



History of Education Centre (Lothian SCIO)SCO12269
Annual Report April 2025 to March 2026

Annual Report

The first day of this reporting year saw Christine and Alice on an Outreach trip to Galashiels to help Gala Primary School celebrate their 150th anniversary. They visited every class in the school and even managed to be filmed for a slot on the evening news report on Borders Television. It was an exhilarating if exhausting experience, but it brought some reasonable funds into our coffers in return.

Footfall for the year was 1,538 visitors and helpers, with November and December being the busiest months. DOD was not as much of a success in September 2025 as it has been in the past. We opened only on the Saturday and had only 2-300 visitors. We're not sure why we had such low numbers but the weather was poor and the trams were not running the whole way down the line. We are still debating whether to open in 2026 or not, although the event has returned to the safe hands of the Cockburn Association.

We are still attracting both local schools and schools from outwith the Edinburgh area and have been visited by schools from Aberdeenshire, Perthshire, Falkirk and Renfrewshire. Unfortunately the biggest obstacle for schools is still transport costs. After our previous payment problems, the City of Edinburgh Council now recognise us and payments are being paid more regularly and usually on time.

The MenOfLeithMen'sShed completed our new shelving/storage cupboard unit and now that it is in place and filled with books, papers and artefacts the Heritage Suite is looking much more like a museum and has had many admiring comments.

We also recruited 7 volunteers to help with our cataloguing/archiving. They are doing sterling work and so far have catalogued The School Board Minutes Books, 1874-1960, school exam papers, school certificates from Boroughmuir and Darroch and much of our glass slide collection. We are so grateful for their input. We are recommending that our lead archivist, Lindsay Udall join the Board as a trustee.

The National Lottery Funded Schooldays project with which we collaborated with other partners at the Heart, came to its climax in September. A video has been made and has been installed in a treasure chest along with items that were made and used in the project. It's A Museum in a Box which can be loaned out to schools and it will live in the Heritage Suite along with the accompanying window blind. Some of our own objects have had to make way for it.

In September, Edinburgh celebrated its 900th anniversary of becoming a Royal Burgh. A small band of HEC volunteers and friends donned costumes and joined the Riding of the Marches parade from Holyrood Palace to St Giles Cathedral where we heard proclamations and witnessed the Riding. All sorts of volunteer and charitable groups participated in the parade and we were able to hand out HEC promotion material.

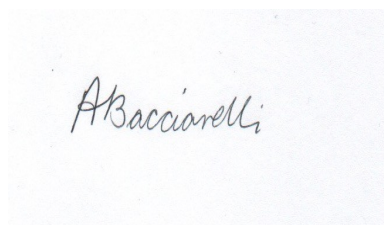
We have recruited one more role-play teacher to our merry band. There have been several other expressions of interest but as yet, these have not come to fruition for various reasons. With our core group maturing at a natural pace, we could do with some younger blood, but as we all know, our role-play teachers are mostly needed during working hours and so the positions are not always suitable for those who have to earn their keep.

In February one of the original founders of The History of Education Centre, Peter Wright, visited us down at Newhaven. He was astounded at how well we were doing and that we had built such a wonderful Victorian experience at The Heart. He compared it to the early days when he and other keen teachers started collecting and storing books, papers, artefacts and anything that related to schools before everything was sent to landfill.

Alice and Christine also contributed a Friday afternoon Hear About talk at The Heart about the origins of HEC and some of our collections. The talk was well attended and stimulated some lively discussion.

Our bank balance at the end of March was £15,892.91

Our Heart services charge increased in April from £120.66 to £124.28 per month.

A photograph of a small, rectangular piece of white paper with a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style and reads 'ABacciorelli'.