**thecockburnassociation**

DOORS OPEN DAYS Edinburgh 2020

Saturday and Sunday 26-27 September with “Cockburn Conversations each evening staring Monday 21 September

This September, and virtually, we need Doors Open Days more than ever, to celebrate and enjoy our wonderful city.

“Edinburgh Doors Open Days” is a popular event open to all, now in its 30th year, which allows residents and visitors the chance to explore buildings, places and spaces that are usually closed off to them. This year because of Covid-19, and with so many of Edinburgh’s residents stuck at home or very restricted in their ability to get out and about, things have had to be different.

Necessity is the mother of invention, and we’ve worked hard, with financial support from the City of Edinburgh Council and with all our Doors Open Days partners to deliver digital experiences and events that remain true to the spirit of this unique, annual celebration of Edinburgh’s historic buildings and open spaces. For many, this will be the only opportunity they may have this year to get to visit the city that they love.

Firstly, we will be holding a series of on-line conversations around the theme of “Opening the doors to hidden histories”. Hosted by our Chair, Professor Cliff Hague, our aim is to broaden, deepen and enrich our understanding of Edinburgh’s heritage, and contribute to a civic conversation about how our city might come to terms with some contentious aspects that have come to the fore in recent months.

These are all free and can be booked here:

**Professor Sir Geoff Palmer, "Don't take down statues, take down racism"**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-cockburn-conversations-opening-the-doors-to-hidden-histories-tickets-121048542449?aff=erelpanelorg>

**Professor Euan Hague, "Challenging entrenched histories: The memorialisation of the Confederacy in the USA"**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cockburn-conversations-opening-the-doors-to-hidden-histories-tickets-121031298873?aff=erelpanelorg>

**Lisa Williams, “Behind the Façade: Edinburgh’s links with the Caribbean”**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-cockburn-conversations-opening-the-doors-to-hidden-histories-tickets-121038660893?aff=erelpanelorg>

**Andrew Crummy, "How we helped the people sing: The story of the Craigmillar Festival Society"**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cockburn-conversations-opening-the-doors-to-hidden-histories-tickets-121025082279?aff=erelpanelorg>

**Sara Sheridan, "Where are the Women? A guide to an imagined Scotland"**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/copy-of-cockburn-conversations-opening-the-doors-to-hidden-histories-tickets-121034620809?aff=erellivmlt>

These conversations will lead into a weekend of digital Doors Open Days visits hosted from the Cockburn’s offices in the Old Town.  A full programme of online and musical performance as well as ‘live’ conversations and tours has been planned with over 60 venues participating across the city and into East Lothian.

Highlights include a ‘live’ trip to the Cockenzie Waggonway museum in East Lothian, Scotland’s first railway.  The Supreme Courts of Scotland are presenting a murder mystery tour, online jigsaws and so much more.   The MRC Institute of Genetics and Molecular Medicine at the University of Edinburgh is offering a truly spectacular weekend of behind-the scenes tours, interactive activities and educational events for all the family to enjoy.

On Blackford Hill, the UK Astronomy Technology Centre has an out of this world online planetarium show and various astronomy talks on offer.  Throughout the weekend, the internationally celebrated Scottish Chamber Orchestra’s talented musicians have specially recorded performances at venues across the city to reach out to and connect with people of all ages.

Edinburgh, Doors Open Days has been delivered for 30 years by the Cockburn Association. We get a small grant from the city council, but in real terms the week’s events are subsidised out of our members’ subscriptions and from the unpaid time of volunteers at venues.

A poster for our on-line conversations is attached.  Please share this with your community stakeholders around the city, especially those who may be stuck at home at this time.

Full details of our programme of our Doors Open Days weekend activities will be available shortly on the Cockburn’s brand new website. We’ll email you again with details.

Doors Open Days Edinburgh is organised by the Cockburn Association and forms part of Doors Open Days Scotland ([www.doorsopendays.org.u](http://www.doorsopendays.org.u)) coordinated by the Scottish Civic Trust as part of the Council of Europe’s European Heritage Days.