

Five things you need to know today

Remembering Ukraine

On Saturday there will be a ceremony at Edinburgh Castle marking the second anniversary of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. During the memorial service, wreaths will be laid in memory of those who have died.

There will also be a service in the Our Ukrainian Church on Dalmeny Street at 6pm when Father Vasyl Kren will invite the congregation to remember everyone who has died in Russia's war against Ukraine.



24 August is the 31st anniversary of Ukrainian Independence and the notable date was celebrated by the Consul General of Ukraine in Scotland along with the Rt Hon Lord Provost and

Council budget is set

The council has adhered to the Scottish Government's direction to freeze any increase on council tax for the next year and will receive the compensation offered by the government. The additional funding announced by Shona Robison the Finance Secretary means the government has "more or less" fully funded the freeze according to Finance Convener, Mandy Watt.

[Read more here.](#)



City Chambers High Street Edinburgh

Speaker's dilemma

South of the border the SNP and Conservative MPs are calling for Lindsay Hoyle to resign after the unseemly goings on in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

[Una Purdie has spoken to Owen Thomson MP who is the Chief Whip to find out more.](#)



Speaker Lindsay Hoyle PHOTO UK Parliament/Maria Unger

At the Leith Walk Police Box

There will be a Scottish Veterans Residences pop up information day at Leith Walk Police Box on 3 March when visitors can learn about the charity's work in providing accommodation and support to veterans. Drop in event.

[More information here.](#)



**Sunday
3 March
2024**

Charity number: SC012739

SVR pop-up Info Day @Leith Walk Police Box

**Come and learn about our Charity's work, providing
accommodation and support to homeless Veterans**

Our February issue

Our February issue is out now and we are already working on the March issue. 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. And if you wish to buy a copy and have it delivered to your home or business then [please subscribe 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 cello, 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