

# Five things you need to know today

## Council budget meetings

Today the council meets in the next of a series of meetings to discuss the revenue and capital budgets and how to allocate the spending in the next year.

Both the Educational Institute for Scotland and public service trade union UNISON will send deputations to speak to councillors before the meeting.

The SNP Group are complaining about the lateness of any information from which to draft a budget and are appalled that there appears to have been no consultation with residents, stakeholders or trade unions. The group also wants to have a meeting in June with all political groups to find a way to improve the budget process.

The Green group have noted that Integrated Impact Assessments are missing from any proposals for this year's budget – and that there are no plans to do any.

The committee will discuss the Revenue Budget Framework and the Medium Term Financial Plan

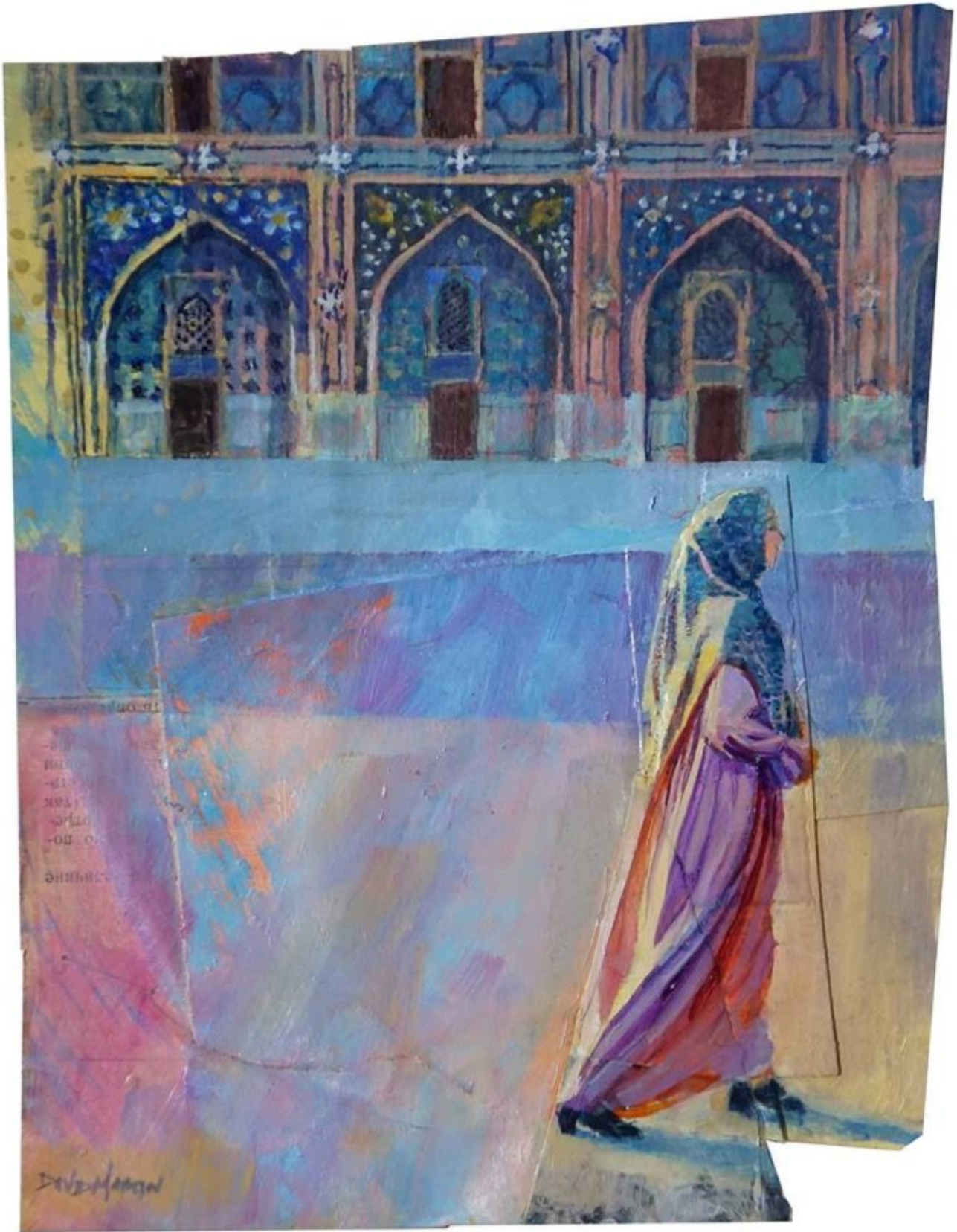
Tuesday 10.00am [Special Meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee](#)

Amid spending plans for education and other important services, the council also proposes to spend £500,000 on marking the 900th anniversary of the introduction of the Royal Burghs into Scotland by King David I. Edinburgh was the first and a “community events strand” is proposed to celebrate the fact. The Edinburgh 900 group is chaired by the Lord Provost.

# Next week at Open Eye Gallery – David Martin

One of the founders of Hidden Door, David Martin, is staging an exhibition of his work Silk Roads: New work from travels in Central Asia at Open Eye Gallery on Abercromby Place next week, opening on 9 February.

You can see the beautifully colourful work on the [Open Eye website](#) where David explains the story behind his art. He said: *“Every painting in the exhibition tells a story for me; even a simple chance encounter or a glimpsed view contains a world as I see it, and some paintings are just this. However, there are other narratives at play too, such as my trip to the environmental devastation of the area that used to be the Aral Sea; formerly the world’s third-largest inland sea now almost entirely dried up and gone, as a result of Soviet and post-Soviet environmental mismanagement.”*



**Care home planned for St John's**

# Road

The first of two public consultation events relating to the proposed £15 million development of a new 60-bed care complex on the corner of St John's Road at Manse Road has already taken place. But there is still time (until 14 February) for anyone to add their comments to the proposal to replace the former supermarket and shops with a mixed use development. And a second public event will take place on 28 February at Corstorphine Community Centre, 5 Kirk Loan between 2pm and 7pm. It will include five assisted living apartments and ground floor commercial units facing on to St John's Road. One third of the care home will be devoted to dementia care. The developer hopes to lodge the planning application with the council in April.

[Read more here.](#)



## Playhouse teams up with Edinburgh Street Food

The Edinburgh Playhouse has teamed up with Edinburgh Street



Food to offer casual dining to their patrons until 11pm seven days a week.

ESF marked by the neon sign has ten independent traders and three bars in a location just close to the theatre on the other side of the Omni Centre.

[Location information here.](#)



## 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.](#)

**Dashing deeds**

Student flats appeal has council on hop  
Page 3

**Pavilion pallava**

Budget cuts deepen eye hospital crisis  
Page 4

**Shawfair shock**

New gym not fit for purpose claims  
Page 9

**Chief cosies up**

More questions for Police Scotland boss  
Pages 12-13

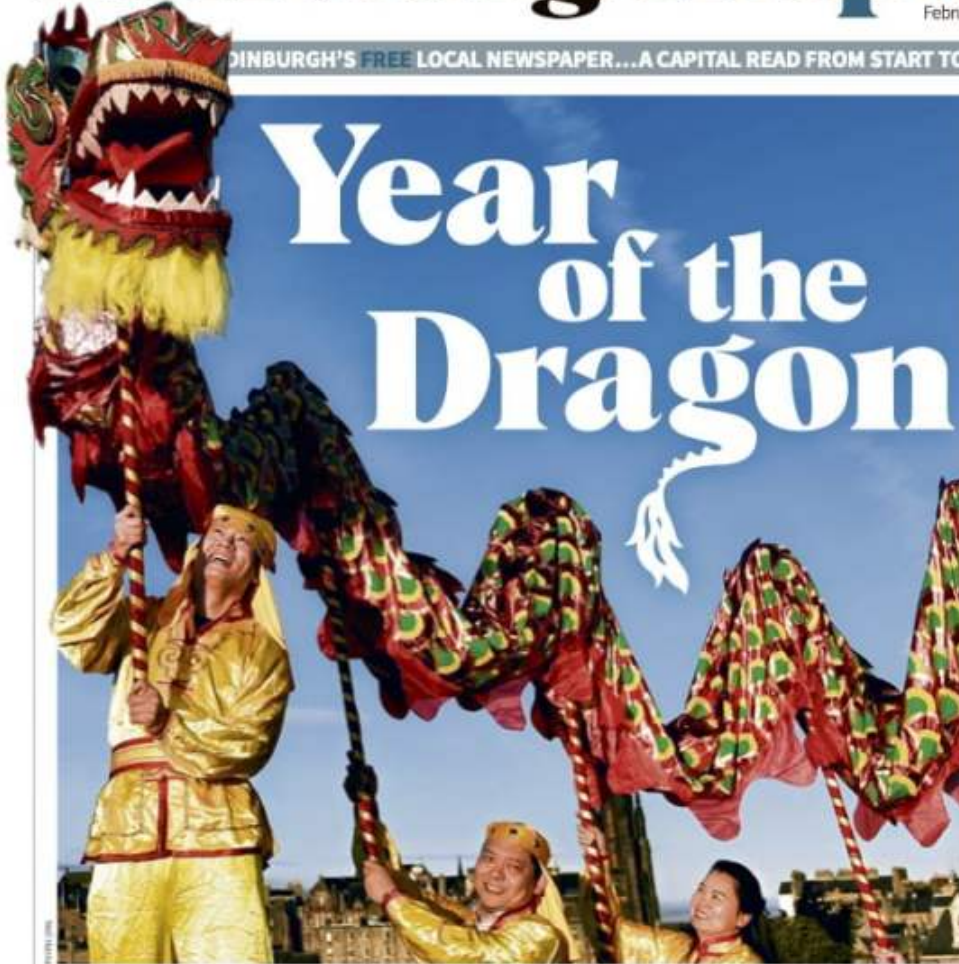
**Centre Stage**

Liam Rudden joins The Edinburgh Reporter  
Pages 18-19

# 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 celdadh, 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

**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