



Stirling4Community

Trustees' Annual Report

From 1feb22 to 31jan23

Charity contact information

Charity name: Stirling4Community SCIO

Scottish Charity Number: SC051038

Address: 16 Laurelhill Gardens, Stirling

Postcode: FK8 2PT

Telephone number: 07826 556302

Email address: stirling4community@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.stirling4community.org>

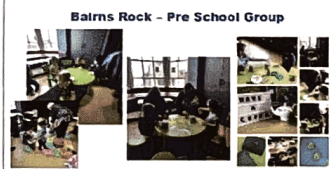
Facebook: Stirling4Community



Art Group
 Fridays from 10.30am to 12pm
 At Holy Trinity Church Hall, Dumbarton Road, Stirling FK8 2RG
 www.stirling4community.org
 We are an informal folk group who paint or draw together weekly. All materials supplied. £3 per session.



Stirling4Community Health & Wellbeing Group
 Foundation Scotland
 Monday's 6-7pm
 A friendly and supportive group who meet weekly to chat over a cuppa or shared lunch. Society walking, meditation and musical events.
 1st Floor, The Old Arcade, Stirling FK8 1AX
 We'd love for you to join us!
 Contact Lesma on Tel: 07805 747337
 stirling4community@gmail.com



Charity Trustees

Jane Steel	- Chairperson
Sally Forshaw	- Secretary & Fundraising Co-ordinator
David Boyd	- Depute Chairperson
Lorna Shaw	- Treasurer
Gerry Forshaw	- Assistant Treasurer
Raymond Phillips	- Membership Secretary
Natalie Forshaw	- Trustee
Colleen Sharp	- Trustee
Tina Cochrane	- Corporate Trustee
Lesley Haldane	- Assistant Secretary - Non Trustee position

Objectives and activities

The purposes of Stirling4 Community are to provide a range of services either on its own initiative or in association with others, geared to responding to community needs. At the outset, this will focus on four areas:

- Addressing the challenges of loneliness and isolation
- Nurturing community and building a sense of belonging
- Developing friendship and fellowship
- Promoting wellbeing

We work with others to promote our objectives.

Stirling4Community is founded on the Christian values of love, service and inclusivity.

We are a welcoming organisation open to anyone. We strive to be inclusive and open to all members of society.

We currently hold several community groups each week including a Dementia and Older People's Lunch Club, a Wellbeing & Friendship Choir, a Men's Group, a Knitting & Sewing Group, a Health & Well-being group and an Art Group as well as a Monthly Tea Dance for all ages and abilities. We also have a Children's pre-school group however it is currently on hold pending further funding & staff resources.

All of our groups aim to combat loneliness and isolation by encouraging community, welcoming people and developing friendships.

Structure, governance, and management

Type of governing document

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO)

Trustee recruitment and appointment

At the end of year 2022/23, we had 9 trustees and an Assistant Secretary (non-trustee position)

We very much welcome corporate trustees to join, and currently have one corporate trustee, from our partner organisation 'William Simpsons Care Home' – We are currently work on a joint project on their site at Pleau, Stirling, where our Men's Group are helping to develop and maintain raised vegetable beds.

Our current board of Trustees have diverse working experiences including Retired Directors, Retired Teachers, Retired Bank Staff, Transport Manager, Finance Manager, Retired Business & Social Care Manager, Retired Electrician, HGV Driver, each bringing mixed life experiences and skills.

Achievements and performance

It's been another very good year, running our community groups, including Lunch club, Choir, Knitting group, Art group, Tea Dance, our new Health & Wellbeing group and our Men's Group. Our Children's pre-school group had to be put on hold due to lack of funding and lack of staff to run it, however we hope that it will be possible to restart once again as demand, funding and staff/volunteers allow.

Our partnership with William Simpsons Care Home is going very well, and we owe our enormous thanks to their Chief Executive and to their Board of Trustees who continue to fully support us, in our use of a former graveyard of William Simpson's, as a Memorial Garden and Community Garden space. We eventually received planning permission to build a shed onto the land and create it as a memorial garden, so our work will continue there this coming year with our Men's Group developing that further. We also thank them for allowing our Men's Group to manage multiple vegetable plots at their land in Plean – we hope to be able to provide fresh food to the food based charities in Stirling this year if we get a good harvest.

We have been very blessed to have been supported financially by many different external funders, following applications made by our funding coordinator. We're also very thankful to our members for their membership fees and donations which contribute to our stable financial position.

We are very thankful to the following funders who supported us this year.

R S MacDonald, Impact Funding, Age Scotland, The Benefact Group, The Round Table, Arnold Clark, Tesco, and McCarthy Stone

Halls

We have been blessed to find two great spaces to run our groups from, in the absence of finding our own space – Holy Trinity Church hall next to the Albert Halls on Dumbarton Road, Stirling and also Calvary Fellowship hall in the Stirling Arcade off Murray Place

Our application to Stirling Council for the East Argyle Centre to take it on as a community asset transfer is, a full year on, still pending and we await hearing further details from them to progress our application in competition against several other local charities and community groups.

Thanks are due to all of our Board of Trustees for their support and hard work this year, with special thanks to our Secretary, who has done an excellent job of taking the minutes each meeting, to our Membership Secretary, who deals with membership queries, to our Treasurer and Depute Treasurer, who have kept the financial accounts in good order throughout the year, and to our Fundraising Co-Ordinator who has done an excellent job and raised over £14,000 in grant funding to allow our groups to continue into the future.

We are very excited to continue our work in the Stirling community and continue our partnership with William Simpsons Care Home, and we hope to generate more mutual opportunities for interaction with the residents there.

We continue to have our primary focus on reducing loneliness and isolation, particularly through the growth of further community groups, and we hope through rental of our own premises at some point in the coming year as suitable premises become available to us.

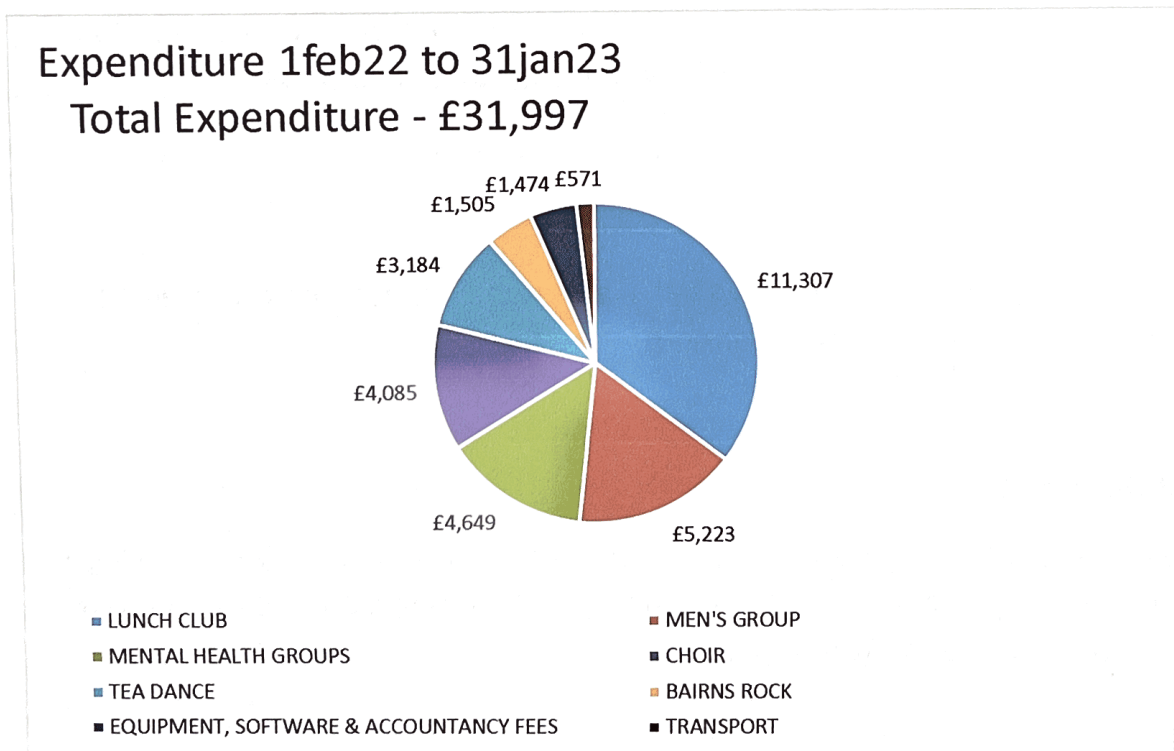
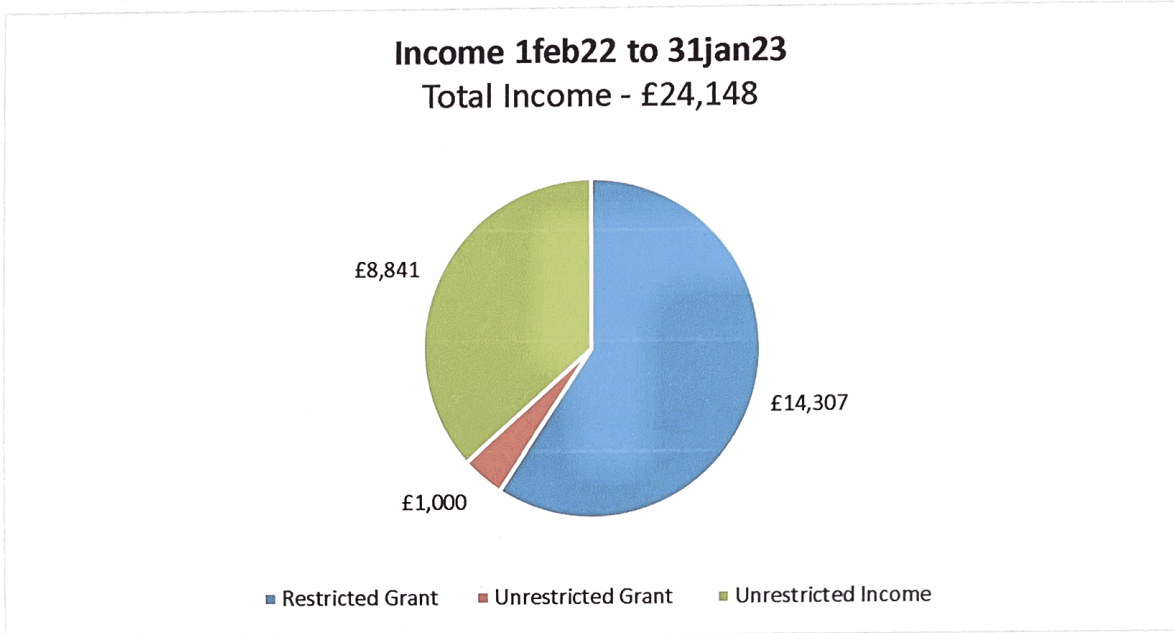
Staff

We operate with two funded staff – a Lunch Club Co-ordinator and a Volunteer Co-ordinator / Manager

Volunteers

We have a large group of over 20 volunteers who work with our groups on a weekly basis, giving their time selflessly to support us and help our community group attendees.

Financial review



Additionally, we have set aside £4,000 in a Reserves Fund to allow for 2 months of operating costs in the event of a crisis, and we aim to have 3 months average operating costs in our reserves within year 2023

Details

We ended the year with a balance of £19,634, which is made up of £9,270 in Restricted Funds, £5,965 in Unrestricted Funds and £4,000 in Reserves.

As can be seen from the charts above, we made an operating deficit this year of £7,849 however it should be noted that much of the funding available for spend in 2022/23 was raised in 2021/22 and having spend deadlines before Feb23

We had increased costs in our groups, largely due to them being very well attended (a good problem to have!), with approx. 30 attendees each week at choir, 20-25 attendees at Lunch Club weekly, 40-50 attendees each month at Tea Dance, 16-22 attending Art group weekly. Along with increased attendance, comes increased operating costs.

Our Men's Group also had increased costs this year following our planning application approval allowing purchase and erection of a shed and planters on the Memorial & Community garden, plus purchase of black paint to re-paint the railings in line with our planning permission, and lots of new gardening related tools and equipment which are now able to be stored in the shed.

Although we have a Membership model, we have not been effective in growing our membership in 2022, so this is something to focus on in 2023, and we will be looking for new and imaginative ways to grow our membership this year.

At our 2022 AGM, we reported that we were starting a new homelessness project 'Restore Stirling', however it became clear throughout the year that this would be better suited to be it's own independent charity, therefore it is now no longer part of Stirling4Community. No costs were accrued or spent by Stirling4Community on the Restore Stirling project.

It was agreed at our AGM on 1st March 2023, that we will hold our AGM in future years in the first week of June to allow more time for final accounts and Trustee report preparation prior to the AGM.

We have awarded a pay increase of 5% to our staff effective from 1st Feb 2023, as agreed by the Board, due to the cost of living having increased so substantially over this past 12 months and continues to do so.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The trustees aim to maintain free reserves in our Reserves Fund at a level which equates to approximately three to six months of unrestricted expenditure.

The trustees consider that this level will provide sufficient funds to ensure that support and governance costs are covered in the event of any unexpected loss of income.

The trustees consider that a level of three to six months is currently sufficient given our ongoing funding situation and the nature of our work, not having the burden of owning any property to be maintained, and the short notice (Normally 1 month) required on giving up any rented premises that we use.

We continue to have a healthy balance sheet and with our groups also now bringing in their own income through weekly attendee donations, this will improve our position this year. Our Reserves policy will be reviewed as required.

A separate fund has been set aside for Reserves in the sum of £4000 equating to approx. 2 months of anticipated costs should we face financial constraints or otherwise, that requires this to be utilised. We aim to have 3 to 6 months worth of operating costs in Reserves by 2024.

Donated facilities and services

We hired premises in 2022 from Calvary Fellowship Church, however when our funding ended for our small groups (Health & Wellbeing and Knitting/Sewing groups) we felt that we could not afford the rent, and

advised them that we would terminate the rental agreement temporarily. Calvary Fellowship trustees very generously offered to donate their facilities to us for use by our small groups until funding was available once more. Our thanks go to Calvary Church for their very generous offer.

We have since received further funding and that, combined with our group incomes allow us to continue to run these groups.

Future plans

We aim to continue with all of our current groups and to grow our services by considering other needs in the community such as a Walking group, perhaps a Cooking group and other ideas yet to be agreed upon. These are not yet finalised but will be developed during 2023

We very much hope to have our own rental premises available full time in 2023/2024 as this would significantly help organisationally and it would allow our community users to attend at the same premises when coming to multiple different groups.

We look forward to another exciting year of serving the community ahead.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

JANE STEEL

Designation

CHAIRPERSON

Date

15th August 2023