chatted with us for a while, introducing his wife as she used to run Brownies – it showed well how this scheme can bring communities together.

"While there we also carried out a range of activities towards the RSPB's Wildlife Action Award, such as surveying the trees and flowers, looking for minibeasts, making bee and bug houses which the girls took home to put in their gardens and doing a spot of bird-watching. The event was very well

received by both the girls and families, who commented on how great it was that they could be involved and meet more mums from the unit. For some girls this could be one of the few chances they have to be connected with nature, as they all live within the outskirts of Edinburgh and do not always have the chance to appreciate its green spaces.”



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