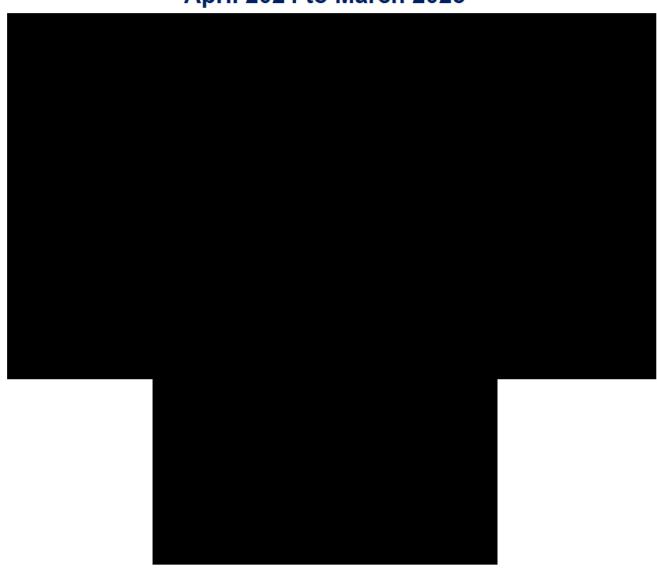


# PORTOBELLO OLDER PEOPLE'S PROJECT SCIO (POPP) TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

April 2024 to March 2025



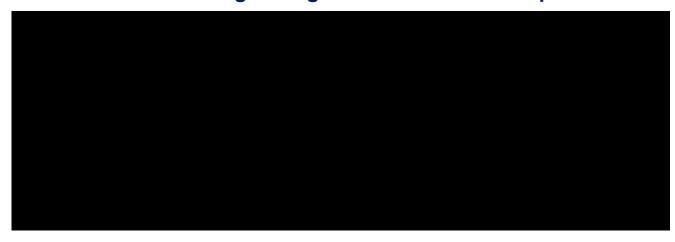
Summer outing 2025





## **Scottish Charity Number: SC048384**

## The trustees serving during 2004/5 and since the period end:



In attendance at Management Committee meetings:



#### **Contact information**

Portobello Older People's Project SCIO (POPP)

E-mail: project.popp@outlook.com

Registered/postal address: 38 Brighton Place, Edinburgh EH15 1LT

Location address: Baptist Church Hall, 185 Portobello High Street, Edinburgh, EH15 1EU.

## **Chair's Report**

The last year was an eventful and challenging one.

The decision by the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB) to stop our funding came as a profound shock and required determined efforts by the trustees to protect POPP's future. Support from a local anonymous benefactor helped considerably, and the trustees wish to record their gratitude for this exceptional generosity. More information is contained in the Financial Review on page 6.

generosity. Wore information is contained in the Financial Review on page 6.
In January 2025 POPP's Project Organiser,, informed the trustees of her intention to retire in June, after ten years at the helm has made an exceptional contribution to POPP and will be much missed. However, the trustees were pleased to appoint in May 2025 will be a worthy successor, bringing experience of working with older people as well as being active locally in various community organisations.
There were other hellos and goodbyes in 2024/5. In June 2024 stood down as Chair of Trustees, though she continues as a trustee, and was replaced by
At the AGM in October 2024, we said goodbye to two long-serving trustees - the , who had been Chair of Trustees for some years, and   Both made significant contributions to POPP, and we were very sorry to see them go. However, we were fortunate to welcome two new trustees — a retired solicitor, and previously in corporate finance, who joined us in September 2024. They have brought valuable experience and insight to the Management Committee. The trustees were also pleased that , one of POPP's volunteers, agreed to join the Management Committee in September 2024 as the volunteer representative.
There is no denying that 2024/5 was a challenging one for everyone associated with POPP. We could not have got through it without the energy and commitment of and her team of dedicated volunteers. Hopefully we have turned the corner, and, with further strenuous fundraising efforts, we will continue to provide the services we know our members appreciate and which are sorely needed in our community.
- Chair (Chair (

#### Objectives and activities

POPP runs a lunch and social club for lonely, isolated older people in the Portobello area, offering them the chance to get out of their homes, share a meal and participate in social activities, such as games, discussions, entertainments and outings.

Growing evidence internationally shows that isolation and loneliness can negatively affect physical and mental health. By tackling these, POPP aims to contribute towards maintaining people's health and well-being and helping to reduce or delay their need for crisis intervention by statutory services.

POPP's aims remain as relevant today as they were when it was founded in 1992 - possibly more so, as families often live long distances apart. Also, older people are among the groups which have suffered most from the lingering effects of the COVID pandemic, with increasing lack of confidence and fear of socialising.

A subsidiary benefit is the support we provide to families and carers, by giving them time away from their caring responsibilities, in the knowledge their relatives are safe and enjoying themselves.

The club provides my mum with stimulation, the chance to talk to people her own age and means she's got new things to chat to us about. It feels safe for her, and we trust that she is being looked after when she's at POPP.

#### Structure, governance and management

POPP was registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in May 2018.

It is governed by its constitution, available on request, and is led by a Management Committee. In 2024/5 the Committee comprised five trustees, including the Chair and Treasurer, drawn from the local community. POPP's constitution provides for volunteers and members to have non-voting representation on the Management Committee, with the volunteer representative position filled in 2024/5.

Day-to-day management is provided by the Project Organiser, supported by up to 20 volunteers.

## Measuring our success

We conduct a confidential annual survey of members, their families/carers and volunteers and use these to assess the quality of our services. Some examples from the 2025 survey are set out below.

Coming to the club keeps my brain active. They are a nice friendly bunch of people.

It anchors my week helps me keep track of what day it is.

I got depressed on my own. The club gives me something to look forward to.

#### What have we been up to this year

For the reasons already stated, it has been a year of ups and downs. One highlight was the summer outing to the Double Tree Hilton in North Queensferry, passing over the Queensferry Crossing and viewing the impressive sight of the three Forth bridges. We had a lovely meal, all the better for being subsidised by some generous donations.

Merry Hatton Garden Centre is back as a firm favourite, with the new manager, welcoming us a couple of times for lunch and some shopping.

We had to set aside our 'no football colours on the bus' for a day when we picked up A Hibernian football supporter – a "Hibbie" - since childhood and regularly attending games with her dad, she came in full supporter kit, having enjoyed a special outing to the hospitality suite to watch a game. She was so excited to tell us about it, saying 'I'm so lucky to still be doing new and exciting things when I'm 96'.



Bonnie, Patricia's Pets as Therapy dog, continued to be a regular visitor, always leaving smiling members and volunteers in her wake. We had the usual mix of games days, reminiscences sessions, quizzes, bus runs, and outings, as well as birthday and other special celebrations like Halloween and Christmas.

In September POPP took part with Age Scotland in Portobello High School's Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI). Set up by the Wood Foundation, it gives students the experience of advocating for social issues in their communities, in a bid to secure their school's £3,000 grant. Representing POPP, Rose and Patricia joined other Portobello charities in making "pitches" to students for the funds. Though we were pipped at the post, it was a valuable opportunity to bring POPP's work to the attention of local young people.

Sadly, we said farewell to our longest standing member, \_\_\_\_\_, who passed away in February. She was a huge part of the POPP family and is sadly missed by all. A few of us had the privilege of attending her funeral which can only be described as a celebration of an interesting life, well lived. RIP \_\_\_\_\_ we miss you.

There is no doubt that the news about the financial situation put a damper on the year from October onwards, and the possibility of the club closing caused considerable worry to members and their families. However, the support we received from the local community, which rallied to our cause, was inspiring, including the many generous donations amounting to £1,235 (plus gift aid) we received to our Christmas appeal. POPP was the subject of a supportive article in the Edinburgh Reporter, following a visit by the editor to the club. Read the article at POPP in the Edinburgh Reporter

Although our financial situation remains vulnerable, the trustees, Project Organiser and volunteers are working hard to ensure that members can continue to enjoy the activities offered by the club.

#### **Financial review**

## Accounts for year to 31 March 2025

	Total	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
	2024/25			2023/24
Income				
Cof E Grant	£14,621		£14,621	£16,244
Charity Grants	£3,000		£3,000	£3,000
Donations	£6,252	£4,594	£1,658	£3,720
Fundraising	£0			£0
Members' subscriptions	£6,340	£6,340		£6,821
Outing Payments	£1,342		£1,342	£221
Misc	£0	£0		£6
Total	£31,555	£10,934	£20,621	£30,012
Expenditure				
Salary costs	£14,875		£14,875	£13,053
Transport	£5,508	£3,808	£1,700	£3,547
Hall Hire	£5,170	£4,163	£1,007	£5,060
CofE Lunches	£2,789	£2,789		£2,237
Outings/lunches/events	£2,252		£2,252	£1,656
Telephone	£657	£657		£618
Insurance	£275	£275		£234
Purchases	£633	£193	£440	£1,096
Training	£144	£144		£171
Misc	£240	£240		£685
Total	£32,543	£12,269	£20,274	£28,357
Bank at 1 April 2024	£7,589	£6,435	£1,154	£5,934
Surplus/(deficit)	-£988	-£1,335	£347	£1,655
Bank at 31 March 2025	£6,601	£5,101	£1,500	£7,589

The deficit in the year effectively reflects a 10% reduction in EIJB funding. Although this is offset to an extent by increased Donations, additional Salary and Transport costs in the year have reduced unrestricted reserves.

## Charity grants, donations, and fundraising

Name/Organisation	£	Unrestricted	Restricted
Charity Grants			
Garfield Weston Foundation	£3,000		£3,000
Total Charity Grants	£3,000		£3,000
Donations			
Donations	£5,402	£3,744	£1,658
Gift Aid	£850	£850	
Total Donations	£6,252	£4,594	£1,658

The trustees were grateful to receive a Grant of £3,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation in September 2024.

Late in the year, after sustaining a 10% cut in public funding, we learned that POPP was unlikely to continue to receive funding from the EIJB, our main funder since 2019. We were not alone in having our funding threatened – 64 charitable organisations across Edinburgh were similarly affected. Joining forces, and supported by members' families, our local political representatives and religious/community leaders, we campaigned hard for funding to continue. Unfortunately, we lost the battle but were successful in getting short-term funding from the City of Edinburgh Council's Resilience Fund to help tide us over until the end of the 2025/6 financial year.

POPP's financial future was greatly helped by the underwriting of a potential loss of income from public bodies – up to £15,000 annually for up to five years - from a local anonymous benefactor, an act of exceptional generosity for which the trustees are enormously grateful.

The trustees are also grateful to other organisations and individuals who have generously donated sums to support our continued activity.

#### **Policy on reserves**

POPP's policy on reserves is to maintain sufficient funds to run the club for four months. As of 31 March 2025, reserves of £6,601 represent less than 3 months operational costs, although reserves fluctuate over the year depending upon the timing of income receipts.

In light of the uncertain funding environment, the trustees are closely monitoring POPP's solvency. In the current year they are confident that there remain sufficient reserves to maintain day to day operations and to meet liabilities as they become due. The trustees are actively seeking alternative sources of funds and identifying fundraising activities to secure POPP's future activities.

Copies of the full accounts are available on request by contacting Jennifer Elliot on:

project.popp@outlook.com

## A message from our Project Organiser

My last message is bittersweet. As has already been said, it has been a challenging and difficult year for everyone at POPP and the financial future remains uncertain. However, as usual everyone involved has pulled together and has continued to make the club the best it can be for the members.

None of what I do would be possible without the hard work of the volunteers and trustees who all give their time, energy and expertise for the benefit of the members. This is not only much appreciated by me but by all the members and their families. I know I say it every year, but I really couldn't do it without you all. So as usual:

## A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL

It is also bittersweet because I'm retiring and will no longer have the privilege of being the Project Organiser. It's been an amazing 10 years, being able to do a job I have loved, and not only that, being loved for it too. However, I'm confident I'm leaving the members in good hands, in the form of the new Project Organiser, an amazing team of volunteers and a fantastic team of trustees, led by Patricia as Chair. I'll miss you all but won't be a stranger.



All aboard - destination POPP



	Recei	pts and	payme	nts	acco	unts	
		Period start da	ite			Period end dat	e
For the period	Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
from	1	April	2024		31	March	2025

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Section A Statement of re	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	4 594	1 658			6 252	3 720
Legacies					-	
Grants		17 621			17 621	19 244
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts -subs	6 340				6 340	6 821
Outing payments		1 342			1 342	221
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
IKEA refund					-	
Bank Interest					-	
					_	
A1 Sub total	10 934	20 621	-	-	31 555	30 012
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	
Total receipts	10 934	20 621	-	-	31 555	30 012
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	12 269	20 274			32 543	28 357
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	

OSCR Scottish Charity Regulator

	Receip	ots and	payme	nts	ассо	unts	
		Period start da	te		Period end date		
For the period	Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
from	1	April	2024		31	March	2025

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Section A Statement of receipts and payments												
	Unrestricted funds			Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period						
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £						
Preparation of annual accounts					-							
Legal costs					-							
Other					-							
A3 Sub total	12 269	20 274	-	_	32 543	28 357						
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements  Purchases of fixed assets					-							
Purchase of investments					_							
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-						
Total payments	12 269	20 274	-	-	32 543	28 357						
Net receipts / (payments)	(1 335)	347	-	-	(988)	1 655						
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-							
Surplus / (deficit) for year												

	Torrobono Gradi i copie di	rojout d'aire					40 004
Section B Statemen		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment	Permanent endowment	Total current period	Total last period
Categories	Details		to mooned C	funds	funds	-	40 magnest C
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(1 335)	347			(988)	1 655
	paymone decoding					-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	5 100	1 501	-	-	6 601	7 589
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Details			Fund to which	asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments							
					Total	-	-
	Details		Fund to which	asset belongs	Cost (if available)	Current value (if available)	Last year
R2 Other seets					to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
B3 Other assets	Chairs & Tables				1 128	60	656 300
	Club & Office Equipment				200	50	200
	Samsung Galaxy tablet				200	30	200
			<u></u>	Total	1 328	330	1 156
	Details			Fund to which	liability relates	Amount due	Last year
B4 Liabilities						to nearest £	to nearest £
D4 Liabilities							
					Total	-	-
	Details			Fund to which	liability relates	Amount due (estimate)	Last year
B5 Contingent liabilities						to nearest £	to nearest £
20 Contingent nating							
					Total	-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature*			Print Name			Date of
	-						approval
							05/06/2025
							03/00/2023
							05/06/2025

Section C Notes to the	Accounts				
C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)					
C2 Grants	Type of activity or project s	supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
				Total	-
C3a Trustee remuneration	If no remuneration was paid during t a trustee cross this box (otherwise co	the period to any characteristics on the period to any characteristics and the period to any characteristics of the period to any characteristics.	arity trustee or pers	son connected to	
C3b Trustee remuneration - details	Auth	ority under which p	paid		£
		" to the decimal and	. 10	42.1	
C4a Trustee expenses	If no expenses were paid to any cha (otherwise complete section 4b)	rity trustee during tr	ne period then cros	Number of	£
C4b Trustee expenses - details				trustees	
	Nature of relationship	Nature of to	ransaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)
C5 Transactions with trustees and connected					
persons					
C6 Other information					

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# Additional analysis (1)

#### Analysis of receipts and payments

#### 1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
Donations	3 744	1 658			5 402	3 720
Gift Aid	850				850	-
					-	
Total	4 594	1 658	-	-	6 252	3 720

2 Grants	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total curre period to nearest	period
Edinburgh Integration Joint Board		14 621	14 6	16 244
The Weir Charitable Trust				- 3 000
Garfield Weston		3 000	3 0	00
				-
Total	-	17 621	17 6	19 244

Additional notes (1) December 2007

-

## 3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

## 4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period	Total last period to nearest £
Salary		13 706			13 706	12 042
HMRC NI		197			197	170
HMRC Tax		523			523	482
NEST Pension		449			449	359
Transport	3 808	1 700			5 508	3 547
Hall Hire	4 163	1 007			5 170	5 060
Catering	2 789				2 789	2 237
Outings/Events		2 252			2 252	1 656

Additional notes (1) December 2007

#### APPENDIX 2

Telephone	657				657	618
Insurance	275				275	234
Petty Cash					-	
General Purchases	193	440			633	1 096
Training	144				144	171
LCTS driver training/assessment					-	
Medical for Driving					-	
LCTS & SEAG Annual Fee					-	29
Misc	240				240	656
					-	
					_	
					-	
Total	12 269	20 274	-	-	32 543	28 357

Additional notes (1) December 2007

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#### Additional analysis (2) 5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds Unrestricted Unrestricted Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund fund 2 - enter name of fund fund 3 - enter name of fund fund 4 - enter name of fund Total Total unrestricted unrestricted funds funds last period Receipts Donations Legacies Grants Receipts from fundraising activities Gross trading receipts buildings Rents from land & buildings Gross receipts from other charitable activities Sub total Receipts from asset & investment sales Proceeds from sale of fixed assets Proceeds from sale of investments Sub total Total receipts Payments Expenses for fundraising activities Gross trading payments Investment management costs Payments relating directly to charitable activities Grants and donations Governance costs: Audit / independent examination Preparation of annual accounts Legal costs Sub total Payments relating to asset and investment movements Purchases of fixed assets Purchase of investments Sub total Total payments Net receipts / (payments) Transfers to / (from) funds Surplus / (deficit) for year Nature and purpose of funds

Additional notes (2) December 2007

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Additional analysis (3)						
6 Breakdown of restricted funds						
	Restricted fund	Restricted fund	Restricted fund	Restricted fund		
	1 - enter name of fund below	2 - enter name of fund below	3 - enter name of fund below	4 - enter name of fund below		
					Total restricted funds	Total restricted funds last
						period
Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts Income from investments other than land and					-	
buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
					cross ref error	
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	_
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	_	-	-
					cross ref error	
					Closs let ellot	
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities						
Gross trading payments						
Investment management costs					_	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Downsets relation to coost and investment					cross ref error	-
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net receipts / (payments)				_	cross ref error	_
receipts / (payments)						
Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year				-		-
curplus / (deficity for year					cross ref error	_
Nature and purpose of funds						
The state of the s						

Additional notes (3) December 2007

#### **APPENDIX 3**



	Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2									
Report to the trustees/members of	Portobello Older People's Project SCIO									
Registered charity number	SC048384									
On the accounts of the	Period start date Period end date									
charity for the period	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year			
				to						
	01	April	2024		31	March	2025			
Set out on pages	1 to 7 (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)									
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	with the te Charities A consider the does not a	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.									
Independent examiner's statement	<ol> <li>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]</li> <li>which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:</li> <li>to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and</li> <li>to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations</li> </ol>									
	2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.									
Signed:					Date:	8 August 2025				
Name:										
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):										
Address:										

<sup>\*</sup>Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.