

# Five things you need to know today

## Loony Dook

Although there was no official Loony Dook as there has been in past years, locals donned swimming costumes and dressed up to take to the sea in Portobello, South Queensferry and at Kinghorn in Fife.

Our photos of the Loony Dook are all on [Facebook](#) and also [here](#).



Caroline and Sarah. Loony Dook Portobello. © 2024 Martin McAdam

# Ambulance service busy on Hogmanay

Scottish Ambulance Service has advised that they dealt with 2,006 calls between 7pm on Hogmanay and 7am on New Year's Day.

The most intense period was between 1:30am – 2:45am where staff handled 328 calls – around a call every 15 seconds.

Julie Carter, On-call Executive Director with the Scottish Ambulance Service, said: "The overall level of demand for our service over the festive period has exceeded previous years and Hogmanay was one of our busiest nights of the year. Yet again, our staff in our Control Centres, on the frontline and support staff showed what an incredible group of dedicated professionals they are. They are a true credit to the SAS.

"This winter we continue to face significant challenges as a result of the time of year and continuing long hospital turnaround times at some hospitals which are stopping our staff from getting back out on the road to help other patients in need.

"To help our staff, we'd like to remind people to please only call 999 in a life-threatening emergency. If you need urgent care, but it's not life-threatening, you can call NHS 24 on 111, day or night, or your GP during opening hours."

## Shooting in Granton

Police Scotland have reported that the shooting in Granton on Hogmanay has resulted in one death and has left another man in serious condition in hospital.

[Read more here.](#)

# Time for changes and resolutions

If you have not done so before then 2024 could be the year when you respond to council consultations. Responses to these are usually woefully thin on the ground – if everyone who has something to say about the council (good or bad) on social media took part then perhaps changes might be made.

The [consultation at this link](#) is the workplace parking levy and the consultation ends on 6 February 2024.

[Read more about the workplace parking levy in a variety of articles here.](#)

## Buy a subscription to the Edinburgh Reporter – the gift that lasts all year

Our January issue is out today so here is a timely gift suggestion – buy someone a subscription to our monthly newspaper – we deliver by mail in compostable envelopes, and the subscription helps us to keep on publishing the news on a free to access basis. Click on the image below to sign up for yourself or as a present.

So far this year we have produced twelve issues and have already produced the January 2024 edition.

And if you have any stories then do get in touch.  
[editor@theedinburghreporter.co.uk](mailto:editor@theedinburghreporter.co.uk)



**Building brawl**Residents up in arms  
over three projects

Page 6

**Kinky closure**Swingers' club appeals  
council order

Page 7

**Festival furore**Funding rejection sends  
wrong signal

Page 8

**Coffee notes**Charlie Ellis mugs up on  
capital bean scenes

Page 16

**Barrie's back**Hearts midfielder  
on the mend

Page 21

# the Edinburgh Reporter

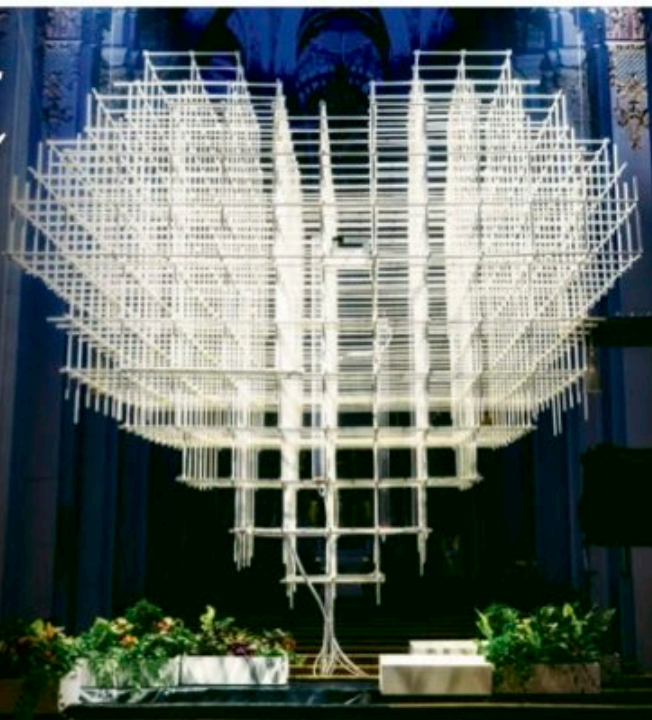
January 2024

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

## Heart and Soul



Gifted German artist  
Michael Pendry  
to once again  
transform  
St Giles' with  
his newest  
masterpiece



By PHYLIS STEPHEN

A NEW PUBLIC sculpture created by German artist Michael Pendry, will be sited in St Giles' Cathedral later this month. 'HEART' makes its UK premiere in the

capital in a collaboration between the Burns&Beyond Festival and the St Giles' 900th.

The anniversary marks the founding of the cathedral, to be celebrated with events throughout 2024. This year HEART will light up the

cathedral with the very symbol of life itself, a new three-dimensional work measuring five metres tall, will transform the space with a ticketed evening illumination and soundscape for visitors. The installation will take ten days to build and will be a central part of

the Burns&Beyond Festival which takes place in the city from 25 January to 11 February. What better symbol for the festival which takes its inspiration from Robbie Burns and promotes 'Luv, hope and Kindness', than a heart?

Continued on page four

**SHEZAN**  
INDIAN CUISINE

25 UNION PLACE,  
EDINBURGH EH1 3NQ

PRE-THEATRE DINING

BOOK YOUR TABLE ONLINE AT  
[WWW.SHEZANEDINBURGH.COM](http://WWW.SHEZANEDINBURGH.COM)

T: 0131 557 5098

OPPOSITE EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE

**10% OFF  
YOUR MEAL**

PRESENT VOUCHER  
TO YOUR SERVER