



PORTOBELLO OLDER PEOPLES PROJECT (POPP) SCIO

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

April 2023 to March 2024



Funded by

Edinburgh Health and
Social Care Partnership



THE WEIR
CHARITABLE TRUST

Charity contact information

Portobello Older Peoples Project SCIO

Scottish Charity Number: SC048384

c/o Lawrence Marshall (Treasurer)

50 (3F1) King's Road

EDINBURGH

EH15 1DX

Nominated Contact:

Rose White - Project Organiser

Tel: 07472646262

E-mail: Rose.white166@outlook.com

Management Team

1. Brenda Molony – Trustee & Interim Chair
2. Lawrence Marshall – Trustee & Treasurer
3. Rev Dr Stewart Weaver – Trustee
4. Agnes Bell – Trustee
5. Patricia Scotland – Trustee (from May 2023)

Administrative support is provided by Rose White, Project Organiser

Chair's remarks: -

The trustees are pleased to record another very successful year for POPP. They know how much 'the club' means to the members and what a difference it makes for them to meet each week to enjoy a chat, a hot meal, various activities and outings. The trustees appreciate the time and thought Project Organiser, Rose White, gives to the running of the club, and how much support she receives from the volunteer helpers and drivers.

In May 2023, the trustees were pleased to welcome Patricia Scotland to the Management Committee as a new trustee and hope to be successful in appointing one or two more before too long.

Brenda Molony, Trustee and Interim Chair

Objectives and activities

The Portobello Older Peoples Project SCIO (POPP) is a lunch and social club for isolated and lonely older people in Portobello. It offers members the chance to come together, enjoy a hot meal and take part in social activities.

POPP runs on a Tuesday and Wednesday and supports 20 older people, ten each day. A varied programme of activities is provided, including quizzes, games, discussions, entertainers, visiting speakers, outings, and bus runs.

As well as promoting the health and well-being of its members, POPP supports members' families, giving them valuable respite from their caring responsibilities, knowing their relatives are enjoying themselves in a safe environment.

There is growing evidence that loneliness and social isolation can lead to serious physical and mental health problems, including increased risk of dementia. POPP is therefore making a small, but valuable, contribution to helping older people remain in their homes for as long as possible and thereby reducing pressure on statutory services.

Structure, governance and management

Constitution

The Constitution sets out the purpose, structure and management processes for the charity. Portobello Older Peoples Project SCIO (charity number SC048384) was registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in May 2018. The charity is known by the acronym “POPP”.

Trustee recruitment and appointments

Appointment of trustees is in accordance with the Constitution. Patricia Scotland was appointed a trustee in May 2023. We are continuing our drive to recruit further trustees.

Funding

The project is supported by the Edinburgh Health & Social Care Partnership (City of Edinburgh Council & NHS Lothian) which provides over half of our funds (54% in 2023/4). We supplement this with income from members' subscriptions (23%), independent charitable grants (10%) and donations (12%). In 2023/4 we registered for Gift Aid which allows us to boost income from donations. Further details are available in the Financial Review section of the report.

What have we been up to this year?

The club ran for 46 weeks of the year, with both groups coming together on 3 occasions. We had the usual mix of games days, reminiscences sessions, quizzes, bus runs, outings etc.

There were a few particularly memorable events, including when we put up the bunting, organised a buffet, got the good china out and put the kettle on to celebrate the King's Coronation. Lucy and Maggi both went for a regal look on that occasion. We also 'Remembered Old Portobello' with our friend Margaret Munro, from the Portobello Heritage Trust. She shared photos and stories, generating a lot of chat and memories and she went away with a few new stories to add to her collection.



On a very wet day in June, we had our summer outing, travelling along the Union Canal on the Lochrin Belle. Despite the weather, we had a lovely day, with a fabulous buffet lunch while travelling slowly along the canal from Edinburgh Quay to Slateford and back again.

We've had lots of fun at Halloween parties and Christmas celebrations, among other things. The former celebrations included our ever-popular annual visit from the children from St John's primary school to sing Christmas carols. We were entertained at our Christmas party by the legendary 'Driving Force' at their exclusive once a year gig. The event was MC'd by the amazing David and his 'cracking' jokes!



A new regular visitor, Bonnie, joined us for the first time at the end of March. It's lovely to see how much the members (and volunteers) enjoy having a wee dog around. There was lots of petting, treats and shared memories of dogs owned in the past. Bonnie (and Patricia) now has an open invitation to pop in when they can.

There have been a few other things going on in the background, including producing an information booklet: 'A guide on how to support our work' which has been distributed widely in the local community. The aim is to share information about what we do and let local people know how they can support us if they wish. All in all, another great year at POPP.



Enjoying a cuppa on the Lochrin Belle with the Tuesday group

Financial review

Accounts Summary for year ending 31 March 2024

Income		Expenditure	
Restricted		Restricted	
Edinburgh Integration Joint Board	£16,244	Salary	£12,042
Charity grants	£3,000	Employer's costs	£1,011
Money collected towards cost of outings	£221	Hall hire	£2,856
Donations	£100	Transport	£2,000
		Outings and events	£1,656
Total restricted	£19,565	Total restricted	£19,565
Unrestricted		Unrestricted	
Members' subscriptions	£6,821	Transport	£1,547
Donations	£3,620	Hall hire	£2,204
Miscellaneous	£6	Catering	£2,237
Fundraising	£0	Telephone/insurance/fees	£881
		Purchases	£1,096
		Training	£171
		Miscellaneous	£656
Total unrestricted	£10,447	Total unrestricted	£8,792
Total	£30,012	Total	£28,357
		Surplus/(deficit) for year	£1,655
		Bank balance on 31 st March 2024	£7,589

Charity Grants, donations, and fundraising:

Charity Grants	
The Weir Charitable Trust	£3,000
Sub total	£3,000
Donations	
Northfield and Willowbrae Community Group	£3,000
Portobello Probus	£200
T McDonald	£20
B and V Molony	£300
A Bell	£100
J Normaschild	£100
Sub total	£3,720
Grand total	£6,720

Notes:

Three outstanding bills from LCTS were notified to us at the beginning of April 2024. These amounted to £655.05 – but will now show as expenditure in the 2024-2025 financial year.

Policy on reserves:

POPP's policy on reserves is to maintain sufficient funds to run the club for at least 4 months. Currently, this equates to £9,452. This years reserves stand at £7,598. The reason reserves are maintained is to have funds available to deal with unforeseen circumstances. We felt it reasonable last year - when we incurred a deficit of £2,791 - to consider the Covid and post Covid period as 'unforeseen circumstances'.

The trustees were grateful to receive a grant of £3,000 from the Weir Charitable Trust and a donation of £3,000 from the winding up of the Northfield and Willowbrae Community Group.

In respect of our grant from the Edinburgh Integration Joint Board (EIJB), a 10% cut was applied in the 2024-2025 financial year. Currently continued funding for the 3rd sector from the EIJB is under review and the trustees are actively monitoring this while exploring alternative sources of funding. The trustees are confident that our reserves are sufficient to maintain POPP's day to day operations and meet liabilities as they become due until the outcome of this review and the potential for obtaining alternative funds are known.

Copies of the full accounts are available on request – please contact Rose White on 07472646262

Here's what some of our members and families told us this year:

It's lovely to have a meal, but the main thing is the company. All the helpers are lovely.'

I felt very down at home all the time. I'm now more content with myself and look forward to club day.

Before the pandemic, my gran was very active in the community. The pandemic took away a bit of her confidence and independence. The club has given her the opportunity to reconnect with people and build a sense of community in a safe and supportive environment.

A message from our Project Organiser:

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of another successful year at POPP. As you can see, we've had our usual mix of activities and a few new ones too. It's a privilege to do what we do, helping people to get out into the community, enjoy a hot meal and come together to enjoy the company of others. My favourite part of every club day is when everyone arrives in the hall, hearing the 'buzz' of chatter as folk take their coats off, sit down, ready for the first cuppa of the day. Nothing beats it when you know that for a lot of members, it's a really important part of their week.

However, none of this would be possible if it wasn't for the most amazing team of volunteers who give their time and energy to support everything we do. They do whatever is needed to ensure a warm welcome, a relaxed atmosphere and everything runs smoothly. This includes setting up the hall, making tea, serving food, driving the bus, chatting and providing a supportive arm.

Another team who work tirelessly behind the scenes is the Management Committee. Without their hard work we couldn't do what we do. They oversee the finances and management of the club, supporting me to ensure everything we do at the club is to a high standard.

So, to the volunteers and the management committee, I say:

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU TO YOU ALL

Rose White