Writing's on the wall for RLS Day

Fans of Treasure Island author Stevenson urged to celebrate his life and work

Brian Ferguson
\textit{MSP managing editor}

IT WILL be Scotland's answer to Bloomsday, the annual celebration of James Joyce's most famous novel \\textit{Ulster}. Now fans of Robert Louis Stevenson are being urged to add their own day to June's cultural calendar for a celebration of one of the city's best-known sons.

Edinburgh has a strong claim to be the number one city at the heart of Stevenson's universe, with the writing of \\textit{Treasure Island} being staged in a series of events across the city this month.

The celebrations have been put together by the Edinburgh City of Literature Trust, which is organizing the Edinburgh Festival, and hope to make the event as special as it can be.

"It is important to capitalize on Edinburgh's literary status as one of the best in the world, and to celebrate Stevenson. We really hope that as many people as possible will join in the fun and help to bring Stevenson back to the literary forefront," said the trust's director, Ali Black.

Stevenson was born in Edinburgh in 1850, and many of his works were set in the city, including \\textit{Treasure Island} and \\textit{Kidnapped}.

The city's literary heritage is celebrated throughout the year, with events such as the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival.

The trust is working with various partners to create a range of events, including a \\textit{Treasure Island}-themed pub crawl, a \\textit{Treasure Island}-themed art exhibition, and a \\textit{Treasure Island}-themed music festival.

The trust is encouraging people to get involved and to celebrate Stevenson in their own way, whether that be through a \\textit{Treasure Island}-themed party, a walk around Edinburgh's literary hotspots, or simply by reading one of his books.

"We want people to think about Stevenson and his work, and to celebrate his contribution to literature," said Black.

The trust is also working with local businesses to create a range of \\textit{Treasure Island}-themed products, such as T-shirts and souvenirs.

Stevenson is also being celebrated in other ways, such as through the \\textit{Treasure Island}-themed performances at the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the Edinburgh International Festival.

The trust is working with local schools to create a range of educational activities, such as \\textit{Treasure Island}-themed workshops and \\textit{Treasure Island}-themed lessons.

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Aaarrrr RLS was our best buccaneer

ACTING students from Edinburgh's Napier University took to the high streets yesterday to help publicise RLS Day next Tuesday, celebrating the life of author Robert Louis Stevenson.

PIRATES yesterday seized Edinburgh ahead of Robert Louis Stevenson Day, held on November 13 to mark the writer's birthday. A series of events and Stevenson-inspired shenanigans will pop up across the city to celebrate the creator of Treasure Island. Events include a Stevenson "flashmob" with fans wearing velvet and moustaches. Pictured at the Portuguese cannon on Calton Hill are Patrick Millar, Patrick Wallace and Lewis Brewer.

Picture: Steve Cox
CITY SON IS CELEBRATED

FROM PAGE 13

Nowhere to Hyde on city's RLS Day

er her former Edinburgh home at 17 Heron Row. With a cup of tea and a cream scone discovered his short ego, the diaphanous John Liddell.

RLS Day is a joint initiative between the City of Literature Trust and Edinburgh Napier University. Professor Linda Dryden, Director of the Centre for Literature and Writing (CLAW), Edinburgh Napier University said it was important for the day to recognize the work of one of the city’s literary giants, and promised that something would help bring her work to life.

"Edinburgh Napier University is delighted to be collaborating with the City of Literature on RLS Day," she said.

"During the day our acting students will be portraying a boy on the streets of Edinburgh and her writing, and treasuring the best works of her to the general public with a celebration of Robert Louis Stevenson’s life."

And this year the theme of Stevenson's literary legacy will be explored on a wider scale with a celebration of his life and work. The University will be hosting a day of events, including a talk by the University of Edinburgh's Professor Linda Dryden, and a performance by Edinburgh Napier University's acting students.

"RLS Day is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the work of one of Edinburgh's most famous writers," said Professor Linda Dryden.

Stevenson's humour was full of devilment.

TURN TO PAGE 14

his jolliness," he said. "Those parties where every one of his guests would have to join in – or else! There’s a whole generation of Swenson’s humour in all its mischief and devilment. Dickens was really a joker, joy in the way that Stevenson in my mind certainly wasn’t."

To add to the birthday fun, Stevenson’s writings will line the streets and everyone is being encouraged to share their favourite RLS quotes on Facebook and Twitter #RLSDay.

At the moment, City of Literature Director said they were hoping the city would join together in a party to honour Stevenson.

"For the second year in a row, we’re delighted to be working with our friends at Edinburgh Napier and others to celebrate Robert Louis Stevenson. Edinburgh keeps Stevenson’s spirit alive and runs all year round, he’s remembered on plaques and bookshops in St Giles’ Cathedral and in Princes Street Gardens, reading lines and cinema screens. But it’s lovely to have an excuse to throw a party in his honour."

To find out more details of the events visit: www.citiesofliterature.org/rls
Were Jekyll and Hyde author's brothel and drinking den days to blame for early death?

Mr. Hodges’ biography, Jekyll and Hyde: Edinburgh’s Drunken Debauchees, is the first to focus on the mystery of Stevenson’s accidental death from syphilis, a disease that had no cure and was then considered the “great white death.”

The deadly double life of a literary giant

New biography reveals author’s debauchery may have killed him

Sex marked the spot for Stevenson

Biography claims the author’s pursuit of pleasure caused his early death, writes Marc Horne

In a story for Decameron, a popular 15th-century Italian publication, author R.L. Stevenson describes the habits of some of society’s most notorious men, including one who “was always in search of pleasure.” This man, who is depicted as a man of wealth and power, is described as having a “wicked” reputation and being involved in various forms of vice, including gambling and drinking.

The author’s life is depicted as a series of encounters with various women, many of whom are said to have been involved in prostitution. The man is shown to be particularly fond of a woman named Miss Smith, who is described as being “very attractive” and “extremely intelligent.”

The story ends with the man’s death by suicide, which is attributed to his pursuit of pleasure.

Joker and Genius

by Jeremy Hodges

It begins with the story of a young man named Robert Louis Stevenson, who was born in Edinburgh in 1850. As a child, Stevenson was diagnosed with tuberculosis, a disease that would eventually lead to his death.

Stevenson was a prodigy, and by the age of ten, he was already writing short stories and poems. He was sent to school in England, where he met and fell in love with a schoolgirl named Fanny Osbourne. The two were married in 1871, and they had three children together.

Stevenson’s career took off when he began writing short stories and novels, including the classic novel Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. He was also a noted travel writer, and his books on the Far East and Pacific islands were highly popular.

But with fame came fame came, Stevenson’s health began to decline. He was diagnosed with cancer of the bladder, and he died in 1894 at the age of 44.
Raise a glass to the naughtiness of RLS

The life of Robert Louis Stevenson, Linda Dryden, the author’s sense of mischief and love of life.

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Robert Louis Stevenson, by common consent, is the greatest Scottish writer of all time. He was born in Edinburgh in 1850 and died in 1894, a year after he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. His works include Treasure Island, Kidnapped, and Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde. Stevenson was a man of many talents, including writing, painting, and photography.

Stevenson became a writer, leading his own life and his works inspired many others. His life was marked by a series of adventures, including his travels to the Pacific Ocean, which he chronicled in his book, Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes.

The undisputed master of the adventure yarn, Robert Louis Stevenson’s literary achievements will be marked on a special day of celebration in his home city of Edinburgh tomorrow. Here, action writer Nigel Page and John Sessions reveal why they think he is so special.

On the following pages you will find articles on the life and works of Robert Louis Stevenson, as well as interviews with the author’s granddaughter and other contemporary writers.

The Scotsman

FOR THE LOVE OF STILLS

RLS more than just a rolling yarn spinner
How Robert Louis Stevenson made his mark on Edinburgh

By Melissa Gordon | 12 November 2018 09:14 GMT

“Here are no stars so lovely as Edinburgh street lamps. When I forget them, and realize, may my right hand forget its cunning!”

Edinburgh had a special place in the heart of Robert Louis Stevenson, and so lives on in the heart of its dwellers.

At the capital to celebrate one of its most famous literary sons, storytellers and friends to his work alike will have the opportunity to cast an eye over his inspiring Edinburgh!

Rumours of tales of piracy and treasure to psychological assassins, his literature is renowned for its sense of adventure and excitement.

But while his novels and short stories traverse the globe and realms of reality, his inextricable links with Scotland are highlighted in his work’s famous texts.

Stevenson, born in Edinburgh in 1850, was raised in a house on Waverley Street. During his childhood, he lived in Edinburgh, before moving to London and eventually settling in Hawaii.

Here in Edinburgh, his name is etched on the streets in memorials to his famous works, such as his birthplace, the home of the author, and the now famous Edinburgh Coffee House.

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See here
Taches hit the streets for Robert Louis Stevenson Day

By Laura Piper 14 November 2012 09:23 GMT

The project is due to get underway in the next summer.

The undoubted master of adventure, who had filled his hands with stories of places and treasure on the seven seas, has been hallowed by fans in the best way they know how.

In tribute to Robert Louis Stevenson, the city and its citizens created a new must-see event: the Stevenson home digest and a flash mob for the evening event of the storyteller’s fame, power, and talent.

BORN in Edinburgh in 1850, Stevenson wandered in a house in London, visiting the city or and off the age of 20, when he left Scotland and Roque Frère.

If he leaves his house, he would consider very much a part of the author’s life through, as a novel says: “There is no man as me in Edinburgh.”

And Edinburgh has always been effective for storytellers as an act as they started yesterday, in a flash mob: taking to the streets and singing the Stevenson home digest.

The day was concluded in a smaller event held in Dublin, called Stevenson, which happens every June at once as a celebration of James Joyce’s most famous novel, Ulysses.

A Robert Louis Stevenson flash mob descended on Edinburgh’s Parliament Square yesterday as part of birthday celebrations for the author. Fans donned moustaches and velvet jackets – one of a number of RLS Day events in the capital.

Stevenson statue

A statue of author Robert Louis Stevenson as a child is to be put up outside Colinton parish church in Edinburgh, where his grandad Dr Lewis Balfour was once a minister.
Robert Louis Stevenson - picture of the day

A photographic highlight selected by the picture desk. Robert Louis Stevenson day is celebrated today on the 152nd anniversary of the writer’s birth. Here is a portrait of the frail-looking writer surrounded by members of his household after he settled in Samoa, where he died, aged 44. For more pictures of the writer’s life, see our gallery.

Ranjit Dhaliwal
 guardian.co.uk, Tuesday 13 November 2012 10.36 GMT

The Scottish writer sits on the verandah of his home in Vaileva, Samoa. He settled on the island in 1880 and lived there until his death at the age of 44 after suffering from ill health for most of his life.

Photograph: Credits

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Series: Picture of the day

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Robert Louis Stevenson: A life in pictures gallery. View here
In Pictures: Edinburgh celebrates Stevenson

RLS Day closed with a special talk from actors John Sessions and Nigel Planer, who discussed their lifelong fascination with Stevenson and performed readings from the writer’s novels and poems.

BBC Scotland website: RLS Day Gallery.
View here
John Sessions speaks to BBC Radio Scotland’s Newsdrive about RLS Day. Listen [here](#) from 1:25:00