

THE BOOK
OF THE
OLD EDINBURGH
CLUB

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

Content © The Old Edinburgh Club and contributors. All rights reserved.

For further information about the BOEC, including contents of previous issues and indexes, see <https://oldedinburghclub.org.uk/boec>.

This article is made available for your personal research and private study only.

For any further uses of BOEC material please contact the Editor, The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, at editor@oldedinburghclub.org.uk.

Digitised by the Centre for Research Collections, Edinburgh University Library from the copy in the Library Collection.



CONSTITUTION OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB

(As amended in March 1988)

1 The name of the Club shall be The Old Edinburgh Club.

2 The objects of the Club shall be the collection and authentication of oral and written statements or documentary evidence relating to Edinburgh; the gathering of existing traditions, legends, and historical data; the selection and publication of material desirable for future reference; and the encouragement of interest in Edinburgh by means of public meetings and excursions under informed leadership.

3 The Club shall consist of Members and Associate Members. Membership shall be open to all interested in the objects of the Club. Associate Members shall not be entitled to receive the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* nor to vote at Meetings of the Club nor to serve on the Council of the Club.

4 The Annual Subscription shall be determined by Council annually prior to each Annual General Meeting. Subscriptions shall be payable in advance on 1st January. Any Member, or Associate Member whose subscription is not paid in four months from that date may be struck off the Roll by the Council.

5 The Club shall have three categories of Honorary Office-Bearers to be designated as follows: Honorary Patron, Honorary President and Honorary Vice-President. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Council, consisting of the President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Programme Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of Publications, and twelve Members. The Office-bearers shall be elected annually. Four of the Members of Council shall retire annually in rotation, and shall not be eligible for re-election for one year. The Council shall have power to fill any vacancy in their number arising during the year, to make bye-laws, and to appoint Sub-Committees for special purposes. Representatives of such Committees may be appointed from the general body of Members. At Meetings of the Club, nine shall be quorum, and at Meetings of the Council, seven.

6 The Secretary shall keep proper minutes of the business and transactions, conduct official correspondence, have custody of, and be responsible for, all books, manuscripts, and other property placed in his charge, and shall submit an Annual Report of the proceedings of the Club. The Programme Secretary shall be responsible for all

arrangements for Lectures and Summer Excursions on behalf of the Club.

7 The Treasurer shall keep the Accounts of the Club, receive all moneys, collect subscriptions, pay Accounts after these have been passed by the Council, and shall present annually a duly audited statement relative thereto.

8 The Annual Meeting of the Club shall be held before the end of March, at which reports by the Secretary and Treasurer shall be read and considered, the Council and the Auditor for the ensuing year elected, and any other competent business transacted.

9 The Council shall hold at least two meetings in the year and shall arrange for such Meetings throughout the year as they think expedient, and shall regulate all matters relative to the transactions and publications of the Club. Papers accepted by the Council for publication shall become the property of the Club.

10 Members shall receive one copy of each of the works published by or on behalf of the Club as issued, but these shall not be supplied to any Member whose subscription is in arrear. Contributors shall receive ten copies of their communication. The Council shall have discretionary powers to provide additional copies for review, presentation, and supply to approved public bodies or societies.

11 In the event of the membership falling to twelve or under, the Council shall consider the advisability of winding up the Club, and shall take a vote thereon of each Member whose subscription is not in arrear. Should the vote, which shall be in writing, determine that the Club be dissolved, the Council shall discharge the debts due by the Club and shall then deposit in trust, with some recognised public institution or corporate body, any residue or funds or other properties, including literary, artistic, and other material collected by the Club, for preservation, in order that the same may be available to students of local history in all time coming.

12 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 intimate the same by circular to each Member not less than seven days prior to the meeting. No alteration shall be made unless supported by two-thirds of the Members at the Meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB
FOR THE YEAR 1985

The Seventy-Seventh ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the City Chambers on the afternoon of Wednesday 20 March 1985 at 3.00 pm. There was a large attendance of Members.

In the absence of the Right Hon. Dr John H. McKay who, at very short notice, had been prevented by official duties from attending, the President, Mr E. F. Catford, was in the Chair.

An address was given by Malcolm Innes of Edingight, the Lord Lyon King of Arms, on Ceremonial in Edinburgh: the Heralds and the Jacobite Risings. The address was highly appreciated, and the Lord Lyon afterwards kindly agreed that it should be adapted as an article for publication in *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*.

Afterwards, by invitation of the Lord Provost, the company adjourned to the Dining Room where tea, provided by the City of Edinburgh District Council, was enjoyed.

PRESENTATION TO
MISS CATHERINE H. CRUFT

RETIRING HONORARY SECRETARY

In the Dining Room the company was joined by the Lord Provost. The President having paid tribute on behalf of all members of the Club to Miss Cruft's efficient and unassuming service during her nineteen years in office as their Honorary Secretary, the Lord Provost formally presented her with the gift of her choice, which had been subscribed for by the members – the original pencil drawing, highlighted with water-colour, of the east side of St Andrew Square, which had been made and signed by Thomas H. Shepherd in 1829 for his volume of Edinburgh scenes entitled *Modern Athens*. Miss Cruft then suitably thanked the members for their gift. The President, in thanking the Lord Provost for making the presentation, took the opportunity of expressing the congratulations of the members on the recent award to him by the Open University of a Doctorate.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS
AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

In course of the first part of the Meeting the following appointments were made:

Honorary Secretary (in place of Miss Cruft, resigned):
John T. McLintock, MA.

All the other Office-Bearers offered themselves for re-election and were duly elected to hold office until March 1986.

Members of Council (two vacancies). On the nomination of Council, the following members were unanimously elected, both to hold office for four years: Mrs Una Robertson, BA, and J.B. Hume, MA.

BOOK OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB
During the year 1985 Volume 35, Part 2, was distributed to members (Volume 35, Part 1, having been issued, out of sequence, in 1981). Arrangements were also made for those who wished to do so to have their own copies of Volume 34, Parts 1, 2 and 3, and Volume 35, Parts 1 and 2, bound together to form one book.

LECTURES

10 January. LIFE IN A SCOTTISH COUNTRY HOUSE. FROM THE RAVELSTON ACCOUNTS. Mrs Lydia Skinner.

7 February. LOOKING AFTER EDINBURGH'S LANDSCAPE. Mr John Byrom, Department of Landscape Architecture, University of Edinburgh, and Mr Ian Temple, Chief Landscape Architect, Edinburgh's Special Measures Department.

7 March. THE SCOTTISH METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY 1855-1920. Miss Marjory Roy, Superintendent, Edinburgh Meteorological Office.

24 October. PHOEBETRAQUAIR. ARTIST EXTRAORDINARY. Miss Elizabeth Cumming, formerly Keeper of Edinburgh City Art Collection.

20 November. ALLAN RAMSAY, PORTRAIT PAINTER. Mr James Holloway, Assistant Keeper of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

19 December. WILLIAM CREECH, BOOKSELLER, AND HIS TIMES. Mr Ian R. Grant, Antiquarian Bookseller.

EXCURSIONS

23 May. A WALK ROUND MURRAYFIELD, including the grounds of Murrayfield House, Kinellan House and Belmont. Leaders: Mr Ian Gow and Miss Catherine Cruft.

4 July. MERCHISTON CASTLE SCHOOL AND ITS GROUNDS, including Colinton Castle (ruin) and Colinton House, built by Sir William Forbes (1739-1806). By kind permission of the Governors and the Headmaster, Mr D. Spawforth. Leader: Mrs Spawforth.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB FOR THE YEAR 1986

The Seventy-Eighth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the Old Council Chamber, the City Chambers, on the afternoon of Wednesday 19 March 1986 at 3.30 pm. The Right Hon. Dr John H. McKay, Lord Provost, presided.

An address was given by John S. Gibson, formerly Under Secretary in the Scottish Office, and author of *The Thistle and the Crown*, a history of the Scottish Office, on Four Hundred Years of Government Offices in Edinburgh. The address was highly appreciated.

Afterwards, by invitation of the Lord Provost, the company adjourned to the Dining Room where tea, provided by the City of Edinburgh District Council, was enjoyed.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

In course of the Meeting, appointments were made as follows:

Office-Bearers: All the Office-Bearers were re-elected to hold office until March 1987.

Council Members (five vacancies). The following members were elected: Miss Catherine H. Cruft, Rev. Dr A. Ian Dunlop, Dr Ian K. Gauld, Messrs Ronald P. Gibbs and William P. Lawrie.

EXHIBITION

By courtesy of the City Librarian, a small display of material relating to the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the Edinburgh Room, in the Central City Library, between April and June 1986.

LECTURES

23 January. THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND. Dr Ann Matheson, Keeper of Printed Books. A summary of the Library's history and a fascinating illustrated account of some of its treasures.

19 February. EDINBURGH'S COLONIES. Rosemary J. Pipes, author of *The Stockbridge Colonies*. The founding of Edinburgh Co-operative Building Co. Ltd. in 1861, and growth of its scheme of artisans' house at Stockbridge and similar schemes elsewhere in Edinburgh.

11 March. THE STORY OF THE EDINBURGH PRESS. Hamish Coghill, Assistant Editor, *Edinburgh Evening News*. Some

newspapers that pre-dated the *Scotsman* and the *Evening News*, the founders and editors of these two papers, and how their style of reporting and layout have changed through the years.

23 October. ASTRONOMY FROM THE EDINBURGH OBSERVATORIES. James Shepherd, Director, City Observatory, Calton Hill. The history of the Calton Hill Observatory (now managed by the Edinburgh Astronomical Society), with remarkable photographs from it of astronomical phenomena, including Halley's Comet in 1986.

25 November. EDINBURGH AND THE ROMANS. Gordon Maxwell, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. An account by an expert of traces of the Roman occupation in and near the City, with examples of aerial photographs through which new discoveries are still being made.

16 December. PROFESSOR ANDREW DUNCAN, SENIOR, 1744-1828. Dr J. T. D. Hall, Deputy Librarian, Cambridge University Library. The life and achievements of the founder of Edinburgh's Royal Public Dispensary and the Edinburgh Asylum (now grown to be the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Mental Disorders) and of several famous 18th-century clubs.

EXCURSIONS

19 June. A WALK ROUND RESTALRIG. Leader: Miss A. S. Cowper. On a sunny evening, Miss Cowper gave an interesting summary of the history of Restalrig and its ancient church before conducting a party of nearly 70 through the churchyard to St Triduana's Well, and to inspect old houses and remnants of others in the village. The Rev. William Carmichael, Parish Minister, also addressed the Party.

22 July. A WALK IN THE GRANGE. Leader: Miss Caroline Fortescue of the Grange Association. Some 70 members enjoyed this walk and the opportunity of seeing some historic houses and relics of the policies of Grange House (demolished 1937). Heavy rain cut short the inspection of memorials in Grange Cemetery and of the restored Grange Court, Causewayside.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB FOR THE YEAR 1987

The Seventy-Ninth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the Council Chamber, the City Chambers, on the afternoon of Wednesday 18 March 1987 at 3.00 pm. Mrs Eleanor MacLaughlin, Deputy Provost, presided.

An address was given by Sir James Fraser, Bt, FRCS, FRCSE, Post-Graduate Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Edinburgh, on Edinburgh's Second Medical School, 1505-1947. The address was much appreciated.

Afterwards, by invitation of the Deputy Provost, the company adjourned to the Dining Room where tea, provided by the City of Edinburgh District Council, was enjoyed.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

During the course of the Meeting, appointments were made as follows:

President: Mr Basil C. Skinner.

Honorary Secretary: Mrs Sheila Devlin-Thorp.

All the other Office-Bearers were re-elected until March 1988.

Council Members (four vacancies). The following members were elected: John McLintock, William McKelvie, Dr H. Speitel and Dr A. H. B. Masson.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held on 8 October

1987 with the sole purpose of electing a new President as a result of the resignation of Mr Basil Skinner on account of ill-health. Dr Alastair H. B. Masson was duly elected President.

LECTURES

10 February. WHAT, THEN, WAS THE SCOTTISH ENLIGHTENMENT? Professor Peter Jones, Director, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities.

5 March. The Second Boog Watson Commemorative Lecture. PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE - SOME EDINBURGH PIONEERS. E. F. Catford, President, Old Edinburgh Club.

27 October. THE INCORPORATION OF GOLDSMITHS. Stuart Maxwell, Retired Deputy Keeper, National Museum of Antiquities.

26 November. THE EDINBURGH MINT AND ITS COINAGE. Nicholas Holmes, Assistant Keeper (Archaeology), Edinburgh City Museums and Galleries.

EXCURSIONS

6 May. TOUR TO CRAIG HOUSE, including Banqueting Hall, led by Charles Smith.

4 June. TOUR OF OLD COLLEGE, including the Old Senate Room and Upper Library, led by Dr Andrew Fraser.

1 July. TOUR OF CRAMOND, led by Mr and Mrs R. Gibbs, with a visit to the Maltings Exhibition led by Mr and Mrs Barclay Fraser.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB
FOR THE YEAR 1988

The Eightieth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the Council Chamber, the City Chambers, on the afternoon of Wednesday 16 March 1988, at 2.00 pm. The Right Hon. Dr John H. Mackay, Lord Provost, presided.

An address was given by the Rev. Gilleasbuig Macmillan, Minister of the High Kirk of St Giles, Edinburgh. This address was much appreciated.

Afterwards, by invitation of the Lord Provost, the company adjourned to the Dining Room where tea, provided by the City of Edinburgh District Council, was enjoyed.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION
The Amendments to the Constitution of the Club were proposed by the Council and accepted by the Meeting as follows:

a) Section V to read as follows:

The Club shall have three categories of Honorary Office-Bearers to be designated as follows: Honorary Patron, Honorary President and Honorary Vice-President. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Council, consisting of the President, three Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Programme Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of Publications, and twelve members.

b) Section VI to include the following:

The Programme Secretary shall be responsible for all arrangements for Lectures and Summer Excursions on behalf of the Club.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS
AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

During the course of the Meeting, appointments were made as follows:

Honorary Vice-President: The Very Rev. Ronald Selby

Wright, CVO, DD, FRSE.

Vice-President: Mr Basil C. Skinner, OBE, MA.

Programme Secretary: Mrs Una Robertson, BA.

All the other Office-Bearers were re-elected until March 1989.

Council Members (four vacancies). The following were elected: Miss Sheena McDougall, Mrs Isabel Lennie, Mr Arnott Wilson and Dr Andrew Fraser.

EIGHTIETH ANNIVERSARY
RECEPTION

Fifty Members of the Club attended a Reception in the Council Chamber, City Chambers, on 26 October to celebrate the Eightieth Anniversary of the founding of the Club. The Lord Provost, Mrs Eleanor MacLaughlin, was present.

LECTURES

14 January. THE WAY FORWARD FOR HOLYROOD PALACE. Mr Neil Hynd, a Principal Architect, Historic Buildings and Monuments Directorate.

4 February. FARMING IN AND AROUND EDINBURGH. Dr Alexander Fenton, CBE, Research Director, Royal Museum of Scotland.

1 March. THE EDINBURGH CABMEN'S MISSION. Mr George Wallace, retired Agronomist.

10 November. LIBERATING THE OLD EDINBURGH ARCHIVES. Mr Arnott Wilson, City Archivist.

6 December. THE NEW TOWN HOUSE. Mr Ian Gow, National Monuments Record for Scotland.

EXCURSIONS

2 June. VISIT TO MORAY HOUSE AND THE CANONGATE KIRK GRAVEYARD, led by Mr Ian Fisher.

5 July. TOUR OF HISTORIC CORSTORPHINE, led by Miss A. S. Cowper.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB
FOR THE YEAR 1989

The Eighty-First ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the Council Chamber, the City Chambers, on Thursday 9 March 1989 at 3.00 pm. The Right Hon. Mrs Eleanor MacLaughlin, Lord Provost, presided.

An address was given by Professor Gordon Donaldson, Historiographer Royal for Scotland. This address was much appreciated by those present.

Afterwards, by invitation of the Lord Provost, the company adjourned to the Dining Room where tea, provided by the City of Edinburgh District Council, was enjoyed.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS
AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

During the course of the Meeting appointments were made as follows:

Council Members (five vacancies): Mr James Bance, Miss Sheila Fletcher, Mr Derek James, Mr R. G. McLeod

and Col. Donald Wickes were elected.

All Office-Bearers were re-elected until March 1990.

LECTURES

17 January. EDINBURGH'S TRAMS: THIRTY YEARS ON.
Dr Ian Campbell.

9 February. THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD FOR SCOTLAND,
THE ROYAL COMPANY OF ARCHERS. Mr George Burnett, WS.

2 March. EDINBURGH AND PORTOBELLO IN OLD PICTURE
POSTCARDS. Mr A. L. Foley.

31 October. THE BUILDING OF OLD COLLEGE. Dr Andrew
Fraser.

5 December. WILDLIFE IN EDINBURGH. Dr Alastair
Sommerville.

EXCURSIONS

11 May. HISTORIC COLINTON, led by Mr R. N. Roberts.

12 June. CAROLINE PARK HOUSE, led by Miss Kitty Cruft.

THE BOOK
OF THE
OLD EDINBURGH
CLUB

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

Content © The Old Edinburgh Club and contributors. All rights reserved.

For further information about the BOEC, including contents of previous issues and indexes, see <https://oldedinburghclub.org.uk/boec>.

This article is made available for your personal research and private study only.

For any further uses of BOEC material please contact the Editor, The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, at editor@oldedinburghclub.org.uk.

Digitised by the Centre for Research Collections, Edinburgh University Library from the copy in the Library Collection.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB
FOR THE YEAR 1990

The Eighty-Second ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the City Chambers, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 28 March 1990 at 2.00 pm. The Right Hon. Mrs Eleanor MacLaughlin, Lord Provost, presided.

Dr J. B. Barclay expressed concern at the lack of publications being produced by the Club and it was agreed that this matter should be dealt with as soon as possible.

An address was given by Mr Oliver Barratt, Secretary of the Cockburn Association, The Edinburgh Civic Trust, which was much appreciated by those present.

Afterwards, at the invitation of the Lord Provost, the company enjoyed afternoon tea, provided by the City of Edinburgh District Council.

APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE-BEARERS
AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

During the meeting Mr Basil Skinner was elected President of the Club and Miss Kitty Cruft and Dr Andrew Fraser were elected Vice-Presidents. All other Office-Bearers were re-elected until March 1991. Dr Bernard Brown was elected to the Council.

LECTURES

11 January. SYMBOLS OF MAJESTY. Mr Charles Burnett, Ross Herald of Arms.

6 February. PATRICK GEDDES AND THE EVERGREEN ARTISTS. Mr Paul Stirton, Lecturer in the History of Art Department, Glasgow University.

8 March. The Boog Watson Lecture. OF MIGHTY USE TO MAN'S HEALTH. Dr Alastair Masson, President of the Club.

8 November. MOST POTENT AGENCY: 100 YEARS OF EDINBURGH CITY LIBRARIES. Mr Alan White, Assistant City Librarian.

4 December. CURIOSITIES AND CULTURE: EDINBURGH'S NINETEENTH CENTURY MUSEUMS. Dr Jenni Calder, Museum Editor, National Museum of Scotland.

EXCURSIONS

15 May. ROSSLYN CHAPEL, led by Mrs Fiskin, Curator.

21 June. THE PEOPLE'S STORY, CANONGATE TOLBOOTH, led by Mr Derek James, Deputy Curator of Huntly House.

2 October. VISIT TO DONALDSON'S SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, led by Mr Ian Gow.