

The Edinburgh Society of Organists

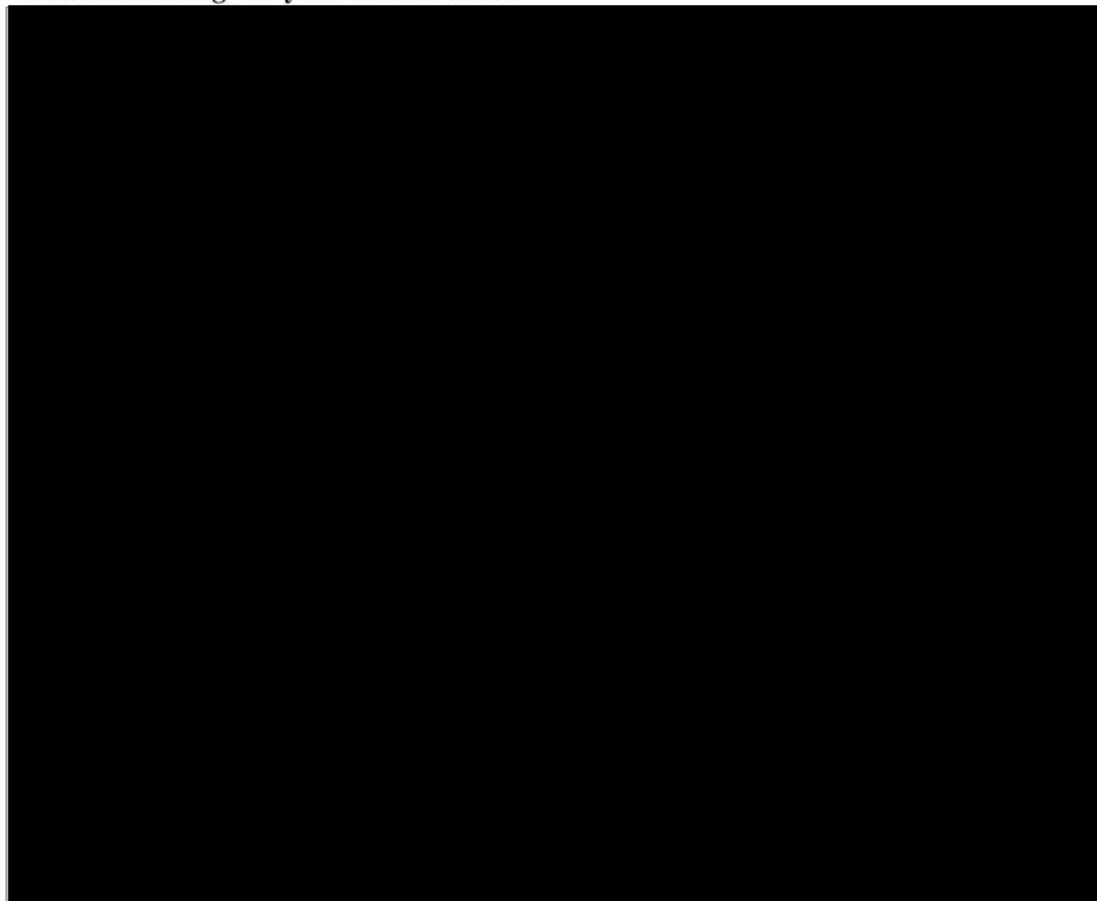
Scottish Charity Number SC013728

Annual Report of the Trustees and Accounts for the financial year from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025

The Edinburgh Society of Organists

Trustees' Annual Report

Trustees during the year and to date:



Charitable Purpose

The Edinburgh Society of Organists (the “ESO”) was established as an unincorporated association in 1913. Its principal aim is the advancement of education in music, with particular emphasis on liturgical and organ music. The objectives and administrative arrangements of the Society are set out in its Constitution.

Management of the Society

The Trustees of the Society are the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Trustees delegate the routine management of the Society to a Council consisting of the President, the Vice President, the retiring President during an ex-officio year of membership of the Council, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Membership Secretary, the Editor and at least six and no more than nine ordinary members, elected from the Society’s own membership. The election is performed at the Annual General Meeting, which takes place in May.

Turcan Connell lodged the application for Voluntary Registration of Hollins House with Registers of Scotland prior to the deadline (31st March 2024). The application is now being processed prior to the Title Sheet being issued by them. The President is in contact with Registers of Scotland to advise them of the change of Trustees following last year’s AGM.

The President serves for two years after which the Vice President automatically assumes the role of President. All other office-bearers hold office for one year and are eligible for re-election. Ordinary Council members serve for three years and are eligible for re-election only after one year has lapsed. Members of the Council receive no remuneration.

Affiliation

The ESO is affiliated to both the Incorporation of Organists (the "IAO") and the Scottish Federation of Organists (the "SFO"). An annual capitation fee is paid by the Society in respect of its affiliation to the IAO. Two members of the Society represent the Society at the SFO committee meetings.

2023-2024 Events and Achievements

The ESO has enjoyed a successful year of varied, interesting and eclectic events over the 2024/25 session. Attendances have, as usual, fluctuated. It has facilitated several events designed to promote an understanding of pipe organs, of organ music, of composers, of organ improvisation and an organ masterclass for young players.

Saturday 20th April 2024 – Visit to the Kendal Area

Around a dozen members and friends visited three churches (and four organs), being St Peter's Church, Heversham; St George's Church, Kendal and Kendal Parish Church. The trip was meticulously organised and carefully co-ordinated by [REDACTED]. Architectural and historical notes were kindly supplied by [REDACTED]. A great time was had by all with the opportunities to catch up with old friends and to make new ones. Everyone who wished to play was able to do so.

Tuesday 14th May 2024 – ESO AGM and recital

Twenty four members of the EOS (out of a total of two hundred and twelve members) attended the meeting. It would be very encouraging if more members attended given that the date is announced roughly one year before the event. The meeting ran smoothly and efficiently, there being no contentious or problematic issues. [REDACTED] gave an exciting and colourful performance on the organ installed in 2007 by Matthew Copley Organ Design with pieces by Simon Preston, Francois Couperin and Messiaen.

Thursday 15th August 2024 – Composing Sacred Music - Canongate Kirk

This was part of the Edinburgh Festival of the Sacred Arts, featuring a competition for young composers of sacred music. The competition is supported by various grants including one from the ESO. The principal adjudicator was [REDACTED]. She gave a short address on composing sacred music. Six choral compositions were expertly sung by a small choir of singers conducted by [REDACTED]. The first prize was awarded to Jonathan Love's "An Art of Poetry", which the choir of Old St Pauls sang in October and the Edinburgh University Singers in a concert in November.

Saturday 7th September 2024 – Southside Organ Tour

We started off the 2024-2025 syllabus with a visit to three instruments of the Tollcross area of the city – Central Hall, Tollcross; St Michael and All Saints, Tollcross and Barclay Viewforth Church, Gillespie Place. Fascinating as organs often are, often the buildings themselves are worth a visit in their own right and that was the case here with three strikingly different venues.

Saturday 5th October 2024 – Broughton St Mary's Church – Church Music Scotland

Around twenty five members gathered in the Garden Room at Broughton St Mary's to hear first-hand the latest news about the newly formed group, Church Music Scotland. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] founders of this new Community Interest Company, gave us a thorough and detailed presentation which then flowed into a most informative question and answer session.

Friday 29th & Saturday 30th November 2024 – C V Stanford Lecture and Recital

2024 being the centenary of the death of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford we were fortunate to be able to arrange a visit from [REDACTED] ex Head of Music at Durham University and a leading authority on Stanford. His book on Stanford, now into its second edition, with much new material, is highly recommended. Friday evening was devoted to the composer's life and some of the "other" works, while Stanford's church and organ music (most familiar to many of us) was dealt with on the Saturday, with [REDACTED] playing the organ.

Saturday 18th January 2025 – President's Meeting

After one or two disappointingly small attendances at some events this season, it was heartening to see a goodly crowd at the President's meeting. The venue was the splendid, Reid Memorial Church where our President, is organist. The event took the form of a song recital by local baritone [REDACTED] accompanied by [REDACTED] on the church's very fine Rushworth & Dreaper organ of 1932.

Friday 14th February 2025 – ESO Recital and dinner

The ESO dinner was preceded by a recital at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral. This year we were particularly fortunate to have [REDACTED] as the guest recitalist. The programme included Bach's Passacaglia in C minor; Whitlock's Fanfare and Saint-Saens Fantaisie in E flat and ending with Dupre's Prelude and Fugue in B major. Dinner was held again at the Scottish Arts Club where [REDACTED] afterwards reminded us that most organists have many anecdotes and treating us to some of his too.

Saturday 15th March 2025 – Canongate Kirk – The Chapel Royal and the music of Scotland's Reformation

This presentation was given by [REDACTED] who is presently working on a PhD on this topic. Musical illustrations were provided by the Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers which [REDACTED] conducts. [REDACTED] offered new insights into the work of the Chapel Royal both at Stirling and at Holyrood Palace which King James IV had begun to enlarge in the early 1500s.

SFO

I have attended various SFO Council meetings by zoom during the year. The SFO's Annual Conference was held at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church on 28th and 29th April 2023. Although I did not attend I understand that one or two of our members did. Members can access their webpage://sdso.co.uk/ if they wish to be kept updated.

Console

I am very grateful to [REDACTED] for supervising and co-ordinating so effectively, enthusiastically and to such a high standard the production of Console over the past year. Many have commented upon the wide variety of illuminating articles and the broad range of submissions for inclusion. I know from comments which have been received that it is greatly appreciated by our membership and those beyond. It has been acknowledged as one of the best produced by any UK Organists' association. Members can now choose to receive Console

online thereby beginning to reduce the cost of printing and postage. During the year the font has been changed to Arial hopefully improving the clarity of text.

Website

██████████ continues to maintain the website and timeously keeps the events updated once he has been notified of them. I would like to thank ██████████ for quietly working away in the background on this. If you know of any forthcoming recitals which may be of interest, do contact ██████████ direct. Members are encouraged to look at the website including Meetings and Events, Recital Diary, Publication, Organs for Sale and Vacancies.

Membership

Our Membership Secretary ██████████ has had a particularly busy year following on from last year's AGM when it was agreed to increase the annual subscription from £12 to £25, it having remained the same for many years. Up to that point members had been paying by a variety of means and at different times throughout the year – mainly by standing orders that had been unchanged for many years. In order to simplify the transition to the new rates, we introduced payment of subscription by direct debit. The response from membership was overwhelmingly positive, to the extent that within a couple of weeks 80% (145) of the membership had signed up by direct debit. 26 members wished to continue to pay by standing order, but all standing orders have been updated and now align to the 1st October due date. If any member has not yet signed up to paying by direct debit, I would encourage them to do so by contacting the Membership Secretary, who would be happy to make the arrangements for you. This has been a resounding success. Many thanks to all members who have made this possible and of course to ██████████ for all his hard and diligent work.

A history of the ESO – A Fellowship of Organists ██████████

Some years ago ██████████ stated her intention to write a history of the ESO. The book has now been published with the ESO paying the costs. ██████████ has succeeded in creating an engagingly written book covering over a century of history in a manner which is never dull and contains some fascinating photographs from various decades. It has now been published in a good quality hardback format and is free to ESO members. It can be obtained by attending some ESO meetings at which it is available or contacting ██████████ direct or any members of the ESO Council.

ESO Records/Archives

Following the publication of "A history of the ESO" referred to above, the ESO Records/Archives are now stored in Reid Memorial Church with the exception of some "working" files which are presently held by the Secretary and also Turcan Connell.

Legacy: A legacy of £750 was received from the late Mrs Elizabeth M Wells' Estate.

Summary

The ESO Council is thanked for their hard work over the past year as well the encouragement they have given me in my third year as Honorary ESO Secretary. In conclusion, I believe we have had another successful year, with the breadth of events, welcoming new members (including younger ones) to our Society, making grants together with spending incurred to enable the ESO history book to be published, which are all core aims of the ESO as a charitable body.

Financing

The Society maintains three reserves for specific purposes, all of which are unrestricted funds. The **General Reserve** supports the ordinary activities of the Society and is funded by subscriptions, donations and interest earned on bank deposits.

The **Hollins House Reserve** is intended to meet any capital expenditure arising from Hollins House, a property that was bequeathed to the Society in 1946 by Dr Alfred Hollins. The flat is currently let. New letting agents, D J Alexander, were appointed in August 2023. A new tenancy is in place with the rent being £1,900 per month and the letting agents preparing an annual inspection report. Urgent works comprising (One) a full refurbishment of the bathroom (£8,374.23) and (Two) upgrading the separate internal shower room (£2,186.92) were carried out to Hollins House in January. In addition, certain electrical works which had been disclosed as being essential following an electricity safety inspection report have also been completed.

The **Special Purposes Fund** is used to undertake any activities that could not be ordinarily financed from members' subscriptions. During the year the fund awarded grants and concert sponsorship consistent with the Constitution of the Society, including (One) a grant of £300 to a young ESO member for the attendance at the St Andrews' organ week; (Two) a grant of £500 to the Herrick Bunney Memorial Recital at St Giles' Cathedral; (Three) a grant of £2,600 to St Mary's Music School towards the cost of repairing the school's Peter Collins House organ at the school and (Four) a grant of £1,500 to Echo Vocal Ensemble to enable them to perform at St Giles' Cathedral.

Honorary Secretary – The Edinburgh Society of Organists

11 December 2025

The Edinburgh Society of Organists

Receipts and Payments Account for the year to 31st March 2025

	Note	2024/5 £	2023/24 £
Receipts			
Voluntary income			
Subscriptions		4,647	2,297
Donations		750	13
Gift Aid		-	-
		<u>5,397</u>	<u>2,310</u>
Receipts from charitable activities			
Sales of other books and CDs		10	95
Members' meetings and events		1,902	1,920
		<u>1,912</u>	<u>2,015</u>
Investment income			
Rent of Hollins House		22,680	17,562
Bank interest		1,174	94
		<u>23,854</u>	<u>17,656</u>
Total receipts from activities		<u>31,163</u>	<u>21,981</u>
Loan from Baird Ross Trust	4	<u>4,783</u>	<u>-</u>
Total receipts		<u>35,946</u>	<u>21,981</u>
Payments			
Fundraising costs			
Hollins House expenses	1	<u>24,480</u>	<u>3,332</u>
Charitable activities			
Publications		4,906	6,330
ESO History book cost of production		3,007	-
Meetings and events		5,841	4,843
Capitation fee IAO		738	789
Grants	2	4,900	2,250
Administration		229	209
		<u>19,621</u>	<u>14,420</u>
Governance			
Annual accounts		<u>71</u>	<u>62</u>
Total payments		<u>44,172</u>	<u>17,814</u>
Net receipts/(payments)		<u>(8,226)</u>	<u>4,167</u>
Movement in bank balances			
At 1 April		87,970	83,803
Net (payments)/receipts		<u>(8,226)</u>	<u>4,167</u>
At 31 March		<u>79,744</u>	<u>87,970</u>

The Edinburgh Society of Organists

Statement of balances as at 31st March 2025


	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Bank Balances			
Current account		16,267	75,667
Savings accounts		51,051	-
National Savings		12,426	12,303
		<u>79,744</u>	<u>87,970</u>
Other net assets			
<i>Investment property – Hollins House</i>	3	-	-
<i>Debtor – estimated Gift Aid recoverable</i>		2,000	
<i>Creditor – Loan from Baird Ross Trust</i>	4	(4,783)	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Funds		<u><u>76,961</u></u>	<u><u>87,970</u></u>
Funds			
<i>Capital Fund</i>		2,000	2,000
<i>Revenue Fund</i>		1,000	1,000
<i>General reserve</i>		31,395	23,579
<i>Hollins House Reserve</i>		41,534	55,459
<i>Special Purposes Fund</i>		1,032	5,932
		<u><u>76,961</u></u>	<u><u>83,803</u></u>

Movement in Funds:

	General Reserve £	Hollins House Reserve £	Special Purposes £
At 1 April 2024	23,579	55,459	5,932
Hollins house maintenance	-	(15,925)	-
Other movements in funds	9,816	-	(4,900)
	<u>33,395</u>	<u>39,534</u>	<u>1,032</u>
Transfers			
To Hollins House Reserve	(2,000)	2,000	
To Special Purposes Fund	-	-	-
At 31 March 2025	<u><u>31,395</u></u>	<u><u>41,534</u></u>	<u><u>1,032</u></u>

There are no movements on the Capital and Revenue Funds

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf:


Honorary Treasurer
11 December 2005

The Edinburgh Society of Organists

Notes to the Account for the year to 31st March 2025

1. Net Rental Income from Hollins House

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross Rent received	22,680	17,562
Management	2,722	1,962
Maintenance - agent	15,925	460
Maintenance - ESO	2,300	-
Insurance	3,299	-
Miscellaneous	234	910
Hollins House Expenses	24,480	3,332
Net (payments)/receipts	(1,800)	14,230

2 Grants

During the year, the Society awarded four grants consistent with the Constitution of the Society, to the value of £4900. See page 6 for details.

3 Hollins House

The Society owns Hollins House, which is a tenement flat in Grosvenor Street, Edinburgh that was inherited by the Society in the 1940s from the late Dr Alfred Hollins, past president of the Society. This property is considered to form part of the permanent endowment of the Society, since it is unlikely that it would ever be sold to realise cash.

A value for neither its original nor current value is available and consequently has not been included. In the opinion of the Trustees, the cost of conducting a professional valuation to include a value in this account would be disproportionate to any additional benefit derived by users of the account. In May 2025 Hollins House was insured for £1,050,000, which is an estimate of the cost of reconstruction of the property at that date in its existing design and materials following total destruction. Replacement building cost does not represent market value of the flat and does not include a valuation of the land on which the tenement building is situated.

4 Loan from Baird Ross Trust

During the year, The Baird Ross Trust, a charity with the purpose of financing a competition to encourage the composition of church music in Scotland, transferred its residual bank balance, amounting to £4,783, to the Society in the form of a loan.

5 Trustee remuneration, benefits and expenses

No Trustee or member of Council received remuneration or benefits in respect of service as a trustee or member of Council, other than reimbursement of expenses made on behalf of the Society.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Edinburgh Society of Organists

I report on the accounts of the Society for the financial year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 7 to 9.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The 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 Society 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 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 view given by 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:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulationshave 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.

11 December 2025