

# Five things you need to know today

## The SNP group have a new leader

Cllr Simita Kumar who was first elected as a councillor in 2022 is the new leader of the SNP Group after the resignation of Adam Nois-McVey who is happy to retreat to the backbenches.

[Read more here.](#)



**The new Edinburgh Reporter May**

# issue is out today

Our May issue is out today and is in our usual stockists. Your support by buying a subscription would be very much appreciated as it helps us to continue bringing the news to you on this site and in the monthly paper at no cost.

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**McVey mauling**

Councillor hits out at coalition stitch-up  
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**Shaggy dog tail**

Toy poodle Pepper back home at last  
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**Fettes finale**

Former police HQ bows out at 50  
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**Show stoppers**

Rudden reviews May's best theatre shows  
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**Lothian at large**

Local sporting heroes in the spotlight  
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# the Edinburgh Reporter

May 2024

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



## Trew gent

By **GEORGE MAIR AND PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

**HIS SELFLESS ACTS OF GENEROSITY** raised more than £1 million for charities, and the late Tom Gilzean, MBE, was much loved

and well-known in the capital.

Now, an Our Wullie-themed statue, in the image of the late Scots war veteran and charity fundraiser, has been unveiled on the spot where he used to break for lunch during his

long days spent in the city centre collecting cash for charities. The life size sculpture, a replica of one auctioned during an 2019 fundraiser, is now in place outside Gordon's Trattoria on The Royal Mile which was his

regular lunch spot. For more than 20 years Tom could be seen rattling his collecting tin, wearing his trademark tartan trews and medals in the city centre.

*Read more on page 7*

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## Plans for the new book festival venue lodged

The Edinburgh International Book Festival (EIBF) moved from Charlotte Square where it had put down roots, and audiences

became used to muddy grass and interruptions from the fireworks at the end of the Tattoo each night.

Now that the former Royal infirmary on Lauriston Place has been refurbished and has become the Edinburgh Futures Institute – part of the University of Edinburgh – it will become the new home in August for the EIBF and you can see the new layout below as tweeted by the fabulous SSC\_Edinburgh.

*Plans submitted for the Edinburgh International Book Festival's new location at Edinburgh Futures Institute:*  
<https://t.co/JDyIU2CJ3e> [pic.twitter.com/Zip3FFukEm](https://t.co/Zip3FFukEm)

– SSC Edinburgh (@EdinburghSSC) [April 30, 2024](#)

## New cygnets spotted

Young birds and fledglings are a sure sign that spring is moving into summer. This family of swans with their cygnets were enjoying the sunshine yesterday.

[More photos here.](#)





30/4/2024

Picture Alan Simpson Cygnets at on the Union Canal



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## **Edinburgh Art Festival – new trustees**

Edinburgh Art Festival (EAF) has recruited five new trustees to its board as it prepares to celebrate its 20th birthday this year from 9 to 25 August.

Joining Chair Gemma Cairney, Co-Chair Beth Bate and Trustees Lucy Askew, Sheila Irvine and Rachel Maclean are writer, facilitator and radical Jj Fadaka, artist, poet and author Tanatsei Gambura, London Gallery Weekend Managing Director Emily Lennox, communications director Rachel Mapplebeck and Design Museum Head of Philanthropy Rosheen Murray.





Jj Fadaka PHOTO Matthew Arthur Williams





Rachel Mapplebeck PHOTO David Levine



Emily Lennox PHOTO Nabeel Khan



Rosheen Murray PHOTO Rachel Orphan



Tanatsei Gambura by Ellie Morag