

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 1997

The Eighty-Ninth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the European Room of the City Chambers, Edinburgh, on the afternoon of Wednesday 26 March 1997 at 2.00 pm. The Deputy Convenor of the City of Edinburgh presided. Apologies: Stuart Maxwell, Dr Iain Brown, Dr Allen Simpson, Denise Brace, John Burnett, Dr Jack Cormack, Sheriff Bogie, Mr and Mrs Fleming.

Mr Gray welcomed our Honorary President, the Rt Hon. the Earl of Wemyss and March.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET

Mr John G. Gray, Treasurer, presented the Annual Report and Balance Sheet. Dr Andrew Fraser proposed its adoption, Miss Catherine Cruft seconded the motion.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

As there were no nominations except those of Council, the following were elected to serve: Dr Jack Cormack and Mr Malcolm Cant were elected to Council; all other office-bearers were re-elected until March 1998.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr Andrew Fraser, Editor, reported that a quote for the printing of Volume 4 of the New Series of the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* had been accepted and it should be published in 1997. Dr Fraser asked for articles for Volume 5. Dr Fraser explained that the index for Volumes 22-35 is being dealt with by John Burnett, who has set up a database for this purpose. He explained that funding for Volume 4 was available but that separate funding would be sought for the index.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Dr Barclay expressed his belief that the membership subscription rates should be raised again. He asked that the Council consider an immediate rise to £15. Mr Gray explained that many members cannot pay a bigger subscription.

Charles Smith intimated the death of member Stuart Harris.

ADDRESS

The address to the Club was given by Dr Roger Carter, Chief Executive of Edinburgh and Lothian Tourist Board. Dr Carter spoke about the history of tourism in Edinburgh and the new Edinburgh Tourism Initiative. The Initiative will centre on a number of major projects including a new Information Centre, an Edinburgh Call Centre and electronic marketing.

Mr Gray thanked Dr Carter for giving an interesting and thought-provoking talk.

LECTURES

11 January. ASPECTS OF TENEMENT LIFE. Helen Clark, City of Edinburgh Museums.

13 February. SUMMER GAMES IN EARLY VICTORIAN EDINBURGH. Mr John Burnett, National Museums of Scotland.

11 March. THE ROYAL ENTRIES INTO EDINBURGH OF JAMES VI AND ANNE OF DENMARK. Professor Michael Lynch, University of Edinburgh.

7 October. GARDY LOO, FEVERS AND THEIR VICTIMS. Dr James A. Gray.

6 November. EDINBURGH TRADES UNION BANNERS. Mr Ian MacDougall.

2 December. THE NEW MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND. Mr Mark Jones, National Museums of Scotland.

EXCURSIONS

14 and 15 May. CITY OBSERVATORY, CALTON HILL. Graham Rule, Secretary of the Astronomical Society of Edinburgh, gave an illustrated talk on the history of the Observatory, followed by a tour of the building.

10 and 11 June. NEWHALL HOUSE, CARLOPS. Mr Neil Robertson, Factor, conducted a guided tour of the house and 18th century walled garden.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB FOR THE YEAR 1998

The Nintieth ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the European Room of the City Chambers, Edinburgh, on the afternoon of Wednesday 29 April 1998 at 2.00 pm. Councillor Lawrence Marshall presided. Apologies: Sheila Fletcher, John Burnett, Muriel Walker (The Stewart Society), Miss A. S. Cowper, Lt Col. T. F. Logan, Anne Calderwood, Mary Brownlie, Margaret Campbell, Martin Eastwood, Dr Tristram Clarke, Christine McWilliam, Dr Jack Cormack. Councillor Marshall welcomed the Club to the City Chambers, and expressed his interest in Edinburgh's history.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET

Mr John G. Gray, Treasurer, reported that as of April 1998 there would be a balance of c. £7500, which would be sufficient to pay for New Series Volume 4 of the *BOEC*. Mr Gray asked that anyone with ideas for sponsorship should come forward; appeals had been made to the Royal Bank and Bank of Scotland without success. The President appealed for help for the Secretary and Programme Secretary. George Turnbull proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet. Norman Bryson seconded the motion.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

The President proposed the election of the following office-bearers: Dr Andrew Fraser as President; Lord Cullen as Honorary President; Dr Tristram Clarke as Vice-President to replace Dr Allen Simpson; Dr Allen Simpson, Mrs Ann Mitchell and Dr Athol Murray as Council Members. All these nominations were agreed and elected. Other office-bearers were re-elected until March 1999. In handing over the position of President, Stuart Maxwell said he had enjoyed his term of office, particularly the lectures and outings. Stuart Maxwell welcomed Andrew Fraser as the new President and reported that he would still continue as Editor. Dr Fraser thanked the Club for his election, and Stuart Maxwell for being a competent and efficient President. Dr Fraser also thanked Wendy Turner and Denise Brace for their work for the Club.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr Fraser reported that Volume 4 of the New Series of *BOEC* was now available; it is the largest volume for some time and covers a variety of topics. Work on New Series Volume 5 would begin as soon as possible with a likely publication date of 1999. The index for Volumes 1-5 (New Series) would be included with Volume 5. John Burnett is working on the index for Volumes 22-35 (Original Series). An appeal for funding for publication of this index would be made to the City of Edinburgh.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

There was discussion about the raising of subscriptions. After some debate Councillor Marshall suggested that the members

attending the AGM should be asked their views. A show of hands indicated that 75% of those present agreed to a rise in subscriptions. It was therefore agreed that the Council should increase subscriptions, probably to £15.00 for individual members and £18.00 for family membership. It was recommended that there be an increase in the use of Deed of Covenant for paying subscriptions. It was suggested that a Business Plan should be prepared to establish the effect of an increase or decrease in membership on the Club's finances.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Gray spoke about his book on Robert Burns and the South Side of Edinburgh, which fills in some of the gaps in Burns' life.

John Wilson spoke about the bicentennial of the American consulate in Edinburgh. Members of the San Diego twinning society would be visiting Edinburgh. He offered a possible article for a future volume of the *BOEC*.

Councillor Marshall thanked the members for attending the AGM. The President thanked Councillor Marshall for presiding over the AGM and the City of Edinburgh for providing their hospitality.

The business of the meeting was concluded and Volume 4 of the *BOEC* was issued to the members attending the AGM; this was followed by tea and biscuits generously provided by the City of Edinburgh.

LECTURES

15 January. CLOCK-MAKING IN EDINBURGH - CHANGING TIMES. Dr Michael Dareau.

10 February. POTTERY PRODUCTION IN PORTOBELLO. Graeme D. R. Cruickshank.

12 March. GENERAL REGISTER HOUSE: THE BUILDING OF AN EDINBURGH LANDMARK. Dr Margaret H. B. Sanderson.

8 October. THE EDINBURGH PHRENOLOGICAL SOCIETY AND ITS MUSEUM. Professor M. H. Kaufman, University of Edinburgh.

10 November. NEWHAILES AND THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND. Mr Charles Strang, NTS.

1 December. THE DISTRICTS OF GORGIE AND DALRY. Mr Malcolm Cant.

EXCURSIONS

13 May. THE MEDICAL SCHOOL, THE ANATOMY MUSEUM AND THE McEWAN HALL. The party attended a talk followed by a guided tour by Dr Andrew Fraser.

16 June. PINKIE HOUSE, MUSSELBURGH. Mr Derek James and Mr Stephen Edwards conducted the party on a guided tour of the house.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB
FOR THE YEAR 1999

The Ninety-First ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the European Room of the City Chambers, Edinburgh, on the afternoon of Tuesday 30 March 1999 at 2.00 pm. Councillor Ken Harrold presided. Apologies: John Boyes, Dr Iain Brown, Stanley Cavaye, Miss A. S. Cowper, Mr and Mrs Fleming, Una Robertson. Councillor Harrold was unavailable at the beginning of the meeting and therefore the President presided.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET

Mr John G. Gray, Treasurer, reported that as of March 1999 with subscriptions paid there would be a balance of c. £3200. Ann Mitchell proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet, Kitty Cruft seconded the motion.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

The President announced that Denise Brace was stepping down as Programme Secretary. He thanked her for all her hard work and quiet efficiency. He asked for anyone willing to take on this role to make themselves known. He also reported that Ian Gow was retiring from the Council and thanked him for his interest in the Club and its activities. The President proposed the election of the following Council members: Denise Brace, Murray Simpson, Mark Collard. All these nominations were agreed and elected. Other office-bearers were re-elected until March 2000.

PUBLICATIONS

Dr Fraser reported that Volume 4 (New Series) of the *BOEC* had been available at the 1998 AGM; members who had not attended the AGM had had their volumes delivered by hand or by post. He reported that the Editorial Board had met on a number of occasions through the year, to review articles available for Volume 5 (New Series) and he hoped it would be published in 2000. He ended by encouraging anyone with material for the volume to come forward.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

It was reported that the Council had agreed to raise subscriptions to £15.00 and £18.00. There was discussion about the use of Direct Debit. The President asked for a show of hands for those in favour of the Council pursuing this. This informal vote was unanimous and

therefore the President agreed to ask the Council to investigate this. It was agreed that the Council should produce a Business Plan which would address issues such as subscriptions and methods of payment.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was suggested that as 1999 is the bicentenary of Joseph Black this should be commemorated in some way. It was agreed to make enquiries about a lecture in the 1999/2000 lecture series.

ADDRESS

The President introduced Professor Charles McKean of Dundee University who gave an interesting and eye-opening account of the development and building of the Museum of Scotland. The President thanked Professor McKean and invited the members to partake of tea and biscuits kindly provided by the City of Edinburgh.

LECTURES

12 January. THE SANCTUARY, HOLYROOD. Patrick M. Cadell.

11 February. MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN SEVENTEENTH CENTURY EDINBURGH. Dr Helen Dingwall.

9 March. THREE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY GOLDSMITHS. Stuart Maxwell, Retired President, Boog Watson Lecture.

12 October. THE ORIGINS OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN EDINBURGH. Dr Peter Worling.

9 November. NO MORE CORNCRAIKS: TRACKING DOWN SOME NINETEENTH CENTURY RESIDENTS OF THE MORAY FEU. Ann Mitchell.

2 December. JOSEPH BLACK, HIS LIFE AND LETTERS. Jean Jones.

EXCURSIONS

12 May. GENERAL REGISTER HOUSE (NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF SCOTLAND). The party was conducted on a guided tour by Patrick Cadell, Keeper of the Records of Scotland, and his staff.

22 June. CORSTORPHINE VILLAGE. The party was conducted on a guided tour by Dr Jack Cormack, Chairman of the Corstorphine Trust.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB
TO AUGUST 2000

The Ninety-Second ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the City Chambers, Edinburgh, on the afternoon of Wednesday 19 April 2000 at 2.30 pm. Lord Provost Eric Milligan presided. Apologies were received from: Lord Cullen, Lord Cameron of Lochbroom, A. J. Brebner, Ronnie Cramond, Miss A. S. Cowper, George Dalglish. Dr Andrew Fraser (President), Dr Murray Simpson and Charles Smith.

The Lord Provost welcomed members, and apologised for not having been available to attend previous AGMs. He felt it was appropriate for the Club to hold its AGM in the European Room, the most interesting room in the City Chambers, and spoke of the intention to continue the story of Edinburgh on the walls of the room. The Lord Provost also spoke about his chain of office, which was commissioned in 1899, and has had a new link added to represent the fact that central Edinburgh is now inscribed as a World Heritage Site.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET

Donald Reid, Honorary Treasurer, presented the audited accounts for the year to 31 August 1999. Adoption of the Annual Report and Balance Sheet was proposed by the Lord Provost and seconded by George Turnbull.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COUNCIL

John Burnett and Charles Smith have retired, and Malcolm Cant has resigned, from Council. The Lord Provost thanked them for their service to the Club. As there were no nominations except those of Council the following were elected: Donald Reid as Honorary Treasurer; Pam McNicol as Programme Secretary; Jim Hall (previously co-opted to Council), Connie Byrom, Graeme Cruickshank, Elaine Greig, Jim Hogg and Rosemary Wake as members of Council. All other office bearers were re-elected.

PUBLICATIONS

In the absence of the Editor the Secretary reported that good progress has been made with *BOEC* New Series Volume 5, which should be available in Spring 2001.

OEC STRATEGIC PLAN

The Lord Provost asked Jim Hall to present the Strategic Plan. Jim Hall explained that questions asked at the 1998 AGM led him to recommend that the OEC should have a business plan, and he was co-opted to Council to help with this. Three groups were created, to look at the History of the Club, Finance, and Membership issues. A questionnaire was produced and the findings were contained in the report sent to all members. The main concerns of

the members were the venue for the lectures, *BOEC*, a desire for social activities, and the need for a Publicity and Recruitment Officer. The members endorsed the Strategic Plan and asked Council to take forward the recommendations in the report.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Lord Provost spoke of the death of John Gray in July 1999, and the appreciation of the service he had given not only to the OEC but also to the City of Edinburgh. He passed on the condolences of the City and the Club to his family. The Lord Provost also reported with sadness the death of the Rev. Ian Dunlop, a former President of the Club.

Dr Allen Simpson spoke of the application to demolish Liberton Bank House, and asked that the Council send a letter requesting that the building be listed.

ADDRESS

The Lord Provost introduced Richard Griffith, Director of the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, who gave a presentation on the history and work of the newly formed EWHT. Miss Catherine Cruft, Vice-President of the Club, thanked Richard Griffith for an informative and thought-provoking talk. She then thanked the Lord Provost for chairing the meeting and for his hospitality, and invited members who wished to take a closer look at the chain of office to come forward. The meeting finished with tea and biscuits kindly provided by the City of Edinburgh.

LECTURES

11 January. NOT SIMPLE BOARDING? PROVISION FOR THE MENTALLY DISABLED IN EDINBURGH IN THE 18th CENTURY. Professor Rab Houston, University of St Andrews.

10 February. THE RISE OF THE HOUSE OF USHER: THE SOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE USHER HALL DESIGN, 1896-1912. Dr John Lowrey, University of Edinburgh.

30 March. ART AND MYSTERY: WORKING WOMEN IN THE CRAFT WORLD OF 18th CENTURY EDINBURGH. Dr Elizabeth Sanderson.

EXCURSIONS

20 May. VISIT TO ST CECILIA'S HALL, NIDDRY STREET, EDINBURGH. Illustrated talk on St Cecilia's Hall and the Musical Society of Edinburgh, by Cecilia Cavaye.

21 June. MIDSUMMER PARTY AT GOSFORD HOUSE, LONGNIDDRY, as guests of the Earl of Wemyss, Honorary President of the Old Edinburgh Club, with tour of the grounds led by Miss Catherine Cruft and the Countess of Wemyss.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB
FOR THE YEAR 2000-2001

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 2000

The Ninety-Third Annual General Meeting of the Old Edinburgh Club was held in the Main Council Chamber of the City Chambers at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 28 November 2000. Lord Provost Eric Milligan presided. Forty-five members were present and apologies were received from: Dr J. B. Barclay, Miss Brebner, Elaine Greig, and George and Agnes Turnbull.

The Lord Provost welcomed members, noting that this was possibly the first time that the Old Edinburgh Club's AGM had been held in this chamber. He told his audience that the first eighteenth century public building of Old Edinburgh was the Royal Exchange, now the City Chambers. The Town Council had previously met on the other side of the High Street, in the building known as the Heart of Midlothian, which was also the jail. From the early nineteenth century until 1900 the Council met in the Old Council Chamber, but had met in this, the 'New' Council Chamber, for the past hundred years. The Lord Provost gave an interesting description of the chamber, including three paintings – one of the Blue Blanket, the oldest banner in the City; one of James III welcoming the burgesses in 1482; and one of Mary Queen of Scots when John Knox preached in St Giles Cathedral. On the ceiling are the signs of the zodiac.

CHANGE OF DATE OF THE AGM

The President, Dr Andrew Fraser, explained that the proposal to change the date of the Annual General Meeting from March to November had been unanimously approved at an Extraordinary General Meeting in October. This will fit better with the Club's financial year, which ends on 31 August, and with the annual programme of lectures and visits, running from October to July. The constitution specifies only that the AGM be held 'before the end of March'. The report of the Old Edinburgh Club, previously for a calendar year January to December is therefore on this occasion for the period January to August 2000. Future reports will be for the full year September to August.

OFFICE BEARERS AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The Honorary Secretary Wendy Turner resigned in July 2000; she was warmly thanked for her services to the Club since 1993. Ann Mitchell is now Acting Honorary Secretary. Following the recommendation of the Council's Strategic Plan in 1999, Norman Bryson was appointed as Publicity and Recruitment Officer. The Council now recommends that other office bearers and members of Council, having been elected in April 2000, should remain in office for a further year. The Honorary Auditor, Alan J. Newton (not Alan Parker as printed in the Annual Report) should be appointed annually, and the Council proposes his re-appointment now. This was agreed by members of the Club present at the AGM.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Honorary Treasurer, Donald Reid SSC, presented the Annual Accounts to August 2000. Income from subscriptions has decreased; there are now about 240 members of the Club. The Lord Provost proposed the adoption of the Annual Report and Accounts; the proposal was seconded by Jim Hall and unanimously approved.

PUBLICATIONS

The Editor, Dr Andrew Fraser, reported that work on the New Series Volume 5 is in hand and should be complete by Easter 2001. He has had to turn away some offers of contributions for which there was no space. He is now indexing the five volumes of the New Series.

ADDRESS

The Lord Provost introduced David Black, who gave a wide-ranging talk on 'Putting a Parliament in its Place'. He used slides to draw parallels between the Holyrood parliament building and historic cases such as the controversy over the High School's location, the debate over Tait's St Andrew's House and the 1997 building designed for the Bilbao parliament.

After thanking Mr Black for his interesting talk, the Lord Provost drew attention to the exhibition in the chamber, prepared by Pam McNicol, of the City Archives department, and Programme Secretary of the Old Edinburgh Club. The meeting concluded with afternoon tea, by kind invitation of the Lord Provost.

LECTURES 2000-2001

19 October. ROBERT FERGUSSON, AND THE QUESTION OF AN ANNIVERSARY (the 250th anniversary of his birth). Ian Campbell, University of Edinburgh.

7 November. RICHARD COOPER SENIOR, A FORGOTTEN ARTIST OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT. Joe Rock, University of Edinburgh.

14 December. TWO CENTURIES OF THE AMERICAN CONSULATE IN EDINBURGH. Graeme Cruickshank.

9 January. THE HISTORY OF CONSERVATION, FROM ANTIQUITY TO THE PRESENT DAY. Miles Glendinning, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland.

6 February. ROBERT REID AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL CONSERVATION: The Contribution of the Royal Master of Works to the Conservation of Scotland's Abbeys and Cathedrals in the early 19th Century. Dr Richard Fawcett, Historic Scotland.

6 March. THE DISTRICT OF GREENBANK: A ONE DISTRICT STUDY. Malcolm Cant.

continued overleaf

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OLD EDINBURGH CLUB
FOR THE YEAR 2000-2001 *(continued)*

EXCURSIONS 2001

23 *May.* EDINBURGH WORLD HERITAGE TRUST HEADQUARTERS, 5 CHARLOTTE SQUARE. A talk and guided tour by Kitty Cruft of this fascinating building, erected in the late 1790s to a design by Robert Adam and restored in the early 20th century.

20 *June.* CRAMOND VILLAGE. A talk and guided tour arranged by the Cramond Heritage Trust, taking in the Kirk, Kirkyard, Tower, House, Roman remains, and the Museum at the Maltings.

18 *July.* THE SCOTTISH MINING MUSEUM, NEWTONGRANGE. Guided tour and exhibition of a Scottish Victorian colliery.