

News Release



Andy Murray Freedom of Stirling ceremony details announced

Tuesday 22nd April, 2014

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Olympic gold medallist and Wimbledon champion Andy Murray will be awarded the Freedom of Stirling tomorrow (Wednesday 23rd April).

He will receive the honour at a special meeting of Stirling Council at Dunblane High School from 10.45am.

Andy said: "I'm thrilled to be coming home and am really looking forward to meeting the young people of Dunblane and Stirling. I'm proud to be receiving the Freedom of the City and want to share that experience with as many people as possible and across many of the schools in the area."

School pupils will welcome Andy at Dunblane High School before Provost Mike Robbins, elected members and other invited guests participate in the ceremony, which will be streamed live to local primaries and the Victoria Hall in Dunblane.

Members of the public were encouraged to enter a ballot for tickets to attend the event. Hundreds of entries were received, with around 200 locals being invited to attend the once-in-a-lifetime event.

Stirling's Provost Mike Robbins said: "Andy is an inspirational figure who is at the top of his game – it's no surprise there's so much interest in him, and this very special event."

Council Leader Johanna Boyd added: "Physical activity fosters young people's, physical, social and emotional well-being. But taking part in sport also promotes self-esteem and team building. Attributes that reach beyond the impact on physical health.

"We are promoting that in our schools and investing in facilities that will raise the profile of Stirling as a City of Sport. There can be no greater ambassador for those plans than our own local hero, Andy Murray."

After the Freedom of Stirling ceremony, Andy and Provost Robbins will take part in a brief press conference before attending a private reception.

Andy will then travel to Wallace High School to receive an award from Tennis

Scotland and to participate in a live BBC Learning Broadcast where he'll take part in an innovative and fun Q&A with school children across the UK. He will leave Wallace High School, after a further photo opportunity, at around 3.45pm.

Stirling Council agreed to honour Andy after his success at the London Olympics and his first Grand Slam win later that year in the US Open, but with his training and competition schedule it's taken some time to identify a suitable date

Andy will only be the third individual to receive this honour since Stirling was awarded city status in 2002 – the others being the late Colonel Frank Saunders, and cricketer Irwin Iffla.

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Notes to Editors:

To register your interest in attending the event, or for more information, please contact: April Mitchinson, Senior Communications Advisor, Stirling Council, tel: 01786 233037 / mobile: 07717 544872 / email: mitchinsona@stirling.gov.uk

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