

# Five things you need to know today

## SEPTEMBER

Our Five things you need to know today article will come back after the planned rest during August... slowly. As it can be quite a labour intensive article to produce we plan to write a weekly roundup of news on a Monday for now. This month is a particularly busy one with a lot going on behind the scenes.

We have recently invested in The Edinburgh Reporter website and hope you have noticed the difference. For everyone it should now be quicker to load – and we believe it is easier to navigate. We have turned off some of the Google ads to make these less intrusive. This work continues to improve the user experience.

Of course the reduction in income will have to be boosted in other ways. [Please do support us by buying a scone for the production team here.](#) It helps us keep going and prevents us having to introduce any paywall. Support local independent journalism and buy a monthly newspaper or book your business advertising with us. Click on the image below.

Businesses can send us their news [here](#) – or book advertising [here](#).

**Leith longevity**

A new plan may save Custom House for years to come  
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**All aboard**

Transport boss takes the wheel at the City Chambers  
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**Slava Ukraini**

Edinburgh women protecting art and culture  
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**Hot stuff**

Constitution Street restaurant serves coal-fired dining  
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**Rugby centenary**

Broughton celebrate 100 years of rucks and scrums  
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# the Edinburgh Reporter

September 2024

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



## Meet Cleo the cheetah

Alan Davidson

### Spot the new cool cat at the Zoo

By GEORGE MAIR

**THE FESTIVALS** are just finished for this year, but it may be timely to remind you of the 2023 Funniest Joke of the Fringe. This was written by Lorna Rose Treen: "I started dating a zookeeper but it turned out he was a cheetah."

Visitors to Edinburgh Zoo can now easily spot a real live cheetah for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century – after the new star attraction was recently introduced to the Edinburgh public.

Cleo, a five-year-old Northeast African cheetah, has arrived at the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland (RZSS) from Fota Wildlife Park near Cork in Ireland.

The majestic big cat – the first of her kind at the zoo since 2000 – spent time getting used to her new surroundings before finally going on show to visitors.

Plans are already being made to add a male later this year, with hopes of the first cubs next year.

Donald Gow, Living Collections Operations Manager at RZSS, said: "We are delighted to finally be able to introduce visitors to our new cheetah, Cleo."

"This spectacular and elegant big cat just arrived in Edinburgh and has spent a good few days just settling into her new surroundings."

"We've had a lot of interest from our members and visitors already."

"We know she will be a very popular addition to our collection of fascinating, beautiful and iconic animals."

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# THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT RESUMES

Parliament resumes this week. Chamber business begins with the usual time for reflection on Tuesday at 2 pm and includes **First Minister's Questions** (with British Sign Language – BSL – interpreting) at **12 noon on Thursday**. Business will also include:

## Tuesday 3 September 2024

**Community cohesion** (Ministerial statement)

**Scottish Government pre-budget fiscal update** (Ministerial statement)

**Gender identity healthcare for young people – update and new national standards**(Ministerial statement)

**Clyde and Hebrides ferries – provision, service and harbours update** (Ministerial statement)

**Mobile phones and behaviour and relationships in school** (Ministerial statement)

## Wednesday 4 September 2024

**Programme for Government 2024-25** (First Minister's statement)

**Programme for Government 2024-25** (Scottish Government debate)

**Tackling the misuse of off-road vehicles** (Members' business)

## Thursday 5 September 2024

**Programme for Government – eradicating child poverty** (Scottish Government debate)

Details will be published in the [Business Bulletin](#).

[Committee business](#) will take place on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, but all business is subject to change at short notice.

You can watch meetings live on [SPTV](#). The transcript of what is said will be available in the [Official Report](#) and the videos will be available in the [SPTV archive](#).

The Scottish Government will lay down its Programme for Government with “plans to deliver a wealthier, fairer and greener Scotland despite difficult financial challenges”.

The First Minister is to outline his first programme since taking office, laying out how the Scottish Government will focus on improving the lives of the people of Scotland.

First Minister John Swinney said: “Against a challenging financial backdrop this year’s Programme for Government will set out clear actions to deliver real change for the people of Scotland.

“The Prime Minister was clear last week that the UK Budget, to be delivered in October, will be painful, and the reality is that the UK’s finances will inevitably affect the funding available to us here in Scotland. Their decisions mean tough decisions ahead for Scotland.

“Yet despite this the Scottish Government will continue to prioritise action to eradicate child poverty, to grasp the opportunities of delivering net zero and to grow the economy by investing in public services and infrastructure. While we will work with the UK Government wherever we can, we will continue to urge them to drop the damaging cuts and set new spending rules that support investment.

“The Scottish Government already has a strong track record of improving lives in challenging circumstances. We have delivered an expansion of funded childcare, record investment in the NHS, renewable energy development, and the introduction of the Scottish Child Payment, which are strong foundations for this year’s Programme for Government.

“Even when faced with unprecedented budgetary constraints, our

aim will be to improve people's lives by focusing on clear priorities that make the biggest difference."

## AT THE CITY CHAMBERS THIS WEEK

There are not many committee meetings open to the public this week, but probably the most important is the [Education Committee](#) on Tuesday. The council's education convener says she is facing making cuts of up to £40 million in the next three years to the education budget amid "the devastation in local government funding". The council sets its budget in February each year, but there will be constant discussion at committees until then.

Monday, 2 September, 2024

NO MEETINGS

Tuesday, 3 September, 2024

- [10.00 am Education, Children and Families Committee](#) – Dean of Guild Court Room – City Chambers
- [2.00 pm Edinburgh Partnership](#) – Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, 4 September, 2024

- [10.00 am Development Management Sub-Committee](#) – Dean of Guild Court Room – City Chambers

Thursday, 5 September, 2024

NO MEETINGS

Friday, 6 September, 2024

[10.00 am Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee](#) – Virtual Meeting – via Microsoft Teams

# HIDDEN DOOR HAVE BIG NEWS

The team at Hidden Door Festival have secured a “huge new venue” and all will be revealed soon. If you would like to be among the first to know then you have to join the [Friends of Hidden Door](#) scheme today.

Benefits of being a friend include:

- being **the first to hear** about our new venue
- **early access** to exclusive events
- **regular newsletters** with advance announcements
- **10% discount** on tickets with priority booking
- the opportunity to donate to a **cause you love**
- **flexibility** to pay monthly or annually
- **25% Gift Aid boost** for UK taxpayers on their contribution
- a special ‘**Friends of Hidden Door**’ pin badge





Hidden Door held their 10th birthday party in the St James Quarter car park PHOTO Chris Scott

## Adult Education – new venue

The Adult Education Centre at South Bridge Resource Centre is now closed as it is being taken over and developed as a hub for the [Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society](#). One of the replacement venues will be the Nelson Hall on Bernard Terrace just up from Summerhall.

The venue is fully accessible and has a lift to the upper floor. Book classes by phoning 0131 556 7978 or [click here](#) for more information on chair yoga or painting, Latin Dance therapy or singing for fun. Click on the image below for more details.



# **Edinburgh Adult Education Programme**