

Five things you need to know today

A weekend is a long time in politics

This has been an important weekend in Scottish politics, but for all the wrong reasons. The SNP which has led the government for decades appears to be crumbling under the pressure of the leadership election, but mostly as a result of errors of its own making.

When Nicola Sturgeon announced her intention to resign, there was little or no idea of who would replace her. No obvious succession plans had been put in place as there was when Ms Sturgeon became First Minister in 2014.

Now there are three candidates, Humza Yousaf, Kate Forbes and Ash Regan, and voting opened last Monday. The SNP run the election and the announcement of the new leader is expected next Monday.

It became apparent that SNP HQ had not accurately reported the number of members who would be entitled to cast their vote. The numbers were out by around 30,000. Kate Forbes and Ash Regan demanded the correct numbers were published. It is widely considered that a lower number of SNP members probably favours the continuity candidate, Humza Yousaf.

Media boss, [Murray Foote](#), was first to quit explaining that he now knew he had passed on the information he was given by HQ, but it was apparent the information was incorrect. That was Friday.

Then on Saturday it was the turn of Peter Murrell who had two

jobs, one as the SNP Chief Executive Officer, and the other as First Husband. He announced his [resignation](#) from high office in the SNP on Saturday, in the face of a vote of no confidence which was considered a done deal.

Michael Russell SNP President and former Chief Executive has stepped into the breach running the party on a meanwhile basis.

Does this affect the voting or the outcome? Of course it does. It just depends where you are looking at it from as to whether it is a good or a bad thing. So even next Monday (if the voting continues this week) the result may be questioned by the unsuccessful candidates.

This story will continue but meantime [catch up with the weekend's comings and goings here.](#)



The political drama in Scotland is becoming a bit like actor, Brian Cox CBE's hit series SUCCESSION. FM Nicola Sturgeon MSP & Brian Cox – Edinburgh International Book Festival – Day 17, Edinburgh School of Art, 29th Aug 2022 © 2022 J.L. Preece

Drylaw and Telford Community Council want to clean up



17th March 2023 Edinburgh – GVs of open spaces in the Drylaw & Telford Community Council area which will be consulted on by the local Community Council as part of a drive to improve the local area.

The community council in the north of the city wants to finish off some work that it began about 15 years ago.

Funding of about £5,000 received from the council's Community Grants Fund will allow the group to work with Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust on a new project building on the old

one.

[Read more here.](#)

Emergency alert system

The UK Government is introducing a new system today that will enable them and emergency services to send an alert directly to mobile phones when there is a risk to life.



- UK-wide Emergency Alerts service is now in operation and will bolster the UK's resilience with the capability of sending alerts direct to mobile phones when there is a risk to life
- A UK-wide test will take place on Sunday 23 April

Working with mobile broadcasting technology, the Emergency Alerts system will transform the UK's warning and informing capability; providing a means to get urgent messages quickly to nearly 90 percent of mobile phones in a defined area; providing clear instructions about how best to respond.

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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

– 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

Who painted the Frederick Douglass mural?
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Packing a punch

Café serves up a seriously strong brew
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Women pitch in

Capital teams striking new signings
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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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New restaurant opening in Stockbridge



Chef patron duo Tomás Gormley and Sam Yorke

It used to be that new restaurant openings were ten a penny in Edinburgh. Now those brave souls who put their money where their mouth is to open new ventures depending on passing trade and word of mouth recommendations are to be commended for their bravery.

Chef patron duo Tomás Gormley and Sam Yorke, have just opened their second restaurant, Skua, in Edinburgh on Thursday. The founders of the acclaimed Heron in Leith have brought together a menu of small plates inspired by the seasons.

[Read more here.](#)