



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

## *News Release*

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### **Vibrant display celebrates the art of revelry**

An annual fancy-dress extravaganza that has been running for more than 100 years is to be showcased in a new University of Edinburgh exhibition.

Edinburgh College of Art's yearly Revel, which dates back to 1909, brings together staff and students for a themed party with costumes, scenery, performances and dancing.

The exhibition in the University's Main Library, includes a number of unique photographs of students at the Revel from the 1910s to the 1970s. A range of colourful ticket and programme designs demonstrate the effort, imagination and skill that has gone into the event.

Former student and celebrated artist John Bellamy is known to have designed the set for the 1963 Revel. Former College Principal and painter William Gillies also features in a silent film showing students creating props and enjoying the event.

A costume thought to have been part of the 1951 Revel – which has a Knights of the Round Table theme will also be on display.

University experts researched student handbooks and old newspaper reports that chart the coverage of the event – describing the Revel as “the most important event of the College year” – to help inform the exhibition.

Rachel Hosker, Archives Manager at the University of Edinburgh, said: “The Revel has always been a showcase for the skill and craft of students and staff at the College, giving them the freedom to express themselves with a sense of fun.

“The Revel is a unique event – organised without a huge budget – that is initiated and developed by students using the principle of ‘brown paper and imagination’.”

*‘Brown Paper and Imagination: Revealing the Edinburgh College of Art Revel’ runs from 1 April – 2 July 2016 at the University’s Main Library Exhibition Gallery. Opening times: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm and Saturday, 10am-5pm. Admission is free.*

***Photographers are invited to a photo opportunity at 10am on Thursday, 31 March in the Main Library Treasures Room. Current students on the Edinburgh College of Art Revel Committee will reflect upon the artwork and design work from parties gone by.***

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