



The New Town is Doors Open Day theme

The Cockburn is busy putting together Edinburgh Doors Open Day 2017. Because 2017 is the 250th anniversary of the Edinburgh New Town, that will be the theme of this year's event. We hope to have a number of properties and gardens in the New Town open to visitors, and to celebrate the New Town in the lectures.

Doors Open Day is always one of the highlights of our year. This year it will be held over the weekend of September 23 and 24 with lectures during the preceding week. Having the New Town as a focus does not in any way exclude properties from elsewhere in the city.

Joe Taylor is leading the work, and expects to have some exciting new venues involved. These include the Royal Scots Club, Holyrood Evangelical Church, Bridgend Farmhouse, and St. Triduana's Chapel.

Joe says "The full brochure will be out in August, but already we have a lot of offers to take part from venues that are traditional favourites." He adds, "Places such as the bus depot and the fire station are hugely popular with families."

Each year more than 50,000 visits are made to the hundred or more properties

that open their doors to give free admission. What is less well known is that the organisation of the annual event is very much a Cockburn project. Although support from the city council and others is much appreciated, for more than a quarter of a century the hard work behind the scenes has been done by the Cockburn.

Joe is contacting possible sponsors and advertisers to help cover the Cockburn's costs in putting on Doors Open Day. If you know of potential venues, or donors please contact him at admin@cockburnassociation.org.uk

Recruitment of a new Director

The closing date for applications for the post of Director is 26 May, with interviews scheduled for 14 June. Thus we hope to have a new Director in post by early autumn.

Full details of the job and how to apply can be seen at

<http://www.cockburnassociation.org.uk/cgblog/57/41/COCKBURN-ADVERTISES-DIRECTOR-POST/>

The advertisement states that "The ideal candidate will be highly motivated and enthusiastic about the Cockburn

Association activities and campaigns. He/She will have the capacity to lead and deliver the key activities of the Association, working with allies, strengthening the membership base, and broadening the constituency of ‘those who love Edinburgh’ through awareness and education.”

As well as possessing these qualities, candidates are expected to be able to show how they could work with the Trustees to deliver the Strategy that the association adopted in 2015, and to effectively manage the finances.

Chair’s Notes



At the time of writing we are waiting to see how the newly elected Edinburgh City Council will respond to the concerns of the Cockburn and its members about development in the city. I attended the Heritage Hustings organised by Edinburgh World Heritage in April. None of the candidates puffed up their chests and proudly proclaimed “We’ve been doing a great job by getting more and more development into the city, and I just love the design of the new hotel in the St.James Quarter.” Rather, the tone was generally apologetic: they had not been on the

Planning Committee / missed the meeting / thought the balance may have swung too far towards economic development, etc.

Rules prevented candidates expressing an opinion on the application to build a hotel around the Royal High School. The Cockburn wrote to every candidate asking whether they supported the key policies in the Local Development Plan that relate to the World Heritage Site and to Listed Buildings. We received relatively few replies, though the tone of those was generally supportive of our concerns.

As some of you may have seen I had an article published in The Scotsman on 11 May in which I pointed out that there is too little accountability for councillors on planning matters. You can see the article at <http://bit.ly/2q9yHbk>.

I was also asked by *The Planner*, the Journal of the Royal Town Planning Institute to comment on the recently published Management Plan for the World Heritage Site. In the article in the May edition, I was quoted as saying that there was a crisis of confidence in the council’s stewardship of the historic environment in the city. I criticised the Management Plan for failing to capture the urgency of the issues, in particular the way that student housing developments and hotels are impacting on communities. You can check out the Plan for yourself at <http://www.ewht.org.uk/whs-management-plan>

Are you on email? Do we have your email address?

If you have an email address, please share it with us. It makes it easier and cheaper for us to communicate with you. We promise not to pass your email details on to any third party. If you prefer to receive the Newsletter by post that is fine, but email makes it easier for us to stay in touch.

Please contact

admin@cockburnassociation.org.uk

Thanks!

Cockburn Urban Design Group



Edinburgh 1544

Researchers from St Andrews University recently presented their work developing a [digital re-creation](#) of 16th century Edinburgh 'Edinburgh 1544' to the Cockburn Urban Design Group. This modelling aims to help enhance our understanding of the city's early history.

Based on the earliest accurate depiction of the city, a birds-eye plan drawn in 1544 by English military engineer Richard Lee prior to the city being sacked and burned by invading soldiers, the tool offers historians a useful interpretation of how the ancient capital might have once looked. Devised by university offshoot [Smart History](#) the 3D virtual model

combines archaeological evidence and contemporary written accounts as well as present day geography to create as accurate a picture as is possible.

Historian Dr Bess Rhodes is keen to participate in this year's Edinburgh Doors Open Day by which time a fine-tuned version of the digital model will be available. There may also be a potential to use the model in local schools in the future.

Events News

Tour Of Dr Neil's Garden in Duddingston Village. Thu 8th June 2-3.30pm



Dr Neil's Garden Trust have invited Cockburn Members to attend a Summer tour of the beautiful Gardens including a tour of Thomson's Tower designed by William Henry Playfair in 1825.

A discounted entry fee of £3 has been arranged for Cockburn Members. places are limited so please register with Joe who will confirm your booking.

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