

**THE BATTLE OF PRESTONPANS
(1745)
HERITAGE
TRUST**

**COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE AND NOT HAVING A
SHARE CAPITAL**

STATUTORY ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDED

31st OCTOBER 2025

SC 302280

SCOTTISH CHARITY SC 037447

**Richard Dobbins & Co
Kildwick Hall
Kildwick
Keighley
North Yorkshire
BD20 9AE**

**The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust
Trustees and Advisers**

Trustees	Sharon Dabell Brett Fletcher Dr Arran Johnston FSAScot Gareth Jones RIAS, IHBC Pat O'Brien OBE David Ogilvie FCA, CA Vice Chairman Sylvia Porter Dr Gordon Prestoungrange MBE, Baron of Lochnaw Chairman John Unwin Avril Wills, Lady Lochnaw Dr Julian Wills, Baron of Dolphinstoun Dr Mathew Wills, Baron of Prestoungrange
Secretary	Sylvia Porter
Registered Office	229 High Street Prestonpans East Lothian EH32 9BE
Accountant	Richard Dobbins & Co Kildwick Hall Kildwick Keighley North Yorkshire BD20 9AE
Company Number	SC 302280
Scottish Charity	SC 037447
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland Plc Tranent (A) Branch 36, High Street Tranent East Lothian EH33 1HQ

19th Annual Report of the Trustees for the year ending October 31st 2025

Our 19th year has not only seen myriad successful activities and events in and out of our Museum at Prestonpans Town Hall but across the entire year we've been deeply engaged in original research. Sponsorship from Historic Environment Scotland [HES] has enabled our volunteers and professionals to search '*Beyond the Battle*', studying members of the community living close by the battlefield in 1745 and how that community and the battle landscape have evolved across 280 years. Our findings are already being captured on YouTube and incorporated in our educational and visitor presentations – with much more to come in 2026 which readily links into the industrial and social heritage depicted along the *Prestonpans 'Heritage Murals' Trail* which preceded our foundation in 2006.

We only present large scale re-enactments of the battle every three years, the next in 2027, but that did not mean the 280th Anniversary was not vigorously commemorated. The opportunity was taken for the Alan Breck Regiment to re-enact timeously the opening skirmish of the battle in situ on the afternoon of September 20th after the Highlanders had first arrived at Birsley Brae and Tranent and Cope below to the north at Meadowmill and Cockenzie. Musket shots on Cope's scout Walter Grosset from the Camerons already posted in Tranent churchyard provoked the redcoats to bring a cannon forward which inflicted the first Highlander casualties. Back in the Town Hall both the Prince and Cope debated how to proceed and visitors interacted with re-enactors as Gaelic songs were sung; on the 21st wreaths were laid on the Memorial Tables and at the Cairn.

The Town Hall excelled itself throughout the year with rotating exhibitions of ten Battle Tapestry panels at a time but for its 15th Anniversary Year it displayed not just the 10 but all 105 as best we were able from July to end September, welcoming hundreds of delighted visitors not only at our customary weekends but throughout the weekdays of our nationwide *Jacobite Festival* in August. Now in its second year, convened by Michael Taylor, the Festival saw 18 Jacobite venues nationwide offer 44 events.

Not to be outdone, following its county wide Safari in 2024, the *Scottish Diaspora Tapestry* which normally displays selected segments by rotation in themed exhibitions in the Jubilee Room, was once again displayed in full for 10 days taking advantage of a hiatus at the Prestoungrange Gothenburg, a glorious setting, attracting hundreds of visitors.

The year has also seen a growing confidence in the Trust's use of social media including live streaming of events, webinars and YouTube presentations. This was particularly so with the conduct of *WhatIf?2* where, although The Prince was once again defeated in a final engagement at Poole Harbour, we again saw the French much in action and an international online following of the battle sequence. Such battle gaming is now being followed by '*TableTop 45*' publicly conducted on the floor of the Town Hall as well as online using the many miniatures created for the *WhatIf?* sequences but this time re-imagining the actual engagements that took place in 1745/1746. How were they influenced by the landscapes and how could they have been differently fought?

The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust
Trustees Report for the period ended 31st October 2025 (cont'd)

Looking Forward to 2031: Our leases on *Prestonpans Town Hall and Bankton Doocot* both expire during the next 12 months. Unsurprisingly, the Trust has asked our landlords East Lothian Council to continue these at peppercorn rentals for at least a further 5 years whilst putative plans for our *Living History Centre at Blindwells* gather momentum; a decision is awaited. Just like the Prince at Prestonpans in 1745, we are wholly optimistic. We have been able not only to bring both facilities into active engagement with thousands across the community but we have made more than £250,000 of capital improvements. The Town Hall in particular has seen increasing use of 'slack time' by fellow community heritage groups and the Community Council. These links are being further developed as the Murals Trail plans ambitious refreshment and restoration and *Catching the Past* volunteers schedule guided walks. Local historians are also researching the High Street's heritage in preparation for a Road Show/ Exhibition in 2026. It's also the 250th Anniversary of the American *Declaration of Independence* for which the Diaspora Tapestry will feature a major commemoration.

Our appetite for community engaging original research, which has been considerably whetted for the past 18 months with the support of HES, sees the Trust developing two further significant projects for the coming years. First our intention is to seek to complete the initial archaeological research begun with Heritage Lottery [HLF] support some 17 years ago by taking a close look at the old village of Seton and the eastern end of the battlefield where the initial engagement took place. Local detectorist groups will be co-ordinated and selective digs made. Second we are determined to understand life aboard ship and seek to locate the wreck of HMS Fox, that supported Cope on the Forth and in the battle in 1745 but foundered in November that same year in a violent storm off Dunbar. That ambition comes more than 50 years since East Lothian's Sub-Aqua Club's original unsuccessful search.

"We pay our debts to the past by putting the future in debt to ourselves."

.... prescient words from John Buchan, Lord Tweedsmuir, to the people of Canada as their Governor General in 1937. They surely capture the ambition of our Trust these past two decades and our determination to protect and interpret the heritage of the battle fought hereabouts. The role of our hundreds of volunteers in the creation of the tapestries, the regular conduct of costumed re-enactments and the welcome and guidance for visitors and educational groups at the Town Hall remains wholly extraordinary as is the exceptional leadership of consultant curators and designers. Their contributions in kind and financial contributions by many donors not least EventScotland, HES, HLF, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Barons Courts of Prestoungrange and Dolphinstoun are all paying our debts to our past and thereby enabling those who will come in future to understand and honour the heritage of our community.

Sylvia Porter: Trust Secretary

BATTLE OF PRESTONPANS JACOBITE HERITAGE CENTRE
Blàr Sliabha a' Chlamhain - Ionad Dualchais nan Seumasach

**The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust
Trustees Report for the period ended 31st October 2025 (cont'd)**

Results

The surplus of unrestricted income over expenditure for the period was £23,635. Restricted fund balances at the year end consisted of the Appeal Account £30,919, Grants £3,921 and the Members Guarantee at £2500.

Close Company

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Accountant

A resolution to reappoint Richard Dobbins & Co as Accountants will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

S. Porter

**The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust
Accountants Report**

**Report to the Trustees on the preparation of the Unaudited Statutory Accounts of
The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust
for the year ended 31 October 2025**

In order to assist you to fulfill your duties under the Companies Act 2006, I have prepared for your approval the accounts of The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust for the year ended 31 October 2025 as set out on pages 7 to 9 from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given to me.

My work has been undertaken as a qualified accountant.

It is your duty to ensure that The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profit/loss of The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust. You consider that The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.

Signature _____

Date _____

**Dr Richard Dobbins
Richard Dobbins & Co
Kildwick Hall
Kildwick
Keighley
North Yorkshire
BD20 9AE**

**The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust
Report by the Independent Examiner**

**Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees of
The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust**

Scottish Charity SC037447

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.

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.

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 8 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.

Dr Richard Dobbins

Date

**Richard Dobbins & Co
Kildwick Hall
Kildwick
Keighley
North Yorkshire
BD20 9AE**

The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust Balance Sheet as at 31st October 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Investments	2	4	4
Current Assets			
Debtors	3	5,134	38,561
Cash		80,078	63,853
		<u>85,212</u>	<u>102,414</u>
Current Liabilities			
Income in Advance		0	0
Creditors and Accruals		2,784	17,888
		<u>2,784</u>	<u>17,888</u>
Net Current Assets		82,428	84,526
Total Net Assets		<u>82,432</u>	<u>84,530</u>
Capital and Reserves			
Members Guarantee Fund (Restricted)		2,500	2,500
Grants/Donations Received (Restricted)	5	3,921	29,765
Appeal Fund (Restricted)	4	<u>30,919</u>	<u>30,808</u>
Restricted Funds		37,340	63,073
Hypothesised Accumulated Fund		45,092	21,457
		<u>82,432</u>	<u>84,530</u>

All of the £45,092 Hypothecated Accumulated Fund held by the charity is held to pursue the Trust's Objects. Grant funding received may only be spent on grant related expenditure. The Members Guarantee Fund is restricted and may not be used by the trustees.

In the opinion of the trustees the company is entitled to claim exemption from audit under sections 475 and 477 of the Companies Act 2006. No members eligible to do so have deposited a notice requesting an audit within the specified time frame. The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the 2006 Companies Act with respect to accounting records and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 (duty to prepare individual company accounts and applicable accounting framework), and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to small companies within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

Signed on behalf of the Trustees

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*) Trustees

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Approved by the Trustees on

The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust
Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st October 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £	2024 £
Incoming Resources				
Donations - General	15,805	0	15,805	11,617
Grants Received				
- ELC One Council Partnership 2024	15,000	0	15,000	20,000
- ELC Town Hall Lantern	0	1,725	1,725	1,405
- HES Beyond The Battle Grant 2024	0	22,500	22,500	22,500
- Scottish Government Dalkeith Palace	0	0	0	2,500
- ELC Kitchen Renovation Grant 2024	0	0	0	10,000
- FCC Communities Foundation Grant 2024	0	0	0	29,342
- Bord Na Gaidhlig	0	1,350	1,350	0
- Other Grants	0	967	967	10,000
Tax Recoverable on Donations & MGETR	28,571	0	28,571	12,432
Interest Received	14	111	125	362
Tapestry Exhibitions	845	0	845	845
Other Income	5,292	0	5,292	13,241
Member Guarantee Fund Contributions	0	0	0	0
Total Incoming Resources	65,527	26,653	92,180	134,244
Expenditure				
Marketing and Promotion	919	0	919	4,020
Storage/Utilities/Insurance	2,114	16,554	18,668	9,133
Website/App Development	1,381	0	1,381	2,204
Administration and Other Expenses	4,673	0	4,673	2,505
Statutory and Prospectus Fees	68	0	68	549
Town Hall Expenses	7,407	11,737	19,144	48,671
Tapestry Fees	0	0	0	1,500
Audit Fee	650	0	650	650
Professional/Contractor Fees	20,000	22,500	42,500	38,000
Other Grant Expenditure	0	1,595	1,595	0
Re-enactments	4,680	0	4,680	22,336
Total Resources Expended	41,892	52,386	94,278	129,568
Net Incoming Resources	23,635	(25,733)	(2,098)	4,676
Net Movement in Funds	23,635	(25,733)	(2,098)	4,676
Fund Balances at 1st November, 2024	21,457	63,073	84,530	79,854
Fund Balances at 31st October, 2025	45,092	37,340	82,432	84,530

The Battle of Prestonpans (1745) Heritage Trust
Notes to the Accounts for the period to 31st October 2025

1. Accounting Policies

Accounting Conventions

The accounts are prepared under the historic cost convention.

2. Investments

Battle Traders (1745) Limited - 100% Owned Subsidiary

3. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income tax recoverable against gift aid donations & Other Museums & Galleries Exhibition Tax Relief (MGETR)	634	2,654
Other debtors	0	0
	4,500	35,907
	5,134	38,561

4. Restricted Appeal Funds

The funds are for the eventual provision of a Permanent Home for the Prestonpans Tapestry in connection with fund raising activities and the prototype public exhibitions and displays in Prestonpans Town Hall.

5. Restricted Funds

Throughout the year Grants of £26,541 were received as shown on page 8, of which £3,921 remained as yet unspent at year end as shown in the Balance Sheet on page 7.