



The Scottish
Parliament

HOLYROOD BUILDING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER NO 6
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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

Over 30,000 people have now visited the New Parliament Building Visitor Centre on Holyrood Road since it opened last October, and comments in the Visitors' Book continue to be mainly positive about the project and the exhibition.

Display boards in the Centre have recently been updated to include the new landscaping proposals as well as some additional information on Queensberry House. At the end of June a new video was introduced. Directed by Murray Grigor the video tells the story behind Enric Miralles' original design concept.

Recently, the Visitor Centre played host to a media event when it was announced that personal and political memorabilia of the late Donald Dewar had been donated to the Parliament by his family. The range of items including books, photographs, badges, speeches, football programmes and a rugby ball will be displayed in the Donald Dewar Reading Room in Queensberry House.

VISIT OF PRESIDENT PUJOL OF CATALONIA

On 9 July President Pujol of Catalonia visited the New Parliament Building Visitor Centre accompanied by the Parliament's Presiding Officer, Sir David Steel, to view progress on the building. The process of devolution in Scotland has been very similar to that of Catalonia, and President Pujol has maintained a keen interest in the Scottish Parliament, and the design and construction of the Holyrood building, first visiting the site back in 1998 at the invitation of the late Donald Dewar.



President Pujol of Catalonia and Sir David Steel

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The east end of the site has seen much progress since the last newsletter. With the basement area now complete the superstructure of the buildings which will accommodate the Committee rooms and Debating Chamber is now rising impressively above the ground. The cores of two of the four towers can clearly be seen from the perimeter of the site.

Work is also well under way on the buildings which run parallel with the Canongate. Scaffolding currently shrouds the building formerly known as Bagpipes Galore and although the façade and gables will be

retained the rest of the building will be demolished over the coming weeks with construction of the new structure following soon thereafter.

Initial works have commenced on the construction of a new building fronting the Canongate. When complete this cantilever structure will form office space for Parliamentary support staff.

Work continues within Queensberry House to strengthen the building, with a programme of installing replacement concrete floors throughout the majority of the building. In addition, the existing roof will be removed shortly, ahead of the installation of a new roof structure.



Construction of Committee Towers



Construction of Debating Chamber



View across site towards MSP Building

PARLIAMENT OPEN DAY AND DOORS OPEN DAY



Winners of the children's drawing competition in the Visitor Centre

On 30 June the Parliament held an Open Day to celebrate its second birthday. Over 1,000 people

came to the Visitor Centre where as well as looking around the exhibition and watching the new video, they were able to view construction progress from a safe area of the site. A drawing competition was organised, where children were asked to draw the new Parliament building, or their favourite part of it. The entries were judged in Barcelona by Benedetta Tagliabue Miralles, and prizes awarded to the winners in 3 different age groups. The winning entries are currently on display in the Visitor Centre. The New Parliament Building Visitor Centre is also participating in the Cockburn Association's Doors Open Day on 29 September (10.00am to 5.00pm), when as well as another chance to view progress on site, visitors will be able to attend talks by members of the Design Team at various times during the day.

NEW PROJECT DIRECTOR

Following the departure of Alan Ezzi in June of this year, Sarah Davidson has been appointed as the new Project Director. Prior to her appointment Sarah had already been closely involved in the project at a senior level for over a year, as Secretary to the Holyrood Progress Group.



Work under way in the east basement



Upgrading of Queen's Drive Spur

ROADWORKS UPDATE

Works on Queen's Drive, including the creation of a new roundabout to replace the old 'Y' junction, were completed in May 2001. Work is currently being carried out to upgrade the Queen's Drive Spur which, once completed in October 2001, will see the permanent closure of the lower part of Holyrood Road with all traffic re-routed via Queen's Drive and the Mall, which runs between Our Dynamic Earth and the Scotsman building. Pedestrian access to the Palace of Holyroodhouse and the New Parliament Building Visitor Centre will be maintained at all times.



Upgrading of existing road structure

APPOINTMENT OF ARTS CONSULTANT

On 18 July the Holyrood Progress Group announced the appointment of Art in Partnership as the arts consultants for the development and implementation of an art strategy for the new building. Art in Partnership are an Edinburgh based company with a long standing reputation for providing art consultancy services to large-scale public projects.



Work under way on replacing floors within Queensberry House

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Holyrood Building Project newsletter is produced 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.