

# Five things you need to know today

## Major Incident in Leith

A major incident happened in Leith Docks on Wednesday morning when RV Petrel, a 250 feet long research vessel toppled over in the Imperial Dry Dock. It first appeared to be as a result of high winds, but will no doubt now be the subject of investigation by the Health and Safety Executive and police.

Emergency services were scrambled to the scene and during the day NHS Lothian confirmed that a total of 23 people were taken to hospital. A further 12 were treated at the scene and discharged. The Scottish Government, Police Scotland and the council warned that people should avoid the area around the docks.

At first it was thought the vessel was owned by the estate of the late Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, but according to American maritime historian, Dr Salvatore Mercogliano, who has responded to our Facebook posts, the ship is the property of the US Navy. He presents his expert opinion below:



Major incident at Leith Imperial Dry Dock as ship RV Petrel owned by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen is on its side an air ambulance is on the scene. PHOTO Alan Simpson Photography  
Police Scotland published a statement late on Wednesday afternoon which stated: "Officers were called around 8.35am on Wednesday, 22 March, 2023, following a report of a ship becoming dislodged from its dry dock in Edinburgh.

"Emergency services attended at the location at Imperial Dock, Leith, and a multi-agency response was co-ordinated by Police Scotland.

"The Scottish Ambulance Service took 15 people to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, four to the Western General Hospital in Edinburgh and two to the Victoria Hospital in Kirkcaldy, Fife.

"By around 1.20pm, all casualties were confirmed as being removed from the area and everyone accounted for. Officers remain at the scene as enquiries continue.

"Superintendent Mark Rennie said: "I would like to thank

partner agencies involved in the response to this incident which involved a complex operation to make sure everyone was safe.

“There is no risk to the wider public and enquiries are ongoing to establish the full circumstances of what has happened. The Health and Safety Executive has been informed.

“I would also like to thank the public for their patience while the emergency services undertook a very difficult job aiding casualties. We continue to ask people to avoid the area.”

(Since the police statement was issued the number of people injured and taken to hospital has changed.)

[Read our coverage of the incident here](#)

*“I’m deeply concerned to hear of the ongoing incident at Imperial Dock in Leith. My thoughts are with all those affected. I wish them a full & speedy recovery. Our teams are supporting emergency services. Please avoid the area if you can.”*

– Council Leader [@cllrcammyday pic.twitter.com/rXwWjW9rrc](#)

– The City of Edinburgh Council (@Edinburgh\_CC) [March 22, 2023](#)

## Today at noon

First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon will appear at her last First Minister’s Questions at noon today. You can watch on TV or on Scottish Parliament TV [here](#).

On Wednesday she presented a heartfelt apology to women who had been forced to give up their babies for adoption until the 1970s. Read more about that story [here](#).

The First Minister will step down on Monday after the result of the SNP Leadership election is announced.



First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon MSP makes a statement to Parliament apologising for Historical Adoption Practices in Scotland where many young women were forced to give their babies up for adoption against their will. 22 March 2023 . Pic – Andrew Cowan/Scottish Parliament

## **Ian Murray working to save Bridgend Farmhouse**

Ian Murray MP for Edinburgh South has produced a video about his campaigning on behalf of Bridgend Farmhouse who missed out on vital Scottish Government funding. And he has set up a petition to Save Bridgend Farmhouse where so much good work is carried on.



# It's all about the Trams

The Transport Convener has written an opinion column for us – and of course it is all about the trams. It gives us another chance to use some of Thomas Haywood's photos from the first night of testing last week.

[Read more here](#)



First trams since November 1956 go down Leith Walk on 13 March 2023 during testing phase PHOTO Thomas Haywood Photography

## How to subscribe to The Edinburgh Reporter

Our March paper has been out for a while and today we start on production of our April paper. If you have any stories to be included in that then please send them through. Our paper is sent out to existing subscribers, and today we invite you to support The Edinburgh Reporter by buying a subscription.

Our goal is to recruit 500 new subscribers this year. Can you help us achieve that?

Among others all branches of Farmer Autocare stock our newspapers as well as Birthlink on Lower Gilmore Place, and both Leith and Central Libraries.

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If you are able to subscribe, then it would help us to keep our online coverage free to access, and also ensure the future of our newspaper for this coming year. And if you do, then thank you very much indeed.

[Buy a subscription here](#) or click the image below.

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](https://pic.twitter.com/dYCa90sm0h)

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [March 6, 2023](#)

**Burning rubber**

Ross motors ahead with unique toy car hobby  
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**Hibs mourn**

RIP Hibernian executive chairman Ron Gordon  
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**Behind the mask**

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Café serves up a seriously strong brew  
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**Women pitch in**

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# the Edinburgh Reporter

March 2023

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



## We stand with Ukraine

Scots Russians commemorate war dead and call for an end to conflict

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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