

# Five things you need to know today

## Resignation follows appearance at UK Covid-19 Inquiry in Edinburgh

Ken Thomson, who only two months ago was appointed as regulatory chief of the global chartered accountancy body The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (ICAS), has resigned. He only took up office on 1 January, pledging to promote trust in the accountancy profession through excellence in regulation.

His resignation, said to be for “personal reasons” comes after messages sent by Mr Thomson during the pandemic revealed he advised Scottish Government officials to delete messages – and in one exchange he boasted that “plausible deniability are my middle names”.

[Read more here.](#)



# Culture and independence

Angus Robertson MSP will unveil the tenth paper in the Building a New Scotland series today – Culture in an independent Scotland – saying it will shine the spotlight on the ways an independent Scotland could achieve greater prosperity with its creative economy and benefit from regaining freedom of movement as part of the EU.

[Read more here](#)

## Chris Stewart Group have designs on Shandwick Place

Chris Stewart Group which has revived many areas of the Old and New Towns in Edinburgh including the Edinburgh Grand and 329 High Street, has lodged plans to revive buildings at the junction of Queensferry Street and Shandwick Place.

[Read more here.](#)







**At St Mary's Episcopal Church on**

# Palmerston Place on Sunday

Join Alexander Armstrong at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh to hear the choir singing Choral Evensong (for Candlemas) at 3.30pm on Sunday 4 February.

**There is no need to book for this event.**

## MUSIC LIST

- **Townhill** *Lo, God is here*
- **Matthew Martin** *Preces & Responses*
- Psalm 139; Hymns 54, 56
- **Bevan** *Magnificat Octavi Toni*
- **Holst** *Nunc dimittis*
- **Cecilia McDowall** *The Presence*
- **Dupré** *Lumen ad revelationem*





The Millennium Windows – designed by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi at St Mary's Cathedral. Photo: © 2020, Martin P. McAdam  
[www.martinmcadam.com](http://www.martinmcadam.com)

# Our February issue

Our February issue is out now. With more on our exclusive story about Chief Constable Jo Farrell revealed in our centre spread and our new columnist to entertain you with news of all the theatre you must see, we are pleased with this month's issue. We hope you like it too.

[If you would like to make sure that you don't miss any of our monthly newspapers then sign up here.](#)

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Student flats appeal has council on hop

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**Pavilion pallava**

Budget cuts deepen eye hospital crisis

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New gym not fit for purpose claims

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**Chief cosies up**

More questions for Police Scotland boss

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**Centre Stage**

Liam Rudden joins The Edinburgh Reporter

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# the Edinburgh Reporter

February 2024

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



## Year of the Dragon

### Bringing success and opportunity

By PHYLLIS STEPHEN

**THERE WILL BE** a full programme of events in the capital to herald the start of the Year of the Dragon and celebrate Chinese New Year 2024.

The entertainment in Edinburgh forms the largest celebration of its kind in Scotland and it runs from 3 to 13 February. There is a wide range of activities including the Official Chinese New Year Concert at Usher Hall which has become an annual fixture in the civic calendar.

The programme includes dragon and lion dances, a bilingual cello, tai chi sessions, calligraphy and tarot card reading, all of which help to promote local businesses and to reinforce the links between Scottish and Chinese culture.

The Dragon is a significant emblem in Chinese culture symbolising power, nobleness, honour, luck and success, and it is predicted that the new year will bring opportunities, changes and challenges.

The festival in the capital is supported by Heriot-Watt University and Hainan Airlines, and is coordinated by Edinburgh Tourism Action Group (ETAG). This forms a large part of the group's China Ready initiative and ETAG will hold their annual conference during the week at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre with training sessions and industry meet-ups.

For a full run down of this month's events to celebrate turn to page seven

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