

Significant dates from Edinburgh's history

Each month the Old Edinburgh Club outline for our readers the significant dates from this month in history.

In the month of December, the following notable events occurred.

3rd	In 1894, Edinburgh-born author Robert Louis Stevenson died in Samoa, at the age of 44.
7th	In 2002, in the evening, a fire started above the Belle Angele nightclub off the Cowgate; it swept up through the eight-storey structure to other buildings on Cowgate and above it on South Bridge; it took more than a day for the fire, to be brought under control, and several days for it to be completely extinguished; thankfully no lives were lost.
8th	In 1669, the Council granted a warrant to Robert Clerk to organise the Pricing Book Lottery.
10th	In 1768, the first volume of the Encyclopaedia Britannica edited by William Smellie went on sale in Edinburgh.
16th	In 1601, Andro Turnbull was beheaded at the Mercat Cross for the murder of Thomas Ker the previous month.
18th	In 1780, the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland was founded.

19th	In 1887, Rumford Medal-winning Leith-born scientist Balfour Stewart died during a journey from Scotland to his country estates in Ireland. And in 1904, the "Scotsman" newspaper moved to new offices on North Bridge.
20th	In 1789, the architect William Burn, FRSE, was born in Edinburgh. And in 1862, surgeon and anatomist Robert Knox died; Knox became notorious as one of the men to whom the murderers Burke and Hare delivered corpses for dissection.
21st	In 1965, Stuart Mitchell, Scottish pianist and composer, best known for his Seven Wonders Suite, was born in Edinburgh. And in 1989, the City Bypass was completed.
24th	In 1650, Edinburgh castle surrendered to Oliver Cromwell.
27th	In 1794, Major Alexander Gordon Laing, the first European to reach Timbuktu via the north/south route, was born in Edinburgh.

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Robert Louis Stevenson from the statue at Western Corner .
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