

## Report of the Board Year for Year Ended 31.10.24

The Trustees are pleased to present their report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024.

Overall, the year saw a very successful recovery from the two/three years of pandemic disruption and the flooding which then interrupted 2022/3. At last, 2023/4 brought stability and a chance to push ahead with providing the service to the community with which the Trustees are charged.

During the year the Hall was used by a variety of organisations and groups, with the old stalwarts of the Art Group and Karate being joined by Bridge, Yoga (and for a time) Keep Fit. We also hosted Church, Local Development Trust, Community Council and Consultation events as well as a wedding.

On the first Saturday of each month the Hall hosted the Community Library expertly curated by Finlay & Lorraine McFee with help from the Winters and the Ritchie-Noakes. Aside from making a significant contribution to funds through donations and book sales, it also provided opportunity for produce sales by local businesses.

On the social front, the year kicked-off with a Quiz and a Rhona Knox curated Pre-Loved Clothes sale which just kept giving as clothes continued to be sold after the event. The end of November saw a return of the St Andrew's Ceilidh to the Hall with a great supper enjoyed by some 50 diners, who, when supplemented by a further 20 or so dancers, reeled the night away. A great deal of fun.

December brought us Kilchrenan Does Christmas, with a highly successful raffle supplementing the marvelous locally produced Christmas gifts and other produce on sale.

Over the winter months we hosted coffee mornings and a Pop-Up Pub to provide some Friday evening cheer with dancing in late January.

The quieter winter months enabled us to carry out significant upgrades to the Hall's insulation, heating and lighting systems. These were made possible by a major grant from The Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES) and the Energy Saving Trust (EST) who also provided an 8 year interest free loan for much of the balance of the £28k plus cost of the works. Whilst the £7,593 loan element is repayable over 8 years, monthly repayments have been more than covered by the lower energy consumption the improvements brought with them. The Trustees are much indebted to Jamie Beamish for organizing the works and to Tina Goldsmith who secured and arranged the funding

With the works complete, major events resumed with a BBQ in May and a summer Ceilidh in July. Talks about foraging, well-being and Chai cooking were held during the year interspersed by soup and coffee mornings and book-ended by Flora Winter's ever popular quizzes in March and October. Events in the financial year were brought to a spectacular end with the visit of the Scottish National Story Tellers to the Hall for a great evening of stories and beer which led on to more of the same and song in the village Inn. A great community evening to round off a great year for which much thanks are due to Lindsay McGowan and Clare Bryden.

The success of the social year was reflected in the financial performance too, with excellent advances in revenues and containment of costs.

Event receipts amounted to £ 9,134 (up from £ 6,402 after adjustment for the insurance event in 2021/2022). Hall booking revenue was up at £3,375 from £2,589 (again after insurance event adjustment) and the 50:50 Club brought in receipts of £2,015 against £1,868 in the previous year. Overall gross receipts for the year were £43,294 (£68,270 in 22/23) which amounted to £15,621 after adjustment for the EST/CARES Grant and Loan (£28,061 in 22/23 after the insurance event adjustment).

Receipts were countered by hall running costs of £6,903 (down from £8,819 in 22/24). This was largely brought about by a £1,587 decline in heating & lighting costs.

Overall expenses for the year were £11,008 (£14,058 in 22/23)

After allowance for the village hall improvement works and grant and loan funding there was an overall cash surplus for the year of £2,327 compared to a deficit of £1,934 in 22/22 . Cash balances increased from £23,399 to £25,726.

After allowance for a write-down and reduction in bar stock the surplus was £1,922.

This is a managed and expected rise which has brought with it significant improvements to the Hall as well as some fantastic community events. The balances are healthy and the Board considers the SCIO to be in a strong position from which to enjoy a sustainable future delivering Community benefits to all.

In the years to come that enables the Board to undertake planned maintenance and improvement to the Hall. In the forthcoming financial year this is programmed to see replacement of the external soffits and facias with more durable materials (a project for which grant funding has been secured from the Carraig Ghael Windfarm Community Benefit Fund) as well as external decoration. Installation of a full Audio/Visual facility is also on the cards for 24/25 subject to securing grant funding. These and projects for the following years will likely see a managed reduction in cash reserves whilst maintaining a balance which the Board believes will shelter the charity from any unexpected shocks.

All in all, we are in a very sound position, both financially and operationally. This will enable your Board to continue to serve the Community but also to enhance our offer through a series of planned improvement works to the Hall, as well as more community events coupled with increased hall usage by clubs, societies, and other groups.

None of this is possible without the support we enjoy from the Community we serve; be it in running events, helping with works or digging deep into pockets. That support is greatly appreciated.

Brian Burnett, Convenor

On Behalf of the SCIO Board

Date: