

Five things you need to know today

More money to play with

The Scottish Government has announced spending of £50 million over the next three years for improvement of play parks in the city. This will mean a doubling of funding for parks in Edinburgh, but quite where the money will be allocated is something we are not quite sure of yet.

[Read more here.](#)

Keep your eyes peeled for a big red box...

To mark the official opening of Virgin Hotels Edinburgh on Victoria Street today by Sir Richard Branson, Virgin Red plan a surprise for anyone in Edinburgh on Friday.

Passers by will be able to get their hands on some Virgin Points, as well as enjoy a “Scottish celebration to be remembered”.

Look out for the giant 6 feet high mystery box that will pop up in Parliament Square outside St Giles Cathedral from 4.30pm.

From a luxury four-night staycation at the newly opened Virgin Hotels Edinburgh to flights to locations all around the world, Virgin promises a “truckload of Virgin Points” will be given away that can be spent on more than 200 rewards with Virgin Red – Virgin’s Group-wide rewards club.

[Read more here](#)



Last First Minister's Questions

On Thursday the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, rose to deal with questions from the opposition parties for the last time before demitting office on Monday.

[Read more here](#) about the fiery words which were exchanged at Holyrood – with any warm words and tributes left for later when she delivered her resignation statement.



Nicola Sturgeon delivers her resignation statement in the Scottish Parliament.

Silent films celebrating Disney

Looking for something different to do this weekend? Get yourself a ticket for HippFest at the Hippodrome in Bo'ness – the oldest purpose built cinema in Scotland. Read more below

HippFest highlight □ Saturday 25 March, 16:00PM

Join us during this centenary year of the Walt [@DisneyStudios](#) to find out more about this unsung, pioneering [#animator](#) whose animated mouse couple predates the birth of animation royalty Mickey and Minnie. <https://t.co/hk6PnpWC1e>

– Hippodrome Silent Film Festival (@HippFestScot) [March 21, 2023](#)

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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

Who painted the Frederick Douglass mural?
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Packing a punch

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the Edinburgh Reporter

March 2023

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