

Five things you need to know today

Scottish Snowdrop Festival

This runs from 25 January to 11 March and this weekend it will be snowdrop weekend at Hopetoun House. The garden is open both Saturday and Sunday celebrating the arrival of the snowdrops. The house will also be open although it does not officially open until Easter. And The Stables Kitchen will also be open for drinks and treats.

Ticket options available:

Snowdrops and self-led tour of Hopetoun House: [Book here:](#)

Adult £13.50, Concession £12.00, Disabled £7, Child (over 4yo) £7, Family (2+2) £37.00

Snowdrops at Hopetoun – general tickets: [Book here](#)

Adult £6.50, Concession £6.00, Disabled £4.00, Child (over 4yo) £4.00, Family (2+2) £19.00

Snowdrops guided walks with the Hopetoun Ranger: [Book here](#)

Adult £8.50, Concession £8.00, Disabled £6.50, Child (over 4yo) £6.50, Family (2+2) £27.00

Opening Hours:

Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th February 2024 10:00am to 4:00pm

For further information, email enquiries@hopetoun.co.uk or call [0131 331 2451](tel:01313312451)

The snowdrops at the Botanics are also being celebrated during the festival with snowdrop and spring interest walks at Edinburgh

Experience the scents, sights, and growing delights of early spring on a spring interest walk. Join our Garden Guides each weekend for an introduction to our specialist snowdrop collection, including an explanation of the different species and cultivars, and to our collection of spring plants and bulbs including Narcissus, Fritillaria and Iris as well as other plants of interest.

Walks will be held each Saturday and Sunday at 11am until 25 February 2024.

Please reserve your place by calling 0131 248 2909 or email visitorwelcome@rbge.org.uk Tickets cost £10 (no Concession or Member discount rates). [Find out more.](#)



Council business

Councillors will be back at their desks on Monday after half term week for perhaps the most important meeting of the year when they set their budget for the next year.

On Tuesday the council's Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee meets. [Meeting details here.](#)

On Wednesday the Planning Local Review Body meets. [Meeting details here.](#)

And on Thursday there will be a meeting of all 63 councillors – although some are still working from home – and the decision will be which part's budget is to be followed for the next year. As Labour run the council as a minority administration

it may or may not be the administration which win the day.

[Meeting details here.](#)

[Some of the budget proposals from various parties have been covered here.](#)

Stockbridge Church

The church is hosting a Windows on the Resurrection art installation until 21 February.

Opening times:

Wednesday 14th 11am-5pm

Thursday 15th 11am – 5pm

Friday 16th 2pm – 5pm

Saturday 17th 11am – 5pm

Sunday 18th 1pm -5pm

Monday 19th 11am – 5pm

Tuesday 20th 11am – 5pm

Wednesday 21st 11am – 5pm

Entry is free, but donations to help offset the costs of staging the exhibition will be welcome.



Stockbridge Church

Thriving Greenspaces – Victoria Park Bowling Green Consultation.

The council are also holding an in-person workshop on 26 February from 6 – 8 pm to discuss redeveloping the bowling greens at Victoria Park. [Find out more details here](#)



Bowling Greens at Victoria Park

Come along to this drop in session to chat about what you would like to see in future developments of Victoria Park's bowling greens.

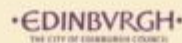
Details of Events

February 26th, drop in from 6pm-8pm, Pollock Pavilion, The Boys' Brigade, Edinburgh, 227 Ferry Road, EH6 4SP Refreshments will be provided

For any further questions, please email thrivinggreenspaces@edinburgh.gov.uk



Learn more at
www.thrivinggreenspaces.scot



Become a subscriber

Our February issue is out now. With more on Stephen Rafferty's 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 – we have just been [nominated for an award. 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 firms 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

SHEZAN
INDIAN CUISINE

25 UNION PLACE,
EDINBURGH EH1 3NQ

PRE-THEATRE DINING

BOOK YOUR TABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.SHEZANEDINBURGH.COM

T: 0131 557 5098

OPPOSITE EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE

**10% OFF
YOUR MEAL**

PRESENT VOUCHER
TO YOUR SERVER