Registered Charity Number
SC015268

Portobello Amenity Society

Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31 March 2026

Portobello Amenity Society

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Portobello Amenity Society

Legal and administrative information

Executive Committee Office Bearers & Trustees	John M. Stewart	Chairman
	Stephen Hawkins	Vice-chairman
	Peter Wraith	Secretary
	Gillian Anderson	Treasurer

All the above were trustees on the date the report was signed.

Panel of active volunteers

Geoff Brocklehurst
Brenda Molony
Doreen Parker
Lesley Reid

Charity number	SC015268
HM Customs & Revenue	Claims reference number : CR.44425
Contact	Chairman 4a Elcho Terrace, Portobello, Edinburgh EH15 2EF
E-mail	johnmacgregorstewart@talktalk.net
Bankers	Bank of Scotland 172 High Street, Musselburgh EH21 7DZ
Independent examiner	Eric Wishart 69 Promenade, Portobello Edinburgh EH15 2DX
Appointment of trustees	Trustees are appointed from the members, and hold office subject to an annual vote of the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Portobello Amenity Society
Report of the Trustees for the year ended 31 March 2026

Introduction
The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 March 2026. The legal and administrative information given on page 1 forms part of this report.

Objectives and Activities of the Charity
The Society was was founded in 1981, having succeeded the Abercorn Amenity Association which had been founded in 1979.

Its main objects are to promote and encourage the following by charitable means:

To stimulate public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of Portobello and its surroundings;
To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of public amenity or historic interest;
To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Portobello;
To pursue these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, conferences and publicity, and the promotion of schemes of a charitable nature.

Membership
Membership shall be open to all who are interested in the aims of the Society. Current subscriptions: £5 per household per annum; pensioners and unwaged £2; associate business members: £5 per annum.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVES POLICY
The Society began the year with general unrestricted reserves of £ 1,759
There were no receipts in the year.
After payments of £375, a balance of general funds of £ 1,384 was carried forward.
As per Chairman's report on page 3, civic works continue actively.
The trustees consider the current level of reserves to be satisfactory.

RISKS TO WHICH THE CHARITY IS EXPOSED
The Trustees consider that due to its small size and its simplicity there is no material risk to which it is exposed. The situation is reviewed at each meeting.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are also responsible for the contents of the trustees' report, and the responsibility of the independent examiner in relation to the trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

This report together with the Chairman's detailed report on achievements for the year on page 3 was approved by the committee of trustees on 30. September 2026.

John M Stewart
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Trustee

Portobello Amenity Society Chairman's Report July 2026

Last year, although PAS meetings have not been held on a regular monthly basis, the committee has met and discussions have taken place, mainly by phone and email, concerning planning applications and other planning matters. PAS has therefore been able to comment on planning applications which have been lodged since the end of March 2025. As the AGM, which is usually held in June, has again not been held this year, a copy of last year's accounts, audited by an independent examiner, and the Chairman's report for 2026 will be emailed out to all PAS members on our email list. The society plans to hold an AGM in 2027.

Since March 2025, we have examined 170 planning applications for the area, objecting to 10, commenting on 4 and writing in support of the application for change of use of 118 Portobello High Street – the former police station – to community use. Several of the applications the society objected to concerned proposals which, in the society's view, would have been detrimental to the character and appearance of the conservation area. Like last year, there was an increased number of proposals seeking permission to create drive-ins in front gardens and to form attic conversions.

PAS submitted a 9-page response to the Council's questionnaire about the City Plan 2040. The questionnaire asked for views about topics such as housing, transport, open space and development within the city and how these could be improved in the future. Among the points the society made were the present lack of affordable housing and the need for banking services in Portobello. We also commented on the need to safeguard a site for a station in Portobello and for a coastal bus service between Portobello and Leith. We commented that care will be needed when planning the development of housing on the Seafield site to be able to withstand the impact of climate change. Finally, we voiced our opinion that the Character Appraisal for the Portobello Conservation Area should carry far greater weight than it does at present when new planning applications for the area are being determined.

Last year I mentioned that the society would be buying £250 of shares to support Bellfield's Big Build. This we have done as you will see from this year's accounts.

The Council has finally agreed to reinstate the municipal clock on the Baptist Church building although it is not yet known when this will be carried out. At present, the Council and the Baptist Church are in the process of agreeing a legal document concerning the maintenance of the clock, which is owned by the Council, the church owning the building.

The committee has reviewed the PAS constitution and slight amendments will be put forward for approval at the next AGM.

The society continues to support Portobello Heritage Trust in their efforts to get the Council to complete the rebuilding of the 1906 kiln, which was held up due to the Covid pandemic.

A PAS committee member takes part in regular meetings with other Cockburn Association volunteers and staff while the society is also represented at meetings of the Edinburgh Civic Forum, an umbrella group of amenity societies and residents' groups throughout Edinburgh.

We continue to liaise with the Council about unauthorised works that have been carried out in Portobello such as unauthorised alterations to shop fronts and illuminated shop signage.

The committee would welcome new people to help us with the work the society carries out. If you would like to become involved in any of the work that we do, please email admin@pasportobello.co.uk

Portobello Amenity Society
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
RECEIPTS	**£**	£
Donations - personal	-	-
Donations - business	-	-
Subscriptions - personal	-	-
Subscriptions - businesses and associations	-	-
Gift aid tax repayment	-	-
Total receipts	-	-
PAYMENTS	**£**	**£**
Charitable activities		
Bellfield Big Build share purchase 9.4.2025	**250.00**	
Secretarial costs	**10.44**	**33.71**
Web-site maintenance costs	**50.00**	**50.00**
Domain name renewal	**14.40**	
Subscription: Cockburn Association	**40.00**	**40.00**
Subscription: Portobello Heritage Trust	**10.00**	**10.00**
	374.84	133.71
Governance costs		
Examination - honorary	-	-
Total payments	**374.84**	133.71
Surplus/(deficit) for year	**(374.84)**	(133.71)
Unrestricted Funds		
Balance of General Fund brought forward	**1,758.86**	1,892.57
Balance of General Fund carried forward	**1,384.02**	1,758.86

STATEMENT OF BALANCES	**£**	**£**
Bank of Scotland Treasurer's account	**1,378.16**	1,753.00
Cash in hand	**5.86**	5.86
Total funds	**1,384.02**	1,758.86

The Society had no other material assets nor liabilities.
This financial statement was prepared by the Society's Trustees at a special committee meeting on . . . . . September 2026 and approved. After independent examination, it has been circulated electronically to the two-thirds of our 112 members who are on email.

John M. Stewart
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Trustee, chairman

P. K. Wraith
.....
Trustee, secretary

Portobello Amenity Society

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
For the year ended 31 March 2026

1. **Basis on which accounts have been prepared**
With effect from 1 April 2006 the accounts have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

The charity is dependent on the continuing support of its subscribing member donors, both individual and business, from the surrounding Portobello community.

2. **Taxation**
As a registered charity, the society is exempt from income and corporation tax to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the society and is therefore included in any relevant costs.
If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having objects similar to those of the charity.

3. **Remuneration of Trustees**
The executive committee, who are trustees, receive neither remuneration nor round-sum general expense allowances.

4. **Endowment Funds**
The charity had no endowment funds in the year ended 31 March 2026 nor in the year ended 31 March 2025.

5. **Bellfield Big Build Community share purchase on 9th April 2025 : £250.**

This payment was made to Portobello neighbourhood charity Action Porty, registered number SC047358.
On page 19 of its audited Annual Report for the year to 31 March 2025 extensive Note 15 on "Share capital" outlines in some detail the purpose of these Contributor shares. They are not negotiable in the ordinary sense, and it has been deemed prudent not to capitalise them in the Statement of Balances of Portobello Amenity Society.
At time of approval of the PAS annual report for the year to 31 March 2026 no actual certificate has been emailed to PAS, although the receipt for £250 purchase indicated that it would be emailed separately..
A letter of concern is being written to the secretary of Action Porty.

Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of the Portobello Amenity Society

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026 which are set out on page 4.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees 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.
The charity trustees 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees 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 opinion on the view given in 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.

Eric Wishart
69 Promenade
Edinburgh
EH15 2DX

Eric Wishart

Date 30th September 2026