

## The Future



We continue to be in discussions with Scottish Canals about a 'Memorandum of Understanding' (MoU) and eventually a 'long-term lease'. This will allow us to apply for capital grants towards a new building.

We will continue our drive for membership and to increase the number of volunteers. As mentioned, we have now successfully raised close to our target of £10,000 to commission a feasibility study into the viability of our future plans for a new boat house. We hope to provide a verbal update on this at this year's AGM.

We continue to be in discussion to take on the facilities block on the towpath opposite the boathouse. This will give us a new base while work is carried out on-site to replace the Boathouse.

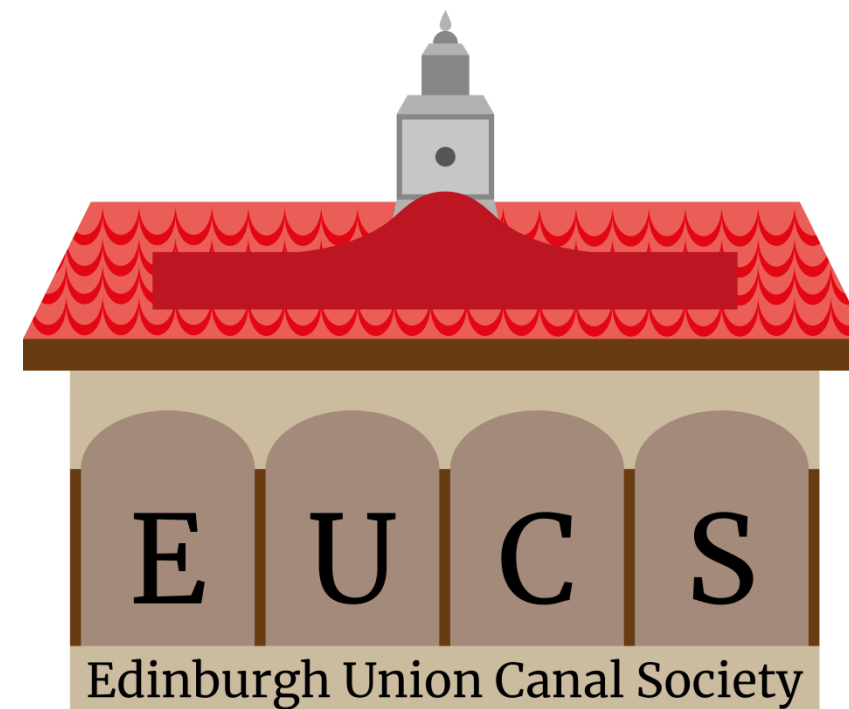
And next year we plan to hire out three rowing boats between April and September. We will also continue with our stalls in April, June, September and November.

---

### with thanks to:

Simon Williams for our website cover-photo  
([www.edinburghphotos.co.uk](http://www.edinburghphotos.co.uk))

Michael Burns for our EUCS boathouse-logo



## Annual Report November 2023



[www.eucs.org.uk](http://www.eucs.org.uk)

promoting the appreciation of the Union Canal  
... centred on the *Ashley Terrace Boathouse*

## **History**

The Edinburgh Canal Society (ECS) was formed in the mid-80s. It campaigned for the reopening of the Lowland Canals to 'through-navigation' and supported the Millennium Link Project. The Ashley Terrace Boathouse was built on-site in the late 1980s. The Boathouse was condemned in an engineering report for Scottish Canals in 2015. The site has been off-limits to the public since then.

As part of the regeneration of the society, we held the final ECS AGM in November 2021 and agreed to replace it with the Edinburgh Union Canal Society (EUCS), re-formed with a new structure as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). This has been a successful venture so far and we are now in a stable financial situation, are well supported by the local community and are hiring out rowing boats through the boating season (April to September). This past year has been the first time that rowing boats have been available for hire in over a decade.

## **Governance**

EUCS was registered as SCIO in December 2021. Currently there are 14 people on the committee. The working groups are Fundraising, Events & Publicity, Property & Logistics, and AGM/Constitution. We set up Microsoft 365, and Teams, to aid the running of the society.

This year, our AGM is at 2pm, on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2023, at the 'Merchiston Tennis Club', which is on Polwarth Terrace, EH11 1NA.

## **Property**

There have been work parties on-site at the Ashley Terrace Boathouse most Sunday and Tuesday afternoons since August 2021. This year the property group has mostly been focused on repairing/ refurbishing two of our traditional rowing boats ready for hire. We were delighted by the end result.

The boats have subsequently been hired out from the first Sunday after Easter to the last Sunday of September. Overall there has been just over two thirds take up of the available slots. The hiring has generated just over £1,000 for the society. We have had great feedback from our customers, even having some repeat hirers and a few pirates!

The property group has also continued to do maintenance work on the site.

## **Events & Publicity**

We have held a number of events through the year. We started the season in April 2023 with a refreshments, tombola and information stall. On the third Saturday in June we participated fully in the Edinburgh Canal Festival with a stall and rowing boats for hire. In August we had a stall at Linlithgow Union Canal Fun Day. In September we had an end of season refreshment, information and raffle stall.

All the stalls have generated very healthy revenue for the society. They have become popular community events that local people (and those from further afield), look forward to and enjoy. Our last stall for 2023 will be on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, as part of The Flotilla of Lights Celebrations.

## **Finance**

We started October 2022 with £3,500. We end the year with £13,400. We have raised £9,750 in grant money through the generosity of trust funds. We have raised £3,110 from selling home-baking and refreshments at events, rowing boat hire and entering a team in the Edinburgh Kiltwalk 2023. We have also raised over £910 in memberships and eligible gift aid.

Our biggest outlays this year have been the purchase of gazebos, £1,110; refurbishing two rowing boats, £1,300; and disposing of a trip boat that was past its useable life, £1,130. The refurbishment required stripping and painting two fibreglass boats, the purchase of buoyancy aids and additional insurance. We ran the boats on Sundays from April until September, and they proved to be a hit with over two-thirds occupancy. Along with a grant to cover some of the refurbishments, they have provided a small source of income.

The grant money is earmarked for the next step in our plans to build a new boathouse. The money will fund a business case for how the new boathouse will run once we get the keys. Once we get that we will be in a position to start trying to raise capital funding.

## **Volunteering**

All of our work relies on the generous support of our volunteers. Tasks undertaken have included helping to refurbish the boathouse site; preparing, dismantling, and working on stalls; meetings of the committee and working groups and the work that these generate. We have used over 2,500 volunteer hours in the last year.

If you would like to get involved, speak to a member of the committee. We currently have 70+ members.