



The Scottish
Parliament

HOLYROOD BUILDING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER NO 5
APRIL 2001

The Holyrood Building Project newsletter is aimed at residents in the Holyrood and surrounding areas. The newsletters cover a variety of topics of interest to residents, keeping you informed of developments and progress on site.

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDING VISITOR CENTRE

The New Parliament Building Visitor Centre opened to the public on 9 October 2000, and a private evening viewing for local residents was held in November. The Centre has proved very popular, both with local residents and visitors to the area, and visitor numbers have now reached over 10,000.



The New Parliament Building Visitor Centre

On Sunday 1 April we moved to 7 day opening, and the Centre is now open every day from 10.00am to 4.00pm. It is our intention to regularly update the content of the exhibition, introducing new material as it becomes available, while still retaining information on the history of the project.

Members of the Project Team have been developing an education programme associated with the Centre and this is proving popular with school groups visiting the Parliament.

On Thursday 5 April the Edinburgh Old Town Association held a members' meeting in the Visitor



Members of Edinburgh Old Town Association in the Visitor Centre

Centre, and this facility is available to other local organisations wishing to hold similar events.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The main superstructure of the MSP building was completed at the start of the year and on 24 January the building was 'topped out' in a ceremony performed by Sir David Steel, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, Lewis Macdonald, Convener of the Holyrood Progress Group, and John Spanswick, Managing Director of Bovis Lend Lease Europe. This is a traditional ceremony designed to recognise the construction workers at the point at which a

Sir David Steel, Lewis Macdonald and John Spanswick perform the "topping out" of the MSP building



building reaches its fullest height, and to mark the occasion the Presiding Officer accepted an engraved silver trowel on the Parliament's behalf. This will shortly be on display in the Visitor Centre.

Speaking at the event, Sir David said: "I am delighted to participate in this significant milestone in the project. Looking around today, there is no question that the quality of the work so far - prefabricated off-site as well as that produced on-site - is of a high standard befitting a national Parliament building.



The MSP building reached its fullest height in January

"The project's construction workers can be proud of their achievements particularly given the pressures of the tight timescale for delivering the building and the level of attention the project is receiving.

"This building is the most important to be built in Scotland for some 300 years and today marks a significant milestone in the programme. This ceremony marks the arrival at its full height of the office block for MSPs. The foundations are also well

Feature windows in the MSP building



underway for the Chamber and Committee room structures at the east end of the site where for many months there was previously a deep water-filled hole. At the same time work is under way on the renovation of Queensberry House hidden under its scaffolded shroud.



Construction of Debating Chamber and Committee Towers commenced in October 2000

"For this I wish today to thank all those involved: the architects, the project team, the contractors (Bovis), and all who have been employed both on and off the site. I especially want to thank on behalf of the Corporate Body, and indeed the Parliament as a whole, Lewis Macdonald and his colleagues on the Holyrood Progress Group who have worked diligently and reported to us regularly as this highly complex prestigious project develops."



Construction progressing on Debating Chamber and Committee Towers

Works package contractors have recently been appointed for the external cladding and roofing of the MSP building, and work on both these elements is due to commence soon. The cladding contract includes the provision of granite from the Kemnay



Computer generated image of the landscape scheme

quarry in Aberdeenshire, and is designed to give a mosaic effect through combining applied panels of timber, stone, slate and steel. When this stage is completed the building will appear largely finished from the outside.

Ballast Construction were appointed at the end of last year as the contractor for the dewatering and reconstruction work required within Queensberry House, and work is currently underway stabilising the building and removing non-historic elements.

In October 2000, work commenced on the substructure for the Debating Chamber and Committee Towers at the east of the site. The substructure concrete floors have already been formed and very soon the concrete walls of these buildings will be visible over the site hoardings.

LANDSCAPING

Enric Miralles always spoke about the Parliament building 'sitting in the land', and this is given expression in the landscape scheme associated with

Computer generated image of the landscape scheme



the project, the final details of which were recently approved. The scheme connects the building to the landscape in the form of the Queen's Park, Salisbury Crag and Arthur's Seat, and the plans include details such as the planting of indigenous Scottish wild flowers, trees and shrubs as well as water and lighting features. More information on the landscaping plans will shortly be on display in the Visitor Centre.

ROADWORKS UPDATE

Temporary works to Reid's Close were recently completed and Reid's Close is now open for partial vehicular access and full pedestrian access from Canongate to Holyrood Road. Further and final upgrading of this road will be carried out in the Autumn of 2002.



Work underway on the upgrading of Queen's Drive

Work continues to upgrade Queen's Drive. This phase is due to be completed at the beginning of May, including the installation of a new roundabout to replace the existing 'Y' junction to the south of

the Palace. Further upgrading works to Queen's Drive Spur are programmed for August - October this year.

HOLYROOD PROGRESS GROUP

Membership of the Progress Group has been subject to change over the last few months with Jamie Stone replacing Tavish Scott as the Liberal Democrat representative last November and John Home Robertson replacing Lewis Macdonald as Convener in March of this year.

FURTHER INFORMATION

It is our intention to produce newsletters on a regular basis depending on the amount of information available. However we recognise that you may have specific questions on the project. Any queries on site related aspects of this project should be directed to Bovis Lend Lease on 0131 472 7100. Other general queries should initially be directed to Vicky O'Donnell of the Project Team on 0131 348 6524.



Construction work in progress

View of the site from Salisbury Crags

