


Dorothy Dunnett Society

**TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
2025**

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
	From	01	01	2025	To	31	12
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	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>have not been met, or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. 						
Signed					Date	10th February 2026	
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	2025	To	31	12	2025

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 Nicky Cannon	Chairman	27 April 2025	
2 Jenna Hegarty	Secretary	27 April 2025	
3 Lesley Burnie	Treasurer		
4 Suzanne McNeill			
5 Deborah Conway Read			
6 Lisa Hopkins			
7 Jill Harrison			
8 Julia Hart (co-opted)		6 September 2025	

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
Simon Hedges, Chairman	1 January to 27 April 2025
Fiona Adams, Secretary	1 January to 27 April 2025

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	<p>The Society shall seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 2026 were chosen from a very strong field. We have awarded £1,000 to Sophie Durbin for her PhD research into facilitating fruitful cognitive encounters with the burial archaeology of early medieval Scotland; and Harley Botham received £500 towards her PhD research examining diplomatic and intercultural contact between the Norse world and al-Andalus, the Balearic Islands and North Africa from the eighth to the twelfth centuries.</p> <p>We contributed £1,250 to Dr Tobias Capwell towards the cost of illustrations in his book <i>Armour of the English Knight: An Armourers' Album</i>. We also provided a grant of £1,000 to Dr Munire Zeyneb Maksudoglu for travel and accommodation costs to enable her to deliver a speech on <i>Safe-Conduct Letters as the Emblem of Global Order and Sovereignty</i> at the MEMOsOrient Conference: New Encounters in Capetown, South Africa.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>We held another successful Dunnett Weekend in April which was attended by over 70 people, some of whom were non-members. This was our first venture away from Edinburgh with the event being held in Dumfries.</p> <p>We also organised a Lecture Day in Leicester which was attended by over forty people, which again included some non-members.</p> <p>The Board's thanks go to Julia Hart who did a wonderful job of organising the events and finding fascinating speakers.</p> <p>In 2024, in order to increase our outreach to non-members and to make events more accessible to overseas members, we inaugurated a series of on-line lectures, The DunNETt International Online Lectures. In 2025, our speakers were Domagoj Krpan on 'The Influence of Marko Marulić on 16th-Century European Intellectual Life' and Dr David Heffernan on 'Forging the Triangular Alliance: The O'Connors, the MacDonalds and Franco-Scottish politics, c. 1540-1560'. These have been made available on our YouTube channel. The lectures were well-attended with about 30 people taking part on-line at each lecture. This initiative is also being led by Julia Hart.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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 2025 issue of <i>Whispering Gallery</i>. The Society's contribution towards the competition was £1,000. In addition, the six shortlisted authors have had</p>

	<p>their stories published as an e-book by the HWA and Dorothy Dunnett Society, available through Amazon.</p> <p>The 2025 International Dorothy Dunnett Day (IDDD) took place on 8th November in 25 locations worldwide. Dunnett fans gathered in the UK, the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and on Zoom 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 15 years and remains a highlight on many an annual calendar.</p> <p>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 2,601 (21% up on last year); the Facebook page 1200 (no change) and Instagram 860 (up 6%). X (formerly known as Twitter) is at 1,692 (5% down) which we think is due to a general drift away from X. BlueSky has decreased to 641, (7% down). There are 404 subscribers to our Youtube channel (up 18%). 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.</p> <p>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.</p>
--	--

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

<p>Summary of the main achievements of the Charity during the financial period</p>	<p>The Dunnett Weekend and Leicester Day lectures were a great success.</p> <p>We continued funding the Dorothy Dunnett Centenary Awards in collaboration with the University of Highlands and Islands.</p> <p>We awarded the Historical Writers' Association prize.</p> <p>We continued the series of on-line lectures.</p> <p>Work started on a major website re-design of the Society's website with the aim of modernising and streamlining it with a view to making it a better resource for current members and to attract new ones. This is being funded from special reserves. The website designers are Pooka & Co.</p> <p>We awarded two grants to academic researchers.</p> <p>Engagement with both members and non-members continued to grow through the use of social media platforms.</p> <p>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.</p>
---	--

FINANCIAL REVIEW

<p>Brief statement of the Charity's policy on reserves</p>	<p>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 £7,000 to cover those members who pay up to four years in advance.</p>
<p>Details of any deficit</p>	<p>There is a deficit in this financial year of £5,870. This is partly due to the UHI award of £1,500 and payments to Pooka & Co of £3,006 for website redesign – both of which are being funded from reserves rather than income. The balance is due to timing issues as the Society operates on a payments and receipts basis.</p>
<p>Donated facilities and services (if any)</p>	<p>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.</p>

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 2026 with the next one being planned for February 2026.

A special on-line lecture is planned where Jelle Deltombe from the Adornes Estate and the Jerusalem Chapel in Bruges, Belgium, will give a talk on Anselm Adorne who features in the Niccolò series.

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)	Nicky Cannon	Lesley Burnie
Position(s)	Chair	Treasurer
Date	7th February 2026	7th February 2026

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 2025

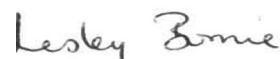
		2025	2024
RECEIPTS	Note	£	£
Subscriptions		23,509	25,553
Donations	2	2,162	2,022
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Current Year	13	12,872	9,916
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Future Year	14	0	2,166
Summer Dunnett Day	15	4,395	6,986
Merchandise	8	4,416	4,704
Bank Interest	10	1,747	37
Gift Aid	17	2,195	1,574
Miscellaneous		0	0
Total Receipts		<u>51,296</u>	<u>52,958</u>
PAYMENTS <i>For advancement of education, the arts, heritage and culture</i>			
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Current Year	13	11,599	13,010
Dunnett Edinburgh Weekend Future Year	14	1,070	1,518
Summer Dunnett Day	15	3,813	5,014
Whispering Gallery		19,307	18,968
Awards and Prizes	9	3,561	2,515
Special Projects/Centenary	2	4,506	1,500
Merchandise	8	2,177	6,640
Publications/Guides	8	0	2,148
Special Events	16	307	239
Donations and Subscriptions	7	20	20
		<u>46,360</u>	<u>51,572</u>
<i>For Governance costs</i>			
Trustees' and Officers' Expenses	5	5,460	3,042
Gifts for Retiring Trustees and Officers		197	0
Administration Costs	11	2,951	3,787
Online Presence	12	2,198	2,848
		<u>10,806</u>	<u>9,677</u>
Total payments		<u>57,166</u>	<u>61,249</u>
SURPLUS/-DEFICIT		<u>-5,870</u>	<u>-8,291</u>
STATEMENT OF BALANCES			
Cash Funds	Opening Balance	56,430	64,721
	Surplus/-Deficit	-5,870	-8,291
	Closing Balance	<u>50,560</u>	<u>56,430</u>
of which:			
Cash	Cash	11,813	19,430
Investments	Cambridge & Counties Bank	28,147	27,000
	Bank of Scotland	10,600	10,000
		<u>50,560</u>	<u>56,430</u>
Assets	17	1,888	2,194
Liabilities	14	0	1,182

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

Approved by the Trustees on 7th February 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Nicky Cannon, Chair

Lesley Burnie, Treasurer

These accounts have been independently examined and signed as correct by Marcus Croy, FCCA

Marcus Croy



NOTES ON FINANCIAL STATEMENT – From 1st January to 31st December 2025

- 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 31/12/24</u>	<u>At 31/12/25</u>	<u>BoS/Paypal</u>	<u>Investment</u>
General Fund	1,698	53	53	
Special Projects Fund	20,932	17,507		17,507
Future Subscriptions Liability	7,800	7,000		7,000
Reserves	26,000	26,000	11,760	14,240
Total	56,430	50,560	11,813	38,747

The Special Projects reserve was used to fund the third tranche of the Dorothy Dunnett Centenary award of £1,500 to University of the Highlands and Islands. It was also used to pay the first instalment of £3,006 to Pooka & Co for our website redesign.

£2,162 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 £4,416 and expenditure was £2,177 giving a net surplus of £2,239.
A new line of fridge magnets was introduced to the shop.
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 £1,250 to Tobias Capwell towards the cost of illustrations in his book, *Armour of the English Knight: An Armourers' Album*. We also provided a grant of £1,250 to Zeyneb Munire to speak at the MEMOrient Conference: *New Encounters* in Cape Town, South Africa.
- 10 **Interest and Investments** | The total interest earned in 2025 was £1,747.
An investment of £10,000 was created with Bank of Scotland in September 2024 in a one-year fixed term at 5%. This matured in September 2025, generating interest of £600. The amount of £10,600 was re-invested in another Bank of Scotland one-year fixed term deposit at 2.24%. An amount of £27,000 was invested with Cambridge & Counties Bank in 2024 in a two-year fixed rate bond at 4.25%. This earned interest of £1,147 in 2026, which was re-invested. This is due to mature in December 2026.
- 11 **Administration Costs** | Administration costs were incurred on postage and stationery, insurance, an audit fee of £45, room hire and lunches 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 Society's Zoom account.
- 13 **Dunnett Weekend 2025** | The DDS Weekend, including the AGM, was held in April 2025 in Dumfries.
- 14 **Dunnett Weekend 2026** | We will be holding a Dunnett Weekend in Rrenfrew in April 2025. We have incurred prepaid costs of £642.
- 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 2025 event was in Leicester. The 2025 event will take place in Portsmouth and there has been a prepayment of £390 to the venue.
- 16 **Special Events** | The Society has started a series of lectures called The DunNETt International Online Lectures. The payments to our guest lecturers are included here.
- 17 **Gift Aid** | Gift Aid of £2,195 for financial year 2024 was received in January 2025. We are expecting to receive about £1,888 in Gift Aid for 2025 in early 2026.