

Five things you need to know today

This week at the Council

Click on the links to read all the relevant papers for each meeting or to watch the webcast either live or as a recording.

22 April 2024	MONDAY
9.30 am – 3.00 pm	Licensing Sub-Committee – Dean of Guild Court Room – City Chambers
10.00 am	Edinburgh Integration Joint Board – Main Council Chamber – City Chambers
23 April 2024	TUESDAY
9.30 am – 3.00 pm	Licensing Sub-Committee – Dean of Guild Court Room – City Chambers
24 April 2024	WEDNESDAY
10.00 am	Planning Local Review Body (Panel 1) – Dean of Guild Court Room – City Chambers
2.00 pm	Planning Committee – Dean of Guild Court Room – City Chambers
25 April 2024	THURSDAY
10.00 am	Transport and Environment Committee – Dean of Guild Court Room – City Chambers
26 April 2024	FRIDAY
9.30 am	Licensing Board – Dean of Guild Court Room – City Chambers

Plans for National Centre for Music

New plans have been submitted to planners at the council for The National Centre for Music which is proposed for the former Royal High School on Regent Road – which in a new move the developers are calling New Parliament House. (Although it was planned to use the building as the Scottish Parliament that never happened.)



The building has been empty for more than half a century and now Montagu Evans have lodged plans outlining who The Royal High School Preservation Trust will undertake “Conservation of the Thomas Hamilton designed former Royal High School building to form new premises for the National Centre for Music, including music rehearsal and performance spaces, licensed café/restaurant and bar facilities, associated offices, internal and external alterations and landscaping, public realm including provision of external multi-use space for temporary events/festival uses .”

The building was to be used by St Mary’s Music School but even though planning permission was obtained that deal fell through due to funding. A previous plan to create a hotel was thwarted

in light of progress made by the music school.

The trust says the Category A-listed Thomas Hamilton building with its two pavilions and gatehouse are on the Buildings at Risk Register and “The proposed development will make changes to the external elevations of the listed building and its built and natural features; however, these are generally minor changes in the wider context of the World Heritage Site”.

[The Trust is recruiting](#) for “a brilliant and passionate administrator to join our small team and provide support to the Royal High School Preservation Trust and the National Centre for Music project. This is a full-time role based in Edinburgh with some hybrid work. For this position, we are also open to discussing the possibility of job share.”

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Eco-nomy class

School pupils put learning into action
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Fringe benefits

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Cinema calamity

Art deco building at risk of demolition claims
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Full of beans

Marchmont coffee shop worth the detour
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Rachel revvs up

Go-kart star aims to make the grid
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the Edinburgh Reporter

April 2024

EDINBURGH'S FREE LOCAL NEWSPAPER...A CAPITAL READ FROM START TO FINISH



Lift off at dance festival

Traditional dancers have spring in their step

By PHILIP HEPBURN

TRADITIONAL DANCE will take centre stage during the Pongopong Festival which showcases international dance on a teaching, learning and performing platform. The still new festival is on at The Scottish Storytelling Centre and other Edinburgh venues from 25-30 April.

Five dance commissions and workshops will be performed, with live music, poetry, and art and the festival invites audiences to take part in ardhls, workshops (both in person and via streams), tours, and talks about traditional dance.

Some of the highlights include a family day with a craft fair all led by Gemma Brockbank of Caledonia, and a matinee showcase by traditional dance artists who are in residence at Edinburgh primary schools, and Bulgarian and Christian language schools in the capital.

Syren Nedelova, Festival Producer and Curator of the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland said: "It is so satisfying to see that the pongopong ruby seeds of traditional dance that we planted for the first time in spring 2022, once again blossom into Scotland's springtime festival for world traditional dance."

"In a new festival born in times of uncertainty, displacement and border reconfigurations, we were inspired by a poem by Lee Min-Hwan that captured the zeitgeist."

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Gracemount teachers

Four teachers from Gracemount Primary School, Stuart McLeod, Sophie Walker, Gary Grennan and Deborah Sewell, will run in the Edinburgh Marathon on 26 May to raise funds for Gracemount

Mansion. They are training every Monday leaving the school around 3.30pm and would love locals to join them in support.

[You can donate here on their GoFundMe page.](#)



Gracemount Mansion

Filmhouse fundraiser

Calling all Filmhouse fans – there will be a Filmhouse fundraiser at the Antiquary on St Stephen Street on 13 May.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/filmhouse-fundraiser-film-quiz-tickets-883649809367>