

# Five things you need to know today

## Nicola Benedetti to receive the Edinburgh Award



Nicola Benedetti, CBE, the Director of Edinburgh International Festival announcing her first programme for the 2023 Edinburgh International Festival PHOTO ©2023 The Edinburgh Reporter  
Later today Nicola Benedetti, CBE, will receive the Edinburgh Award at a reception at the City Chambers. Nicola Benedetti will be presented with an engraved Loving Cup from the Lord Provost and have her handprints set in stone at the City Chambers.

These are the recipients of the award in the last ten years:

- 2022 Sir Geoff Palmer
- 2021 Fergus Linehan
- 2020 Alexander McCall Smith
- 2019 Ann Budge
- 2018 Doddie Weir
- 2017 Sir Timothy O'Shea
- 2016 Ken Buchanan MBE
- 2015 Sir Tom Farmer
- 2014 Thomas Gilzean
- 2013 Richard Demarco

## **Housing Committee meets today**

The City of Edinburgh Council has published a draft action plan to help it tackle growing homelessness in the capital and this will be discussed at today's Housing Committee.

After officially declaring a housing emergency earlier this month – as nearly 5,000 households now seek temporary accommodation while the shortage of affordable housing grows – the start of a 25-point Housing Emergency Action Plan will be considered by councillors

The plan proposes the council turns void homes around more quickly and spot purchases 'off the shelf' homes, to increase affordable housing supply at pace at a time when construction costs have risen exponentially. If agreed, a more detailed strategy featuring costings and specific targets will be created and brought to a full council meeting in February, with input from industry and voluntary organisations from across the city.

Ahead of the meeting Cllr David Key, SNP housing spokesperson said: "We've seen a year and a half of disastrous failure under this council administration. In that time they've almost halved the pipeline of new affordable homes, slashed new council house building by £1.3bn and left 1,500 council houses

sit empty while thousands of families experience homelessness and wait on lists for more suitable accommodation.

“Labour and their allies have failed by every possible measure. We’ll offer constructive input as opposition councillors but for many this will simply be too little too late from an administration asleep at the wheel.”

[Watch the meeting online here or attend in person from 10am at the City Chambers.](#)

## **Bake at home with the Bearded Baker**

The Bearded Baker on Rodney Street will close for Christmas from 23 December until 6 January. While they are gone you can buy ahead some bake at home cinnamon rolls to cook fresh each day of the holidays.

## **Pandas adieu**

The two giant pandas which lived at Edinburgh Zoo for the last twelve years have left on a cargo plane to go back to China. The most fun fact that we ever read (and published here in black and white) was that Tian Tian liked to go up to the top of her enclosure at night – after the public had left – and watch the zebras...

[Read more here](#)

[And Read our coverage of the departure here.](#)

*Farewell to the pandas who have now left [@EdinburghZoo](#) after 12 years en route home to China. Both animals are now 20-years-old and failed to breed while in Scotland. Yang Guang ate 100 kgs of bamboo each of the 4,383 days of his stay..*

Video © Alan Simpson [pic.twitter.com/YZapEuA4pU](https://pic.twitter.com/YZapEuA4pU)

– Edinburgh Reporter (@EdinReporter) [December 4, 2023](https://twitter.com/EdinReporter/status/1704123456789)



4/12/2023

Picture Alan Simpson

Alison Maclean (left) who has looked after the pandas for 12 years has a word with Pandas Yang Guang and Tian Tian inside their crates as they prepare to leave Edinburgh Zoo after 12 years to go back to China.

## Subscriptions

Please do subscribe to our monthly newspaper if you can – we deliver by mail in compostable envelopes, and the subscription helps us to keep on bringing you the news for free. So far

this year we have produced eleven issues and a new one is out today.

[Sign up here.](#)

<p><b>City wonderland</b> Snapper Craig lights up festive city Page 3</p>	<p><b>Bar Brouhaha</b> Pub boss's secret past exposed Page 5</p>	<p><b>Hogmanay</b> Thirty not out for capital New Year celebrations Page 12-13</p>	<p><b>Leith PRide</b> Wordsmiths win double gold Page 14</p>	<p><b>Racing cert</b> Musselburgh is set for a packed NYD meeting Page 20</p>
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# the Edinburgh Reporter

December 2023

EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER... A TO FINISH



## Hooked on panto

Peter Pan tale gives Allan Stewart the chance to dress like a dame for the 25th year

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

IT IS ALL about swashbuckling adventure and high flying at the Festival Theatre where the

Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan will play until Hogmanay.

The boy who never ages appears in a new telling of an old tale complete with special effects,

stunning sets, colourful costumes and a lot of laughs and fun.

The trip to Neverland is one which will enchant audiences of all ages with the usual double

entendres sprinkled throughout the script. The cast includes Allan Stewart appearing in his 25th panto as the dame Mrs Smee, Grant Stott as the big bad Hibs loving Captain

Hook and Jordan Young as Smee with the returning Clare Gray and Britain's Got Talent finalists Flawless as the Pirate Crew.

*Read more on page 8*

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**Helter skelter**

Friends stand firm to save playground favourite

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**Wild at heart**

Artist beats critics to host solo show

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**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... A CAPITAL RE... START TO FINISH

## Twice as much Scottish art for everyone to see

By **PHYLLIS 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

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**Picture perfect**

Best foot forward for annual art walk

Page 18

**Liddell tribute**

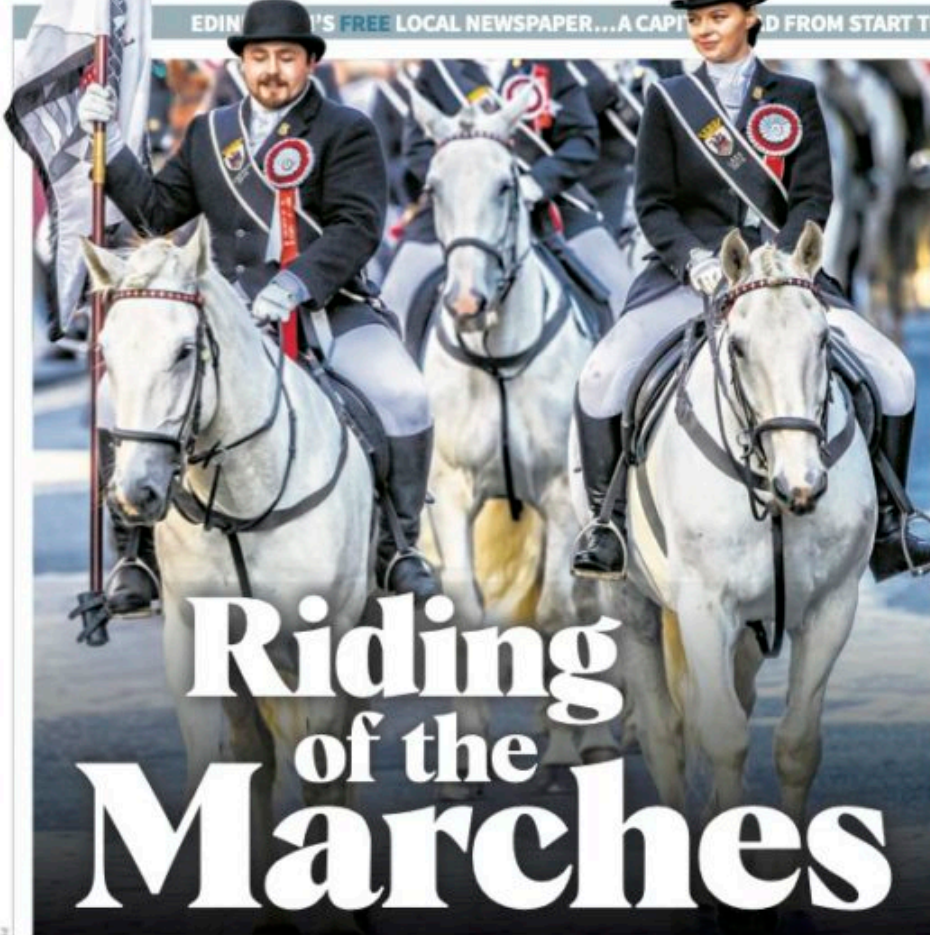
Gym named after Olympic legend opens

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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 return 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 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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**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



facebook.com/mademoisellemacaron

## 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  
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**Flour power**

Flour power Fast rising bakers move to new home  
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**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



## 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  
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**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 Warreander**

Swim centre reopens after major investment  
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# 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 PHYLIS 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 Eaha 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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**Last dance**

Tollcross's Cavendish calls last orders  
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**A tragic loss**

Brave firefighter lost in Jenners blaze  
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**Love is in the air**

Valentine's Day tugs at the heart strings  
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**Labour of love**

Secrets behind charming city home  
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**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 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*

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**It's a tall story**

Party residents on a high after mast ruling  
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**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  
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**Juliet eats out**

Everything she wants at Chinese buffet  
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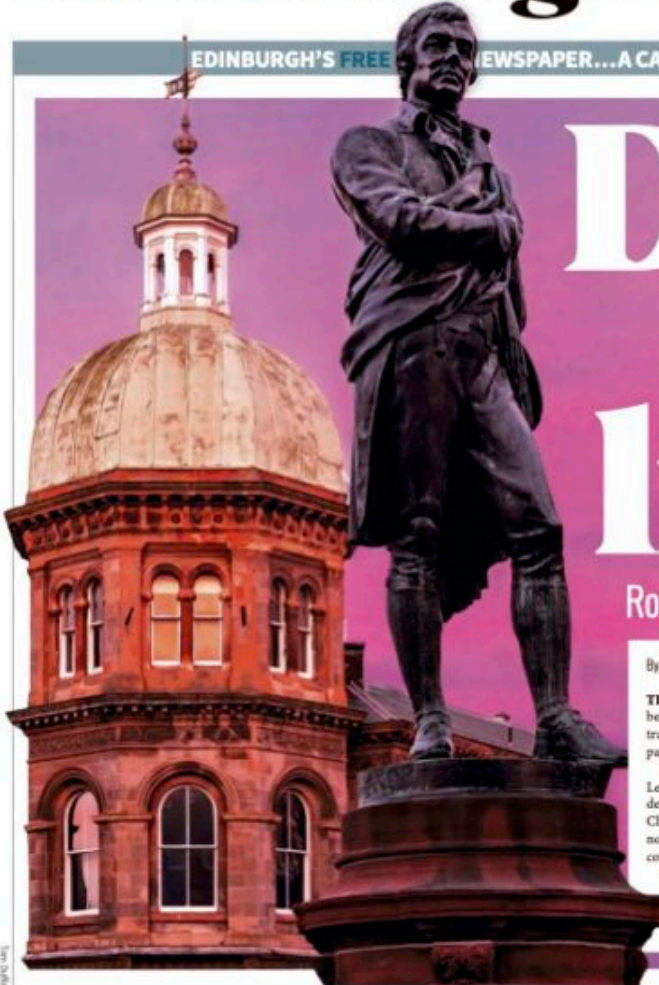
**The finest ever**

Turnbull's Tornados 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 Rabbie Burns will become even more of a focal point as the tram passes him as it goes down Constitution Street. Rabbie 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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