



The Scottish  
Parliament

## HOLYROOD BUILDING PROJECT

NEWSLETTER NO 8  
SEPTEMBER 2002

### SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT OPEN DAY

Following the success of last year's events the Parliament is holding another Open Day on Saturday 28 September. As part of this event the New Parliament Building Visitor Centre will be offering members of the public the chance to view construction progress from a safe area at regular intervals throughout the day. There will also be an exhibition of specially commissioned photographs of the project, by Niall Hendrie. Opening times will be from 10.00am till 5.00pm, with last admission at 4.45pm.

### CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

Over the summer good progress has been made on the construction of the new building. All buildings, which make up the Parliamentary complex can now be seen clearly as you walk around the perimeter of the site.

At the east end of the development the steel framework of what will be the Debating



*Beams installed on Chamber roof*

Chamber is now in place and the first of the beams which form the unique roof structure have been put in place. Over the coming months the remainder of the beams will be installed followed by the stainless steel roof covering.

The concrete vaults in the public foyer area beneath the chamber are near completion. Moulded into the vaults are Enric Miralles' abstract shapes of the saltire.



*Entrance to public foyer under Chamber*

The building which will accommodate the media, adjacent to the chamber, is currently being clad in pre-cast concrete panels. On Tower One, where some of the committee rooms will be located, Kemnay granite from Aberdeenshire is being installed. On the same building the upturned boat design of the roof, which will have a stainless steel finish, is clearly visible.

The structures of the buildings on the Canongate are well advanced, with the 18m span of the cantilever building forming an exciting addition to the architecture of this



*New cantilever building at the foot of the Canongate*

end of the Royal Mile. Located next to this building, the former Bagpipes Galore shop is undergoing major redesign. Miralles liked the façade and gables of this building and while these are being retained a new structure is taking shape to the rear.

In Queensberry House work is progressing in the fitting out of the building. When occupied Queensberry House will be the office accommodation for the Presiding Officers, the Chief Executive of the Parliament and their support staff as well as the Donald Dewar Reading Room, where



*Roofs being installed on the four tower buildings*

some of the late First Minister's books will be displayed. The first of the pantiles, covering the roof of Queensberry House, have recently been installed.

The "lobby" space forming the link to the

main assembly buildings from Queensberry House and the MSP office building is also taking shape with the first of the steel framed



*First of the lobby roof lights being installed*

leaf-shaped roof lights having been installed in mid-August. The unique shaped columns supporting the roof lights are also in place.

The MSP building at the west end of the development is progressing well both internally and externally. Inside work is moving ahead in the fitting out of the Members' offices. Outside the cladding is being fitted to the west elevation, which faces onto Reid's Close and the first of the unusual shaped windows will be installed soon.



*Internal fit-out of MSP offices*

## VOICES OF SCOTLAND

Over the summer members of the public were invited through local newspapers, to submit a quote which reminded them of what Scotland and being Scottish means to them.



*'Voices of Scotland' posters on the site hoardings*

Responses were received from all over the country and beyond, and a selection of the quotes offered is currently being displayed on the hoardings around the site. Submissions included quotes from recognised literary sources, extracts from songs and locals sayings or phrases. All are printed as the people of Scotland recalled them and will add a new dimension to the hoarding for the remainder of the project

## CLOSURE OF HORSE WYND

From Monday 16 September, Horse Wynd will be closed to all vehicles for a period up to 9 months. Pedestrian access will however be maintained, and a shuttle bus will run from



*The site from the entrance to Holyrood Park*

the foot of the Canongate to link with LRT's 30 bus service in St Mary's Street.

The closure of Horse Wynd is necessary to allow for the road and walkways to be realigned and for the creation of new landscape features in readiness for the opening of the building.

It is recognised that the closure of Horse Wynd will cause traffic difficulties as drivers find alternative routes but the closure of the road will allow for the work to be carried out in the most effective way. The road when reopened will be "traffic-calmed" to persuade drivers to drive cautiously through what will become primarily a pedestrian thoroughfare.

The use of high quality Caithness stone and granite will create a new urban space linking the Parliament with the Palace of Holyroodhouse.

## HOLYROOD PROJECT TEAM RELOCATE

On 12 August the Holyrood Project Team moved office from above the Visitor Centre to new accommodation in The Tun on Holyrood Road. The address of the team remains as "The Holyrood Project Team, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh EH99 1SP". Phone numbers for individual members of the team remain unaltered.

## VISITOR CENTRE CLOSURE/RELOCATION

On Friday 1 November 2002, the New Parliament Building Visitor Centre will close to the public. Since it opened in October 2000, over 65,000 people have taken the opportunity to visit the exhibition and view the models and plans of the new building. From the comments recorded by those who have visited the centre this facility has been widely appreciated and helped greatly to explain the background to the project and how the building will look and function when it opens. Contractors have also found the

opportunity to examine models of the building beneficial as they consider the “buildability” of the unique design.

Given the popularity of the centre by both members of the public and contractors a new Information Centre will open within The Tun complex on Holyrood Road by the end of the year. The Information Centre will feature an abbreviated version of the current exhibition explaining the history of the project. Included within the facility will be a small retail unit selling Parliament merchandise.

### **PROGRAMME**

Construction of the building is on programme for completion by the end of April 2003. During the Parliament’s summer recess the various systems in the building will be tested and the relocation of staff from their temporary offices will take place before the Parliament goes “live” in the new building in September.

### **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 the 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.

