

THE BOOK  
OF THE  
OLD EDINBURGH  
CLUB

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# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB FOR THE YEAR 2005–2006

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2005

The Ninety-Eighth Annual General Meeting of the Old Edinburgh Club was held on Monday 14 November 2005 at 2.00 pm in the City Chambers.

Around 32 members were present. Apologies were tendered by Janette Amos, Dr J. B. Barclay, June Brebner, Patrick Brooks, Iain Brown, Jim Brown and Peter Willis.

Mrs Lesley Hinds, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, made a short welcome address to members, to which the President, Miss Kitty Cruft, replied, thanking the Lord Provost for the continuing hospitality offered to the Club by the Council at the time of the AGMs.

The minutes of the 2004 AGM were accepted as correct.

## ANNUAL REPORT

The President, Miss Cruft, presented the annual report on behalf of the Council. The Council was grateful to the National Archives of Scotland and to Dr Iain Brown 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, Bridget Stevens, and the quality of the speakers. Particular thanks were due to the Earl and Countess of Wemyss, who had permitted the use of Gosford House for a very successful summer party; and to Mr Owen Dudley Edwards for leading the Jean Brodie walk. Membership was around 250. Miss Cruft also made reference to the Club's forthcoming centenary, in 2008, for which plans were being made.

The Council was particularly grateful for the contribution made by the retiring Treasurer, Rosemary Wake.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Ms Rosemary Wake, presented the accounts for the year to 31 August 2005. Thanks were accorded to Club member Oliver Hemming CA for examining the accounts.

She referred to subscriptions being slightly lower than previously, but with there being no publication costs the Club had a healthy balance. Plans for the centenary may turn out to be quite costly, e.g. an additional publication. In the near future, there would be additional mailshot and publicity costs as the previous secretary had been able to use her institution to bear mailshot costs, but this was no longer possible. There was a small balance in an HBOS account used by the former programme secretary, an account which it had been so far impossible to close. A new charities' deposit account may be opened in the future.

The report and balance sheet were formally adopted. On behalf of the Club, Miss Cruft presented Ms Wake with a book token in recognition of her work.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Andrew Fraser reported that work on Volume 6 of *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* was proceeding. A quotation for printing had been accepted, and material would soon be sent to the printer to start the ball rolling. No progress had been made on the index to volumes 22 to 35 of the Original Series.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

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
Treasurer	Mr Douglas Glass
Editor	Dr Andrew Fraser.

The existing ordinary Council members were re-elected. It was noted that additional Council members would be beneficial, and there were one or two possibilities who would be canvassed for co-option to the Council during the year.

## ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Miss Cruft read to the meeting the Lord Provost's general reply to our letter about the current problems afflicting the City Archives. Mr Owen Dudley Edwards mentioned that elsewhere in Scotland local authority archives had received additional funding or support, so surely the same could happen in Edinburgh. Dr Robin Tait referred to the recent National Archives of Scotland report on the City Archives, but that it was too soon to have expected results. The Club Council would continue to take an interest in the matter.

Norman Butcher commented on the new setts at the junction of High Street and George IV Bridge. He also referred to the redevelopment at the south end of Castle Street, where some unusual setts were being placed.

The meeting closed at 2.45 pm.

## ADDRESS

After the AGM, Miss Rosemary Mann, Secretary of the Mansfield Traquair Trust, addressed the Club on 'The role of Edinburgh City Council in the rescue of the Mansfield Place Church'. Robert Rowand Anderson was the architect of the Catholic Apostolic Church in Mansfield Place, but it was Phoebe Anne Traquair's decorative work which has made it a landmark. Her work was more than the murals with which she is most closely associated: there were also embroideries, enamelling and illuminated MSS. The final Catholic Apostolic Church service occurred in 1958, but it was only in 1978 that the church was sold, to the Bellevue Reformed Baptist Church. Unfortunately they undertook no maintenance of the fabric, which was disastrous, despite the church being a Category A listed building from the 1960s. The City Council intervened in 1993 to prevent leaks in the church, and with Historic Scotland, investigated ways to ensure that the mural paint adhered to the walls. It also encouraged the formation in 1993 of the Mansfield Traquair Trust. The establishment of the Heritage Lottery Fund was a significant factor in the rescue of the church. A compulsory purchase order was served on the church in 1997, and the Trust bought the building in 1998. The SCVO now use the church as their offices. In conjunction with Historic Scotland, mural conservators have used the project for training and development. Miss Mann's lecture was illustrated with a variety of slides showing the work in progress.

After the address, the City Council hosted a tea and coffee reception that concluded the meeting.

## LECTURES 2005–2006

*19 October. The Begbie Slides of Old Edinburgh.* Cecilia Cavaye.

*16 November. Mirror of Enlightenment: Images of 18th century Edinburgh.* Professor David Purdie.

*14 December. A Jaunt through Four Centuries of Gardening at the Palace of Holyrood House.* Fiona Jamieson.

*18 January. Edinburgh and the Outbreak of the British Civil Wars 1625-37.* Laura Stewart.

*15 February. History in the Making: Sir Walter Scott and Jock Howieson.* Dr Athol Murray.

*15 March. Cultivating the Garden: Patrick Geddes and 1890s Edinburgh.* Dr Elizabeth Cumming.

## EXCURSIONS 2006

*17 June. The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.* Guided tour.

*1 July. Drumsheugh Baths.* Guided tour.

*30 July. Visit to 14 Jordan Lane.* Tour and Summer Party.

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB FOR THE YEAR 2006-2007

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOVEMBER 2006

The Ninety-Ninth Annual General Meeting of the Old Edinburgh Club was held on Monday 27 November 2006 at 2.00 pm in the City Chambers.

Around 30 members were present. Apologies were tendered by Andrew Bell, Jennifer Calcott, Cecilia Cavaye, R. D. Cramond, Keith Mackintosh, Ann Mitchell and Peter Willis.

Senior Bailie Billy Fitzpatrick welcomed members to the meeting on behalf of the City Council. He explained something of the history of the office of bailie. He thanked the Club for its efforts to encourage the study of local history in the city. The Club President, Miss Cruft, thanked the City for their support as Club Patrons, particularly as the Club approached its 100th AGM next year.

The minutes of the 2005 AGM were accepted as correct.

## ANNUAL REPORT

The President, Miss Cruft, presented the annual report on behalf of the Council. The Council was grateful to the National Archives of Scotland 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, Bridget Stevens, who had now demitted office, the Publicity Officer, Colin Warwick, and the quality of the speakers and guides. Thanks were due in particular to the Ellis family for permitting the summer party to be held at their home. The Council was also grateful for the contributions made by the two retiring Council members, George Dalgleish and Allan Maclean.

The Secretary, Dr Alan Borthwick, reported briefly on the Club's plans for the centenary year in 2008. There were three things that might be expected: a conference on Edinburgh's history; support in some form for City monuments' conservation or research; and a further volume of the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer, Douglas Glass, presented the accounts for the year to 31 August 2006. Thanks were accorded to Club member Oliver Hemming CA for examining the accounts.

With the cost of publishing Volume 6 of *BOEC* represented in this account, there was only a small surplus on the year's activities. Additional member subscriptions and sales of back issues of *BOEC* had certainly helped, as had the receipt of income tax refund.

The report and balance sheet were formally adopted.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

Dr Andrew Fraser reported that Volume 6 of *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* had been distributed in the early summer. Work was underway on Volume 7, which will be a large, miscellany volume. The index to volumes 22 to 35 of the Original Series was still under consideration. It may not appear in 2008, but Dr Fraser felt that the Club's finances were quite healthy at present and we could cover the cost.

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

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
Treasurer	Mr Douglas Glass
Editor	Dr Andrew Fraser

The existing ordinary Council members were re-elected. It was noted that additional Council members would be beneficial, and there were one or two possibilities who would be canvassed for co-option to the Council during the year.

## ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

Graeme Cruickshank asked about the Adopt-a-Monument scheme, which did not seem well supported in the City Council currently. He referred to the pottery kiln at Portobello, where repairs had not been well effected. He also referred to resurfacing work underway on the High Street/Royal Mile, suggesting that there should be some colour-coding set into the new streetscape to show where old buildings had once been. They would be better than studs set into the roadway. He had found it difficult to obtain City Council interest in this idea. He wondered if the Club should become a pressure group for this sort of issue. The President thought that this matter could be further considered by the Club's Council. Bailie Fitzpatrick suggested that a deputation to the City Council to raise the matter might be worth undertaking.

The meeting closed at 2.45pm.

## ADDRESS

After the AGM, Zoe Clark, Director of Edinburgh World Heritage, addressed the Club. Edinburgh World Heritage was created in 1999 by a merger of the Old Town Renewal Trust and the New Town Conservation Committee. Its primary purpose is the management, protection, enhancement and promotion of the Old and New Towns of Edinburgh World Heritage Site, an area of about two square miles which was recognised by UNESCO in 1995. It is a charity, and is funded by Historic Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council. It gives grants for conservation work. It is keen to ensure that its work and messages are well communicated to the public, making history relevant to all. It has a clear remit in consideration of development applications, but also considers appropriate building materials, the preservation of building interiors, etc. Current challenges include the retail landscape in Princes Street, city transport in general, the New Street development, and the St James Centre. The address was followed by a number of questions from the floor.

After the address, the City Council kindly provided the tea and coffee reception that concluded the meeting.

## LECTURES 2006-2007

18 October. **Adam Smith**. Dr Nicholas Phillipson.

15 November. **Castlehill to Canongate: The 18th Century Royal Mile**. David Ingram.

13 December. **The Edinburgh International Exhibition of 1886**. Graeme D. R. Cruickshank.

17 January. **Theatre and Music in Edinburgh**. David W. S. Todd.

14 February. **Walter Scott and Accountancy**. Professor Sam McKinsty.

14 March. **James Hutton (1726-1797): Founder of Modern Geology**. Norman E. Butcher.

## EXCURSIONS 2007

19 June. **The HBOS Museum on The Mound**. Visit and talk.

3 July. **Old College and 'The Spec'**. Guided tour.

26 July. **Merchants' Hall**. Tour and Summer Party.