

## DID YOU KNOW?

The oldest items on display are the 'cleikes of iron', used to pull burning thatch from the roof of Edinburgh Castle in the 1400's.

The Halley Fire Engine (pictured below), purchased by Leith Fire Brigade in 1910, is the oldest motor engine on display. It was manufactured in Glasgow.

As a rule, early firefighters grew beards to act as a form of smoke filter - they rolled their beards up into their mouths, earning them the name 'smoke-eaters'.



(Above) Chief Officers, 1872.

(Left) The Halley pumping appliance, from 1910



## VISITORS' COMMENTS

'Excellent' - D.Nicholl, Co.Antrim

'Great, fantastic' - H.Tanaka, Tokyo

'Fascinating' - L.Murray, Australia

'Superb' - A.Robinson, Trinidad

'Impressive' - R.Fraser, Edinburgh

'The best museum we've been to' - J.Kirby, California

## HOW TO FIND US



### Local Car Parks

- |                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Castle Terrace | 3 Morrison Street |
| 2 Sample Street  | 4 Riego Street    |

→ One way system

Local bus services are 23, 27, 35, 45. Guide Friday Tours also stop outside the Museum.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

The Museum is open Tuesday to Friday from 09:30 to 16:00. Visits on Saturday or Monday can be arranged by appointment (school parties participating in our Fire Education Project will have priority). Organised parties can book a visit during or outside these hours by contacting us. Visit our web site [www.lbfire.org.uk](http://www.lbfire.org.uk) for details of Open Weekends.

We regret that due to the nature of the displays entry is restricted to children 8 years and over.

For further information, or to book your visit, please call 0131 659 7331 or freephone 0800 169 0320 (Maximum number in party 30).

The Museum will close for the first two weeks in August for essential maintenance, and two weeks over the Christmas and New Year period.

Disabled access.



Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service

# MUSEUM OF FIRE

LAURISTON PLACE, EDINBURGH



Discover the people, equipment and animals that pioneered city firefighting!



## WHAT IS THE MUSEUM OF FIRE?

The Museum of Fire tells the history of the oldest municipal fire brigade in the United Kingdom, formed in 1824.

Housed in the historic Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters building at Lauriston, it shows the development of firefighting in an exciting and educational way.

On display is a range of engines including manual, horse drawn, steam and motorised pumps dating from 1806, along with many other fire related items from as far back as 1426.



James Braidwood, Master of Fire Engines 1824-1832

## A BRIEF HISTORY

Lothian and Borders Fire and Rescue Service is the oldest municipal fire brigade in the UK. It was formed in 1824 following a series of disastrous fires which in the preceding years resulted in much loss of life and property (such as the Edinburgh Great Fire, pictured above).

Prior to its formation, the City of Edinburgh was served with common good fire provisions, and latterly inadequate Insurance Company fire brigades. These early provisions proved inefficient in combating Edinburgh's unique fire problems, which were a direct result of the way Edinburgh grew "up" around the Castle and Royal Mile, creating the earliest congested high-rise buildings in Europe.

So in October of 1824 the visionary City Fathers formed the Edinburgh Fire Establishment under the inspired leadership of a

young man, James Braidwood. His ideas and principles on fire are as true today as they were in 1824.

From these early days grew the traditions of the modern Fire Service, a tradition that is daily appreciated by the whole population. The far-sighted ideas of the early city leaders continue today, with the Lothian and Borders Fire Board insituting an innovative Community Education programme. The aim of this initiative is to actively raise public awareness of the dangers of Fire in an attempt to reduce the needless and appalling loss of life and property.



Edinburgh Hand Pump, 1824



Brass Helmet, 1890's



Caledonian Insurance Mark, 1805