Lauriston Castle
2020 Events Programme
About Us

For more than 400 years, enchanting Lauriston Castle has overlooked the River Forth at Silverknowes, near Cramond. Set among 30 acres of woodland and beautiful gardens, Lauriston Castle is a special place to visit.

The Castle itself has a beautiful Edwardian interior, from which we take inspiration for many of our workshops. Downstairs are the servants’ quarters, including the maids’ hall and the atmospheric old kitchen, where a warm welcome awaits you during the winter months.

Why not double up a day visiting the Castle grounds with a picnic, and historic Cramond is right on our doorstep so you can make a real day out visiting this part of Edinburgh. Free car parking is available within the Castle grounds off Cramond Road South.
Pre-booking and advance payment are essential for all events.

Online: To book contact: edinburghmuseums.org.uk

By phone - 0131 529 3993 (Opening Hours: Monday - Sunday 10am - 5pm)

In person - City Art Centre Reception, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh (Opening Hours: Monday - Sunday 10am - 5pm)

For further information (non-booking information) about any event, contact Margaret Findlay, Learning and Programmes Manager, on 0131 529 3963, or email margaret.findlay@edinburgh.gov.uk
Lectures

All our lecture mornings cost £9 and include a friendly lecture where you can meet our guest lecturer, have coffee and cakes and get a special tour.

Take advantage of our special offer, book 10 lectures for £80.
Saturday 27 June, 10.30am

**Victorian Spiritualism: The Fox Sisters and the World they Created**
In 1848, western New York, two young sisters stumbled across the spirit world and a religion rapidly grew out of it. Stretching from the Tsars of Russia, to the court of the French Emperor, across oceans and continents, a movement spread. In 1888 the sisters revealed a startling secret - the spirit rappings that originated the movement had been faked.

**Ash Pryce** is a stage mentalist and founder of the Edinburgh Skeptics society. In his first traditional lecture in more than a decade, he will be looking at the world of the Victorian Occult, the big names that sold it, and the sceptics that tried to expose it.

Monday 29 June, 10.30am

**With the Royal Scots in Gallipoli**
In 1915, The Dardanelles - Edinburgh's Royal Scots Territorials - were in the first waves of the seaborne offensive that aimed to end World War I. From the first day of the landings, through the Gretna Rail Disaster and to the final evacuation, Edinburgh 'Terriers' were there from first day to last. This lecture explores their journey.

**David Clarke** is a historian and specialist in the military conflicts of the late Victorian British Empire and the Great War. He is a teacher in Edinburgh.
Tuesday 30 June, 10.30am

The White Man's Burden ... the silent, sullen peoples: Addressing slavery and Empire at the National Trust for Scotland.
Jennifer Melville is currently working on ways to increase and diversify audiences and visitors to NTS properties, and bring properties to life through the delivery of textured, varied and truthful stories.

Jennifer Melville is Head of Curatorial & Conservation Services at the National Trust for Scotland.

Wed 1 July, 10.30am

Documenting the Islands: The Margaret Fay Shaw Photographic Collection
American born folklorist Margaret Fay Shaw relocated to the Western Isles of Scotland in 1929, remaining there until her death in 2004. Spanning over five decades, her photographs document her own life, as well as offering a fascinating window view of rural Hebridean life in the twentieth century.

Lily Barnes is the Morton Photographic Project Documentation and Digitisation Officer. Since 2018, she has worked to preserve the photographic collections of the National Trust for Scotland.
Wednesday 8 July, 10.30am

Playing the Past
What can archaeology tell us about the world’s most popular sport? Archaeology Scotland will discuss some of its and others’ recent work on the archaeology and history of football.

Phil Richardson has been an archaeologist for over a decade with Archaeology Scotland and a long-time sufferer as a football fan. He has worked around Scotland leading community projects to investigate and explore local history, heritage and archaeology. An Archaeology Scotland lecture.

Wednesday 22 July, 10.30am

Murder, Power and ... Pineapples?
Come along for a talk about recent excavations of pineries in the Lothians and Falkirk that have shed light on a time in Scotland when a pineapple cost more than year’s wages and the rich were ruthless in their pursuit of power.

Doug Rocks-Macqueen has worked as an archaeologist all over the world, excavating anything from Mayan temples in Belize to pinery vineries in Scotland, the subject of this talk. He now works for Archaeology Scotland as a Public Archaeologist. An Archaeology Scotland lecture.
Tuesday 11 August, 10.30am

**A Curious Flowering: The Hydros in Scotland in the 19th Century**
In the nineteenth century, Scotland, a tiny country, hosted no less than 20 Hydropathic institutions. They were to be found throughout Scotland, including two in Edinburgh. How this came about, who went there, and what happened in this boom and bust industry will be discussed.

*After retiring from the NHS, Jane Neil-MacLachlan has forged another career as writer and novelist under the pen name of Jane Tulloch. A keen forager into local social history, her interest has led her into many interesting nooks and crannies of Scottish life.*

Wednesday 19 August, 10.30am

**The Morton Photography Project at the National Trust for Scotland: Collections, Stories, Case Studies**
Today is World Photography Day. The National Trust for Scotland holds thousands of photographic images related to dozens of properties in its collections, from 19th century glass plates and prints to modern slides. The Morton Photographic Project has spent the past few years digitising, cataloguing, researching and raising the profile of these collections.

*Ben Reiss, the Morton Photography Project Curator, has been undertaking this work over the last 18 months, and will share collections, stories and projects from properties as diverse as Canna House, Brodie Castle and Tenement House.*
Tuesday 25 August, 10.30am

**Earls, Maids, Dames and Gardeners: Highlights of the EMG Costume Collection**
Vicky Garrington shares some key pieces from Edinburgh Museums & Galleries’ large and important costume collection. Recent projects to repackage historic costume and conserve an 18th century dress will be explored, together with recent research and forthcoming projects.

**Vicky Garrington** has been Curator: History with Museums & Galleries Edinburgh for ten years. She specialises in costume & wartime collections, but has responsibility for a wide range of objects from domestic appliances to protest material. She is interested in material culture and connecting people through objects, and is a collector of contemporary studio pottery.

Saturday 5 September, 10.30am

**Ghosts of Edinburgh**
What entity haunts the South Bridge vaults? What is the real history behind the poltergeists and spirits that linger in Edinburgh’s Old Town?

**Ash Pryce**, stage mentalist and former Ghost Tour Guide, will tell you tales of Edinburgh’s old and ghostly world, and look at the research that has been used to both justify and debunk the hauntings of the old town. He will spread his gaze further afield to East Lothian, where in 2009 the world’s most convincing ghost photograph was taken, but just what might be causing the entity?
Tuesday 22 September, 10.30am

Columba's Iona: Archaeology of the Thin Place
Iona is known around the globe as Scotland's most sacred place, and yet until recently little was known about the earliest phases of St Columba’s foundation. This lecture will discuss recent discoveries, such as the results of new excavations of an extraordinary 7th century building at the abbey that have changed our understanding of the site.

Peter Yeoman has had a long association with Iona Abbey, and in 2013 led a major new research project there which informed the re-interpretation of the site for Historic Scotland, including the creation of a new museum of the High Crosses and other early Christian sculpture. An Archaeology Scotland lecture.

Monday 28 September, 10.30am

All in the Family: Edwardian Photo Albums from Brodie Castle
Between 1898 and 1912, Violet Brodie (nee Violet Hope) created a series of photographic albums recording her daily life and the lives of her family and friends. These albums offer a unique and intimate view of upper-class life in Edwardian Scotland, and document Brodie’s changing relationship and use of photography to represent her world.

Lily Barnes is the Morton Photographic Project Documentation and Digitisation Officer.
Thursday 8 October, 10.30am

**A Guid Cause Maks a Strong Arm**

We are all familiar with the story of Emily Wilding Davison, the suffragette who gained posthumous notoriety after leaping in front of King George V’s horse at the 1913 derby. But what of the suffrage movement in Scotland? Surprisingly perhaps, our country was one of the first to have a women’s suffrage society and an early groundswell of support. The story of the fight for women’s suffrage in Scotland is full of examples of dogged determination over many years from suffragists and outrageous acts of arson, vandalism and bravery from suffragettes. This talk explores the ‘gists, the ‘gettes and the fight for female emancipation, viewed by some as a campaign and by others as a war.

Ailsa Clarke’s interest in WW1 was sparked as a 16-year-old on her high school battlefield trip. She went on as an adult to become a tour guide on the Western Front before going into secondary school teaching. She is also a practitioner of living history who specialises in portraying women on active service during the conflict.
Wednesday 28 October, 10.30am

**E. A. Hornel: from Camera to Canvas**
The National Trust of Scotland’s Broughton House, Kirkcudbright, is the home of Scottish artist Edward Atkinson Hornel, and houses a collection of glass plates and photographic prints. These include material gathered by the artist during trips to Japan in 1893 and 1921, as well as travels to Sri Lanka in 1907 and Myanmar in 1920. Largely unknown, these photographic prints and plates have led to a new understanding of Hornel’s painting process which, in turn, has led to an exhibition that opens in November 2020 at Edinburgh’s City Art Centre. This talk is a curatorial overview of the exhibition that will illustrate how Hornel’s travels and use of photographs influenced his artistic practice.

**Dr Antonia Laurence Allen** is the National Trust for Scotland’s Regional Curator for Edinburgh and East. Antonia has worked as an educator and curator in museums, galleries and heritage for over 25 years. Antonia is also the manager of the Morton Photography project. Running for over 4 years and funded by the Morton Charitable Trust, this project aims to document, digitise and promote the photographic collections of the NTS.
Tuesday 10 November, 10.30am

**Distant lives: The Earliest Photographs of St Kilda**

In 1860 Capt. F.W.L. Thomas, who lived in Edinburgh, sailed to St Kilda to take the first ever photographs of this remote and fascinating island community. The photographs are hauntingly beautiful. The struggle for survival is etched on the faces of these unidentified St Kildans. Who were they and would we ever know what happened to them? This is the story of the quest to give these St Kildans back their identity and to tell their story.

Annemarie Gibson is an Edinburgh-based producer of documentary style films for visitor centres and exhibitions. When she worked as an archaeologist on the Western Isles and sometimes caught a glimpse of St Kilda marooned far out in the Atlantic Ocean, her fascination with the island began.

Tuesday 17 November, 10.30am

**Bright Shadows: Scottish Art in the 1920s**

The 1920s was a period of contrasts: high spirits and sombre reflection, decadent excess and hard realities. One hundred years since the dawn of the 1920s, the City Art Centre is staging a new exhibition that explores the events, ideas and styles that shaped Scottish art during this fascinating decade. This lecture provides an introduction to the exhibition, investigating a range of artworks by artists including S.J. Peploe, Dorothy Johnstone, Eric Robertson and William McCance, and placing them within the context of their times.

Dr Helen Scott is Curator of Fine Art at the City Art Centre.
Tuesday 1 December, 10.30am

**Tokens of Festive Magic: The Victorian Christmas**
A special festive lecture. Join artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb for an exploration of the 19th century Christmas through antique objects, many from her own collection which inspire her intricate etchings. Explore the history of delicate glass Christmas tree birds, original Victorian crackers, Christmas cards, and ephemera and how they reflect the spirit of Christmas Past.

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Tuesday 8 December, 10.30am

**Upstairs, Downstairs: Glamorous gowns to working dress in the Museums & Galleries Edinburgh Costume Collection**
Vicky Garrington explores a variety of historic dress from a much-mended maid’s uniform of the early 20th century to a sumptuous 18th century silk dress scattered with tulips. Materials, methods of making and wearers will all be considered, building a picture of Edinburgh inhabitants through the clothes they wore.

**Vicky Garrington has been Curator: History with Museums & Galleries Edinburgh for ten years. She specialises in costume and wartime collections, but has responsibility for a wide range of objects from domestic appliances to protest material. She is interested in material culture and connecting people through objects, and is a collector of contemporary studio pottery.**
Leith 2020

This year sees 100 years since Leith became part of the City of Edinburgh; prior to that it was a separate burgh. Our talk’s programme explores the rich heritage of Leith and its unique identity.

Wednesday 17 June, 10.30am

An Archival look at Leith
From Lauriston Castle we’ll stroll through the archives to Leith, looking at aerial perspectives, maps and Scotsman imagery along the way.

Jackie Sangster is a Learning Manager at Historic Environment Scotland who works with Scran.ac.uk
Wednesday 24 June, 10.30am

Leith Theatre: Past Present and Future
Leith Theatre was built as a gift to the people of Leith following the amalgamation with Edinburgh in 1920. The joint speakers will outline the chequered history of the Theatre, where it is now and where it might go in the future.

Jack Hunter is the chair of the Board of Trustees of Leith Theatre Trust. He has been involved since 2005 in the campaign to secure, restore and operate the Theatre for the local and artistic community.

Katharine Taylor is a volunteer with Leith Theatre. She has researched the history of the building from the inception of the decision to build the Theatre up to when the local action group took on the challenge of saving the building.

Friday 11 September, 10.30am

Enlightened Golfers
The rich heritage of Leith has many interesting stories to tell. This talk will explore the variety of notable people who have played golf on Leith Links. Andrew Duncan, the elder (1744 – 1828) was a British physician and professor at Edinburgh University. He was joint founder of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Sir Henry Raeburn FRSE RA RSA (1756 - 1823) was a British portrait painter and Scotland's first significant portrait painter since the Union to remain based in Scotland. He served as Portrait Painter to King George IV in Scotland.

Jim Scanlon lives in Leith and is a member of Leith local history society and Leith Rules Golf Society.
Tuesday 15 September, 10.30am

**Leith: HQ of the *Trainspotting* Phenomenon.** For most of the last century Leith was the scene of demolitions and dispersals, a vacancy where heroin easily found a home. Irvine Welsh’s *Trainspotting*, now indelibly part of Leith’s legacy with international recognition, deserves more credit and study than it gets. Tim Bell will explore how Leith is presented.

Tim Bell is author of the acclaimed *CHOOSE LIFE. CHOOSE LEITH: Trainspotting on Location* and the ever-popular *Trainspotting* tours.

Tuesday 6 October, 10.30am

**Discovering Leith through Maps**
From trading port, and fishing village, to municipal Burgh and industrial hub – the history of Leith is rich and varied. This lecture will consider how Leith been depicted on maps from the 16th century to the present day, and explore how historical maps can help trace the social and commercial development of the Burgh over the centuries.

Laragh Quinney is Maps Reading Room Manager for the National Library of Scotland, where she oversees the Maps Reading Room and Enquiry Service, and helps make available over 2 million maps in the Library’s collection.
Tuesday 3 November, 10.30am

**Leith: A Photographic Walk Through Time**
In this talk Fraser Parkinson will illustrate the rich heritage of Leith through photographs, showing the history and changing face of Leith from the mid-1850s to the present day. Attendees are welcome to contribute to this interactive session.

*Fraser is a Blue Badge Tourist Guide, administrator of ‘The Spirit of Leithers’ and ‘Lost Edinburgh’ Facebook pages. He is co-author of publications on Leith and Edinburgh.*
Edinburgh Living History are our multi award-winning team, who interpret the history of the castle in a variety of entertaining ways in Edwardian costume - bringing alive the history of the house. Each performance is carefully devised by Edinburgh Living History to be as historically accurate as possible and include a touch of drama and a soupçon of humour. You will walk through the Castle on a special tour watching the performance unfold.
Sunday 3 May, 2.30pm

The Housewarming
Adult £10, Concession and children £6 (under 5 free), includes tea and cake
It’s the year 1905 and The Reids of Lauriston Castle, at the forefront of modern technology, have invited some guests to Lauriston in order to showcase these latest innovations: electricity, central heating, plumbing, the telephone. While most of the staff welcome these improvements, some are uncertain about how to deal with them.

Sunday 7 June, 2.30pm

Supporting the War Effort
Adult £10, Concession and children £6 (under 5 free), includes tea and cake
It’s the year 1916 and Mr and Mrs Reid are planning a major event to raise money to support the conduct of the war; but they are unsure what will be the most effective way to do this. Eavesdrop on their discussions and hear what they and the staff feel about how the conflict is progressing.

Sunday 6 September, 2.30pm

A Fairley Interesting Look at Lauriston
Adult £10, Concession and children £6 (under 5 free), includes tea and cake
It’s the year 1923. Mrs Reid, now a widow, lives a secluded life with her housekeeper Mrs Mackay. Her steward and friend, John Fairley, who is proposing to write a book about the history of Lauriston, joins them to reflect on the many interesting people connected with the house and estate.

Sunday 6 December, 2.30pm

An Edwardian Christmas
Adult £10, Concession and children £6 (under 5 free), includes tea and cake
It’s Christmas 1910. There are conflicting views on the creeping commercialisation of Christmas and the English effect on the Protestant values of the Scottish people. However, all family and staff come together to enjoy the season.
Join one of our unique Murder Mystery Evenings in atmospheric Lauriston Castle in the evening.

**Murder Mysteries**

Friday 6 November, 6.30pm till 9.15pm

**Such A Sweet Death?**
£22 with wine/prosecco
Family and friends gather together at the Laurels for an important event, but murder is on the mind of at least one of them. Can you solve the mystery and bring a killer to justice?

Saturday 7 November, 6.30pm till 9.15pm

**Such A Sweet Death?**
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Adult Special Events

Saturday 13 June 6.30pm for 7pm

**Downton Abbey at Lauriston Castle** (2019)
122mins.
£15 including a glass of Champagne.
An Atmosphere film screening by New Media Scotland. It’s 1927, and the King and Queen are to visit Downton Abbey. The Crawley family and their servants are pitted against the Royal entourage. Come dressed for the era, upstairs or downstairs.
http://atmospheredowntonabbey.eventbrite.com

Sunday 12 July, 7pm - 9pm

**Shakespeare at the Castle: Romeo and Juliet**
£16 adult / £8 under-18 / Free under-10 / £40 family
Five actors, with all manner of musical instruments, present an inventive take on Shakespeare’s most famous story, Romeo & Juliet. Prepare for a carnival of passion and imagination, as The Three Inch Fools present the world’s best-known love story at Lauriston Castle. This romantic epic will be getting the full Three Inch Fools treatment: live music-making, deft physicality and vibrant story-telling. Expect fast-paced drama, plenty of musical instruments and many a quick costume change along the way!
Please feel free to bring a picnic and blankets to enjoy the performance.
Friday 24 July, 7pm - 9pm

**Shakespeare at the Castle: The Merry Wives of Windsor**

£16 adult / £8 under-18 / Free under-10 / £40 family

Five actors, with all manner of musical instruments, present an inventive take on Shakespeare’s raucous comedy The Merry Wives of Windsor. In this mischievous play, jealousy, disguise and seduction lead to hilarious and unexpected results. Prepare for a carnival of passion and imagination, as The Three Inch Fools present this rip-roaring Shakespearean comedy at Lauriston Castle. This Shakespearean classic will be getting the full Three Inch Fools treatment: live music-making, deft physicality and vibrant story-telling. Expect fast-paced drama, plenty of musical instruments and many a quick costume change along the way! Please feel free to bring a picnic and blankets to enjoy the performance.
Sunday 16 August, 10am - 12.30pm or 1.30pm - 4pm

**Pinhole Cameras**
£20 with coffee and cake
To celebrate World Photography Day (19 August), join us for a special workshop exploring pinhole cameras. Back to basics workshop where you will experiment with pinhole cameras made from whisky tubes and card. We will learn about the basics of pinhole photography followed by the magical chemical process of developing black and white prints in a darkroom. No experience is necessary. All materials provided, but if you have a cardboard whisky tube box with lid, bring it! We will be working outdoors for some of the time.

*With artist Kit Martin.*

Friday 25 September, 7pm - 9pm

**Burns v McGonagall: An evening with Scotland’s best poet and arguably the worst!**
£15 with a dram and nibbles
Burns needs no introduction, but William McGonagall was born in Edinburgh in 1825, and a resident of Dundee for most of his life. William McGonagall has long been regarded as ‘the worst poet in the history of the English language’. We know Mr and Mrs Reid of Lauriston Castle were fans!

*Join our host, Scots actor Jock Ferguson, for an evening of anecdotes and stories and a wee dram in between!*
Friday 11 December 6.30pm for 7pm

**Scrooge at Lauriston Castle** (1970) 113mins
£15 including mulled wine and Christmas nibbles
An Atmosphere film screening by New Media Scotland
This Christmas we’re celebrating the 50th anniversary of the release of this all-singing, all-dancing adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic. Albert Finney gives a Golden Globe winning lead performance as the lovable old skinflint.
http://atmospherescrooge.eventbrite.com
All our adult workshops include a free supply of fresh coffee and cakes.

Please remember to bring a packed lunch.

**Adult Craft Workshops**

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 May, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Summer Mosaics**
£30
Join us for a 2-day class making beautiful mosaic panels inspired by the colours of summer.
**With Margaret Findlay.**

Sunday 5 July, 10am - 1pm

**Introduction to Abstract Art**
£15
Learn to lose yourself into art for art sake in this taster session. Explore the possibilities of your pictures. Explore textures, share your ideas and develop your understanding of an art movement with no boundaries. Wear your old clothes!
**With Lauriston Castle staff.**
Saturday 11 July, 10.30am - 3.30pm

Linocut Printing
£30
Explore ways of creating striking images by cutting into linoleum, and inking with colour to produce bold and dramatic prints. Bring some of your own images, or choose from those supplied at the class. No experience is necessary.
With Catherine McMillan.

Sunday 26 July, 10.30am - 4pm

Bookbinding & Botanicals
£40
Join us for a creative day of printing and bookbinding inspired by our gardens. Begin the day with some sketching in the castle grounds and transform your drawings into a set of reusable botanical stamps. You will then use your stamps and a number of leaf mono printing techniques to create a collection of patterned papers. After a break for lunch you will transform a selection of your work into a hardback journal with decorative V stitch spine - a great way to bring your prints together and create a unique and usable sketchbook or journal.
With artist Cassandra Barron.
Sunday 11 October, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Memories of Autumn**
£40
Inspired by the season passing make a gorgeous autumn wreath lit by magical lights to adorn your door to take you right up to Christmas.
*With Margaret Findlay.*

Friday 27 November, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Tartan Wreaths**
£30
Make a colourful and unique Christmas wreath for your door using tartan remnants, bells, baubles and ribbons. No sewing is required!
*With Catherine McMillan.*

Saturday 28 November, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Christmas Patchwork Appliqued Cushions**
£30
Join us to make a special gift for Christmas. Make a beautiful appliqued cushion using exquisite Christmas and vintage-inspired fabrics.
*With Felicity Bryant.*

Thursday 3 December, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Printmaking for Christmas**
£30
Join us for an adorable Christmas class where you can print Robins, fir trees and other beautiful motifs. Using simple relief printmaking techniques create a selection of images suitable for Christmas cards and gifts. Frame some for Christmas.
*With artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb.*
Monday 7 December, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Paper Garlands and Silver Wings**
£30
Join us for Christmas magic. Using a selection of beautiful papers and foils in silvery colours create a wreath, angel and garland in this relaxing workshop.
*With artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb.*

Wednesday 16 December, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Festive Decorations**
£30
Join us for a festive class making a variety of Christmas decorations to adorn your home, including a special centre-piece that can take pride of place at your Christmas dinner.
*With Hilary Lovie.*

Friday 18 December, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Country Wreaths and Garlands**
£50
Make a sweet little natural wreath inspired by Scandinavia with little painted reindeers, stars and hearts. You will also make a magical lit garland to decorate your door, stairs or fireplace.
*With Margaret Findlay.*

Saturday 19 December, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Green Wreaths**
£50
Always the highlight of the season, make not one but two stunning natural wreaths to decorate your home using Lauriston Castle greenery and a host of beautiful embellishments.
*With Margaret Findlay.*
Sunday 20 December, 10.30am - 3.30pm

**Fresh Giant Wreaths**

£50

We will gather natural greenery for you to make two giant wreaths for your home. There will be plenty of embellishments and ribbons to make these wreaths the most magical in your street.

*With Margaret Findlay.*
Our workshops are family learning experiences therefore the ticket price is per person and must include an adult.

RSPB at Lauriston Castle
We are once again delighted to have our friends the RSPB back at Lauriston Castle. Join us through the day for a chance to hear about your local feathered friends and to do a quick art activity. Double up with a picnic and family day in our gardens.

Saturday 9 May, 10am - 4pm
Saturday 13 June, 10am - 4pm
Saturday 11 July, 10am - 4pm
Saturday 8 August, 10am - 4pm
Saturday 12 September, 10am - 4pm
Saturday 10 October, 10am - 4pm
Saturday 14 November, 10am - 4pm

Family Special Events

Saturday 18 July, 2.30pm - 4pm

How to be a Psychic Conman
£6 per person with gruesome refreshments
Roll up! Roll up! Roll up! Gather ye round the traveling caravan, as Snake Oil Salesman Ash Pryce demonstrates the miraculous curative abilities of psychic surgery, taught to your humble trickster by a wise man in the Philippines (or a magician’s tool book, whichever sounds more wondrous). See with amazement the telekinetic forces at work as you learn how to move objects with your mind, psychically manipulate your finest silverware and read the minds of your peers. Or maybe, it’s all just a trick? The show will involve demonstrations and explanations of telekinesis tricks, metal bending, psychic surgery and remote viewing as well as look at government funded research into psychic phenomena, and the shoddy protocols that allowed “psychics” to beat the legendary Zener card experiments in the 1930s.
Sunday 2 August, 10.30am - 12pm

**Summer Magic Workshop with Edinburgh International Magic Festival**

£6 per person with refreshments
Find out what it’s like to receive an invitation to a secret Magic School this summer as you learn, create and perform your own magic at a whirlwind workshop! Learn to perform incredible tricks, make new wizard friends and become a graduate of the most mysterious school in the world. Ages 7-11.

Sunday 9, Thursday 13, Saturday 15, Thursday 20 and Saturday 22 August, 3.30pm or 5.30pm

MagicFest at the Fringe presents **The Secret Room at Lauriston Castle**

£20/£18 conc/£15 child/£50 family
Enter secluded Lauriston Castle and travel back in time to a world of clandestine laboratories, hidden passages and secret rooms... A sell out in 2018-2019, three mysterious magicians animate the castle’s intriguing past with stories, performances and illusions related to the history of Lauriston and her owners. A high court judge cum surreptitious alchemist, a gambler who nearly lost everything, what other surprises does this wonderful castle conceal? 75min | Ages 8+

Bookings: [www.magicfest.co.uk](http://www.magicfest.co.uk) or 0131 226 0006
Saturday 12 September, 11 am - 4pm

**Scots at War at the Castle**
Free and drop-in
Join Scots at War for an interactive family experience where you can join Scotland’s army of yesterday-today! See soldiers from 1900-1945 and learn about their lives through interactive displays, with many original and replica objects to handle and touch. From Queen Victoria’s soldiers of Empire in the Boer War, to the heroes of the Great War, Dunkirk and beyond, this event is as close as you can get to meeting a fighting man of those colossal conflicts that shaped Britain’s past.

Wednesday 21 October, 11am - 12.30pm

**Halloween Wand Making Workshop**
£5 per person with refreshments
There’s nothing like swishing, swooshing and casting your spells with a wand of your own design on Halloween! Plan and build your very own magic wand with our expert wand makers, using a huge assortment of spooky, sparkly and glittery materials! Wizarding fancy dress recommended!
This class is family friendly and is recommended for ages 5+ (all children must be accompanied by an adult).
Saturday 24 October & Sunday 25 October, 10am - 1pm

The Halloween Terror Trail
£7 per adult/child with gruesome refreshments
The Edinburgh Horror Festival have created an all new interactive morning adventure for families. Featuring a large-scale Terror Trail through the grounds of the castle where you must find gruesome hidden horrors, interact with monstrous beastsies, and defeat them at their challenges. You can also head into the castle to find magical wizards, arts & crafts and ghoulish story tellers. For those wanting to take a moment to rest there will be snacks and drinks. The event is a drop-in event running until 1:00pm. Allow at least 75 minutes to experience everything on offer. Children should be accompanied by a paying adult.

Sunday 29 November, 12pm – 12.45pm

Christmas Tricks with Edinburgh International Magic Festival
£9 per person with Christmas refreshments
The Christmas magic show is back at Lauriston Castle! Witness mind-blowing magic and festive frolics for the whole family in a lavish, historic setting inside the Castle. This show is always a sell out, so book early to avoid disappointment!
Sunday 13 December, 10am - 1pm

A Family Edwardian Christmas at Lauriston Castle
£8 per person with Christmas refreshments and treats
Join us for our annual Christmas event where you can capture the magic of Christmas past. We lose the commercialism surrounding Christmas and get back to basics. With crafts, stories, and special tours. Includes a traditional magic lantern show and a visit by Santa.
All our family Craft workshops are family learning experiences and designed around the whole family working together. Price is per person and we provide a snack for everyone.

Monday 4 May, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Creepy Crawly Bug Hunt**
£6 per person
Hunt the grounds of Lauriston for creepy crawlies in their natural habitat. Then make a giant version of your favourite bug using willow and coloured tissue.

*With Lauriston Castle staff.*

Monday 18 May, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**It’s a Bird’s Life**
£6 per person
Today it’s all about the birds. Learn about some of our feathered friends and explore a variety of projects celebrating the resident Lauriston castle birds. Our friends RSPB Scotland will also be present.

*With Lauriston Castle staff.*
Sunday 24 May, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Fantasy Castles**
£6 per person
Explore the secret and hidden rooms of Lauriston Castle then create your own 3D Castle using special papers and paints.
With Lauriston Castle staff.

Sunday 6 June, 11am - 3pm

**Celebrate World Oceans Day**
£7 per person
It’s World Oceans Day this week. Come along to a family felt class and make a gorgeous hand-felted picture celebrating the magic of the sea.
With Margaret Findlay.

Sunday 21 June, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Pirate Treasure Hunt**
£6 per person
Ahoy me hearties! Have our pirate hat, cutlass and parrot at the ready then out into the woods with a secret map to guide you through the grounds to find hidden treasure. Afterwards you decorate your very own mini treasure chest.
With Lauriston Castle staff.

Tuesday 14 July, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Croquet Tea Party!**
£6 per person
Inspired by “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland” enjoy a game of “Queen of Hearts” croquet on the lawns of Lauriston. Then decorate some spectacular cakes and biscuits for a special tea party in the Castle.
With Lauriston Castle staff and Edinburgh Croquet Club.
Monday 3 August, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Pond life - Pond Dipping**
£6 per person
Discover what lives in our wonderful pond in the Japanese Garden and like a scientist record what you have found in a special little book. Create your very own wooden sailing boat to sail in the pond.
**With Lauriston Castle staff.**

Wednesday 12 August, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Woodland Treasure Box**
£6 per person
Make your own little treasure box to store your Summer memories and decorate it with nature’s scenes.
**With Lauriston Castle staff.**

Sunday 20 September, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Upstairs Downstairs**
£6 per person
Can you imagine what it was like to work “downstairs” in the Edwardian kitchen or be Lord or Lady of the Castle? Come along to Lauriston where you will don an apron and mob cap to make lemonade and biscuits in the old kitchen. Then with your own calling card, top hat and gloves you will be a guest and visit the magnificent rooms upstairs.
**With Lauriston Castle staff.**
Monday 19 October, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Knights of the Castle**
£6 per person
Lauriston Castle is always on the lookout for brave knights to protect us from marauding dragons. Prepare for battle with making your own Coat of Arms, sword and shield to battle to defend yourself.

*With Lauriston Castle staff.*

Sunday 22 November, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Sock Snowmen**
£6 per person
Make a beautiful little festive snowman to decorate your home for Christmas.

*With Lauriston Castle staff.*

Saturday 5 December, 10.30am - 12.30pm

**Enchanted Christmas Pictures**
£7 per person
Create a Winter themed 3-dimensional wooden framed picture that will light up like an enchanted magical Christmas scene.

*With Lauriston Castle staff.*
Edinburgh Horror Festival at Lauriston Castle

Saturday 14 March, Saturday 11 April, Saturday 9 May, Saturday 13 June and Saturday 11 July at 3.30pm
Saturday 24 October & Sunday 25 October at 1.30pm & 2.45pm

The Lauriston Castle Horror Tour
Tickets: £8
Come along and see the sights of the castle as never seen before – hear the history of the castle and ghostly tales of the city with your professional tour guide. Blood chilling cases of murder, witch trials and persecutions that have plagued Edinburgh, and listen out for the ghostly footsteps of the castle itself. Lasts approx. 60 minutes. Over 12 years old.
Tickets: www.edhorrorfest.co.uk

Magic of the Séance at Lauriston Castle
Tickets: £8
“Prepare to be convinced about the thin veil that separates our world from the next” (The Wee Review)
Sell out illusionist Ash Pryce takes you around the centuries old Lauriston Castle, demonstrating supernatural spookiness and séance magic. For the first time Ash offers up his unique and original paranormal illusions in a full, interactive show for both adults and under 18s with a limited series of performances touching on the darker and unsettling realm of talking to the dead. Wander around the corridors and rooms of the castle, down stone steps and into areas dating back centuries, all the while engaging in unsettling and mind twisting magic straight form the occult world of the Victorian spirit parlour. Open to those aged 13 and over. Under 18s must be accompanied by a paying adult. Tickets available from www.edhorrorfest.co.uk
Saturday 8 August, Saturday 15 August and Saturday 22 August at 1.30pm

**Spirits of the Dead: The Terror of Edgar Allan Poe**
Tickets: £8
Gothic horror stories from the master of the macabre, Edgar Allan Poe. This includes *The Telltale Heart*, Poe's dark and brooding tale of one person's descent into madness as one night they murder an old man in his bed, are driven mad by the old man's eye, and are finally driven to full blown insanity by the beating of his disembodied heart. For *The Raven*, his most famous poem, our narrator sits in his chambers, dark and late, storms crashing and lightning flashing as he laments his lost love - the pinnacle of gothic poetry. Plus, a collection other tales from the spirits of the dead...
Ages 14 and over. Tickets: [www.edhorrorfest.co.uk](http://www.edhorrorfest.co.uk)

Saturday 24 October & Sunday 25 October at 7.30pm

**The Twilight Seance**
Tickets: £10
Edinburgh Horror Festival Sell out Show. The séance is a traditional part of Hallowe’en, from Hollywood horror movies to the real-life Houdini séances of the 1920s and 30s. Join paranormal illusionist Ash Pryce as he leads you into the netherworld, join hands and whisper gently as the bells ring, objects levitate and the spirits make contact. Please note, this is a magic themed event ... or is it? Lasts approx. 75 minutes. Strictly over 18s only.
Tickets available from [www.edhorrorfest.co.uk](http://www.edhorrorfest.co.uk)
Saturday 24 October & Sunday 25 October at 4pm & 5.30pm

**The Haunted Hunt: The Vampire’s Curse**
Tickets: £8
In this interactive puzzle adventure aimed at families and children aged 8 and over, you get to explore the grounds and rooms of the castle, meet bizarre and strange characters, solve the puzzles, find the clues, and remove the curse that has lingered for centuries. But you need to be quick, because stalking you on your journey is a creature of the night, a beast from the afterlife – a deadly, blood guzzling vampire! Lasts approx. 60 minutes.
Over 8 years old. Under 18s should be accompanied by a paying adult.
Tickets: www.edhorrorfest.co.uk
BSL signed and visually impaired tours at Lauriston Castle

Saturday 16 May, 1pm

**BSL Interpreted Tour of Lauriston Castle**
Join us for a BSL signed tour at Lauriston Castle which will have a BSL interpreter present. Step back in time and experience life in Edwardian Edinburgh. Marvel at the sumptuous rooms and beautiful décor.

Free but booking is essential. To book visit edinburghmuseums.org.uk or phone the City Art Centre on 0131 529 3993. This tour has some steps to the main floor of the house and no lift access. **Please note this tour is restricted to our visitors who require a BSL interpreter.**

Saturday 20 June, 1 pm

**Descriptive Tour for Visually Impaired Visitors of Lauriston Castle**
Join artist Tessa Asquith-Lamb for a tour specifically designed for visually impaired visitors around fascinating Lauriston Castle. Explore a variety of beautiful surviving Edwardian interiors including the lavish dining room, drawing room, bedroom, kitchen and library (complete with its own secret door!).

Free but booking is essential. To book visit edinburghmuseums.org.uk or phone the City Art Centre on 0131 529 3993. This tour has some steps to the main floor of the house and no lift access. **Please note this tour is restricted to our visitors who require a visually described tour.**
Saturday 25 July, 1pm

**BSL Interpreted Tour of Lauriston Castle**
Join us for a BSL signed Tour at Lauriston Castle which will have a BSL interpreter present. Step back in time and experience life in Edwardian Edinburgh. Marvel at the sumptuous rooms and beautiful décor.

Free but booking is essential. To book visit edinburghmuseums.org.uk or phone the City Art Centre on 0131 529 3993. This tour has some steps to the main floor of the house and no lift access. **Please note this tour is restricted to our visitors who require a BSL interpreter.**

Saturday 19 December, 1pm

**Christmas BSL Interpreted Tour of Lauriston Castle**
Join us for a BSL signed Tour at Lauriston Castle which will have a BSL interpreter present. Step back in time and experience life in Edwardian Edinburgh and experience the true magic of Christmas. Marvel at the sumptuous rooms and beautiful décor.

Free but booking is essential. To book visit edinburghmuseums.org.uk or phone the City Art Centre on 0131 529 3993. This tour has some steps to the main floor of the house and no lift access. **Please note this tour is restricted to our visitors who require a BSL interpreter.**
Sunday 20 December, 1pm

**Descriptive Tour for Visually Impaired Visitors of Lauriston Castle at Christmas**
Join us for a special Christmas Tour at Lauriston Castle specifically designed for visually impaired visitors. Step back in time and experience life in Edwardian Edinburgh at Christmas. Marvel at the sumptuous rooms and beautiful décor.

Free but booking is essential. To book visit edinburghmuseums.org.uk or phone the City Art Centre on 0131 529 3993. This tour has some steps to the main floor of the house and no lift access. **Please note this tour is restricted to our visitors who require a visually described tour.**