

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

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 and educational visits and lectures. When funds allow, the Association also gives small donations in support of its objectives.

Review of the Year

The year 2022-23 has been a right royal year: it began with the death of Queen Elizabeth in September 2022, and July 2023 saw the first Edinburgh Royal Week of Charles III's reign. The crowds lining the Royal Mile to view the processions to and from St Giles for the presentation to Charles III of the Honours of Scotland at St Giles were somewhat thinner than those gathering to watch the ceremonies in the week following the late Queen's death.

August 2023 saw the various Festivals getting back to close to pre-pandemic levels with the Old Town taking centre stage. This was the first year with Nicola Benedetti as Director of the International Festival. She put together an interesting and thoughtfully curated programme while managing to fit in some performances herself. It was good to see The Hub being used for some performances and not just as a ticket office and café. The Edinburgh International Book Festival again occupied the College of Art while the finishing touches were put to the Edinburgh Futures Institute, the book festival's future home in the Nightingale blocks of the former Royal Infirmary. The Film Festival used the quad of Old College to show films. And the High Street was once again the focus of The Fringe Festival.

The issue of short-term lets continued to dominate. The City of Edinburgh Council is bringing in a raft of measures to control short-term lets, some of which have had to get pioneering legislation through the Scottish Parliament, and others are facing challenges in the courts. Operators of holiday lets in private houses have to get change of use in order to continue; the Old Town Association objects to these in principle – unless the flat really would not make a reasonable place to live. The deadline for operators to apply for licenses for holiday lets keeps getting moved as the well-organised sector appeals to the courts, much to the frustration of the Council and local amenity groups.

To support the Old Town community, the Association continues to liaise with other amenity and local organisations including the Cockburn Association, the Edinburgh Civic Forum, Edinburgh Old Town Development Trust, Edinburgh World Heritage and the Scottish Civic Trust.

During 2022-23 the Association produced three newsletters, edited by Eric Drake and Rosemary Mann. The Old Town Association Facebook page (www.facebook.com/edinburghota), set up just before the start of the year, was maintained by Fiona Cameron who added stories about the Old Town, past and present. Fiona Cameron also set up an Old Town Association Instagram Page which it is hoped will widen the spread of the OTA presence on social media.

The usual talks and other activities were offered, with talks being hybrid when possible so the audience could attend in person, join the event live on Zoom, or watch the pre-recorded talk on YouTube at a time of their choosing.

- Talk by local historian Clive Waghorn on The Foule Burn.
- Visit to the Centre for Research Collections of the University of Edinburgh.
- Talk by historian Eric Melvin on the visit of King George IV to Scotland in 1822.
- Christmas Party held in The Crannie, Cranston Street.

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Review of the Year (continued)

- Guided tour led by Dr Ted Duvall of objects in the National Museum of Scotland relating to Body Snatchers to Body Scans.
- Talk by art historian Dr Elizabeth Cumming on sculptor Phyllis M Bone RSA.
- Tour of St Giles High Kirk led by Helen McBride.
- Visit to the Zachs Collection, books and ephemera on the Scottish Enlightenment collected and curated by Dr William Zachs.
- A display of some of the treasures of the Central Library, George IV Bridge; this was in conjunction with the Annual General Meeting.
- Guided tour led by Eric Drake of objects in the National Museum of Scotland relating to Edinburgh and the Making of Modern Scotland.
- Visit to Edinburgh Printmakers in their new premises in Fountainbridge.
- Summer Garden Party held in Chessels Court.

Where possible, online talks were uploaded to the OTA YouTube channel.

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 are just interested in the historic heart of Edinburgh. At 31 August 2023, the Association had 186 individual and 4 corporate members, a drop of almost 10% on the previous year.

Executive Committee

The day-to-day administration of the Association is conducted by a voluntary Executive Committee of up to eighteen 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:

Barbara Logue (Convener to 27 March 2023)
Eric Drake (Convener from 27 March 2023, and Newsletter Editor)
Naomi Richardson (Vice-Convener and Events Secretary)
Helen McBride (Minutes Secretary)
Rosemary Mann (Treasurer)
Fiona Cameron
Gillian Fergusson (resigned 10 January 2023)
Laura Harrington
Kate Marshall

During the year under review the Executive Committee held twelve hybrid meetings with members attending in person or remotely using Zoom. The Annual General Meeting was held on 27 March 2023.

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

Financial Review

The results for the year are shown in the statements on pages 4 and 5. The Association made a deficit of £682 (2022: surplus of £2,176).

The deficit includes transfer of £660 to the Brownlee Old Town Trust. This was funds of the Brownlee Trust held by the Old Town Association while the Brownlee Trust was without an operational bank account. After a new bank account for the Trust was opened the £660 was transferred into this new account. Without this transfer, the deficit would have been £22.

The Edinburgh Old Town Association made two donations during the year: £1,000 to the National Library of Scotland for the conservation of historic Edinburgh newspapers, and £200 to the Scottish Historic Building Trust, towards the screening of *A Ballad of a Great Disordered Heart*, part of The Tron lecture series.

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.

Connected charity

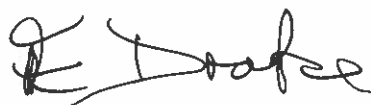
In the Executive Committee's opinion, the Brownlee Old Town Trust is connected to the Association.

Plans for Future Years

The Association will continue to monitor planning applications and respond to consultations. The Association will raise matters of concern with the appropriate authorities, involving local councillors and MSPs where appropriate. The Association will continue to offer its members its regular newsletters, talks, guided walks, visits and social gatherings. Free reserves and surpluses generated will continue to be used to make donations to further the objectives of the Edinburgh Old Town Association.

A challenge for the Association is the ongoing drop in membership, reflecting the drop of population in the Old Town, exacerbated by short-term lets. It is hoped that the Facebook page and promoting the online talks will increase awareness of the Association and lead to new members joining.

Authorised by the Executive Committee on 31 October 2023 and signed on their behalf by



Eric Drake, Convener

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2023

	2023 Unrestricted £	2023 Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Receipts				
Members' subscriptions	932	-	932	1,492
Donations received (including gift aid)	472	-	472	400
Sale of tickets for events	1,564	-	1,564	1,102
Transfer from Brownlee Trust	-	-	-	660
Interest on deposits (gross)	23	-	23	6
	<u>2,991</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,991</u>	<u>3,660</u>
Total receipts				
Payments				
Cost of events	715	-	715	495
Stationery, telephone and postage	807	-	807	789
Website	144	-	144	-
Mailbox and other admin costs	60	-	60	60
Subscriptions	40	-	40	40
Transfer to Brownlee Trust	-	660	660	-
Donations	1,200	-	1,200	-
Miscellaneous	47	-	47	100
	<u>3,013</u>	<u>660</u>	<u>3,673</u>	<u>1,484</u>
Total payments				
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	<u>(22)</u>	<u>(660)</u>	<u>(682)</u>	<u>2,176</u>

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2023

	Balance at start of year £	Receipts during year £	Payments during year £	Balance at end of year £
Fund: General Fund	9,029	2,991	(3,013)	9,007
Fund: Brownlee Old Town Trust	660	-	(660)	-
Total Funds	<u>9,689</u>	<u>2,991</u>	<u>(3,673)</u>	<u>9,007</u>
Represented by: Cheque account	4,439			3,734
Deposit account	5,250			5,273
Total	<u>9,689</u>			<u>9,007</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 31 October 2023 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).

On 1 April 1995 the amount held by the Edinburgh Old Town 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

The Association returned £660 to the Brownlee Old Town Trust, held while a new bank account for the Brownlee Trust was set up.

4 Donations

The following donations were made during the year under review:
National Library of Scotland, newspaper appeal
Scottish Historic Building Trust, towards screen of *A Ballad of a Great Disordered Heart*, part of The Tron lecture series

2023	2022
£	£
1,000	-
200	-
<u>1,200</u>	<u>0</u>

5 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No member of the executive committee received remuneration during the year.
Three committee members were reimbursed expenses (2022: two)
There were no other transactions with members of the executive committee or connected persons.

2023	2022
£	£
900	674
<u>900</u>	<u>674</u>

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

Long-term subscriptions, proportion relating to future years

2023	2022
£	£
2,015	2,042
<u>2,015</u>	<u>2,042</u>

7 Commitments at 31 August

Total commitments

2023	2022
£	£
-	-
<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Reserves at 31 August

Balance less Brownlee Trust funds, advance income and commitments

2023	2022
£	£
6,992	6,987
<u>6,992</u>	<u>6,987</u>

9 Free Reserves at 31 August

The Association's policy is to keep unrestricted reserves of one year's expenditure (£2,000).

2023	2022
£	£
4,992	4,987
<u>4,992</u>	<u>4,987</u>

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2023 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.

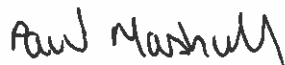
Independent examiner's statement

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: 31 October 2023