



East Lothian Antiquarian And Field Naturalists' Society

Registered Charity SC007701

A

Annual Report to Year Ended 31 March 2018

The President and Members of Council present their annual report.

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018 will be submitted separately.

1. Charitable Purpose and Objectives

The Society's purpose shall be the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture and science and shall carry out its activities or services itself or in partnership with other persons or bodies holding the same purposes as the Society.

The objectives of the Society shall be to undertake, promote and support the study of the antiquities, archaeology and history and the natural history of East Lothian, in this constitution the "Objectives".

2. Structure and Governance

The Society is an unincorporated institution registered with the Scottish Charities Regulator, number SC007701.

The Constitution was amended and approved by the Society's Annual General Meeting in May 2015.

The Society's activities are governed by the Charity Trustees, known collectively as the Council.

During the year 2017 to 2018 the members of the Council were

President	Stephen Bunyan MBE
Vice President	Joy Dodd
Vice Presidents Emeritus	Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Bt., GCMG, GCVO. The Dowager Countess of Wemyss and March
Secretary	Graeme Bettison
Treasurer	John Lamb [Joy Dodd assumed responsibility in his absence in New Zealand]
Librarian	Joy Dodd
Editor	Chris Tabraham
Web site	Simon Boak
Other Members	David Affleck, Jacquie Bell, Allison Cosgrove [until Dec 2017], William Dodd, Bridget Ellwood, Vicki Fletcher, Alexander, Duke of Hamilton, Ian Hardie, John Hunt and Shena Jameson. Arran Johnston was co opted in February 2018.

Council members are elected at the Annual General Meeting and may be co-opted in terms of the constitution. Although there is no formal induction, new and existing members receive guidance and support to ensure that they are familiar with the Society's values,

objectives, purposes and powers and of their duties and responsibilities as the designated trustees of a registered charity.

The main responsibilities of the Council are to take reasonable steps to

(a) prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of its transactions during the financial year and to keep and maintain proper accounting records which must reflect the current financial position at any given time. This is fulfilled by the treasurer reporting to Council at each and every meeting,

(b) safeguard the assets of the Society, and

(c) prevent and / or detect fraud and other irregularities.

By doing so the Society complies with the Charities Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

I gave notice during the year that we have a serious situation and need to fill some impending vacancies.

Ideally, we need a new Vice President who would be willing to become President in the near future.

John Lamb wishes to resign as treasurer and Joy does not wish to continue in the role after the A G M.

Graeme is willing to continue as minute secretary, but we need a Secretary administrator. Chris Tabraham has moved to Argyll and will demit office when he publishes the volume now in hand. [XXX11]

I should be glad to hear of any member who feels they could and would like to fulfil any of these roles or who would like to volunteer as a member of council.

3. Administrative Structure

The Society's Principal Office is c/o The Secretary, 7 Chapelhill, Dirleton, EH39 5HF.

The Society's bank account is held with the Bank of Scotland, 95 High Street Dunbar EH42 1ER.

The Society's Independent Examiner is John A. Sparksman, Accountant, 18 King's Court Dunbar, EH42 1ZG

4. Finance

The Society is funded primarily by members' subscriptions and profit gained from the Annual Lectures Day in September each year.

The payments made relate mainly to the hosting of events and meetings of the Council and to the publication of the biennial "Transactions".

The events held during the summer programme are self-funding.

A financial statement is prepared at the end of each financial year on a "Receipts and Payments" basis. An Income and Expenditure account is prepared for information purposes

only under the Historical Cost Convention with year-end adjustments for known outstandings.

5. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

The Trustees receive no remuneration and have no contractual relationship with the Society in terms of the Intermediaries Legislation (IR35). Reimbursement of expenses incurred in the administration of the Society is made.

6. Activities during 2017 - 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in Dunbar Methodist Church on 20th May 2017.

The officers and council were re-elected

At the conclusion of the business Stephen Bunyan gave an account of the Methodist Church in Dunbar and the part played in its foundation by John Wesley. It was noted that the congregation had now united with St Anne's Episcopal Congregation.

The future of this important historical building is uncertain.

It was noted that the Society had played a part in the recognition of the work of Robert Noble

Summer Visits.

On Saturday 10th June the Society visited Fountain Hall by kind invitation of Mr and Mrs Edward Hocknell. It was interesting to see the improvements that had been made to this very fine 16th century listed building.

On Saturday 24th June the Society were led on a guided walk at St Abbs Nature reserve by John Hunt. They were welcomed by Liza Cole, the NTS Site manager. They appreciated the care taken by the NTS. They enjoyed the flora and fauna in the area.

On Saturday 15th July, the society led by the president, visited Greywalls

The group was welcomed by the manager, Duncan Fraser. Neil Davidson the Head Gardiner led a tour of the exterior of the fine Lutyens building and the garden originally designed by Gertrude Jekyll. Some recent garden design has been done by Laura Mackenzie. At the conclusion of the tour tea was served and it was possible to see some of the interior.

On Saturday 19th August Ian Hardie led a visit To Torness Nuclear Power Station. This was an unusual visit but was enjoyed and it was interesting to discover the contribution to the environment made by the company.

On Saturday 16th September, by arrangement with Alex and Sophy Campbell the Society visited Keith Marischal house and Tower led by Ian Hardie. The ancient home of the Eatls Marischal it was developd in 1589 and again by Peddie and Kinnear in 1889 Heavy rain made it difficult to enjoy the grounds and ruined chapel which dates from 1225

On Sunday 8th October, the final outing of the season was to Melville Castle Hotel.

It was led by the president who gave a short summary of the history of the building. The

estate was noted as far back as 1155 when it belonged to Galfrid de Malleville. In the 18th century it became the seat of Henry Dundas, Viscount Melville who was virtually ruler of Scotland until his death in 1811. The estate remained in the possession of the Dundas family until c1980. It is now a hotel where we had tea and saw the restored main rooms.

Annual Lectures Day

On Saturday 9th September 2017 in St Mary's Church, Haddington the Society hosted a series of lectures on the theme Empire, Expansion and Disruption in East Lothian in the 19th Century

This was the start of the Archaeology and History Fortnight arranged by East Lothian Council's Archaeology Service and proved a very popular and successful event.

The following talks were given:

Nineteenth century East Lothian by Stephen Bunyan

Scottish connections with the Caribbean by Sir Geoffrey Palmer

The Hon Basil Cochrane and his agent James Balfour by David Affleck

'Coals and Whisky', Poor relief in East Lothian. by Fran Woodrow

"A shy lady and her estates" by Stephen Bunyan

The disruption of the established church in 1843 and its effect in East Lothian by Professor John Hume

Winter Lectures

Three lectures were given in the Maitlandfield Hotel in the course of the winter,

At the first on 11th November Arran Johnston gave a fascinating talk on the Scottish Diaspora Tapestry.

At the second on 10th February Professor Jane Dawson gave talk on John Knox and his East Lothian Connection.

The third lecture was given on 10th March by Professor Ian Ralston OBE

This was a most significant talk because the Times that very day told the academic world that he had made a most important Discovery that the conclusion made by Brian Hope Taylor in 1966 could not be sustained and that the Hall was 4000 years older than Taylor had claimed.

The society was represented at the Annual Heritage Gathering for East Lothian in the Town House Dunbar.

The Annual Dinner was held on Friday 20th April in the Maitlandfield House Hotel, Haddington.

Mrs Judy Riley gave an illustrated talk entitled. "Helen the hand who launched a thousand trees". [the development of Tynninghame estate and particularly Binning Wood

The Dinner It was attended by c 30 members and guests.

7. Planned Activities for 2017 - 2018

Annual Lectures Day

This will be held on Saturday 15th September in conjunction with Haddington History Society It will be in Haddington Town House. This year's theme will be Charter Church Conflict and Community, Haddington 1318-2018.

8. The Transactions

The transactions continue to be held in high regard. They are lodged in the copyright libraries and are purchased by academic and other libraries. They are issued to Queen Margaret University, Secondary Schools in East Lothian and to Loretto and Belhaven Hill School and some other bodies.

However, the storage of the back issues of the Transactions continues to be a problem, particularly for our Librarian. The task of transferring them to a digital data base Has been addressed. George Robertson has addressed this mammoth task. It has now been done and Thirty volumes are now on the web site which George has up dated.

We are also adding the online version [which contains extra material,] of the fourth statistical account. this makes this huge resource of material available to a much wider audience on line.

We are extremely grateful to George and Philip Immirzi for making this possible and to Pete Gray and Veronica Wallace for work on the fourth Statistical account

I am happy to say that George has joined the society and will continue to up date the website

9. Membership

Although membership remains reasonably steady at 99 (19 family subscriptions and 63 single subscriptions), the Council is looking at ways in which to attract new members particularly of a "younger" age group.

10. Other Matters

The President represents the Society on the John Muir Park advisory group, which he chairs. Mr J Hunt represents the society on the Aberlady Bay advisory group and on the Laws advisory group.

The Secretary represents the society on the East Lothian Heritage Forum.

The Society continues to support the work of the Scottish Local History Forum and the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland.

The Society is vigilant in the face of threats to our heritage of buildings and landscape and enquiries about the Society and about East Lothian continue to be received.

Stephen A Bunyan, President. 26 April 2018