



Astley Ainslie Community Trust

**The Astley Ainslie Community Trust
Trustees' Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023**

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

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The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Report of the Trustees for the period to 31 March 2023

The Trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year to 31 March 2023.

Status of Charity and Governing Document

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust (known as AACT) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) (SC051602). It was registered in its current legal form on 21 February 2022. It has a two-tier structure and The Ordinary Members elect Member Trustees who are accountable for the running of the charity. The Trustees in turn appoint an Executive to handle the day to day running of the charity, an Audit and Risk Committee, and any other committees as required.

Charitable purpose

AACT's purposes are to benefit the community surrounding the Astley Ainslie Hospital in south Edinburgh, with a particular focus on the Edinburgh South postcode sectors EH9-1; EH9-2; EH9-3; EH10-4; EH10-5; and EH10-6 ("the Community"), and the wider community, with the following objects:

- 4.1 To promote the advancement of community development (including the advancement of regeneration) within the Community;
- 4.2 To advance the provision of health, rehabilitation, and well-being in the Community;
- 4.3 To advance the provision of educational opportunities in the Community relating to the environment, culture, heritage and history; and
- 4.4 To advance environmental protection or improvement

Objectives and Activities

Since becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) at the Special General Meeting on 25th May 2022 the AACT has focused on two main strands of work:

1. Building our capacity as an organisation
2. Increasing community engagement on the site

These strands reflect NHS plans to remain on the site for the next five years, while ensuring that we are well prepared to bid for the site when the time comes.

Key activities since June 2022 include:

- Holding a community engagement event at the Eric Liddell Centre
- Delivering a Nature Recovery programme with both public Nature Discovery Days and small group engagement, funded by Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC).
- Bolstering our organisation by constituting an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) and increasing volunteer numbers.
- Improving our internal processes and professionalism by moving to new accounting and email systems.

All these activities have been volunteer-led and represent a huge amount of effort and time. On behalf of the membership, I would like to thank the Trustees, Executive, ARC, Communications team and everyone who has volunteered at events. AACT would not exist without you.

Looking forward, we want to continue to build community engagement on the site in partnership with the NHS. We will also be launching the Astley Ainslie Community Future Fund. This fund will ensure we have capital available to progress with purchase of the site when the time comes and will be a concrete expression of the community's interest in the site.

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Report of the Trustees for the period to 31 March 2023

Governance

In comparison with the previous period, where the AACT transformed from an unincorporated members association into a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), the work this period has focussed on embedding the required governance of the SCIO.

1. We have formed an Audit and Risk Committee (ARC) who will assist the Executive and Trustees.
2. We have appointed Innes and Partners as Accountants. As well as reviewing our accounts, this appointment will increase the confidence of funders as to our probity as a partner.
3. We have actively recruited to increase the number of Trustees, which were below the minimum required by the Constitution. Hopefully this situation will be corrected at the AGM.
4. We have expanded the membership of the Executive Committee and are working to reduce the number of Trustees who are also on the Executive.

NHS, Political & Wider Stakeholder Engagement

As part of our efforts to build our capacity as an organisation and enhance community access to the site we have focussed on building relationships with the NHS at a strategic level and in relation to the management of the site. We have established a positive relationship with Strategic Planning at NHS Lothian and have had constructive discussions with them on the NHS' plans for the future of the site and how we can work together in the short to medium term to support community access. We have also established good working relationships with site management and the NHS Lothian Charity and welcome the work the Charity are taking forward with the NHS to facilitate and encourage use of the site as a greenspace. We will continue to work with the NHS and the NHS Lothian Charity to support mutual aims while the NHS remain on the site.

We have also built on the engagement of local politicians and like-minded organisations, many of whom joined our community engagement event, and have had follow-up discussions to keep them apprised of our work and future plans. We aim to build on this in the year ahead, seeking further connections with key politicians and similar organisations across Scotland and the UK.

Trees

New tree planting

We are pleased to share the news that as part of the Astley Ainslie centenary celebrations NHS Lothian Charity has decided to plant 18 cherry trees in the grounds, in part to replace trees that have been felled.

We are planning to join in this exercise by planting a tulip tree for one of the Astley Ainslie's first patients - an unknown 17-year-old girl who had spent her life from the age of two in a state of chronic illness, but who was cured by an extended stay in the Astley Ainslie. The tree will be dedicated 'To the Unknown Lass Who Lived.' We have also proposed two apple trees to commemorate David Ainslie and his nephew John Astley Ainslie, after whom the hospital is named.

Astley Ainslie Tree Befriending Project to feature in forthcoming film

As part of a new project 'Green City: Healing and Hope?' Donald Smith, Director of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival, is directing a film about special places in Edinburgh. He recently met with Maggie Carson (Trustee & AACT lead on trees) on site to film some of the trees which have been befriended by members of AACT and hear about the stories behind them.

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Report of the Trustees for the period to 31 March 2023

Nature Recovery at Astley Ainslie

In April 2023, the AACT was awarded a grant of £18,997 by the Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council to run a one-year project of nature activities planned in the grounds of the Astley Ainslie Hospital, and aimed at helping people recover mental health and wellbeing. The money comes from the Scottish Government's Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.

We are running two kinds of activity: Two Nature Days open to all and ten courses for Small Group activities tailored to the needs of particular at-risk groups. Each group meets 5 times for 2 hours. The Nature Days are designed to attract the widest possible attendance from all at-risk groups and the general public for taster experiences with trees, bird watching, wildflowers, foraging, mini-beasts (invertebrates) and nature trails.

The programme is being run for us by Judy Paul, a highly experienced professional organizer of nature events for mental health. She is supported by two AACT Executive Committee members, Jonathan Silvertown (an ecologist) and Michele Hipwell (a Health Psychologist) who have oversight of the programme.

The partners we are working with include NHS Lothian and the NHS Lothian Charity. (Both patients and staff from the hospital are included in our activities); Open Door and the Eric Liddell Community (Older people); SightScotland and First Hand (People living with disabilities); Queer by Nature (LGBT Health and wellbeing).

Community Engagement Event

As part of our engagement with the local community we ran a community event at the Eric Liddell Centre on 24th September 2022. The event presented the results of the AACT Feasibility Study (<https://www.aact.scot/feasibility-study>) into community ownership of the Astley Ainslie after the NHS vacate the site.

We were joined by a diverse panel of speakers who had been involved in the Feasibility Study or were able to provide comments on its findings from the perspective of the natural environment or built environment. The speakers were:

- Stuart Buchanan, Astley Ainslie Community Trust, Chair of Trustees;
- Malcolm Fraser, Fraser/Livingston Architects;
- Oliver Chapman, Oliver Chapman Architects;
- Hazel Allen, Athena Solutions;
- Neil Bancroft, Harrison Stevens;
- Jonathan Silvertown, Professor of Ecology, Edinburgh University

The panel shared different perspectives on the site to a standing room only audience of 100+. After a short talk by each panellist, a lively Q&A was chaired by Rebecca Hackett, AACT Executive Chair. The discussion demonstrated the community's passion for this site and their enthusiasm for community ownership.

Over 140 people attended the event, including many local Councillors. A second room with stalls provided the opportunity for discussion amongst members and passers-by who were interested in finding out more about AACT.

We also had good social media engagement, with 746 impressions for AACT's event summary Tweet. We recruited 40 new members during the event period.

This engagement clearly demonstrates support by the local community for AACT's vision to transfer to community ownership of the Astley Ainslie site after the NHS vacate it.

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Report of the Trustees for the period to 31 March 2023

Communications

We have continued to promote the Astley Ainslie and our cause through a variety of channels.

- We produced the journal, Leaves 3, with Studies in Photography. This is edited by Dr Sara Stevenson, AACT Trustee, and addresses issues of nature, health and creativity, with an impressive group of knowledgeable writers and artists. Leaves 4 is being published independently of the AACT. It is now nearly complete and will include an essay celebrating the 100 years of the Astley Ainslie Hospital.
- The Astley Ainslie Heritage Trail, written by Maggie Carson and Fiona Brownlee, continues to be a popular guide to the site.
- Donald Smith, Director of the Scottish Storytelling Centre, is making a film on Green Edinburgh, which will include a section on the Astley Ainslie.
- Edinburgh Life is publishing an article on David Ainslie to celebrate the magnificent philanthropist who gave us the Hospital, and funded it single-handed.
- 400 leaflets distributed in the run up to the Community Engagement Event

Additionally, we regularly engage with the membership and wider community electronically:

- Email: We sent 20 email updates to a distribution list of 1,135 people. 66% of recipients open our emails, which is significantly higher than typical for a non-profit (42% being the norm).
- Facebook: Our typical posts reach approximately 600 people with around 80 engagements.
- Twitter/X: We typically send out 3-6 Tweets per month, with to 47-180 impressions per Tweet.

Financial Review

Results for the year

The financial statements for the period are set out in pages 7 to 10. The Receipts and Payments Account on page 7 reflects a surplus of £32,190.

Reserves

It is the policy of the Charity to maintain unrestricted funds at a level sufficient to cover management, administration and support costs.

Risk Management

The Trustees have established an Audit and Risk Committee to assess the major risks to which the charity is exposed on an ongoing basis. Based on Audit and Risk Committee recommendations, the Trustees will establish procedures to mitigate those risks that are identified.

Appointment and recruitment of new Trustees

At each AGM, the Ordinary Members may elect any member (providing he/she is willing to act) to be a charity trustee (a "Member Trustee"). The Trustees may at any time appoint any member (providing he/she is willing to act) to be a charity trustee (a "Member Trustee"). At the first AGM after AACT has been designated as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, one third (rounded up to the nearest whole number) of the Member Trustees shall retire from office. The Trustees to retire will be determined by random selection. At each AGM (other than the first) any Member Trustee appointed during the period since the preceding AGM shall retire from office; out of the remaining Member Trustees, one third (rounded up to the nearest whole number) shall retire from office. The charity trustees to retire shall be those who have been longest in office since they were last elected or re-elected; as between persons who were last elected/re-elected on the same date, the question of which of them is to retire shall be determined by some random method. A charity trustee who retires from office shall be eligible for re-election.

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Report of the Trustees for the period to 31 March 2023

Reference and Administrative Information

Trustees

Stuart Buchanan	Chair	(Appointed 21 February 2022)
Maggie Carson		(Appointed 27 April 2022 – Co-opted from October 2022)
Rebecca Hackett	Executive Chair	(Appointed 26 May 2022)
Michael Hall	Treasurer	(Appointed 21 February 2022)
Sara Stevenson		(Appointed 21 February 2022)
Elizabeth Brough		(Appointed 26 May 2022 – Resigned 20 December 2022)
Tim Orr		(Appointed 21 February 2022 – Resigned 26 May 2022)

Principal Office

7 Oswald Court
Edinburgh
EH9 2HY

Charity Number

SC051602

Independent Examiner

Jonathan N Innes FCCA
Innes & Partners Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
Innes House
18 Shairps Business Park
Houston Road
Livingston
EH54 5FD

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank
PO Box 7193
Planetary Road
Willenhall
WV1 9DG

Approved by the trustees on 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Michael Hall
Trustee / Treasurer

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Report of the Independent Examiner for the period to 31 March 2023

I report on the accounts of the charity for the period to 31 March 2023 which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

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) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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 (as amended). 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 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:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended), and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations (as amended)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.

Jonathan N Innes FCCA
Managing Director

Innes & Partners Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants

Innes House
18 Shairps Business Park
Houstoun Road
Livingston
EH54 5FD

Date: 2023

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Receipts and Payments Account for the period ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	General fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £
Receipts				
Donations		4,723	-	4,723
Grant income	4	230	18,997	19,227
Membership income		128	-	128
'Leaves' receipts		1,994	-	1,994
Tree Befriending receipts		-	30	30
Astley Ainslie Heritage Trail receipts		908	-	908
Transfer from previous organisation		10,972	637	11,609
Total receipts		18,955	19,664	38,619
Payments				
Administration costs		186	-	186
Bank charges		180	-	180
Publicity and fundraising costs		371	-	371
Event costs		2,017	-	2,017
'Leaves' payments		2,641	-	2,641
'Leaves' postage		16	-	16
Tree Befriending costs		-	156	156
Astley Ainslie Heritage Trail costs		862	-	862
Total payments		6,273	156	6,429
Net increase in cash for the year		12,682	19,508	32,190
Cash balances brought forward		-	-	-
Cash balances carried forward		12,682	19,508	32,190

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Statement of Balances as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	Opening balance £	2023 Surplus for year £	Closing balance £
Bank account balance		-	32,190	32,190
Total bank and cash balances		-	32,190	32,190
Represented by:				
Unrestricted fund	5			
General fund				12,682
Restricted funds	6			
Nature Recovery fund				18,997
Tree Befriending fund				511
				32,190
Statement of liabilities at 31 March 2023				
Independent examination fee				600
				600

The financial statements on pages 7 to 10 were approved by the Trustees on 2023 and signed on their behalf by the undernoted:

Michael Hall
Trustee / Treasurer

The notes on page 9 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Notes to the Financial Statements for the period to 31 March 2023

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, and in accordance with the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Basis of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a receipts and payments basis.

Fund accounting

For the purpose of the Receipts and Payments account as shown on page 7, funds are defined as follows:

Unrestricted funds comprise grants and other income received for the objects of the Charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

Restricted funds comprise income which has been received for the objects of the Charity and specified for a restricted purpose within these objects by the donor.

Volunteers and donated services

The charity relies on members volunteering their time to ensure the smooth running of the charity, without these volunteers we would struggle to offer this service.

The Astley Ainslie Community Trust

Notes to the financial statements for the period to 31 March 2023

2. Transactions with Trustees and related parties

There were no transactions with the Trustees during the period to 31 March 2023.

There were no transactions with the related parties during the period to 31 March 2023.

3. Reimbursement of expenses

No Trustees received reimbursement of personal expenses during the period to 31 March 2023.

4. Grants received

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total £
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations' Council (EVOC)	100	18,997	19,097
Edinburgh Council Community Grant Fund	130	-	130
Total grants received	230	18,997	19,227

5. Unrestricted funds

	Balance at 01.04.22 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.03.23 £
General fund	-	18,955	(6,273)	-	12,682
Total unrestricted funds	-	18,955	(6,273)	-	12,682

Explanation of funds

The *General fund* represents all income and expenditure relating to the primary focus activities of the charity, other than those for which funding is restricted.

6. Restricted funds

	Balance at 01.04.22 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	Balance at 31.03.23 £
Nature Recovery fund	-	18,997	-	-	18,997
Tree Befriending fund	-	667	(156)	-	511
Total restricted funds	-	19,664	(156)	-	19,508

Explanation of funds

The *Nature Recovery fund* represents grant income received to assist with community mental health and wellbeing by running two nature days within the Astley Ainslie hospital and ten courses for small group activities tailored to the needs of particular at-risk groups during 2023/24.

The *Tree Befriending fund* represents money donated expressly by people who wish to befriend a specific tree on the site. The money is earmarked for promotion of the benefits and importance of maintaining substantial and noteworthy trees and natural green areas in Astley Ainslie.