

Through the people buried here and their monuments, Canongate Kirkyard tells a tale of two cities. The Kirkyard looks both back to Edinburgh's Old Town and the Canongate's medieval burgh beginnings, but also forwards, and upwards, to Calton Hill and the development of Edinburgh's New Town during Georgian and Victorian times.

1687

James VII decrees that the people of Canongate are no longer allowed to worship at Holyrood Abbey.

1688

A bequest from Thomas Moodie is used to build a new kirk and kirkyard.

1691

Canongate Kirk opens.

1766

George Drummond Lord Provost of Edinburgh and 'Father of Edinburgh's New Town' is buried here.

1774

Robert Fergusson the poet is buried in a pauper's grave.

1790

Pioneering economist Adam Smith is buried here.

1813

Kirkyard is extended to the east with the 'New Burying Grounds'.

1828

'Common sense' philosopher Dugald Stewart is buried here.

1841

Agnes Macle hose ('Clarinda'), muse to the poet Robert Burns is buried here.

1848

Local people complain about burial overcrowding and unsuccessfully apply to have the Kirkyard closed down during the cholera epidemic. Instead the ground is levelled, more soil laid down and burial carries on as before.

1856

The Canongate becomes part of the City of Edinburgh and is no longer a separate Burgh.

1863

The 'Report on the Sanitary Condition of Edinburgh' recommends the Kirkyard is closed to protect public health.

1880

Mr Ford of Holyrood Glass Works erects a monument to the soldiers who died at Edinburgh castle.

1953

Canongate Mercat Cross is brought into the grounds around the kirk.

2014

The 'Friends of Canongate Kirkyard' group is established.

Appetite whetted? Why not visit some of the other World Heritage Site graveyards?

Go green and do this on foot instead of taking the car, and you could save some CO₂ emissions, too!

Check it out: From Canongate Kirkyard (1) to:

- > To New Calton (2) - 0.3 miles: 0.11 kg CO₂
- > To Old Calton (3) - 0.5 miles: 0.19 kg CO₂
- > To Greyfriars (4) - 0.7 miles: 0.2 kg CO₂
- > To St Cuthberts (5) - 1.1 miles: 0.37 kg CO₂



ANSWERS

Gravestone Detective
Did you manage to spot all 10?



How did you do?

- 1-3 Dem bones need a closer look!
- 4-6 Dead good, you're no lazybones!
- 7-10 Exskellent! You're Sherlock Bones!

Scavenger Hunt

1. Holyrood Palace
2. North
3. Theory of Moral Sentiment
4. 4 (snake, goat, lion, eagle with three chicks)
5. New York

Mystery Object

The story goes that during a raid by body-snatchers who were trying to steal a body to sell the medical school, the sharp-eyed watchmen on patrol opened fire, catching the gravestone in the cross-fire.

Pirate Quiz

Gravestones - Skulls and cross bones appear on burial monuments as early as the 15th century. Pirate flags with these symbols date from the 17th century.



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization



Old and New Towns of Edinburgh inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1995



Scan the code to find out more about the Edinburgh World Heritage Graveyards Project!



EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE
GRAVEYARDS TRAIL
CANONGATE KIRKYARD

Graveyards are fun to explore for all the family. Can you solve the four puzzles below to unlock the secrets of Canongate Kirkyard?

Scavenger Hunt

Use the map reference to lead you to each gravestone (the letter will help you find the right row and the number will show the right square) and take a close look to answer the questions below!

1. Royal Scandal

David Riccio originally came to Scotland from Italy as a diplomat. His musical talents soon caught the eye of Mary Queen of Scots who employed him as her secretary. Lord Darnley, Mary's husband, grew so jealous of their closeness that in February 1566 he **murdered Riccio by stabbing him 56 times** at a dinner with the Queen!

Find this in **F3**

Q: Where was David's body originally buried?

Find this in

D2

2. The Coachdrivers' Gravestone

Many of the gravestones tell us about the work people did, giving clues to their lives. In the past, people used horses as their main transport. Did you know, it **took coaches 10 days** in summer (12 days in winter) to travel from Edinburgh to London?



Q: Look at the compass on the map. What direction is the coach travelling?

3. New Ways to Think About the World

Adam Smith was an economist and philosopher, famous for his thinking about how countries trade with each other and how this could benefit ordinary people. Published in 1776, his book 'An Enquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations' is still read by politicians and economists around the world today.

Find this in **G1**



Q: Which of Smith's other books is mentioned on his gravestone?

4. The Kirkyard as Art Gallery

Known as **The Last Chimera**, this piece of artwork isn't a gravestone. The Chimera was a mythical monster, a mix of a goat, snake and lion. At one time, Josefina was the oldest living sculptor in the world, still working in her 90s. **This work was so heavy that it had to be moved into place by the British Army!**



Q: How many different types of animals can you see in this sculpture?

Find this in **G4**

Find this in

F1

5. Witness World History

David Mitchelson travelled to America to make a new life. This became an unexpected adventure when he saw the **Boston Massacre of 1770** at the start of the American Revolution. Soon after he gave evidence in court to John Adam, a lawyer, who would later become America's second president.



Q: Looking at David's gravestone, where else did he live in the USA?

Want to find out more? Check out the **Friends of Canongate Kirkyard's Burgh and Burials Trail** using the QR code overleaf.

Gravestone Detective

There are 10 gravestones in the Kirkyard with skulls on them – can you be **Sherlock Bones** and find them all? Mark their positions on the map below. If you get stuck, check out the hint!



Hint: Have a look along the West wall of the Kirkyard.

Can you identify the Mystery Object?

The marks on this stone were caused by something unusual. Find the stone and think what might have happened here.

- A** Remains of fossils long-since fallen out of the stone
- B** Evidence of gun shots
- C** Damage caused by marble playing in the graveyard

Look overleaf for the answer!

Find this in **E2**



PIRATE QUIZ

The Jolly Roger pirate flag and gravestones have something in common – **skulls and crossbones!** Did you know that some pirate flags also used skeletons and hourglasses as well as skulls and crossbones to frighten sailors? In the graveyard, these symbols don't mark a pirate's grave. Instead these are to remind passers-by that life was short.



Q: So...which came first? The Pirate's Jolly Roger or the gravestone's reminder of death?

- A** Jolly Roger
- B** Gravestones

Q: Why didn't the skeleton cross the road?

A: It didn't have the guts!

TEE HEE!