

SAUGHTONHALL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

[Draft] Trustees' Annual Report 2024/25

Purpose and activities during the year

The purpose of the Association is set out in its constitution. This includes running the community hall and recreation grounds to promote the benefit of the residents of Saughtonhall through the provision of social, leisure and recreation facilities.

The year commenced with the annual fete in June 24. Despite the significant rain, the event was still well attended and worthwhile. A late summer barbecue was held in August 24, a coffee morning for McMillan in September 24, and the annual lighting of the Christmas tree with carols and Santa was held in Dec 24. The community hall was available for hire by individuals and groups. During 2024/25 the Association operated a full program of activities including the following groups with regular bookings most weeks:

- Dansation (Saturday morning)
- Rehoboth the Living Church – (moved to larger premises in May 2025)
- Zumba
- Edinburgh West Chess Club
- Bible believers (March – Sept)
- Rainbows and Brownies
- Qi gong for seniors
- Dansation (Friday afternoon)
- Yoga
- Ladies club (private booking)
- Swing dancers (March – May)

The Green Team used the grounds, free of charge, for two hours every Monday morning from March to October for nature play with children. The GreenTeam also brought a class from St Cuthberts Primary School for a visit and had six sessions with staff from Roseburn Primary school for pupils with additional support needs. Dalry Nursery again used the grounds but only for 3 visits due to staff shortages. The community payback team sometimes visited on Wednesdays to help with grounds maintenance for which we are very grateful.

In addition to the regular bookings, we have hosted 100 other private bookings, 56 from within the SCA boundary and 44 from outside. This is similar to 2024 levels.

Of the 56 bookings from within the SCA boundaries there were a few regular ones:

- 8 by the Craft club who book once a month with a break over the summer.
- 4 for the Swiss club who book annual events
- 9 by a local person for family Taekwondo classes since the end of September.

The remaining 35 bookings were mainly for birthday parties and family events.

Of the 44 bookings from outside the community, five were made by the church group on the 1st of the month. There were also three bookings for which SCA didn't charge for hall use; two by Murrayfield Community Council (including the police talk on home security) and one for the CPR and Defibrillator training.

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Plans for hall improvement continued to be progressed. The 25-year lease which will enable us to progress funding applications for the hall's refurbishment is agreed in principle. The application to become a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization was approved in September.

Governance

The Association is managed by a Committee, which meets monthly and more frequently where necessary. Committee members and office holders are appointed at the annual general meeting for a two-year period. Short life sub-committees are established to consider significant projects, including hall improvements. The Committee held in-person meetings most month during the year.

There were some changes to committee membership during the year. One new trustee was co-opted in 2025 to fill the vacant treasurer position. Two members resigned. Members of the committee who served during 2024/25 were: Moray Rumney (Appointed Chair Oct 2023), Alastair Robertson (Vice Chair resigned October 24), John Harrison (co-opted as Secretary in Jan 2024), Carolyn Williams, Helen Brockie, James Ogilvie, Sheila Watt, Zia Rahman (appointed vice chair October 24), Elaine Rumney (resigned June 25), Colin Happer (co-opted Feb 2024), Andrew Gosden (co-opted Nov 2023), Lynn Yorkston co-opted Nov 2025 as treasurer).

The current trustees would like to sincerely thank Mark Taylor for his 13 years as treasurer and for his excellent preparation for handing on the role over to Lynn Yorkston.

Financial review

Overall, the accounts show a surplus of £7,074.36 during 2024/25 (surplus of £3,961.49 in 2023/24) increasing the balance held at the RBS as of 31 May 2025 to £60,301.89. The Committee undertook a review of its reserve policy in summer 2023 to consider the level of reserves to be held as a contingency against unforeseen costs and how much could be applied to improving the hall and grounds. It decided to designate £30,000.00 of its available reserves for improving the hall, recognising the opportunity to apply a significant proportion of the cash balance to improving facilities. We continue to progress options for extending and reconfiguring the hall, continuing to explore opportunities for grants and other funding. Through the Murradyfield Community Council, the SCA was successful in May 25 in applying for a £100,000 grant from the Place Based Investment Program, a government fund focussed on capital investments for community purposes. We are incredibly grateful to MCC for their assistance and support in receiving this funding which will contribute substantially to the costs of the planned refurbishment of the recreation hall. This grant does not show in the 24/25 accounts as it will be drawn down in arrears after building works start in 2026.

Running (operating) costs for the year were £8,958.62, with costs down slightly from the previous year (£9,254.21) including a big fall in energy costs taking advantage of the improved fixed term deals for gas and electricity available. These costs were more than covered by hall rents, memberships, donations, and bank interest - which together totalled £16,953.05. Takings were significantly increased from the previous year (£12,777.79) with regular use of the hall up by over 50% on the previous year. A total of £3,252.24 (£6,827.17 in 2023/24) was spent on the events programme with takings of £2,620.56 (£4,388.77 in 2023/24) covering much of this.

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Following donations toward hall improvements, £4,227.96 is being held as restricted funds for this purpose (in addition to the £30,000 earmarked as described above). We spent £288.39 on equipment, including a replacement cooker.

The finances of the Association remain healthy despite previous increases in general inflation and energy costs. We continue to keep rental charges under careful review to ensure that we can continue to cover all operating costs from hall rents, while remaining affordable to the community.

Concluding remarks

The Association plays an important role in the community life of Saughtonhall, providing opportunities for inhabitants of the area to get together. The community hall and grounds are excellent local assets, and the Association is working hard to make sure they are well used for the benefit of the whole community, in challenging economic circumstances. We are particularly grateful for the assistance of all our volunteers in making this possible - this is a great way for people to get involved for those who don't necessarily want to join the committee.

Moray Rumney, Chairperson
On behalf of the Committee

11 January 2026

Saughtonhall Community Association is based at 22a Saughtonhall Avenue, Edinburgh.