

# **EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION**

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019**

Contents	Page
Report of the Committee	1
Receipts and payments account and Statement of balances	4
Notes to the financial statements	5
Independent Examiner's report	6

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# EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

Edinburgh Old Town Association has objectives of promoting and encouraging public interest in the beauty, history and character of the Old Town of Edinburgh. To that end, the Association participates in consultations on issues affecting the amenity of the Old Town, comments on planning applications and proposals for development, publishes a regular newsletter and organises informative visits and lectures. When funds allow, the Association also gives small donations in support of its objects.

### Review of the Year

The year under review was one in which the issue of “over-tourism” of popular cities made headlines across Europe, if not the world. Heavyweight organisations, some with clout, started to press for controls on the numbers of visitors, citing the destruction of amenity as if it was a new discovery. Why didn't they ask the locals?

We could have told them of the noise from buskers and so-called silent discos (uncontrolled as they take their bookings on-line), the overcrowding of pavements (on-line tours use a famous landmark such as Greyfriars Bobby as an easy-to-find meeting point), and, perhaps most invidious, the relentless march of Air BnB and other on-line platforms and the concomitant loss of residential accommodation (it is rare not have to dodge round a bag-dragger when going about your daily business).

The Association was consulted about proposals and trials of measures to control traffic in an attempt to make the environment more pedestrian-friendly. Open Streets has been a success: it has been a pleasure (weather permitting) to walk along the High Street and Canongate on the first Sunday of the month since the programme began in May 2019 and see people enjoying the space, taking part in communal activity, or just hearing themselves speak without having to shout over engine noise. Traffic on contiguous and parallel streets was no worse, or even less, than on other Sundays. We look forward to the programme developing.

Summer Streets in July and August, in contrast, was not a success. Our local bus (Lothian Buses No 35) was diverted, but not the open-top tour buses which continued to use (and block) the Canongate. Traffic in contiguous and parallel streets was worse, and far worse tempered; horns and sirens resounded and engines being revved angrily polluted the air. The streets allegedly freed from traffic still carried taxis, so there was no additional space for pedestrians. Being high summer, the truly pedestrianised areas filled with buskers and street performers which, with their English or Australian accents, add nothing to the Old Town of Edinburgh.

Other issues that featured in the discussions of the committee included the benefits accruing to the city from permitting filming in the Old Town. There was public outrage when it became known that mega-budget film *Fast and Furious 9* had been charged just the loss of income from on-street parking; nothing to compensate for the disruption, loss of earnings (St Giles could have no visitors while filming carried on outside) and general upheaval. Other cities fill their coffers and then use the money for public projects; all Edinburgh got was the promotion of macho car chases and spectacular crashes (not what we want to see on our streets).

The Association worked with other amenity and local organisations including the Old Town Community Council, Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust, the Edinburgh Civic Forum, Edinburgh World Heritage and the Scottish Civic Trust. The Association continued to be consulted by the City Council and major developers in the Old Town.

# EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### Review of the Year (continued)

The Association produced three newsletters, edited by Eric Drake and Rosemary Mann. The Committee records its gratitude to Naomi Richardson for continuing to arrange a varied, interesting and informative programme of activities for members. Activities included:

- talks on John Kay by Eric Melvin; on the filling of the last gap-site on the Royal Mile by David McGinival of Colorado Construction; the creation of the National Museum of Scotland by former Deputy Director Ian Hooper; the Palace of Holyroodhouse by Sutherland Forsyth; on Darwin in Edinburgh by Rosemary Mann; the tavern-based clubs on Edinburgh by Graeme Cruickshank
- visits to behind the scenes at the National Library of Scotland with Curator Ian Scott; the refurbishment work under North Bridge with contractor Balfour Beatty;
- guided walks looking at Princes Street Gardens led by Jean Bareham (cancelled due to Storm Desmond); the history of printing in Edinburgh led by Helen Williams; around Castle Rock with Andrew McMillan;
- and a sociable Christmas Party with seasonal story-telling held at the Augustine United Church.

Members could express their views and raise matters of concern at the Annual General Meeting and during discussion sessions at other events.

### Governance

Edinburgh Old Town Association is an unincorporated membership association regulated by a written constitution. The Association is recognised as a charity and is regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator with Scottish Charity Number SC009217.

### Membership

Membership of the Association is open to people who live in, work in or simply just love the historic heart of Edinburgh. At 31 August 2019, the Association had 195 individual and 7 corporate members, a small drop in numbers on the previous year. It is hoped that putting the newsletter on-line and using Eventbrite so non-members can book for events line will bring in new members.

### Executive Committee

The day-to-day administration of the Association is conducted by a voluntary Executive Committee whose members are either elected annually from the membership at the Annual General Meeting or co-opted from the membership by the committee during the year. Members of the Committee during the year were:

Anja Amsel (Honorary President)  
Barbara Logue (Convener)  
Naomi Richardson (Vice-Convener and Events Secretary)  
Jean Fairbairn (Minutes Secretary)  
Rosemary Mann (Treasurer)  
Bill Cowan (Planning Secretary)  
Eric Drake (Newsletter Editor)  
Laura Harrington (Membership Secretary)  
Katie Kerr  
Kate Marshall  
Tim Williams (from 5 February 2019)

The Executive Committee met twelve times during the year under review.

# EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

### Financial Review

The results for the year are shown in the statements on pages 4 and 5. After donations, the Association made a surplus of £151. The cost of events exceeded the income from tickets and subscriptions and other income covered the cost of running the Association and producing the newsletter, so the finances are balanced.

Any surplus generated is used to make donations to further the objectives of the Edinburgh Old Town Association. In the year under review the Association made a donation to cover the cost of restoration of *Edinburgh and the Surrounding Countryside as seen from Calton Hill*, a coloured lithograph of 1841, enabling it to be put on display in the Scotland Room of the Library on George IV Bridge.

The Association records its gratitude to Geoghegans for acting as *pro bono* independent examiner of these accounts.

### Reserves Policy

The reserves policy of the Association is to maintain an unrestricted reserve of one year's expenditure.

### Plans for Future Years

The Association will continue to offer its members its regular newsletter and a range of visits, talks and guided walks. These are also available to the public at large through the Associations website. The Association will continue to make donations to further its objectives.

### Connected charity

In the Executive Committee's opinion, the Brownlee Old Town Trust (see Notes to the accounts) is connected to the Association.

Authorised by the Executive Committee on 3 December 2019 and signed on their behalf by



Barbara Logue, Convener

# EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

## RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2019

	2019 Unrestricted £	2019 Restricted £	2019 Total £	2018 Total £
<b>Receipts</b>				
Members' subscriptions	845	-	845	882
Donations (including gift aid)	222	-	222	193
Sales of tickets for events	1,229	-	1,229	1,139
Interest on deposits (gross)	5	-	5	3
<b>Total receipts</b>	<u>2,301</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,301</u>	<u>2,217</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
Cost of events	968	-	968	1,303
Stationery, telephone and postage	710	-	710	610
Website	194	-	194	-
Subscriptions	40	-	40	70
Conference fees	-	-	-	-
Donations	230	-	230	500
Miscellaneous	8	-	8	11
<b>Total payments</b>	<u>2,150</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,150</u>	<u>2,494</u>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the year</b>	<u>151</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>151</u>	<u>(277)</u>

## STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2019

	Balance at start of year £	Receipts during year £	Payments during year £	Balance at end of year £
Fund: General Fund	<u>6,576</u>	<u>2,301</u>	<u>(2,150)</u>	<u>6,727</u>
Represented by: Cheque account	1,348			1,494
Deposit account	<u>5,228</u>			<u>5,233</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>6,576</u>			<u>6,727</u>

The notes on page 5 form an integral part of these accounts.

The Association elects to prepare the simpler form of statements permitted by Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The statements were approved by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 3 December 2019 and signed on their behalf by

*Rosemary Mann*

Rosemary Mann, Treasurer

# EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1 Connected charity

The Brownlee Old Town Trust (Scottish Charity SC023216).

At 1 April 1995 the amount held by the Association in the Brownlee Bequest Fund was transferred to the Trustees of a separate charitable trust, the Brownlee Old Town Trust. At least 50% of the Trustees of the Brownlee Old Town Trust must be members of the Executive Committee of the Edinburgh Old Town Association.

### 2 Nature and purpose of funds

The General Fund is administered at the discretion of the Executive Committee in furtherance of the objectives of the Association.

### 3 Restricted funds

No receipts or payments were restricted.

### 4 Donations

Donations were made during the year under review as follows:

£230 to the City of Edinburgh Council Central Library for the restoration of *Edinburgh and the Surrounding Countryside as seen from Calton Hill (1841)*.

### 5 Trustee remuneration and expenses

2019	2018
£	£

Three committee members were reimbursed expenses (2018: three)

<u>654</u>	<u>793</u>
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No member of the executive committee received remuneration during the year. There were no other transactions with members of the executive committee or connected persons.

### 6 Income received in advance but included in funds at 31 August

2019	2018
£	£

Long-term subscriptions, proportion relating to future years

<u>1,955</u>	<u>2,065</u>
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### 7 Reserves at 31 August

2019	2018
£	£

Balance less advance income and commitments

<u>4772</u>	<u>4,511</u>
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The Association's policy is to keep unrestricted reserves of one year's expenditure.

### 8 Free Reserves at 31 August

2019	2018
£	£

Assuming one year's expenditure is £2,500

<u>2,272</u>	<u>2,011</u>
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# EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2019 which are set out on pages 4 to 5.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Committee and Examiner**

The committee of management are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The committee of management consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's statement**

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended). An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the association and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeks explanations from the committee of management concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Paul Marshall CA  
Geoghegans  
Chartered Accountants  
6 St Colme Street  
Edinburgh, EH3 6AD

Date: 3 December 2019