Krishna Community SCIO

Scottish Charity Number: SC053892

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Trustees' Annual Report

For the Year Ended 31 December 2025

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1. Introduction

Krishna Community SCIO (Scottish Charity Number SC053892) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation established to advance its charitable purposes through religious, community and welfare activities.

Charitable Purposes

The charitable purposes of Krishna Community SCIO, as set out in its constitution, are:

1. The alleviation of poverty.
2. The advancement of religion.

2. Background and Development of Activities

The Food For All Scotland initiative began providing regular hot meals at the University of Glasgow on 10 April 2024, initially operating under the umbrella of Food For All UK, a charity based in London, charity number 1077897.

David Sharp managed the Scottish project, working with Food For All UK and developing the

initiative locally. During its initial period of operation, the Scottish project operated as a Scottish department of Food For All UK and benefited from the organisation's support, including the use of its insurance arrangements. Food For All UK also recognised the Glasgow initiative on its website as part of its wider network of activities across the UK.

Following the establishment of Krishna Community SCIO, in January 2025, the Scottish project developed its own charitable structure, bank account and insurance arrangements. Krishna Community SCIO operates as an independent Scottish charity, while maintaining an ongoing relationship with Food For All UK. The relationship reflects the project's origins and the continued cooperation between the organisations.

In December 2025, Krishna Community SCIO's own public liability insurance came into effect, covering the charity's activities. This marked an important milestone in the development of the Scottish organisation's own administrative arrangements.

3. Main Activities and Achievements during 2025

Radha Krishna Spiritual Centre and Community Café, Perth

Krishna Community SCIO operates as an umbrella organisation supporting Hare Krishna devotees across Scotland who wish to develop projects that share Krishna consciousness and benefit their local communities. This support may include advice, encouragement, practical assistance, help with fundraising and guidance on establishing projects as independent organisations. Where appropriate, the charity may also provide financial assistance towards activities such as hiring venues for religious and community events.

The Radha Krishna Spiritual Centre and Community Café at 16 and 18 Charlotte Street, near North Inch Park in central Perth, is an independent project led by Peter Fenton. While Krishna Community SCIO provides insurance and supports the project through its wider charitable role, the centre operates autonomously and is not funded through the charity’s fundraising activities.

The premises are made available by the landlord without a conventional rental payment. However the substantial repair, renovation and maintenance work Mr Fenton and another volunteer undertook including plastering, painting, waterproofing the basement and addressing damp and ceiling damage, are effectively in lieu of rent. Mr Fenton has personally incurred many of these costs, which may equal or exceed the rental cost that would otherwise have been payable.

Peter has also raised donations specifically for the centre, including contributions from people who have visited the premises and members of the Perth Indian Association. These donations have been used for renovating and maintaining the property. Fundraising for the centre is undertaken separately from fundraising in the name of Krishna Community SCIO.

Monthly kirtan and community meal events, previously hosted by Peter at his home near Perth, moved to the centre in 2025. These events include devotional singing, live music and a free community meal, providing opportunities for spiritual practice and community participation.

The adjoining premises have also been developed as a pay-by-donation community café, staffed by Peter on a voluntary basis. The café has operated with limited opening hours, reflecting the availability and health of its volunteer.

The centre has provided space for wider community engagement. Members of the Perth Indian Association attended a number of events, and in the run-up to Diwali the premises were used by the

association for rehearsals in preparation for its festival celebrations. The festival subsequently took place at a local secondary school, attracting an audience of at least 200 people.

The centre's finances are managed separately from Krishna Community SCIO's bank account, with Peter Fenton currently managing donations and expenditure through his personal bank account. Peter intends to continue developing the centre as an independent project and may explore a suitable organisational structure that allows it to operate with appropriate accountability while keeping administrative requirements manageable.

The project illustrates Krishna Community SCIO's role in encouraging and supporting independent initiatives within the wider Hare Krishna community in Scotland. The Perth centre has developed as a venue for religious practice, cultural activity and community connection, while making productive use of premises that might otherwise have continued to deteriorate.

Food Relief – Hot Meals for the Homeless

During the reporting year, the charity operated its Hot Meals for the Homeless project, preparing vegetarian meals for distribution to people experiencing homelessness and hardship. Ingredients, including pasta and tomato paste, were purchased to prepare meals for distribution.

Meals were delivered regularly to Chez Nous hostel on Hillhead Street in Glasgow. On a small number of occasions, meals were also delivered to St Enoch Hostel, near St Enoch Square in Glasgow city centre. The project aimed to provide nutritious food while offering practical support to people in need.

Food Redistribution and Partnerships

During 2025, the charity established a regular partnership with Aladdin's, a small supermarket at Eglinton Toll in Glasgow, collecting out-of-date food suitable for redistribution. These collections often involved substantial quantities of food, helping to reduce food waste and make more food available to people experiencing hardship.

The charity established a regular partnership with The People's Pantry, a food bank on Cathcart Road in Glasgow, to which surplus collected food was delivered for distribution to people in need. In addition, the charity received food donations from other shops on a more occasional basis.

The charity also received support from Strawberry Garden wholesaler, which provided discounted goods and food donations towards the preparation of free hot meals. This assistance helped reduce food costs and support the continuation of the charity's food relief activities.

These partnerships helped develop a practical local network for redirecting surplus food towards community benefit.

University Food Outreach

During the reporting year, the charity also operated a weekly vegan food stall on University Avenue at the University of Glasgow. This provided an opportunity to engage with students and the wider university community and to distribute vegan food. The activity supported the charity's aims of providing food assistance and promoting community engagement.

Cooking Facilities and Volunteer Support

During 2025, the charity prepared meals using a variety of facilities, including its volunteers' home kitchens. For a period during the summer, the charity hired kitchen facilities at Kinning Park Complex in Glasgow. Volunteers also prepared meals on several occasions at Glasgow Autonomous Space on the south side of Glasgow.

Access to these different kitchens enabled the charity to organise food preparation and continue developing its meal distribution activities through volunteer support.

Community Food Growing

The charity's community food-growing activities developed over several years. During 2023 and 2024, vegetables were grown in local residents' back gardens, with some of this activity continuing into 2025. In 2024, the charity also gained access to the Hazelbank growing site, where work began to develop its potential for community food production.

During 2025, the charity gained access to a separate site on Shoulder Rig Road in Coalburn. Volunteers established lazy beds and grew potatoes. The charity also developed a wider proposal for the site's regeneration, recognising its history as a degraded former mining area. The proposal included regenerative grazing, polytunnels for vegetable production, tree planting, and the restoration and productive use of wetland areas. It also envisaged involving children from local schools in tree planting to encourage environmental awareness and a sense of ownership of their local area. For the wetland areas, the proposal explored the principle of raised growing beds separated by water channels, inspired by traditional systems such as the chinampas of Mexico.

The proposal was submitted to the landowner but was not accepted. The charity subsequently left the site after the landowner changed his plans for the land. Although the wider regeneration scheme did not proceed, developing the proposal formed part of the charity's work exploring opportunities for regenerative agriculture, biodiversity and sustainable local food production.

Produce from the growing activities, together with vegetables supplied by volunteers from their own gardens and greenhouses, helped support local food provision. Fresh produce was distributed to low-income families, refugee families and senior citizens, particularly at harvest time. Some home-grown produce, including courgettes and tomatoes, was also used in preparing hot meals for distribution in Glasgow.

These activities helped develop the charity's experience in community food growing, strengthen local food provision and lay the foundations for further work towards sustainable food production.

Kirtan Processions and Religious Outreach

Alongside its regular kirtan gatherings, the charity participated in devotional singing processions in Glasgow, including along Byres Road, sometimes following food distribution activities at the University of Glasgow. Similar processions were organised on several occasions in Edinburgh, involving Hare Krishna devotees.

One notable event featured Govinda Prabhu, a singer originally from Edinburgh who travelled from London to participate. These activities provided opportunities for public devotional singing, community participation and sharing the Krishna consciousness tradition beyond regular religious gatherings.

Religious Book Distribution and Street Outreach

During 2025, the charity also undertook street outreach and religious book distribution in several towns, including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Stirling, Perth, Lanark and Bathgate. Small street tables were set up to display and distribute religious literature, including copies of the Bhagavad-gita. These activities were sometimes accompanied by devotional music and Hare Krishna chanting.

This outreach helped introduce members of the public to Krishna consciousness and supported the charity's religious objectives through accessible, community-based activities. A book stall was else set up at a monthly meeting in Dunfermline organised by the ISKCON Krishna West team.

Healing Group Welfare Union – Community Welfare, Advocacy and Reconciliation

During 2025, Krishna Community SCIO began developing the Healing Group Welfare Union, an initiative intended to provide support, information and signposting to people experiencing difficulties within the Krishna community. For several months, Stephen Shaw undertook voluntary work as a Support and Signposting Community Wellbeing Volunteer.

The work included accompanying individuals to formal meetings, helping people navigate complaints and institutional procedures, documenting concerns about alleged mistreatment, and exploring appropriate routes for support, mediation and reporting. It also involved correspondence with people working in religious ethics and community welfare, and supporting individuals seeking clarification or review of decisions affecting their participation in religious life.

An important part of the work concerned community reconciliation. Stephen attended meetings involving ISKCON Scotland trustees, prepared a statement on reconciliation and community healing, and reviewed a proposed action plan intended to address divisions within the Scottish Hare Krishna community. He also explored whether independent mediation might help resolve the wider community conflict.

The initiative maintained records of its work, including correspondence, meeting notes, incident intake forms and follow-up actions. A safeguarding summary was prepared for possible submission to the relevant regulator in one case, but was not submitted after the individual concerned decided not to proceed. Confidential records were maintained to document concerns and support appropriate follow-up.

Following discussion by the Board of Trustees, the service was temporarily placed on hold pending a review of the training, safeguarding, feasibility and insurance arrangements required for this work. The trustees considered that suitable adult protection or related training should be completed before the service resumed.

This initial period helped identify the potential value of independent listening, practical support, complaint navigation and reconciliation within the community. Any future development of the service will require appropriate training, clear role boundaries and suitable safeguarding arrangements.

4. Governance and Management

Krishna Community SCIO commenced operations in 2025 and is governed by a Board of Trustees responsible for overseeing its activities, finances, administration and compliance with its constitution and charitable purposes. The charity’s governing document sets out its purposes and regulates its administration, with decisions made by majority voting in accordance with the constitution.

Trustees during the financial year ended 31 December 2025

The following three founding trustees served throughout the reporting year:

- **Peter Fenton** – Chairperson
- **David Sharp** – Treasurer
- **Stephen Shaw** – Secretary

Trustees at the date of approval of this report (October 2026)

At the Annual General Meeting on 22 February 2026, the three founding trustees were re-elected and Nathan Hartley was appointed as an additional trustee, bringing the total number of trustees to four. Nathan took responsibility for public relations and social media.

- **Peter Fenton** – Chairperson
- **David Sharp** – Treasurer
- **Stephen Shaw** – Secretary
- **Nathan Hartley** – Trustee

Membership and Trustee Appointments

Membership is open to anyone wishing to apply. Prospective members complete a membership application form, and there is currently no membership fee. Members elect trustees to serve on the Board, with trustees recruited from the charity’s membership. No external body has the right to appoint trustees.

The Board oversees the charity’s projects and activities, including Food For All Scotland, community food-growing initiatives, and religious and community activities, ensuring that its resources are used in furtherance of its charitable purposes.

Bookkeeping and Financial Administration

In December 2025, Dilys Shaw began volunteering as the charity's bookkeeper, providing dedicated support with the maintenance of its financial records. This was a positive development in the charity's financial administration, strengthening its capacity to maintain accurate and organised accounts and support the trustees in overseeing the charity's finances. The role is undertaken on a voluntary basis, representing a valuable contribution to the charity's ongoing development.

5. Financial Review

Krishna Community SCIO began delivering charitable activities before it had established a dedicated bank account. During this initial period, the charity undertook activities including the provision of hot meals to students and people experiencing homelessness.

Following approval of the charity's registration by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), the trustees applied for a dedicated bank account with the Royal Bank of Scotland, which was opened in April 2025.

At the beginning of the 2025 reporting year, the charity's net financial position was minus £311.99. At 31 December 2025, after taking account of the outstanding hardship loan owed to the charity, the net financial position was minus £166.15. This represents an improvement of £145.84 over the reporting period, subject to confirmation of the accounting treatment and reconciliation of the opening and closing balances.

At 31 December 2025, the charity held £247.07 in its Royal Bank of Scotland bank account. The charity also had an outstanding asset of £70 owed by David Sharp in respect of a hardship loan advanced during the year. At the same date, the charity owed £483.22 to Stephen Shaw for expenses he had personally covered on the charity's behalf. After taking these assets and liabilities into account, the charity's net financial position was minus £166.15.

The hardship loan was initially £110, of which £40 was repaid in December 2025. The remaining £70 was outstanding at the end of the reporting period and was repaid in full in early 2026. The trustees will review the transaction in light of the charity's constitution and consider any governance or procedural issues arising from the loan.

The funds remaining in the bank account were retained to provide working capital for the charity's ongoing activities and day-to-day expenditure, including food purchases, travel and community events. The trustees continued to oversee the charity's finances and expenditure, ensuring that available resources supported its charitable activities, including food relief, community food growing, and religious and community events.

6. Reserves Policy

During the 2025 reporting year, the charity operated with limited financial resources. At 31 December 2025, after including the outstanding £70 hardship loan receivable, the charity had a negative net financial position of £166.15. The charity therefore had no free financial reserves available at the end of the reporting period.

The trustees recognise the importance of building reserves to support the continuity of the charity's activities, meet unexpected expenditure and manage fluctuations in income.

As its financial position improves, the charity aims to establish general reserves of between £500 and £1,000. These reserves will provide a modest financial buffer to help meet unforeseen costs and support the continued delivery of the charity's charitable activities.

The trustees will review the charity's reserves as its income, expenditure and activities develop, with the aim of building reserves through donations, fundraising and other income.

The trustees also recognise that the proposed cow protection project will require a separate financial reserve to cover unexpected veterinary bills and other essential animal welfare costs. This project-specific reserve will be managed separately from the charity's general reserves.

7. Plans for the Coming Year (2026)

During 2026, the charity intends to continue developing its existing charitable activities, including community food growing, food redistribution, and religious and community events. The trustees aim to strengthen existing projects while exploring opportunities to expand the charity's work in response to community needs and volunteer interest.

Community Food Growing and Food Security

The charity plans to expand its community food-growing activities at the Hazelbank site, increasing the area under cultivation and developing its potential to provide fresh produce for local communities. This work will support the charity's wider aims of improving food security, promoting sustainable agriculture and making fresh produce more accessible to people experiencing financial hardship.

Volunteer-Led Community Meals

The charity intends to encourage volunteers to organise free community meals in different locations across Scotland. Food For All Scotland aims to support these initiatives with advice, practical assistance, food preparation and serving, and, where resources permit, financial support. Volunteers will be encouraged to identify suitable venues and organise local publicity, helping to build community involvement and ownership of these activities.

The charity aims to make greater use of locally grown, preferably organic produce. Its longer-term vision includes developing the concept of a "twelve-mile broth", aiming to source ingredients from within a twelve-mile radius wherever practical. This reflects the charity's commitment to food security, sustainable agriculture and resilient local food systems.

Cow Protection and Regenerative Agriculture

The trustees intend to continue preparatory work towards establishing a small-scale cow protection project at the Ellen Bank site in Lesmahagow, focused on animal welfare, regenerative agriculture and food sovereignty. Preparations include ensuring that suitable land, fencing, shelter, veterinary care, insurance and other necessary arrangements are in place before animals are taken into the charity's care.

A key priority is to raise approximately £2,000 for a dedicated reserve to cover unexpected veterinary bills and other essential animal welfare costs. This fund would be separate from the

charity's general reserves. The trustees will seek to ensure that appropriate practical arrangements and sufficient financial safeguards are in place before taking responsibility for animals.

Fundraising and Organisational Development

The charity will continue seeking donations, fundraising opportunities, volunteers and partnerships to support its charitable purposes and the sustainable development of its activities. It will encourage volunteers not only to contribute to existing projects but also to propose and develop new initiatives that advance the charity's objectives, with support provided according to available resources.

8. Approval of the Trustees' Annual Report

The Trustees' Annual Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on behalf of Krishna Community SCIO on:

Date of approval: 21/10/26

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Signature: Peter Fenton

Name: Peter Fenton

Position: Chairman

Date: 21/10/26