

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

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 2018

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 balance between keeping the Old Town as a place to live, work or visit finally reached a tipping point. The crowded and, frankly, unpleasant, streets were wholly given over to visitors during the summer months, making the city centre somewhere that locals did not visit for pleasure.

The balance towards holiday accommodation has certainly passed a critical point. It is universally accepted that short-term lets, particularly for holiday accommodation, have seriously harmed the amenity of the city centre. The Old Town Association gave the residents' perspective at a mini-conference on AirBnB run by the Cockburn Association. There is cross-party agreement within the City Council and at the Scottish Parliament that something must be done. Various measures used by other affected cities such as Paris, Barcelona and Amsterdam are being studied so a combination of controls through planning, licensing and local taxation could bring the erosion of residential use to a halt, and, hopefully, reverse it.

Amenity bodies also continue to fight the increase in the number of hotel rooms. The Association has given a donation of £500 to the Cockburn Association which is representing amenity bodies at the appeal against the refusal of planning permission for the proposals by Duddingston House Properties to turn the former Royal High School into a hotel. The Old Town Association supports the alternative proposal to convert the former school into a new home for the St Mary's Music School.

Other issues that featured in the discussions of the committee included the perennial problem of busking which can make life unendurable in the summer months and the proliferation of A-boards and advertising "sheds" which clutter up our pavements.

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

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 the pleasures of working at the National Library of Scotland entitled *The Joy of Spines* by Graeme Hawley, NLS Modern Collections Manager; , by Sheila Szatkowski, historian and author, on a life of guiding in Edinburgh; Russell Clegg of the Patrick Geddes Centre on the recently acquired portrait of Anna Morton (Mrs Patrick Geddes); Bryden Ritchie, apiarist of the Edinburgh and Midlothian Beekeepers and Apiary Association, on keeping bees;
- visits to the refurbished Riddle's Court hosted by the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust, and to the offices of The Vine Trust on a converted oil barge in Leith Docks (with summer party);

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

Review of the Year (continued)

- guided walks looking at Victorian Edinburgh and Greyfriars Kirkyard led by Robert Howie of Historic Edinburgh Tours; the Art, Design & Fashion Galleries of the National Museum of Scotland led by Rosemary Mann; the art collection at the Scottish Parliament Building;
- and a sociable Christmas Party with a talk by Rosie Ellison of Edinburgh Film on Edinburgh as a location for films and TV dramas held at the Augustine United Church.

Members had opportunities to express their views and raise matters of concern at two members' meetings and the Annual General Meeting held in conjunction with 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 2018, the Association had 205 individual and 9 corporate members, a small rise in numbers on the previous year. It is hoped that putting booking for events on-line will continue to 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 (from 3 April 2018)

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

Financial Review

The results for the year are shown in the statements on pages 4 and 5. After donations, the Association made a deficit of £277. Subscriptions and other income covered the cost of running the Association and producing the newsletter, but the cost of events exceeded the income from tickets, so an adjustment in ticket prices in line with the increase in the cost of holding events is required.

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

Financial Review (continued)

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, and the public at large, its regular newsletter and a range of visits, talks and guided walks. The association will also 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 8 January 2019 and signed on their behalf by



Barbara Logue, Convener

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2018

	2018 Unrestricted £	2018 Restricted £	2018 Total £	2017 Total £
Receipts				
Members' subscriptions	882	-	882	1,059
Donations (including gift aid)	193	-	193	159
Sales of tickets for events	1,139	-	1,139	1,552
Interest on deposits (gross)	3	-	3	12
Total receipts	<u>2,217</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,217</u>	<u>2,782</u>
Payments				
Cost of events	1,303	-	1,303	1,100
Stationery, telephone and postage	610	-	610	577
Website	-	-	-	88
Subscriptions	70	-	70	40
Conference fees	-	-	-	40
Donations	500	-	500	500
Miscellaneous	11	-	11	38
Total payments	<u>2,494</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,494</u>	<u>2,383</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	<u>(277)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(277)</u>	<u>399</u>

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2018

	Balance at start of year £	Receipts during year £	Payments during year £	Balance at end of year £
Fund: General Fund	<u>6,853</u>	<u>2,217</u>	<u>(2,494)</u>	<u>6,576</u>
Represented by: Cheque account	1,628			1,348
Deposit account	<u>5,225</u>			<u>5,228</u>
Total	<u>6,853</u>			<u>6,576</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 8 January 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:

£500 to the Cockburn Association to fight the proposal to convert the former Royal High School into an hotel.

5 Trustee remuneration and expenses

2018	2017
£	£

Three committee members were reimbursed expenses (2017: four committee members)

<u>793</u>	<u>661</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

2018	2017
£	£

Long-term subscriptions, proportion relating to future years

<u>2,065</u>	<u>2,046</u>
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7 Reserves at 31 August

2018	2017
£	£

Balance less advance income and commitments

<u>4,511</u>	<u>4,807</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

2018	2017
£	£

Assuming one year's expenditure is £2,500

<u>2,011</u>	<u>2,407</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 2018 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

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

Date: 8 January 2019