

The Future



A '**Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)**', for the wider Ashley Terrace Boathouse site, was agreed with Scottish Canals back in October 2024.

And over the preceding 3-years, we have successfully raised above our initial target of £10,000, which has since enabled us to commission a draft feasibility study into the viability of any future plans for a new boat house and the wider site.

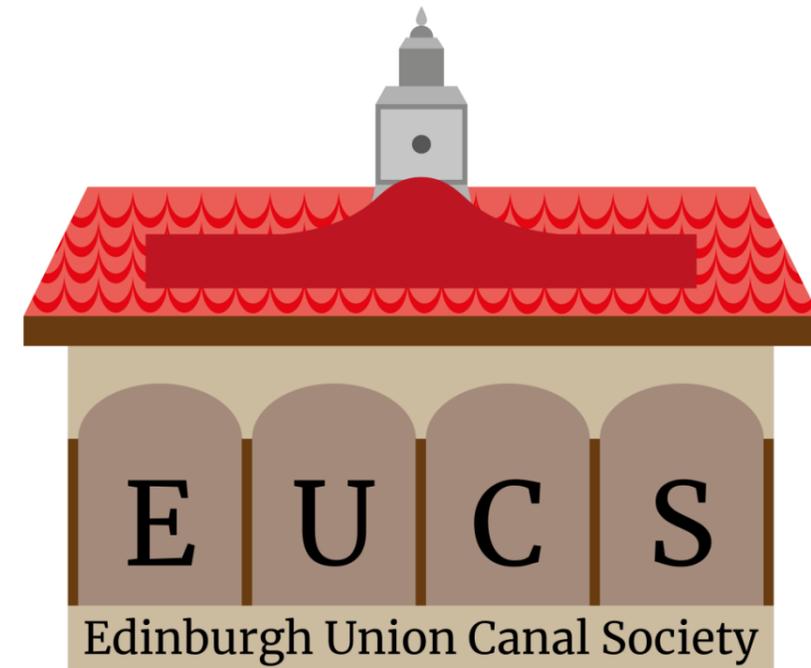
Members of the design-team will present the findings from the '**Draft Feasibility Study**' at our AGM, on Sunday 2nd November 2025, and we will thereafter move towards raising the required 'capital funding' to deliver a secure future for the site.

We will also continue our drive for membership and to increase the number of volunteers. And next year, we will once again hire out our three traditional rowing boats between late April and late September 2026. 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)

Michael Burns for our EUCS boathouse-logo



Annual Report



November 2025

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. Regrettably, the Boathouse was condemned in an engineering report for Scottish Canals in 2015. The site has been off-limits to the general 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 very successful venture 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 (2025) has seen the third successful season that rowing boats have been available for hire.

Governance

EUCS was registered as a SCIO in December 2021. Currently there are 14 people on the Main Committee. We also have two working sub-groups: 'Fundraising & Strategy' and 'Operations'. We have set up a Microsoft 365 account, and Teams-channel, to help aid the ongoing and efficient running of the society.

And this year, our AGM is at 2pm, on Sunday 2nd November 2025, 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 'Operations' sub-group has focused on repairing/refurbishing a third traditional rowing boat, which was ready for hire at the start of the season. We have been delighted by the boats' popularity.

All the boats have subsequently been hired out from the first Sunday after Easter to the last Sunday of September. Overall, there has been more than a 50% take-up of all the available slots. The hiring has generated some £1,822 for the society. We have had great feedback from our customers, even having several repeat hirers and a few pirates, who you just might be able to spot on the back-page of this Annual Report!

The 'Operations' sub-group has also continued to do general maintenance on the site.

Events & Publicity

We have held a number of events throughout the year. We started the season in April 2025 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 September we had an end of season refreshment, information and raffle stall. Merchiston Community Council had a welcome presence/stall at all of these events.

All the stalls have generated revenue for the society and have also been excellent at raising awareness of our activities. The stalls have become popular community events that local people (and those from further afield), look forward to and enjoy. Our last stall for 2025 will be on Saturday 8th November, as part of the 'Flotilla of Lights' celebrations.

Finance

We started October 2024 with £20,300. We end the year with £17,800. We have raised £6,600 in grant money - through the generosity of various trust funds. We have raised £2,300 from selling home-baking and refreshments at our canal-side events; and a further £1,822 from rowing boat hires. We have also raised almost £1,000 in memberships and eligible gift aid.

We operated the rowing boats on Sundays, from April until September, and they continued to be very popular with more than a 50% take-up of all available slots. Along with a grant to cover boat-refurbishment, they have provided a small source of income.

Our biggest outlay this year have been on 'Consultants Fees' as we build on last year's '**Business Plan**' document, and get professional help to develop a '**Draft Feasibility Study**' for the wider Ashley Terrace Boathouse site.

Members of the design-team will present the findings from the '**Draft Feasibility Study**' at our AGM, on Sunday 2nd November, and we will thereafter move towards raising the required 'capital funding' to deliver a secure future for the site.

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 the sub-groups and the work that these generate. Throughout the last year, we have used over 2,000 volunteer hours.

If you would like to get involved, please do speak to a member of the committee. We currently have around 70-members; and would really welcome reaching 100 in 2026.