

**24 Museum of Education: the Victorian Classroom**

Aberdeen  
Environmental Education Centre, Skene Square School Annexe, Skene Square. Enter from Rosemount Place or Skene Square. The Victorian classroom is housed in the building to the rear of Skene Square School. The

current buildings show evidence of school design at the end of that century including, for example, separate entrances for boys and girls. Within the Museum of Education a room has been reconstructed and equipped in the style of a classroom in Aberdeen as it would have been in Victorian times. This style existed in certain schools well into the 20th century.  
&E☉ 10am-1pm Ⓟ

**25 Queen's Cross Church**

Queen's Cross. Pirie and Clyne 1881. Designed as a competition entry for the Free Church, this is a distinctive West End landmark. John Betjeman, in an essay in "First and Last Loves" describes trying to draw the tower and giving up at his seventh attempt.  
&(STBcat1) HET☉ 10am-4pm

**26 International School of Aberdeen**

296 North Deeside Road, Milltimber. Formerly the American School, the Deeside villa of Fairgarth has been much extended to house the present school. A complete contrast to the Victorian classroom at the Museum of Education!  
&(STBcat1) GERTM☉ 10am-4pm

**27 Kippie Lodge**

North Deeside Road, Milltimber. A.H.L. Mackinnon 1940. Next door to the International School, this is another Deeside villa put to a new use. In this case it forms part of the Aberdeen Petroleum Club.  
&(STBcat1) ETR 10am-4pm

**28 St Peter's Heritage Centre**

Howie Lane, Peterculter. 1779. There has been a chapel to St Peter on this site since the 12th century. The 18th century church was rectangular in plan and was extended and altered in 1873 and 1895. In 2000 the building

**CHILDRENS LEAFLETS**

In 22 locations this year, there will be special Doors Open Day Leaflets that provide an opportunity for children ages 6-14 to express their understanding of and delight in the building they are visiting by answering a simple questionnaire and making a drawing of their favourite part of it. **Completed sheets handed in at all the venues will be collected, judged and certificates or prizes awarded. Children could even find their picture as part of an exhibition!**

became the home of the St Peter's Heritage Trust and houses photographs, artefacts and historical documents relating to the Parish of Peterculter. The adjacent corrugated "Iron Kirkie" was moved from Ballater and re-erected here in 1907.  
&HERTM☉ 10am-4pm

**29 Woodhill House**

Westburn Road. Grampian Region Architects' Department 1980. Open for Doors Open Day is the eastern block of Woodhill House, which is entered from the Westburn Road end. This low, subtly curved building houses Aberdeenshire Council's committee rooms with their panoramic views over the City towards the sea. It also contains the totally enclosed, circular Council Chamber.  
&(no disabled toilet) GEHT 10am-4pm

**30 Faculty of Health and Social Care**

The Robert Gordon University  
Garthdee Road. Halliday Fraser Munro 2002. Enter campus at traffic lights on Garthdee Road. In line with the original masterplan for the campus the general form of this building follows that of the nearby Norman Foster designed Faculty of Management. It is interesting to compare the detailed design of the two buildings, however, as they are very different. Both buildings contain some fairly dramatic internal spaces.  
&(STBcat1) GT☉ 10am-4pm

**31 FRS Marine Laboratory**

375 Victoria Road, Torry. Fisheries research has a long history in Aberdeen. The Fishery Board for Scotland established a marine laboratory and hatchery at the Bay of Nigg in 1898. The Laboratory moved to its present site in 1923 and now employs more than 300 staff in scientific, technical, professional and support roles. On Doors Open Day there will be a chance to learn more about the work of the laboratory, take a virtual tour round the research vessel Scotia and visit a research aquarium. Please note that in order to comply with Health and Safety regulations children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.  
&(STBcat2)(not aquarium) GET☉ 10am-4pm. Tours (to coincide with the arrival of the Doors Open Day bus) at quarter past the hour from 10.15am to 3.15pm.

**32 Tullos Primary School**

Girdleness Road, Torry. J Ogg Allan 1939-1950. A little altered example of 1930s modernist architecture and a familiar landmark to everybody arriving in Aberdeen by train from the south. The school displays many of the period's most advanced concepts in educational architecture with an emphasis on fresh air and sunshine.  
&GTR☉ 10am-4pm. Tours (to coincide with the arrival of the Doors Open Day bus) at approx quarter past the hour from 11.15am to 3.15pm.

**DOORS OPEN DAY**  
9 September 2006

On Doors Open Days some of Scotland's most interesting buildings, many of them not normally open to the general public, are opened for the day free of charge. Doors Open Days form Scotland's contribution to European Heritage Days. This joint initiative between the Council of Europe and the European Union aims to give people a greater understanding of each other through sharing and exploring cultural heritage. 48 countries across Europe hold similar celebrations – with over 20 million people expected to take part. The Scottish Civic Trust is the national co-ordinator for Doors Open Days across Scotland.

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 and James Roy Associates, 32 venues will be taking part, two of them for the first time. Where there are special events taking place at venues e.g. musical recitals, walks or talks, 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.

Contact telephone number on the day 01224 522139.



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

**DOORS OPEN DAY**  
9 September 2006



Cover: 1 Mercatgate (Sheriff Court Annexe)

james roy associates



**Aberdeen**



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**FREE DOORS OPEN DAY BUS**

This year the free open topped bus will travel on a circular route leaving from Broad Street, outside Marischal College every hour, on the hour from 10am to 3pm. The bus will stop at or near: FRS Marine Laboratory > Tullos Primary School > The Tivoli > The Masonic Temple > Queen's Cross Church > Robert Gordon's College.

**SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH**

September is Scottish Archaeology Month. In Aberdeen this year, in addition to the St Nicholas Kirk excavations, events include: From 15 August to 10 September there is an exhibition *Aberdeen's Castle and Castle Hill* at the Tolbooth. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm. Sun 12.30pm-3.30pm.

## 1 Mercatgate (Sheriff Court Annexe) 1st DOORS OPEN DAY

Castle Street. James Burn 1801. Conversion by Oberlanders Architects/David Murray Associates 2005. Built as a bank and in use as such for nearly 200 years. The ground floor banking hall now serves as the public reception area while the new court rooms for the Sheriff Court and High Court have been formed on the floors above.  
&(STBcat2) HT☺

## 2 Town House

Castle Street. Peddie and Kinnear 1867-73. The Town House was built to a competition-winning design by the Edinburgh architectural firm of Peddie and Kinnear. Its great tower was for decades the most prominent landmark in the City. The interior is just as impressive and Doors Open Day provides an opportunity to see the principal public rooms.  
&HTG☺ 10am-4pm LAST TOUR 3.30PM

## 3 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. The Court accommodation was completely refurbished in the early 1990's and at this time the glass-roofed atrium was formed. Two historic court rooms, the court cells and the atrium are included in the tours. It is hoped to stage a mock trial in one of the court rooms.  
&(STBcat2) HTGRE☺ 10am-4pm. Tours every 20 minutes

## 4 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 members early meetings were held in various inns, particularly the New Inn, or the old Record Office in the Castlegate. The 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 Clyde. Notice also the stained glass window on the staircase by Cottier & Co.  
&H10am-4pm

## 5 The Tolbooth

Castle Street. 17th century. The deceptive Victorian façade conceals a much older building behind. The Tolbooth was built as the Town's prison, court house and toll collection point. **Again, as part of Doors Open Day there will be historical re-enactments. This year you can meet the 16th century Tolbooth gaoler as he prepares pirates for their execution and learn about the life of the pirates. No booking necessary but for further information phone Chris Croly on 01224 523653. Re-enactments at 11am,12noon, 2pm and 3pm.**  
&EH 10am-4pm

## 6 Marischal College. Marischal Museum (Mitchell Hall and Picture Gallery closed for renovation)

Broad Street. Archibald Simpson 1837. A Marshall Mackenzie 1893-7. Enter through the quad and into the door in the tower. Ascend to first floor. Marischal College was founded in 1593. The museum is located within the eastern range of the Tudor-style quadrangle that Archibald Simpson designed to replace the dilapidated original college buildings. Later in the 19th century Marischal College and King's College were amalgamated as the University of Aberdeen. A Marshall Mackenzie extended the quad and designed the familiar Broad Street frontage. The North Gallery of the museum is devoted entirely to the heritage of the North East. The South Gallery houses material collected from around the world.  
&ETH☺ 10am-4pm

## 7 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. On Doors Open Day there will be half-hourly musical entertainments and conducted tours of the building and 31 King Street next door which housed the former Aberdeen Childrens Theatre. In addition the Ambassadors Big Band will perform in the theatre during the afternoon.  
&(STBcat2)MGTER☺ 10am-4pm

## 8 Grampian Police Headquarters

Queen Street. On the Doors Open Day tours there will be the opportunity to learn how 999 calls are dealt with in the Control Room and how the Service Centre deals with the thousands of other calls. How CCTV helps to gather evidence and detect crimes. Walk into the Identity Parade Suite and see it from the suspects and the witnesses side of the screen. Visit the Sheriff Court holding cells where the accused wait to appear in Court. There will be displays by the Road Safety, Mountain Rescue and Underwater Search Units where specialists will be on hand to answer your questions. The Scenes Examination Branch, who specialise in crime scene analysis, fingerprints and photography, will explain what this really involves and the techniques used. TO RESERVE A PLACE ON A TOUR PLEASE TELEPHONE 01224 306446 WEEKDAYS BETWEEN 9AM AND 4PM FROM TUESDAY 29 AUGUST TO FRIDAY 8 SEPTEMBER.  
&(STBcat1) GETR☺ 10am-4pm

## 9 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. Please note that between 12noon and 12.30pm the Cathedral will only be open to those attending the song recital. All are invited to attend this.  
&HMR☺ 11am-12noon and 12.30-4pm ⌚



## 10 Peacock Visual Arts

21 Castle Street (Pend off the Castlegate). Peacock have established galleries and workshops in the old St Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral School. Founded in 1974, Peacock Visual Arts is a registered educational charity supported by Aberdeen City Council and the Scottish Arts Council. It 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.  
&(STBcat1)(ground floor only) E 10am-4pm

## 11 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.  
&(STBcat1) TGE☺ 10.30am-4pm

## 12 King's College, Divinity Library

University of Aberdeen College Bounds. John Smith 1826. The School of Divinity and Religious Studies is the only School in the University still based in the quadrangle and its Library is housed in John Smith's Tudor Gothic range on the west side of the quad.  
&HETR☺ 10am-4pm

## 13 Old Town House

High Street, Old Aberdeen. George Jaffrey 1788. Converted Aberdeen City Council Architects 2005. This building featured twice before in Doors Open Day: in 1995 when the first floor was still in use as a public library and in 2003 when for first time in its history the Masonic Lodge on the second floor was opened to the public. This historic building has been completely renovated and now acts as a "gateway to the University of Aberdeen" for prospective students as well as providing meeting facilities for local organisations. The old police cells on the ground floor remain!  
&(ground floor only) EHTR☺ 10am-4pm

## 14 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. Of the present building it is the massively powerful west front that is so memorable: the twin castellated towers flanking the seven tall narrow windows. The cathedral was originally much longer and had a third equally military-looking tower at what is now the east end. This collapsed in 1688 following the demolition of the chancel. Inside there is a notable heraldic oak ceiling with the coats of arms of European monarchs and Scottish nobles and bishops.  
&(STBcat1)(except bell tower and charter room) HERGT 10am-4pm

## 15 Kirk of St Nicholas

Union Street. 12th century onwards. The plan to create a new basement level within the East Kirk made necessary a major archaeological excavation at this very ancient site. A team of archaeologists from Aberdeen City Council Archaeological Unit started work in the building at the end of January 2006, uncovering well preserved remains of church structures dating from the 15th century and earlier – as well as a large number of human burials made in and around the building over many hundreds of years. The first documentary reference to St Nicholas church is in a papal bull of 1157. By Doors Open Day the date of the first buildings on the site will have become clear, in this largest ever excavation within a Scottish medieval burgh church. **Tours of the excavation (including a look at some of the small objects found during the dig) from the East Kirk gallery, led by a member of the digging team, at 10.30am, 11.30am, 1.30pm and 2.30pm. There is no wheelchair access to the gallery.**  
&(STBcat1)(West Kirk and Collison's Aisle) HETR☺ 10am-4pm.

## 16 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-1055am. **On Doors Open Day there will be recitals at: 10.15am, 11.30am, 12.45am, 2pm and 3.15pm.**  
&10am-4pm

## 17 Tivoli Theatre

Guild Street. CJ Phipps & James Matthews 1872. Though not used as a theatre since 1963 its subsequent use as a bingo hall left Frank Matcham's 1909 remodelling of the auditorium largely intact and the backstage completely untouched. An all singing and dancing programme of entertainment will again be provided on Doors Open Day.  
&(STBcat3) GTRME☺ 10am-4pm

## Key to Entries

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| ♿ Wheelchair Access (STB accessibility categories) | T Toilets                      |
| ♿ No Wheelchair Access                             | R Refreshments Available       |
| M Musical Entertainment                            | H Historical/Other information |
| G Guided tours                                     | ☺ Children's leaflet           |
| E Exhibition                                       | ⌚ Limited Opening Hours        |

## 18 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.  
&HTREG 10am-4pm.



## 19 Quaker Meeting House

Crown Street (next door to no.100). Dating from the turn of the last century this is one of the few purpose-built Quaker meeting houses in Scotland. It retains its original interior and some of the original seating.  
&(STBcat1) HTER☺ 10am-4pm

## 20 St John's Church

Crown Terrace. Thomas Mackenzie 1849-51. St John's returns to Doors Open Day after its recent extensive restoration. Of particular interest inside are the great east window, the Comper reredos and the 16th century font.  
&(no disabled toilet) THER☺ 10am-4pm

## 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.  
&(STBcat1)GHR 11am-4pm ⌚

## 22 Robert Gordon's College

Schoolhill. William Adam 1732. The Auld Hoose, 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. The building remained an empty shell for many years and in 1746 was occupied by the Duke of Cumberland's troops who named it "Fort Cumberland". In 1750 the first boys were enrolled in the school. Although there have been many internal alterations, the central stone staircase remains as does the first floor Governors' room with its fine panelled walls. This year the MacRobert Hall is also included in Doors Open Day. The School Pipe Band will play in the quad between 2-3pm.  
&HGETM☺ 10am-4pm Tours on the hour and half hour.

## 23 Denburn Parish Church

Summer Street. William Smith 1771. Built as Gilcomston Chapel of Ease. This is the third oldest church in the City after St Machar's and St Nicholas though the Summer Street façade was only added in 1878. The church closed earlier this year so Doors Open Day may provide the last chance to see the interior intact. Organ music will feature prominently on the day with a final recital at 4pm.  
&(STBcat1) HTM 10am-4pm