



The Old Edinburgh Club

Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2022

Scottish Charity Number SC006177

1. Charitable purpose and constitution

The objectives of the Old Edinburgh Club (OEC) are the study and support of all aspects of the history of Edinburgh, and the promotion and encouragement of interest in Edinburgh by means of lectures, visits, publications and appropriate activities for public benefit.

The Club is a charitable unincorporated association with a constitution that sets out its purposes and administration arrangements. The constitution was last revised in September 2014.

2. Activities and achievements

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have a significant impact on the activities of the Club. Having sounded out our members, we introduced hybrid meetings, offering the choice of in-person attendance at the Augustine United Church (AUC) and live streaming for viewing at home. Talks are available on YouTube for a short period after. We are very grateful to AUC for their investment in the video system that made this possible.

Membership

At 30 June 2022 we had 357 members (211 full and 73 joint memberships). This represents a slight fall from last year (374 members; 220 full and 77 joint memberships).

Events

Our lecture programme for 2021-22 maintained its standard and popularity. The topics and speakers were:

- *India in Edinburgh: 1750s to the present*, by Roger Jeffery (October 2021)
- *Science, Technology and Edinburgh*, by Sam Alberti (November)
- *Censuses of Edinburgh: Past, present and future*, by Prof Richard Rodger (January 2022)
- *'Meet me at Binns': Capturing and conserving local significance*, by Nicholas Uglow (February)
- *Widows, Dowry and Debts in Early Modern Scotland*, by Dr Rebecca Mason (March)
- *'Have a cuppa tea': Life journeys of people with sight loss in and around Edwardian Edinburgh*, by Dr Ian Hutchison (April)

In addition, the AGM on 22 September 2021 was followed by a talk by Richard Hunter, previously City Archivist in Edinburgh, on *'Why Archives Matter'*.

We have also restored our summer visits. Five took place before the end of June 2022:

- *'The visit of King George IV to Edinburgh in 1822'*, led twice by Eric Melvin
- *'The Old Town Printing Heritage'*, led twice by Helen Williams
- *'Port Hopetoun Union Canal Walk'*, by Graham Cruickshank



Contact for further information:

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As ever, we are very grateful to our presenters for preparing such fascinating talks and visits.

Unfortunately because of a resurgence of COVID, we had to cancel our Members Evening scheduled for December. We apologise to those members who had prepared short talks and were thus unable to contribute.

Book of the Old Edinburgh Club

Volume 17 of our journal, *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* was published in March 2022 and distributed to members by post. Its articles are:

- *'John Borthwick Gilchrist: An Edinburgh Lad o' Pairts Let Loose in India and London'*, by Antonia Simpson and Roger Jeffery
- *'Jews in Edinburgh and Their Marriages 1941-1911'* by Gillian Raab
- *'Early History of Morningside'*, by Douglas Baugh
- *'H.M. Treasury and the University of Edinburgh, 1840-1900'*, by Ian Levitt
- *'Philanthropist, Female, Forgotten Catherine Sinclair'*, by Diana Leat
- *'Reconsidering an Edinburgh Institution: The British Linen Bank and Its Slavery Connection'*, by Maximilian Knight
- *'Around the Botanic in 350 Years: an Exploration of the Evolution of Edinburgh's World Leading Botanic Garden'*, by Simon Milne
- *'The City from Afar; John Thompson's Edinburgh from Hillside: A Tale of Collectors and Collections'*, by Patricia Andrew

We have recently digitised Volumes 1 to 6 of the New Series of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club (1991 to 2005). These will be added to our online collection. All volumes of the Old Series of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club (1908 to 1985) are available on the Club's website, having been digitised by Edinburgh University Library's Digital Imaging Unit in 2019. These back numbers contain invaluable information and knowledge about the history of Edinburgh which we are promoting to members and a wider readership.

OEC Bibliography of Edinburgh History

We have updated the online [OEC Bibliography of Edinburgh History](#), the first comprehensive listing which serves as a 'go to' place to explore the wealth of what's been written about the history of Edinburgh. It contains over 2,000 items (books, chapters, journal articles, and dissertations), across 12 themes: social, cultural, economic, architectural, etc. This has been prepared by Dr Malcom Noble. We have commissioned a further update, to be available in 2024.

Edinburgh Films

Despite a hiatus, the Club remains committed to a project to capitalise on the Moving Image Archive of the National Library, producing short reviews of films and clips about Edinburgh. Our intention is to publicise the Archive and highlight the Edinburgh content.

Graveyards

The Club provided a grant of £5,000 to the Edinburgh Southside Graveyard Project in 2016. By restoring headstones which have been laid flat for safety reasons, the Project improves the environment and allows inscriptions to be read once more. It works with the City of Edinburgh Council by providing constructive opportunities to participants on the Community Payback Programme. Recent work has been constrained by COVID-19 though, in conjunction with the Grange Association and their volunteers, over 225 headstones have been rebuilt in the Grange Cemetery and 19 foundations prepared. The Club retains a balance on

behalf of the Project of £2,100, to be released when requested. Progress now awaits the appointment of a new Community Payback team leader by the City of Edinburgh Council.

We are sad to report the passing of Alan McKinney who has been the driving force behind the Graveyard Project. Alan was long a member of the Old Edinburgh Club and served as Treasurer for several years. He was co-author with Professor Bob Morris of *'The Formation of the Old Edinburgh Club and its first 300 members'* published in the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, New Series, Volume 11 (2015).

OEC Prize

The OEC prize for local history has not been awarded this year, as there has been no nomination from the awarding panel at the University of Edinburgh.

The Prize is open to postgraduate students completing a Masters thesis or, exceptionally, to undergraduates with outstanding dissertations. We invite winners to contribute an article for the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, as we did with Maximilian Knight in this year's volume.

Promoting the Club

We are devoting more energy to promoting the Club and our activities. Concerted efforts to promote the Bibliography, eg, through targeted contact with local and national history and heritage organisations, has borne fruit in higher use of the resource. We have also had considerable interest in our events. The website, Facebook and Twitter and e-mails to members are our principal channels.

We recognise that we need to work on raising our membership numbers which have been in gradual decline for some time. We have set up a working group to turn this round.

We have ensured that we have content on the websites of the British Association for Local History (BALH) and the Scottish Local History Forum (SLHF), with the latter including details of our forthcoming events and a link to purchase back copies of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club. BALH have published an article about the work of OEC, the first time in recent years they have featured a Scottish local history organisation.

Internet and social media

The Club has a website (www.odedinburghclub.org.uk/) which is regularly updated to promote the Club's activities and promote the aims of the Club more widely. We have added pages for the Bibliography and membership applications. We continue to update our resources guide, helping people find out more about Edinburgh history and connect with history and heritage organisations within the city.

We thank Graham Rule for his support in resolving issues with the site, which is now on a secure footing. We have begun to use Google Analytics to track site usage. There were 6,256 page visits between mid November and the end of June, of which 25% were to the home page.

The Club has a profile on both Facebook (managed by Jerry Ozanec) and on Twitter (managed by Alison Macdonald). On Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OldEdinburghClub>) the Club has 2,166 'Likes' and 2,374 'Follows', and on Twitter (@OldEdinClub) over 1,539 followers. These show increases of over 10% in the past year. We tweet details of the Club's meetings and events along with other historical/archaeological news of local interest. Postings include wider Scottish historical news and pictures of Edinburgh buildings and street views.

Archiving OEC Council documents

With the lifting of COVID restrictions we have been able to lodge Club documents for 2019-20 and 2020-21 with Edinburgh Central Library for archiving. This maintains their collection of OEC Annual Reports, minutes, lecture programmes and volumes of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club.

3. Trustees and club management

Honorary office-bearers of the Club are Lord Cullen of Whitekirk, Honorary President and Professor Robert J Morris, Honorary Vice President.

The Club is managed by a Council of members, consisting of office-bearers (President, Vice President(s), Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary, Membership Secretary, Minutes Secretary, Editor and Publicity Officer) and up to nine Ordinary Members.

The Members of Council are the trustees for the purposes of charity law. At the date of approval of this report they were:

President	Rev W Peter Graham
Vice Presidents	Dr Edward Duvall Mr Steven M Robb
Treasurer	Mr Mike Harrison
Secretary & Minutes Secretary	Mr Derrick Johnstone
Membership Secretary	Mr Jerry Ozaniec
Programme Secretary	Prof Richard G Rodger
Publicity Officer	Mrs Pat Jones
Editor, Book of the Old Edinburgh Club	Dr Wilson Smith
Ordinary Council Members	Dr Diana Leat Dr John McAleese Ms Alison Macdonald Dr Neil MacGillivray

The above were members of Council throughout the period to the date of approval of this report.

In 2021-2022 the Council met six times for ongoing and routine business, with an overall attendance rate of 77%. At each meeting, the Council received reports on Finance, Membership, Events, Publications and Publicity including social media.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees (Members of Council) are elected by and from the Club's membership at the Annual General Meeting. The Trustees also have the power to co-opt additional trustees. The office-bearers are elected annually. The President and Vice President(s) hold office for no more than three years. Ordinary Council Members are elected for three years. Normally three of them retire annually by rotation and are not eligible for re-election as Ordinary Council Members for one year.

The term of office as Ordinary Council Members for Diana Leat, Neil MacGillivray and Alison Macdonald comes to an end this year, given their election at the AGM on 25 September 2019. We are enormously grateful for their contributions and hope that they will consider standing again in future.

New trustees have their duties explained to them in full and are given a copy of Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)'s Guidance for Charity Trustees.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, in particular those related to the operations and finances of the Club. Trustees are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The Club has suitable insurance through our membership of the British Association for Local History.

Given the nature of the Club's activities, we have not needed to adopt safeguarding policies, procedures and practices. However, we shall anticipate and deal with any situation where children or vulnerable adults are involved and potentially at risk.

We have updated our privacy and data protection policy to take account of offering member registration via our website and sharing personal information with AUC for COVID logging purposes.

4. Future plans

We shall continue our promotion of the study of the history of Edinburgh through events, publications and projects. In this, we seek to maintain and develop our relationships with local history societies and other bodies who share our interest in Edinburgh.

We are delighted to have received two generous legacies, from Miss Jean Butchart and from Miss Jean Ritchie Guild. We are considering the best uses of these funds in furthering our aim of promoting interest in the history of Edinburgh. We have reflected on a statement when the Club was founded in 1908, calling for the *"collection and authentication of oral and written statements or documentary evidence relating to Edinburgh; the gathering of existing traditions, legends and historical data; and the selecting and printing of material desirable for future reference"*, while acknowledging the need to bring the history to life and engage a wider audience. Activities could include special projects or events; sponsoring or commissioning research or improved access to archive data; and promotion where this can be seen to have a measurable impact on the Club's profile, membership and involvement.

Our benefactors

Jean Butchart had a great interest in Edinburgh history and was a member of the Old Edinburgh Club for many years. She was very committed to honour her father's work, as City Librarian from 1942 until 1953 and author in 1955 *Prints and Drawings of Edinburgh*. He held that this collection, held in the Edinburgh Room of the Central Public Library constituted the "finest collection in existence of topographical and historical prints of the City". In 1982 Miss Butchart presented her father's own collection to the City Library Service, which later featured as an exhibition in its own right. She previously funded the digitisation of the Old Series of Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, which has been a major development in making the work of the OEC much more widely accessible.

Jean Ritchie Guild was also a long-term member of the OEC. She joined the University of Edinburgh Library staff in 1948 and played a significant role in the postwar development of the Library's collections. She became Reference Librarian and was well-respected for her skills and knowledge, especially in relation to the Faculty of Arts. Later in her career she was responsible for publicity, Library publications, visitor programmes and the Library's relationship with the wider community. She was co-editor in 1982 of *Edinburgh University Library, 1580-1980: a collection of historical essays*.

5. Financial review

Our principal income is from subscriptions due each October. Most are paid by standing order and mainly come with Gift Aid in addition. Our largest expenditure is on the printing and distribution of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club.

We shall take great care in investing the generous legacies we have received, both in how we prioritise the funds towards our charitable purpose, and in ensuring an appropriate return on unallocated monies.

Our Gift Aid claims are now up-to-date and we have received £739 through the Publishers Licensing Services scheme. This redistributes fees paid by institutions to the Copyright Licensing Agency to allow copying, usually for educational purposes.

There are several items which will be addressed in next year's accounts:

- We pay the Augustine United Church in advance for hire of the church for meetings and storage space for copies of the Book. As COVID-19 has prevented us from using the hall last year, they gave us a credit of £366 against future use. With our hybrid use of the hall in this current year we have not used up all this credit. We are very grateful that the Augustine United Church has been so generous to us and borne the loss of income.
- Changes in ownership of Virgin Money, closure of branches and changes in procedure for registering signatories means we have still not had our savings account written up. We are due £28.83 in interest for 2019-22.
- We have a fee of £275 to meet for the independent examination of these financial statements.
- We have a contract with the researcher of the Bibliography of Edinburgh History to update and extend it. We paid half of the £1,500 fee in this financial year. The remainder will be due when the current project is completed in April 2024.

We have no plans to raise the subscription level this year, although we are keeping subscriptions under review in light of our work on promoting membership.

Reserves

The Reserves Policy agreed by the Council is that an appropriate level of reserves to maintain is at least £15,000. Such a reserve should provide the funds to produce and distribute one volume of *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*, as well as meeting the immediate costs of running the Club, with the subsequent balance covering unforeseen contingencies.

The total funds of the Club were £150,815 at the end of the year. Of these, £2,100 are restricted, to the Graveyard Fund (identified in Note 5 to the Accounts below). This leaves £148,215 as unrestricted funds, our free reserves. The funds are used to further the Club's charitable activities, including expenditure relating to the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club.

Approved by the trustees on 30 August 2022 and signed on their behalf



W Peter Graham

Trustee, President, The Old Edinburgh Club

Statement of OEC Receipts and Payments, 2021-22

	2021-22 Unrestricted Funds	2021-22 Restricted Funds	2021-22 Total	2020-21 Total
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Voluntary Income (Note 1)	9,300	-	9,300	7,816
Legacies	125,000	-	125,000	-
Bank Interest		-		-
Receipts from charitable activities (Note 2)	1,348	-	1,348	911
Total receipts	135,647	-	135,647	8,728
Payments				
Payments for charitable activities (Note 3)	10,573	-	10,573	7,982
Independent examination	275	-	275	275
Council meetings	-	-	-	-
Total payments	10,848	-	10,848	8,257
Surplus/ deficit	124,799	-	124,799	471

Statement of Balances

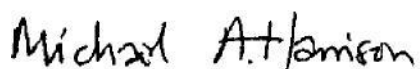
	2021-22 Unrestricted Funds	2021-22 Restricted Funds	2021-22 Total	2020-21 Total
	£	£	£	£
Bank & Cash Balances				
Balance at start of year	23,416	2,100	25,516	25,045
Surplus/ deficit for year	124,799	-	124,799	471
Balance at end of year	148,215	2,100	150,315	25,516

Fixed Assets

(Note 4)	Cost	Value at 30/06/2022	Value at 30/06/2021
	£	£	£
Projector 2018	-	-	-
Screen 2019	-	-	60
Total	-	-	60

The notes following form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the Council on 30 August 2022 and signed on its behalf by





Michael Harrison, Treasurer

W Peter Graham, President

Notes to the accounts

1. Voluntary Income

	2021-22 Unrestricted Funds	2021-22 Restricted Funds	2021-22 Total	2020-21 Total
	£	£	£	£
Membership subscriptions	5,873	-	5,873	6,358
Donations	-	-	-	-
Gift Aid (2020-22)	3,427	-	3,427	-
Total	9,300	-	9,300	6,358

2. Receipts from Charitable Activities

	2021-22 Unrestricted Funds	2021-22 Restricted Funds	2021-22 Total	2020-21 Total
	£	£	£	£
Book of the Old Edinburgh Club: sales	482	-	482	856
Winter lecture guests	127	-	127	55
Publishers Licensing Services scheme	739	-	739	1,459
Total	1,348	-	1,348	2,370

Please note a change in allocation of the Publishers Licensing Services scheme income from Voluntary Income to Receipts from Charitable Activities

3. Payments for Charitable Activities

	2021-22 Unrestricted Funds	2021-22 Restricted Funds	2021-22 Total	2020-21 Total
	£	£	£	£
Book of the Old Edinburgh Club: printing, indexing and distribution	7,060	-	7,060	6,831
Winter lectures: speakers/ catering; online costs	-	-	-	170
Hire of Augustine Church	535	-	535	-
Digitising BOEC	641	-	641	-
Bibliography	1,750	-	1,750	-
Insurance	79	-	79	75
IT equipment	-	-	-	-
Printing, postage and stationery	377	-	377	485
Website and publicity	77	-	77	342
Miscellaneous	54	-	54	79
Total	10,573	-	10,573	7,982

Two trustees received recompense for their costs incurred in managing the website and in distributing the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club.

4. Fixed Assets

Equipment is valued using annual depreciation on a straight line basis to reduce the value to zero over four years.

5. Fund transfers & balances

	as at 1 July 2021	Incoming resources	Resources expended	as at 30 June 2022
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted:				
General	23,416	135,647	10,848	148,215
Restricted:				
Graveyard Fund	2,100	-	-	2,100
Total	25,516	135,647	10,848	150,315

The Graveyard Fund holds funds that relate to the Edinburgh Southside Graveyard Project to repair and restore gravestones.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Old Edinburgh Club

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under Section 44(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's statement

In the course of my examination no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - (a) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
 - (b) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulationshave not been met, or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed

Date: 11 August 2022



Stuart J Lockhart
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