

THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB

Founded 1908

Minute of the ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CLUB held in the City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh on Wednesday 27 September 2017 at 7.00pm.

The meeting was opened by Bailie Lezley Marion Cameron, representing the Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, who welcomed the Club and referred to her connections with the President through a shared interest in Inch House. Bailie Cameron expressed her delight with recent events celebrating Edinburgh's past, including Doors Open Day and the Riding of the Marches, She concluded by commending the role of organisations like the Club in helping to keep the history of Edinburgh alive and invited Dr Collingwood to take the chair.

The President, Dr Margaret P Collingwood, thanked Bailie Cameron for her welcome and address.

Apologies for Absence

Dr Patricia Andrew, Alan Borthwick, Helen Borthwick, Jim Bremner, Louise Brodie, Dr Iain Gordon Brown, Miss Jean Butchart, Miss Jennifer S Calcott, Lady Lucinda L Mackay, Miss Iona Bennion Roberts, Mrs Una Robertson, Ann Royden, Mike Royden, Bridget Stevens, Ian W Tough, H. Russell Wanless

Minute of the AGM held on 28 September 2016

The Minute of the one hundred and ninth AGM held on 28 September 2016 having been circulated was approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

Intimation of Items for Inclusion under Other Competent Business

None were intimated.

Annual Report

The President addressed the meeting.

"I am pleased to present the President's report for the year 2016-2017.

"The OEC is again grateful to the Lord Provost and Council of the City of Edinburgh for their hospitality tonight and for their ongoing support of the club. We are grateful to Bailey Lezley Cameron for welcoming us to the City Chambers tonight and for her address.

"It's been another good year for the club. (We have lots of good years.) We have 420 members and have again had a series of excellent lectures on a variety of subjects – thanks to Richard Rodger. This year's visits were organised by Jerry Ozaniec and Ted Duvall. There were three summer visits – Greyfriars Kirkyard, the Grounds of the Astley Ainslie and, as a bonus, a visit to the renewed St Cecilia's Hall. Lectures and visits were all well attended.

“Bob Morris and James Hamilton have again produced an excellent Book of the Old Edinburgh Club in the current year and have the next volume near completion.”

Projects

“Your Council has met regularly and continues to take the work of the OEC forward. Beyond that mentioned already the Club supports the work of

- Dr Joe Rock on The Dean Of Guild Papers project
- Alan McKinney and the Southside Graveyard Project

“Council has recently agreed to fund a project to develop a bibliography of historical publications on Edinburgh to be hosted on our website. Dr Malcolm Noble has been appointed to set this up. The initial target is for 750 items creating a system whereby we can add others as they become known. This will hopefully be online in March 2018.

“Reviewing the projects we fund the Council has agreed to fund other suitable projects and to invite applications. The total funds to be available for these projects are £5000. This will be added to the news items shown before each talk. Applications can currently be submitted at any time although the funds will link with the financial year. Each application will be rigorously scrutinised and evaluated.”

Council

“The Council membership currently stands at nine. Two members have resigned - Graham Rule and Gillian Ferguson. Gillian had taken on too many commitments and OEC lost out. Graham – for so long a stalwart of the OEC – is also reducing his commitments but will continue to assist with our internet activities. Graham, we thank you for your years of support.

“We currently have experts in so many fields on Council that even the changes to the Data Protection Act have not stumped us. James Hamilton has advised us and as a result we ask that you complete the forms on your chair consenting to us sending you information. You can be assured that all data held by Council is secure and that NONE is passed to any other body.

“Pat Jones has produced a new styled membership card and programme sheet– looking much grander than the old ones. While our Secretary Peter Graham and Treasurer James Hamilton continue to do excellent work.

“All Council members apply themselves to the work of Council – but it would be very helpful if we could have new members – not just to replace those who have left but to bring new ideas.

“I look forward to our next year and expect it to be up to our normal high standard.”

Secretary's Report

On behalf of the Club the Secretary, the Rev W P Graham, thanked Dr Collingwood for her leadership of the Club in the past year and for her comprehensive report.

In submitting his report Mr Graham referred to the ongoing work of the Council, and then highlighted some matters considered by the Council in the past year:

- The Dean of Guild Papers Project
- Edinburgh Southside Graveyard Project.
- Co-operation with local history societies, clubs and associations within the city.

The Secretary concluded by thanking the members of Council for their diligent participation in its meetings.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Mr James Hamilton, prefaced his remarks by thanking his predecessor in office, Mr Alan McKinney, for his help and support in the handover of duties and in the ensuing period.

The Treasurer then spoke to the Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2017, which had been circulated on the web.

"As you will see from the Report, the Club received income of £8219 from membership fees, sales of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, attendance charges for the Winter and Summer Programmes and donations. The Club expended £8727 on its activities. This means that the Club was in deficit for the year to the tune of about £500. This reflects in part a decision to improve the quality of printing of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, and to recommence funding of the Dean of Guild Project to map the city's eighteenth and nineteenth century planning archive. In the next year, in addition to continuing with the Dean of Guild Project, the Club will also be funding the creation of a new bibliography of Edinburgh history, and replacing the Club's now life-expired projector and screen. The Club has reserves in hand to absorb this expenditure, which reflects the Club's commitment to its values and goals.

"Although these are not straightforward times for all organisations for whom membership is both lifeblood and bedrock, both the Club Council and the membership have put a great deal of effort into helping the Club through. The first signs of this bearing fruit are present in the Report, with a decided increase in sales of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club across the year reflecting the greater awareness of both the Club and the Book that the accelerated publication schedule has achieved. Over the next year we hope to see similar fruits across other areas of the Club's activities."

The Accounts were received.

Editor's Report

Professor Robert Morris, Editor, Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, gave in the Editor's Report.

BOEC 12 was published in time to be distributed at the last meeting of the 2016-2017 season. It had been well received. The editor thanked Deputy Editor James Hamilton and Editorial Assistant Elma McKinney for the important help they had provided.

Preparation of BOEC 13 was well under way with a wide variety of articles promised, in preparation and already submitted. It was especially pleasing to have two potential articles on 20th century topics as well as several on more familiar OEC territory of the earlier centuries.

The editor noted that the book review section was not as strong as would be appropriate and appealed to members to provide information on books that should be reviewed or indeed that they would like to review.

Finally he thanked authors and potential authors for the enthusiasm with which they came forward with such a wide variety of high quality ideas.

Professor Morris then referred to the long-running attempt to compile a comprehensive index to the Old Series of the Book, a project which seemed to have stalled, and invited members with indexing skills, an appropriate mind-set, experience and enthusiasm to contact him or the Secretary.

Election of Office Bearers and Council

The following nominations were submitted on behalf of the Council:

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| President: | Dr Margaret P Collingwood TD |
| Vice-President | <i>No nomination</i> |
| Hon. Treasurer: | Mr James Hamilton |
| Hon. Secretary & Minutes Secretary: | Rev W Peter Graham |
| Editor: | Professor Robert J Morris |
| Membership Secretary: | Mr Jerry Ozaniec |
| Programme Secretary: | Professor Richard G Rodger |
| Publicity Officer: | Mrs Pat Jones |
| Council Members: | <i>No nominations</i> |

The President asked if there were any nominations from the floor, but there were none.

All of the above were duly elected, the office-bearers to serve for one year and the Council members for three years, along with Ms Anne Brockington who was elected as a Council member in 2015, and Dr Edward Duvall who was elected as Council member in 2016, as the Council for 2017-2018.

There being no further competent business, the President thanked the City Council for their hospitality and declared the 110th Annual General Meeting of The Old Edinburgh Club closed at 7.35 pm.

Following the close of formal business, Mr James Hamilton addressed the Club on "Wilfred Owen in Edinburgh" and was thanked by the President, before the members enjoyed the hospitality of the City of Edinburgh Council.