



Dundee Civic Trust
'Encouraging the Best'



Trustees' Annual Report 2017-2018

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report, together with the financial statements and the independent examiner's report, for the year ending 31 January 2018.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name:

Dundee Civic Trust (SCIO)

Charity number:

SC001399

Address (Treasurer):

Brian Smith, 9 South Tay Street, Dundee, DD1 1NU

Current trustees:

Barbara Illsley	(Chairman)
Brian Smith	(Treasurer)
Neale Elder	(Secretary)
Jean Braithwaite	
Stephen Connelly	
Nick Day	
Donald Gordon	
Glenys Marra	
Dorothy Nicoll	
Jack Searle	
Roderick Stewart	

Our structure, governance and management

Dundee Civic Trust was founded on 6 February 1973. As in other towns and cities, the creation of a civic society was a citizens' response to the rapid (and not always favourable) changes then taking place in the urban environment.

Having previously assumed charitable status, the Trust was converted to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in January 2014.

Our governing document as a SCIO, the constitution, was formally approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting of 20 March 2014.

The board of charity trustees forms the executive committee, which meets ten times per year. The trustees are responsible for the strategic direction, governance and management of the Trust. We have no paid staff and all work to further the Trust's aims is undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Service on the board is open to any member of the Trust who is legally permitted to act as a charity trustee. The board must contain a minimum of seven and a maximum of eleven trustees, who are normally elected or appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March. The board may, however, appoint a member to serve as a trustee at any time should a vacancy exist.

Our aims

The charitable purposes of Dundee Civic Trust are:

- **to preserve and promote the natural, historic, artistic, cultural and social amenities and features of the City of Dundee and its neighbourhood in order to interest, educate and inspire civic pride in the local community;** and, in furtherance of this:
- **to encourage the maintenance of high standards of architecture and town planning in the City of Dundee and its neighbourhood in order to ensure the protection or improvement of the local environment.**

Our activities and achievements in 2017-2018

Annual outing

For our annual outing, on 16 May, the Trust made one of its occasional journeys outside Dundee. Over thirty members and guests attended a highly enjoyable and informative tour of Hospitalfield House in Arbroath, which was developed as a school of art by Patrick Allan-Fraser in the 19th century and prospers today as an arts and conference centre. The visit included lunch and a look inside the fascinating Mortuary Chapel at the nearby Western Cemetery.

Awards

As a result of the slowdown in local developments, Dundee Civic Trust had not organised an awards programme since 2014. We made up for this in 2017, with the High Mill at Verdant Works emerging as a highly deserving winner. Our awards jury also agreed upon no fewer than six commendations, one of which—the Leaf Room at Ninewells Community Garden—has been nominated by us for a Scottish Civic Trust My Place Award in 2018.

The award and commendation certificates were presented on 21 September at a civic reception in the City Chambers, hosted by the Lord Provost. With good coverage in the local press, the awards programme once again helped to promote the Trust's aims to a wider public.

'City Scene'

Our annual journal, *City Scene*, was published in October 2017. The theme was 'Dundee at Play', including diverse articles about leisure and recreation in the city. This was the third issue produced with the help of Ian Milne at Limehouse Design, who has assisted us greatly in creating a high-quality colour periodical of which the Trust can be rightly proud.

Evening events programme

Our established programme of Thursday evening talks, normally held at the Dundee Art Society gallery in Roseangle, remained popular. The diverse subject matter was:

- 16 February 2017 (joint meeting with Friends of Dundee Heritage Trust at Discovery Point) - *A history of Dundee's harbours, from St Clement to 'Magellan'* [Iain Flett, former City Archivist];
- 16 March 2017 (talk following our AGM) - *V&A Dundee – Scotland's first design museum* [Peter Nurick, V&A Dundee Communities Producer];
- 19 October 2017 – *The Leaf Room, Ninewells Community Garden* [Jonathan Reeve of the Voigt Partnership];
- 16 November 2017 – *The Tay Bridge Disaster* [Professor David Swinfen];
- 18 January 2018 – *The Scottish Blenheim?* [a talk about Camperdown House and other works by William Burn, given by Simon Green of Historic Environment Scotland].

During the year the Trust purchased a new digital projector to be used by our speakers. This is considered a great improvement on the previous item.

Attendance at an interesting, informative and often entertaining talk is always followed by the opportunity for Trust members and guests to mix and socialise. We are delighted to note that some of the latter have decided to join us.

Newsflash

Our members' e-bulletin, the Newsflash, was produced four times and reached issue number 32 in November 2017. This is a valuable way of communicating the Trust's views on local developments, as well as providing opinion and analysis which may not always appear in the local media.

Planning monitoring

Our planning sub-committee was active throughout the year. We have kept in regular contact with Dundee City Council concerning planning issues, particularly the development of the Central Waterfront. While enthused by what is undoubtedly the single most important element of city development, we have expressed our concerns about certain details, such as apparent deficiencies in proposed coach parking arrangements.

The Trust lodged a solitary objection against the design proposals for Site 6 (west of Slessor Gardens and opposite the V&A): a development which has belatedly become a burning local controversy, although not for the same reasons.

Towards the end of 2017 we had a useful meeting with the management of the Apex City Quay Hotel, at which our concerns about the condition of the Custom House were aired. We are reassured that the building is in no immediate danger, but would welcome improvements to its appearance.

The Trust took the opportunity to comment on the proposed Local Development Plan. Amongst other issues, we remain concerned about low retail occupancy levels in the city centre and potential housing over-development to the north-east of the city.

Website

We have continued to maintain the website as the Trust's online presence. The events diary, contact information, information on the Trust's actions and other material are updated as necessary.

Impact

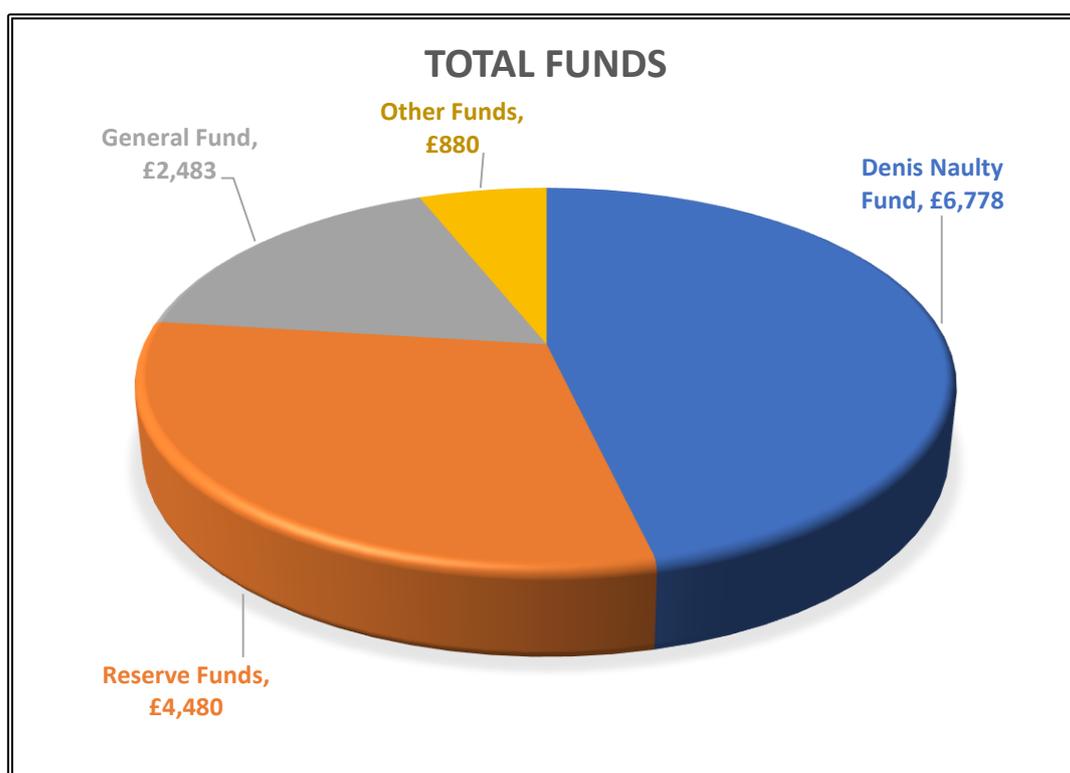
Through its interaction with the local authority and promotion of its values by means of the awards programme, members' events and publications, Dundee Civic Trust has been an active element of civic life in the city throughout 2017-2018. The trustees are developing ways of further raising the Trust's profile in the coming year (see [Looking ahead](#) below).

Financial review of 2017-2018

At 31 January 2018, our total funds amounted to £14,621 (down £640 on 2016-2017). This figure represents the balances of our Bank of Scotland and Scottish Widows accounts, along with equipment valued at £837.

The series of funds comprises some which were established for specific purposes; some acting as financial reserves; and a general fund to cover most of the Trust's transactions.

Reserves constituted by the Lifetime Membership and Foundation Membership funds are considered sufficient to cover any unforeseeable expenditure.



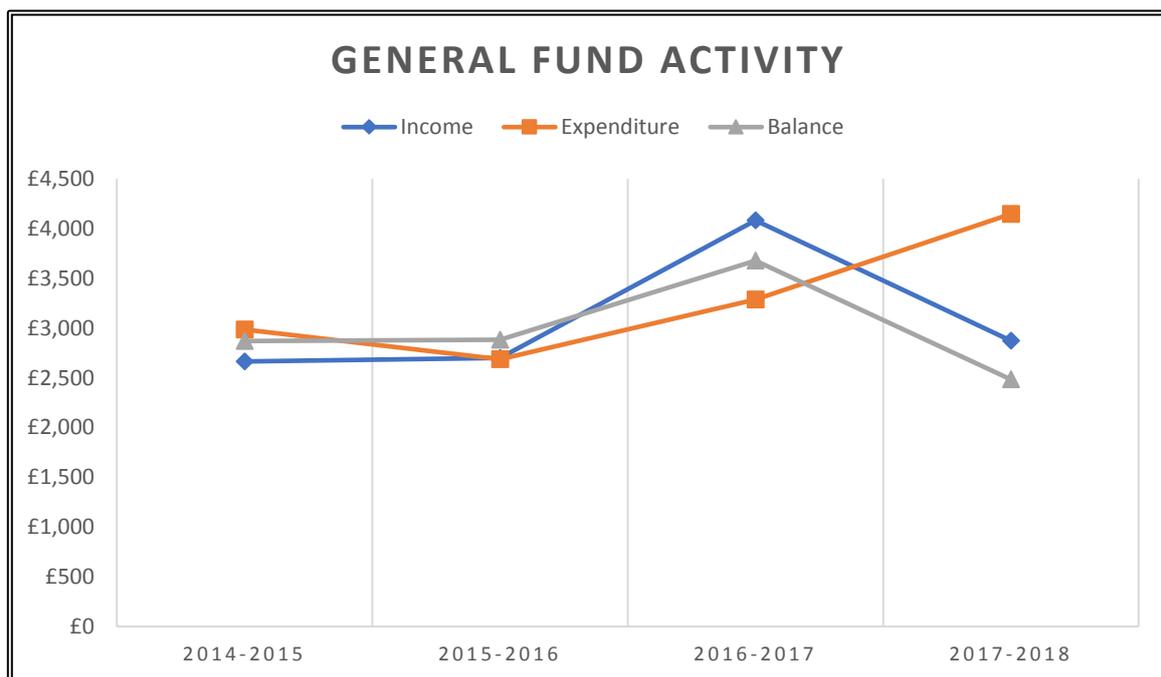
The total deficit on the accounts for 2017-2018 stands at £640, compared with a surplus of £1,526 in 2016-2017. Most of this is accounted for through activity on the General Fund. There was an increased outlay on production of *City Scene* (up by £533 on 2016-2017), which is by far the Trust's single biggest item of expenditure.

Income from sales of the Trust's 2012 publication *The Big Picture*, about Dundee cinemas, stood at £314 (down from £490 in 2016-2017). With only some twenty copies of the book remaining to be sold, it is expected that this revenue stream (allocated to the Denis Naulty fund) will end during 2018-2019, or soon thereafter. The board remains grateful to Jack Searle and Craig Muir, the authors, for their efforts.

The individual membership fee was increased by £1 to £15 by approval of the 2017 AGM. Annual income from subscriptions rose by £98 to £2,068. The Trust's membership figure for January 2018 stood at 220, of whom 55 were life members.

The abandonment of plans to install the smaller ceiling from Carbet Castle in the new drama department at Dundee High School was calculated in 2017 to incur a potential cost of £3,000; although neither DHS nor the architects, Page\Park, has made an intimation of any liability for these design fees.

Given the good state of the Trust's finances, this year's deficit is not considered to be a critical matter. The board is committed to regular monitoring of income and expenditure, with a view to making any necessary adjustments should these be required in future.



Sponsorship

We remain grateful to the various local businesses and other organisations who lend their sponsorship to the Trust's web pages, journal and Newsflash.

Services donated

The board once again wishes to express its gratitude to Bird Simpson & Co, for independently examining the annual accounts free of charge, and to Ian Milne of Limehouse Design for his invaluable assistance in producing *City Scene*.

Looking ahead

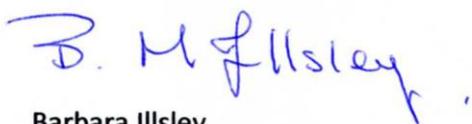
With the opening of the V&A museum, 2018 stands to be a highly important and exciting year in the story of Dundee. The board of trustees will continue to advance the aims of Dundee Civic Trust by encouraging participation in our programme of events.

The 2018 edition of *City Scene* is already in preparation. Our members will continue to be kept informed through our regular Newsflash.

The board has taken the step of establishing a social media presence through Facebook, which it is hoped will further raise the profile of Dundee Civic Trust and encourage more members.

We will continue to monitor the standard of new developments in the city and recognise those which are worthy of award or commendation so that we may live up to our stated aim: **'encouraging the best'**.

This report was approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Barbara Illsley
Chairman
14 March 2018

Appendices to Trustees' Annual Report 2017-2018

- Treasurer's report to be presented at Annual General Meeting of 29 March 2018
- Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2018, including Statement of Financial Activities
- Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 January 2018