

Five things you need to know today

Today there is a splash of politics, with some more news about Summerhall and a date for your diary with the Edinburgh Canal Festival coming up on 15 June as well as dinner on the Flower Moon.

Government declares a housing emergency – six months after Edinburgh Council

This was supported by Scottish Labour for the second time in six months. Mark Griffin Labour MSP for Central Scotland said that he moved for the parliament to declare a housing emergency supported by housing charity Shelter. Mr Griffin said: “Every 16 minutes, one household becomes homeless. Around 10,000 children are now in temporary accommodation. Three more councils have declared housing emergencies and more are likely to follow.”

Councillor Jane Meagher, Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Convener, said: “It has been six and a half months since we declared Edinburgh’s housing emergency and in that time our funding from the Scottish Government has been slashed and homelessness has risen.

“It is astounding that it has taken Parliament so long to

recognise this as a national emergency, but I welcome the move. To declare a housing emergency on a Scotland-wide scale points to changed priorities for government.

“I do hope this also signals a rethink on funding for affordable housebuilding and a better housing system that works for everyone. We would be delighted to work with the government in doing the right thing and listening to the ever-growing voice that is saying: housing must be its priority.

“As the only council in Scotland to develop an action plan in response to our local housing emergency we look forward to supporting the government on its response.”

[Read more here.](#)

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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

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the Edinburgh Reporter

May 2024

EDINBURGH'S WEEKLY NEWS PAPER... 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 trows and medals in the city centre.

[Read more on page 7](#)

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Summerhall

The story of Summerhall, the former Dick Vet, being put up for sale has attracted a lot of comment – and some action.

At today's Culture and Communities Committee Cllr Finlay McFarlane has lodged an emergency motion asking that the council "opens a dialogue with the current owner and management of Summerhall to ascertain what support the city council can offer that would help secure the sustainability and future of Summerhall and its vibrant programme of events, community projects, visual arts and exhibitions with an update brought to the August Culture and Communities Committee"

[Watch the Culture and Communities Committee live from 10am here.](#)

There is a petition to Preserve Summerhall as a Cultural Hub in Edinburgh [here](#) signed by around 6,000 people in just under two days.

There is also a Reddit petition to Save Summerhall [here.](#)

Full Moon Dinners



The Secret Garden is hosting a full moon dinner in their

glasshouse with candlelight on 24 May 2024 when there will be a Flower Moon. “The Full Moon in May is known as the Flower Moon because of the abundance of flowers that grow in the Northern Hemisphere at this time of year.”

The price is £75 per person.

[More details here.](#)

Canal Festival



The 2024 Edinburgh Canal Festival is free and will take place on 15 June 2024 featuring local businesses, organisations, and local community groups operating on or near the canal. Mark your diary now. .

Rachel Sedman, Development Manager of FCCT says, “What a lot we have in store for 2024!!! There’s so much to see and do it’s hard to pick out our highlights.. Watch the Canoe Polo at the Lochrin Basin. Find out about some of the great local charities and social enterprises at the Leamington Liftbridge. Learn about how you can live more sustainably and help environmental causes by visiting our partners at Fountainbridge Green. There’s tons of family fun at Harrison Park East, whilst Harrison Park West showcases great groups

that operate outdoors. As your local Community Development Trust, our aim is to make the local area a better place to live, work, do business and visit. Fountainbridge Canalside Community Trust, together with the non-profit organizations, charities and local businesses featured, invites everyone to join in on this uplifting celebration of community and canalside. So come on down, enjoy the day and show your support.”

A full programme and map are available on our website – www.edinburghcanalfestival.org.uk – and there are regular updates on social media channels – <https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghCanalFest> and <https://www.instagram.com/fcctedinburgh>