



Good News for West Princes Street Gardens

West Princes Street Gardens is an incredible area of green space in the heart of the city centre. It has a fascinating historical significance, acting as a link between the Old and New Town, and it is a 'place for people', hosting major annual events as well as providing a haven of peace amidst the bustle of the city.

A design competition has been launched this month for the regeneration of the **Ross Pavilion**. The first stage of the competition will be an international search for a multi-disciplinary design team, based on relevant skills, past experience and an understanding of the project brief.

A selection panel will review these first stage submissions and shortlist five practices, who will be given a further briefing and asked to produce concept designs for the Pavilion. As part of a wide-ranging consultation process, the Trust will hold a public exhibition of the schemes and ask the public for their views.

The **Ross Fountain** has lain derelict and been without water for a number of years and continues to deteriorate. The Ross Development Trust have commissioned an experienced heritage conservation specialist to manage the restoration process, with work expected to start in early 2017 pending Council consent.

The restoration process involves dismantling all 122 pieces of the fountain before individually repairing, restoring and repainting each piece. The fountain will then be rebuilt in the same location in which it currently sits.



The work required is extensive and budgeted at a figure in excess of £1million. The whole project should take most of the year 2017 to complete, and we are assured that after restoration, the Ross Fountain will be in pristine condition, capable of withstanding the Scottish climate for the next 100 years.

The original installation took place nearly 150 years ago, at a time when building practices were not as disciplined as the modern standards. The Fountain has little by way of foundations and over the years it has tilted off the vertical, and originally water conservation was not an issue.

Piling and ground works will be supplemented by an underground chamber that will house the necessary pumps, filtration, and other plant.

To find out more information and to keep up to date with progress, follow the Trust's website, facebook and twitter

Sir Sandy Crombie, our President, and I are both trustees of the Ross Development Trust.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Louise Forsyth well as she leaves her part time Assistant Director post with the Cockburn Association to take up a full time role with HES (Historic Environment Scotland) in their Grants Department.

We are therefore looking for someone to take on the role of an **Assistant Director**, a part time, two days a week, job share with James Garry. For more information look at the page on our website <http://www.cockburnassociation.org.uk/cgblog/52/41/Recruiting-a-part-time-Assistant-Director/>

Please pass on to anyone who you think will be interested in the role. Deadline for applications is Friday 3 March 2017.

Sick Kids Hospital and Astley Ainslie

NHS Lothian is preparing to sell off both sites and the local communities are seeking to engage in the process. I have attended meetings held by the Planning Action Group for the Sick Kids Site and the Grange Association respectively.

The Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Sciennes Road will soon become surplus to requirement as the clinical services will relocate to a new £150m state-of-the-art facility at Little France. Marketing of the site began last November and includes the main, category B listed, George Washington Browne designed hospital building on Sciennes Road; 23 terraced villas and several flats located along Rillbank Terrace, Rillbank Crescent and Millerfield Place; together with land with potential for a new build development. The entire site extends to approximately 4.01 acres.

Ryden, with a track record of disposing of public sector assets, are managing the sale. David Fraser, Residential Land and Development Partner at Ryden, said: "The Royal Hospital for Sick Children is one of Edinburgh's most iconic properties. Ryden considers it a privilege to be instructed on the sale of the property and we look forward to the challenge of securing a successful sale of the site.

"We expect it to attract considerable interest from local, national and international developers as market demand for development opportunities within Edinburgh City Centre is currently strong."

The original RHSC opened in 1860 at 7 Lauriston Lane and relocated to Sciennes Road in 1895 with the construction of the George Washington Browne building.

At a meeting in October 2016 NHS Lothian confirmed that they expect to start consultations with the community in early 2017 in advance of producing a masterplan for the **Astley Ainslie Hospital** site prior to sale in 2019. The site is within the Grange Conservation Area and more information can be found on the Grange Association's website <http://gaedin.co.uk/wp/new-history/landmarks/astley-ainsley-hospital>



329 High Street, A listed and part of the City Chambers, proposed sale to the Chris Stewart Group for serviced apartment development. The papers for the Council's Economy Committee held on 7 February, 2017 state:

3.11 Following the acquisition of the former Council owned properties at Market Street, Cockburn Street and Advocate's Close, the Chris Stewart Group (The Group) has undertaken a multi award winning £45m mixed use redevelopment, providing office, retail, leisure and serviced apartment uses. The Group has approached the Council on the basis that their ownership extends up to the boundary of Roxburgh Court, which adjoins 329 High Street, i.e. an adjacent proprietor. Outline proposals have been produced for a high quality serviced apartment development and how this will directly link, and act as an extension, to the existing Advocates Close development.

3.12 It is expected that the proposals will produce a return in excess of market value due to the share of 'marriage value' created. The proposals would initially be a long lease, to ensure the proposed development was delivered, but would eventually convert to outright ownership once complete.

Conclusions

3.13 The recommendations of the report allow the Council to obtain market value for its assets and retain significant control over their future use and redevelopment. This report will be referred to the next meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee for ratification and, if approved, a further report, detailing the financial terms and conditions, will be presented to a future meeting of the Finance and Resources Committee.

The City of Edinburgh Council seems to be selling off a lot of the property that belongs to the city! India Buildings, King's Stables Road, Market Street, Cockburn Street and Advocate's Close buildings... they even have webpages for it:

http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/info/20021/commercial_property_for_sale_to_let/211/commercial_property

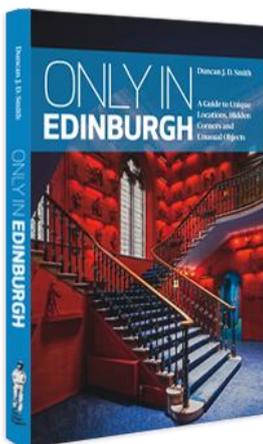
Currently for sale

- the 5 a side pitches on Westbank Street, Portobello
- Former Firrhill Stables, Colinton Road
- 79 Portobello High Street

The Herald covered the story:

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15087531.Set_up_trust_to_halt_Edinburgh_s_public_buildings_sell_off_says_heritage_watchdog/?ref=fbshr

Only in Edinburgh by Duncan JD Smith



A guide to unique locations, hidden corners and unusual objects...

There are many guides to Edinburgh for the tourists but some, like this one, offer the Urban Explorer a different perspective. This is a good guide for the locals too. The split personality of the city is revealed as you are taken off the beaten track and under the city's skin to secret gardens, haunted theatres, mysterious monuments, underworlds and industrial relics.

There are 103 illustrated entries each with helpful bus numbers to the location. Maps inside the front and back covers help locate the venues across the city from Leith to Gilmerton, Corstorphine to Portobello.

"It seems like a city built on precipices, a perilous city. Great roads rush down hill like rivers in spate. Great buildings rush up like rockets". GK Chesterton, Illustrated London News, 1905

"Below you lies Auld Reekie, blackened and dried, an immortal herring, 'smeekeed' for hundreds of years and cured in the sun". James Bone, journalist (1872-1962)

<http://www.duncanjdsmith.com/the-only-in-guides>

Available from Amazon, Waterstone's, Blackwells • £16.95

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

This year's **AGM** will be held on Monday, 11 September at 6.00pm, details to follow.

Edinburgh Doors Open Day will be held, subject to funding, on the last weekend of **September, 23rd/24th** with a week of talks from Monday 18th September. The brochure is available to our members by mid-August and released 1st September.



There will be a visit to **St Cecilia's Hall** in May for our members, an early opportunity to see the redevelopment work that has been taking place.

18th May 12 noon – 1.30 pm, meeting in the lobby

There will be a tour and a talk about the history of the building and its renovation by Head of Museums, Jacky MacBeath.

This event is for Cockburn members only and places are limited so please register with Joseph who will confirm your booking.

admin@cockburnassociation.org.uk or phone 0131 557 8686

Originally built in 1763 and named after the patron saint of music, St. Cecilia's Hall is the oldest purpose-built concert hall in Scotland, and the second oldest in the British Isles. At the heart of this Georgian building is its concert room, surrounded by three galleries which house one of the world's most important collections of historic musical instruments, many of which are still playable in a concert setting. Yet time, architectural intervention and urban development have hidden away this exceptional Georgian treasure and the rare collections it contains. The University's vision is to restore and renovate the building and its facilities in order to preserve the Collection and broaden its appeal to a wider public.

BREAKING NEWS

The second planning application for a hotel development on the **Old Royal High School** site was lodged with the council on 13 February, and should be on the Council's Planning Portal at some point this week.

<https://citydev-portal.edinburgh.gov.uk>

The Public Inquiry was SISTED (paused) giving the developers time to submit a second application. We wait to see what happens next.... and will keep you informed.

Thank you to those who have responded to our appeal in the January newsletter for donations to help support our work ...

The Cockburn Association staff team is smaller than most people think. We have just three members of staff (two working part time), helping all the citizens of Edinburgh, who like you, ask us to work on the issues we all care about. We want to keep the work of the Cockburn Association going so that people can keep using us, regardless of their financial situation, when they need support for the things they care about.

That's why I am asking if you will join us, if you are not already a member, or consider a monthly contribution, as some already do, of £5? With a monthly contribution you will be helping to support our work and campaigns.

Donations can be made online <http://www.cockburnassociation.org.uk/donate/> or by cheque payable to 'The Cockburn Association' or by direct debit, contact Joseph for details admin@cockburnassociation.org.uk

.....
I hope you have enjoyed catching up with us. I welcome your feedback and any contributions or suggestions for the next newsletter.

The Cockburn Association is proud to be a member-led organisation and by being a member you are helping to safeguard Edinburgh's unique built and natural environment for future generations. You are a member of the oldest civic amenity body in the UK, established in 1875.

If you are a facebook user come and find us there for daily updates and a gallery of images, you can also follow us on twitter *@thecockburn* and our website www.cockburnassociation.org.uk



Marion Williams, Director