

# THE EARLY PRESIDENTS OF THE BERWICKSHIRE NATURALISTS' CLUB

by LESLEY GRAY

**This beautifully presented book is published with illustrations throughout on silk finished paper by the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club**

The idea for this book about the Club's 'Early Presidents' came about after a set of privately bound volumes of the Club's journal was offered to the club by a descendant of one of those early Presidents, Dr. Francis Douglas of Kelso, who was the President in 1841 and 1867.

The printed content is unchanged from the original publication. However these volumes have been bound with extra blank pages, allowing Dr. Douglas to stick in additional material of his own. This extra material has provided us with the portraits and signatures of most of the presidents up to 1898 and a wonderful collection of images of buildings, people, birds, landscapes and press cuttings from the mid to late 1800s.

The portrait photographs of these early presidents form the heart of this book. Every president's death is recorded in print in the respective volume though some obituaries give more biographical details than others. For this publication we have restricted ourselves to the information drawn from the relevant obituary as it appeared in the respective volume of HBNC.

Photographs of members on field trips suggest that the club took a photographer with them to record the day. Twenty-five photographs are by Valentines in Dundee and George Washington Wilson in Aberdeen, but there are also 108 photographs which are not credited to one of the commercial companies and they may have been by local photographers or indeed members of the club.





Four of the early presidents of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club. Clockwise, from top left, they are Sir William Jardine, President of the Club in 1836, Dr. James Hardy, President of the Club in 1868, Dr. Charles Douglas, President of the Club in 1877 and Dr. Francis Douglas, President of the Club in 1841 and again in 1867.

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This book is on sale through the website of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club. The price is £8 for members and £12 for non members. Payment can be made by B.A.C.S. or by cheque.

Copies will also be on sale at the Club's Annual General Meeting and at the Autumn Lecture.

Full details of how to order are at [www.bnc1831.co.uk](http://www.bnc1831.co.uk) or by phone 01361 883070