

Five things you need to know today

Planning matters

The council remains on recess for another week but the planning process continues.

The latest planning weekly list is [here](#) where you will read about applications in North Edinburgh, firstly for the Madelvic building in Granton where planners are asked to grant permission for the former Wireworks building to be turned into 28 townhouses with a new roof, an application for improvements at West Pilton Park where they will install a new skatepark and a community growing space, and new electric vehicle charging points at The Village Hotel on Crewe Road South.



The former Production Block at Madelvic House in Granton. ©

Coming up at Out of the Blue

Out of the Blue on Dalmeny Street is now 30 years old. The celebrations are going on all year long and there is a full programme of activities including exhibitions, classes workshops and a flea market in August.

[Read more here.](#)

Cultural news

The festivals and Fringe are almost upon us. The opening event of the Edinburgh International Festival will be held over three nights at George Heriot's School on Lauriston Place. There are still some tickets left for the outdoor event and you can [find out more here.](#)



Portobello pollution

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) report that

they have been unable to identify the source of the high bacteria reading in the analysis of bathing water at Portobello at the beginning of the month. This led to immediate closure of Portobello Beach – although only for a short time.

At Portobello, long-term sampling and microbial source tracking (MST) analysis has shown that the three main sources of pollution tend to be human, dog and gull. SEPA officers checked Scottish Water assets in the area, as well as other potential sources, but no signs of pollution were detected. If the high result had been caused by sewage a clear MST indication of human would be expected.

Vicki White, SEPA Senior Manager in Environmental Performance, said: “The fact that a follow-up sample taken on Thursday 11th July showed water quality was already back to normal indicates this was a short-lived event that had no lasting impact.

“Microbial source tracking can be very helpful in identifying a source, but in this case our analysis of this one sample has not been able to identify one. However, these results – combined with the fact our officers found no issues when we checked Scottish Water assets in the area – does indicate that this was not a sewage related incident.

“While this single result cannot give us a definite answer, it is a good reminder to clear up litter, as food sources can cause gulls to gather in large numbers. Picking up after your dog is another simple things people can do to help protect water quality – and make a beach visit more pleasant for other visitors.

“Water sampling will be ongoing throughout the bathing season as part of routine testing, and we will continue to investigate any high bacterial results and take actions to tackle any pollution sources identified.”

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Timely tribute

Floral Clock marks two centuries of life saving

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People's choice

Exhausting electioneering is almost over

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Royal mural

Chris creates lasting memory of Edinburgh 900

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Show stoppers

Liam laments dearth of July activity before the Fringe

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Olympic hopes

Local hockey players heading to Paris 2024

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the Edinburgh Reporter

July 2024

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



The Eric Liddell Community

Gold Standard

City marks the centenary of The Flying Scotsman

By PHYLLIS STEPHEN

IT WILL BE 100 YEARS this month since athlete and missionary, Eric Liddell, won an Olympic gold medal in Paris. The story of his victory was the real-life inspiration for the film, *Chariots of Fire*, and he was not only a sprinter, but also a rugby player, winning seven caps for Scotland and working as a Christian missionary in China.

While he studied at the University of Edinburgh he also played sport for his country - although he had been born in Qing China where his Scottish parents were missionaries.

At the 1924 Olympics he would not run in the heats for the 100 metres race as these were held on a Sunday when he did not play sport. He then competed in the 400 metres heat held on a weekday, and - even though this was not "his" distance - he won.

His name has been given to The Eric Liddell Community (ELC) at Holy Corner which will celebrate the life of their namesake with a series of events this month. ELC is a registered care charity based at Holy Corner where they provide specialist dementia care and help people to overcome loneliness and isolation. The charity, which has HRH The Princess Royal as patron, has begun a fundraising campaign during this year to help them continue with their important work.

Read more on page 5

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Northern delights

Awesome aurora
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Class of 99

Boyack reflects
on 25 years at Holyrood

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Star struck

No negativity for snapper
looking back on his life

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Looking ahead

The Royal infirmary has
new lease of life

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Job vacancy

Hibs could look close
to home for new boss

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the Edinburgh Reporter

June 2024

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



Thomas Haywood Photography

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

IT IS NOW TEN YEARS since Edinburgh Trams began running the passenger service

from Edinburgh Airport to York Place. Actually on the first day the service began at the Gyle Stop with many people trying to be the first passengers to get on board.

Edinburgh Trams have now carried more than 60 million passengers in the last decade on a fleet of 27 trams and employ around 300 people in Edinburgh. Except during Covid

tram income has risen year on year. In 2014 the half year income was £4.782 million and this rose to £23.9 million in 2023.

More about Edinburgh Trams on page 7

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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

Pages 18-19

Lothian at large

Local sporting heroes in the spotlight

Pages 20-21

the Edinburgh Reporter

May 2024

EDINBURGH'S FREE WEEKLY 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 Oor 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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Eco-nomy class

School pupils put learning into action
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Fringe benefits

Adult learners lose out to new festival buzz
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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
Page 20

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 STEPHEN

TRADITIONAL DANCE will take centre stage during the Pongonates 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.

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

Some of the highlights include a family day with a variety of activities for all led by Caroline Brockbank of Caribbids, and a mature showcase by traditional dance artists who are in residence at Edinburgh primary schools, and Bulgarian and Christian language schools in the capital.

Shona Neilson, Festival Producer and Curator of the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland said: "It is so satisfying to see that the pongonates edby 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 restrictions, we were inspired by a poem by Ian MacMillan that captured the zeitgeist."

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Hopeful Hilda

Ninety-nine-year-old
supports charity boss
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Bross rebrand

Over her skis
but not offski
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Ritchie revival

Late author's play
to be staged
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Eating out

March madness of
foodie discounts
Pages 12-13

Cut the mustard

Rugby stalwart's
retiral celebration
Page 22

the Edinburgh Reporter

March 2024

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



Paolozzi pitch perfect

Leith artist carves out new look for Athletic

By STEPHEN RAFFERTY

THE LEGACY OF world famous artist and Leither Eduardo Paolozzi is helping to support the work of a local football club for which it is believed members of his family played.

The eye-catching special edition Paolozzi football shirt was launched to increase community awareness of Leith Athletic and to raise funds for the launch of girls and women's teams.

The initial run sold out immediately and a new edition - produced on the 100th anniversary of Paolozzi's birth on 7 March - is being shipped worldwide as fans and collectors from as far away as Australia, Brazil, America and The Netherlands, snap up the shirt.

Paolozzi, widely credited as the father of pop art, was born in Leith in 1924 to Italian immigrants and after graduating from the Edinburgh School of Art, became established as a sought-after sculptor, designer, printmaker and in later life, a teacher and academic.

Knighted in 1989, Paolozzi later donated a large body of his work and the contents of his studio to The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. Members of Leith Athletic's fledgling girls' squad (left) visited the Modern Two gallery on Belford Road to experience the "Paolozzi at 100" free exhibition which runs until Sunday 21 April.

Full story on Page 7

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Dashing deeds

Student flats appeal has council on hop

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Pavilion pallava

Budget cuts deepen eye hospital crisis

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Shawfair shock

New gym not fit for purpose claims

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Chief cosies up

More questions for Police Scotland boss

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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

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