

# Book benches installed in George Street's urban garden



Top Scottish authors Ken MacLeod and Ron Butlin were the first to try out Edinburgh's new 'book benches' after they were installed in George Street's urban gardens today. Along with Lizzie MacGregor who edited *Luckenbooth*, an anthology of poetry, they sat and posed for photographers and film crews earlier this afternoon.

Ken MacLeod's *Night Sessions* and Ron Butlin's *The Magicians of Edinburgh* are among the 'books' used to fill the benches.

The four hand-carved sit-on sculptures, built from wooden versions of Edinburgh's favourite books, have been commissioned and installed by the City of Edinburgh Council to commemorate the 10th anniversary year of the city's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature.



Crafted by Peter Graham of Bespoke Design with the support of DWA Landscape Architects Ltd, the benches are intended to celebrate the Scottish Capital's reputation as a home of great literature.

[The Edinburgh Reporter NEWS](#) from [Phyllis Stephen](#) on [Vimeo](#).

A list of the city's 'top 40' titles as compiled by the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust can be found carved into the sculptures.

Councillor Richard Lewis, Culture and Sport Convener, said: "As the world's first UNESCO City of Literature, Scotland's Capital city is a genuine hub for all things linked to

literature. These additions to the city's streets to celebrate 10 years of this fantastic designation can only go to reinforce that status further.

"You could get lost tracing through the rows upon rows of books featured in these sculptures. Like any good bookshelf, you're sure to find a title that suits your tastes."

The books which are included are as follows:

### **Fiction**

*44 Scotland Street* (2004) by Alexander McCall Smith

*Complicity* (1993) by Iain Banks

*The Fanatic* (2000) by James Robertson

*The Game of Kings* (1961) by Dorothy Dunnett

*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1961) by Muriel Spark

*Trainspotting* (1993) by Irvine Welsh

*The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox* (2006) by Maggie O'Farrell

### **Classic Fiction**

*Waverley* (1814) by Sir Walter Scott

*The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (1824) by James Hogg

*Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Noctes Ambrosianae* (1820 – 1835) by John Wilson et al.

*Marriage* (1818) by Susan Ferrier

*The Expedition of Humphrey Clinker* (1771) by Tobias Smollett

### **Non-fiction**

*A Treatise of Human Nature* (1740) by David Hume

*Edinburgh: Picturesque Notes* (1878) by Robert Louis Stevenson

*Encyclopaedia Britannica*

*Theory of the Earth* (1788) by James Hutton

*History of the Reformation in Scotland* (1586-1587) by John Knox

*Mary Queen of Scots* (1969) by Antonia Fraser

*The Silent Traveller in Edinburgh* (1948) by Chiang Yee

*Curiosities of Crime in Edinburgh* (1861) by James McLevy

*Royal Edinburgh: Her Saints, Kings, Prophets and Poets* (1890)  
by Margaret Oliphant

*Boswell's Edinburgh Journals 1767-1786* by James Boswell

## **Poetry**

*Robert Fergusson Selected Poems* (2007) edited by James Robertson

*The Poems of Norman MacCaig* (2005) edited by Ewen McCaig

*The Ever Green* (1724) by Allan Ramsay

*The Magicians of Edinburgh* (2012) by Ron Butlin

*Luckenbooth: An Anthology of Edinburgh Poetry* (2007) edited by Lizzie MacGregor

## **Crime**

*Body Politic* (1997) by Paul Johnston

*Fatal Last Words* (2009) by Quintin Jardine

*Black and Blue* (1987) by Ian Rankin

*Case Histories* (2004) by Kate Atkinson

### **Children's**

*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (1997) by J.K. Rowling

*Fleshmarket* (2003) by Nicola Morgan

*Maisie Comes to Morningside* (1984) by Aileen Paterson

*Greyfriars Bobby* (1912) by Eleanor Atkinson

*A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885) by Robert Louis Stevenson

### **Science-Fiction**

*The Night Sessions* (2008) by Ken MacLeod

*Player of Games* (1989) by Iain M. Banks

*Halting State* (2007) Charles Stross