

Key to Entries	
<span><span>♯</span></span> Wheelchair Access	T Toilets
<span><span>♿</span></span> No Wheelchair Access	R Refreshments Available
M Musical Entertainment	H Historical/Other information
G Guided tours	<span><span>☺</span></span> Children's leaflet
E Exhibition	<span><span>🕒</span></span> Limited Opening Hours

### 1 Town House

Castle Street. Peddie and Kinnear. 1867-73

The main staircase and the principal rooms will be open again this year. The spectacular interior is always a Doors Open day highlight. **The Granite City Chorus, a 35 strong barbershop ensemble will perform at 11.30am & 12.30pm for 25 minutes.**

♯(disabled toilet) H 10am–4pm

### 2 Sheriff Court House

Castle Street. Peddie and Kinnear. 1867-73

Enter by main Sheriff Court entrance two doors along from the Town House entrance. The Sheriff Court House was built as an integral part of the Town House. Two historic court rooms, the court cells and the atrium are included in the tours. Again, this year there will be a mock trial in one of the court rooms.

♯HTGRE 10am–4pm Tours every 30 minutes

### 3 Advocates Library

Concert Court. (Off Broad Street between the Town House and the Town House extension) James Matthews. 1869

The Society of Advocates in Aberdeen has been in existence for more than four hundred and fifty years. The Society's present building was sited to take advantage of proximity to the new Peddie and Kinnear Sheriff Court House. Unremarkable from the outside, it is the decoration of the interior that is of interest. Most of the ground floor is now used as an extension to the Sheriff Court. On the first floor there is one of the finest private law libraries in the country with the original decorative scheme by Arthur Clyne. Notice also the stained glass window on the staircase by Cottier & Co.

♯T 10am–4pm

### 4 The Tolbooth

Castle Street. 17th century.

The Victorian façade conceals a much older building behind. The Tolbooth was built as the Town's prison, court house and toll collection point. **For Doors Open Day this year there is an historical re-enactment set in 1593. The crew of the Aberdeen ship The Susanna have been accused of being pirates and heretics in Spain. Some were hanged, some burned at the stake and a few escaped back to Aberdeen. Meet the crew as they recount their tale to the City's magistrates at 11am, 12 noon, 1pm and 2pm.**

♯EH 10am–5pm

### 5 Grampian Police Headquarters

Queen Street

The building occupies a site which has a long association with policing in the City, as it is partially located on ground where Victorian Police buildings stood. The current Headquarters building was first occupied in 1972 by the former Aberdeen City Police and on local government reorganisation in 1975 the newly created Grampian Police assumed occupancy. The building has changed little over the years and has internal links to both the District and Sheriff Court facilities.

**To view the building on Doors Open Day it is essential to book in advance. To reserve a place on a tour please telephone 01224 305062 weekdays between 9am and 5pm from Tuesday 1 September to Friday 11 September.**

♯GET 10am–4pm

### 6 Aberdeen Arts Centre

Former North Church. King Street. John Smith 1829-30

The former church was converted to an arts centre by the City Council in 1963. In 1998 the voluntary organisation, Aberdeen Arts Centre Association, formed a limited company, Castlegate Arts Ltd to take over the management of the Centre. Doors Open Day will include tours of the building and an all day programme of live music.

♯MGTER 10am–4pm

### 7 St Andrew’s Cathedral

King Street, Archibald Simpson 1816

The church, Archibald Simpson’s first civic commission, was created the cathedral of the United Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney in 1914. The building, considerably altered and enhanced by Sir Ninian Comper during the years 1939-45, contains the national memorial to Samuel Seabury, consecrated first Bishop of America in Long Acre, Aberdeen on 14th November 1784. Interesting roof heraldry depicts the American States and the Jacobite supporters of the Episcopal Church. **There will be a recital of choral music by William Byrd and others given by the group Cantamus Hodie between 12 and 12:30. Doors Open Day visitors are invited to attend but are asked to remain seated during the recital.**

♯HMR☺ 10am–12 noon and 12:30–4pm 🕒

### 8 Peacock Visual Arts

1 Castle Street (Pend off the Castlegate)

Founded in 1974, this year Peacock celebrates 35 years of providing a place where professional artists and keen amateurs alike can come to make work and develop their skills. A registered educational charity supported by Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Arts Council, Peacocks has the widest range of visual arts production facilities openly available in Scotland. On Doors Open Day visitors can view the current exhibitions and look around the production workshops including printmaking, digital/video and photography.

♯(ground floor only) ET 10am–4pm

### 9 St Peter’s Church

Justice Street. James Massie 1804

Simple interior. Fine alterpiece. The church is hidden away off the Castlegate: from an elegant arched gateway incorporated into a tenement a pend leads into the delightful little Chapel Court. The façade onto the court dates from Harry Leith’s 1817 extension to the church. Included in Doors Open Day is the even more secluded walled garden at the rear of the priest’s house (no wheelchair access).

♯HETR 10am–4pm

### 10 Salvation Army Citadel

Castlegate. James Souttar 1893-96

This prominent Aberdeen landmark returns to the Doors Open Day programme after several years absence and major internal remodelling.

♯RTHG 10am–4pm

### 11 Aberdeen Maritime Museum 1st DOORS OPEN DAY

Shiprow. Aberdeen City Architects Department. 1997

For Doors Open Day there is an opportunity to take part in guided tours of the Lloyds Library in Provost Ross’s House. The collection of Lloyd’s Registers dates back to 1768 and includes the top secret World War II volumes. There is also a photograph collection including rarely seen images from Aberdeen’s past.

♯TRGHE☺ 10am–12noon & 1pm–4pm Tours every half hour (max 8 people per tour). 🕒

### 12 Carmelite 1st DOORS OPEN DAY

Stirling Street. James Souttar 1869 and 1881, William Henderson 1885

The former Imperial Hotel. The street in front of the hotel was paved with timber setts to deaden the noise from hooves and carriage wheels. **Short guided tours through the hotel at 11am, 1:30pm & 3:30pm will explain the history of the building and the area and will be followed by complimentary tea and shortbread.**

♯TRHG 10am–4pm

### 13 Kirk of St Nicholas

Union Street. 12th century onwards.

One of the largest medieval Burgh Kirks in Scotland. The late 12th century transept, known as Collison’s Aisle, still survives and since 1990 has contained a chapel, created in thanksgiving for 25 years of the oil industry and as a memorial to those who have lost their lives. For many years St Nicholas has consisted of two churches: **West St Nicholas** is the work of James Gibbs, an Aberdonian and the architect of such buildings as St Martin in the Fields, London. West St Nicholas was built between 1752-5, after his death. **East St Nicholas** was built by Archibald Simpson in 1835-7. It was gutted by fire and rebuilt in 1875-7 by William Smith who also built the current central tower and spire. The East Kirk is currently closed following an archaeological excavation. St Mary’s Chapel beneath the East Kirk is included in Doors Open Day this year.

♯(but no disabled toilet due to work in progress.) HTR 10am–4pm

### 14 Carillon

Enter via St Nicholas Church

The Municipal Carillon of Aberdeen is in the tower of St Nicholas Church and is the largest in the British Isles. There are 48 bells, making up four octaves, and all were cast by Gillet and Johnston of Croydon. The carillon is played every Sunday from 1030am to 1055am.

**On Doors Open Day there will be recitals at: 10.15am, 11.30am, 12.45pm, 2pm and 3.15pm.**

♯M 10am–4pm

### 15 Robert Gordon’s College

Schoolhill. William Adam 1732

The Auld Hoose is the oldest part of the college founded in 1729 by Robert Gordon (1668-1732) a prosperous merchant of Aberdeen and Danzig. Over the door is a statue of Robert Gordon by John Cheere of London. Although there have been many internal alterations, the central stone staircase remains as does the first floor Governors’ room with its fine panelled walls. Also included in Doors Open Day is part of the new junior school and the MacRobert Hall, on the west side of the quad. Tours every hour on the hour.

♯HGEM 10am–4pm

### 16 Aberdeen Church of Christ 1st DOORS OPEN DAY

393 George Street. William Kelly. 1905

Built as the Aberdeen Savings Bank. Many banks and many churches have been converted to new uses in the City. This may be the only bank converted to a church.

♯TRH 10am–4pm

### 17 Masonic Temple

85 Crown Street. Jenkins & Marr, 1910

One of the finest, if not actually **the** finest, purpose-built building devoted entirely to Freemasonry within the Scottish Constitution. A series of magnificent, richly ornamented interior spaces ensures this building remains a Doors Open Day favourite. Conducted tours will be organised as well as opportunities to wander freely in the company of members in attendance.

♯(ground floor only) HTRG 10am–4pm

### 18 The Church of St John the Evangelist

St John’s Place (off Crown Terrace). Thomas Mackenzie 1849-51.

The church has been recently extensively restored. Of particular interest inside are the great east window, the Comper reredos and the 16th century font.

♯(no disabled toilet) THER☺ 10am–4pm

### 19 Quaker Meeting House

98 Crown Street. William Kelly 1903

The Meeting House is the only building in Scotland built as a Quaker Meeting House and still used for this purpose today. It features the plain simplicity of a typical Quaker Meeting House with an elders’ bench. It houses full-scale photos of two of the panels of the 1970’s Quaker Tapestry relating to Quaker history in the North East of Scotland.

♯HTER 10am–4pm

### 20 Synagogue OPEN SUNDAY ONLY

74 Dee Street. Before 1822

In 1945 this Georgian terraced house was acquired by the Aberdeen Hebrew Congregation for use as a synagogue and it remains as such to this day. The principal ground floor room has been adapted and furnished along similar lines to those found in all Orthodox synagogues. **The Synagogue is being used for worship on Saturday and is not open to the general public. Doors Open Day for this venue alone is Sunday 13 September.**

♯GT 10am–3pm On Sunday 🕒

### 21 St Mary’s Cathedral

Huntly Street. Alexander Ellis 1860

The church (it was not then a cathedral) was opened with a service of dedication in 1860. At the time a shortage of funds prevented the completion of the tower which was left only 60 feet high, rather lower than the ridge of the church roof. The belfry and spire were finally completed in 1877 to the design of Alexander Ellis’s partner RG Wilson, and at 200 feet the spire is the tallest in the City.

♯HT☺ 10am–4pm

### 22 St James the Less

Holburn Junction. Arthur Clyne 1887

Externally the stump of a tower was the result of the loss of a legacy when the congregation chose to move from the Church of England to the Scottish Episcopal Church. Fine stained glass inside.

♯HEMT☺ 10am–4pm

### 23 Trinity Hall

Holburn Street. Mackie Ramsay and Taylor 1964.

This is the third Trinity Hall to be occupied by the Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen. The original was created from the former Trinitarian Friary (hence the name) when this was acquired in 1631.The first purpose-built Trinity Hall dates from 1847 and the building, on Union Street, now incorporates one of the entrances to the Trinity Shopping Centre. The current building re-uses the traceried windows of its predecessor but otherwise the architecture is very much of its period. The interior is very dramatic and contains many furnishings and artefacts that have been used in all three Halls.

♯EGHT 10am–4pm

### 24 St Margaret of Scotland

Gallowgate. James Matthews 1870 additional chapels by J Ninian

Comper 1889 & 1908

The church on its hill is a prominent landmark. The Comper connections are of particular interest. The chapel to the West of the Nave was Ninian Comper’s first complete building. The later chapel of 1908 was his memorial to his father John, the first Rector and founder of the Parish.

♯THR 10am–4pm

### 25 Aberdeen RNLI Lifeboats

Waterloo Quay.

The lifeboat station is entered from the eastern end of Waterloo Quay at the corner with York Place. Doors Open Day provides an opportunity to visit the inshore lifeboat, the larger all-weather lifeboat and the ground floor of the inshore lifeboat shed.

♯EHGTR 10am–4pm

### 26 Central Fire Station

Mounthooly Way. Grampian Regional Council Architects. 1997

There will be tours of the building, a display of modern and historic vehicles and other displays and demonstrations (including the spectacular chip pan fire demonstration). Visitors are reminded that the fire station remains operational on Doors Open Day. Children must be accompanied by adults.

♯TGE 10am–4.30 pm

### 27 University of Aberdeen Special Libraries and Archives

King’s College.

Enter from the Old Senate Room, which is accessible from King’s College Conference Centre car park or from the O’Dell Memorial Garden behind Elphinstone Hall.

Over the last 500 years Aberdeen University has accumulated some of the Country’s most important cultural treasures, which combine great scholarly importance with outstanding beauty and immediate popular appeal. On Doors Open Day visitors will get a behind the scenes tour of the archives and rare book stacks.

♯HETG Tours at 10am, 11am, 12noon, and 1pm 🕒

**Please note access is only possible as part of a guided tour.**

### 28 Old Town House

High Street, Old Aberdeen. George Jaffrey 1788. Converted Aberdeen City Council Architects 2005

Remodelled and put to a variety of uses over the years, this historic building has been completely renovated and now acts as a “gateway to the University of Aberdeen” for prospective students. The old police cells on the ground floor remain

♯(ground floor only) EHT☺ 10am–4pm

### 29 Zoology Museum and Natural History Centre

Zoology Building. Corner of St Machar Drive / Tillydrone Ave. Mackie Ramsay and Taylor 1969

The Zoology Museum is the only zoological museum in the region and boasts one of the largest collections in Scotland, covering animals of the world, including whales.

♯(not all levels)TG 10am–4pm

**30 St Machar's Cathedral**

The Chanonry. From 1370.  
There has been a church on this site beside the Don since the sixth century, when, as legend has it, St Machar was commanded to find a spot where the river curved in the shape of a shepherd's crook. Inside there is a notable heraldic oak ceiling with the coats of arms of European monarchs and Scottish nobles and bishops.  
**On Doors Open Day again this year the bell tower will be open and bell ringers will be giving demonstrations. There will be the opportunity for members of the public to have a go. There will also be a programme of live music.**  
&(except bell tower and charter room) HERGTM© 10am-4pm

**31 Institute of Medical Sciences**

University of Aberdeen  
Ashgrove Road West. David Murray Associates 1996.  
The University of Aberdeen's Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS) accommodates over 400 scientists and research staff working on cutting edge molecular and cell biology research. The building was the winning design in a competition. The central atrium, the dramatically located conference room and a selection of laboratories can be viewed during two guided tours. Music will be provided in the atrium by University music students.  
&(except level 7) GEHTMR Tours at 11am and 12:45pm  
**Please note access is only possible as part of a guided tour.**

**32 Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society**  
**1st DOORS OPEN DAY**

Foresterhill Hospital. Access is from the road that runs through the hospital site from Foresterhill Road to Cornhill Road. Steps lead up to the entrance from the car park to the west of the building that bridges over this road.  
The Society was founded in 1789, originally as the Aberdeen Medical Society. In its early years it members continuously pressed for a proper University Medical School. It was here in 1920 that Professor Matthew Hay set out his scheme for the co-ordination of Aberdeen Hospitals and clinical University Departments on a common site. This led to the the modern hospital and medical school complex at Foresterhill. On Doors Open Day the foyer, Council Chamber and lecture hall can be seen along with much material associated with the development of medicine in Aberdeen.  
&GTRHE 10am-4pm

**33 The Suttie Centre for Teaching and Learning in Healthcare**  
**1st DOORS OPEN DAY**

Foresterhill Hospital. Bennetts Associates. 2009  
The building is located immediately south of the car park in front of the entrance to the Institute of Medical sciences.  
This striking, timber-clad building is designed to maximise natural daylight and ventilation, to reduce solar gain and provide a state-of-the-art teaching and learning facility at the heart of the Foresterhill health campus.  
&TRG 1pm-4pm



**34 National Hyperbaric Centre**  
**1st DOORS OPEN DAY**

123 Ashgrove Road West. GRM Kennedy and Partners 1987  
Perhaps best known for the treatment of decompression sickness, "the bends", this unique facility provides a range of services to the subsea industry.  
&HETRG Tours at 10am, 11am and 12noon  
**Please note access is only possible as part of a guided tour.**

**35 Broadcasting House, BBC Scotland**

Beechgrove Terrace. Haliday Fraser Munro 2000  
BBC Aberdeen was established in October 1923 as BBC Scotland's second centre. The original Beechgrove House was demolished in July 2000 to make way for the current building. At Doors Open Day you will see the news studio, picture edit suite and radio studio as well as having the opportunity to watch a television camera demonstration.  
**To view the building on Doors Open Day it is essential to book in advance as places are limited. Booking should be made on line through doorsopenaberdeen@bbc.co.uk**  
&GTRE 11am-3pm. Pre-booked tours only at 11am, 11.30am, 12noon, 12.30pm, 2pm, 2.30pm and 3pm



**Doors Open Days**, with Scottish Archaeology Month, form Scotland's contribution to European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. Over 20 million people now go to European Heritage Days. Each year events offer the opportunity to explore monuments and sites, many of which are not normally accessible to the public.

In Aberdeen the event is organised by the Aberdeen Doors Open Day Committee comprising representatives from Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen Civic Society and the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland. This year, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, Aberdeen City Heritage Trust, 35 venues will be taking part 6 of them for the first time. Where there are special events taking place at venues e.g. musical recitals or historical re-enactments, these are highlighted in the leaflet.

For details of other Doors Open Days across Scotland please contact the Scottish Civic Trust 0141 221 1466 or [www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk)



Visitors entering buildings do so at their own risk as neither the organisers nor the owners of the building are responsible for any accidents or damage which may occur.

[www.aberdeencity.gov.uk](http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk)

[www.aberdeenheritage.org.uk](http://www.aberdeenheritage.org.uk)



ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL



DOORS OPEN DAY  
12 September 2009

Cover: 15 Robert Gordon's College



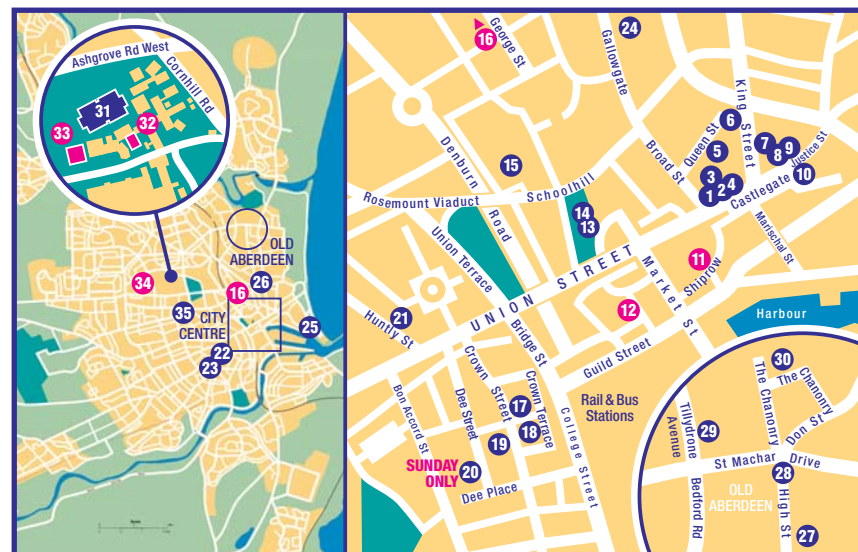
**Aberdeen**

**SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH**

September is also Scottish Archaeology Month 2009. For information about events in Aberdeen, visit [www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk](http://www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk) or phone 0845 872 3333. Alternatively phone the City Council's Archaeological Unit on 01224 523658.

A computer presentation on the archaeology and history of the Green will be run at the end of guided tours through the Carmelite Hotel.

See Carmelite Hotel entry 12



- 1 Town House
- 2 Sheriff Court House
- 3 Advocates Library
- 4 The Tolbooth
- 5 Grampian Police HQ
- 6 Aberdeen Arts Centre
- 7 St Andrew's Cathedral
- 8 Peacock Visual Arts
- 9 St Peter's Church
- 10 Salvation Army Citadel
- 11 Aberdeen Maritime Museum
- 12 Carmelite
- 13 Kirk of St Nicholas
- 14 Carillon
- 15 Robert Gordon's College
- 16 Aberdeen Church of Christ
- 17 Masonic Temple
- 18 The Church of St John the Evangelist
- 19 Quaker Meeting House

- 20 Synagogue
- 21 St Mary's Cathedral
- 22 St James the Less
- 23 Trinity Hall
- 24 St Margaret of Scotland
- 25 Aberdeen RNLI Lifeboats
- 26 Central Fire Station
- 27 University of Aberdeen Special Libraries & Archives
- 28 Old Town House
- 29 Zoology Museum & Natural History Centre
- 30 St Machar's Cathedral
- 31 Institute of Medical Sciences
- 32 Aberdeen Medico-Chirurgical Society
- 33 The Suttie Centre
- 34 National Hyperbaric Centre
- 35 BBC Scotland

**CHILDRENS LEAFLETS**

In some of the venues there will be special Doors Open Day Leaflets that provide an opportunity for children ages 6-14 to record and sketch the building they are visiting.

Completed sheets handed in at all the venues will be collected, judged and certificates awarded. Children could even find their picture as part of an exhibition!

**FREE DOORS OPEN DAY BUS**

This year the bus will travel on a circular route leaving from Broad Street, outside St Nicholas House every hour, on the hour from 10am to 3pm.

