

Edinburgh is renowned today for its links to the arts. The gravestones in the Kirkyard reveal this is a truly a longstanding association.

44. In the 1780s, the Englishman **Darcy Lever** was a successful actor using the stage name 'Mr Darcy', and specialized in playing arrogant young aristocrats. Jane Austen enjoyed theatre and some people think the name 'Darcy' and the type of character Lever played helped to inspire the hero of *Pride and Prejudice*.



45. Most of **Robert Fergusson's** poems fall into a two-year period, starting with the publication in 1772 of 'The Daft Days'. This, like many of his poems, celebrated life in his home city of Edinburgh. Late in 1774, Fergusson fell on a flight of stairs and died in hospital a few weeks later and was buried in an unmarked grave. He had only just turned 24. Being an admirer of Fergusson's work, his fellow poet

Robert Burns later paid for a memorial, which Robert Louis Stevenson intended to renovate, but he died before he could do so.

46. **Mary Balfour**, a pioneering female novelist, published her first novel 'Self Control' in 1811. A great success at the time, the book gained praise from Jane Austen. Mary married Alexander, the son of a shoemaker, who became Minister of the Tron Kirk and a Professor of Oriental Languages. The story of Alexander and Mary's meeting and marriage is like something out of a romantic novel. Prominent in Orcadian society, the Balfours did not think Alexander a suitable son-in-law. So they shut Mary up on the small island of Gairsay to keep the couple apart. Undaunted, Alexander rowed out to the island and eloped with Mary!



47. **John Frederick Lampe** was born in Germany and moved to England in his 20s. A bassoon player, Lampe performed at King George II's coronation in 1727. He worked with famous composers of the time, including Handel and Thomas Arne (who composed the music for *Rule Britannia*). Lampe's wife, Isabella, was a singer and Thomas Arne's sister-in-law. In November 1750, Lampe moved to Edinburgh to work at the Canongate Theatre, located in Old Playhouse Close near the top of the Canongate. He died here on 25 July 1751.

48. **Hugh Williams** was a landscape painter and in June 1816 set out on a two-year journey through Italy and Greece. The material gathered on this journey became central to his painting style, and earned him the name Grecian Williams. Even his paintings of Scottish landscapes have a distinctly classical feel recalling the landscapes of his European travels.



49. **Robert Hurd** was an architect. He took a particular interest in the preservation of Scotland's urban architectural heritage, much of which was then being cleared away as slums. In 1952, he was commissioned to reconstruct large sections of the Canongate as local authority housing. This involved a mixture of refurbishment, rebuilding and new build.



50. This sculpture is called **The Last Chimera** and was completed in 1950 by **Josefina de Vasconcellos** (1904 -2005). Josefina was an English sculptor of Brazilian origin and was at one time the world's oldest living sculptor. Her work depicts the figure of a young boy lying on the back of what looks like a lion (in Greek mythology the chimera was a monster, being part lion, part goat and part serpent). The artist gifted the artwork to Canongate Kirk and moving it into position needed help from the British Army. Inside the Canongate Church are two smaller Josefina de Vasconcellos sculptures.



51. **Agnes Craig** was born in 1758, in Glasgow, moved to Edinburgh in 1782 to escape an unhappy marriage and began to write poetry. In 1787, she met Robert Burns and they started a correspondence, using the pen names **Clarinda and Sylvander**. Their final parting inspired one of Burns' loveliest lyrics which begins:

'Ae fond kiss, and then we sever;  
Ae fareweel, alas, for ever!'



52. The much-loved statue of **Robert Fergusson** was unveiled on 17 October 2004, having been commissioned by the Friends of Robert Fergusson. In 2001, three sculptors were shortlisted and their maquettes were displayed around Edinburgh for six months, with the public being invited to vote for their favourite. More than 15,000 people voted and, with 67% of the vote, David Annand's maquette won.



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CANONGATE



Make the stories of those buried in the Kirkyard come alive by following in their footsteps and exploring the Canongate

**53.** A plaque through the archway to **St John's Street** explains that the author **Tobias Smollett** stayed here in 1766 in his sister's house. Smollett published some of the earliest novels in the English language and the last and most successful of these, "The Expedition Of **Humphry Clinker**", was published in 1771. The novel takes the form of letters from a group travelling around England and Scotland. One of the English characters tries "haggice" which he describes as "a mess of minced lights, livers, suet, oat-meal, onions, and pepper, inclosed in a sheep's stomach, [which] had a very sudden effect upon mine".

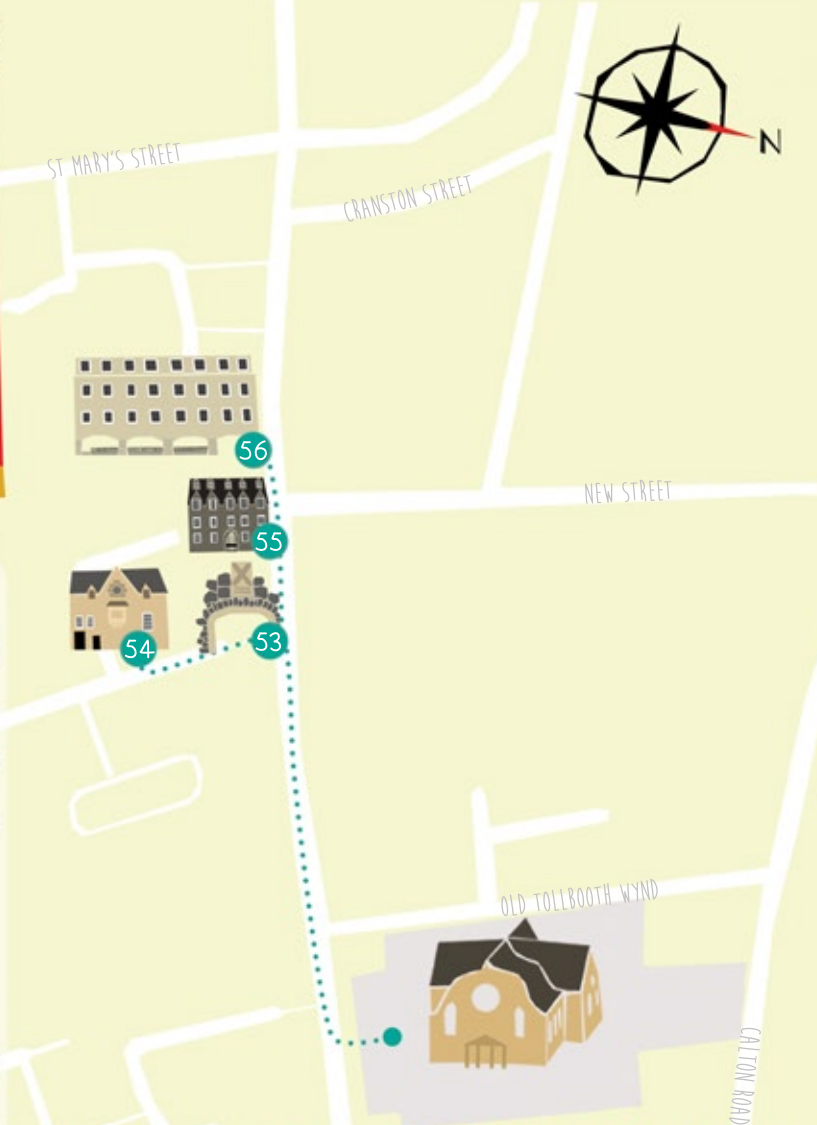


**55.** A plaque marks the entrance to **Playhouse and Old Playhouse Close** where there was a theatre between 1747 and 1769. Among the people who worked there were the musician **John Frederick Lampe** whose memorial we saw in the kirkyard.

**56.** **Chessels Court** is named after **Archibald Chessels** who developed it from around 1745. It is one of the places where the architect **Robert Hurd** worked in the 1960s. The buildings on the far side of the Court and on the right date from the 18th century. On the left of the Court and along part of the Canongate side, the buildings date from the 1960s.

**Robert Louis Stevenson's** famous tale "**Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**" enjoys a connection with **Chessels Court**. Some think **Stevenson's** central character takes inspiration from real-life cabinet-maker **William Brodie** (the infamous **Deacon Brodie**). A pillar of society by day, **Brodie** led a gang of burglars by night, robbing houses across **Edinburgh**. After a disastrous armed raid on the **Excise Office**, then located in **Chessels Court**, **Brodie** was subsequently captured, brought to trial and hanged in 1788, reputedly on gallows built to his own design.

**54.** The **Canongate Kilwinning Lodge** of **Freemasons** was founded in 1677. Inside the Lodge is a painting with the title "The Inauguration of **Robert Burns** as **Poet Laureate of Canongate Kilwinning 1st March 1787**". Whether such an inauguration actually happened is debatable, however records show **Burns** attended the Lodge in February 1787.



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- > **Greyfriars Kirkyard (4)** - 0.8 mile: 0.2464 kg of CO2
- > **St Cuthbert's Kirkyard (5)** - 1.3 miles: 0.4005 kg of CO2

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**Burgh and Burials Trail**

**IV ARTS**

**THE FRIENDS OF THE CANONGATE KIRKYARD**