

Scottish Civic Trust

Annual Report

2023-2024

Celebrate
Advocate
Take action



A message from the Chair

We know that volunteering and collective action is good for our health and wellbeing, and that individuals who are active in their community have purpose and agency and feel that they make a difference. Thousands of people every year take action to safeguard, celebrate and develop Scotland's heritage – be it built, natural, written, oral, ancient, contemporary or emerging – as their contribution to our collective legacy, helping to sustain a human thread linking past and future lives.

As last year, we continue to live through extraordinary times and accelerating change – conflicts and political unrest across the world, the very visible and frequent impacts of climate change, loss of biodiversity, the threats and opportunities of AI, and the 'long tail' impact of Covid on the wellbeing of our children – all have an impact on daily life. As we search for meaning and certainty, holding on to our culture and heritage has even greater importance. Yet cuts to public funding at all levels (UK, Scotland and local) puts at risk our cultural inheritance and the capacity of charitable bodies and communities to conserve, utilise and celebrate buildings and spaces of cultural significance. This is why the success of Doors Open Days, the My Place Awards and our Diverse Heritage programme and reporting on just how much has been achieved this year across Scotland is so important.

As we look ahead, it is more urgent than ever that the everyday places – our places – are the focus of coordinated efforts around climate adaptation and flexible reuse to address the housing shortage, improve health and learning outcomes, support employment, and economic well-being. We need to be kind to our places, just as we need to be kind to ourselves – creating the conditions in which people are at the heart of addressing our current heritage emergency, and doing so in ways which bring understanding, joy and happiness to all those involved.

On that note, I thank my fellow trustees who do so much for the Trust, our funders and private patrons for your financial support and advice, the heritage bodies and volunteers who work with us on Doors Open Days and their own projects and, of course, our Director and staff, who do so much with so little and, in the process, change lives and places for the better.



Sue Evans

MBE, FLI retired, Hon FRIAS

Chair

About The Scottish Civic Trust

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

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

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



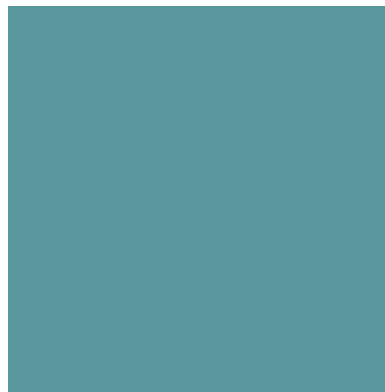
Structure and management

Trustees of the Scottish Civic Trust are appointed for two three-year terms, with further eligibility depending on the discretion of the Chair. 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
- Planning and Architecture Committee
- Trustee Recruitment Committee

The Trust had 11 Trustees and an executive staff of 7, led by the Director, at the end of the reporting period. Trustees are unremunerated and meet on a quarterly basis.



Our activities this year

This year has been one of record breaking and innovation.

The **national Doors Open Days festival** 2023 was a huge success. The 2023 national launch of the festival was held in Maryhill Burgh Halls, with a recorded message from Christina McKelvie MSP, the former Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development.

There was a 39% increase in the number of visits to the festival, from 85,320 in 2022 to 159,033. We had 843 venues, 23.1% of which were participating for the first time, showing the continued interest in taking part. For the first time our website reached over one million hits - a record number of 1,053,493 visits - which is an increase of 49% from the same period in 2022. Our huge and grateful thanks go to our regional co-ordinators and volunteers who contributed more than 17,000 hours to the festival.

Thanks to our sponsors, Ryder Architecture, we were able to open The Tobacco Merchant's House, our offices and one of the oldest houses still existing in Glasgow, for Glasgow Doors Open Days.

Our **My Place ceremony** was held at Glasgow's Trades Hall on 13 March 2024. The ceremony celebrated the transformational impact communities can have on their locality by leading its regeneration and announced the winning and commended entries to the My Place Awards and My Place Photography Competition.

We were joined at the My Place ceremony by Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning, who gave a short speech on the importance of community-led regeneration and placemaking.



Our activities this year

(continued)

The **My Place Awards** 2024 had two categories: Community-led Built Environment Projects and the new Community Champion award. The Managing Director of Urban Union kindly presented the Community Champion award after sponsoring the award this year. This new category honours people who have made an exceptional contribution to their place and community.

The Community-led Projects category received 18 entries, a 12% increase on last year. Six projects were shortlisted by the judging panel:

- The Corner, Darvel, East Ayrshire (winner)
- Alloa Hub, Clackmannanshire (highly commended)
- Inchyra Park, Falkirk (commended)
- An Laimhrig, Isle of Eigg
- Craigie Street Pocket Park, Dundee
- Leith Community Croft Pavilion, Edinburgh

The Community Champions category received 16 entries, and 4 individuals deserving of recognition were shortlisted and interviewed by the award judges. Eugenie Aroutcheff from South Lanarkshire stood out as the worthy winner. Her nominator said:

"Eugenie has passionately developed (Grow 73) from its inception to the success it is now. She is committed to the ideal of helping people and the environment to make the world a better place to be."

My Place Photography is our annual Scotland-wide photography competition for school-age young people supported by Historic Environment Scotland and Jessops. Young people submitted photographs of their local built environment, reflecting on their community heritage and unique local identity. This year we received 425 entries from 14 primary schools, 19 secondary schools, one after school club, one home educated young person and one Girl Guide group.



Our activities this year

(continued)

Sydney Vipurs from Gigha Primary School was our winner in the primary school category with the image Gigha Past and Present. Blair Garrett from Robert Gordon's College won our secondary school category with Covie Under the Stars.

This year we also held our inaugural programme of **My Place Workshops** funded by Historic Environment Scotland which supported fifteen young people from refugee, asylum-seeking and migrant backgrounds in partnership with The Guardianship Project. They explored and interpreted the built environment through facilitated photography skills workshops and follow-on curatorial sessions.

Over the past year, The Scottish Civic Trust has stepped up our external advocacy, meeting with the Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development and The Minister for Local Government Empowerment and Planning to discuss the Trust's contribution to their portfolio areas and the value of engagement with our 150 grassroots affiliate members. Our reach into grassroots communities has expanded enormously this year. Our e-newsletter has gained over 3.5k new subscribers, taking our overall audience total to 16,289 for 2023. We continue to monitor and correspond on **planning applications** concerning A and B listed buildings and conservation areas.

As leaders in inclusive practice, we continue to host the **Make Your Mark in Volunteering campaign**, which aims to increase the number and diversity of heritage volunteers in Scotland. We recognise the current crisis in volunteering capacity across the country, and believe that by opening up heritage volunteering to all, the sector can strengthen communities, discover new stories and experiences and recruit new stewards to care for and promote the story of Scotland as told through our historic environment, museums and heritage centres and greenspaces.



Our activities this year

(continued)

Our sector-leading **Diverse Heritage** project, funded by Historic Environment Scotland, supports marginalised and excluded groups to engage with the heritage of their choice on their own terms through co-design and co-delivery of activities.



In 2023-24, we celebrated Glasgow's year as European Capital of Sport with 3 specially-designed Black history walking tours of the City Centre; supported young people in Townhead, an economically deprived community in Glasgow, to engage in creative placemaking through an art mural project at their local community space; and partnered with African and Caribbean Elders in Scotland to publish the oral histories they collected during Doors Open Days events over the past two years in a new book, *One Life Two Cultures*. We celebrated tangible and intangible heritage, buildings, and traditions with participants from Highland Council through to the Borders, working with local groups to explore the spaces, places, and stories that are important to them. We also supported other organisations in the heritage sector by sharing our lessons learned through a series of one-to-one advice sessions and an inclusive heritage training module.

Our Diverse Heritage programme this year worked with 14 partner organisations on 29 events, workshops and activities which attracted over 500 participants aged between seven and ninety-five. Our Diverse Heritage work involved groups across ten local authority areas with heritages originating from ten different countries. All delivered with 1.2FTE members of staff!

We are currently redeveloping our forward **strategy** and consulting with grassroots community organisations, including those involving under-represented audiences in the historic environment sector, to ensure that our future priorities and activities reflect the concerns and opportunities identified by our affiliate members. We will launch our new strategy in January.

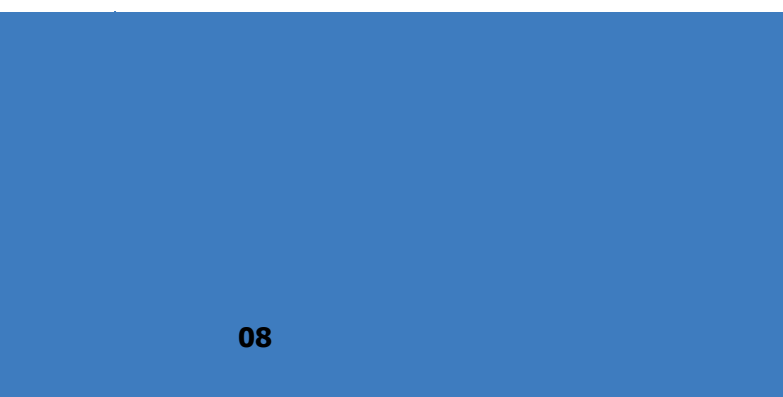
Looking forward

As we enter a new financial year, we acknowledge the continuing reduction in the availability of public funding and the difficult financial environment in which we, and many other cultural charities, are having to operate in. We are working hard to diversify our income sources and attract private sector sponsorship to support our activities.

We will continue to expand the national Doors Open Days festival, working with Visit Scotland as new partners to promote activities and venues nationally and to encourage participants to use sustainable methods to travel to participating venues.

We hope to continue and grow our My Place Community Champion award with private sponsorship, and expand the geographical reach and number of entries to our My Place Awards and Photography Competition. The My Place Workshops involving young people from refugee and migrant communities will also take place this year. We aim to increase the number of participants and incorporate their work into our Photography Competition.

The 2024-2025 financial year marks the end of our funding for our ground-breaking Diverse Heritage project and we will focus on evaluating our activities and planning for next steps. We aim to expand the reach of this project to ensure that it involves all of Scotland's regions and local authority areas.



Looking forward

(continued)

We will continue our contribution to the Make Your Mark campaign, acknowledging the importance of volunteering to the sustainability of grassroots civic and heritage organisations. Our strategy review, informed by a detailed overview of the issues and opportunities identified by our affiliate members, will help to shape our next Strategic Plan, setting out our future priorities and support of Scotland's grassroots community sector.

Examination of planning applications for A and B listed buildings and conservation areas will continue this year and be reviewed in the context of the new strategic direction of the organisation as we progress. Initial findings of our consultation indicate that this is still a useful support for communities but that further work to build capacity for communities to engage with Scotland's planning framework and community asset transfer mechanisms is becoming a priority.

Remedial work is also needed to The Tobacco Merchant's House, a Grade A listed building and the last remaining Georgian mansion of a Tobacco Lord in Glasgow. The feasibility of remedial work will be examined and a funding strategy developed to ensure that The Scottish Civic Trust has fiscal capacity to complete this work.



Financial review

During the year ended 31 March 2024 Scottish Civic Trust's activities generated income of £319,458 (2023: £260,822), and incurred expenditure of £327,659 (2023: £270,012). The deficit, before taking into account fluctuations in value of the investment portfolio was £8,201, (2023: £9,190). The unrealised loss on investments was £1,285 (2023: unrealised loss of £1,084).

The Trust is grateful for the continuing financial input from Historic Environment Scotland (£191,192), the Scottish Government (£10,000), Culture and Museums Scotland (£1,000), and sponsors Ryder Architecture, Urban Union and Culture and Business Scotland.

The Trust maintains liquidity against unforeseeable potential fluctuations. The aggregate of investments and cash at 31 March 2024 was £112,660 and the Trustees are confident that activities can be supported in the year to 31 March 2025.

The Capital Contribution Fund is intended to provide for the long-term structural integrity of Scottish Civic Trust's headquarter building, the "A" Listed Tobacco Merchant's House (TMH). Trustees are mindful that the minimum annual 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 continued to be undertaken and expensed as appropriate.

Investments

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.

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 Finance and Audit Committee continue to scrutinise financial projections. The Scottish Civic 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.

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.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate 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, Chair

Date: 8 August



Independent examiner's report to the members of Scottish Civic Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trust's Accounts for the year to March 31, 2024 have been independently examined by Wylie and Bisset LLP. The Examiners report was unqualified. Their Report is available in the full version of the Accounts which are downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 March 2024 (Including an Income and Expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	4	5,113	-	5,113	6,891
Charitable activities	5	76,202	234,942	311,144	251,453
Investments	6	3,201	-	3,201	2,478
Total Income		84,516	234,942	319,458	260,822
Expenditure on:					
Investment management costs	7	232	-	232	234
Charitable activities	9	91,220	236,207	327,427	269,778
Total Expenditure		91,452	236,207	327,659	270,012
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds before gains and losses on investments		(6,936)	(1,265)	(8,201)	(9,190)
Net gain/(loss) on Investments		1,285	-	1,285	(1,084)
Net (expenditure)/income		(5,651)	(1,265)	(6,916)	(10,274)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(5,651)	(1,265)	(6,916)	(10,274)
Funds reconciliation					
Total Funds brought forward	18	181,461	103,735	285,196	295,470
Total Funds carried forward	18	175,810	102,470	278,280	285,196

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 2024

	Note	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Fixed assets:			
Tangible assets	13	149,266	148,206
Investments	14	47,432	46,147
Total Fixed Assets		196,698	194,354
Current assets:			
Debtors	15	33,696	11,194
Cash at bank and in hand		65,228	92,562
Total Current Assets		98,924	103,756
Liabilities:			
Creditors falling due within one year	16	(17,342)	(12,914)
Net Current Assets		81,582	90,842
Net Assets		278,280	285,196
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	18	102,470	103,735
Unrestricted funds	18	175,810	181,461
Total charity funds		278,280	285,196

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



Name: Sue Evans

Date: 8 August 2024



Name: Alan Earsman

Date: 8 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from 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.

4. Income from donations and legacies

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

5. Income from charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Grants	262,647	224,862
Rental income	47,133	25,911
Affiliation fee income	300	680
Consultancy fee income	1,000	-
Sale of books	64	-
	311,144	251,453

6. Investment income

	2024	2023
	£	£
Dividends and interest on listed investments	2,384	1,966
Bank interest	817	512
	3,201	2,478

7. Investment Management Costs

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

(continued)

8. Allocation of governance costs

	2024	2023
	£	£
Independent Examiners remuneration	2,184	2,052
	<u>2,184</u>	<u>2,052</u>

9. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2024	2023
	£	£
Staff and Travel	203,742	196,678
Premises Expenses	23,856	16,634
Printing Promotions and Awards	24,471	21,365
Computer and Web Costs	40,221	12,108
General Expenses	10,821	9,197
Professional Fees	254	9,322
Memberships & Subscriptions	891	1,216
Egyptian Halls Expense	19,968	-
Depreciation	1,019	1,206
Governance Costs (Note 8)	2,184	2,052
	<u>327,427</u>	<u>269,778</u>

10. Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

11. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

12. Government Grants

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

(continued)

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Heritable Property	Furniture & Fittings	Total
Cost	£	£	£
At 1 April 2023	255,853	54,123	309,976
Additions	-	2,079	2,079
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	255,853	56,202	312,055
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	115,849	45,921	161,770
Charge for the year	-	1,019	1,019
Eliminated on disposals	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	115,849	46,940	162,789
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	140,004	9,262	149,266
At 31 March 2023	140,004	8,203	148,206

At 31 March 2024 all assets were used for charitable purposes.

14. Fixed Asset Investments

	2024	2023
Movement in fixed asset listed investments	£	£
Market value brought forward at 1 April 2023	46,147	47,231
Additions to investments at cost	-	-
Disposals at carrying value	-	-
Net gain/(loss) on revaluation	1,285	(1,084)
Market value as at 31 March 2024	47,432	46,147

15. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	7,102	1,775
Accrued income	597	423
Prepayments	4,925	6,385
Other debtors	21,072	2,611
	33,696	11,194

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024

(continued)

16. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	5,862	7,622
Deferred income (Note 17)	-	2,250
Other creditors	11,480	3,042
	<u>17,342</u>	<u>12,914</u>

17. Deferred income

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

18. Analysis of charitable funds

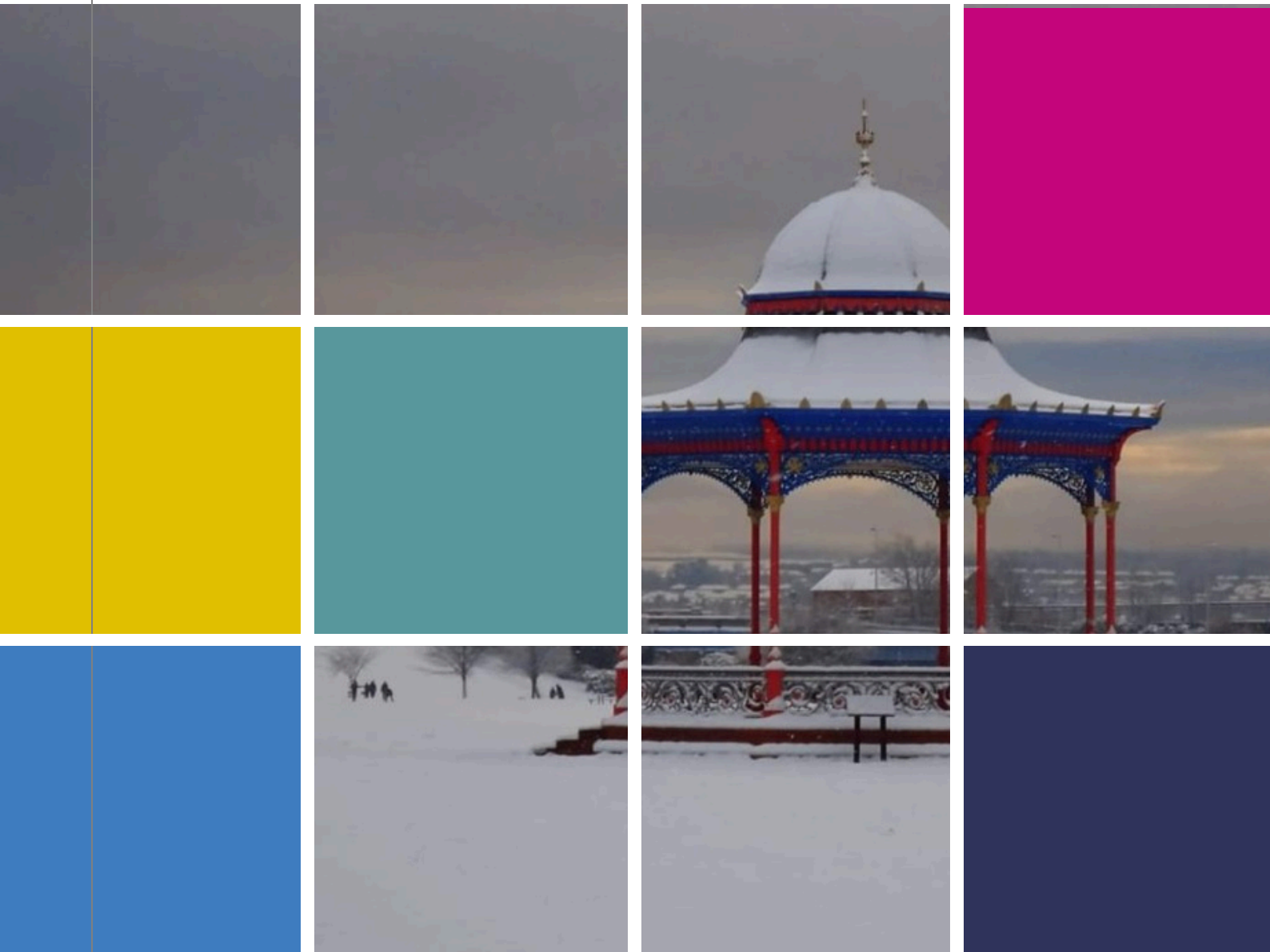
Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

19. Net assets over funds

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.

20. Lease Commitments

Available in the full version of the accounts downloadable from www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk.



Get in touch



0141 221 1466



The Tobacco Merchant's House, 42 Miller Street, Glasgow G1 1DT



www.scottishcivictrust.org.uk



@scotcivictrust

With thanks to our funders and sponsors



Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas
na h-Alba

