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# ASA President 2023

## Annual Report

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APRIL 2023

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The Aberdeen Society of Architects  
Tom Stewart



## President's Report 2023

Over the past year, we have been working to strengthen links with the local Authority Planning & Building Control, with the formation of an "Agent's Forum", which is due to meet to discuss the outcomes of NPF4, as well as a follow up on the new Building Regulations following the initial CPD from Gordon Spence. This is something that I am keen to progress with after finishing my term as President, with a link to the CPD group moving forward.

I am pleased that we have been able to improve communication with the Scott Sutherland School, and welcome their willingness to host us for meetings & events. With Peter Exley incoming as the new Dean, I am sure that this will continue to thrive, and we can see a greater input into the society from staff & students.

At a time when reform of architectural education is ongoing, this seems as prudent a time as any to ensure collaboration between the school and the local Chapter.

Although our guest speaker had to cancel, I am delighted with the annual Awards Dinner at Union Kirk. We have showcased some truly outstanding projects.

I am particularly pleased to see such a range of projects from local small Practices being honoured, showing the talent we have within our Chapter that does not always get the recognition they deserve.

I would like to thank the judges for their tireless work, and congratulate all of the architects who submitted projects for consideration, and especially our winners.

On a negative note, I am concerned at the drop off in council & group activity within the Chapter over the last 2 years. We have worked to make meetings as inclusive as possible, with both virtual & physical places being on offer, but several meetings have not been quorate, with the same 4 or 5 faces grouping together to get things done. I really hope that through links with the School, as well as the positive atmosphere at the awards dinner we can generate some interest from local members, while ensuring that we establish what perceived barriers there are to getting involved. It is my hope that we can get people involved at ALL STAGES OF CAREER so we can share knowledge, enthusiasm and passion for local architecture.

We have a real opportunity to influence local architecture through feedback to draft masterplans for the city, as well as potential input into the Union Street regeneration project.

I will support the next President in this and want to bring as many voices to the table as we can. We are in a time of transition and should take the opportunity to have our voices heard in the planned regeneration within our Chapter.

This is not the time for apathy.

Tom Stewart

On behalf of the Aberdeen Society of Architects