

# Five things you need to know today

## A picture speaks louder than words



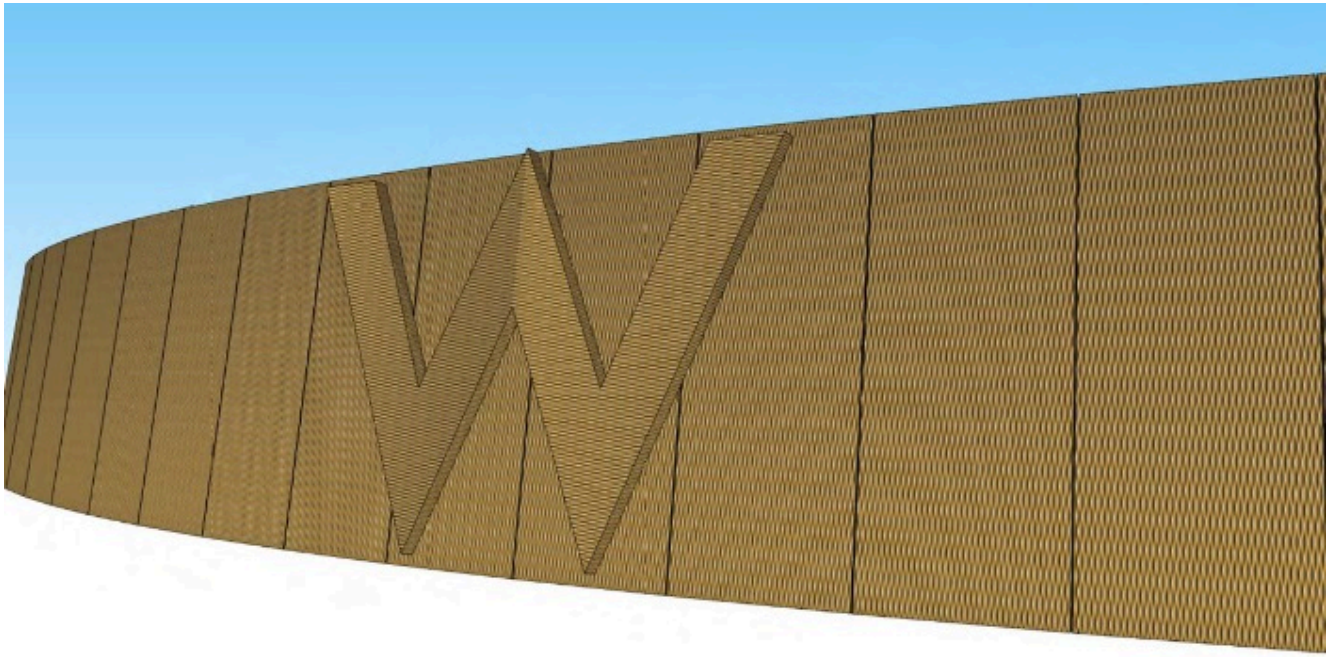
This is the top level of the W Edinburgh which is about to open this month. The council refused planning permission for an illuminated sign which had been evident in all of the architects' visualisations since the plans were first lodged, but planners refused it as it would be "too prominent" on the skyline. [Read more here about the decision.](#) Almost all other W Hotels across the world have illuminated signs, and a good number of others in Edinburgh have too – for example the Sheraton Grand, the Moxy and the Hampton.

Instead, the owners of St James Quarter, Nuveen Real Estate,

have lodged a planning application to put up a sign which is described as: "Fascia sign comprising upper class letter 'W'. Bronze Rimex (to match ribbon) to front and sides folded around galvanised steel/aluminium frame attached to central hotel ribbon structure via 6no. brackets. Max width 2516mm x Max height 1800mm x Max thickness 75mm."

Nuveen must be reasonably confident that this application will be approved – they have after all taken advice from the planners on what would be acceptable. And now, the developer has a place to hang the sign as soon as it is approved.

We shall keep an eye on the Development Management Committee meetings in the next couple of weeks and let you know.





## Winner of Public Sculpture award

If you have ever peeked into the courtyard at the College of Surgeons then you will have spotted the Covid memorial there sculpted by Kenny Hunter.

Mr Hunter has won the 2023 Public States and Sculpture Association Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture for the work entitled “Your next breath, a Covid Memorial”.

The sculptor said: “Before I began work on the memorial I was able to meet with a range of frontline healthcare workers to discuss their working conditions, allowing me to gain a deeper understanding of the physical and psychological impact on NHS staff. What emerged from these dialogues was a sense that this memorial should contain a mixture of light and dark to truthfully reflect their experience. Certain words seemed to recur through these collective testimonies and I kept them at the forefront of my mind as I developed the sculpture.

“**Exhaustion** from the intense shifts compounded by the fact

that many had contracted Covid and so were fatigued with post viral symptoms.

**"Reflection** throughout the NHS, on working with dedication at such a globally significant moment in history.

**"Resilience** in the face of stressful working conditions straining the emotional and physical well-being of staff.

**"Compassion**, of the NHS staff who despite all the difficulties and challenges they faced continued to put themselves in harm's way to deliver care to those in need.

"The memorial depicts four healthcare workers in scrubs at the end of a shift on a Covid ward. They are sited close to ground level, instead of the traditional plinth, encouraging from the viewer empathy over reverence. You can move among them and return their gaze. They are a group but are isolated on their own base, the space or distance between them being such a significant and relatable experience for everyone who lived through this period."

We are very glad that our photographer, the late John Preece visited Surgeons Hall last year to photograph the sculpture for us.





NHS Covid Sculpture, Surgeons Hall, Edinburgh, 13th Oct 2022  
© 2022 J.L. Preece











## Filmhouse

The crowdfunder for Filmhouse (Edinburgh) Ltd is moving towards £200,000 out of a target of £250,000 and the charity which wants to open the doors has meantime had an enormous boost from Screen Scotland. The film body has promised £100,000 which will go towards the secondary target of £1.25 million which Filmhouse need to raise by the end of February 2024. This would allow the charity to open the doors, take on a long lease of the building and continue to raise grant funding to conduct some works to the cinema and café.

The directors behind the move are all previous employees of Filmhouse and are particularly pleased at the number of people coming forward with anything from a small to a large donation. On Crowdfunder the body states their aim: **“The goal is to open a new Filmhouse** that continues to deliver the same sheer



diversity of film programming as was ever the case; the most exceptional range of cultural film all year round – in a revitalised cinema building.

**“We are now in advanced negotiations on a long lease** with the new owners of 88 Lothian Road, Caledonian Heritable, and have entered into an interim six-month agreement with them to enable a period of fundraising, **aiming to re-open in 2024**. Currently, Caledonian Heritable are making a significant investment in much needed repairs to the fabric of the building.”

A spokesperson for Filmhouse said: “We have been deeply moved by the huge groundswell of support shown by supporters from Edinburgh and around the world. The strength of feeling is clear; Edinburgh needs a world-class cinematheque. Screen Scotland’s support represents a significant commitment to and endorsement of our plans, and another huge step in realising the dream of reopening Filmhouse.

“As the Crowdfunder is an excellent way for people to donate whether it be £5 or £5000 we have taken the decision to extend the deadline to the end of January 2024.”

If you read nothing else today then [read the comments on the Crowdfunder](#) – they are truly life affirming – particularly the references to garlic bread and chickpea curry.

[Donate to the crowdfunder here.](#)



Filmhouse Edinburgh with Open the Doors banner outside PHOTO  
©2023 The Edinburgh Reporter

## The Opening of Parliament

King Charles III will open parliament on Tuesday for the first time since he ascended the throne. This session of parliament may be the last before a General Election is called by Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, although the agenda may not be truly inviting. Sunak has promised to undo some of the more eco-friendly government policies and may even put some kind of boundaries around Ultra Low Emission Zones.

In Scotland the Court of Session just threw out the action by garage owner John Paton & Sons Ltd against Glasgow City Council. The garage in Townhead is within the Low Emission Zone(LEZ) and one argument was that the LEZ would adversely affect the business which involves driving vehicles in and out of the garage for repair. Some of the vehicles may not comply with the regulations and drivers would be fined. Another



ground for bringing the action was that it would “make no obvious contribution to meeting air quality objectives and standards”.

The Court of Session found that the arguments against the Glasgow LEZ were not well founded, and that the scheme is lawful, which delighted the Edinburgh Council Transport and Environment Convener, Cllr Scott Arthur. He said: “I welcomed this legal challenge – the questions were reasonable and needed answered. The outcome means Edinburgh’s LEZ can now proceed with more confidence. Signage will start appearing soon and we are hopeful that the Scottish Government will help fund the issue of warning notices ahead of the scheme going live on 1 June 2024.” He then went on to say that he was to have a meeting with NHS Lothian to discuss the anticipated health benefits.

The SNP has said “It’s essential Scotland gets full control over cost of living powers to boost the economy and household incomes” – ahead of the King’s Speech.

With Rishi Sunak due to outline his government’s legislative agenda for what could be the final time before the general election, Stephen Flynn MP said “Westminster has failed millions of families across Scotland, who have seen their incomes hammered due to UK government incompetence”.

As the SNP government freezes council tax to help families with the cost of living, the SNP Westminster Leader has challenged Sunak and Starmer to back SNP calls for:

- The permanent transfer of powers over energy, employment and the economy
- A £400 energy bill rebate, mortgage interest tax relief and action on food prices
- The permanent transfer of powers to hold an independence referendum

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<b>Finlay's running</b> Frame runner completes half marathon for charity Page 3	<b>Zak's back</b> A shaggy dog story - with a yappy happy ending Page 4	<b>It's Christmas</b> Almost time for markets, ice skating and mulled wine Page 12-13	<b>Hut overboard</b> Storm Babet finishes off the hut at Granton breakwater Page 20	<b>Thirty years</b> Clovenstone ABC celebrating three decades in the ring Page 22
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## the Edinburgh Reporter

November 2023

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



### Time for Diwali

The Indian festival symbolises a victory of light over darkness and good over evil

By PHYLIS STEPHEN

**THE DIWALI** Festival of Light which celebrates light at the darkest time of the year has become a permanent fixture on the calendar of Edinburgh festivals. The celebration

has taken place in the capital for a the last eight years including a city centre parade with an abundance of music - and closing fireworks in West Princes Street Gardens in the most public expression of the event. This year the festival will be

celebrated in the capital on Sunday 19 November and all are invited.

Following the parade through the city which is led by the Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland, Edinburgh Diwali 2023 will take place at the Ross Bandstand with

performances of traditional Indian arts such as the Rajasthani dance group, photographed above, who performed in 2022.

Diwali is the Indian Festival of Light and is observed by more than 1.5 billion people worldwide.

Multi-national and life-affirming, the event celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, perfect for a long winter day.

Diwali promises to be a colourful afternoon of performance, just as the days become darker.

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**Helter skelter**

Friends stand firm to save playground favourite

Page 3

**Wild at heart**

Artist beats critics to host solo show

Page 6

**Hay makers**

Indy cateries serve top terrace delights

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**Busy bees**

Buzzworks flying high with restaurant openings

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**Leith legend**

Gray gears up for Man United testimonial match

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# the Edinburgh Reporter

October 2023



EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWS... A CAPITAL REVEALED... START TO FINISH

## Twice as much Scottish art for everyone to see

By PHYLIS STEPHEN

**THE NEW SCOTTISH** galleries at the National have just opened to the public with more art on display than ever before.

This marks the completion of a complex seven-year building project costing £38.62 million, during which time the National Gallery remained open, but was in large part a building site, especially when the excavation on the south of the site was being carried out. The complexity of the site, below two Grade A listed buildings and above the three tunnels on the Edinburgh to Glasgow railway line was considerable.

Display space has doubled in the dozen galleries showing artworks from the national collection. The Monarch of the Glen has taken up its rightful position in the new space, along with works by William McTaggart, Anne Redpath, Phoebe Anna Traquair, Charles Rennie Mackintosh and the Glasgow Boys and the Glasgow Girls.

Director-General of National Galleries Scotland Sir John Leighton said: "For the first time, there are logical routes through the complex, a natural flow, no more dead ends, no more retracing your steps. We wanted to transform the experience for visitors to make it more accessible and we wanted to make it easier to circulate through a complex set of buildings and levels, but absolutely key to this project was to be able to show the Scottish collection with pride and ambition. And we feel we have achieved those aims."

# It's Picture Perfect

Twelve new Scottish galleries at the National have just opened to the public

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**Dalry richards**

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

Page 12

**Picture perfect**

Best foot forward for annual art walk

Page 18

**Liddell tribute**

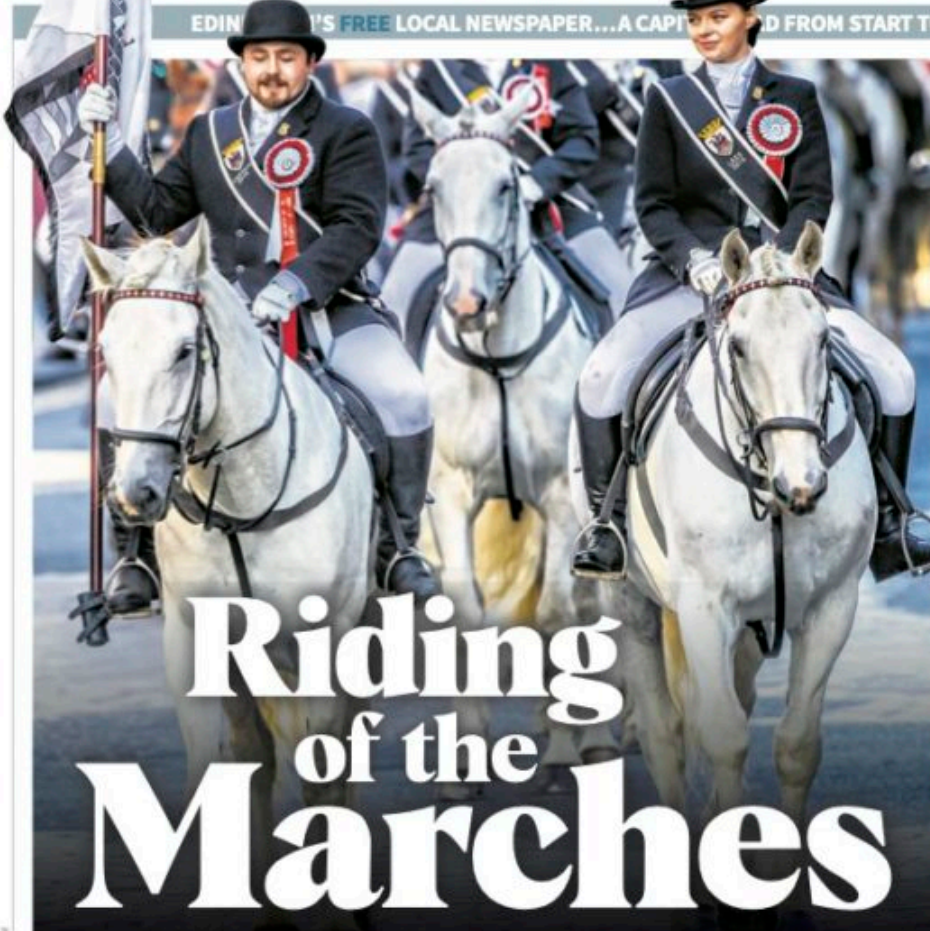
Gym named after Olympic legend opens

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# the Edinburgh Reporter

September 2023

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



## Riding of the Marches

### Lord Provost saddling up in September

By PHYLLIS 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 horseriders 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.

Cllr 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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**Fallen heroes**

City tours commemorate  
capital's war dead  
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**Porty pictures**

George Cinema bid launched  
by local residents  
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**Botanic bonus**

City scientists confirm new  
species of begonia  
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**Fringe benefits**

Kerry's tips on conquering  
Festival shows  
Page 20

**Voice of sport**

Lothian looks over local  
sports heroes  
Page 22-23

# the Edinburgh Reporter

August 2023

EDINBURGH

CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH



## Capital firm living the Barbie dream

By PHYLLIS 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)

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

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**Tragic tribute**

City church service honours  
Ukrainian hero

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**Tuscan turmoil**

Edinburgh Pisa passengers  
face Ryanair chaos

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**Slum dog diets**

Experts reveal menu options  
for city poor in 1901

Pages 12-13

**Flour power**

Flour power Fast rising bakers  
move to new home

Page 14

**Lothian Lift-off**

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



Alan Simpson Photography

## 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.

Full story on page three

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### Sting in the tale

Artists in crisis as Dalry studio hived off  
Page 5

### We salute you

Scots Guard Anthony's last castle parade  
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### Ship shape trams

Ocean Terminal bonus from tram extension  
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### Culinary capers

Meet Kerry our new food and drink columnist  
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### Go a Warrender

Swim centre reopens after major investment  
Page 23

# the Edinburgh Reporter

June 2023

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



## Here's looking at ewe

### RHS artists find their inner sheep for show

By PHYLLIS STEPHEN

IT'S JUNE AND that means it is time to get ready for the annual Royal Highland Show at Ingliston which is sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland.

To publicise the event the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland (RHASS) commissioned "Flock to the Show", a public art trail made up of fibreglass sheep sculptures which are on tour in Edinburgh and Lothians.

Rosie (photographed left) had incredible fun getting to know these two sculptures at Port Edgar marina.

On the left is Eaba designed by Central Scotland artist Anna Bilyk and sponsored by Galloway MacLeod. Anna said her inspiration came from a mixture of landscape and process. She said: "The images are all inspired from travels and surrounding landscapes brought together and merged into a type of visual story. The style of the design comes from the process and style I use to design images for lino printmaking."

On the right Davy Baa-wie was designed by Fife knitwear designer, Jennifer McHardy, and sponsored by Macklin Motors. Jennifer said she just loves David Bowie. She said: "he is a true music and style icon, the inspiration for my sheep design came from the iconic knitted jumpsuit designed by Kansai Yamamoto for David Bowie during the Ziggy Stardust era worn by him in 1974."

Turn to page three

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**Burning rubber**

Ross motors ahead with unique toy car hobby  
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**Hibs mourn**

RIP Hibernian executive chairman Ron Gordon  
Page 10

**Behind the mask**

Who painted the Frederick Douglass mural?  
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**Packing a punch**

Café serves up a seriously strong brew  
Page 16

**Women pitch in**

Capital teams striking new signings  
Pages 22-23

# the Edinburgh Reporter

March 2023

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



By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

**THE RUSSIAN** invasion of Ukraine has entered its second year. The one year anniversary was marked with wreath laying at the National War

Museum at Edinburgh Castle and a number of other events, both joyful and reflective, involving the Ukrainian people who live in Scotland. Some lived here already and thousands of others have made

their way to Scotland to escape the war zone. Russians who oppose the war are very brave to speak out.

We met a small group, who live mainly in Scotland, and who had gathered outside the Russian

Consulate on Melville Street to come together and talk of their experiences, and remember people who have died in Ukraine in the past year.

The group hung posters of images

of people who have died in the war. These were created by a Russian born artist known as Instagram Nick, and represents only a small number of the innocent lives lost in the past twelve months.

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### 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

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# the Edinburgh Reporter

February 2023

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



Porty team cut through 40 days of Atlantic waves to complete the 3,000 mile voyage

By **STEPHEN RAFFERTY**

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

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**It's a tall story**

Party residents on a high  
after mast ruling

Page 3

**Rigged out**

New Amazon series is a  
first for Edinburgh

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**Aid for Ukraine**

Cash is better for the  
nation's economy

Page 7

**Juliet eats out**

Everything she wants at  
Chinese buffet

Page 17

**The finest ever**

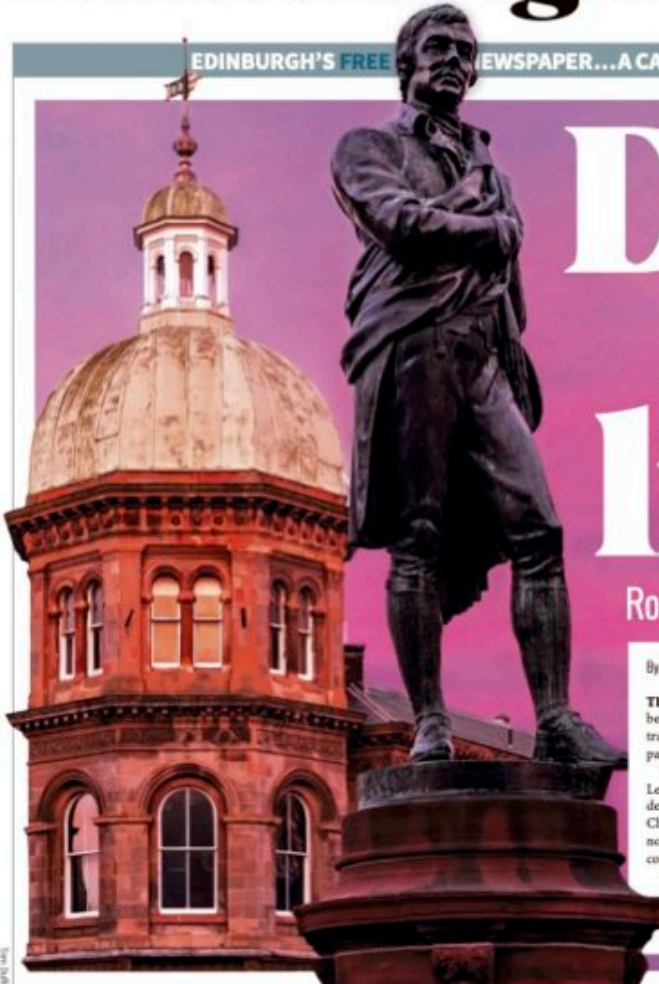
Turnbull's Tornadoes  
fifty years on

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# the Edinburgh Reporter

January 2023

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



## Down the line...

Robert Burns has pride of place in Leith

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

**THE FINAL PIECE** of track has now been laid completing the length of tramline where trams will begin to carry passengers in spring this year.

Two-way traffic will run up and down Leith Walk this month following a short delay due to the cold snap just before Christmas, but all main infrastructure is now complete and testing and commissioning will begin soon.

We are told to expect to see trams running on the line any minute, although passengers will have to wait just a little longer until

Edinburgh Trams begins its new service from Newhaven all the way through the city centre and on to Edinburgh Airport.

The 125-year-old statue of Robbie Burns will become even more of a focal point as the tram passes him as it goes down Constitution Street. Robbie was given a spruce up during the tramworks and returned to his rightful place in January last year complete with a new time capsule concealed in the plinth.

This month it will be time to celebrate the Bard's birthday with four days of Burns&Beyond events at Assembly Rooms.

*Read more on Page 18*

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