

# Five things you need to know today

## Documentary

The Edinburgh Cine and Video Society will show *The Nettle Dress* – a documentary about grief and textiles.

Filmed by Dylan Howitt the textile artist Allan Brown takes seven years to create a dress by hand. This is a labour of love after the death of Allan's wife and a way to honour her memory.

The film is fun of good news. [Tickets here](#)



# Sainsbury's Bank is moving to Edinburgh Park

Parabola, the award-winning developer and owner of Edinburgh Park, the city's new net zero quarter focused on wellbeing, has confirmed that Sainsbury's Bank has agreed terms for the whole of the fourth floor of 1 New Park Square (1NPS), Edinburgh Park.

Sainsbury's Bank will relocate from its current office at Edinburgh Park's Lochside Avenue. The innovative building is occupied by professional services firm Marsh McLennan as its new Edinburgh office as well as Element and GE Energy.

1NPS was completed in 2022 and won two national awards last year. Designed by architects Allford Hall Monaghan Morris, it is home to an artisan bakery, café/bar-restaurant and live music venue run by Patina which has been brought to Edinburgh by the team behind Newcastle's Kiln Café in Ouseburn.

Edinburgh Park boasts unrivalled transport links with two tram stops, a train station, a bar/café, sports, leisure and office facilities as well as performance space, a sculpture trail and an ongoing commitment to the arts.

In late 2023, AEG Europe, owners of iconic venue The 02, announced plans for an 8,500-capacity arena in the heart of Edinburgh Park.

Parabola Managing Director Tony Hordon said: "Parabola is delighted to confirm Sainsbury's Bank will relocate to 1NPS. Parabola is committed to delivering something special to tenants and creating a new community that offers exceptional office space in a new quarter of the city, with wellbeing at its core and sports and leisure facilities included as a vital component. Much more than an attractive workspace, the excellent facilities combined with unrivalled transport links in a genuine community will be hugely beneficial to

Sainsbury's Bank colleagues, as it is to our existing tenants."

A Sainsbury's Bank spokesperson said: "We're pleased to have signed an agreement with Parabola for a space at New Park Square that will allow us to create a vibrant new home for our office-based Sainsbury's Bank colleagues in Edinburgh. Just a short walk from our current location in Edinburgh Park, this will allow us to engineer a more modern, flexible, sustainable and efficient workspace that is better suited to our ways of working in 2024."

## Presidents' Day

The US Consul General invited The Edinburgh Reporter to Old Calton Cemetery on Monday to witness the now annual celebration which takes place at the statue of Abraham Lincoln.

[Read more here.](#)



Cllr Amy McNeese-Mechan, US Consul General Jack Hillmeyer, The Rt Hon Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Robert Aldridge and Angus Robertson Cabinet Secretary for the Constitution, External Affairs and Culture all took part in a ceremony to lay wreaths at the statue of Abraham Lincoln in Old Calton Cemetery PHOTO ©2024 The Edinburgh Reporter

## **Miriam Margolyes is coming to Edinburgh**

Miriam Margolyes will appear on the Fringe in Edinburgh for the first time in 12 years this summer.

She has announced her first Fringe run at Pleasance Pentland Room at the EICC for 9 afternoons at 4pm from 7th – 15th August! *Margolyes & Dickens: The Best Bits* is a show a show packed full of passionate performances and infamously honest stories and life lessons from the national treasure.

Combining her infectious love for Charles Dickens with her phenomenal versatility, the unstoppable 82-year-old brings to life the most colourful and iconic characters from his timeless novels. She will then open the floor to the audiences unexpurgated questions, sharing the stories and life lessons that have made her a bestseller and the undisputed queen of the chat show. Ask her anything: she'll tell the truth. Guaranteed to offend and delight.

- **Title of Show: Margolyes & Dickens: The Best Bits**
- **Venue: Pleasance @ The EICC  
– Pentland**
- **Dates: 7 – 15 August**
- **Time: 4.00pm**

# Our February issue

Our February issue is out now and we will be working on our March issue very soon. The February edition has more on Stephen Rafferty's exclusive story about Chief Constable Jo Farrell revealed in our centre spread and our new columnist Liam Rudden will entertain you with news of all the theatre you must see.

We are pleased with this month's issue, and really pleased to be nominated for an award which will be announced in March.

[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

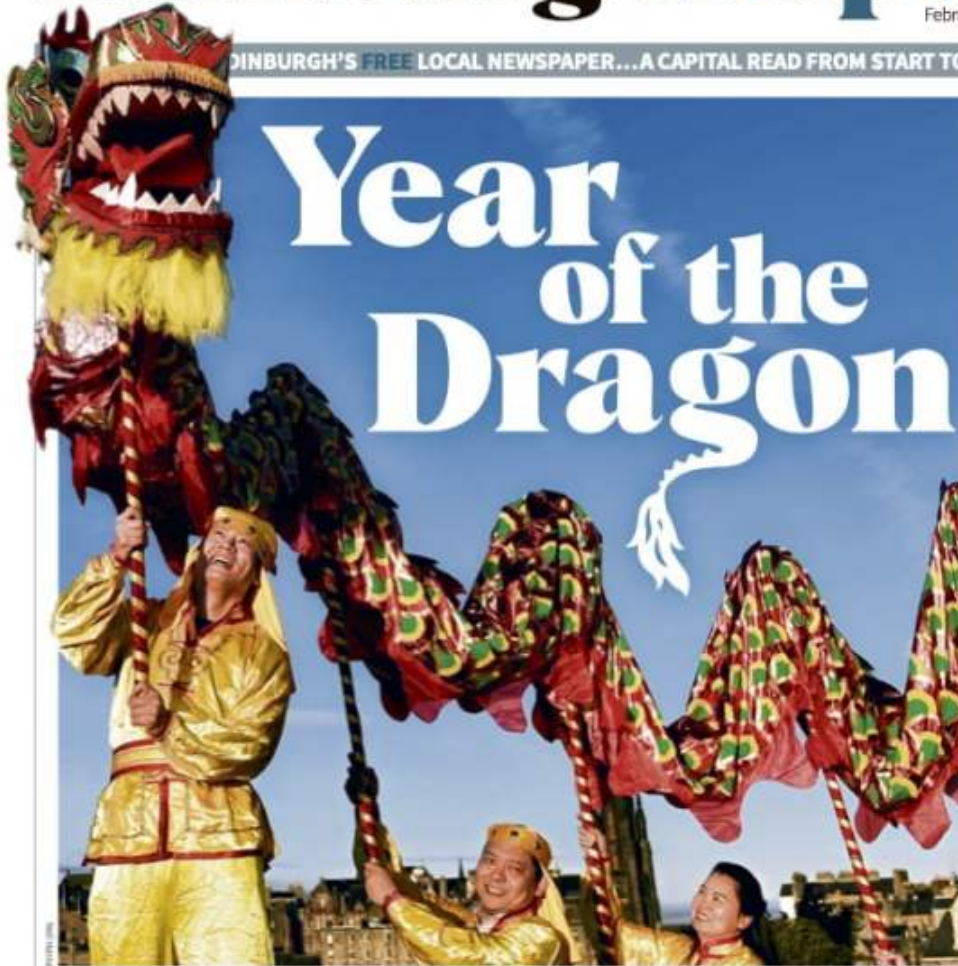
**Centre Stage**

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 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](http://WWW.SHEZANEDINBURGH.COM)

T: 0131 557 5098

OPPOSITE EDINBURGH PLAYHOUSE

**10% OFF  
YOUR MEAL**

PRESENT VOUCHER  
TO YOUR SERVER