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In relation to the planned/potential reopening of the venues/museums which are currently marked as 'temporarily closed' on the following website (<https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/>). This includes Lauriston Castle, the Writers Museum, The People's Story Museum, Museum of Childhood, Queensferry Museum, Scott Monument and Nelson Monument:

Request for all correspondence (including briefing material) between all City of Edinburgh council staff and elected members (MSPs, MPs and councillors) regarding the planned/potential reopening of these museums/venues since 1 October 2021.

Please see the Business Bulletin from the Culture and Communities Committee, 1 February 2022: <https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/documents/s41979/6.1%20-%20Culture%20Bulletin-1feb2022-FINAL.pdf>

### **Press briefing for local media 28 April 2022:**

Councillor Donald Wilson, Culture and Communities Convener, said:

"It's great to see these much-loved museums and libraries opening their doors so the public can enjoy everything they have to offer. Libraries such as Newington and Leith are invaluable resources for local communities and we all know there's so much more to libraries than just borrowing books – they are trusted and much-loved services which strengthen local communities and are essential for the wellbeing of our citizens. I'm sure both our residents and visitors to the city will be delighted to see these buildings open to deliver library services again."

Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan, Culture and Communities Vice Convener said:

"Our teams have been working really hard to get these venues back up and running again so thanks must go to them. Our Writers' Museum is one of the most iconic buildings in the Capital celebrating the lives of three giants of Scottish Literature – Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson – and the People's Story Museum has exhibitions reflecting the lives of Edinburgh's citizens, from their day to day jobs to the way the Capital's residents spent their free time and holidays. If you haven't been to either venue before, now is a perfect time to."

### **The Writer's Museum – Open 7 days a week 10am-5pm**

The Writers' Museum celebrates the lives of three giants of Scottish Literature – Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson.

### **The People's Story – Open 7 days a week 10am-5pm**

The collection focuses on the history, culture, crafts and trades, and the people of Edinburgh from the 18th century to the late 20th century but it is also a place to explore more contemporary issues, events and opinions.

### **Rediscover Edinburgh's Writers' Museum and The People's Story when they reopen their doors on Saturday 30 April.**

The Writers Museum and People's story, closed since the outbreak of the pandemic, will both reopen on Sat 30 April.

**The Writers' Museum** is home to portraits, rare books and personal objects including Burns' writing desk, the printing press on which Scott's Waverley Novels were first produced, and the rocking horse he used as a child. We have Robert Louis Stevenson's riding boots and the ring given to him by a Samoan chief, engraved with the name 'Tusitala', meaning 'teller of tales'. There is also a plaster cast of Robert Burns' skull, one of only three ever made.

**People's Story** – collection highlights - Banners for street protests, social, political reform movements and trade unions. There are a number of significant objects relating to Edinburgh trades including a Lockit Buik and documents from the guilds. Collections relating to crime and punishment in the 18th and 19th century are also well represented.

Entry to exhibitions is free. To help welcome all visitors back, staff will be on hand to explain the changes that have been put in place and to answer any questions.

**Newington** and **Leith Libraries** are both going to open at 10am until 5pm on Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> April and will be open for their pre covid opening hours thereafter. There will be a renewed selection of stock, access to computers and a wide range of other services. Similar to Oxfords Library, which reopened on Monday, teams will offer a number of activities including Bookbug sessions and Library Link throughout the coming weeks, all to be promoted locally through social media and advertising.

Extract from the Members Briefing 686 sent 23/12/21

### **Summary of Scottish Government's new measures**

- While Christmas celebrations can take place as planned, people are being advised to limit socialising to three households before the festivities and take a lateral flow test before mixing with others. The use of regular testing and adhering to self-isolation guidance is being strongly advised as is getting vaccinations/boosters.
- For three weeks from 26 December, there will be limits on the size of public events. Any events which do go ahead will have to introduce one metre physical distancing.
- Non-professional indoor contact sports for adults will also be banned during this period.
- Indoor hospitality and leisure venues will have to ensure there is a one metre distance between different groups of people, and table service will be required where alcohol is served for three weeks from 27 December. There should be no more than three households in any group.
- As announced today, nightclubs must close for at least three weeks from 27 December.
- There is a legal requirement for employers to enable staff to work from home where possible.

### **Cultural venues**

- City Art Centre is closed from 3pm on 23 December - 4 January. Unless guidance changes, it will reopen at 11am on 5 January.
- Museum of Edinburgh is now closed. As above, unless guidance changes, it will reopen at 11am on 5 January.
- Usher Hall box office telephone line and counter service is closed until further notice (at least to 16 January 2022). Customers with enquiries should email [customer.enquiries@usherhall.co.uk](mailto:customer.enquiries@usherhall.co.uk) and include booking reference and contact telephone number.
- The Usher Hall team is also speaking to promoters of all events affected by the latest Scottish Government guidelines about how they wish to proceed. They will share further updates through their website and social media.
- Lauriston Castle grounds are open every day until 4pm.