

# Five things you need to know today

## Public meeting in South Queensferry on Wednesday evening

On Wednesday night Scottish Liberal Democrat leader, Alex Cole Hamilton who is the MSP for Edinburgh Western – the area which includes South Queensferry is holding a second public meeting at Rosebery Hall on the High Street at 7pm.

The purpose is to update his constituents on any progress with dealing with so called boy racers who had in the summer been causing a nuisance to residents and business owners near the Hawes Pier.

He will no doubt explain his recent demand of the government to give the power to local authorities in Scotland to install and operate speed cameras in their areas.

A [preliminary meeting was held in September](#), also called by the Liberal Democrat leader, and he promised then to [convene a second](#) before Christmas. Following the September meeting, Mr Cole-Hamilton raised the matter at First Minister's Questions at Holyrood.

He took advantage of his single question to First Minister, John Swinney, demanding a national task force to address the issue which is said to happen all over the country.

Mr Cole-Hamilton said in parliament: "Presiding Officer, last night I chaired a packed town hall meeting in South Queensferry.

"For four years, my constituents have had their quality of

life destroyed by hundreds of high performance, illegally modified cars and motorbikes racing around their beautiful town.

“The drivers of these vehicles will abuse and intimidate anyone who approaches them where they gather, in the car park at the foot of the iconic Forth Bridge. Pets have been killed, hotels have lost trade, nobody is getting any sleep.

“Residents like pensioner Andy Scott are really worried about road safety.

“In fact, just as our meeting was concluding, there was a [collision](#) right outside our venue with a motorcyclist rushed to hospital. Police are appealing for information about that.

“The racing and antisocial behaviour is happening in Inverness, parts of Glasgow, Crail, many other areas.

“Will the First Minister meet with me and agree to establish a national taskforce to establish and examine what more can be done to address this criminal behaviour that is blighting so many lives?”

### [Cole Hamilton raises South Queensferry issue in parliament](#)

The First Minister replied: “First, I am very sorry to hear of the circumstances in South Queensferry. It is a beautiful part of our country and an iconic location, and I am sorry that members of the public are experiencing what they are experiencing.

“The Government engages substantively on the question of road safety. The Cabinet Secretary for Transport has been briefing Cabinet on her concerns about road fatalities, which are a very serious and current problem, so that issue is very much on the Cabinet’s agenda. I am very happy to have discussions with Mr Cole-Hamilton on the subject and to determine what

further action can be taken.

“The incident last night that Alex Cole-Hamilton raised will have involved police interaction, and I am sure that the police will have been involved in other instances of that kind. I am happy to host discussions to see what more can be done to address the situation.

“There may be some legislative issues that may be worth considering. I fear that some of those will not be within our areas of responsibility because they are road traffic issues, but I am happy to explore all possibilities.”

Mr Cole-Hamilton also raised the matter of anti-social behaviour in the Royal Burgh again [just last month in Holyrood.](#)

This is what he said then: “I thank all those members who are present for the debate, and all those who have signed the motion. In addition, I thank various national media outlets for their abundant interest in this story, which was—I think—sparked by the question that I asked of John Swinney at First Minister’s question time some weeks ago. I am also grateful to him for his offer of a meeting, which will take place tomorrow; I will say a bit more about that in my remarks.

“Before I get into the substance of the motion, I pay tribute to my constituents in the beautiful town of South Queensferry. It is a town that needs no introduction—it is an iconic United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization world heritage site in the shadow of the three bridges that cross the Forth estuary. However, that community has been blighted, and those resilient and welcoming people are having their lives blighted, too.

“I make it clear from the outset that this is not an assault or an attack on young people or on motor enthusiasts, many of whom will go about their pastimes in a law-abiding way. I

think back to when I was 16; my best friend was something of a petrolhead and owned a Honda 50cc. We would tinker around with it in his garage and use it to ride around the fields behind his house. The fastest that we could get it to go was about 30mph—I still have the scar tissue from the falls that I took, and the parental rebuke is still ringing in my ears.

“I understand, therefore, the thrill of acceleration and the draw of any type of engine. However, there is a massive difference between having an interest in cars or bikes, and what is currently going on in many parts of Scotland, nowhere more so than in the town of South Queensferry in my constituency.

“For four years, my constituents have had their quality of life destroyed by hundreds of high-performance cars and motorbikes, some of which have been illegally modified, racing around their beautiful town. The drivers of those vehicles will congregate from all parts of Scotland, and some will even abuse, intimidate and harass anyone who dares to approach them to complain. That is happening in the car park at the foot of the iconic Forth bridge—a UNESCO world heritage site.

“The drivers will often gather and honk their horns throughout the night to assert their presence. They will perform wheel spins in a stationary position, until the whole area is drenched in acrid tyre smoke, before racing off on a circuit that takes in most of the town. The doctored braking systems and exhausts mean that everyone can hear the machine-gun effect of the backfires all over town. Pets have been killed, and hotels have lost trade because their customers cannot sleep—in fact, nobody is getting any sleep.

“In September, I chaired a packed town-hall meeting in Queensferry, where I brought together high-ranking officials from the council, other elected representatives and the new chief inspector of police in Edinburgh’s north-west locality. I am very grateful for their continued interest and activity

around the issue. Most importantly, we gathered together to hear about the lived experience of my constituents.

“I say that the meeting was packed—it was absolutely rammed. It was standing room only, and people who arrived slightly late had to turn away because they could not get into the building. These people are practically on their knees from the exhaustion and misery that has been caused by this antisocial racing, which is why I chose to raise the issue with the First Minister in the chamber the very next day.

“I am glad that, since attention has been brought to the issue in South Queensferry, the problem has abated for some time, but there are signs that it is picking up again, so we need solutions. One such solution, which I am calling on the Government to adopt, feels like an easy win.

“Unlike councils in England, Scottish local authorities do not have the power to install and operate speed cameras in their areas; that is currently the preserve of the police. The Scottish Parliament could, with some speed, change the law to allow councils to have that power. At a stroke, that would allow the City of Edinburgh Council to install cameras along the length of the Queensferry racing circuit. Not only would the fines that would be accrued from the cameras pay for their installation and upkeep; those cameras would generate additional revenue that could be invested in additional road-safety measures.

“We also need a dedicated, named police operation in South Queensferry. I was reflecting earlier on the success of operation Soteria, which—perhaps eight years ago now—successfully curtailed illegal motorbike racing in the north-west of Edinburgh, in particular around Muirhouse and Drylaw. The operation addressed that racing by bringing together, through the stronger north initiative that existed at the time, interested stakeholders such as youth work professionals, elected members and community councillors,

until we had created a fabric of intervention that completely addressed the issue.”

After a couple of interventions he said: “I pay tribute to the efforts of the police in my locality, because they do their best to respond to the neighbours. Often, however, when they approach antisocial drivers, those drivers are on their best behaviour and are trying not to exhibit, in any way, behaviour that would involve any kind of offence that can be actioned. We need, therefore, to be proactive and preventative in dealing with the situation.

“Before I finish, I want to recognise that the hard work of the police and of local authorities in tackling such behaviour, in particular antisocial driving, is on-going. This behaviour is not happening in isolation—I was not the first person to identify it, and it would be wrong to suggest otherwise. I also applaud the silent crime campaign for its work in raising awareness of these issues.

“Nevertheless, it is clear that we need to change our approach if we are to win the battle. That starts with cross-party work and a national task force, and with preventative solutions, some of which we will—I hope—hear about tonight.”

As before it is expected that council officers from the transport department, councillors and community councillors, Police Scotland and any interested members of the public will attend.

[The Edinburgh Reporter may take issue with Mr Cole-Hamilton over his praise of **national** media for their coverage of this issue – we believe that we broke the story first and others followed.. ]

## King Creosote at the Usher Hall

If you are quick you might get the last few tickets for King Creosote who is playing the Usher Hall in a postponed gig on 23 December. There are scattered seats available.

The Fifer, Kenny Anderson, known as King Creosote will play tracks from his latest full length album I DES, which is the first release for seven years.

He was supposed to play last month but had to stop the gig due to problems with the sound system. [Tickets here.](#)

(And if that is not your bag then Phill Cunningham's Christmas Songbook is on at Queen's Hall – with just a few tickets left for dates from 19 to 22 December.)



## **The Men of Leith Men's Shed**

This is one way to avoid social isolation and get involved. This organisation which operates from the Heart of Newhaven Community is now in its eighth year, and runs workshop activities including the music group, repair shed, cycling group, and the lunch shed. The men's shed group says that "Research proves that men who connect with other men in the community live happier healthier lives".

If you are interested in finding out about membership then phone 0751 077 2359 or [there are other contact details here.](#)

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<b>LibDems lament</b> Fury over election resignation fiasco Page 5	<b>Granton go ahead</b> Coastal town plans approved Page 6	<b>Hogmanay hoolie</b> New Year parties around town Page 12 and 13	<b>Ruddy marvellous</b> Liam's panto round up Page 18 and 19	<b>Lothian at large</b> Bill's best of local sport Page 20 and 21
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# the Edinburgh Reporter

December 2024

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



## Santa's on track

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

**ALL ABOARD THE TRAM** to get to the city centre for Christmas fun. Santa's in town ready to meet children just next to the tram stop in the Piccolo Spiegeltent in St Andrew Square, where there will be stories, a letter writing station and a post box to send any missives direct to Santa's workshop.

The newest attraction in Edinburgh is the Christmas Tree Maze which is one of the UK's largest illuminated Christmas tree trails. Step free access but anyone who wants to explore the maze is advised to buy a ticket in advance – and remember the EH postcode discount.

A spokesperson for producers, UniqueAssembly, said: "Edinburgh's Christmas is finally here, and with a seven-week programme packed full of family favourites, this year promises to be one of the biggest and best ever. Whether sipping on cool cocktails in our brand new Ice Bar, enjoying a festive treat at the Coorie Inn or showing off your skating skills on the Ice Rink, there's something for everyone at Edinburgh's Christmas."

[edwinterfest.com/edinburgh-christmas/](http://edwinterfest.com/edinburgh-christmas/)

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<b>Causey chaos</b> Public project not squaring up Page 4	<b>Demarco drama</b> Concerns over festival archive Page 9	<b>Christmas cool</b> Festive favourites and new attractions Page 12-13	<b>Rudden's round-up</b> Liam's must-see theatre picks Page 18-19	<b>Making a Marko</b> Wanderer's youth programme success Page 20
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By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

**THE PANTO IS BACK** Oh yes it is. Allan Stewart is playing a woman once more, this time, Faerie May. He said: "It was the first panto I did at the Glasgow Pavilion in 1975! Mummy, did he say 1975?... he's very old isn't he, Mummy? Yes! But wait till you see the legs. They are the legs of a 20 year old..." Local "Big Tidy", Grant Stott, is also back for his 30th pantomime year, playing Baroness Hibernia Fortuna. He said: "It's just great to be back together with you all at this magical time of year. As always, please boo and hiss at will." His fellow River City cast member, and panto regular, Jordan Young, will add to the fun as Buttons. Cinderella is on at Festival Theatre 23 November to 31 December, and there will be real ponies on the stage.

capitaltheatres.com

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Click on the image above to read the November issue of The Edinburgh Reporter



**Careless council**

Staff overpaid to  
tune of £2.4m  
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**Makar Michael**

Scribbler writes  
new chapter  
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**Dining disaster**

Faulty service  
on the menu  
Page 10-11

**Attention!**

Charity helps vets  
back to Civvy Street  
Page 12-13

**Postie checks-in**

Darts star aims  
for top ranking  
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# the Edinburgh Reporter

October 2024

EDINBURGH'S FREE L

READ FROM START TO FINISH



## Paolozzi pops up in Port

By **PHYLLIS STEPHEN**

**A NEW MURAL OF** Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, has been created by former Glasgow School of Art student, Halla Groves-Raines. The artwork is

in place on Henderson Street, and depicts the artist in his later years. It replaces a younger black and white image of the Leith born artist commissioned by Leith Late in 2014. The new image is in the pop art style which Paolozzi

was best known for. His work encompassed a wide range of creativity from the mosaics at Tottenham Court Road tube station in London, to The Manuscript of Monte Cassino commissioned by fellow Leithers, Sir Tom

Farmer, which sits on Picardy Place outside St Mary's Cathedral. The artist's studio is recreated at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art which staged a small exhibition marking Paolozzi's 100th birthday this year.

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**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  
Pages 12-13

**Hot stuff**

Constitution Street restaurant serves coal-fired dining  
Page 17

**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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### Murray moves in

Secretary of State gets his feet under the table

Page 4

### Mama mia

Bagels boss calls time in Portobello

Page 9

### All aboard

Harburn model shop on the right track

Page 14

### Patina perfection

Charlie checks out Edinburgh Park bakery and café

Page 16

### Howzat!

Cheeky swaps cricket bat for surfboard

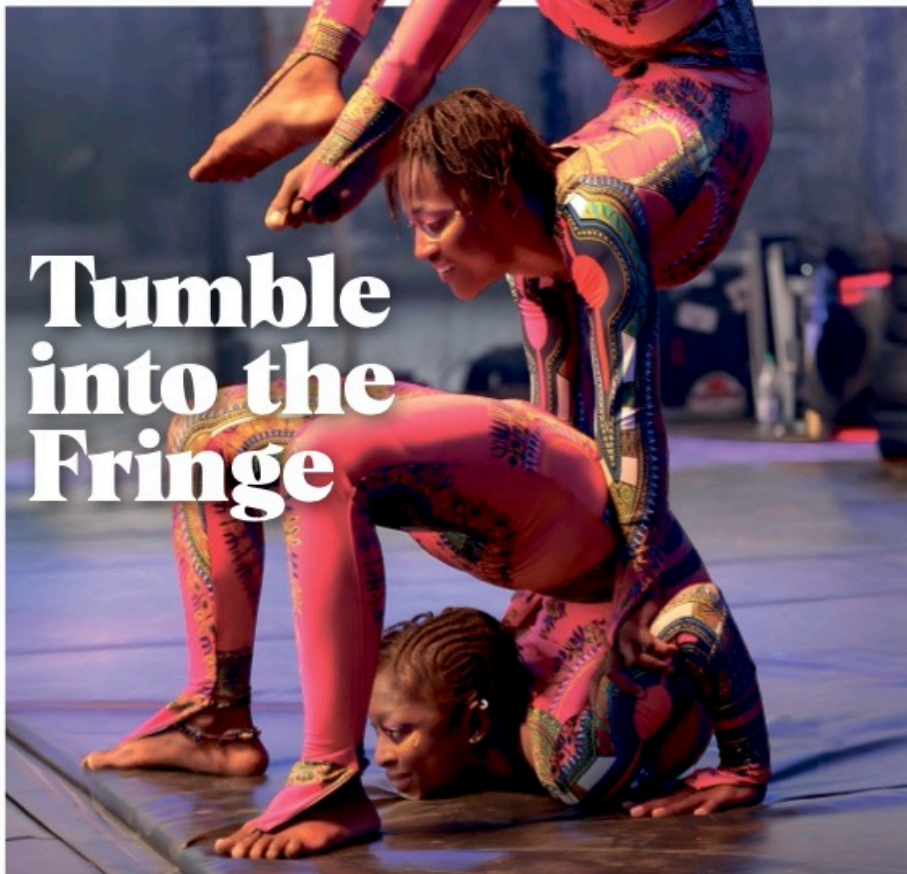
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# the Edinburgh Reporter

August 2024

EDINBURGH'S FROM START TO FINISH

## Tumble into the Fringe



### Time for the show to begin

By PHYLLIS STEPHEN

ONE OF ASSEMBLY'S top selling shows of 2023, *Afrique en Cirque*, pictured left, returns to wow Fringe audiences once more with their daring acrobatics sharing the beauty and artistry of African culture.

This sell-out is a dazzling circus spectacular and promises a show-stopping night out for the whole family. Created by Yamoussa Bangoura, the show is inspired by daily life in Guinea with a performance sharing the beauty, youth and artistry of African culture. The acrobats perform gravity-defying moves including human pyramids during the show.

Produced by Kalabanti Productions, it also includes afro-jazz, percussion and the Kora - a multi-stringed instrument used widely in West Africa.

Edinburgh in August is a bewildering cornucopia of entertainment. There will be 3,317 shows in Edinburgh Festival Fringe alone - without thinking of all the other festivals. One way to ensure value for money during August is to subscribe to the new paid membership, Love The Fringe. This new scheme has been created in a collaboration between several venues, producers and acts. Starting from £20 the subscriptions offer access to ticket deals and discounts at Festival bars as well as local businesses including pubs and restaurants. [Edfest.com/love-the-fringe](http://Edfest.com/love-the-fringe).

It can be daunting trying to choose what to see - read more inside where you will find our recommendations and suggestions.

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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

Page 18-19

**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  
was something to see

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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

Pages 12-13

### 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  
Page 7

**Fringe benefits**

Adult learners lose out to new festival buzz  
Page 8

**Cinema calamity**

Art deco building at risk of demolition claims  
Page 6

**Full of beans**

Marchmont coffee shop worth the detour  
Page 11

**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 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 Ukrainian 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  
Page 8

**Ritchie revival**

Late author's play  
to be staged  
Page 9

**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

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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# 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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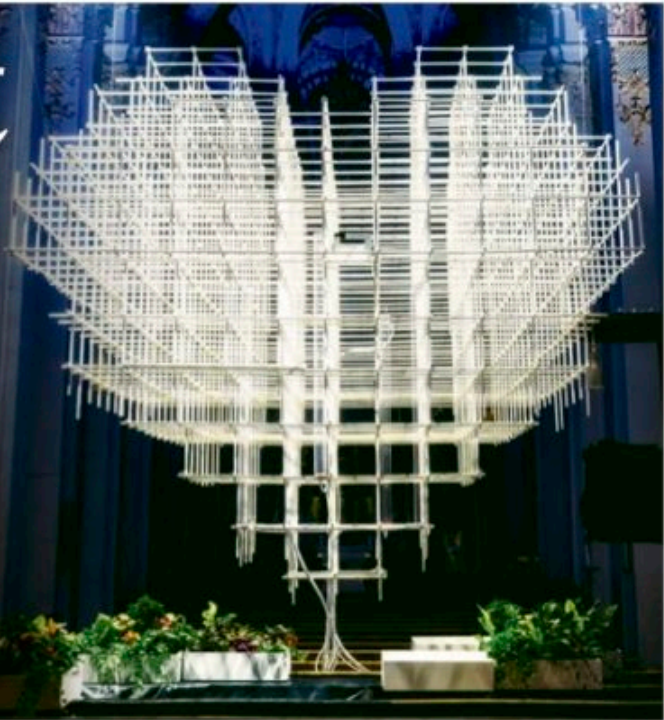
January 2024

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

## Heart and Soul



Gifted German artist  
Michael Pendry  
to once again  
transform  
St Giles' with  
his newest  
masterpiece



By PHYLLIS STEPHEN

**A NEW PUBLIC** sculpture created by German artist Michael Pendry, will be sited in St Giles' Cathedral later this month. 'HEART' makes its UK premiere in the

capital in a collaboration between the Burns&Beyond Festival and the St Giles' 900th.

The anniversary marks the founding of the cathedral, to be celebrated with events throughout 2024. This year HEART will light up the

cathedral with the very symbol of life itself, a new three-dimensional work measuring five metres tall, will transform the space with a ticketed evening illumination and soundscape for visitors. The installation will take ten days to build and will be a central part of

the Burns&Beyond Festival which takes place in the city from 25 January to 11 February. What better symbol for the festival which takes its inspiration from Robbie Burns and promotes 'Luv, hope and Kindness', than a heart?

*Continued on page four*

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## New President appointed at Royal



# Society of Edinburgh

Sir Anton Muscatelli has been appointed to the prestigious role of President of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE).

He will take over on 1 April next year, and has previously been Principal and Vice Chancellor of the University of Glasgow. His research areas cover monetary economics, central banking, fiscal policy and international trade and finance. He has been a special adviser to the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee on fiscal and monetary policy, and he is currently the Chair of Trustees of the Royal Economic Society and Academic co-Chair of the International Finance Forum.

Sir Anton is Italian born, and he was elected as a Fellow of the RSE in 2003. He is the first Fellow to be elected President to have been born outside the UK.

Other notable Italian Fellows of the RSE include Charles Piazzzi Smyth, astronomer and pioneer of early photography; geneticist Guido Pontecorvo; Manhattan Project member Enrico Fermi and Alessandro Volta, the inventor of the electric battery – from whom the term “voltage” is derived.

Sir Anton said: “It is an honour to be elected as President of the RSE. I greatly admire the institution and its mission, and the responsibility of leading it is one I take very seriously.

“Whether through its policy advice work or serving as a forum for having vital conversations about difficult subjects, the RSE has a key role to play in the future of Scotland.

“Through helping Scotland’s academic landscape to thrive through ongoing research funding, or its public engagement work with its *Curious* festival of knowledge, the RSE is ideally placed to be a benefit to all Scots, and I am relishing the opportunity to be a part of that noble endeavour.”

The role of President of the RSE is a pivotal one. As Scotland's National Academy, the RSE supports Scotland's research and academic community and civic society. This is achieved through public engagement, utilising the expertise of its many Fellows to draw up policy advice papers on various aspects of public life, and awarding funding to a wide range of academic researchers.

As President, Sir Anton will have responsibility for ensuring that the RSE continues to direct its resources towards these aims, as well as being a public voice for the RSE as a whole.

