

FRIENDS OF BRITANNIA
PANOPTICON MUSIC HALL TRUST
(SCIO)

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR
ENDED 31 JULY 2025

SCOTTISH REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: SC029031

FRIENDS OF BRITANNIA PANOPTICON MUSIC HALL TRUST (SCIO)

(REFERRED TO AS FBPMHT)

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2025

FRIENDS OF BRITANNIA PANOPTICON

MUSIC HALL TRUST (SCIO)

The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, and the charity's rules and regulations.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The charity's objectives and aims are:

To advance the conservation and preservation of the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall and ensure the building's future as a viable visitor attraction and a living museum of popular entertainments from the music hall auditorium to the attic area. To promote the involvement of the community in this unique building as a learning, archival and educational resource for the wider community and to engender further volunteer support for the day to day running thereof.

To always promote and hold the music hall as a building of historic interest and importance and to secure its permanent preservation for the benefit of the public as an outstanding example of a Victorian Music Hall and a rare survivor of its genre.

To facilitate the use of its premises on such terms as the Trustees deem fit for any purpose, public or private, and in particular for music hall and other performances, meetings, exhibitions, lectures, dinners and other entertainments; also, for shops, restaurants or business premises to enable the foregoing purposes to be carried out effectively as required.

SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO THESE OBJECTS

Conservation and preservation

During this financial year a new feasibility study has been commissioned by the FBPMHT and Panopticon Trust and a first draft has been completed. The Panopticon Trust (the BPT

established in 2018 for the sole purpose of dealing with the acquisition of the music hall, stakeholder management, and development of the feasibility study) led the way with the new study. Unfortunately, the Panopticon Trust were not able to negotiate a way forward with the owners of the building and the staff of the Britannia Panopticon and the FBPMHT director, Judith Bowers, felt that the draft feasibility study was incomplete and required several significant changes. The trustees agreed with the findings of director and the staff and after a meeting with the Panopticon Trust it was agreed that Mrs Bowers and the staff of Britannia Panopticon would continue the work on the feasibility study with the architect, Melanie Hay of Hamilton Hay Van Jonker Architects in 2026.

Operation and community involvement

The community has continued to be engaged in the work of the FBPMHT with a series of open days and events operated by the Director, staff of the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall and trustees of FBPMHT including: Silent Film nights with live band, music hall shows, Laurel & Hardy Film Nights, Storytelling events, Pantomime and a monthly comedy club giving aspiring comedians the chance to stand on the very stage where Stan Laurel made his debut.

The Glasgow International Comedy Festival also hosted a couple of festival events in the music hall. The celebration of Stan Laurel and his debut in the building is an enduring appeal to the public, especially to comedians from across the globe. The second year of The Laurel Awards, the Panopticon's own award encouraging new comedy talent was also launched during the GICF. The final in July was a sell out success.

The final of the Scottish Poetry Slam was held in the Panopticon with the winner going on to compete at the World Poetry Slam.

This financial year has also seen a new relationship develop with GMAC in 103 Trongate.

The Britannia Panopticon also continues to attract schools and institutions of further education and this year has seen pupils from Oakgrove Primary School engaging with the history of the building as part of a school project with the charity, Magic Torch Comix. The outcome of the project was the creation of a comic book devised by the school children and based on the stories told to them when they visited the building. The resulting comic book was titled The Panopticon After Dark and featured a number of characters from the history of the building and music hall.

Local musician, Kenny McMinigal also used the music hall for the launch of his collection of Glasgow folk songs entitled Heart of the City.

Community Interest Company, Jasami, also used the music hall for the launch of an anthology of stories written by a number of writers who struggle with various neuro-divergency.

Judith Bowers was engaged to do talks for the U3A at the university of Glasgow and tours for Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities and Glasgow City Heritage Trust.

Jam Hot, a company that organises motivational talks for the community, hosted an event in the music hall inspiring new Scottish entrepreneurs.

The Scottish Civic Trust made an initial visit with some of their staff and clients with diverse protected characteristics. It is hoped that a relationship between the Scottish Civic Trust and Britannia Panopticon Music Hall will be further developed in the next financial year.

Publicity and Marketing

Social media platforms such as Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, LinkedIn, BlueSky and the website www.britanniapanopticon.org continue to be the main advertising tools. In addition activities are advertised in leaflets produced by the staff team in the music hall.

Judith Bowers also launched the first book in a trilogy set in the Panopticon in 1908. The first book is called The Magic Lantern and it has been written to encourage people of all ages and backgrounds to take an interest in the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall, even though they might not enjoy history. The books are based on real historic events time travelling through the lens of the magic lantern that is on display in the music hall.

Angus White of Direct Distribution very kindly paid for leaflets advertising Britannia Panopticon which were also distributed by Angus White's company to hotels, travel hubs, bars and theatres.

A walking tour about Glasgow's entertainment history culminating in the Britannia Panopticon was devised to promote the music hall and leaflets advertising the walking tour were distributed through the TIC on Buchanan Street.

The music hall was further promoted during a series of community podcasts by CIC Jasami. **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period In the interests of creating an inclusive environment wheelchair access is now available via a Stair Climber which was gifted to us by a private anonymous donor. It is hoped that in the coming financial year, 1st August 2025 – 31st July 2026 this will open funding revenue to support an education program and more community use.

We have successfully managed to engage with more organisations within the community such as Jasami, GMAC and the Scottish Civic Trust.

Although it is far from finished, significant progress has been made with the completion of the first part of a feasibility study for the future of the music hall.

Visitor numbers increased this year due to the launch in April 2025 of a series of walking tours focusing on the entertainment history of Glasgow. The tours started from the St Enoch Subway Station and ended in the Britannia Panopticon where the visitors

were given a brief history of the music hall and a chance to look at the exhibits and enjoy the music hall.

There has been a notable rise in interest from the public in general due to the increase in publicity from the walking tours and leaflet distribution. Also, confidence is starting to return to the international tourist industry, which we hope will increase further in the coming financial year.

Significant Events

Doors Open Day in September 2024 saw attendance increase on the previous year, however it is still significantly less than pre-pandemic levels.

We received a very kind donation from our electrician, Davy Dutch, who paid for and installed new lighting for the charity in the backstage and staff areas which had been cast into darkness after the ancient strip lights finally died.

In July 2025 we received a very kind donation from an anonymous donor of over £8,000 to enable us to purchase a stair climber which will convey wheelchairs users safely up the stairs to the music hall auditorium.

The Magic Lantern was launched. The Magic Lantern books designed to engage members of the public in the history of the music hall and Glasgow. Using real events, people and places, the story is told over three books.

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FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity reported total incoming resources of £55,847.42 for the year ended 31 July 2025 (2024: £59,372.69). Total resources expended during the year were £53,649.17 (2024: £59,963.15).

This has resulted in a net surplus of £2,198.25 for the year (2024: deficit of £590.46).

At the year end, the charity held total funds of £12,745.25 (2024: £10,547.00), all of which are unrestricted and available to support the ongoing activities of the charity.

During the year, the charity received restricted income of £8,270, which was fully utilised in accordance with its intended purpose.

The charity continues to operate on a receipts and payments basis. During the year, a stair climber was purchased, funded by an anonymous donation, and has been treated in line with this basis of accounting.

The trustees remain focused on maintaining financial stability while continuing to support the preservation and promotion of the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall. While external progress relating to the wider Panopticon Trust has been limited, the charity continues to progress its objectives through its own activities and partnerships.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charity to use unrestricted reserves to assist in the acquisition, rescue and conservation of the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall in addition to meeting normal operational costs. Restricted reserves relate to timing differences between receipt of funding and expenditure on restricted projects.

Going Concern

After a grim few years of pandemic and post pandemic trading, we are optimistic that the coming year (2025- 2026) will provide a more positive outlook for tourism and the economy which will be reflected in our visitor numbers and trading. We, the trustees, remain confident that the music hall and charity remain a going concern.

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Future Plans

During the next financial year we intend to:

- ☐ improve and hopefully complete the feasibility study with Hamilton Hay Van Jonker Architects
- ☐ Complete negotiations with the owners of the building
- ☐ Create a more diverse program of events especially for families
 - ☐ Further develop our relationship with the Scottish Civic Trust and other community organisations
 - ☐ Attract more funding for the development of course studies and education plans for schools and institutions of further education
- ☐ Increase visitor numbers
- ☐ Continue to work towards a sustainable future

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

On 10 October 2016 the Trust converted to a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation) governed by a constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are appointed by the existing trustees upon ratification by the members. Key management

The trustees and the Director are the key management of the Trust being responsible for the decisions as to the strategy and directing, controlling, running and operating the campaign, the venue and the Trust.

FRIENDS OF BRITANNIA PANOPTICON MUSIC HALL TRUST (SCIO)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FRIENDS OF
BRITANNIA PANOPTICON

MUSIC HALL TRUST (SCIO)

Registered Charity number

SC029031

Principal address

113-117 Trongate

Glasgow

G1 5HD

Trustees

Lawrence Dunn - Chairman

Nick Barrett - Secretary

Gary Graham - Treasurer

Graham Hunter - trustee

Tom Kelly - trustee

Veronica Low - trustee

Director

Judith Bowers

Independent examiner

Erik McCall

EDA Professional services LTD

Suite334, Baltic Chambers

50 Wellington Street

Glasgow

Approved by order of the board of trustees on (19/03/2026) and signed on its behalf by: L Dunn Chairman Trustees _____

I report on the financial statements of Friends of Britannia Panopticon Music Hall Trust (SCIO) for the year ended 31 July 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 13.

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Regulation 11 (3) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. My independent examiner's work has been undertaken so that I might state to the charity's trustees those matters am required to state to them in an independent examiner's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, I do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity, the charity's members as a body and the charity's trustees for my independent examiner's work, for this report, or for the opinions I have formed.

Respective responsibilities of the trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Charities Trust Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10 (1) (d) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 does not apply and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

examine the financial statements 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 report

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 financial statements presented with those record It also includes consideration of

any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements 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 no opinion is given as to whether the financial statements present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 section 44(1) (a) of the Charities and Trust Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006,

to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records, and

to prepare financial statements which comply with the accounting requirements of Regulation 9 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Signed  Erik McCall

EDA Professional Services LTD

Suite 334, Baltic chambers

Wellington St

Glasgow

Date: 15 / 5 / 2026

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	Notes	Unrestrict ed	Restrict ed	Total
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RECEIPTS				
Donations , Legacies , Loans		4,285.35	8,270.00	12,555.35
Charitable Activities	2	24,339.09		
Other Trading Activities	3	18,952.98		
Investment				
Total Reciepts		47,577.42	8270.00	55,847.42
PAYMENTS				

Raising Funds	4	8891.59		
Charitable Activities	5			
Support of The Britannia Panopticon Music Hall		36,487.58	850	37,337.1 7
Purchase of fixed assets			7420	
Total Payments		45,379.17	8270	53649.1 7
Surplus / Deficit for year		2198.25	0	2198.25
Net Movement		2198.25		
RECONCILIATION OF BALANCES				
Total Brought Forward	10547			
Total Carried Forward	12,745.2 5			
CASH IN HAND AT BANK				
OPENING BALANCE	10547			

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Net Movement	2198.25			
CLOSING BALANCE	12,745.25			

FUNDS				
Unrestricted	12,745.25			
Restricted	0			
TOTAL	12,745.25			

3. Other Trading Activities

	2025	2024
Shop Sales	3128.52	6369
Bar Sales	15824.48	22094
		28463

4. Raising Funds

	2025	2024
Cost of Goods Sold	2030.73	5548
Bar Cost	6860.88	6599

5. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COST

	DIRECT COSTS	SUPPORT COSTS	TOTAL
	35609.47	1727.70	37,337.17

6. DIRECT COSTS OF CHARITABLE ACTIVITY

	2025	2024
Administrative Running costs	6629.47	13002
Salaries	28,980	30639
Repairs and Maintenance		396

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7. SUPPORT COSTS

Independent examination fee	1727.70
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8. Trustees Remuneration

There was no remuneration paid to trustees

9. Movement in funds

	Incoming resources	Expended	Movement
UNRESTRICTED			
General fund	47,577.42	45,379.17	2198.25
RESTRICTED	8270	8270	
TOTAL FUNDS	55847.42	53649.17	2198.25

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1.

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

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The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows.

Income

All income is accounted for on a receipt's basis.

Resources expended

Resources expended are accounted for on a payments basis and are recognised when the expenditure is paid. Expenditure is inclusive of VAT.

Charitable activities

These are costs attributable to the objects of the charity.

Support costs

Support costs include governance costs attributable to compliance with the charity's constitutional and statutory requirements.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are either:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds - these are funds that can only be used for the particular or restricted purpose as specified by the donor.