

Five things you need to know today

Playfair Steps

The steps from the Mound Precinct to a point halfway up The Mound are open again after years of closure during building works at the National Galleries of Scotland to create ten new gallery spaces. The galleries will open to the public in September.

This is a big cause for celebration ahead of the festival, but the Playfair Walkway is not yet open again.

Also we don't remember if the steps opened and closed with the gardens previously...? Did they?

We are so excited to share that the Playfair Steps are now open, allowing access from Market Street to East Princes Street Gardens. They will open and close daily in line with the opening hours of Princes Street Gardens throughout the Fringe Festival. pic.twitter.com/450Wn8tNQL

– National Galleries of Scotland (@NatGalleriesSco) [July 26, 2023](#)



The Mound Precinct off Princes' Street photographed in 2020
PHOTO J.L.Preece

Specsavers charitable donation

Cutting-edge equipment for examining premature and sick babies is now in place at the Neonatal Unit in the Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh thanks to a £73,000 fundraiser by Specsavers stores across Scotland.

Stores donated the funds to the Simpsons Special Care Babies (SSCB) charity to buy a piece of equipment called a PanoCam. The equipment allows clinical staff to examine the eyes of premature babies (who are at a high risk of retinopathy which can cause blindness) in a much quicker and safer way.

To mark the install of the equipment, Michael O'Kane from Specsavers whose daughter Sophie (now 9) was born at 24wks weighing just 1lb 15oz was joined by Lady Sarra Hoy, whose son Callum was born at 29 weeks back in 2014, in her capacity as an ambassador for [Bliss Scotland](#).



The Fringe at St James Quarter

St James Quarter is getting into the swing of the Fringe this August with a series of musical sessions.

[Read more here](#)



Gorgie City Farm

Suzanne Campbell is the new Project Manager at Gorgie City Farm. She previously worked at The Junction and was pictured on their social media receiving a fond farewell.

She will lead the team at the farm with Cat Young who is Partnership Facilitator and Charlie Craig the Interim caretaker.

Read more about the plans for the farm on the EVOC [website](#)

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Please do consider subscribing to our monthly newspaper which comes out on the first of every month. If you do then it helps us to keep producing the paper and to maintain news for free for everyone online and in our newsletters.

Click on the image of our July front page below to sign up. We have just sent our August issue to press and it will be available in the usual outlets soon – and certainly by 1 August.

Tragic tribute

City church service honours Ukrainian hero
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Slum dog diets

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Flour power Fast rising bakers move to new home
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Sports writing legend Bill joins our team
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the Edinburgh Reporter

July 2023

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



The King's Men

The Royal Company of Archers competed in The Edinburgh Arrow, displaying their skills as The King's Bodyguard in Scotland

By PHYLIS STEPHEN

EDINBURGH USUALLY hosts events during Royal Week in early July, but this year the Royal Honours of Scotland will be presented to His Majesty King Charles III and Her Majesty Queen Camilla during their first visit to Scotland since the Coronation. Thousands are expected to line the Royal Mile on 5 July.

The Honours of Scotland consist of the Crown, the Sceptre and the new Elizabeth Sword crafted in memory of the late Queen. The State Sword is too fragile for public use, so a new one has been made. The Stone of Destiny will also be in St Giles' for the service which will be broadcast live on TV.

The Royal Company of Archers are the Sovereign's Bodyguard in Scotland and each year are invited by the Lord Provost to compete for the Edinburgh Arrow on Bruntsfield Links. Our photo shows archer Ian Davie taking his turn.

Alan Simpson, OBE, DL, is a captain in The Royal Company. He said: "The Edinburgh Arrow was won by Colonel Charlie Wallace which was very satisfactory as he is the Secretary who does all the work. He was central in organising all the parades in September last year for the Queen's funeral, then for the Coronation and he has been working flat out on the parades to welcome His Majesty to Holyrood Palace and to St Giles as well.

"Everybody was delighted that he won. The person who wins the most points wins the arrow and Charlie "hit the clout" twice - which is no mean feat from 180 yards."

In total during Royal Week there will be around 250 archers on parade.

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