



The Old Edinburgh Club

Trustees' Report and Accounts for the year ended 30 June 2021

Scottish Charity Number SC006177

1. Charitable purpose and constitution

The objectives of the Old Edinburgh Club (Club) 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 has had an unprecedented impact on the activities of the Club, leading us to hold our events, Council meetings and our AGM online. We continue to observe public health guidance and have surveyed our members regarding preferences for participating in meetings in autumn 2021 and beyond.

Membership

At 30 June 2021 we had 374 members (220 full and 77 joint memberships). We attracted 21 new members and the totals are similar to those last year (372 members; 210 full and 81 joint memberships).

Events

While the COVID-19 restrictions prevented summer visits in 2020, we were able to proceed with a full programme of talks, using Zoom. The events were:

- 'Maps, History and the Edge of the City', by Bruce Gittings (November 2020)
- Member's Evening: 'Reminiscences: Photographs as Reminders of Edinburgh History' (December), featuring members, Gina Gainey, Toni Buchan and Leonie Paterson
- 'HM Treasury and the University of Edinburgh', by Dr Ian Levitt (February 2021)
- 'Who runs Edinburgh?', by Prof David McCrone (March)
- 'John Ritchie Findlay: Architectural Patron and Benefactor', by Dr Clarisse Godard Desmarest (April)

These have been popular, with several attracting well over 100 participants. Zoom has opened up the possibility of speakers from further afield, with Clarisse Godard Desmarest presenting from Paris.

In addition, the AGM on 23 September 2020 was followed by a talk by Simon Milne, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Gardens of Edinburgh on '350 Years of the Botanic's'.



Contact for further information:

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Book of the Old Edinburgh Club

Volume 16 of our journal, *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* was published in March 2021 and distributed to members by post. Topics included:

- RW Forsyth's department store and the restoration of its globe, by Roger Emmerson
- Lord Rosebery, by Dr Clarisse Godard Desmarest and Prof Aonghus MacKechnie
- the Edinburgh Academy of St Luke at work, by Dr Joe Rock
- Blood donor recruitment and motivation, by Charlotte Bowers (winner of the inaugural OEC Prize in 2019-20)
- the Signet Library, by James Hamilton
- the Edinburgh City Officer, by Dr Patricia Andrew and Dr Iain Gordon Brown

All volumes of the Old Series of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club were digitised by Edinburgh University Library's Digital Imaging Unit in 2019. These are available on the Club's website, with access facilitated by reference to [Contents Lists and Indexes](#) from the first edition of 1908 onwards. They 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 published 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 and we have commissioned two updates from him, to be available in early 2022 and in early 2024.

Edinburgh Films

The Club has begun 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 up to 15 November 2020, in conjunction with the Grange Association, some 227 headstones were rebuilt and 19 foundations prepared in the Grange Cemetery. The Club retains a balance on behalf of the Project of £2,100, to be released when requested by the project coordinator, Alan McKinney.

OEC Prize

For a second year, in conjunction with the University of Edinburgh, the Club awarded its local history prize for a Masters thesis or, exceptionally, an outstanding undergraduate dissertation. The successful candidate was Maximilian Knight, a graduate of the University of Exeter for his thesis, 'Edinburgh's Slavery Connection: The British Linen Company and the Plantation Colonies (1727-1833)'. Maximilian has been invited to write an article for a future edition of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club.

Internet and social media

The Club has a website (www.ouldedinburghclub.org.uk/) which is being overhauled to support the Council promoting the aims of the Club more widely and attract new members. We thank Graham Rule for his past management of the site and for rebuilding its contents following a security hack in late 2020.

The Club has a profile on both Facebook (managed by Jerry Ozaniec) and on Twitter (managed by Alison Macdonald). On Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/OldEdinburghClub>) the Club has 1,996 'Likes' and 2,141 'Follows', and on Twitter (@OldEdinClub) over 1,375 followers. We tweet details of the Club's meetings and events along with other historical/archaeological news of local interest. To maintain interest, postings include wider Scottish historical news and pictures of Edinburgh buildings and street views.

Archiving Council documents

Because of COVID-19 it has not been possible to lodge Club documents this year or last with Edinburgh Central Library for archiving. Once restrictions are lifted these will include (i) OEC Annual Reports; (ii) Lecture programmes; (iii) Minutes of Council meetings; (iv) AGM minutes; and (v) Volumes 15 and 16 of the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*.

3. Trustees and club management

The Club is managed by a Council of paid-up members of the Club, consisting of the following office-bearers (the 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 President	Dr Edward Duvall
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 Mr Steven M Robb

The above were members of Council throughout the period to the date of approval of this report, except for John McAleese (co-opted on 8 December 2020) and Derrick Johnstone (co-opted on 23 February 2021). The Council is very grateful for the contributions of our previous Secretary, Dr John Amooore, and Council member Ms Asma Khan, both of whom resigned during the year.

In 2020-2021 the Council met seven times for ongoing and routine business. At each meeting, the Council received reports on Finance, Membership, the Events Programme, 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 and have chosen to exercise that power. 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. Diana Leat, Neil MacGillivray and Alison Macdonald were elected at the AGM on 25 September 2019 and Steven Robb at the AGM on 26 September 2018. 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. The trustees have taken out suitable insurance and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

Given the nature of the Club's activities, we have not adopted 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.

4. Future plans

More generally in addition to the plans we outline under our Activities and Achievements (2. above), we shall continue its 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.

5. Financial review

The club's finances are stable. Our main income is from subscriptions due each October. Most are paid by standing order and mainly come with Gift Aid in addition. The principal expenditure is the printing and distribution of the Book of the Old Edinburgh Club.

We have received £1,477.75 through the Publishers Licensing Services scheme. This redistributes fees paid by institutions to the Copyright Licensing Agency to allow copying, usually for educational purposes. This total has accrued over several years and future income from this source will be modest.

In resourcing future projects we shall seek to ensure that these monies are well-spent in pursuit of our aims. Should there be greater demands for funding, these may be met from grants, sponsorship and/or crowdfunding.

We have now brought our Gift Aid claims for previous years up to date but have yet to claim for 2020-21. Based on subscription income for 2019-20 and member Gift Aid commitments, our estimate of this is £1,611.

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, but as COVID-19 has prevented us from using the hall this year, they have given us a credit of £366 against future use.
- For the same reason it has not been possible for our Treasurer to visit the bank to get our savings account written up. We are due £122.49 in interest for 2019-21.
- We have a fee of £275 to meet for the independent examination of these financial statements.
- There is a creditor at the end of the year for £1,000, the second and final payment of the fee for the preparation of the Bibliography of Edinburgh History.

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 would provide the immediate funds to produce and distribute a 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 £25,516 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 £23,416 as unrestricted funds, our free reserves - an increase from £22,945 last year. 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 31 August 2021 and signed on their behalf



W Peter Graham

Trustee, President, The Old Edinburgh Club

Statement of OEC Receipts and Payments, 2020-21

	2020-21 Unrestricted Funds	2020-21 Restricted Funds	2020-21 Total	2019-20 Total
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Voluntary Income (Note 1)	7,816	-	7,816	11,079
Bank Interest	-	-	-	81
Receipts from charitable activities (Note 2)	911	-	911	417
Total receipts	8,728	-	8,728	11,577
Payments				
Payments for charitable activities (Note 3)	7,982	-	7,982	9,503
Independent examination	275	-	275	250
Council meetings	-	-	-	396
Total payments	8,257	-	8,257	10,149
Surplus/ deficit	471	-	471	1,428

Statement of Balances

	2020-21 Unrestricted Funds	2020-2021 Restricted Funds	2020-21 Total	2019-20 Total
	£	£	£	£
Bank & Cash Balances				
Balance at start of year	22,945	2,100	25,045	23,617
Surplus/ deficit for year	471	-	471	1,428
Balance at end of year	23,416	2,100	25,516	25,045

Fixed Assets

(Note 4)	Cost	Value at 30/06/2021	Value at 30/06/2020
	£	£	£
Projector 2018	994	-	249
Screen 2019	121	60	91
Total	1,115	60	339

The additional notes following form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the Council on 31 August 2021 and signed on its behalf by

Michael A. Harrison

W Peter Graham

Michael Harrison, Treasurer

W Peter Graham, President

Notes to the accounts

1. Voluntary Income

	2020-21 Unrestricted Funds	2020-21 Restricted Funds	2020-21 Total	2019-20 Total
	£	£	£	£
Membership subscriptions	6,358	-	6,358	6,498
Publishers Licensing Services scheme	1,459	-	1,459	-
Donations	-	-	-	18
Gift Aid (2016-20)	-	-	-	4,563
Total	7,816	-	7,816	11,079

2. Receipts from charitable activities

	2020-21 Unrestricted Funds	2020-21 Restricted Funds	2020-21 Total	2019-20 Total
	£	£	£	£
Book of the Old Edinburgh Club: sales	856	-	856	205
Winter lecture guests	55	-	55	212
Summer visits	-	-	-	-
Total	911	-	911	417

3. Payments for charitable activities

	2020-21 Unrestricted Funds	2020-21 Restricted Funds	2020-21 Total	2019-20 Total
	£	£	£	£
Book of the Old Edinburgh Club: printing, indexing and distribution	6,831	-	6,831	7,175
Winter lectures: speakers/ catering; online costs	170	-	170	221
Hire of Augustine Church	-	-	-	976
Insurance	75	-	75	75
IT equipment	-	-	-	140
Photocopying, postage and stationery	485	-	485	719
Website and publicity	342	-	342	-
Miscellaneous	79	-	79	197
Total	7,982	-	7,982	9,503

No trustee and no person connected to a trustee received any expenses during the year.

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 2020	Incoming resources	Resources expended	as at 30 June 2021
Unrestricted:				
General	22,945	8,728	8,257	23,416
Restricted:				
Graveyard Fund	2,100	-	-	2,100
Total	25,045	8,728	8,257	25,516

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 Regulations
have 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: 30 August 2021



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