

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

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EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

Edinburgh Old Town Association has objects 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 yet more hotels were built or proposed. The hotels proposed for Kings Stables Road and Victoria Buildings proved particularly contentious and, despite vehement objections from local residents and conservation bodies, including the Old Town Association, both applications were granted. At some point the demand for hotel rooms must be satisfied, perhaps this year will see it reached.

There were planning applications for cash machines, licences for tables and chairs outside restaurants proliferated, signage and street markings denoting the 20-mph zone in the city centre appeared, leading to obstruction of pavements, general clutter, and an ongoing downgrading of the environment. The nadir occurred during December when the High Street was rendered hideous by an over-sized pergola of red, blue and white fairground lightbulbs, grandiosely designated the 'Street of Light', erected with minimal consultation and minimum notice. We are pleased that the 2016 Street of Light will not be in the Old Town, but extend our sympathy to the traders and residents of George Street which will host this pink advertisement.

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 with photographs and page-setting by 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 by Donald Smith on his recent book: *Edinburgh Old Town, Journeys and Evocations*; John Lowrey on the effects of *Fire, Filth and Food* on the development of Edinburgh; Dr Christine Knight on the sociology of the Deep-Fried Mars Bar; Adam Wilkinson on current initiatives of the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust;
- visits to The Botanic Cottage, moved from Leith Walk to the Botanic Gardens, the refurbished and re-presented Surgeon's Hall Museum of Surgery; the Incorporated Trades of Edinburgh in Melville Street; the Magdalen Chapel in the Cowgate;
- guided tours of the buildings of the National Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street; some of the characters buried in the Canongate Kirkyard;
- and a sociable Christmas Party held in the recently extended Scottish Poetry Library.

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. Information about the Association's activities was regularly posted on the Association's website, including the newsletters and brief reports on the committee meetings.

The Association gave a donation of £560 to start the digitisation of the Boog Watson Archive. Charles Brodie Boog Watson, 1858-1947, was an engineer who, following his retirement in 1908 researched many aspects of the city's history and topography. His extensive and meticulous research comprises 14 volumes which he presented to Edinburgh City Libraries. The Archive is being digitised in a joint project between Edinburgh City Libraries and the National Library of Scotland.

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 2016, the Association had 197 individual and 9 corporate members, a slight drop on the previous year.

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)
Robin Tait (retired 01.12.15)
Roma Crampin (Membership Secretary)
Eric Drake (Newsletter Editor)
Laura Harrington
Katie Kerr

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

Financial Review. The results for the year are shown in the statements on pages 3 and 4. After donations, the Association made a small deficit of £163. Ticket sales exceeded the cost of events, and subscriptions and other income covered all other costs, meaning the finances of the Association are in balance and generate an operating surplus that can be used for donations to further the objects of the Association.

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 committee has agreed a distribution of a one-page newsletter to homes in the Old Town to raise its profile and recruit new members. 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.

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 10 January 2017 and signed on their behalf by



Barbara Logue, Convener

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2016

	2016	2016	2016	2015
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Members' subscriptions	917	-	917	969
Donations (including gift aid and Amazon)	143	-	143	215
Sales of tickets for events	1,009	-	1,009	1,164
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	78
Interest on deposits (gross)	<u>21</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>
Total receipts	<u>2,090</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,090</u>	<u>2,447</u>
Payments				
Cost of events	879	-	879	772
Stationery, telephone and postage	489	-	489	555
Printing of membership leaflets	-	-	-	-
Website	-	-	-	60
Subscriptions	40	-	40	-
Legal fees of Brownlee Trust (donation)	232	-	232	-
Conference fees	45	-	45	35
Donations	560	-	560	900
Miscellaneous	<u>8</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>
Total payments	<u>2,253</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,253</u>	<u>2,332</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for year	<u>(163)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(163)</u>	<u>114</u>

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2016

	Balance	Receipts	Payments	Balance
	in fund at	during	during	in fund at
	start of	year	year	end of
	year			year
	£	£	£	£
Fund: General Fund	6,617	2,090	2,253	6,454
Total	<u>6,617</u>	<u>2,090</u>	<u>2,253</u>	<u>6,454</u>
Represented by: Cheque account	1,425			1,241
Deposit account	<u>5,192</u>			<u>5,213</u>
Total	<u>6,617</u>			<u>6,454</u>

The notes on page 4 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 10 January 2017 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:

£560 to the National Library of Scotland, for digitisation of Boog Watson Archive

£232 paid on behalf of the Brownlee Old Town Trust for legal fees.

5 Trustee remuneration and expenses

2016 2015

£ £

Three committee members were reimbursed expenses (2015: three committee members)

609 747

No member of the executive committee received remuneration during the year.

There were no transactions with members of the executive committee or connected persons.

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

2016 2015

£ £

Long-term subscriptions, proportion relating to future years

2,020 2,122

7 Reserves at 31 August

2016 2015

£ £

Balance less advance income and commitments

4,434 4,496

8 Free Reserves at 31 August

2016 2015

£ £

Assuming one year's expenditure is £2,200

Free reserves

2,234 2,296

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2016 which are set out on pages 3 to 4.

Respective responsibilities of the Committee and Examiner

The committee of management are responsible for the preparation of the accounts 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. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the association and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, 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 Regulationshave 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
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Date: 10 January 2017