

# Five things you need to know today

## Chief Executive of Council to step down

The Chief Executive of The City of Edinburgh Council, Andrew Kerr, OBE, is to step down in June. He will be 65 in March and has been at the helm of the local authority since 2015.

[Read more here.](#)



The by election count in March 2023 was held on the third floor of the Council HQ Waverley Court under supervision of the Returning Officer, Andrew Kerr, when Fiona Bennett was declared the new councillor for Corstorphine/Murrayfield PHOTO ©2023 The Edinburgh Reporter

# Transport and Environment Committee

The first Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) meeting takes place today.

The committee will hear about plans to revamp the major junctions in the city – with a warning that work on the junction at Harry Lauder Road which is to be given the highest priority, will take two years to complete.

[Watch online here.](#)



King's Road junction with Sir Harry Lauder Road where HGV traffic coming from Portobello can no longer turn left

## Callum's Big Walk

Callum Isted lodged a petition with The Scottish Parliament in 2022 which will be discussed at Holyrood again in a couple of

weeks. The primary school pupil will then meet Jenny Gilruth MSP to see if the Scottish Government will progress his petition. The eight-year-old called upon The Scottish Government to provide every primary school pupil in Scotland with a reusable water bottle. The petition at present remains “under consideration” by the government.

The young environmental campaigner is also undertaking a Big Walk to raise money for eight charities. He is walking the eight longest bus routes in Edinburgh to raise money and has so far raised around £331 which the fundraiser says will pay for bus tickets – but is actually going to be paid to Callum’s chosen charities which are:

[RZSS](#)

[Water of Leith Conservation Trust](#)

[Sea Shepherd UK](#)

[Cornish Seal Sanctuary](#)

[The Conservation Volunteers](#)

[Scottish Seabird Centre](#)

[Sea Changers](#)

[Ocean Conservation Trust](#)





Callum Isted presents his petition to the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee calling for the provision of a reusable water bottle to every primary school child in Scotland. 09 March 2022.

[You can support Callum here.](#)

## **At Bonnie & Wild St James Quarter**

Sign up now for a ceilidh on Burns Night.

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-white-heather-ceilidh-club-at-bonnie-wild-registration-715982241157?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep\\_tld=1](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-white-heather-ceilidh-club-at-bonnie-wild-registration-715982241157?aff=odcleoeventsincollection&keep_tld=1)

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# 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 PHYLLIS 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

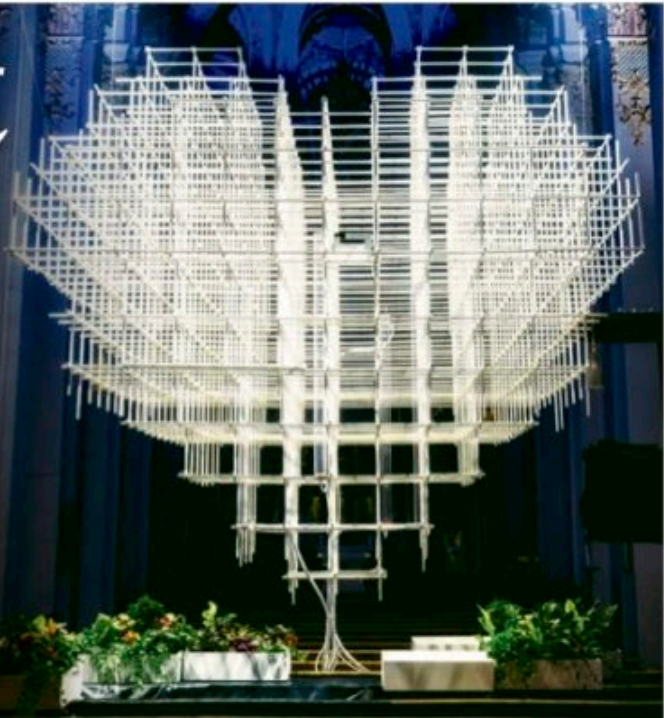
capital in a collaboration between the Burns&Beyond Festival and the St Giles' 900th.

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?

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And yes our photo today is deliberately of the attractions in Princes Street Gardens – which have now largely disappeared and moved on.