

# The Scottish Civic Trust

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CELEBRATE • TAKE ACTION • ADVOCATE

SCOTTISH



CIVIC  
TRUST

## Annual Report 2020-21



# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

## A year of change

As I write, I have been Chair of the Scottish Civic Trust for ten months. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I have yet to meet my fellow Trustees or staff team in person or host a meeting in our headquarters. Our ability to keep going with the day-to-day business is down to the efforts of our Director, Dr Susan O'Connor and our staff. A package of Covid financial aid from Glasgow City Council meant that, in turn, we were able to support our tenants. Like most other organisations, we changed the way we work and how we engaged with others; by and large, this was a positive experience, and our future is likely to lie with a blend of in-person and digital offerings.

In December 2020, we hosted our annual conference. This year's theme was *Race and Heritage in Scotland*; relevant in the time of Black Lives Matter and the growing realisation of Scotland's role in slavery (recordings of each talk and a Scottish heritage anti-racism reading list are available on our website).

Our Diverse Heritage programme is an area which we will continue to focus on, and in 2021/22, we will aim to update

the interpretation of our own Tobacco Merchant's House to recognise its history.

Our outgoing Chair, Colin McLean, tasked Trustees with the challenge of developing a project which would evidence our commitment to Scotland's heritage. Our Director scoped out such a project, and in March 2021, the Board gave Susan the go-ahead to establish a charitable body to spearhead a new attempt to save Glasgow's A-listed Egyptian Halls. Despite being a work of artistic genius by one of Scotland's greatest architects – Alexander "Greek" Thomson – Egyptian Halls was recently shortlisted as one of Europe's most endangered buildings by Europa Nostra.

I would like to thank our outgoing Chair and Trustees for their efforts in ensuring the organisation's viability, welcome new Trustees, and thank our funders without whom we would not be able to operate. Lastly, I would like to thank all the heritage bodies and individuals who work tirelessly with us, or alone, to ensure Scotland's heritage is looked after and enjoyed.

*Sue Evans, Chair*

# OUR VALUES

- We are **robust** and **independent** in advocating for Scotland's places and spaces
- We are **positive** about the future of the built environment
- We **lead** thinking on Scotland's civic spaces
- We **collaborate** across the heritage sector and beyond to develop ideas that tackle exclusion
- We **support** community groups looking after their locality

We are proud to represent Scotland's civic sector and strive to ensure our amenity groups are active, empowered, and educated to make a difference in their locality.

## OUR VISION

Thriving, beautiful and well cared for places and buildings, which help to support and sustain a high quality of life.

## OUR MISSION

To celebrate Scotland's built environment, take action for its improvement and empower its communities.

### Structure and Management

Trustees of the Scottish Civic Trust are appointed for two three-year terms, with further eligibility depending on the discretion of other Trustees. The policy of the Trust is to achieve a wide range of relevant experience within the Trustee body. Appointments are reviewed every three years.

The practical work of the Trust is supported and enhanced by the following sub-committees:

- Strategy and Communications Committee
- Finance and Audit Committee
- Technical Committee

The Trust had twelve Trustees and an executive staff of seven at the end of the reporting period. Trustees are unremunerated and meet on a quarterly basis.

# OUR ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR



The Scottish Civic Trust had an unexpectedly challenging year in 2020, as we dealt with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our activities. At a difficult time, we pivoted quickly to moving our programmes online while still caring for our Georgian townhouse from afar.

During lockdown, we developed new activities to remotely engage with our audiences. Our **#WhatsOotMaWindae campaign** invited social media audiences to share photos of the local built environment they could see from their windows. We received 45 submissions from across the

country and responded with interesting facts and stories about the areas and architecture. We also released **Cut • Fold • Build**, a pack of 11 paper models of Scottish buildings that can be printed off and made at home.

Our **My Place Mentoring** programme, which provides guidance to community groups at an economic or geographic disadvantage, helped groups from all over Scotland to develop their plans for heritage. We delivered this almost entirely remotely for the first time, and were pleasantly surprised by how effective this proved as a





A paper model of Kirkmichael in the Black Isle, inspired by our Cut • Fold • Build project.  
© Kirkmichael Trust

mechanism for support. Although nothing can compete with face-to-face interactions when developing ideas, we look forward to incorporating more digital conversations into our support for the final year of this programme.

In keeping with our planning remit, we commented on a wide range of planning applications that had a national impact. On behalf of our member groups, we raised issues relating to planning reform to the Scottish Government, and we also supported them in commenting on planning submissions related to their local area.

As leaders in inclusive heritage practice, we are guiding the development of the **Make Your Mark in Volunteering campaign**, which aims to increase the number and diversity of heritage volunteers in Scotland. By opening up heritage volunteering to all, the sector can strengthen communities and recruit new stewards to care for and promote our heritage.

We coordinated several high-profile national celebrations of our heritage and the people who support it, including **Doors Open Days**, **My Place Awards**, and **My Place Photography Competition**.



Strontian Primary School, winner of the 2020 My Place Awards.  
© Strontian Community School Building

By managing and promoting these events, we encourage greater awareness of the architecture and places that contribute to the visual and civic identity of Scotland.

**Doors Open Days** is Scotland's largest architecture and culture festival and biggest heritage volunteering event, taking place every September. Doors Open Days 2020 responded to the restrictions of the global pandemic by going virtual; we asked venues to go digital, and they responded by taking their programmes online, offering a virtual festival accessed from

the safety and comfort of each visitor's home. We invited visitors to explore Scotland from their armchairs, through films, tours, talks, webinars, and more. A part-time Digital Content Officer joined the team to support venues and regional coordinators in shifting to a digital programme, combating isolation and lack of access across their audiences. This resulted in new audiences with cultural or physical access issues engaging with the festival for the first time, and we look forward to supporting a blend of physical and digital access as a core part of our offering from now on.



The 2020 My Place Photography Competition Winner (Primary school category), 'Waterfall', by Sophie Heron from St Kevin's Primary.

Our Diverse Heritage programme ran workshops to support heritage organisations to develop their digital skills.  
© Smart History



Our **My Place Awards** celebrate the transformational impact communities can have on their locality by leading its regeneration. Each year, the Trust calls for submissions from community groups around Scotland for new buildings, restoration projects, landscape designs and other placemaking projects that have had a positive impact for a local neighbourhood. In 2020, three projects were shortlisted, and during a virtual ceremony in October, Strontian community was announced as the winner for safeguarding the future of their Highland village by building a new school with flexibility for current and future uses.

Our **My Place Photography Competition** is a Scotland-wide built environment photography competition for young people aged 4-18. The competition encourages young people to look at the places and spaces that surround them and to interpret them through the medium of photography. 2020's judging panel met before national lockdown, but the exhibition and winner announcements took place online.

The online announcements were held over three days, with short films by members of the judging panel, Colin McLean (our Chair) and Alex Paterson (Chief

Executive of Historic Environment Scotland), as well as from Fiona Hyslop MSP (then Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture). The period included launching the online exhibition with all competition entries, releasing a winners information leaflet and sharing information across our social media channels.

Our **Diverse Heritage** project built upon the activities and relationships developed during the past year to engage under-represented groups in active participation in Scotland's local heritage. This includes supporting the multicultural Glendale Women's Café to create activities for Doors Open Days, hosting mapping workshops in Edinburgh and Glasgow to record and celebrate Scotland's queer heritage, partnering with the University of St Andrews and disabled persons' organisations to create virtual tours of some of Scotland's best buildings, and working with young people from Strengthening Communities for Racial Equality Scotland to create content for Black History Month. This fed into our well-received *Race and Heritage in Scotland* conference, held in December.

The Scottish Civic Trust has a

long history of finding solutions to difficult buildings and sites, and in recognition of this, we decided to take action in relation to the future of Egyptian Halls in Glasgow. This A-listed building has been a cause of concern for a number of years. We have set up a working group to take forward proposals for the building, and hope to have it constituted as a charity in the very near future. To find out more, visit [saveegyptianhalls.com](http://saveegyptianhalls.com)

Finally, we launched a legacy campaign to ensure the future of our much-loved Tobacco Merchant's House. If you are interested in finding out more about how you can help, please visit: [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk/legacies](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk/legacies)

All of our activities took place thanks to the generous support of our main funders, including Historic Environment Scotland, the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the Scottish Government, the William Grant Foundation, the Council of Europe, and the Jennie S Gordon Trust. We are also grateful to our smaller donors, whose contributions and in-kind support is hugely valuable to our continued work.



# OUR PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

Foremost in our minds is ensuring a smooth transition for our events and programmes to a mixture of physical and digital delivery. One of our key findings from the pandemic has been the increase in accessibility of heritage that has been facilitated by the switch to digital. We are keen to sustain that as far as possible, without excluding our traditional audiences, across our My Place Mentoring, Doors Open Days, and My Place Awards programmes.

We have developed a full plan for COP26, happening in Glasgow in November 2021. Our focus will be on the intersection of heritage, equity and the climate crisis, and we have a diverse range of lectures – including one looking at the situation in Scotland –

planned for digital release. We are also creating a series of other activities that we hope will provide a fresh perspective on the impact of climate on heritage.

Related to our plans for COP26 is our anticipated package of repair works to the Tobacco Merchant's House, as we seek to future-proof it against the increased impact of weathering conditions. We hope to start these in early 2022. We will also continue progressing our involvement with the Egyptian Halls in Glasgow.

We look forward to returning to the office and to inspiring conversations with colleagues, a return to casual creativity, and enjoying our beautiful building once more.



We're planning a series of events about heritage and the climate crisis. Many Scottish places, like the lodberries in Shetland, are threatened by climate change.

## Financial Review

During the year ended 31 March 2021 Scottish Civic Trust's activities generated income of £294,381 (2020: £358,982) and incurred expenditure of £275,869 (2020: £354,926). The surplus, before taking into account fluctuations in value of the investment portfolio, was £18,512 (2020: £4,056). The unrealised gain on investments was £8,195 (2020: unrealised loss of £8,330).

During the year £19,000 was transferred from general reserves to the designated Capital Contribution Fund. The Capital Contribution Fund is intended to provide for the long-term structural integrity of Scottish Civic Trust's ("the Trust") headquarter building, the "A" Listed Tobacco Merchant's House ("TMH").

During the year, agreement was reached with The National Lottery Heritage Fund ("NLHF") which effectively terminates the clawback arrangements originally constituted by contract on 17 June 1997. The new Capital Contribution Fund, by enhancing the resilience of the Trust in respect of future major building requirements, effectively fulfils the original objectives of NLHF. Finalisation of the legal and accounting implications, which will simplify the legal and accounting position of the Trust, are expected be reflected in the Trust's accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022.

The Capital Contribution Fund will receive a minimum of £5,000 annually and the Trustees are mindful that the relevant amount may, subject to resources, be higher in some years so as to achieve the objective of building resource in advance of need. Meanwhile general maintenance continues to be undertaken and expensed as appropriate.

The Trust took up its entitlement to COVID- related support in relation to staff and property impacts during the pandemic period, while maintaining operations at a reduced level due to the restrictions which affected the use of TMH. This support

included £40,000 in charity-related income from Glasgow City Council.

The Trust is grateful for these resources and for the continuing financial input from Historic Environment Scotland (£145,453) and the Heritage Lottery Fund (£37,040). We were also pleased to have private sector support from the William Grant Fund, in the form of a generous £20,000 contribution to funds.

The Trustees have authorised the utilisation of a limited proportion of the Director's time in supporting the campaign to achieve a successful future for the iconic Egyptian Halls, in line with our aims in relation to preservation of major listed buildings, in this case both of outstanding civic value to Glasgow and a major exemplar of the work of the Scottish architect Alexander Thomson. It is not anticipated that material direct expense will be associated to the campaign relative to the unrestricted funds held by the Trust.

The Trust maintains liquidity against unforeseeable potential fluctuations. The aggregate of investments and cash at 31 March 2021 was £177,623 and the Trustees are confident that activities can be supported in the current year notwithstanding the continuing restrictions due to the pandemic at the commencement of the financial year ending 31 March 2021.

### *Investment Policy*

The Trust maintains a portfolio of diversified equity fund instruments aimed at supporting our revenues and providing liquidity if necessary. The portfolio composition and performance is regularly monitored.

### *Reserves policy*

The Trust continues to maintain over £90,000 in liquid assets to provide a buffer against unexpected expenditure requirements. As stated, the new Capital Contribution Fund will in addition require annual allocations represented by liquid assets. The Trustees through its Audit Committee also monitor the balance of

restricted and unrestricted funds so as to be confident that the Trust's requirements can be met as they arise notwithstanding ring fencing of resources relative to specific projects and property.

### ***Risk Management Policy***

The Trust maintains an active Risk Register and assessment process, and risk issues are regularly considered at Trustee meetings, and scenario planning is discussed. The Trust continues to review management accounts regularly and follows established systems and procedures policies.

### ***Financial Planning***

The Trustees assisted by the Audit Committee continue to scrutinise financial projections and have in 2020/21 appointed new Trustees with extensive experience of accounting matters and charitable governance. The Trust continues to enjoy positive relationships with the key donors who underpin its viability and through adaptation to digital platforms has demonstrated that its activities can benefit from the ease of access to our project and competition output.

It is anticipated that 2021/22 will evolve towards a hybrid operation, physical and digital, with continued retention of TMH. The cost and revenues associated to the new ways of working will be the subject of scrutiny as the year develops. At this stage the Trustees, conscious of the coming to a close of special support measures, are nonetheless confident that the current year will allow the Trust to operate within its means overall, and to undertake new initiatives when matched funding can be secured.

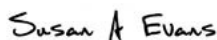
### ***Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements***

The charity Trustees are responsible for preparing a Trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom

Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the charity Trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, of the charity for that year. In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are required to select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently, observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP, make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent, state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities. The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Name: Sue Evans

Date: 2 September 2021

## INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF SCOTTISH CIVIC TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trust's Accounts for the year to March 31, 2021 have been independently examined by Wylie and Bisset LLP and they gave a clean opinion. Their Report is available in the full version of the Accounts which are downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

### STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021

(Including an Income and Expenditure account)

		Unrestricted Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2021 £	As Restated Total Funds 2020 £
	Note				
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	4	6,030	-	6,030	16,106
Charitable activities	5	74,686	210,847	285,533	340,770
Investments	6	1,609	-	1,609	2,106
Other income	7	-	1,209	1,209	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>82,325</b>	<b>212,056</b>	<b>294,381</b>	<b>358,982</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Investment management costs	8	220	-	220	-
Charitable activities	10	41,126	234,523	275,649	354,926
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>41,346</b>	<b>234,523</b>	<b>275,869</b>	<b>354,926</b>
Net income and net movement in funds before gains and losses on investments		40,979	(22,467)	18,512	4,056
Net Gain/(Loss) on Investments		8,195	-	8,195	(8,330)
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>49,174</b>	<b>(22,467)</b>	<b>26,707</b>	<b>(4,274)</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>49,174</b>	<b>(22,467)</b>	<b>26,707</b>	<b>(4,274)</b>
<b>Funds reconciliation</b>					
Total Funds brought forward	19	109,618	179,012	288,630	292,904
Prior year adjustment	22	6,000	(6,000)	-	-
Total funds brought forward as restated	19	115,618	173,012	288,630	292,904
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>164,792</b>	<b>150,545</b>	<b>315,337</b>	<b>288,630</b>

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.



## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	Total Funds 2021 £	As Restated Total Funds 2020 £
<b>Fixed assets:</b>			
Tangible assets	14	150,851	152,580
Investments	15	44,947	36,752
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>195,798</b>	<b>189,332</b>
<b>Current assets:</b>			
Debtors	16	10,625	53,983
Cash at bank and in hand		132,676	54,989
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>143,301</b>	<b>108,972</b>
<b>Liabilities:</b>			
Creditors falling due within one year	17	(23,762)	(9,674)
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		<b>119,539</b>	<b>99,298</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>315,337</b>	<b>288,630</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>			
Restricted income funds	19	150,545	173,012
Unrestricted funds	19	164,792	115,618
<b>Total charity funds</b>		<b>315,337</b>	<b>288,630</b>

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

*Susan A Evans*

Name: Sue Evans

Date: 2 September 2021

*Aileen Brown*

Name: Aileen Brown

## SCOTTISH CIVIC TRUST NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

### 1. Accounting Policies

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

### 2. Legal status of the Charity

The charity is a registered Scottish charity.

### 3. Related party transactions and Trustees' expenses and remuneration

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

### 4. Income from donations and legacies

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

### 5. Income from charitable activities

	2021 £	2020 £
Grants	257,720	310,733
Rental Income	24,988	26,483
Consultancy fee income	700	-
Affiliation fee income	1,240	1,140
Conference ticket income	885	2,414
	<b>285,533</b>	<b>340,770</b>

## 6. Investment income

	2021 £	2020 £
Dividends and interest on listed investments	1,606	2,106
Bank interest	3	-
	<u>1,609</u>	<u>2,106</u>

## 7. Other Income

	2021 £	2020 £
CJRS Grant	1,209	-
	<u>1,209</u>	<u>-</u>

## 8. Investment management costs

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

## 9. Allocation of governance costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Auditors remuneration – under accrual in prior year	2,220	2,220
Independent Examiners remuneration	1,794	-
Professional fees	-	11,499
Subscriptions and Memberships	-	1,917
	<u>4,014</u>	<u>15,636</u>

Governance costs are allocated to Expenditure on charitable activities.

## 10. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Staff and Travel	223,847	198,822
Premises Expenses	9,995	7,634
Printing Promotions and Awards	7,795	70,905
Computer and Web costs	12,128	12,892
General Expenses	6,222	38,407
Enabling Grant Expenses	-	3,387
Professional fees	9,185	-
Memberships & subscriptions	734	-
Depreciation	1,729	7,213
Governance Costs (Note 9)	<u>4,014</u>	<u>15,636</u>
	<u>275,649</u>	<u>354,926</u>

## 11. Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

## 12. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

## 13. Government Grants

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

## 14. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Heritable Property £	Furniture & Fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	255,853	54,123	309,976
Additions	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	<u>255,853</u>	<u>54,123</u>	<u>309,976</u>

## Depreciation

At 1 April 2020	115,849	41,547	157,396
Charge for the year	-	1,729	1,729
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	115,849	43,276	159,125

## Net book value

At 31 March 2021	140,004	10,847	150,851
At 31 March 2020	140,004	12,576	152,580

At 31 March 2021 all assets were used for charitable purposes.

## 15. Fixed Asset Investments

Movement in fixed asset listed investments	2021 £	2020 £
Market value brought forward at 1 April 2020	36,752	45,082
Additions to investments at cost	-	-
Disposals at carrying value	-	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	8,195	(8,330)
Market value as at 31 March 2021	44,947	36,752

## 16. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	1,907	-
Accrued income	5,617	51,024
Prepayments	2,387	2,959
Other debtors	714	-
	10,625	53,983

## 17. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	1,182	304
Deferred income (Note 18)	15,474	7,656
Other creditors	7,106	1,714
	23,762	9,674

## 18. Deferred income

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

## 19. Analysis of charitable funds

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

## 20. Net assets over funds

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

## 21. Contingent Liability

The balance in the Property Fund relates to a grant of £187,500 received from The National Heritage Memorial Fund which was used to fund the purchase of the property at Miller Street. Under the terms of the award, the grant becomes repayable should the Trust breach the conditions attached.

## 22. Prior year adjustment

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from [www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk](http://www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk).

# Get in touch with the Scottish Civic Trust

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Facebook, Twitter & Instagram:  
[@scotcivictrust](https://www.facebook.com/scotcivictrust)

*Cover image: a family at Paisley Abbey.  
Our Diverse Heritage programme worked with  
the Inspiring Families Development Network  
to host workshops about using photography  
to share culture and heritage. © Open Aye*

**With thanks to our funders,  
supporters and sponsors:**



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD  
EACHDRAIDHEIL  
ALBA



HERITAGE  
FUND

WILLIAM GRANT  
FOUNDATION



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
[gov.scot](http://gov.scot)



The Scottish Civic Trust is a charity registered in Scotland. No. SC012569.



# The Scottish Civic Trust WORK STREAMS

## Celebrate

- **Doors Open Days:** celebrate our shared built and cultural heritage by enabling access to places, spaces, and activities not usually open to the public
- **My Place Awards:** recognise the impact of regeneration projects on local communities
- **My Place Photography Awards:** celebrate the involvement of young people in the built environment
- **Run annual celebration and networking events** for local groups engaging with heritage
- **Maintain the Tobacco Merchant's House** as an example of sustainable best practice

## Take Action

- **Mentor groups** looking to expand their capacity or try something new
- Create a **best practice website** for information sharing, aimed at local groups
- Encourage the engagement of **young people** in the civic environment
- Support marginalised people to become **better represented** in heritage
- Organise **conferences and events** that stimulate public debate on topical issues
- Support action on the **Egyptian Halls, Glasgow**

## Advocate

- **Advocate** for local members' issues at a policy level
- **Comment** on nationally-significant planning issues
- Promote a **more inclusive** view of Scotland's heritage
- **Publicise and comment** on important issues affecting civic spaces
- Advocate for Scotland's **civic amenity groups** in Europe and internationally





# PLANNING

Our Technical Committee analyses and comments on planning and Listed Building submissions on a weekly basis, and meets quarterly to discuss strategic issues.



We commented on **84** planning applications this year:



<b>13</b> gave further recommendations	<b>23</b> were category A-listed
<b>57</b> were objections	<b>50</b> were category B-listed
<b>14</b> requested more information	<b>11</b> were category C-listed

# MAKE YOUR MARK



**MAKE YOUR MARK**  
— IN VOLUNTEERING —

The Make Your Mark campaign aims to increase the number and diversity of heritage volunteers in Scotland.

**86 people** attended the launch event in December 2020.



In the campaign's first six months, **5 events** attended by **220 people** took place.

The campaign is supported by a working group of **10 major stakeholders**.



**45** Scottish heritage organisations have signed up to Make Your Mark.



*"Our hope is that people from all backgrounds will be able to access and enjoy all the rewarding aspects of volunteering in heritage."*

- Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of Historic Environment Scotland

# My Place AWARDS



Promotes the transformative effect of community regeneration projects.



In 2020 there were **18 submissions** accepted and **6 shortlisted** projects visited by the judges.

The commended projects were **Bridgend Farmhouse**, Edinburgh and the **Falls of Shin Visitor Attraction**, Highland.



The winner was **Strontian Primary School**, Highland.

**Shortlisted projects** ranged from a renovated Galloway cottage that hosts youth groups, writing workshops and a ukulele club, to a community museum in a converted Cold War-era bunker.



The virtual ceremony held to celebrate the winning and commended projects reached over **26,000** people, a **27% increase** compared to 2019.



*"The My Place Awards are such an important part of Scotland's celebration of places across the country, and the contribution communities have made to improving local areas."*

- Fiona Hyslop MSP, former Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture

*"The success of Strontian Primary School empowers people in remote areas to take action to sustain and improve their communities."*

- virtual ceremony attendee

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# My Place PHOTOGRAPHY

**A Scotland-wide heritage photographic project** for school-age young people (4-18). The competition encourages young people to explore the buildings, architecture and archaeology in the places they live, and experiment with using photography as a means of investigation and creative expression.

The theme for 2020 was **Water**, in celebration of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters with emphasis on our historic environment and cultural heritage.



**29** secondary schools, and **18** primary schools submitted entries in 2020.



The theme for the 2021 competition is **Climate Change**.

The winners will be announced online and in-person at a **ceremony to be held in Glasgow** in November 2021.



We have updated the online resources for participants. The pack includes a handy guide for staying safe and taking part during lockdown measures, and a Climate Change I-Spy. Download it at: [bit.ly/myplace21guide](https://bit.ly/myplace21guide)

The ceremony will intentionally coincide with the **Conference of the Parties (COP26)** being hosted in Glasgow.



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image is everything





# My Place MENTORING

**We support groups in the far north and south of Scotland, as well as island communities to develop their plans for heritage.** We are working to establish links in areas of deep-rooted deprivation and where levels of multiple deprivation are increasing. Participation in panel discussions, conferences, talks and workshops alongside other partners has been used successfully to engage with potential mentee groups.

- In year two, **50% of the groups** who joined the My Place Mentoring support scheme were in urban areas with higher levels of deprivation.
- **Two-thirds of the groups** based in towns with populations of 2,000-20,000 people have highlighted the fragility of their local economies as an issue. Rural communities report that they are concerned about depopulation due to young people leaving.
- Groups in remote locations in the far north and south and island communities of Scotland make up **40%** of mentored groups.
- Groups receive an average of **12 days of mentoring**. In year one, 8 groups were mentored, in year two, 12 additional groups were mentored. In year three, there are currently a further 10 groups at various stages of the mentoring process.
- **60% of mentored groups** describe their organisations as community groups, with over 50% also describing themselves as heritage groups, and just under 50% as registered Scottish charities (SCIOs).
- Volunteers are vital within the organisations supported by the mentoring scheme, with **over 70%** recording that they have no full-time members of staff.

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Our Diverse Heritage project encourages engagement with individuals from groups traditionally marginalised and excluded from Scottish heritage, such as young BAME, LGBTQIA+ and disabled people.

In 2020-21, the Diverse Heritage project co-designed, co-delivered and supported **12 events, workshops, and activities.**



We worked with **8 partner organisations.**



These included:

- **6 digital skills workshops** supporting individuals to share local spaces, places, and stories online.
- **11 downloadable templates** for paper models of Scottish buildings to educate and entertain during lockdown.
- **2 publications** on delivering inclusive heritage activities shared widely across the 50 European Heritage Days countries.

Over **200 people** took part (100 at the conference, 100 for all other activities).



Participants ranged in age from **6 to 70 years old.**

**1 online conference,** *Race & Heritage in Scotland*, was attended by 100 people.



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Since 2018 we worked with **50** community groups, delivering **47** activities for **470+** people.



## Doors Open Days is Scotland's largest festival of architecture and culture.



Every September you can explore our shared built and cultural heritage by accessing places, spaces and activities across Scotland for free. The event is delivered in collaboration with area coordinators from local authorities and amenity groups, supported by numerous volunteers. 2020 was our first ever Digital Festival.

**604** online events and activities



**184,000+** website visitors during the festival



**85%** of all website visitors were new



**487,000+** people reached on social media, a **30% increase** compared with 2019.



**1,100+** new followers on Doors Open Days social media

**620,000+** people reached by broadcast media



**60+** article in printed media across **20** council areas and **3** national newspapers

**1,500+** new e-bulletin subscribers

*"I really like the fact I could 'visit' multiple regions [which are] normally too far away to visit. What a great idea!" - virtual visitor*

*"We saw a phenomenal increase in visitor numbers to our website." - event organiser*

**The global pandemic forced Doors Open Days 2020 to reassess its mode of delivery, resulting in a successful pivoting of the festival from a physical to a digital form.** In the process, we welcomed an online audience that was over 85% new to the event, with a massive 75% increase in digital heritage resources created by local groups across Scotland for Doors Open Days audiences. In 2020 our digital festival ensured Doors Open Days offered easy accessibility in a society restricted by pandemic conditions by:

- Offering guidance in the development of digital tours, oral histories, and online lectures, resulting in **404 new digital outputs**.
- **Engaging a broader range of audiences** by digitally inviting people into venues.
- Giving those involved at venues an opportunity to create and signpost **digital learning and skills development**.
- **Hosting and presenting all the regional programmes** together on the Doors Open Days website, offering an easily accessible one-stop information hub.
- **Commissioning a new suite of inclusive illustrations** from Saffron Russell to celebrate Doors Open Days and its new digital format.
- Successfully **securing grant funding for a part time Digital Content Officer** from National Lottery Community Fund. By facilitating audience connections across digital platforms, the Digital Content Officer's role helped to combat isolation and loneliness caused by the restrictions imposed by a national lockdown.

*"[creating digital content] allowed us to present more specific and detailed historical information [and it] overcame the issue of limited access to areas ... not suitable for wheelchair users."* - venue

*"The Digital Doors Open was an excellent way to see sights and learn about places it is not possible to visit physically during the pandemic."* - Canadian resident

*"This year I was able to attend events that would have been too far/cumbersome/expensive to reach physically. So please do offer online Doors Open events also in the future."* - virtual visitor

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European Heritage Days  
Journées européennes  
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