

New Series Issue 1

Winter 2019/20

Happy New Year to all!

Welcome to the first issue of the new version of the Broughton History Society Newsletter. The aim is to issue it three times a year, and for each issue to contain a summary of the talks there have been in the preceding three months. This issue also contains the Christmas picture quiz which Sandra Purves put together on the last page.

Jim Eunson

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## **The World's First Foot-Ball Club (1824): John Hope and the Edinburgh Footballers by John Hutchinson September 9 2019**

The 2019-2020 session kicked off with the above talk. It transpires that Edinburgh can lay claim to be the home of the first constitutionally organised Foot-Ball Club. John Hope at the time of the formation of the club was a student at Edinburgh University having previously attended the Royal High School; he became a lawyer. The Hope family was involved in many aspects of life in the city and lived in 65 Queen Street before moving to 31 Moray Place. His grandfather was John Hope, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Gardens whilst it was in Leith Walk. We heard that the club at its height boasted 290 members including, lawyers, medical, political and military students, 3 clan Chiefs & 3 MPs. The members all lived in the New Town. John Hope's football rules of 1823, which are the first known set of rules, were

1. Single soled shoes, no iron
2. No tripping
3. Ball to pass imaginary line
4. A free kick if ball is out of bounds
5. Pushing is allowed. Holding is not illegal
6. Allow the ball to be lifted between fields

He also noted the attributes of the game; affirmative Fun, Fresh Air Exercise. Negative No Tripping.

The game involved up to 40 members at a time wearing caps to distinguish sides. The games seemed to only involve members. It was not an inexpensive

sport as they had to rent a field to play on, purchase footballs and bladders and other necessary items. The balls consisted of an inflated pig's bladder inside stitched leather casing costing 2s 6d to 3s each and the bladders 3d to 6d each. Whilst the casing was generally robust the bladders which had to be inflated were not. The accounts for the club which Hope kept meticulously also showed the purchase of a bottle of whiskey, this it transpired was not for the members but to soak and clean the bladders. Maintenance of the ball was a time-consuming and messy but necessary process.

Over the period of the club's existence they played on a succession of fields starting at a park on the Dalry Estate. Hope was born at the family home, Dalry House. This was followed by Greenhill Park to the south of Bruntsfield Links and then Grove Park, the City's first dedicated enclosed sports ground which was home to the Grange Cricket Club. Both the previous grounds were at that time in open countryside.

Among the illustrations shown was Macgill & Schenk's panorama of Edinburgh in the 1840's looking south from Calton Hill, where several young men are playing Foot-Ball.

*Continued on page 2*

# Scotland Her Story the nation's history by the women who lived it by Rosemary Goring 7 October 2019

Rosemary Goring, journalist, author and literary editor of *The Herald*, gave a talk on her recently published book of the same title. Rosemary explained that her main interest was in social and economic history and that the book presents, chronologically, a collection of eyewitness accounts covering fifteen or sixteen hundred years. She read some of the collection aloud, starting with Mary Queen of Scots' last letter, written on the eve of her execution, and ranging through Dr. Elsie Inglis's cook's journal from the battle front, Naomi Mitchison's memories of long (almost) forgotten women's garments and Judy Murray's account of her public humiliation at a grand event in Glasgow.

Her sources were many and varied, including diaries, letters, books and court records, and the speaker discussed the difficulties in unearthing material about and by women, because for centuries they have typically played a secondary role in recorded affairs. In a wide-ranging, humorous, and personal account both of women's history and of her own experience writing the book, Rosemary Goring made clear that she was not concerned to present a roll call of the first women to do this or that, but rather to pick examples at historically significant moments, to show women as they were and are, and not necessarily just in a good light.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> century, for example, the economist John Law's aunt was a wily businesswoman who made Bibles her business. Through Rosemary Goring's broad lens, and thanks to her palpable enthusiasm for her subject, the audience was afforded insights into new angles on Scottish history, and new voices, as well as being reminded of old, familiar aspects of what has gone before and what is still with us today. The talk was well attended by some 60 members and visitors and warmly received. The Chairman pointed out that the book, *Scotland Her Story: the nation's history by the women who lived it*, was readily available in bookshops, including in the nearby, newly opened Toppings Booksellers on Blenheim Place.

Helen Rorrison.

*From page 1*

For further information on John Hope and the Foot-Ball Club can be found in the National Archives of Scotland (NAS ref. GD253) or in the book by John Hutchison & Andy Mitchell "1824 The World's First Foot-Ball Club"

Many thanks to John Hutchison for a very interesting talk giving a fascinating insight into the sporting activities of the Scottish students of the day who were to become the good and the great of Edinburgh Society.

Sandra Purves

## 2020 Programme

- **January 13 Creating the Museum of Scotland–  
Ian Hooper**
- **February 3 Capital Brewing –  
John Martin**
- **March 2 A Variety of  
Accomplishments: the 19c  
residents of Albany Street –  
Barclay Price**
- **March 30 Farewell King Coal; the  
story of the earth's most  
disruptive technology –  
Anthony Seaton**
- **May 4 The Incorporated Trades of  
Edinburgh –  
Gordon Wylie**
- **June 8 AGM and Members' Night**

# A Modern History of Wildlife Crime in Scotland

## by Charles Everitt 4 November 2019

Currently defined as 'any unlawful act or omission which affects any wild creature, plant or habitat in Scotland', wildlife crime has increasingly been codified by a series of UK, Scottish and EU acts since the Preservation of Birds Act in 1954. Charles Everitt became the first Wildlife Crime Officer (WCO) under the Lothian and Borders Police Force just over 10 years ago and is now the most experienced officer among more than 100 operational full and part time officers across Scotland.

He took us through the development of the type of crime which was not taken seriously 30 years ago, when occasional poaching was reported. Legal protection has shifted during that time to protect wild species and their habitats rather than just the landowners, who are now subject to the Vicarious Liability Act 2011. He described how complex the law can be, requiring specialist crime officers and procurators fiscal who have to be familiar with these laws. Such crimes are treated like a murder case with all the traditional forensic methods available. However, it can be difficult to define what constitutes a crime, say, in the case of disturbance of bats: have they been disturbed, recklessly or deliberately; were they occupying a place being used for shelter or protection; who was the culprit?

Since 2009 there has been a Partnership for Action Against Wildlife Crime, including police, land managers, conservationists and Scottish Government, which is committed to combating such crimes. Despite the availability of carbon dating, Xrays, DNA and

pathology, a chain of evidence is still needed to establish corroboration. Crimes are often hard to prove because of their remote location, whether the intention was indeed reckless and the availability of two eyewitnesses. Even if CCTV evidence is available, it is not admissible in court. Currently the maximum sentence available is 6 months.

When I mentioned that I had found a poisoned golden eagle in the Glen Orchy area during a hill walk several years ago, Charles was the WCO called in to investigate. Although the poison was identified, they were unable to prove a clear link to the culprit, who was later found to be in possession of illegal firearms, so was sentenced for that crime instead.

Modern developments, such as satellite tagging of raptors, internet crime and social media have had both positive and negative impacts on wildlife crime. A latest development is the creation of the Grouse Moor Management Group, which has led to increased penalties for persecution of birds which prey on grouse. Funding is a big issue, the science is still evolving and who knows what Brexit will bring.

A fascinating talk which raises many questions, not least whether the pendulum has swung too far in favour of conservation, leaving farmers and landowners less able to carry out their traditional activities. At least there is better understanding on all sides than there was 30 years ago.

Richard Love

Quiz answers below (see back page first)

1. Annadale Street
2. Hart Street
3. Gayfield Square
4. Elder Street
5. Broughton Street
6. Claremont Court, a housing scheme that was designed by the modernist architect Sir Basil Spence, completed in 1962.
7. Gayfield Place/Leith Walk
8. Broughton Street (The name of the shop is Barber Road)
9. Bellevue Crescent; See Spurtle no 291 **Bellevue's New Governor** "In fact, it's Scottish Gas Network's above-ground vent stack, cabinet, and lid for a new underground gas governor as part of the St James Centre Project."
10. York Place at the corner of York Lane.



## Broughton History Society Christmas Soiree Picture Quiz



1 We start our ramble round Broughton at the Scottish Right of Way & Access Society Office. Which street are we in?



2. The Steel House was built in 2002 the external structure is of Stainless Steel, which street are we in now?



3. We are encouraged to get plenty of exercise where this is?



4. In case you are feeling hungry where is this Vegan restaurant?



5. If you are not so keen on exercise how about taking up knitting? Which street are we in now?



6. What is the name of this post war housing development?



7. Broughton has over the years been home to a wide range of Churches, which street is this (the Christadelphian Church) in?

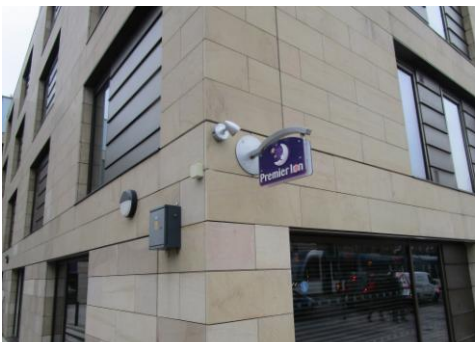


8. Where is this collection of items from the past to be found, Street name please.



9. When Broughton was a Barony it was presided over by the Baron with the power of pit and gallows. Those days are in the past but Broughton now has a new governor. Where is it?

(The answers are on the previous page upside down at the bottom)



10. I expect by now you are feeling tired after wandering round so how about somewhere to rest for the night, but which street are we in this time?