

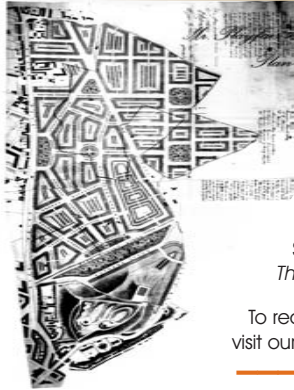
The View... from Helen Panks, Local Resident

In my experience, people born and bred in Edinburgh are pretty easy to spot. It's simple: if they aren't constantly in awe of its amazing architecture and have never been up Arthur's Seat, then it's likely they are from round here. I've been here three years, and I live in the shadow of Calton Hill. I love it. It's the first place I take visitors so they can get their bearings, it's a hike to get up there but worth it for the magnificent views.

However, I wouldn't venture onto the Hill at night. I only recently found out the observatory at the top is open to the public, the few facts I know about the National Monument are from my 'Lonely Planet' guide book, and it's impossible to stay longer than quarter of an hour or so with guests as there are no visitor facilities.



I'd love to know more about the history of the place and all the quirky landmarks that you see on postcards of Edinburgh. I'd love to be able to get a coffee so I could stay and enjoy the views for longer. Most of all though, I'd love to see more local people up on the Hill enjoying the natural heritage and appreciating what they have on their doorstep.



Calton Hill Competition 1812

"The Calton Hill Scheme was nothing less than a laying out of a New Town between Edinburgh and Leith, occupying between two and three hundred acres, and forming nearly an oblong square, calculated to out-do the splendours of Princes Street, George Street and Charlotte Square."

The Making of Classical Edinburgh A J Youngson.

To read more about The Calton Hill Competition, visit our website www.ewht.org.uk



Events Diary

Wednesdays 14, 21, 28 February 2007 6.30 pm The Scottish Arts Club, Rutland Square

New Visions for Edinburgh: Living Spaces, Working Spaces, Public Buildings/Spaces

The Cockburn Association, in collaboration with the Scottish Arts Club, is organising three events in which six architects will present and discuss their visions for architecture and design in Edinburgh. These will be free events, but expressions of interest in attending must be registered. Afterwards, supper will be available for £9.50



See the following websites for reference: www.cockburnassociation.org.uk
www.scottishartsclub.co.uk or email j.douglas@tinyworld.co.uk

West End Community Council

If you live in the West End, care about your community and want to find out more about the work of your Community Council please contact us for more information. Ian Robertson, 61 Melville Street, EH3 7HL e-mail i Robertson429@aol.com



EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE

Winter 2006/7



Welcome

from Zoë Clark, Director

Welcome to 2007 and our re-designed newsletter.

Robert Louis Stevenson described Edinburgh's winter climate as 'raw and bolsterous', but on those wonderful bright and clear days sharpened by frost, what better place to be than Calton Hill. The views across Edinburgh's UNESCO World Heritage Site are breathtaking, and so I am delighted that long overdue improvements will soon start.

In my view, conservation of the historic environment is primarily about people, it can enrich and enhance everyone's lives by providing a sense of history, identity and place. Calton Hill should be a place of pleasure for everyone to visit safely, to explore a whole range of inspiring subjects from astronomy to ecology or if they are like me, simply to sit and stare and contemplate what must be one of the best and most inspirational places in the world.

Calton Hill is one of the most significant parts of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, and plans are now underway for a major conservation programme to restore the famous landmark and improve access for visitors.



Edinburgh World Heritage has awarded £10,000 towards the first phase of landscape improvements, which will start with the public gardens on London Road and Hillside Crescent. The gardens were designed by the famous architect William Playfair, as part of the later developments in the New Town. The work will include managing the tree cover, developing wildlife habitats, improving pathways, providing better lighting and tackling anti-social behaviour issues.

Future projects will look at conserving the historic buildings, and improving the signage and interpretation on the site. A management plan for the entire site will also be drawn up, to ensure Calton Hill's significance is preserved for the future.

Calton Hill

- Designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest because of its unique wildlife.
- Site of the City and Old Observatories still used for star-gazing today.
- The architecture of its famous buildings, the National Monument and Dugald Stewart Monument, earned Edinburgh the nickname 'Athens of the North'.
- The outstanding panoramic view across the city provides one of the most iconic images of Edinburgh.



Skyline Study

The study by consultants Colvin & Moggridge into Edinburgh's skyline is now available for public consultation and an exhibition of its findings will be on display at the EWH offices at 5 Charlotte Square and other venues in February. The report analyses the city's current policy on tall buildings, to see if changes are needed to protect Edinburgh's iconic views with the current pressure for development. For details of other locations please contact City of Edinburgh Council on 0131 469 3634

EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE

5 Charlotte Square Edinburgh EH2 4DR
tel: 0131 220 7720 fax: 0131 220 7730 email:
info@ewht.org.uk www.ewht.org.uk

EMBRACING THE PAST
ENHANCING THE FUTURE

Cut Price Heritage Trips for Edinburgh Residents

The Organisation of World Heritage Cities and Hostelling International have joined forces on a new initiative 'Youth Hostels: A Passport to World Heritage Cities' which Edinburgh residents can benefit from. It offers a 'second-night free' deal on accommodation in Youth Hostels in a selection of World Heritage cities around the world. The offer runs until September 2007 and to qualify guests must be in a group of at least 10 people, and be residents from a city which is a member of the OWHC.

The participating hostels represent some of the most picturesque World Heritage cities from around the world. They include sites in Europe such as Lyons, Carcassone and Lubeck, but also Quebec, Mexico City and Sucre in Bolivia.

For more details see the Hostelling International website at www.hihostels.com/heritage.



EWH Director, Zoë Clark and Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive, Ron Hewitt have launched a joint initiative to aid the complimentary goals of respect for heritage and the City's continuing need for development and for adequate housing for both families and business.

"If Edinburgh is to maintain its World Heritage status a thriving economy and inward investment is essential, but preserving its unique historical character adds immense value to the city,"
Zoë Clark, Director

"You should expect us as an organisation to represent the interests of business, but it must be appreciated that those interests are much wider than profit for shareholders. It is essential we protect the beauty and history of Edinburgh's world heritage

heart" Ron Hewitt, Chief Executive, Chamber of Commerce



Walk in the footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson

This February sees the launch of Edinburgh City of Literature's unique reading campaign 'One Book - One Edinburgh', with 25,000 free copies of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped* to be distributed throughout the city.

EWH has produced a 'Stevenson Trail' which will be available in the main event leaflet or via our website. The trail includes landmarks such as his childhood home in Heriot Row and Queen Street Gardens which reputedly provided inspiration for *Treasure Island*, and Advocate's Close where he founded a secret society.

The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh provided the spark for Stevenson's imagination and many see the notorious criminal Deacon Brodie as the model

for Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

In his book *Edinburgh: Picturesque Notes* he wrote *"...the place establishes an interest in people's hearts; go where they will, they will find no city of the same distinction; go where they will, they take a pride in their old home."*

Discover Stevenson's Edinburgh in full at www.cityofliterature.com and www.ewht.org.uk



17 Heriot Row reproduced by kind permission of John Knight



Treasure Island map by kind permission of UKOLN, developers of the Treasure Island website

Edinburgh World Heritage Board

The board of EWH has just agreed its Strategic Plan 2007/10 and Implementation Plan 2007/08, which together comprise the Business Plan for the organisation. They have also considered the Monitoring Report 2004-06, which will be published in the Spring.



William Street

The owners at 33-41B William Street have recently completed a comprehensive repair scheme to their building. An alarming bulge was first noticed in the top half of the gable wall in 2002. Faced with having to carry out extensive repair works as a matter of urgency, the owners contacted Edinburgh World Heritage for help. We were able to work with them and their professional adviser, Richard Shorter Architect and in 2005 they were awarded a grant of approx. £350,000 towards the cost of the project.

The grant enabled urgent and essential repairs to be carried out to the building, but also made possible the repair and reinstatement of missing or damaged original details. Improvements included

cast-iron balconies, original door patterns, fanlights, ironmongery, signage, together with a freshly-painted authentic colour scheme. This has contributed significantly to the streetscape in this much sought-after street on the west side of the World Heritage Site.



"The quality of the workmanship is excellent, we now have a roof to die for!"

Daniel Griffin, William Street resident



Edinburgh World Heritage is delighted to report that £1.1million of grants were allocated in 2005/6. With the contribution of private owners and other public bodies, this enabled around £2.4 million in total to be spent on conservation projects in central Edinburgh in the last financial year.

One of our sponsors, Historic Scotland, confirmed that as a result they had exceeded the target set out in their corporate plan to create additional investment in the historic environment.

Homeowners' Advice

EWH is preparing a series of information leaflets to help owners to look after their property.



"When I was walking round the Old Town, I was suddenly struck by how different it might have looked a few centuries earlier.

Then, people used lime haring and coloured limewash not only to brighten up the narrow closes and courts but also to protect the buildings. Nobles' houses would have flaunted their owner's power and wealth with bright painted coats of arms and merchants would have used vivid signs and symbols to attract their customers."

Colin Mitchell-Rose, Traditional Paint Consultant

The Old and New Towns of Edinburgh are unique and distinct in character and it is important to preserve the areas by repairing historic buildings within the Site with appropriate materials.

The first leaflet will cover the use of external paintwork. Whether you want to know which type of paint to use for your rainwater goods, cast-iron balcony or what would be appropriate for your common-stair, we hope that these basic guides will give the essential facts.

The second leaflet will cover door furniture and window ironmongery. It can be too easy to take details such as hinges, door handles and locks for granted and where inappropriate fittings are fixed, over time, they will diminish the character of the area.

We want to help you protect and enhance the Site by caring for your building in an appropriate way. No details are ever too small to ignore. We look forward to the launch of the first two leaflets later in the year.

