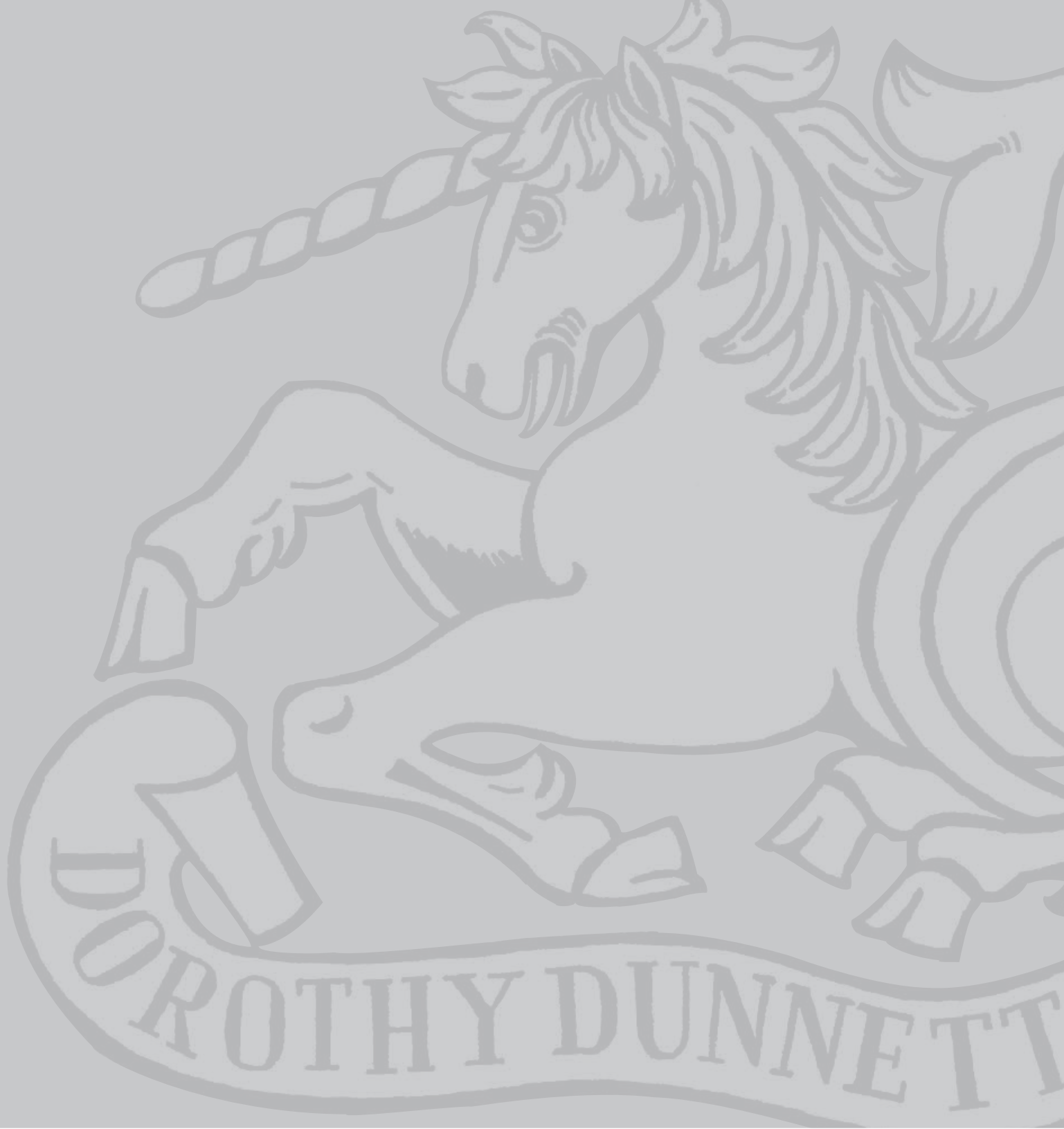


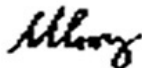


Dorothy Dunnett Society

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
2024**

Charity No: SC030649

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	2024	To	31	12 2024
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 1. 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 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.		
Signed		Date	19th January 2025
Name	Marcus Croy		
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	FCCA		
Address	1 Ravenscraig Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 2AL		

Trustees' Annual Report for the Period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	01	2024	To	31	12	2024

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATION DETAILS	
Charity Name	Dorothy Dunnett Society
Other names Charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC030649
Charity's principal address	1/2 West Grange Gardens, The Grange, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH9 2RA

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			
8 Jill Harrison			

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

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.

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. At the end of 2023, the Society inaugurated two annual grants for research in history, politics, culture, or religion in the 11th, 15th, and 16th centuries. Working in collaboration with the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), the grants are known as the Dorothy Dunnett Centenary Awards and aim to continue the long-lasting legacy of Dorothy Dunnett. The Centenary 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 for 2025 were chosen in December 2024 from a very strong field. We have awarded £1,000 to Siobhan Beatson to use towards her PhD research into the social and economic strategies deployed within the sea loch communities of the north west Highlands, during the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The award of £500 has been awarded to Matthew Farren for his MRes project, which focuses on the body as a victim in Viking culture and builds on previous research by the author on the criminal body. We contributed £500 to Michael Ohajuru towards the publication of his book <i>The John Blanke Project: Artists and Historians Reimagine the Black Tudor Trumpeter</i>, a unique art and archive initiative that celebrates the life of John Blanke, the Black trumpeter to the Tudor courts of Henry VII and Henry VIII. We also provided a grant of £1,250 to Jelena Bakić to help fund her research on <i>Voices from the Margin. Italian Renaissance Paratexts and Women's Knowledge Production</i>. The aim of this project is to highlight the importance of Renaissance paratextual sources and especially dedicatory epistles authored by women in revealing the female contribution to the scientific knowledge production during the Renaissance. 2024 saw the celebration of 600 years since the birth of Anselm Adornes, a pivotal character in the House of Niccolò series. We made a small contribution to the celebrations by funding leaflets for the Anselm Adornes Network, which included references to his importance in the House of Niccolò. Jill Harrison, one of our Board members, who is the lead on the Anselm Adornes Network Project and the Trinity Network also gave two talks on aspects of the Trinity Collegiate Church through Museums and Galleries Edinburgh. Both talks were well-attended – over 70 at <i>Edward Bonkil and the Trinity Altarpiece</i> and over 120 at <i>Reviving the Trinity Stones</i>. Although these projects are not directly related to the Dorothy Dunnett Society, Jill acknowledged our funding support to the Trinity Network which helped bring Dorothy Dunnett and our Society to the attention of the wider public. The magazine <i>Whispering Gallery</i> was produced four times throughout the period. The articles in it cover a range of historical and literary themes that take their impetus from Dorothy Dunnett's books. We held another successful Dunnett Weekend in April in Edinburgh which was attended by over 70 people, some of whom were non-members. We also organised a Lecture Day in Oxford which was attended by over 50 people, which again included some non-members. The Board's thanks go to Julia Hart who did a wonderful job of organising the events and finding fascinating speakers. In order to increase our outreach to non-members and to make events more accessible to overseas members, we have inaugurated a series of on-line lectures, The DunNETt International Online Lectures. The first one was held in September 2024 and was an extremely interesting talk by Dr Jennifer L. Wood, a Renaissance scholar and a member of the English Faculty at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia,

	USA on <i>Musical Diplomacy on the Global Stage: Dallam's Organ and Lymond's Spinnet</i>. This has also been made available on our YouTube channel. The lecture was well-attended with over 50 people taking part on-line. This initiative is also being led by Julia Hart. Liaison continues with the National Library of Scotland regarding the preservation and accessibility of the Dorothy Dunnett archive which contains personal and professional information about Dorothy Dunnett's research and works. 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 2024 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. A new guidebook <i>Middle Marches: The Dorothy Dunnett Guide</i> was published in November 2024. <i>Venice: The Dorothy Dunnett Guide</i> is on track to be published in 2026. The 2024 International Dorothy Dunnett Day (IDDD) took place on November 9th in more than 16 locations worldwide. Dunnett fans gathered in the UK, the USA, Canada and Australia to celebrate her works 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 fourteen years and remains a highlight on many an annual calendar, including last year's celebration of Dunnett's centenary year. Scotland's People featured Dorothy Dunnett as one of the notable people born in 1921. https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/article/our-records-dorothy-dunnett-obe-1923-2001-novelist-and-artist. 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 2,155 (20% up on last year); the Facebook page 1200 (no change) and Instagram 811 (up 7%). X (formerly known as Twitter) is at 1,780 (9% down) which we think is due to a general drift away from X. However, we have started using BlueSky which is already at 698. There are 342 subscribers to our Youtube channel (up 14%). 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. Two members, Beth Rambo and Heike Meyer, contributed an essay titled 'Accidental Medievalist: Dorothy Dunnett and <i>King Hereafter</i>' to an anthology published by McFarland & Co in the United States. In this way, and many others, members help foster the appreciation and recognition of the literary works of Dorothy Dunnett. The trustees appreciate the support of members throughout the world who contribute in many ways, large and small, toward the continued strength of the Society.
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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of the main achievements of the Charity during the financial period	The Dunnett Weekend and Oxford Day lectures were a great success. We continued funding the Dorothy Dunnett Centenary Awards in collaboration with the University of Highlands and Islands. We awarded the Historical Writers' Association prize. We inaugurated a series of on-line lectures. We awarded two grants to academic researchers. Engagement with both members and non-members continued to grow through the use of social media platforms. Four issues 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.
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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 £26,000. We also hold a future subscriptions liabilities fund of £7,800 to cover those members who pay up to four years in advance.
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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

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Details of any deficit	There is a deficit in this financial year of £8,291. This is partly due to the UHI award of £1,500 being funded from reserves. However, it is mainly due to timing issues as the Society operates on a payments and receipts basis. For example, the Society spent £6,000 on merchandise and publications. We will receive the compensating income in the coming years.
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 (due to be published in 2026), Malta, Paris, London and other parts of France.

Liaison will continue with the National Library of Scotland 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 on-line.

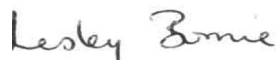
The DunNETt International Online Lectures will continue in 2025 with the next one being planned for February 2025.

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	25 January 2025	25 January 2025

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 2024

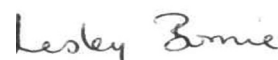
		2024	2023
RECEIPTS	Note	£	£
Subscriptions		25,553	19,664
Donations	2	2,022	2,383
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Current Year	13	9,916	60,530
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Future Year	14	2,166	4,480
Summer Dunnett Day	15	6,986	0
Merchandise	8	4,704	8,457
Bank Interest	10	37	387
Gift Aid	17	1,574	7,849
Miscellaneous		0	315
Total Receipts		52,958	104,065
PAYMENTS <i>For advancement of education, the arts, heritage and culture</i>			
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Current Year	13	13,010	123,138
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Future Year	14	1,518	124
Summer Dunnett Day	15	5,014	0
Whispering Gallery		18,968	17,638
Awards and Prizes	9	2,515	1,000
Special Projects/Centenary	2	1,500	9,285
Merchandise	8	6,640	3,903
Publications/Guides	8	2,148	3,005
Special Events	16	239	815
Donations and Subscriptions	7	20	20
		<u>51,572</u>	<u>158,928</u>
<i>For Governance costs</i>			
Trustees' and Officers' Expenses	5	3,042	3,523
Gifts for Retiring Trustees and Officers		0	100
Administration Costs	11	3,787	4,680
Online Presence	12	2,848	1,687
		<u>9,677</u>	<u>9,990</u>
Total payments		61,249	168,918
SURPLUS/-DEFICIT		-8,291	-64,853
STATEMENT OF BALANCES			
Cash Funds	Opening Balance	38,732	103,585
	Surplus/-Deficit	-8,291	-64,853
	Closing Balance	<u>30,441</u>	<u>38,732</u>
Bank of Scotland Accounts (BoS)		19,430	33,080
Paypal Account		0	5,652
		<u>19,430</u>	<u>38,732</u>
Investments	Shawbrook Bank	0	25,989
	Cambridge & Counties Bank	27,000	0
	Bank of Scotland	10,000	0
		<u>37,000</u>	<u>25,989</u>
Assets	17	2,194	1,259
Liabilities	14	1,182	4,480

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

Approved by the Trustees on 25 January 2025 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 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024

- 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 31/12/23</u>	<u>At 31/12/24</u>	<u>BoS/Paypal</u>	<u>Investment</u>
General Fund	3,500	1,698	1,698	
Special Projects Fund	21,421	20,932	10,932	10,000
Future Subscriptions Liability	8,800	7,800	800	7,000
Reserves	31,000	26,000	6,000	20,000
Total	64,721	56,430	19,430	37,000

The Special Projects reserve was used to fund the second tranche of the Dorothy Dunnett Centenary award of £1,500 to University of the Highlands and Islands.

£2,022 was received this year through donations. 50% of this has been allocated to the Special Projects fund with the balance going to general reserves.

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

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 held two meetings in-person and two 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 £4,704 and expenditure was £6,640 giving a net deficit of £1,936.
Middle Marches: The Dorothy Dunnett Guide was added to the shop.
 The cost of the new guides and a new range of mugs were purchased in 2024 but the majority of the income for these will not be seen until future years.
 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.
 We contributed £500 to Michael Ohajuru towards the publication of his book *The John Blanke Project: Artists and Historians Reimagine the Black Tudor Trumpeter*. We also provided a grant of £1,250 to Jelena Bakić to help fund her research on *Voices from the Margin: Italian Renaissance Paratexts and Women's Knowledge Production*. £1,200 of this grant was paid out in 2024 with the balance due to be paid on completion.
- 10 **Interest and Investments** | The £25,989 investment at Shawbrook Bank received £26 interest in March 2024. The interest was transferred to the general bank account. This investment was closed in August 2024, receiving closing interest of £11. A new investment of £10,000 was created with Bank of Scotland, one year fixed term deposit at 5%. This is due to mature in September 2025. An additional £27,000 was invested with Cambridge & Counties Bank in a two year fixed rate bond at 4.25%. This is due to mature in December 2026.
 The overall movement in investments was an increase of £11,011.
- 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 **Dunnett Weekend 2024** | The DDS Weekend, including the AGM, was held in April 2024 in Edinburgh.
- 14 **Dunnett Weekend 2025** | We will be holding a Dunnett Weekend in Dumfries in April 2025. We have received prepayments of £1,182 from attendees and have incurred costs of £1,518.
- 15 **Summer Dunnett Day** | The Summer Dunnett Day, formerly run independently of the Society by various members, is now being run by the Society. The 2024 event was in Oxford. The 2025 event will take place in Leicester.
- 16 **Special Events** | The Society has started a series of lectures called The DunNETt International Online Lectures. The payments to our guest lecturer are included here.
- 17 **Gift Aid** | Gift Aid of £1,574 for financial year 2023 was received in January 2024. We are expecting to receive about £2,194 in Gift Aid for 2024 in early 2025.