

# Five things you need to know today

## Edinburgh's Hogmanay

Buy your tickets for the Hogmanay Torchlight procession from 10am on Friday..

The Torchlight Procession is back and tickets are on sale today for the event which will begin several days of festivities.

[Read more here](#) and buy tickets [here](#).



Edinburgh Hogmanay Torchlight Procession Photo Ian Georgeson

## Council owned energy company - inactivity is a public scandal

An Edinburgh council-owned energy company which hasn't been used for anything since the idea was conceived nearly a decade ago is a "public scandal," a councillor has said.

Anger over the council's failure to properly establish the publicly-funded Energy for Edinburgh (EFE) has sparked calls to "put it out its misery".

The arms-length organisation officially launched in 2016, two years after proposals were first presented to councillors, to reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions by delivering affordable energy initiatives for residents across the city.

However it is still yet to carry out "any activity," officials said in a new report which cast doubt over whether there would be any "added value" in EFE taking projects forward rather than the council directly overseeing them.

[Read more here.](#)

## **EIF recommendation**

Alison Goldfrapp plays live at Edinburgh Playhouse on Friday evening.

She is making her solo debut with a new album *The Love Invention* after being part of the synth pop duo Mercury Prize award-winning Goldfrapp.

[Tickets here.](#)

## **Big Beach Busk**

Portobello will be the place to be this weekend with music on the Prom.

From noon till 6pm the Prom at Portobello will be filled with musicians of all kinds playing outdoors, and that will include Oi Musica the sousaphone band based there who have invited anyone who wants to join in their Pop Up Band to a workshop from 10am – midday at Edinburgh College Milton Road and then to play from 3pm at the bottom of John Street.

A spokesperson for the band said: “All abilities are welcome, from beginners on the drums, and new or experienced players of brass & wind. No requirement to read music.

“Relaxed and friendly, working in a non-formal style (mistakes aren’t a problem!), we’ll look at 1 or 2 tunes in sections, before forming one big band.

The performance at the Big Beach Busk will be low-pressure and fun. Tell your pals & family to come along! And stick around for more street bands, The Edinburgh Samba School + Shunpike Social Club one-off collaboration is performing immediately after the PopUp Band.”



## Our August issue

Our August newspaper has been out since 1 August, and we are now producing the September paper.

Our cover story is about Mademoiselle Macaron Rachel Hanretty, with a strapline to our exclusive story about Alex Cole-Hamilton, the leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

Inside there is a feature by George Mair who is writing for us for the first time this month – and loads of sport from both Nigel Duncan and Bill Lothian.

If you would like to receive a copy just a wee bit ahead of



everyone else then please subscribe by clicking on the image below. It helps us with the overheads of producing a paper and also ensures that we can keep all of our news output free for all.

(And do read about [Rachel and the Barbie story here](#))

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# the Edinburgh Reporter

August 2023

EDINBURGH CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH



## Capital firm living the Barbie dream

By PHYLIS STEPHEN

RACHEL HANRETTY started her business, Mademoiselle Macaron, in Edinburgh in 2013. Now some ten years later her trademark products - beautiful macarons - have a starring role in the very pink Greta Gerwig directed blockbuster movie of this summer, Barbie.

The pink delicacies were ordered in five flavours to be delivered to Warner Brothers Studio in Leavesdon, and not just as a perk for the cast, but to appear in a café in Barbie Land.

This was easy for the company based in Bonnington which produces more than 30,000 macarons each week. Rachel learned how to craft the sweet treat in Paris where she first tasted a vanilla macaron on the Champs-Élysées. She attended the Alain Ducasse cookery school in the French capital to perfect making the macarons which is now the centre of her business.

Mademoiselle Macaron products have been on screen before. They appeared on Strictly Come Dancing in 2021 during a dance based in a bakery when a tall tower of macarons appeared on the set. And there is at least one big name that can be revealed as a macaron lover. Courtney Love is a repeat customer who orders their vegan product - and no, we don't know how they make them - the recipe is secret. And in exciting news the business is commissioned to colour match the new Revlon lipstick range in just the right shade.

[mademoisellemacaron.co.uk](http://mademoisellemacaron.co.uk)

### From Bonnington... ...to Barbie Land

CLAIMS BY LIB DEM LEADER ALEX COLE-HAMILTON ON COVID MEETING "SIMPLY INACCURATE" - See page 5

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