

THE BOOK  
OF THE  
OLD EDINBURGH  
CLUB

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The Journal for  
Edinburgh History



This content is extracted from **The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, The Journal for Edinburgh History** ISSN 2634-2618

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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB FOR THE YEAR 2001-2002

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2001

The Ninety-Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Old Edinburgh Club was held on Friday 30 November 2001 at 2.00 pm in the City Chambers. The Lord Provost, Mr Eric Milligan, presided.

Apologies were received from June Brebner, Jim Bruce, David Campbell, Miss A. Cowper, Elaine Greig, Jim Hall, Donald Reid, Allen Simpson, Murray Simpson, Agnes Turnbull, Wendy Turner, Miss M. M. R. Wilson, and the Earl and Countess of Wemyss.

The minutes of the AGM in November 2000 were accepted as correct.

## ANNUAL REPORT

The President, Andrew Fraser, presented the Annual Report. Council had met three times, and he recorded thanks to Pam McNicol for providing the meeting room. During the year Ann Mitchell and Donald Reid had stepped down as acting Honorary Secretary and Treasurer respectively. They were both warmly thanked for their service. In their place Council had appointed Rachael Mumford as Secretary and Rosemary Wake as Treasurer.

Membership stood at about 250. A revised leaflet had been produced and the Council aimed to undertake a recruitment drive over the next year. The new meeting venue at the Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, had been a success with a consistent turnout of members. Pam McNicol was thanked for organising the 2001-2002 visits and lectures, and Norrie Bryson and Jim Hogg for producing and distributing the new posters.

A group set up to review the constitution would welcome members' views.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Rosemary Wake presented the accounts for the year to 31 August 2001. The balance of the accounts was satisfactory at present. Rosemary thanked members for returning their membership renewals. The next major expense would be the production of Volume 5 of the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*.

The Treasurer's report and balance sheet were formally adopted.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

The Chairman presented his report as Editor. *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* New Series Vol. 5 was at an advanced stage. Also to be included in the volume was an index for New Series Vols 1-5. The next stage was to obtain quotes from printers. It was hoped it would be ready by Easter. Articles delayed for various reasons have been earmarked for Vol. 6.

Allen Simpson was thanked for arranging the reprint of New Series Vol. 1, of which some were still available, and more could be printed. Members asked whether there were plans for binding the New Series to match the Old Series. The Club possesses binders' stamps. It was noted that it would perhaps be cheaper to bind several sets at once.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

Andrew Fraser was retiring as President after three and a half years service. Jack Cormack, Athol Murray and Allen Simpson were to step down by rotation after three years service, and Rosemary Wake's place had become vacant. To fill three of these four ordinary members' places, Council proposed that Ann Mitchell

resume her place for one year after her period as Hon. Sec., and that Norrie Bryson, who had been co-opted as publicity and recruitment officer, and John Skinner, be appointed. There were no further nominations at the AGM. The members expressed their appreciation to those who had given service to the Club.

The proposed candidates for election or re-election to the Council were unanimously approved: President, Dr Tristram Clarke; Honorary Secretary, Rachael Mumford; Treasurer, Rosemary Wake; Honorary Auditor, Alan Newton; Ordinary Council Members, Ann Mitchell, Norrie Bryson and John Skinner. The remaining office bearers were also re-elected.

## ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Tristram Clarke took the chair, and said that it would be an honour for him to serve as President. He thanked last year's team and the outgoing officers, and presented gifts to Andrew Fraser and Ann Mitchell.

Dr Iain Brown's suggestion that the Club record their greetings to Lord Cullen on becoming Lord President of the Court of Session was approved.

## ADDRESS

After the AGM, the Lord Provost, Mr Eric Milligan, addressed the Club on the development of Edinburgh as the leading city in Scotland today, taking as his starting point the painting of the Blue Blanket on the wall of the Council Chamber, a fitting topic for a meeting on St Andrews Day.

The address was enjoyed by members and the Lord Provost was warmly thanked. The meeting concluded with afternoon tea by kind invitation of the Lord Provost.

## LECTURES 2001-2002

*24 October. Royal Infirmary Archives: Past, Present and Future.* Dr Mike Barfoot, Lothian Health Services Archivist.

*14 November. The Buildings of Edinburgh Mint.* Dr Athol Murray.

*5 December. Conan Doyle's Edinburgh.* Owen Dudley Edwards, University of Edinburgh.

*16 January. Leith Races And Their Prizes.* George Dalgleish, National Museums of Scotland.

*6 February. The History and Archaeology of the New Parliament Site: A Story of Rise, Decline, and Rise again.* Dr Patricia Dennison. Joint Lecture with the Department of Scottish History, University of Edinburgh, Sir William Fraser Centenary Lecture Series.

*27 March. Brewing in Edinburgh.* Charles McMaster.

## EXCURSIONS 2002

*9 and 21 May. Ian Rankin's Edinburgh.* Guided walks around the city based on the 'Rebus' novels of Ian Rankin led by John Skinner.

*10 June. Water of Leith Conservation Trust Heritage Centre, Stenhouse.* Guided tour of the museum and talk on the Water of Leith from an historical perspective by Dr Graham Priestley, followed by Summer Party refreshments.

*13 July. St John's Church.* Guided tour of the church and churchyard organised by Angus Mitchell.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB FOR THE YEAR 2002-2003

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2002

The Ninety-Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Old Edinburgh Club was held on Thursday 28 November 2002 at 2.00 pm in the City Chambers. The President, Dr Tristram Clarke, took the chair in the unavoidable absence of the Lord Provost.

Apologies were received from Denise Brace, June Brebner, Iain Brown, Jim Bruce, Connie Byrom, J. Calcott, Celia & J. Stanley Cavaye, Mr & Mrs Fleming, Jim Hall, Jim Hogg, Pam McNicol, Ronnie Pearson, Una & David Robertson, George Turnbull, and Wendy Turner.

The minutes of the AGM in 2001 were accepted as correct.

## ANNUAL REPORT

The President, Dr Tristram Clarke, presented the Annual Report on behalf of the Council. The Council was grateful to the City Archivist and the Librarian of the National Library of Scotland for providing meeting places during the year. Thanks for their hard work were due to Rachael Dempster, Secretary, Rosemary Wake, Treasurer, and to Dr Andrew Fraser, Editor.

Lectures and summer visits continued to be the Club's core activities, and the season's successful programme was owing to the hard work of our Programme Secretary, Pam McNicol, as well as to the quality of the speakers and guides. Norrie Bryson and Jimmy Hogg were together responsible for arranging publicity with high-quality posters for our lecture series and a new membership leaflet.

There were no changes to the Council during the year. The Council was grateful for the contributions made by Denise Brace, Ann Mitchell and Dr Murray Simpson, who were retiring by rotation as ordinary Council members.

Membership of the Club remained a concern. Members were encouraged to bring along a friend to meetings and persuade them to join.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Rosemary Wake presented the accounts for the year to 31 August 2002. She reported that the introduction of a small charge for visitors to lectures had been very successful in terms of income and bringing in new members. The subscription list was currently being tidied up. This year had seen a rise in the number of joint members, but a slight dip in the number of individual members. The total membership stood at about 290 members.

Club expenditure had been reduced. We were no longer paying a fee for storage of back numbers of *BOEC*; there were no payments made to the Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer; and the new venue had been a success in terms of numbers and the cost of hire. The major expenditure was *BOEC*, which we would be able to cover quite easily. However, there was a need to increase membership numbers in the long term.

The report and balance sheet were formally adopted.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Andrew Fraser reported that Volume 5 of the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* was ready and copies were available to collect at the end of the meeting. He apologised for the delay in publishing this volume. There would be a sales drive in the next year for the sale of copies of Vols 1-4.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

All of the Office Bearers were willing to stand again. There was one nomination received for Council: Ms Bridget Stevens, nominated by John Skinner. The candidates were proposed and seconded by Angus Mitchell, and unanimously approved.

## CONSTITUTION

Copies of the proposed new constitution were circulated with the AGM papers. A vote was taken and the new constitution was unanimously approved. The changes will come into effect at the next AGM.

## ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

The issue of binding the New Series *BOEC* volumes was raised. The editor was unsure if it could be bound successfully, in terms of size and covers, the covers being an integral part of the volume. He will seek advice and quotes from bookbinders and put a package together. Kitty Cruft, Athol Murray, Elizabeth Gray and Margaret Campbell all put their names forward as interested parties.

The meeting closed with thanks from the President.

## ADDRESS

After the AGM, M. Michel Roche, the Consul General for France in Scotland, addressed the club. He talked of the changing role of the French Consul in Scotland over the years and its work in the present day. He spoke of his role and its function to ensure that France is a partner to Scotland, offering co-operation, networks for exchange, and the promotion of the culture and language of France within Scotland. The address was followed by questions from the floor. The Vice-President, Miss Catherine Cruft, OBE, thanked M. Roche on behalf of the Club.

After the address Councillor Marion Morton, Depute Convenor of the City of Edinburgh Council, addressed the club, and hosted the tea and coffee reception that concluded the meeting. The President presented M. Roche and Councillor Morton with complimentary copies of Vol. 5 of the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*.

## LECTURES 2002-2003

*16 October. The Power of the Façade or the Façade of Power? Edinburgh's Tenements 1860-1914.* Professor Richard Rodger, University of Leicester.

*13 November. Twin Tracks: The Buildings of the Royal Infirmary and the Medical School from the 18th Century.* Dr Andrew Fraser, Retired OEC President, the Boog Watson Lecture.

*11 December. The Calton Hill Observatories.* Graham Rule.

*15 January. Leith Privateers in the 17th Century.* Sue Mowat.

*5 February. A Picture of Edinburgh: The City through the Eyes of the Artist.* David Patterson, Edinburgh City Art Centre.

*5 March. The Edinburgh New Town Gardens: A Voyage of Discovery.* Dr Connie Byrom.

## EXCURSIONS 2003

*20 May. St Giles Cathedral.* Talk and guided tour, followed by Summer Party refreshments.

*18 June. Trinity House and South Leith Parish Church.* Guided tours of these two venerable buildings in Leith.

*25 July and 3 August. A Child's Garden: Literary Childhoods in Edinburgh's New Town Streets.* Guided tours led by John Skinner.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB FOR THE YEAR 2003-2004

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2003

The Ninety-Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Old Edinburgh Club was held on Wednesday 26 November 2004 at 2.00 pm in the City Chambers.

Apologies were received from Denise Brace, June Brebner, Iain Brown, James Brown, Connie Byrom, J. Calcott, Cecilia & J. Stanley Cavaye, Jim Hall, Jim Hogg, Keith McIntosh, Pam McNicol, George Turnbull, and the Earl and Countess of Wemyss.

The minutes of the AGM in 2002 were accepted as correct.

## ANNUAL REPORT

The President presented a report on behalf of the Council. Thanks were due to the City Archivist for providing a meeting place for the Council, and, for all their hard work on behalf of the Club, to Rachael Dempster, Secretary, Rosemary Wake, Treasurer, Pam McNicol, Programme Secretary, and Norrie Bryson, publicity organiser. The President also thanked the outgoing ordinary members of Council for their contribution: Connie Byrom, Graeme Cruickshank, Elaine Greig, and Jim Hall, and John Skinner, who resigned during the year.

As usual there had been a varied and successful programme of lectures and summer visits. The membership stood at about 260. It was hoped the Club's website, which was established during the year, would help attract new members: <http://www.oldedinburghclub.org.uk>.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Rosemary Wake presented the accounts for the year to 31 August 2003. She pointed out two changes to the layout of the accounts, a new clearer to read format, and a new signatory. The Club owed thanks to Oliver Hemming CA, a member, for his help with the inspection of the accounts.

It was reported that the Club had a successful financial year, despite the cost of producing Volume 5 of the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*. The closing balance is only £200 down on the start of the year. The income had only risen in the sale of *BOEC* to libraries. Subscriptions had continued on a downward trend, hence this year's impetus towards publicity and the website.

Looking to 2004, she hoped to move some funds over to a higher interest account, whilst retaining enough to cover the outgoings of the year.

The report and balance sheet were formally adopted.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Andrew Fraser reported that Volume 5 had been well received. Work was under way on Volume 6, though there had been a delay in submissions. Work is also in hand on the index for Volumes 22-35 of the original series. Four members had volunteered to re-key the existing indexes.

Rebinding New Series Vols 1-5 as a single volume has proved to be very popular and a last call was issued for any interested parties. Further information would be sent to interested members.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

The new constitution voted in in 2003 came into effect at this meeting. Under the new constitution, Dr Iain Brown stepped down as second Vice President and stood as an ordinary Council member.

All office bearers were willing to stand again. They were elected *en bloc*, proposed by Athol Murray and seconded by David Simpson.

The new ordinary members, Dr Alan Borthwick, George Dalgleish, Very Rev. Allan Maclean and Colin Warwick were proposed by Andrew Fraser and seconded by Rosemary Wake.

## ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

None. The meeting closed with thanks from the President.

## ADDRESS

After the AGM, the Lord Provost, Lesley Hinds, Patron of the Old Edinburgh Club, addressed the members. She spoke on the topic of the future of the city of Edinburgh, and her role in understanding and promoting the needs of the city and its inhabitants. She covered many important subjects affecting the city, including education, transport, housing and culture, and then threw open the discussion. There followed a lively question and answer session.

The Vice President, Miss Catherine Cruft, OBE, thanked the Lord Provost on behalf of the Club.

After the address the Lord Provost joined members for the tea and coffee reception that concluded the meeting.

## LECTURES 2003-2004

**8 October. Edinburgh Surgeons of the 19th Century - Famous and Infamous.** Dr A. W. Mackaill.

**11 November. Edinburgh People in the First World War.** Sandra Marwick, Edinburgh City Museums.

**3 December. The Creation of Veterinary Education in Edinburgh.** Alastair A. Macdonald and Colin Warwick, University of Edinburgh.

**14 January. The Glasshouses of Edinburgh and Leith.** Dr Jill Turnbull.

**18 February. Patrick Geddes and Cultural Revival.** Professor Murdo Macdonald, University of Dundee.

**10 March. Exterior Decoration - Furnishing the Edinburgh Streetscape.** Dr Deborah Mays, Historic Scotland.

## EXCURSIONS 2004

**15 June. Sir Walter Scott: A Life in Manuscripts.** A talk by Dr Iain G. Brown from manuscripts in the National Library of Scotland.

**7 and 14 July. Gilmerton Cove and Village.** Visits to the Cove, guided by Mercat Tours, and a talk by Malcolm Cant on Gilmerton's history.

**25 August. Dean Cemetery.** Guided tour of the historic cemetery by Isabella Lennie, STB Guide.



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB FOR THE YEAR 2004–2005

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2004

The Ninety-Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Old Edinburgh Club was held on Thursday 25 November 2004 at 2.00 pm in the City Chambers.

Around 46 members were present. Apologies were tendered by June Brebner, Jennifer Calcott, Dr Duncan Shaw, Prof David Simpson and Margaret Thorburn.

The minutes of the 2003 AGM were accepted as correct.

## ANNUAL REPORT

The President, Dr Tristram Clarke, presented the annual report on behalf of the Council. The Council was grateful to the City Archivist for providing meeting places during the year. Lectures and summer visits continued to be the Club's core activities, and the season's successful programme was the result of the hard work of the Programme Secretary, Pam McNicol, and the quality of the speakers and guides. Norrie Bryson and Jimmy Hogg were together responsible for arranging publicity with high quality posters for our lecture series and membership leaflets. Membership was around 255. The Club's website had not as yet been as popular as we would have liked, and extra content needed to be added.

The Council was particularly grateful for the contributions made by the three retiring members, the Secretary Rachael Dempster (who resigned at the end of May), Norrie Bryson and Pam McNicol.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

In the unavoidable absence of the Treasurer, Rosemary Wake, Tristram Clarke presented the accounts for the year to 31 August 2004. Thanks were accorded to Club member Oliver Hemming CA for examining the accounts.

With the bulk of the cost of publishing Volume 5 of *BOEC* represented in the previous year's accounts, the year's income greatly exceeded the expenditure. It might be possible to produce *BOEC* more frequently from a financial point of view, but in practice it would as ever depend on the editor's time and available articles. But the proposed index to Volumes 22–35 of the Original Series of *BOEC* could it seems be readily afforded.

The report and balance sheet were formally adopted.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Andrew Fraser reported that work on Volume 6 of *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* was proceeding slowly, but it seemed that by Easter 2005 there would be enough material in hand. The index to volumes 22 to 35 of the Original Series was still under consideration. Contact had been made with a professional indexer; a purpose-designed database was to be acquired and data entered. The binding of the New Series Volumes 1–5 had been completed for those members who had asked for it, satisfaction with the work being expressed by at least one member present.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

Consequent on various departures from office the following elections were made to unanimous approval: President, Miss Catherine Cruft; Vice-President, Dr Iain Brown; Honorary Secretary, Dr Alan Borthwick; Programme Secretary, Ms Bridget Stevens. Rosemary Wake remained Treasurer and Andrew Fraser

the Editor. Additional Council members: Owen Dudley Edwards; Dr Robin Tait; and Dr Tristram Clarke.

The incoming President, Kitty Cruft, expressed the Club's thanks to the retiring President, Tristram Clarke, for his work during his term of office, culminating in his Boog Watson lecture the previous week.

## ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Norman Butcher asked about the current problems afflicting the City Archives. There had been three letters recently in the *Scotsman* on the subject. Dr Robin Tait commented on the poor state of the service, which was presently under-staffed after staff departures. It was agreed that Council should write to the City Council.

Norman Butcher commented on the new setts at the junction of High Street and George IV Bridge, which had apparently been acquired from China (for some unknown reason). The President thought that this was more a matter for the Cockburn Association.

The meeting closed at 2.35 pm.

## ADDRESS

After the AGM, David MacDonald, Director of the Cockburn Association, addressed the Club. The Association had been constituted in 1875, named after Henry Cockburn, the judge Lord Cockburn, whose 1849 *Letter to the Lord Provost* brought attention to the need to preserve the historical aspects and amenity of the city. The Association even bought some land in the Botanic Gardens to preserve the views there. He drew attention to the regeneration work of Patrick Geddes, on the Association's Council for 21 years. The Association does not automatically oppose development, but does (with its three paid staff) look at planning applications and other general city plans to seek improvement in the cityscape. The address was followed by a number of questions from the floor.

After the address Mrs Lesley Hinds, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, hosted the tea and coffee reception that concluded the meeting.

## LECTURES 2004–2005

*20 October. Picturing the Golden Age: Edinburgh 1760–1830.* Bill Ritchie.

*17 November. Before Adam: The Origins of Register House.* Dr Tristram Clarke, OEC President, the Boog Watson Lecture.

*15 December. New Views of Edinburgh's New Town.* Anthony Lewis.

*19 January. Defending the Burgh: Continuity and Change in Edinburgh's Early-modern Infrastructure.* Aaron M. Allen.

*16 February. Major Patrick Ferguson – A Man of some Genius.* Dr Marianne M. Gilchrist.

*9 March. McCrae's Battalion: Rescuing the Past.* Jack Alexander.

## EXCURSIONS 2005

*26 May. Gosford House.* Tour and Summer Party, by courtesy of the Earl and Countess of Wemyss.

*23 June. Royal Observatory of Edinburgh.* Guided tour by Observatory staff.

*16 July. Miss Jean Brodie Walk.* Led by Owen Dudley Edwards.

# CONSTITUTION OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB

(As amended in November 2002)

1. The name of the Club shall be the 'Old Edinburgh Club'.
2. The objectives of the Club shall be the study of all aspects of the history of Edinburgh, and the promotion and encouragement of interest in Edinburgh by means of lectures, visits and publications.
3. Membership shall be open to all interested in the objectives of the Club.
4. The annual subscription rates shall be recommended by Council to each Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions shall be payable in advance on 1 September in each calendar year. Any Member whose subscription is unpaid within four months from that date may be removed from membership.
5. The Club shall have three categories of Honorary Office-bearers to be designated as follows: Honorary Patron, Honorary President and Honorary Vice-President.
6. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Council of paid-up members of the Club, consisting of seven Office-bearers: the President, a Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Editor, Publicity Officer, and up to nine Ordinary Members.  

All Office-bearers shall be elected annually. The President and Vice President shall hold office for no more than three years. Ordinary Members shall be elected for three years, and three of them shall retire annually in rotation, and shall not be eligible for re-election as Ordinary Members for one year.

The Council shall have power to fill any vacancy in its membership arising during the year, to make bye-laws, and to appoint sub-committees for special purposes chaired by a member of Council or a co-opted Club member. Members of sub-committees may be appointed from the general body of members. At general meetings of the Club nine members shall form a quorum, and at Council meetings, seven members.
7. The Secretary shall keep proper minutes of the Club's business and transactions, conduct official correspondence, and have custody of and responsibility for all the Club's records or other property placed in his or her charge. The minutes and other records of the Club shall be open to inspection by members of the Club on request.
8. The Programme Secretary shall be responsible for all arrangements for lectures and excursions on behalf of the Club.
9. The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of the Club, receive all monies, collect subscriptions and pay accounts, and shall present annually an independently examined statement relative thereto.
10. The Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be held between the end of the Club's accounting year and the end of the calendar year. At the AGM reports by the President and the Treasurer on behalf of the Council shall be presented, the Council for the ensuing year elected, and any other competent business transacted.
11. The Council shall hold at least two meetings annually and shall arrange for such meetings throughout the year as it thinks expedient, and shall regulate all matters relating to the transactions and publications of the Club.
12. Members of the Club shall receive one copy of each of the publications published by or on behalf of the Club as issued, provided they are not in arrears of subscription. The Council or its committees shall have discretionary powers to determine the distribution of copies to contributors, reviewers, and for presentation to approved bodies or societies.
13. In the event of membership falling to twelve Members or fewer, the Council shall consider the advisability of winding up the Club, and shall take a vote in writing thereon of Members who are not in arrears of subscription. Should the vote determine that the Club be dissolved, the Council shall then discharge the debts due by the Club and shall then deposit in trust, or with a recognised public institution or corporate body, any residue or funds or other properties belonging to the Club, for preservation, in order that the same be available to students of local history in all time coming.
14. No alteration of this Constitution shall be made except at a General Meeting of the Club. Notice of any proposed alteration must be given in writing to the Secretary, who shall notify all Members of the same not less than seven days before the meeting. No alteration shall be made to the Constitution unless supported by two-thirds of the Members at the meeting.