

# **SS Explorer Preservation Society**

## **Trustees' Annual Report**

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

SS Explorer Preservation Society

SC023518

Custom House, 65/67 Commercial Street, Leith

EH6 6LH

[www.theexplorer.scot](http://www.theexplorer.scot)

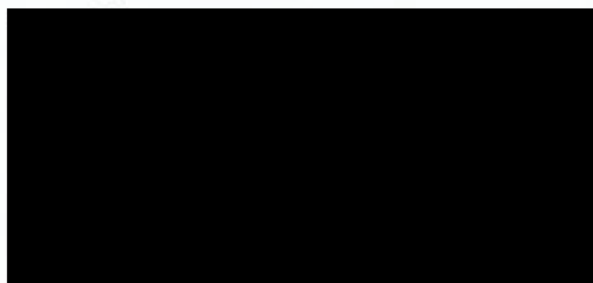
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## **Structure, governance and management**

### **Charity Trustees**



### **Trustee recruitment and appointment**

There were no changes to the Trustees during the year

### **Objectives**

The Society is established for charitable purposes only, and in particular, the objects are

- The advancement of heritage through the conservation of the ex-Fisheries Research vessel SS Explorer, ensuring that the vessel is preserved and maintained along with artefacts and documents related to her history
- The advancement of education on the vessel and its importance to maritime history by opening the SS Explorer to visits, displaying and sharing information about her history, and creating resources particularly for local schools and community.

### **History**

The Society was established in 1994 as a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee by enthusiasts who wanted to preserve the SS Explorer, the UK's last surviving steam Fisheries Research Vessel. The Society converted to a Scottish Charitable incorporated organisation in November 2021.

Launched in 1955 as Scotland's first purpose-built, ocean-going Fisheries Research Vessel, SS Explorer served in this role for 28 years. The vessel was decommissioned in 1984 and was in danger of being broken up until she was purchased by the Society in 1994.

The vessel was eventually moved to Leith and over the last 20 years or so, the Society has recruited and supported volunteers to restore the ship, hosted visits by local residents, former crew members and other interested parties, begun collecting and cataloguing marine artefacts, recording oral history and publicising their work more widely.

### **Achievements and performance**

The completion of our Conservation Management Plan for the vessel last year has allowed us to develop a plan for drydocking the vessel and other major works. In the meantime, we have continued with our programme of wind and watertight stabilisation and general maintenance.

Discussions with Forth Ports and their partners in 'The Drydock' project as part of Harbour 31, appear likely to provide us with a publicly accessible berth.




Following the work of our graduate intern from the Scottish Graduate School for Social Sciences we have now employed a part time Community Outreach worker for the summer to further develop our local connections.

Fundraising continues to be challenging with a number of unsuccessful applications, but we were successful with an application to the Community Fund who provided funds towards community outreach, our core insurance costs and support and training for volunteers.

In addition, because of the outreach programme and other initiatives, we have had a steady flow of visitors which has generated donations and feedback. The donation point at the Royal Yacht Britannia has provided a steady flow of funds as has the one at the Port of Leith Distillery.

Meanwhile, the Society and Explorer have been making progress in a number of other areas -

- We established a dedicated visitor tours team and recruited volunteers specifically for this role. In addition to contact via our website, we have also distributed visitor cards on board Fingal and in other locations with the result that we have had over 180 visitor tours on the vessel in the last 7 or 8 months.
  - We have reviewed and updated our Health and Safety Policy, finalised an Emergency Response Procedure which ties in with Forth Ports procedures and introduced a formal induction policy for new volunteers.
  - Our volunteer advertising with Edinburgh Volunteering has been successful and we have recently recruited a Volunteer Coordinator to manage our growing team along with a Website and Social Media Coordinator to take responsibility for our online presence. We have also introduced an online volunteer management app to record volunteer hours and allow tasks to be assigned.
  - The onboard team have continued maintenance and preservation works on the vessel and have completed stripping the deck boards, chipping and cleaning the steel on the Starboard waist deck and will shortly begin final cleaning and painting of this area. The Port side waist deck will be the next target. [REDACTED] has continued his work - almost singlehandedly - repairing and reinstalling the water-damaged panelling in the wheelhouse which has made a huge difference.
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# SS Explorer Preservation Society Accounts

1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Registered Charity SC023518

Statement of Balances	24/25	23/24
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Balance on Bank Account	11,828.41	5,119.89
Hospitality Account	<u>39.44</u>	<u>00.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>11,867.85</u>	<u>5,119.89</u>
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
Book Value of Equipment	536.17	630.79
Book Value of Ship	<u>7,655.00</u>	<u>7,655.00</u>
Total Fixed Asset	<u>8,191.17</u>	<u>8,285.79</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>20,059.02</u>	<u>13,405.68</u>

01 July 2025

## RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

For the year ending 31 March 2025

<u>Receipts</u>	<u>24/25</u>	<u>23/24</u>
Memberships	649.29	424.58
Donations	5,430.04	13,871.57
Grants	12,259.20	19,740.80
Sales	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	<u>18,338.53</u>	<u>34,036.95</u>

### Payments

Repairs	51.83	817.26
Publicity / Hospitality	933.47	97.90
Insurance	5,247.54	5,077.82
Conservation Plan	0.00	19,740.80
Tools & PPE	289.75	87.75
Admin Expenses	829.68	314.33
Miscellaneous	<u>4,277.74</u>	<u>4,341.45</u>
TOTAL	<u>11,630.01</u>	<u>30,477.31</u>
Receipts	18,338.53	34,036.95
Less Payments	<u>11,630.01</u>	<u>30,477.31</u>
Surplus/Deficit	<u>6,708.52</u>	<u>3,559.64</u>
Opening Bank Balance	<u>5,119.89</u>	1,560.25
Add Surplus/Less Deficit	<u>6,708.52</u>	<u>3,559.64</u>
Closing Bank Balance	<u>11,828.41</u>	<u>5,119.89</u>



## Notes to Accounts

- 1 The SS Explorer has retained the historic ship status granted by the National Maritime Museum's Ships Committee. She was purchased by the Society for £10,000 and the last valuation of the ship was £7,655. The current value of the ship is a matter of conjecture. In discussion with our surveyor, he explained we could argue that the ship is one of a kind and irreplaceable. On the other extreme we could look at it from the point of scrap value and the costs of removing asbestos. Bear in mind that the higher we value the ship, the higher will be the insurance premium. After negotiations with our surveyor and insurers the "book value" will remain at £7,655.
- 2 Book value of other Equipment – This is the aggregate value given to Assets whose original value was over £500 after depreciation has been charged. Such items are: the cooker, audio visual equipment and A/C generator.



18 September 2025

OSCR  
9 Riverside Drive  
DUNDEE  
DD1 4NY

Dear Sirs

AUDIT OF THE FINAL ACCOUNTS OF THE SS EXPLORER PRESERVATION SOCIETY – SCO23518  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2024 – 31 MARCH 2025

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation of 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. My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. I have examined the accounting records kept by the SSEPS and compared these with the accounts presented with those records. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required by a qualified auditor and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

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:

- 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 Accounts Regulations have not been met.

There appears to be nothing further that requires to be drawn to the attention of any reader to help them understand the accounts.

