

Five things you need to know today

Schools are closed

All Edinburgh schools are closed from today for three days due to strike action by support staff including janitors, cleaners and classroom assistants. The latest pay offer put to the workers by the local council organisation COSLA was a 7% rise backdated to April. Unison the union has rejected the offer saying it is too little, too late. Unite and GMB are recommending the offer is accepted and have suspended strike action.

The Director of Education sent a letter to all parents and carers at the end of last week to advise them of arrangements:

Letter from Amanda Hatton to parents and carers

Dear Parents and Carers,

Closure of Primary, Secondary, Special Schools and Early Years settings

You may be aware from media coverage that industrial action is planned by groups of Council staff in our schools and early years settings next week.

We have been notified by the trade union this will take place on Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September. The impact means all our schools and early years settings will close on those days if the strike action goes ahead.

Children and young people should attend as normal on Monday 25

and Friday 29 September.

As the industrial action includes pupil support assistants, early years colleagues as well as catering, transport escorts and cleaning staff, it will not be possible to ensure the safety of the children and young people.

Individual schools and settings will share their plans for contingency learning and checking in with you for the three days.

Free School Meal payments for eligible families will be sent out by the Council's Transactions Team on Friday 29 September.

The industrial action also affects childcare provision by Out of School Care providers and means families will need to make alternative arrangements for the three days. Lets will also not be able to go ahead during the strike action.

Should there be any changes to the planned industrial action, we will be in contact with you immediately. I am sorry that these arrangements have had to be put in place to close our schools and early years settings but I hope you understand our position.

Yours sincerely,

Amanda Hatton, Executive Director for Children, Education and Justice Services.

SEWF23 Community Hub

Join The Melting Pot “on a journey to create a wellbeing economy that prioritises people and the planet”

□ In a couple of weeks, the **Social Enterprise World Forum 2023** will take place in Amsterdam with a focus on “**Climate Action, Sustainable Change**”, bringing together Social Entrepreneurs, Purpose-Driven businesses and policymakers to raise awareness of social enterprise as a global mechanism for social change.

In tandem with the event, [The Melting Pot will be acting as a community hub in Edinburgh](#), enabling people to have the opportunity to connect with the Global [SEWF23](#) content, whilst also networking and sharing ideas at a local level.

Over the **two days** there is the opportunity to **participate both online connecting with a global audience and in-person hearing from Scottish-based entrepreneurs**, whilst exploring the following themes:

Ecosystems: Increasing opportunities for trade, collaboration and collective action

Fairness: Ensuring equality and inclusion for all

Migration: Entrepreneurial solutions for better lives

New Economy: Putting people and planet first

Planet: Living and trading within planetary boundaries

□ Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 October 2023, 09:30-19:00

□ The Melting Pot (15 Calton Road, Edinburgh EH8 9EZ)

□□ You can get your tickets [here](#).

SEWF23 Community Hub hosted by The Melting Pot

Join us for a series of inspiring talks,
workshops and networking opportunities

11 & 12 October



The Gathering

Organised by SCV0, the Gathering is the largest free voluntary sector event in the UK, a place for all the amazing people working in the sector to network, showcase what they do and learn from each other.

Over two days on 7 and 8 November 2023, thousands of amazing people from the voluntary sector and beyond will join us at Edinburgh's EICC to connect, learn and be inspired.

As well as bringing you a packed programme of workshops, seminars and activities – including online sessions for our most popular events – this year the exhibition will be back, showcasing a wide range of exhibitors from the voluntary, public and private sectors.

<https://scvo.scot/the-gathering>

Edinburgh Tool Library funding

The lovely people at Edinburgh Tool Library have received a £5,000 grant from The Scottish Building Society Foundation which was set up earlier this year with Foundation Scotland in an effort to give back in the society's 175th year.

The funding will be used to back a cycle project where volunteers will be trained up as cycle mechanics. The Cycle Kitchen will help to tackle transport poverty and improve self reliance.

[Read more here.](#)

Our September issue

Our September newspaper was published and distributed by the beginning of the month. We are now in the middle of producing our October paper which will be packed with new stories all about what is going on in Edinburgh and the people in the news. [If you have a story for us then get in touch.](#) And if you would like to receive a newspaper in the mail ahead of everyone else then sign up by clicking on the image below.

Dalry dichards

Fundraising to support cemetery court case

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Graining favour

Royal Society get curious about barley

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Bagel bother

Sandwich firm try to fill hole in accounts

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Picture perfect

Best foot forward for annual art walk

Page 18

Liddell tribute

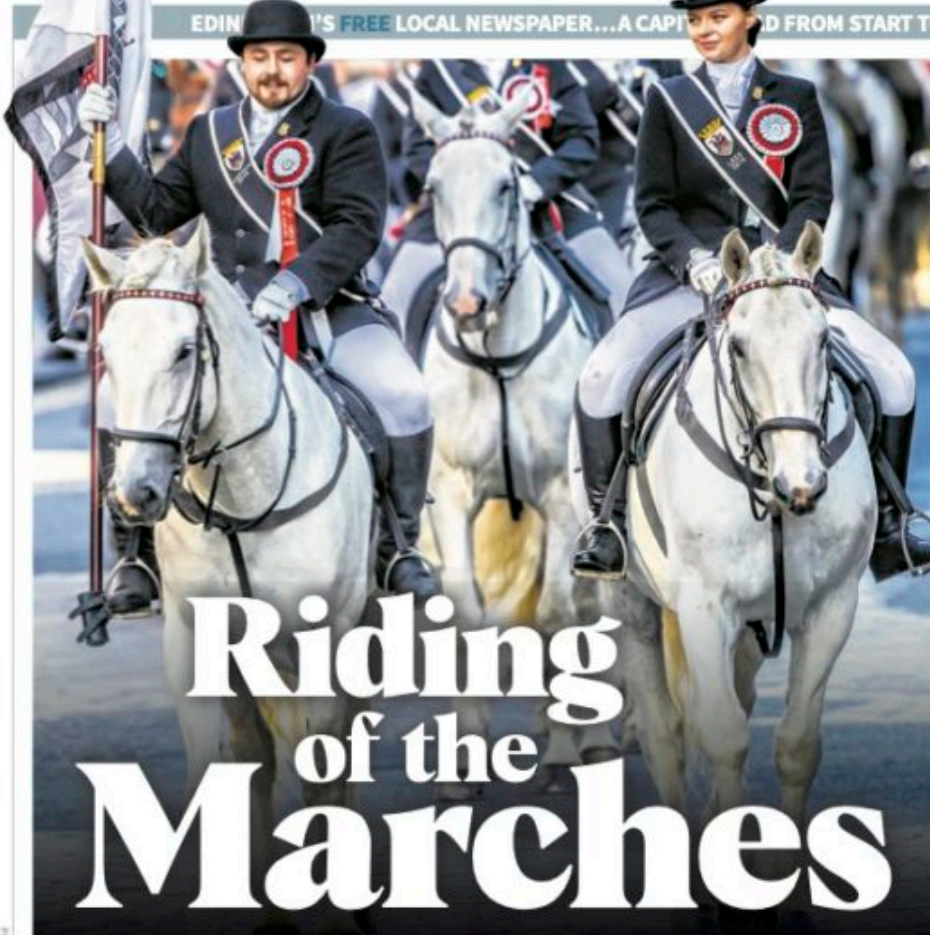
Gym named after Olympic legend opens

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the Edinburgh Reporter

September 2023

EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER... A CAPTION AND FROM START TO FINISH



Riding of the Marches

Lord Provost saddling up in September

By PHYLIS STEPHEN

THE EDINBURGH Riding of the Marches will take place on 10 September in a canter back to the Royal Mile after a three year gap, and this year the Lord Provost, the Provost Consort and the Council Leader will all be on horseback.

The spectacle is more than just a bunch of horse riders taking over the city centre. This is a reenactment of the ancient custom of marching the boundaries, a symbolic tradition of inspecting the Common Land of Edinburgh which dates back to at least 1579.

This year the entertainment on the Royal Mile will begin at 12.30pm with music and stunt performances. The riders will complete their morning of high-energy gallops, starting at the Drum Estate in the south of the city, before making their way through the streets through Holyrood Park and proceeding up The Royal Mile from Holyrood Palace at around 3.30pm.

And in a break from recent tradition, the Rt Hon Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant, Robert Aldridge, who will be joining the event for the first time, will be making the journey up the Royal Mile on horseback, accompanied by the Lord Provost's Consort, Colin Cunningham, and by the Council Leader Cammy Day.

Clr Day admitted to bribing the horses with treats. He said: "I have been taking riding lessons. I have done a little horse riding more than 20 years ago so I would say I am a real beginner."

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And if you click on the image below it will point you in the direction of one of our most popular stories of this last week.(yes this is a bonus sixth thing!)

