

# Five things you need to know today

## Chinese New Year celebrations

Celebrations are well underway in Edinburgh to welcome in the Year of the Dragon. On Sunday the Edinburgh Chinese Arts Association supported by Heriot-Watt University, presented Lion Dances, Chinese New Year folk dances, Hanfu stories, the celebrated waist drums and the magnificent Long Fan Dance as well as children's activities and ceilidh dancing.

The Year of the Dragon officially begins on Saturday 10 February. The Dragon is significant in Chinese culture as an auspicious and extraordinary creature, symbolising power, nobleness, honour, luck and success. 2024 is therefore forecasted to bring about opportunities, changes and challenges. Edinburgh's Chinese New Year Festival, generously supported by Heriot-Watt University and Hainan Airlines and co-ordinated by Edinburgh Tourism Action Group (ETAG) as part of its China Ready initiative, has become the largest celebration of its kind in Scotland since its inception in 2019.

[Read more and see our photos from Sunday's celebrations here.](#)



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# The City of Edinburgh Council

This is an important week in the council calendar as councillors begin a series of meetings to debate next year's budget.

- Monday 10.00am [Lothian Valuation Joint Board](#) 12..30pm [Regulatory Committee](#)
- Tuesday 10.00am [Special Meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee](#)
- Wednesday 10.00am [Development Management Sub-Committee](#)
- Thursday [Special meeting of The City of Edinburgh Council](#) concerning Community Councils followed by a [meeting of full council](#)
- Friday 10.00am [Edinburgh Integration Joint Board](#)

## Edinburgh International Harp Festival 2024

The event takes place in April but tickets are available now.



Edinburgh  
International  
Harp  
Festival

5-9 April 2024

# BOX OFFICE NOW OPEN

CONCERTS - COURSES - WORKSHOPS  
5 - 9 APRIL 2024 - Book now at [harpfestival.co.uk](http://harpfestival.co.uk)

## At Sighthill Library

Next week Sound Africa Ensemble will hold an African and Drumming Workshop for all ages on two afternoons 13 and 14 February. Joining instructions – click on the image below to send an email or phone the library

A photograph of two men sitting outdoors, playing African drums. The man on the left is wearing a green jacket and blue jeans, holding a small book. The man on the right is wearing a brown hoodie and is playing a large drum. There are several other drums around them. The background is a red wall with musical notes and treble clefs.

# Sound Africa Ensemble

## African Drumming & Vocal Workshops

**Tues 13th & Wed 14th Feb 2.30pm**

**FREE WORKSHOPS. ALL AGES**

**- CALL or EMAIL TO BOOK A PLACE -**

**Join Sighthill Library for a fantastic set of workshops  
exploring African rhythms and vocal styles rooted in  
African and African American music**

Tel: 0131 529 5566

Email: [sighthill.library@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:sighthill.library@edinburgh.gov.uk)

# 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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# 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 PHYLIS 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 ceilidh, 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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