



Trustees' Annual Report 2017-18

A. Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, first registered in April 2016. This report therefore covers its first full year of operation, as the successor to the previous Unincorporated Association.

There are twelve trustees, who meet some 8 times a year as a general executive committee. They are supported by sub-committees for finance, planning, and the management of Parmoor House, the property of the CIO. Trustees periodically consider major risks and procedures to manage them. Identified risks are mitigated by insurance where possible, and by taking steps to ensure that trustees collectively have the skills and capacity to meet the society's needs.

All the work of the Society is undertaken by volunteers.

B. Objects

To summarise the Objects set out in its Constitution, the Society is established for the public benefit for the following in the area of Cheltenham and its environs:

- (a) to promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area;
- (b) to educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, architecture, urban design and planning of the area;
- (c) to secure the preservation, protection, development, improvement and care of features of historic or public interest in the area.

C. Achievements and Performance

During 2017 the Society maintained a similar range of activities to those of the predecessor Unincorporated Association, all well-supported. These included evening talks on issues relevant to the Society's objectives, the organising and promotion of Heritage Open Days activities in Cheltenham (including displays and talks in Parmoor House), social events for members, and large-scale public lectures relating to heritage, culture and architecture. We also cooperated with other local organisations to mount and run Civic Day events.

In 2017, our Blue Plaques scheme recognised pioneering women in the fields of education and nursing. We once again ran a Civic Awards scheme on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council, to recognise good practice in the design and conservation of Cheltenham's built environment. Our planning forum provided regular considered expert inputs to the local planning process and we organised a conference to help inform Cheltenham Borough Council's development of a place strategy for the town.

We continued to publish informative newsletters for members and non-members, and also continued to develop our on-line presence, contributing to an appreciable rise in membership over the year.

The Society also provided meeting facilities for a range of other local groups and organisations, mostly charitable.

Maxine Melling

Chair, Cheltenham Civic Society

(on behalf of the Trustees of the Cheltenham Civic Society)