

Five things you need to know today

Council denies making cuts to education for children with additional support needs

We have been contacted by several parents all complaining that their applications for children with additional support needs – children with Down Syndrome, autism or physical disabilities have been rejected. The council has denied this is a cut to provision and has said some applications for places in Educational Support Bases have been granted. None of the parents who contacted us knew anyone whose application has been approved.

[Read more on this story here.](#)



The scene outside Birthlink on Lower Gilmore Place last week

The Birthlink Bins

When we called to drop off a stock of newspapers the other day at Birthlink on Lower Gilmore Place there was a dreadful mess outside. And it is nothing new. The bins from the whole street appear to have moved to take up a position outside the Birthlink charity shop.

But they were overflowing. And although the bins were emptied at the end of last week, by yesterday they were full again. Hopefully this situation will be rectified soon.

Hey [@edinhelp](#)

We still have almost every landfill bin on the street right on our doorstep.

I appreciate that it's not easy to get someone to move them, especially when they're always overflowing, but, they've been here for well over a month now.

1/2 pic.twitter.com/9Pd54cNfX0

– BirthlinkThriftShops (@BirthlinkThrift) [February 6, 2024](#)

Groundhog Day at Greenside Lane

Another van driver (or two) has followed their GPS and turned into Greenside Lane beside the Playhouse – which is no longer accessible by vehicles. To get to this lane a vehicle has to be driven across two stretches of pavement, kerbs and the cycle lane.

Cllr Scott Arthur, transport and environment convener, said: “The footpath in this area is incredibly busy, so these incidents are really concerning.

“While we would expect drivers to use common sense in a situation like this, we are going to install temporary barriers this week to prevent it happening again.”

[@theSpurtle](#) *it's happened again!* pic.twitter.com/HQvBhc3YX3

– Martin McMullen (@martin_mcmullen) [February 5, 2024](#)

The Georgian House is hiring

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
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Shawfair shock

New gym not fit for purpose claims
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Chief cosies up

More questions for Police Scotland boss
Pages 12-13

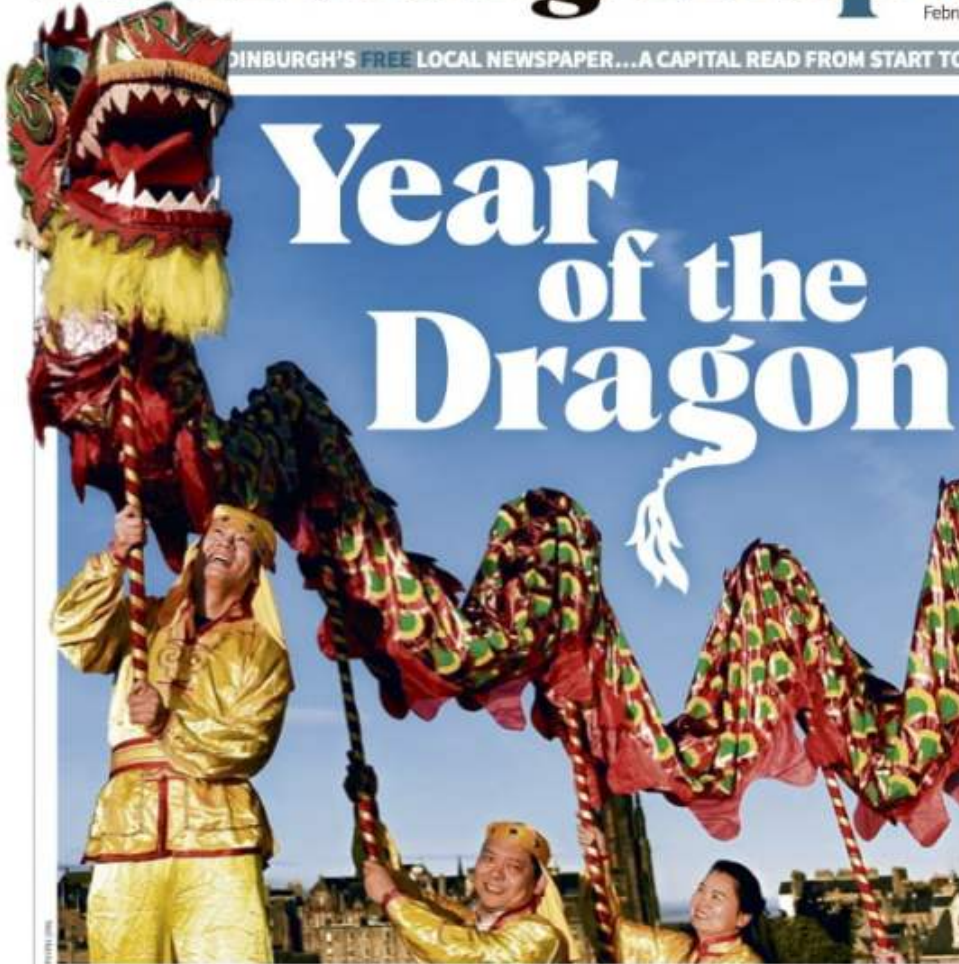
Centre Stage

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

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