

Five things you need to know today

Today it is one year since Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine

The First Minister wrote an open letter to the people of Ukraine which you can read [here](#). It says a lot of what we hope most people think about the people being sheltered here in Scotland. It opened with the First Minister reassuring any Ukrainians who have come to live here that “Scotland is your home for as long as you need it to be”.

Budget and politicking

On Thursday the scenes at the end of what was a mostly respectful day in the City Chambers were of councillors in disarray. Council tax will go up by 5% and council rents will rise, but according to the Liberal Democrats’ plans for spending, not this of the ruling Labour party.

The minority Labour administration failed to get its own budget passed which is possible a first time in council history. And it spells the end of the years of the council’s no compulsory redundancy policy which has been a mantra under several recent administrations.

Read more [here](#).

This is the Council Leader shortly after the tactical voting by Green group councillors led to the administration budget being defeated. It was a matter of arithmetic – only compounded by the councillor for Sighthill/Gorgie, Ross Mackenzie, resigning on his feet during the debate.

The immediate reaction from the various parties on the council to the administration budget falling today – apologies there is no SNP representation but there were no SNP councillors in the hallways – if they would like to be interviewed then we invite them to get in touch!
pic.twitter.com/MkvSYzSdYL

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [February 23, 2023](#)

And it all came down to the matter of just under £300,000 in a £1 billion plus budget:

All parties always submit budget motions – unusually SNP and Greens had joint motion (or budget) There is usually some compromising – and Labour accepted a LD amendment to theirs for example – but it was tactical voting on the part of the Greens – who could have asked for this
pic.twitter.com/90wekCGNiQ

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [February 24, 2023](#)

Local Hero Awards

Today the Blackford Bike Bus will be receiving the Local Hero award from Ian Murray, MP for Edinburgh South. Bike buses are organised by parents and cyclists usually on a monthly basis to allow children to cycle to school as “one vehicle”. Parents and others form human barriers at junctions to let the cyclists keep going along the route. The [Blackford Bike Bus](#) travels from the corner of Charterhall Road to James Gillespie’s Primary School. There are now several bike buses all over the city.

Here is a flavour of what it is all about – filmed ages ago early one morning. Maybe we will have time to make a new film

today...

SPOKES the Lothians Cycle campaign meeting postponed

The meeting to be held tonight by Spokes to discuss all the new transport policies has been postponed.

But meantime you can read what they have to say about the council's new way forward on transport [here](#).

How to subscribe to The Edinburgh Reporter

We invite you to support The Edinburgh Reporter by buying a subscription to The Edinburgh Reporter monthly newspaper. Our next issue will be posted out on 28 February to all our subscribers – but 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. If you would like to stock our papers then please [get in touch](#).

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.

Last dance

Tollcross's Cavendish calls last orders
Page 7

A tragic loss

Brave firefighter lost in Jenners blaze
Page 9

Love is in the air

Valentine's Day tugs at the heart strings
Pages 12-13

Labour of love

Secrets behind charming city home
Page 20

The third force

Jambos set sights on top three finish
Page 22

the Edinburgh Reporter

February 2023

EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER... CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH



By **STEPHEN RAFFERTY**

FIVE PORTOBELLO rowers are finding their land legs after an epic 39 day 3,000 mile journey across the Atlantic which raised more than

£30,000 for young persons' charities. The crew of Atlantic Body & Soul completed the world's toughest rowing test, the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, overcoming 20ft waves and an overnight power

outage when they had to hand steer the boat in pitch darkness. Sean Watters, Matt Callia, Ed van der Ven, Alec Martin and Cal MacAninch - all members of Eastern Amateur Coastal Rowing

Club - sailed into English Harbour in Antigua to a hero's welcome and the sound of the bagpipes - a fitting end to a six week journey from La Gomera in the Canary Islands. Overcoming physical and mental

exhaustion, the quintet and hundreds of supporters have raised much needed funds for two charities which support young people, Body & Soul and The Junction. *Full story page eight*

SHEZAN
INDIAN CUISINE

25 UNION PLACE,
EDINBURGH EH1 3NQ

PRE-THEATRE DINING

BOOK YOUR TABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.SHEZANEDINBURGH.COM

T: 0131 557 5098

OPPOSITE EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE

**10% OFF
YOUR MEAL**

PRESENT VOUCHER
TO YOUR SERVER