

Five things you need to know today



- Lord Provost in Australia
- Spring snowdrops
- Walking up Arthur's Seat
- Schools poster competition
- Campaigning for divestment

The Lord and Lady Provost are in Australia as guests of The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo. He seems to be using his newish Twitter account to great effect, including clarifying (after our retweet!0 that this visit was not costing the council a penny, but was being paid for by the Tattoo Society.

Stunning opening night of Royal [#edinburghtattooaus](#) in [#Melbourne](#) ! pic.twitter.com/bhhIIPctry

– *LordProvostEdinburgh (@LordProvostEdin) [February 12, 2016](#)*

[@LordProvostEdin](#) [@EdinReporter](#) all right for some.....am I paying for this?

– *Tam Carr (@tam_1955) [February 12, 2016](#)*

[@tam_1955](#) [@EdinReporter](#) No. The costs are being met by the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

– *LordProvostEdinburgh (@LordProvostEdin) [February 13, 2016](#)*

Even the Council Leader Andrew Burns weighed in to explain that all of the details about this visit are out in the open.

[@aliver](#) [@LordProvostEdin](#) all the details in this report
Al:<https://t.co/nYXBV77owc>
... hope that helps; Andrew.

– Cllr. Andrew D Burns (@AndrewDBurns) [February 13, 2016](#)

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The Lord Provost has been in Melbourne the last few days as ambassador for Edinburgh, although it does look as though he is having a good time (and we're sure he is keeping up his running while he's there!)



Woodland snowdrops.

See the first sign of Spring at the National Trust for Scotland's Newhailes, Musselburgh on Sunday 21 February 2016.

Join the Lothian Ranger on an informative walk around the woods of the historic site to see the snowdrops.

The ranger will explain how to identify different types of snowdrops and you'll also get to hear about other winter trees, plants and animals on the estate, and some of the folklore associated with it all.

Two walks will take place – one starting at 10.30am and one starting at 1.30pm. Refreshments are included.

For more information and booking, visit www.nts.org.uk. Tickets cost £6 for adults and £3.50 for children.

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Walking up Arthur's Seat yesterday it was apparent to us why some people get into difficulties and all too often the emergency services are called out.



But then we spotted this young couple who explained they had already checked out of their hotel but wanted to scale the extinct volcano anyway....



Any schools wanting to enter the poster competition will have to get off their marks as the deadline is coming up on 4 March

2016.

Each year the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society calls on young artists to create the design for the Festival Fringe. Last year there were over 5000 entries and eventually 7 year-old John Imray from St Mary's Melrose was declared the winner.

Entries for the Fringe Schools Poster Competition should be sent to: Schools Poster Competition, Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, 180 High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1QS **no later than 17:00 Friday 04 March 2016.**

The competition is open to all five to 16 year old pupils at schools in Scotland and the entry pack and learning resources can be downloaded at www.edfringe.com/poster. The cash prizes for the top three artists and their schools are:

First

School – £750

Pupil – £300

Runners-up (x 2)

School – £400

Pupil – £150

The winner and runners-up will also receive six tickets each for the 2016 Virgin Money Fireworks Concert in Edinburgh.



Campaigners used the backdrop of the Walter Scott Monument to highlight UK Divestment Day marked across the whole of the UK. The purpose is to call for divestment from investing in fossil fuels and so-called dirty energy.

“Divestment is about people doing it for themselves”, said campaigner Gill Davies. “It is about taking money away from fossil fuels and investing in a real future. We pay into a

pension for a secure old age, but pension fund investments in fossil fuels make the future less stable. We know that climate change in the UK means flooded homes and howling winds, and that other communities will suffer droughts, fires and hurricanes. It makes no sense to invest in something so destructive and economically risky, when we know clean alternatives exist.

“In Scotland full or partial commitments to divestment have been given by Glasgow University, The United Reform Church and Edinburgh University, but local authority pension funds still invest an incredible £1.7 billion in fossil fuels, and even MSP’s pensions are affected.

“It is time to join the dots between fossil fuels and their consequences. From Nigerian communities poisoned by oil spills, or Indonesian villages choking on coal dust, to war torn middle eastern streets or devastating floods or droughts; the costs of fossil fuels are just too high. We need to create a fossil free alternative, and divestment is part of that.”



Photography from: Colin Hattersley Photography
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