

Five things you need to know today

Commonwealth Day

Today is Commonwealth or Empire Day and this morning the Lord Provost will be hoisting the Commonwealth flag at the City Chambers to recordings the annual celebration of the Commonwealth of Nations.

This day has been recognised since 1977, and HM The King will broadcast an address to those nations remaining in the Commonwealth. Formerly known as Empire Day it was changed in December 1958 when Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan altered the name due to its political connotations.

The second Monday in March is used to recognise the Commonwealth as it is a date with no history behind it. Meanwhile the Scottish Greens [are calling for the abolition of the monarchy.](#)

It appears that the last time The Edinburgh Reporter attended one of these small gatherings was in 2017 when Donald Wilson was Lord Provost.



Demonstrating the ephemeral nature of elected members of the council, none of those photographed above remains as a councillor. Photo shows Cllrs Elaine Aitken, Cameron Rose and Marion Donaldson on either side of the Rt Hon Lord Provost Donald Wilson.

Granton Station Square opening

There was a grand opening of Granton Station Square on Saturday, the first major milestone of the Granton Waterfront regeneration.

Locals, including S3 pupils from Craigmoynton Community High School were invited to see the refurbished Edwardian Granton Station building on Saturday. The pupils have been busy creating artwork symbolising the area along with local artist Shona Hardie. The art was displayed on Waterfront Broadway for

everyone to see as the arrived and departed from the opening event.

There is also a history exhibition displayed on the squares two new art benches. This will be a year-round exhibition space with a changing display provided by partner organisations working with Granton Waterfront.

[Read more here.](#)



The new Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh

HM The King bestowed the title of Duke of Edinburgh on his younger brother, Prince Edward, on his 59th birthday on 10 March.

The new Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh came to the capital for a civic reception and were welcomed by the Lord Lieutenant, Robert Aldridge.

[Read more here.](#)



Their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh at the City Chambers

By Election result lauded by LibDem Leader

Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Alex Cole Hamilton MSP, used the newest councillor in town, Cllr Fiona Bennett, as a main pillar of his speech to the Scottish Liberal Democrats conference in Dundee. Despite only having four MSPs at Holyrood, the LibDem group in Edinburgh has now (almost) risen to the dizzy heights of 2007 when 16 Liberal Democrat councillors were elected, and took control of the council under leader, Jenny Dawe.

Then followed the trams project and the 2012 election when 13 Liberal Democrat councillors lost their seats in one election. However as the Labour councillor Ross McKenzie has resigned and now sits as an independent, the ruling Labour administration is reduced to 12 councillors. Our view is that the current seat of power is likely to continue, but then who knows? A week is a long time in politics.

The last council by election took place in November 2020 when SNP Cllr Ethan Young was elected, holding the seat vacated by Cllr Ian Campbell who stepped down due to ill health. Cllr Young won the seat at Stage 6 and the turnout in the Liberton/Gilmerton ward was 31.6%.

In Corstorphine/Murrayfield the postal vote alone was around 20% of the electorate and even when those votes had been scanned through the counting machines on Thursday night it was evident that the Liberal Democrats had an unassailable lead.

The result means that there are now three LibDem councillors, an MSP and an MP in the West of Edinburgh as well as another two LibDems elected in Drum Brae/Gyle, although one of those is the Rt Hon Lord Provost Robert Aldridge who has no political affiliation in his role.

Even in the 2022 election one of the Liberal Democrats elected

in Corstorphine/Murrayfield was elected at Stage One with 34.2% of the First Preference votes.

It is the Conservative vote which has fallen from a 16% share last year to 9.7% in 2023, and the SNP vote share fell from 18.7% to just 13.3%.

The full result of Thursday's [Corstorphine/Murrayfield by election](#) was as follows:

BENNETT Fiona	Scottish Liberal Democrats	4,577	56%
FETTE Richard	Scottish Family Party: Pro-Family, Pro-Marriage, Pro-Life	90	(1.1%
FINDLAY Hugh	Scottish Conservative and Unionist	788	(9.6%
GREGSON Pete	Independent (Gregson)	295	(3.6%
MILLER Elaine	Independent (Miller)	327	(4.0%
PARKER Richard	Scottish Labour Party	568	(7.0%)
RUTHERFORD Donald	Scottish National Party (SNP)	1,086	(13.3%)
SMITH Gary	Scottish Libertarian Party	20	(0.2%)
YOUNG Chris	Scottish Green Party	417	(5.1%)



The by election count was held on the third floor of the Council HQ Waverley Court when Fiona Bennett was declared the new councillor for Corstorphine/Murrayfield Group Leader, Cllr Kevin Lang applauds in middle with Cllr Ed Thornley on right. PHOTO ©2023 The Edinburgh Reporter

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And if you would like to know a little more about the story behind our front page then here it is...

Our newspaper comes out on the 1st of each month. This month just after the one year anniversary of the invasion of Ukraine a group of Russians gathered in Melville Street calling for Peace in Ukraine and we hope you agree that this small group makes a striking front page.
pic.twitter.com/dYCa90sm0h

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the Edinburgh Reporter

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EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER... A CAPITAL READ FROM **RAW** TO FINISH



By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

THE RUSSIAN invasion of Ukraine has entered its second year. The one year anniversary was marked with wreath laying at the National War

Museum at Edinburgh Castle and a number of other events, both joyful and reflective, involving the Ukrainian people who live in Scotland. Some lived here already and thousands of others have made

their way to Scotland to escape the war zone. Russians who oppose the war are very brave to speak out.

We met a small group, who live mainly in Scotland, and who had gathered outside the Russian

Consulate on Melville Street to come together and talk of their experiences, and remember people who have died in Ukraine in the past year.

The group hung posters of images

of people who have died in the war. These were created by a Russian born artist known as Instagram Nick, and represents only a small number of the innocent lives lost in the past twelve months.

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