



PRESS RELEASE
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MYSTERY AND HISTORY AT THE REAL MARY KING'S CLOSE THIS HALLOWEEN!

The Real Mary King's Close, the award winning and unique visitor attraction hidden deep below Edinburgh's Royal Mile, is thought to be one of Scotland's most haunted locations and this Halloween centuries of unexplained paranormal activity from the Closes will be revealed during chilling **Supernatural History Tours** of this spooky underground site! New for 2008, compelling evidence of paranormal activity captured using scientific investigative methods will also be revealed, as the results of investigations held during the annual Mary King's Ghost Fest earlier this year are shared with lucky visitors.

Costumed guides will lead visitors on evening and late night 'ghostly' versions of the popular tours, revealing details of the hauntings, sightings and unexplained mysteries that date as far back as the 1600's. The stories including sightings of dark shadowy figures who lurk in the myriad of passageways, rooms and corners of the Closes; the strange sounds of footsteps from areas that nobody enters; scratchings from within a bricked up chimney breast and the sounds of a tavern that has long since closed.

Visitors will have a rare opportunity to see a large photograph of a clear ghostly image that was captured during 'Mary King's Ghost Fest' back in May, by the attraction's static infra-red camera. The image shows a tall, ghostly human figure - thought to be that of a former resident - standing in the doorway of Mary King's reconstructed residence at the top of Mary King's Close. If that wasn't evidence enough, they will also be able to listen to tapes of clear spirit voices captured in the infamous Close by Electronic Voice Phenomenon (EVP) experts during the ghost festival. Visitors will be able to study these findings enabling them to come to their own conclusions on the results!

In addition to the above, visitors will hear all about the history of the closes as well as some of the urban myths and legends associated with this unique site. Dark tales from the sites past will be revealed including how residents from the area were accused of witchcraft, tortured to admit their guilt and then burnt at the stake at the Castle Hill; rumours of how plague victims on the Closes were chopped up by butchers and tossed into the Nor Loch and how such sinister tales made people reluctant to move to the properties on Mary King's Close.

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The Real Mary King's Close is five-star rated visitor attraction which consists of a series of real underground closes dating back to the 17th century, saturated with fascinating and emotional stories of human life. The Closes would have originally been very narrow walkways with houses on either side stretching up to seven storeys high. In 1753 the city authorities decided to develop a grand new building – The Royal Exchange –demolishing the upper floors of the houses and using the lower sections as foundations, in turn this created a dark, mysterious time capsule of Edinburgh's important history.

Supernatural History Tours run every 20 minutes between 6pm – 9pm from Saturday 25th to Friday 31st October and cost £10 for adults, £9 for concessions and £6 for children. The tours will continue to run from Saturday November 1st 2008 every Saturday until March 31st (excluding December 6th, 13th and 20th)

For more information or to book call 08702 430160 or visit www.realmarykingsclose.com For group bookings of 15 or more people please call 08702 411414

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Notes to Editors: Mary King's Close is an important historic site and quite unique. 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 a grand new building, 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 a number of dark and mysterious underground Closes and ancient dwellings steeped in mystery!

Mary King's Close is open from 10am to 9pm (last tour) every day from April to October and from 10am to 4pm (last tour) Sunday to Friday and until 9pm (last tour) on Saturdays between November and March.

For further information call 08702 430160 or visit www.realmarykingsclose.com

For further media information, images or to join a tour please contact Heidi Folland Tel: 01904 527700 Email: holland@continuum-group.com