

Five things you need to know today

School strikes

Edinburgh is one of the areas targeted by strikes by members of the EIS teaching union. The City of Edinburgh Council has sent a letter to all parents and carers.



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Budget

The Scottish Government will debate the budget for 2023/24 later today. John Swinney is acting Finance Minister while Kate Forbes MSP takes maternity leave. He has urged all the MSPs in the parliament to back the budget saying it delivers on three key priorities of delivering sustainable public services, transforming the economy to deliver a just transition to net zero and taking direct action to eradicate child poverty against a difficult financial backdrop.

You can watch the debate on the budget on Parliament TV on the Scottish Parliament website. <https://www.scottishparliament.tv>

[Read more here.](#)

Hillend plans



Plans to upgrade the ski centre at Holland should be shelved due to lack of money, Midlothian councillors have been told.

The Local Democracy Reporting Service (LDRS) reported this story. We are one of the qualifying partners in the scheme which was set up by the BBC to bring more local news to more

news outlets. LDRS is a public service news agency, funded by the BBC, provided by the local news sector (in Edinburgh that is Reach plc the publisher behind Edinburgh Live and The Daily Record) and used by many qualifying partners. Local Democracy Reporters cover news about top-tier local authorities and other public service organisations.

[Read more here.](#)

The pandas are off...

The two pandas at Edinburgh Zoo will leave later this year to return to China, but before they do the Zoo is running a crowdfunder to help them save 50 other species. The prize is an opportunity to feed the pandas.

[Read more here](#)



Tian Tian

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the Edinburgh Reporter

February 2023

EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER... CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH



Porty team cut through 40 days of Atlantic waves to complete the 3,000 mile voyage

By **STEPHEN RAFFERTY**

FIVE PORTOBELLO rowers are finding their land legs after an epic 39 day 3,000 mile journey across the Atlantic which rained more than

£30,000 for young persons' charities.

The crew of Atlantic Body & Soul completed the world's toughest rowing test, the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, overcoming 20ft waves and an overnight power

outage when they had to hand steer the boat in pitch darkness.

Sean Watters, Matt Callia, Ed van der Ven, Alec Martin and Cal MacAninch - all members of Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing

Club - sailed into English Harbour in Antigua to a hero's welcome and the sound of the bagpipes - a fitting end to a six week journey from La Gomera in the Canary Islands.

Overcoming physical and mental

exhaustion, the quintet and hundreds of supporters have raised much needed funds for two charities which support young people, Body & Soul and The Junction.

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