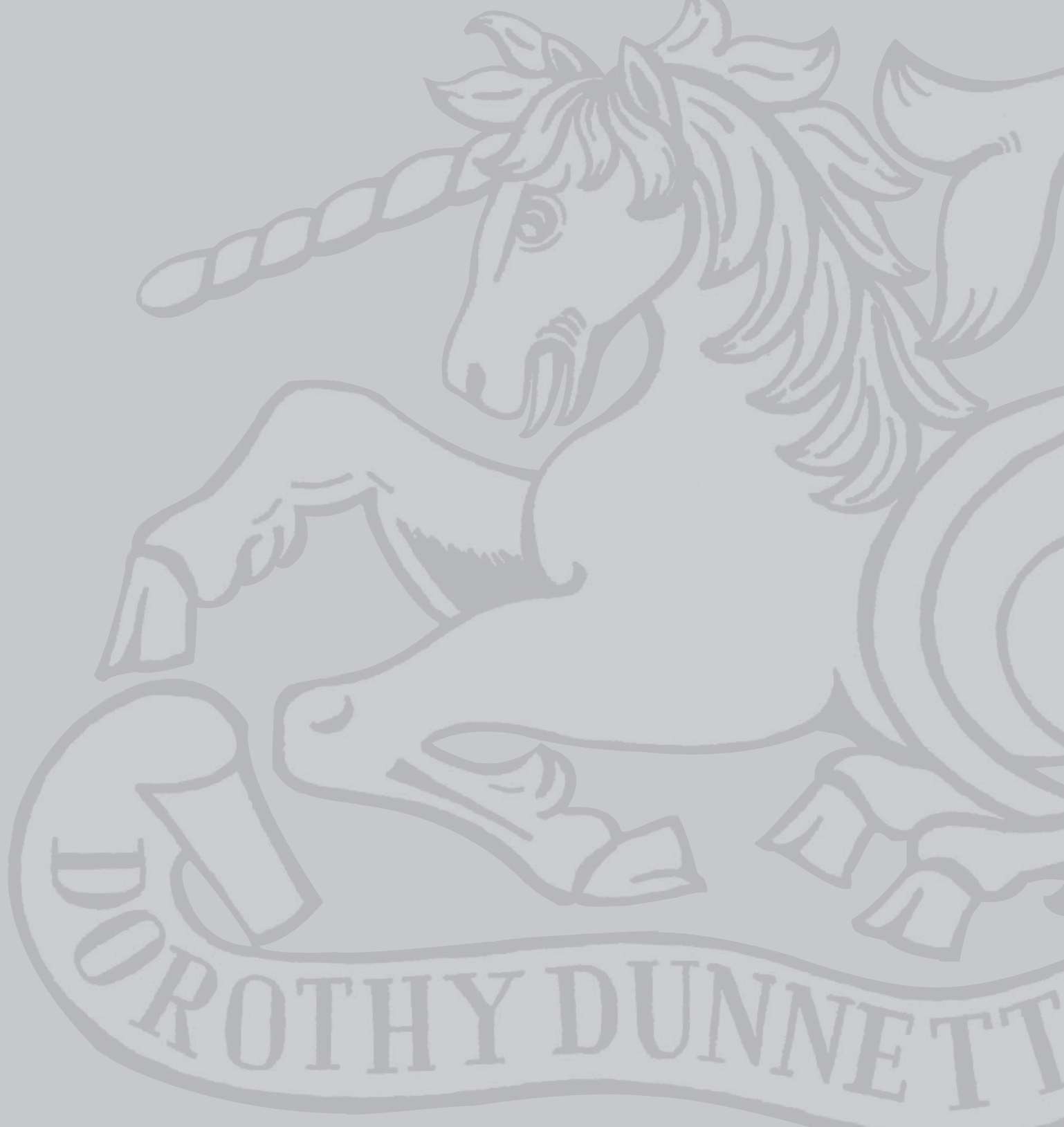




Dorothy Dunnett Society

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
2023**

Charity No: SC030649

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

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Trustees' Annual Report for the Period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	01	2023	To	31	12	2023

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS	
Charity Name	Dorothy Dunnett Society
Other names Charity is known by	Dorothy Dunnett Readers' Association
Registered charity number	SC030649
Charity's principal address	206 Overton Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 3JG

Names of the Charity Trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report			
Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1 Simon Hedges	Chairman		
2 Fiona Adams	Secretary		
3 Lesley Burnie	Treasurer		
4 Nicky Cannon	Deputy Chair		
5 Suzanne McNeill			
6 Deborah Conway Read			
7 Lisa Hopkins		15 May onwards	
8 Jill Harrison		23 April onwards	

Names of all other Charity Trustees during the period, if any (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)	
Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
Julia Hart	1 January to 22 April 2023
Susan Wallace	1 January to 22 April 2023

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT	
Type of governing document	The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. It is governed by its constitution, which was adopted on 18 April 2015. The Society was incorporated on 28 September 2015 as a result of a 'Change to SCIO application' by the Society, which had been an Unincorporated Association registered as a Charity since 1 September 2000.

Trustee recruitment and appointment	Membership of the Board of Trustees is open to all members. Trustees are elected at the Annual General Meeting, which is normally held in April. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of four and not more than eight Trustees. The Trustees are elected annually, but the Board may at any time appoint any member of the Society to join the Board in order to fill a vacancy.
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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable purposes	The Society shall seek to: a) advance the education of the public concerning the history, politics, culture and religion of the 11th, 15th and 16th centuries by promoting the study of and research into such subjects generally and into such subjects particularly as they relate to the works of Dorothy Dunnett and to disseminate to the public the results of such research; b) foster the appreciation and recognition of the literary works of Dorothy Dunnett; c) ensure that the manuscripts, letters, reference materials and research papers of Dorothy Dunnett are preserved and are accessible.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	The Society has undertaken a range of activities that contribute to its charitable purposes and to provide public benefit in our promotion of knowledge, research and appreciation of the work of Dorothy Dunnett. To celebrate the centenary of Dorothy Dunnett's birth, an academic conference 'Understanding Diversity in the 15th and 16th Centuries' was held in Edinburgh in April. This was a great success with the conference being attended by 132 people. After the conference, there were other organised events, such as a number of visits to places of historical interest associated with Dorothy Dunnett's writings, as well as guided tours of the Royal Mile and St Giles' Cathedral. An undoubted highlight over this period was a concert at St Giles' Cathedral by the Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers, which brought music of the 15th/16th century to the notice of the general public as well as promoting its connection to the literary works of Dorothy Dunnett. All events, other than the AGM, were open to the public. There were over 200 attendees at the various events. To mark the Centenary, the Society has funded two new annual grants for research in history, politics, culture or religion in the 11th, 15th or 16th centuries. Working in collaboration with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), the grants will be known as the Dorothy Dunnett Centenary Awards and aim to continue the long-lasting legacy of Dorothy Dunnett. The Awards consist of a £1,000 grant to a PhD student and another grant of £500 to a PhD or Master's student at the UHI. This support will facilitate high-quality research and increase interest of Dorothy Dunnett's name in academic and literary circles. These grants will be funded for four years, with a view to extending the funding if the scheme proves successful. Funding for this has been earmarked in the Special Projects fund. The topics of the research must fit with the Society's objective of developing and supporting knowledge in Dorothy Dunnett's areas of interest, to foster understanding and appreciation of her work. Two recipients were chosen in December from a very strong field. We have awarded £1000 to Lesley McKay, who is doing a Creative Practice PhD involving writing an historical novel set in 16th-century Unst, and £500 to Shanna Bryman, a PhD student studying Viking women and leadership. Another piece of good news in 2023 was that the Johnson Johnson novels were re-issued to coincide with the Centenary. Our thanks go to Sandra Hall for bringing these often overlooked books to the attention of Farrago and liaising with them on the publication. The magazine <i>Whispering Gallery</i> was produced three times throughout the period with a larger than usual Centenary issue to celebrate the birth of Dorothy Dunnett. The articles cover a range of historical and literary themes that take their impetus from Dorothy Dunnett's books. Liaison continues with the National Library of Scotland regarding the preservation and accessibility of the Dorothy Dunnett archive and with the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center in Boston, USA, which contains personal and professional information about Dorothy Dunnett's research and works. In August 2023, the National Library of Scotland added Dorothy Dunnett to their digital gallery of Literature and Writers on their website to celebrate her 100th birthday. Items from the Dunnett archive featured on the NLS web pages were selected by members of the Dorothy Dunnett Society who also wrote the essays that accompany them. The Society's thanks go to Heather Jacobson, who led the project, and to Jill Harrison and Carole Richardson who contributed articles.

	Together with the Historical Writers' Association and Curtis Brown, Literary Agents, the Society continued the short story competition, which attracted many excellent entries and a worthy winner whose story was published in the December 2023 issue of <i>Whispering Gallery</i>. The Society's contribution towards the competition was £1,000. In addition, the six shortlisted authors have had their stories published as an e-book by the HWA and Dorothy Dunnett Society, available through Amazon. <i>The Miraculous Mirror</i>, a collection of essays and writings by Dorothy Dunnett was re-issued this year and a new collection, <i>The Miraculous Mirror: River of Jewels</i>, was published in April. Work continues on the preparation of guides to Dorothy Dunnett locations. A new guidebook <i>Istanbul: The Dorothy Dunnett Guide</i> was published in April 2023. <i>Middle Marches: The Dorothy Dunnett Guide</i> is nearing fruition and is expected to be available in 2024. The 2023 International Dorothy Dunnett Day (IDDD) took place on 11 November in more than 20 locations worldwide. Dunnett fans gathered in the UK, the USA, Canada, Germany, South Africa and Australia to celebrate her works, to mark her centenary year, and to share good company. IDDD brings together local groups in person as well as online. Members of the Dorothy Dunnett Society coordinate these gatherings, and regional members and non-members alike have the opportunity to discuss all things Dunnett – and beyond. IDDD has been running now for over ten years and remains a highlight on many an annual calendar. On behalf of the Society, Pamela Gordon Hoad gave an entertaining and informative talk on 'Dorothy Dunnett: Colinton's Queen of Historical Fiction' at the Pentland Book Festival in November. There were a large number of non-members in the audience so this event successfully bolstered our charitable aims in fostering recognition of Dorothy Dunnett and her work. Our Twitter and Instagram accounts and our Facebook group are continually updated and are a primary source for promoting appreciation and recognition of the literary works of Dorothy Dunnett. Our Facebook and Twitter accounts have provided a much-appreciated channel of communication for readers around the world. Currently the number of members of the Facebook group is 1,800 (29% up on last year); the Facebook page 1,200 (up 29%), X (formerly known as Twitter) 1,936 (2% up), and Instagram 758 (up 34%). There are 299 subscribers to our Youtube channel. Most of these figures are higher than the membership of the Society itself, which demonstrates the importance of our continuing to engage with social media platforms. Our thanks go to Lily Meyer who did a superb job in creating our Centenary website https://dunnettcentral.org/centenary and to all the other members who contributed to it. The website has tributes from admirers from the writing world such as Prue Batten, Pamela Belle, Patricia Bracewell, Elizabeth Chadwick, Chelsea Clinton, Deborah Harkness, Gwyneth Hughes, KC Julius, Guy Gavriel Kay, Ellen Kushner, Val McDermid, Cheryl Sawyer and Alison Weir. Guy Gavriel Kay was a much appreciated speaker at our Centenary conference. Our thanks also go to Julia Hart and Susan Wallace, the Board members who spearheaded the arrangement of our first ever academic conference 'Understanding Diversity in the 15th and 16th Centuries'. The Trustees recognise the support of members throughout the world who contribute in many ways, large and small, toward the continued strength of the Society. In particular, we are grateful to the numerous members who volunteered at the Centenary Gathering in Edinburgh. Without their invaluable support, the events would not have been such a success.
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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of the main achievements of the Charity during the financial period	The Centenary Gathering in April 2023 was a great success with over 200 attendees. We inaugurated the Dorothy Dunnett Centenary Awards in collaboration with the University of Highlands and Islands. We awarded the Historical Writers' Association prize. The National Library of Scotland added Dorothy Dunnett to their digital gallery of Literature and Writers. The talk on 'Dorothy Dunnett: Colinton's Queen of Historical Fiction' at the Pentland Book Festival was a success in reaching out to non-members. Membership increased to 781. Engagement with both members and non-members continued to grow through the use of social media platforms.
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	Three issues, including the special Centenary issue, of the Society's magazine, <i>Whispering Gallery</i> , were produced this period. The quality of content and presentation is highly praised by the membership. Printing unit costs have remained steady whilst postage costs have increased by about 2%.
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FINANCIAL REVIEW

Brief statement of the Charity's policy on reserves	The Society's policy is to maintain reserves that would be at least equivalent to one year's core business expenditure, which is currently £31,000. We also hold a future subscriptions liabilities fund of £8,800 to cover those members who pay up to four years in advance.
Details of any deficit	There is a deficit in this financial year of £64,853. However, the Society had an unusually large surplus of £68,535 in 2022 because we received net prepayments of £68,501 in 2022 for the Centenary Weekend 2023. Therefore, over the two years we have had a net surplus of £3,862. We are expecting the pattern of expenditure and income to return to normal in 2024.
Donated facilities and services (if any)	All the activities of the Society are supported by the members on a voluntary basis. Trustees are not paid to attend meetings and they donate their time to the Society. Some Trustees and members donate their travel expenses to the Society.

OTHER OPTIONAL INFORMATION

The Society will continue its core activities of producing *Whispering Gallery* on a quarterly basis.

The Society will continue to work with the Historical Writers' Association and Curtis Brown Literary Agents on running a historical short story competition.

Work will continue on producing guides to locations that feature in Dorothy Dunnett's books. Future locations include Venice, Malta, London and France.

Liaison will continue with the National Library of Scotland and the Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center in Boston, USA, to ensure that the manuscripts, letters, reference materials and research papers of Dorothy Dunnett, including digital and photographic material, are preserved and are accessible.

International Dorothy Dunnett Day will be celebrated by members across the world each autumn close to the anniversary of the publication of *The Game of Kings*, Dorothy Dunnett's first book, whether in person or online.

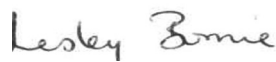
Members will continue to be encouraged to organise Dunnett-themed educational events in a variety of locations, whether in person or online. To facilitate this, the Society is offering grants of up to £500 to members who organise events which support our charitable aims and objectives.

A new initiative, the Dorothy Dunnett Networks & Geographies Research project, has been introduced. It is led by Jill Harrison but dependent on member involvement. This is just starting to get off the ground and we look forward to reporting back on the results in due course.

DECLARATION

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees' Report above.

Signed on behalf of the Charity's Trustees:

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Simon Hedges	Lesley Burnie
Position(s)	Chairman	Treasurer
Date	3 February 2024	3 February 2024

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FROM 1 JANUARY 2023 TO 31 DECEMBER 2023

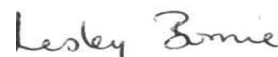
		2023	2022
RECEIPTS	Note	£	£
Subscriptions		19,664	26,679
Donations	7	2,383	2,162
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Current Year	13	60,530	9,380
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Future Year	14	4,480	81,533
Merchandise	8	8,457	7,094
Bank Interest	10	387	163
Gift Aid	15	7,849	0
Miscellaneous		315	0
Total Receipts		<u>104,065</u>	<u>127,011</u>
<i>PAYMENTS For advancement of education, the arts, heritage and culture</i>			
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Current Year	13	123,138	6,940
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Future Year	14	124	13,032
Whispering Gallery		17,638	17,948
Awards and Prizes	9	1,000	3,100
Special Projects/Centenary	2	9,285	0
Merchandise	8	3,903	7,801
Publications/Guides	8	3,005	1,599
Special Events	16	815	0
Donations and Subscriptions	7	20	20
		<u>158,928</u>	<u>50,440</u>
<i>For Governance costs</i>			
Trustees' and Officers' Expenses	5	3,523	3,443
Gifts for Retiring Trustees and Officers		100	0
Administration Costs	11	4,680	2,646
Online Presence	12	1,687	1,947
		<u>9,990</u>	<u>8,036</u>
Total payments		<u>168,918</u>	<u>58,476</u>
SURPLUS/-DEFICIT		<u>-64,853</u>	<u>68,535</u>
STATEMENT OF BALANCES			
Cash Funds	Opening Balance	103,585	35,050
	Surplus/-Deficit	<u>-64,853</u>	<u>68,535</u>
Closing Balance		<u>38,732</u>	<u>103,585</u>
Bank of Scotland Accounts (BoS)		33,080	100,873
Paypal Account		<u>5,652</u>	<u>2,712</u>
		<u>38,732</u>	<u>103,585</u>
Investments	Shawbrook Bank	10	25,989
		<u>25,989</u>	<u>25,989</u>
Assets	15	1,259	5,700
Liabilities	14	4,480	81,533

The notes on the next page form an integral part of these accounts

Approved by the Trustees on 3 February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Simon Hedges, Chairman

Lesley Burnie, Treasurer

These accounts have been independently examined

and signed as correct on 21 January 2024 by Marcus Croy, FCCA

Marcus Croy



NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT – From 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

- 1 Basis of Accounting** | These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).
- 2 Nature and Purpose of Funds** | All funds are unrestricted and may be used at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objectives of the charity. The Trustees maintain four unrestricted funds as follows:

	<u>At 31/12/22</u>	<u>At 31/12/23</u>	<u>BoS/Paypal</u>	<u>Investment</u>
General Fund	78,700	3,500	3,500	
Special Projects Fund	16,374	21,421	21,421	
Future Subscriptions Liability	8,500	8,800	3,811	4,989
Reserves	26,000	31,000	10,000	21,000
Total	129,574	64,721	38,732	25,989

The Special Projects reserve was used to fund the cost of producing the Lyndon maps and inviting special guests to the Centenary. It was also used for the first tranche of the Dorothy Dunnett Centenary award of £1,500 to University of the Highlands and Islands, a total of £2,747.

£2,383 was received this year through donations. 50% of this has been allocated to the Special Projects fund with the balance going to general reserves. The surplus on the Centenary Gathering of £6,422 has also been allocated to this fund.

Future Subscription Liabilities is a reserve to cover those members who pay subscriptions of up to 4 years in advance.

Costs of £6,538 were incurred for providing A/V at the Centenary and creating the videos of the AGM and talks for members who were unable to attend in person. This was funded from general reserves.

Reserves are to allow one year's core business to continue.

- 3 Grants Received** | None.
- 4 Trustee Remuneration** | No remuneration is paid to Trustees or to any connected person.
- 5 Governance Costs** | The Board holds three meetings in-person and one online during the year, supplemented by *ad hoc* online meetings, if necessary. Travel expenses paid to Trustees are included here.
- 6 Transactions with Trustees and connected persons** | None
- 7 Donations and Subscriptions made and received** | £20 subscription was paid to the Alliance of Literary Societies.
- 8 Merchandise and Publications** | Income from merchandise was £8,457 and expenditure was £3,903, giving a net surplus of £3,946. New items were added to the shop, e.g. *The Miraculous Mirror: Rivers of Jewels*; *Istanbul: The Dorothy Dunnett Guide* and car decals. Postage and stationery relating to merchandise are included under this heading.
- 9 Awards** | A contribution of £1,000 was made to the Historical Writers' Association to run a historical short story competition in association with Curtis Brown Literary Agents.
- 10 Interest and Investments** | The £25,989 investment at Shawbrook Bank received £26 interest in March 2023. The interest was transferred to the general bank account and £25,989 reinvested in a CAF Matured Funds account at 0.10% p.a. Interest of £361 was received on the prepayments for attendance at the 2023 Centenary Gathering, which was held in a 32-Day Notice account with the Bank of Scotland.
- 11 Administration Costs** | Administration costs were incurred on postage and stationery, insurance, an audit fee of £40, room hire for Board meetings and the hire of a storage unit.
- 12 Online presence** | Costs were incurred on maintaining the Society's website, the online shop, and the Centenary website.
- 13 DDS Centenary Gathering 2023** | The DDS Centenary Gathering was held in April 2023 in Edinburgh. Income and expenditure for the Gathering was spread over 2022 and 2023. The net surplus over the two years was £6,422, which has been added to the Special Projects fund.
- 14 Dunnett Weekend 2024** | We will be holding a Dunnett Weekend in Edinburgh in April 2024. We have received prepayments of £4,480 from attendees and have incurred costs of £124.
- 15 Gift Aid** | Gift Aid for financial years 2019 to 2021 was received in 2023. The claim for 2023 Gift Aid was submitted in January 2024 and is expected to be around £1,259.
- 16 Special Events** | The Society paid deposits of £784 for Oxford Day 2024. This will be reimbursed during 2024. There were also minor expenses for the Pentland Book Festival.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS							
Report to the Trustees/ members of	Dorothy Dunnett Society						
Registered Charity Number	SC030649						
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date		
		Day	Month	Year		Day	Month Year
	From	01	01	2023	To	31	12 2023
Set out on pages	2 to 7						

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner	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. 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 accounts.		
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention - which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.		
Signed		Date	21st January 2024
Name	Marcus Croy		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FCCA		
Address	1 Ravenscraig Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 2AL		



Dorothy Dunnett Society is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation No: SC030649
www.dorothydunnett.org