

Five things you need to know today

The Royal Blind School in Edinburgh lit up the festive season with its annual Christmas show, A Race Across the world!

This year's production featured an exciting race between two teams, the Huskies and the Reindeers, competing in a thrilling journey to the North Pole, featuring special performances inspired by "The Beatles" and "ABBA." The spectacular show involved every pupil and staff member, celebrating the talent and creativity of a school where all pupils have complex disabilities.

Head of Learning, Lucy Chetty, who also had a starring role in the show, expressed her gratitude for everyone who made it happen, saying:

"Our annual school show is such an important highlight of the year for everyone connected to the Royal Blind School – pupils, parents, and staff. The team works tirelessly, with planning starting as far back as the summer, to ensure every single pupil is given the opportunity to take part in a way that celebrates their individuality and strengths. The show is written specifically with inclusivity in mind, and it's incredible to see the joy it brings to our community. The photos are fantastic, and we hope everyone who attended had a magical time."



EDINBURGH, UK – 12th December 2024: Royal Blind School perform 'Race across the world' for their 2024 Christmas Show. Two teams race across the world to get to Lapland for Christmas Eve. (Photograph: MAVERICK PHOTO AGENCY)

Labour cling on to power at the City Chambers

At the City Chambers on Thursday the ruling Labour group retained control with a new group leader elected as Council Leader. The new council leader was joining the meeting from 5,000 miles away and the former leader, Cammy Day joined the meeting online with his camera switched off.

When asked by Cllr Lesley Macinnes that the former leader be told to turn his camera on even for the vote, the Lord Provost declined the request. Cllr Day voted with the Labour group and the Tories and Liberal Democrats ensuring that Labour retained control 32 votes to 28.

Cllr Katrina Faccenda was the sole member of the Labour group who abstained from voting to keep the group in administration saying that: "We have failed in the last two and a half years. We do not have enough time here today to go through the ways in which we have failed.

"I am the only councillor who does not receive a Special Responsibility Allowance and so I am the only one who could make a dispassionate opinion." After the decision was made Cllr Faccenda said on X: "As if it wasn't enough that the former leader of Edinburgh Council felt it appropriate to attend council online, he left once the tight vote on the future administration was taken. An absolute disgrace".

The next full council meeting takes place in February to discuss the Tourist Tax.

Looking for a last minute gift?

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Or you could buy one for yourself...see our 2024 papers below – click on any of the top six images to read these issues in full.

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LibDems lament

Fury over election resignation fiasco
Page 5

Granton go ahead

Coastal town plans approved
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Hogmanay hoolie

New Year parties around town
Page 12 and 13

Ruddy marvellous

Liam's panto round up
Page 18 and 19

Lothian at large

Bill's best of local sport
Page 20 and 21

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 Spiegellent 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/

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Causey chaos

Public project not squaring up
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Demarco drama

Concerns over festival archive
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Christmas cool

Festive favourites and new attractions
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Rudden's round-up

Liam's must-see theatre picks
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Making a Marko

Wanderer's youth programme success
Page 20

the Edinburgh Reporter

November 2024

EDINBURGH'S ...ER...A CAPITAL READ FR...TART TO



Fairy Godmother of all pantos

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

Postic checks-in

Darts star aims for top ranking
Page 20

the Edinburgh Reporter

October 2024

EDINBURGH'S FREE LEITH LATE ART MURAL LEAD 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
Page 20

the Edinburgh Reporter

September 2024

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



Meet Cleo the cheetah

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

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Mama mia

Bagels boss calls time in Portobello

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All aboard

Harburn model shop on the right track

Page 14

Patina perfection

Charlie checks out Edinburgh Park bakery and café

Page 16

Howzat!

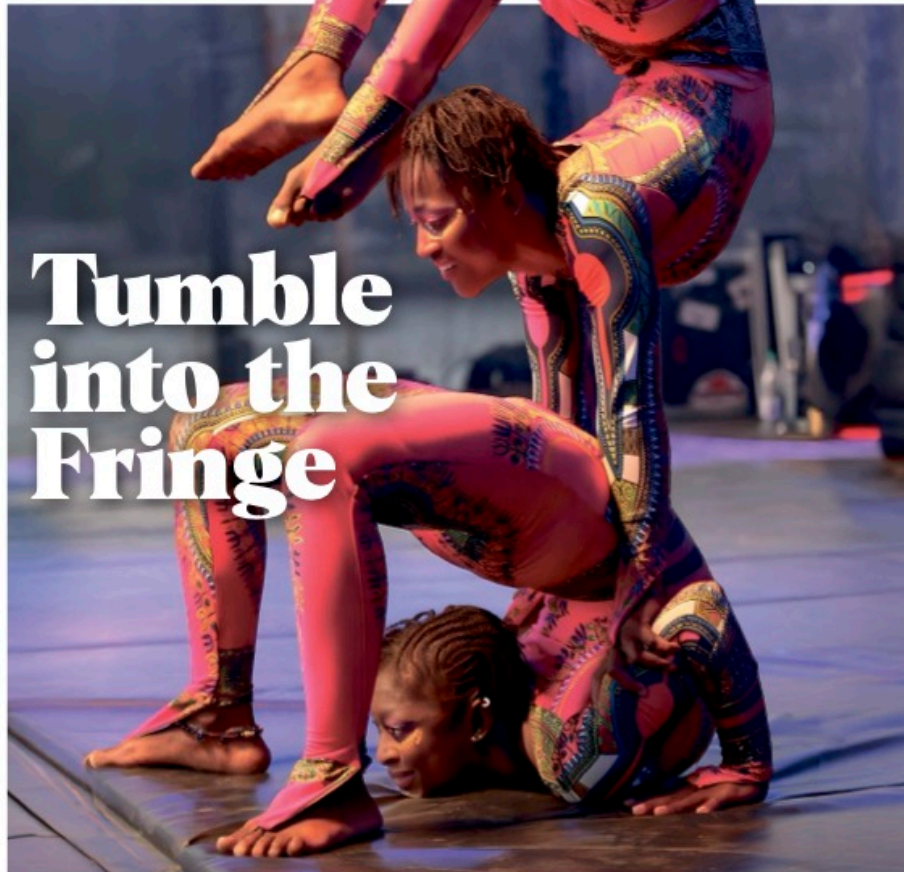
Cheeky swaps cricket bat for surfboard

Page 20

the Edinburgh Reporter

August 2024

EDINBURGH'S FRINGE 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.

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 death of July activity before the Fringe

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Olympic hopes

Local hockey players heading to Paris 2024

Page 22

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 PHYLIS 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
Pages 12-13

Looking ahead

The Royal infirmary has new lease of life
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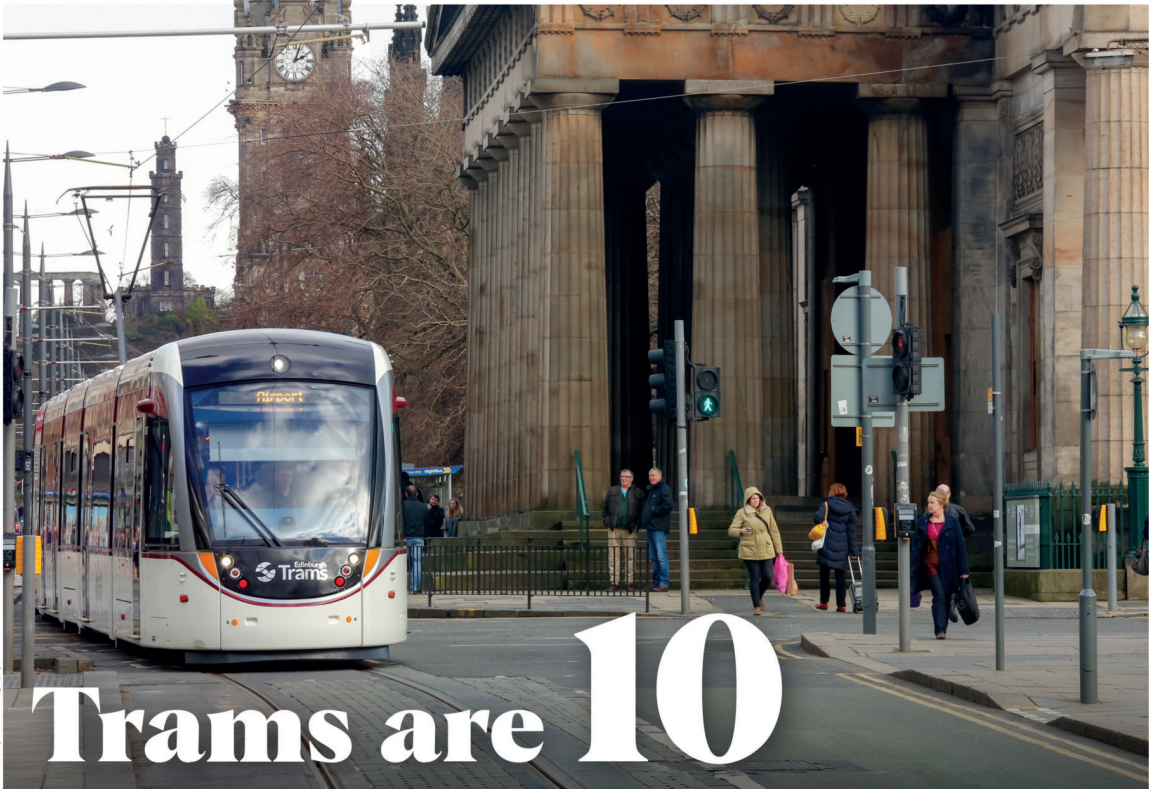
Job vacancy

Hibs could look close to home for new boss
Page 22

the Edinburgh Reporter

June 2024

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



Thomas Haywood Photography

Trams are 10

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
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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 hub
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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 27

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 DIXON

TRADITIONAL DANCE will take centre stage during the Pongopon 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.

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

Some of the highlights include a family day with a craft fair all led by Gairne Brockbank of Caidhfidh, and a matinee showcase by traditional dance artists who are in residence at Edinburgh primary schools, and Bulgarian and Christian language schools in the capital.

Syren Nerliova, Festival Producer and Curator of the Traditional Dance Forum of Scotland said: "It is so satisfying to see that the pongopon ruby 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 reconfigurations, we were inspired by a poem by Lee Min-Hwan 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
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Cut the mustard

Rugby stalwart's retirement celebration
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the Edinburgh Reporter

March 2024

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



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
Pages 12-13

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 firms 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 ceilidh, 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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Building brawl

Residents up in arms over three projects
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Kinky closure

Swingers' club appeals council order
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Festival furore

Funding rejection sends wrong signal
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Coffee notes

Charlie Ellis mugs up on capital bean scenes
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Barrie's back

Hearts midfielder on the mend
Page 21

the Edinburgh Reporter

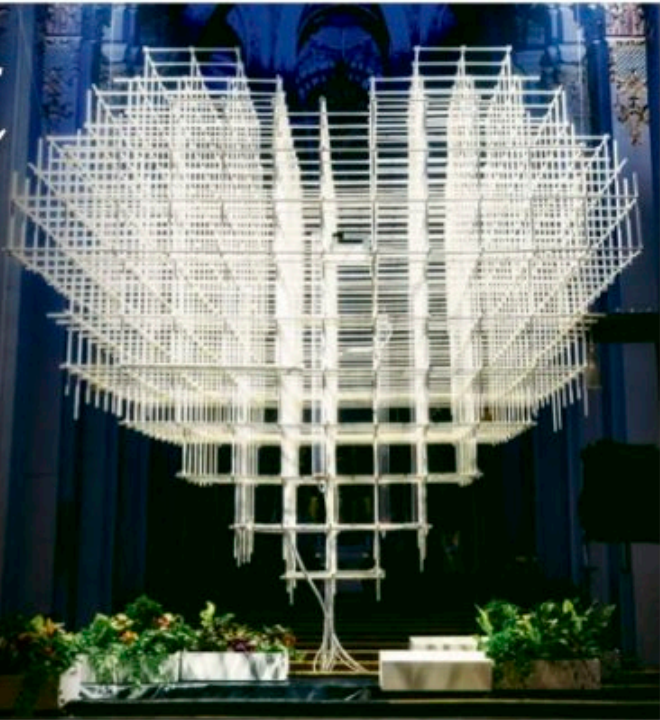
January 2024

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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Edinburgh Farmers Market

Support the local producers at Saturday's Farmers Market. [Here are the producers](#) who will be there on Saturday on Castle

Terrace

At the National Galleries

National Galleries of Scotland hosted its latest dementia-friendly Gallery Social event at the Portrait gallery to explore the Celebrating 40 Years of Scotland's Photography Collection exhibition.

Welcoming a group of people affected by dementia along with their relatives, friends and supporters, they enjoyed a relaxed and sociable art session before going on to explore the exhibition. Gallery Social sessions take place on the fourth Friday of every month exploring exhibitions at the Portrait, Modern and National. All are welcome.

Led by a team of friendly artists, the sessions have a relaxed and slow start, with a chance to enjoy refreshments and socialise or perhaps take part in a light-touch art activity. This is followed by a short gallery tour where all contributions are welcomed and valued.

Celebrating 40 Years of Scotland's Photography Collection is open until 16 March 2025.



PHOTO Robert Ricciuti