Doors Open Day
22 and 23 September 2012
Doors Open Day 2012

Edinburgh Doors Open Day is part of a wider programme of European Heritage Days which allow visitors a glimpse of architecturally, culturally and socially significant buildings and spaces. In Edinburgh, this weekend-long citywide event each September is co-ordinated by the Cockburn Association and promoted by the Scottish Civic Trust.

Details of all Edinburgh properties participating in Doors Open Day 2012 and further information about the important work of the Cockburn Association – an independent charity which seeks to safeguard and enhance Edinburgh’s heritage and environment – can be found at www.cockburnassociation.org.uk.

Welcome to the University of Edinburgh

The University of Edinburgh is integral and fundamentally vital to the intellectual, cultural, social and economic fabric of the city region. Our buildings play an important part in defining the character of the University and the city. With a 430-year history and an estate which includes many old, converted, contemporary and listed buildings, the University always finds it an enjoyable challenge to present an interesting selection for our Doors Open Day visitors. This year, for the first time, visitors have an opportunity to explore the stunning new Centre for Regenerative Medicine at Little France.

At all venues, information will be available through leaflets and stewards. At some, you may also find talks, tours, children’s activities, displays and exhibitions. Please note that Saturday 22 September is also a University Open Day for prospective students, so it is likely to be very busy.

We hope you will find something to interest and enlighten you during Doors Open Day. Please remember that much of what you see is open throughout the year, whether through normal museum and gallery opening hours, organised tours, or through our extensive programme of part-time courses and public lectures. Further details of all these can be found at www.ed.ac.uk.
Old Moray House

Holyrood Road, EH8 8AQ (map ref 1)

Open: Saturday only, 10am to 4pm

Originally an aristocrat’s mansion dating back to 1625, Old Moray House is now occupied by the Moray House School of Education, which is part of the University of Edinburgh. It is most notable for the Balcony and Cromwell Rooms on the first floor, with their elaborate original ceilings and 18th century panelling. The Newington Collection, a selection of fine art, is displayed in the corridors and staircases.

The purpose-built Nursery School designed on Montessori principles by Frank Wood in 1932 will also be open. Converted by Lewis and Hickey Architects in 1999 to be the School’s reception area and Moray House College Archive, it retains many of its original features.

Facilities: WC, accessible WC, no wheelchair access to first floor of Old Moray House.

St Cecilia’s Hall

Niddry Street, EH1 1NQ (map ref 2)

Open: Saturday only, 11am to 5pm

The Hall, designed by Edinburgh architect Robert Mylne for the Edinburgh Musical Society and completed in 1763, is an architectural gem. It is the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Scotland and features an oval hall which was restored by the University in the 1960s. St Cecilia’s is home to a year-round public programme of concerts (particularly of early music) and lectures. The Musical Instrument Museum houses one of the world’s finest collections of early keyboard instruments. It opens on two afternoons each week, and every morning during the festival, and is free of charge.

Facilities: WC, accessible WC, wheelchair access with assistance, refreshments.
Old College

**South Bridge, EH8 9YL (map ref 3)**

*Open:* Saturday 10am to 3pm; Sunday 10am to 3pm

The original designs for Old College were by Robert Adam, and building began in 1789. Following his death, William Henry Playfair was asked to adapt and complete the work, including the magnificent Greek Revival interiors he designed in 1819. In 1835, funding ran out and, although a dome was added in 1887 to a design by Sir Robert Rowand Anderson, the quadrangle remained unfinished. In 2011 however, the quadrangle was finally, beautifully landscaped, thanks to the generosity of an anonymous benefactor. Old College houses the Playfair Library Hall, one of Edinburgh’s grandest interiors, where eleven bays support a coffered vaulted ceiling. Visitors can also explore other parts of the building, including the Lord Provost Elder Room, Lee Room, Raeburn Room and Carstares Room. The Talbot Rice Gallery is situated in Old College.

*Facilities:* WC, accessible WC, wheelchair access with assistance.

Talbot Rice Gallery

**Old College, South Bridge, EH8 9YL (map ref 4)**

*Open:* Saturday 10am to 5pm; Sunday 12 noon to 5pm

Situated in the heart of historic Old College, Talbot Rice Gallery is one of Scotland’s leading contemporary art galleries comprising two distinctly different exhibition spaces.

The Georgian Gallery with its fine neo-classical interior was originally designed by Robert Adam as a natural history museum and was completed after his death by William Henry Playfair. Recently refurbished, it houses a semi-permanent display of the University’s Torrie Collection of Old Master paintings and a vibrant programme of historic, experimental and academic exhibitions.

In contrast, the White Gallery was built as a series of chemistry lecture theatres. With its eight-metre high atrium, this space hosts contemporary exhibitions of Scottish and international artists, thematic projects and an accompanying education programme of public events. Visitors can enjoy the gallery’s festival exhibitions: Tim Rollins & KOS, The Black Spot, and Donald Judd Working Drawings.

*Facilities:* WC, accessible WC, full wheelchair access.

*Extras:* on both Saturday and Sunday, from 2pm to 3.30pm, a drop-in drawing workshop will be offered to children under 12 years who are accompanied by an adult.
Anatomy Lecture Theatre and Anatomical Museum
Doorway 3, Old Medical School, Teviot Place, EH8 9AG (map ref 5)

Open: Saturday only, 10am to 4pm

The magnificent, steeply raked lecture theatre, based on that at Padua, and still in use today, was created by Robert Rowand Anderson as part of his competition-winning design for the Edinburgh Medical School which was built between 1876-1886. Because of its aesthetic appeal, parts of the building have been used for both television and big screen filming. The remnants of what was once a three-storey medical museum are now located on the top floor, where historical and contemporary material used by anatomy students is stored. Many anatomical curiosities are on display, such as the skeleton of an elephant, the jawbone of a whale, the skeleton of the notorious Irish murderer William Burke (of Burke and Hare infamy), as well as a collection of death masks of great historical figures.

Facilities: WC, accessible WC, wheelchair access with assistance.

Extras: 20-minute talks in the Lecture Theatre each hour at 11am, 12 noon, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm.

Reid Concert Hall
Bristo Square, EH8 9AG (map ref 6)

Open: Saturday only, 10am to 4pm

Designed by David Cousin and built in 1859, the Concert Hall was a pioneering teaching facility in its time, conceived and first used by John Donaldson, Professor of Music. The original music facilities included, as an aid to teaching, a collection of musical instruments – now considered to be the oldest surviving purpose-built musical museum in the world. The museum is open twice each week, and every afternoon during the festival, and is free of charge. It also opens before and during the interval of concerts performed at the Hall.

Facilities: WC, accessible WC, wheelchair access with assistance.
Teviot Row House

13 Bristo Square, EH8 9AJ (map ref 7)

Open: Saturday only, 10am to 4pm

Opened in 1889, Teviot Row House is the world’s oldest, purpose-built student union building, and one of several buildings managed by Edinburgh University Students’ Association (EUSA). Designed by Sydney Mitchell and Wilson, Teviot is on the site of Lord Ross’s House, which later became a lying-in hospital. The building is in 16th century Scots architectural style with late Gothic features. It has a debating chamber, a dining room, a variety of catering and bar areas, and many other meeting rooms. Recent refurbishment programmes include the creation of the New Amphion coffee bar, restaurant and licensed bar on the mezzanine level, the Loft Bar on the Debating Hall level and the Chocolate Moose sweetshop on the ground floor.

Facilities: WC, accessible WC, full wheelchair access, refreshments.

Main Library

George Square, EH8 9LJ (map ref 8)

Open: Saturday 12 noon to 4.30pm; Sunday 12 noon to 4.30pm

The Main Library was designed by Sir Basil Spence, who studied and taught at Edinburgh College of Art (now part of the University). It is situated in the quietest corner of George Square, and has superb views across the Meadows. When completed in 1967, it was the largest university library in the UK, with each floor one acre in size. The library was ‘A’ listed in 2005 and two years later the University embarked on a £60 million redevelopment to provide library facilities fit for the 21st century, with work on seven out of eight floors now complete.

Visitors will be welcomed to the newly refurbished forum area where works of art and digital images from the University Collections are on display. A guided tour of our summer exhibition City of Words: Writers, Readers, and Critics in Edinburgh will be available. This exhibition celebrates 250 years since the foundation of the study of English literature at the University, which has the oldest department of English Literature in the world. On display will be letters written by Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott to various Edinburgh professors, previously unseen memorabilia from famous former students, documentation relating to the James Tait Black Memorial Prize, signed first editions, and letters from distinguished prizewinning authors.

Facilities: WC, accessible WC, full wheelchair access, refreshments.
The King’s Buildings

West Mains Road, EH9 3JF (map refs 9–12)

Open: Saturday only, 10am to 4pm

The College of Science and Engineering, located at The King’s Buildings, will open a number of spaces on campus including a trio of Lorimer and Matthew buildings from the late 1920s, the listed, post-war Hudson Beare Lecture Theatre, and the newly completed Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library. We recommend that visitors arrive at the entrance to the Sanderson Building on Mayfield Road for information on navigating the campus.

The Natural History Museum in the Ashworth Laboratories (map ref 9) and the Cockburn Museum of GeoSciences in the Grant Institute (map ref 10) will showcase their amazing collections of fossils, rocks, minerals, corals and animal specimens, including live creatures from the aquarium. There will also be displays from research in biology and geosciences. Other hidden treasures to find around the campus include the Phyllis Bone relief sculptures on the Ashworth Building and relief sculptures by Alex Carrick on the Sanderson Building, the Grant Institute and the Crew Building.

The unusual Hudson Beare Lecture Theatre (map ref 11), accessed via the School of Engineering’s Sanderson Building, is a striking construction designed by architect Robert Gardner-Medwin in association with Stephenson, Young and Partners (1961). Sited just beyond the woodland garden, it is underplanted with dramatic South American gunnera, providing a strong foil to the structural elements of the building – the exposed ribbed beams, the finely textured shuttered concrete of the structural ribs and the diagonal timber cladding.

Visitors can also see the adjacent and vibrant, new informal study area designed by engineering students, where they can enjoy a range of hands-on activities and displays from the University’s engineers and architectural engineers. The nearby engineering workshops gave birth to Scotland’s marine renewable energy industry.

Facilities: WC, accessible WC, limited wheelchair access in some buildings, refreshments. Limited parking is available on campus.

Extras: Tours of the Noreen and Kenneth Murray Library (map ref 12) will depart from the Library café every hour at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm.

Further information: www.ed.ac.uk/science-engineering
The King’s Buildings map
Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine*

5 Little France Drive, Edinburgh BioQuarter, EH16 4UU (map ref 13)

Open: Sunday only, 10.30am to 4pm

The new £54 million Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine (SCRM) building was officially opened earlier this year, on 28 May, by HRH The Princess Royal. The stunning contemporary building is the first large-scale, purpose-built facility of its kind in the UK and provides accommodation for up to 250 scientists at the forefront of stem cell research.

Stem cells have the capacity to make copies of themselves and generate specialised cells in the body. By studying stem cells, disease and tissue repair, scientists and clinicians working in this building hope to advance human health and contribute to the development of treatments for major diseases including cancer, heart disease, liver failure and degenerative diseases such as multiple sclerosis and Parkinson’s disease.

The building’s internal form mimics a ‘pebble in a pond’ effect: write-up spaces and offices are located around the perimeter, with concentric rings of state-of-the-art laboratories and smaller specialised rooms as one moves towards the centre of the building. The inclusion of a clinical translation unit enables cell production for future therapeutic applications.

Sustainability is central to the design of the SCRM building and 76 per cent of the energy needed to operate the building is contributed from renewable sources. Sustainable design features include solar panels on the roof, a ground source heat pump system below ground and rainwater collection for flushing the WCs.

Facilities: WC, accessible WC, full wheelchair access, refreshments.

Extras: Talks, visual displays, children’s activities (under parental supervision), behind the scenes access accompanied by centre staff. The architect will be present on the day to answer questions about the new building, with architectural models on display.

Please note: Parking space at the building is extremely limited. We encourage all visitors to use public transport or use the Royal Infirmary’s car parking facilities. More information about public transport options can be found at www.crm.ed.ac.uk/about/how-find-us.

*This is a new first-time entry.
The University of Edinburgh’s Easter Bush campus

Midlothian

Both the University’s Roslin Institute and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, located at our Easter Bush campus, will be opening for Midlothian’s Doors Open Day on Saturday 8 September. There will be tours, short talks, displays and an opportunity to talk with architects and scientists. For full details of what’s on and how to get there, visit www.midlothian.gov.uk/doorsopendays.