

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

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

As with the second half of 2019-20, the year 2020-21 was dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. No events in person could be held, but increasing familiarity with online communication platforms, especially Zoom, enabled the Old Town Association to hold an Annual General Meeting and deliver a number of talks, albeit on line and with members reduced to talking heads. The newsletter continued without a break, though its content was also dominated by Covid-19 and its effects on the city centre.

If 2019 was a summer with too many tourists, and 2020 the summer with too few, then perhaps 2021 was a Goldilocks summer with just the right number of visitors. And these visitors were here because they wanted to visit Edinburgh, the city was not just a stop on an organised tour where hapless tourists don't know if it is Thursday or Thurso. The 2021 visitors were predominantly from the UK, debarred from their usual holiday haunts overseas, and with money not spent during the pandemic available to spend in Edinburgh's shops, cafés and those places to visit that were able to reopen, tentatively and with pre-booking, hand sanitiser, Perspex screens and one-way systems in place. It will be interesting to see whether the spend per head by the visitors is greater when they come as individuals, not as groups.

It will also be interesting to see how the various initiatives, introduced by the City Council's Spaces for People programme, including extended pedestrianised areas, widened pavements and cycle paths, are made permanent, modified, or removed. The pandemic has changed the Old Town, in many ways, good and bad, and it will continue to evolve in the years to come. The Old Town Association hopes to be included in the many discussions so as to attempt to direct this evolution for the benefit of residents and the environment.

The Association continued to liaise 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 produced three newsletters, edited by Eric Drake and Rosemary Mann. As compensation for not offering events, the Association switched to printing the newsletter in colour. This was well-received and the change, with concomitant increased costs, was made permanent.

A number of online talks were delivered:

- Christina Sinclair, Director of the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust, gave a talk to the AGM on how she saw her role after one year in post,
- Edward Duvall gave a talk on Henry Dundas, Viscount Melville, and his impact on the abolition of the slave trade,
- Eric Drake gave a presentation, including sound effects, on the fireworks explosion in Chessel's Court of 1867, and
- Russell Clegg and Nico Tyack gave a talk on the Auld Reekie Retold Project.

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It is hoped to resume events in person in 2020-21, including reviving those visits cancelled in the spring of 2020 due to the pandemic.

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 2021, the Association had 186 individual and 5 corporate members, a small, but not unexpected, drop in numbers on the previous year. At the end of the year, the introduction of online talks had generated interest and some new members; we hope this trend will continue.

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)
Naomi Richardson (Vice-Convener and Events Secretary)
Jean Fairbairn (Minutes Secretary)
Rosemary Mann (Treasurer)
Bill Cowan (Planning Secretary) (retired 5 October 2021)
Eric Drake (Newsletter Editor)
Laura Harrington
Kate Marshall
Gavin Macdougall
Helen McBride (from 3 Nov 2020)

During the year under review the Executive Committee met monthly using the online platform Zoom (twelve meetings). The Annual General Meeting was held online in March 2021; the meeting homologated the actions of the 'AGM by correspondence' held in 2020.

Financial Review

The results for the year are shown in the statements on pages 4 and 5. The Association made a deficit of £48 (2020: surplus of £834). No tickets were sold for events, instead members were asked to make a donation to cover the costs of putting on online events (Zoom subscription and gift tokens for speakers). The increase in printing costs due to the newsletter being in colour meant that subscriptions barely met the costs of running the Association (printing, postage, website, subscriptions, etc.). An increase in subscription rates with effect from September 2021 was announced to the membership at the AGM. Subscriptions were last raised in 2013, so an increase was overdue.

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Surpluses generated are used to make donations to further the objectives of the Edinburgh Old Town Association. In the year under review the Association made a donation (agreed in the previous year) of £500 to the National Library of Scotland to cover the cost of restoration of non-photographic items in the Patrick Geddes collection.

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, now in colour. The Association will resume in-person guided walks, visits and social gathering, but, following positive feedback, talks will continue to be delivered online. This will extend the reach of the Association; already members outwith Edinburgh, not just outwith the Old Town, are joining.

Committee meetings will revert to being in person, but the option to hold meetings by remote access will be used in the winter months avoiding the need for committee members to be out after dark or in poor weather. Zoom will continue to feature in the activities of the Old Town Association, but for convenience and through choice, not – we hope! – through compulsion.

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 7 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by



Barbara Logue, Convener

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

| | 2021 Unrestricted £ | 2021 Restricted £ | 2021 Total £ | 2020 Total £ |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Receipts | | | | |
| Members' subscriptions | 1,109 | - | 1,109 | 845 |
| Donations received (including gift aid) | 218 | - | 218 | 151 |
| Donations for online talks | 342 | - | 342 | 1,312 |
| Interest on deposits (gross) | 5 | - | 5 | 5 |
| | <u>1,674</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,674</u> | <u>2,313</u> |
| Total receipts | | | | |
| Payments | | | | |
| Cost of events | 246 | - | 246 | 701 |
| Stationery, telephone and postage | 687 | - | 687 | 709 |
| Website | 97 | - | 97 | - |
| Mailbox and other admin costs | 82 | - | 82 | - |
| Subscriptions | 110 | - | 110 | - |
| Conference fees | - | - | - | 45 |
| Donations | 500 | - | 500 | - |
| Miscellaneous | - | - | - | 24 |
| | <u>1,722</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>1,722</u> | <u>1,479</u> |
| Total payments | | | | |
| Surplus / (Deficit) for the year | <u>(48)</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>(48)</u> | <u>834</u> |

STATEMENT OF BALANCES AT 31 AUGUST 2021

| | Balance at start of year £ | Receipts during year £ | Payments during year £ | Balance at end of year £ |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fund: General Fund | <u>7,561</u> | <u>1,674</u> | <u>(1,722)</u> | <u>7,513</u> |
| Represented by: Cheque account | 2,323 | | | 2,269 |
| Deposit account | <u>5,238</u> | | | <u>5,244</u> |
| Total | <u>7,561</u> | | | <u>7,513</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 7 December 2021 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

A donation, agreed in 2019-20, of £500 was made to the National Library of Scotland for conservation of non-photographic items in the Patrick Geddes Collection

5 Trustee remuneration and expenses

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

One committee member was reimbursed expenses (2020: four)

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

2021 2020

£ £

558 864

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

2021 2020

£ £

Long-term subscriptions, proportion relating to future years

2,118 1,816

7 Commitments at 31 August

2021 2020

£ £

Grant to National Library towards conservation of Geddes Collection

- 500

Cockburn Association, subscription for 2019-20

- 40

Hatterick's House, domain name and website hosting 2019-20

- 57

Total commitments

- 597

8 Reserves at 31 August

2021 2020

£ £

Balance less advance income and commitments

5,395 5,148

9 Free Reserves at 31 August

2021 2020

£ £

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

3,395 2,648

EDINBURGH OLD TOWN ASSOCIATION

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report on the accounts of the Association for the year ended 31 August 2021 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: 7 December 2021