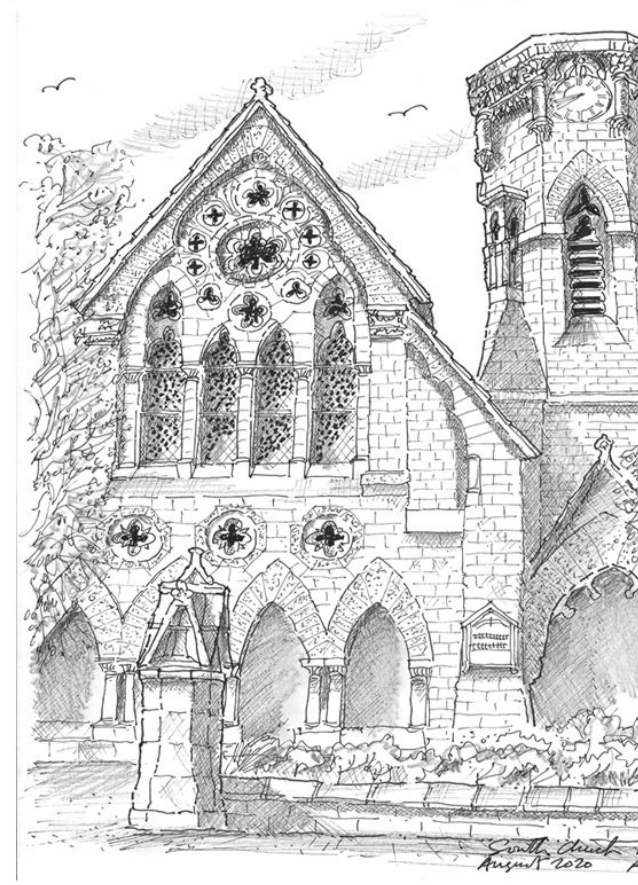
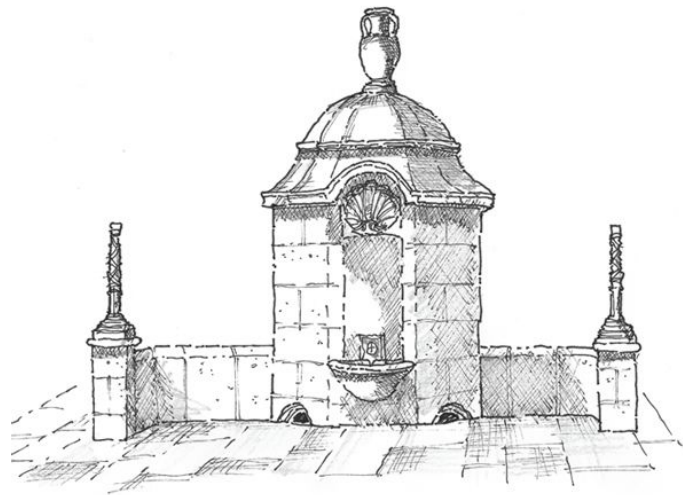


PENNY 'TOONS

THE PROFESSOR & THE PENICUIK EXPERIMENTS



Penicuik Community Trust



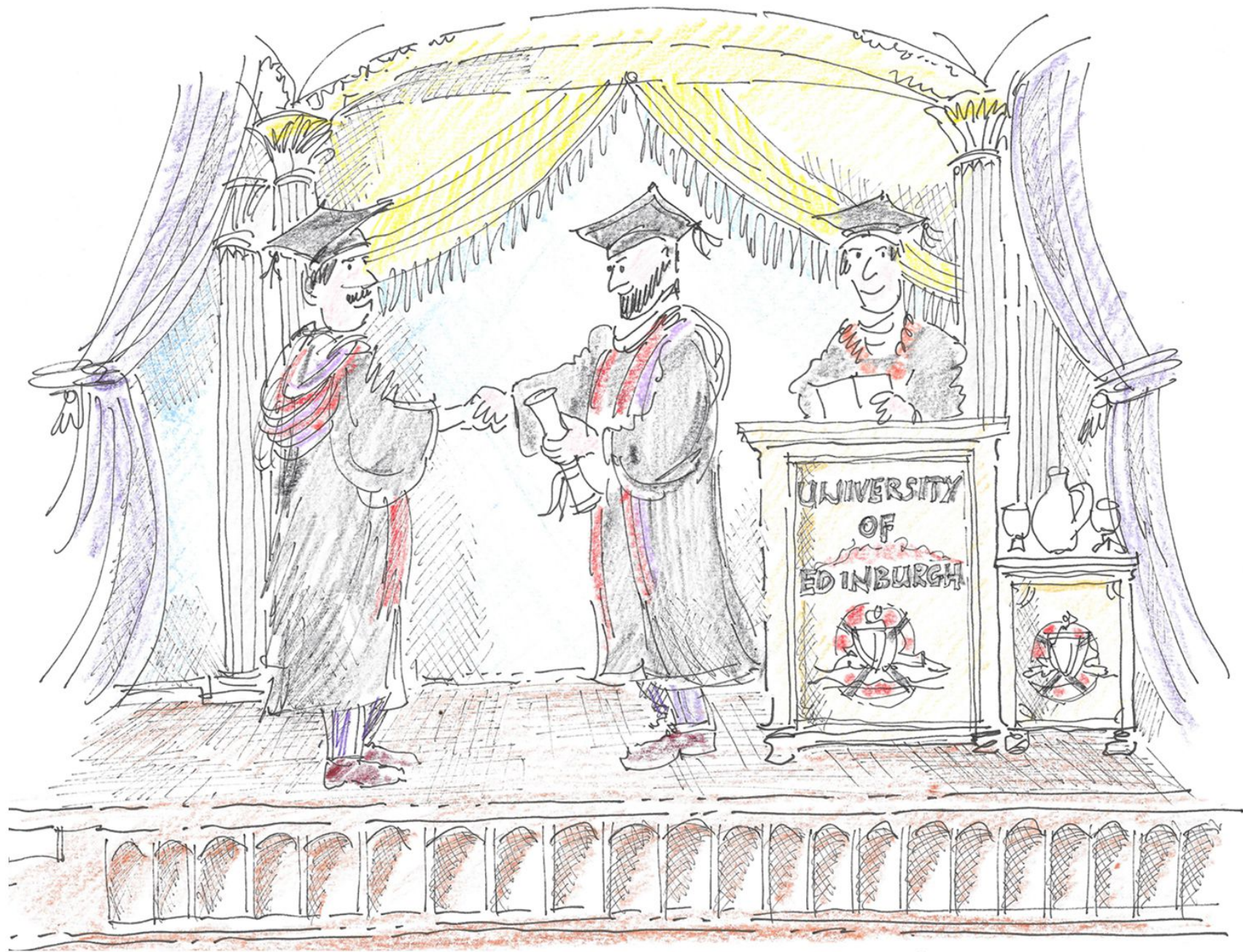
HERITAGE FUND



HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND

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James Cossar Ewart, born 1851 in Penicuik, graduated as both a doctor and surgeon from the University of Edinburgh in 1874, aged 23.

However, rather than human medicine, it was clear that Ewart's real love was for animals. As a result, Ewart would move to London to work in the Zoological Museum there.

It wouldn't be long though until the animal lover was back in Scotland - returning to Edinburgh University to become a professor in the study of the natural world.

Upon his return to work at Edinburgh University, Professor Ewart moved back to Penicuik where he would stay at *The Bungalow* - later to become known as the Navaar Hotel.

His move back home was undoubtedly influenced by his love of the natural world and Penicuik's native wildlife.

It was of no surprise then that the town would be the location from where Ewart would carry out his most famous of experiments and remain his life-long home.

Not far from his home at *The Bungalow* the professor had another building constructed as his personal laboratory for use in most of his experiments. This similarly still stands today, known as Craigiefield House. It would be from here that his famous *Penicuik Experiments* would take place.





One of Professor Ewart's main interests was studying how adult animals passed on traits to their children. This is known as *Genetics*.

This led the professor to study if a zebra and a horse could have a baby, and if they could, what traits this baby would have. As a result, Ewart bred horses which strangely also had the stripes of zebras.

It was this study, and similar experiments which, in 1899, were included in Ewart's *Penicuik Experiments*.

The success of the *Penicuik Experiments* led to the professor to begin to wonder how else he might breed animals to make their lives easier.

Ewart began to travel the world to see how he could achieve this. Travelling as far as New Zealand and Australia to attempt to improve the wooliness of sheep fleeces.

Another goal was to breed South African horses to endure the hot climate there as well as fight off nasty diseases. These aims were the focus of his life work.



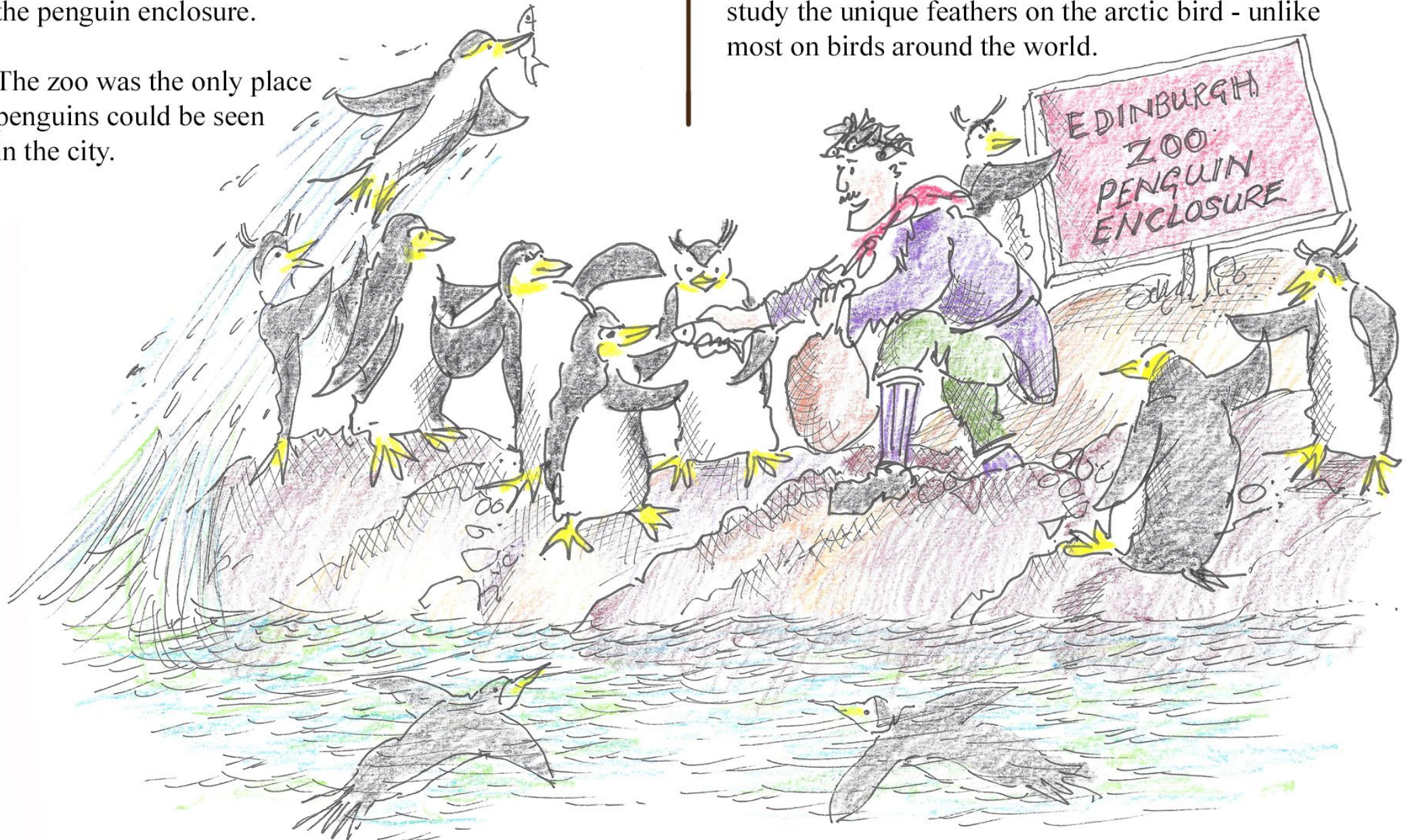
In 1913 Edinburgh Zoo opened for the first time.

Being the local expert in the study of animals, the professor was regularly seen at the zoo giving lectures on the many species that could be seen there, as well working within the penguin enclosure.

The zoo was the only place penguins could be seen in the city.

Ewart's interests in penguins stemmed from the peculiar origins of different parts of the animal and how they came to be.

In particular, he worked closely with staff members to study the unique feathers on the arctic bird - unlike most on birds around the world.

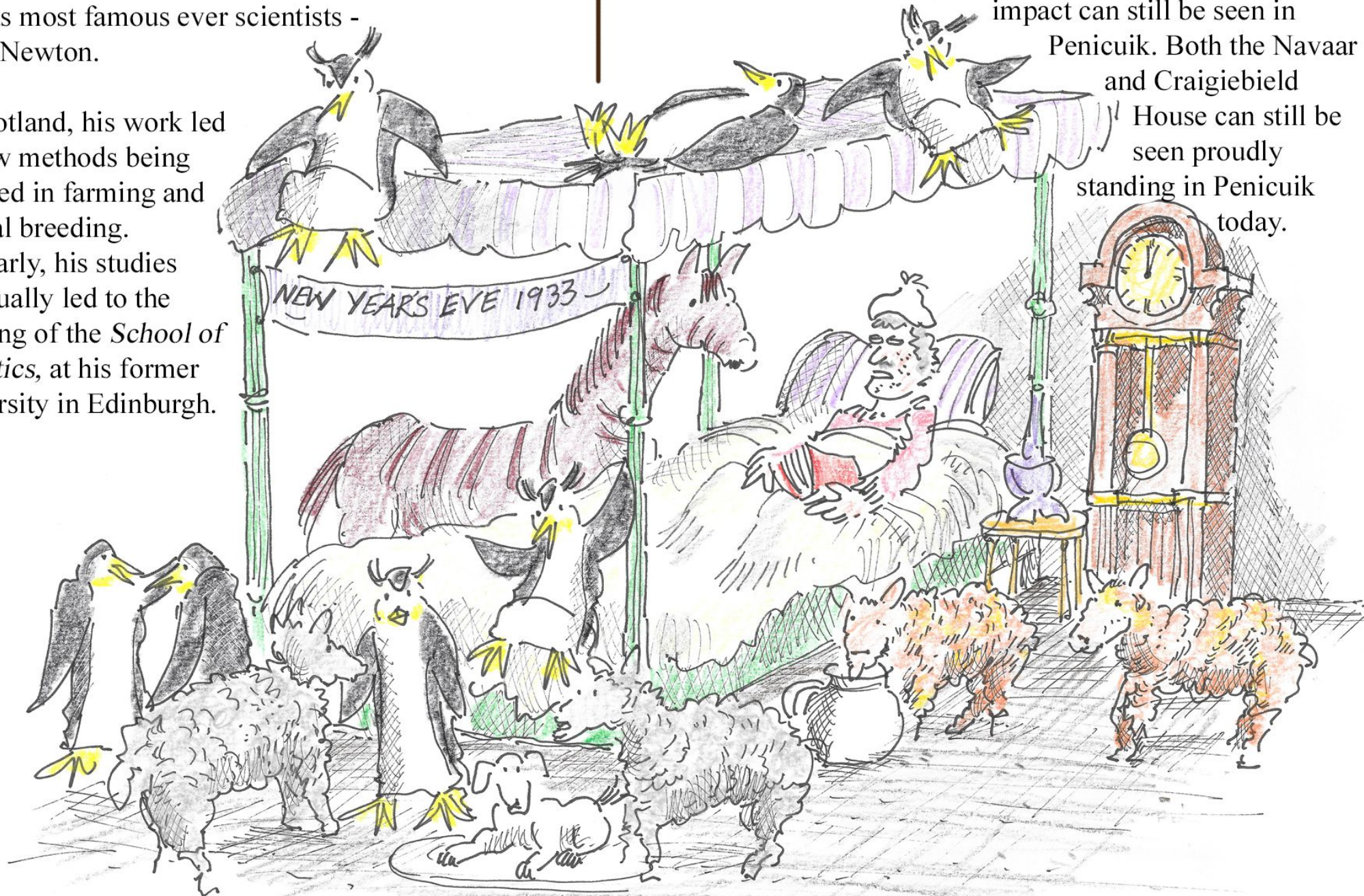


Throughout his life work focusing on the study of animals and their behaviour, the professor changed the worlds understanding of many species. Ewart even disproved some theories of perhaps the worlds most famous ever scientists - Isaac Newton.

In Scotland, his work led to new methods being adopted in farming and animal breeding. Similarly, his studies eventually led to the opening of the *School of Genetics*, at his former university in Edinburgh.

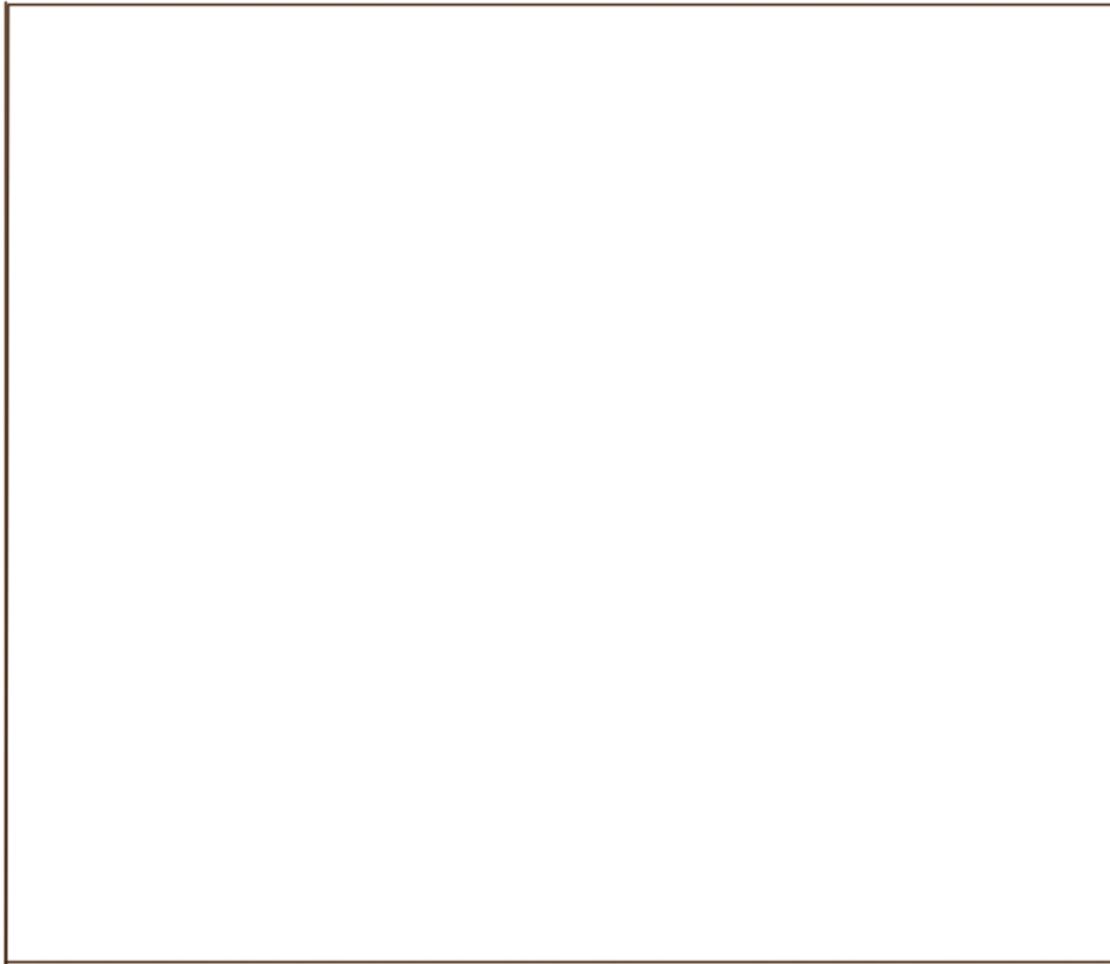
After serious illness, Ewart passed away at home in Penicuik on New Years Eve in 1933.

As well as in the world of medicine and zoology, Ewart's impact can still be seen in Penicuik. Both the Navaar and Craigiefield House can still be seen proudly standing in Penicuik today.



Animal Hybrids?

Much of Professor Ewart's experimenting focused on whether different species could be combined to create 'hybrid' (or combined) animals. In the space below, why not try and draw your own animal hybrids - maybe a cat combined with a bat? Or a lion combined with a giraffe?



Wildlife Watcher

Penicuik and the surrounding countryside is full of wildlife. Below is a checklist for the next time you next find yourself exploring the local area like Professor Ewart. Cross the animals from the list as you go!

Dog



Cat

Sheep



Pigeon



Seagull

Horse

Deer

