



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**21 July 2010**

## **Ghost Mystery at The Real Mary King's Close**

Bosses at one of Edinburgh's leading visitor attractions have extended their opening hours for the month of August to try and get to the bottom of a long running mystery – ghosts seem to be appearing!

For the first time the Real Mary King's Close, situated on the Royal Mile, will be opening its doors and running tours through its warren of ghostly streets right up until 'witching hour' for the month of August in an effort to get to the bottom of the mystery appearances.

Staff at the Close were first alerted to the ghostly appearances last October when a member of the public queried his souvenir photograph which appeared to include one extra person than was booked on the tour. A few weeks later a similar event occurred and on examination of the photographs the ghostly image appears to be of the same woman.

Lisa Robshaw, Marketing Manager at The Real Mary King's Close said "We hope that by extending the hours of opening we can get to the bottom of this mystery. We've long been associated with supernatural and unexplained stories. We've had sightings of dark shadowy figures who lurk in the myriad of passageways, rooms and corners of the Closes, and reports of lots of strange noises - these images seem to give us even more evidence! By running tours late in to the night with the last one finishing at midnight, we hope that this might make the ghostly image reappear. We have spent a long time studying these photographs and cannot come to a satisfactory conclusion. In both these images there appears to be a blurry ghostly image of a blond haired lady which we cannot explain, and we hope that by making the images public that someone might be able to help. If there are people in the images who can explain who the lady is we would love to hear from them. We've tested the static camera that we use and it appears to be working normally so we really do not have an explanation. We just want to try and understand what has happened."

For the month of August the attraction will be making their 'Ghost' book available for people to read which contains entries from visitors over the years who claim to have had a strange experience in the Close. In addition, any group who can show a ghostly image from a tour in August can have their admission charge reimbursed.

**For more information or to book call 08702 430160 or visit [www.realmarykingsclose.com](http://www.realmarykingsclose.com). Pre-booking is highly recommended due to demand.**

**-ENDS-**

## NOTES TO EDITORS:

For further media information, images or to arrange a visit to the Real Mary King's Close, please contact: **Nick Fletcher** on **01904 527700** or email [nfletcher@continuum-group.com](mailto:nfletcher@continuum-group.com) or **Lisa Robshaw** on **0131 225 0678** or email [lrobshaw@realmarykingsclose.com](mailto:lrobshaw@realmarykingsclose.com)

For more information on the attraction please visit [www.realmarykingsclose.com](http://www.realmarykingsclose.com) or call 0845 070 6244 to book a visit.

\*NB:

- Admission costs: £11 for adults, £6 for children and £10 for concessions. Walking tours above ground cost £7 for adults or £5 if booked in conjunction with the tour of The Real Mary King's Close (with children free when accompanied by a paying adult).
- Due to the historical nature of this underground facility, access may prove difficult to people with certain disabilities. Ramped access is provided to the information and retail outlet. Please call for further details.
- We regret that for Health and Safety reasons we cannot permit any children under the age of 5.
- Pre-booking is highly recommended due to demand particularly for evening tours throughout summer.
- Sensible shoes are essential!

The Real Mary King's Close is an important historic site hidden beneath the Royal Mile. It consists of a number of underground Closes which would have originally been very narrow walkways with houses on either side stretching up to 7 storeys high and dating back several centuries. In 1753 the Burgh authorities decided to develop the Royal Exchange (now the City Chambers). The houses at the top of the Closes were knocked down and part of the lower sections were kept and used as the foundations for the new building, leaving the ancient dwellings steeped in mystery!

The Real Mary King's Close is operated by Continuum - visitor attraction operators and specialists in the tourism and leisure industry. See [www.continuum-group.com](http://www.continuum-group.com)