

Old Smiddy Strachur Museum Society SC022780

Annual Report for 2025

Strachur Smiddy had another successful season in 2025. The Smiddy continued to operate much as before, but with an increase in forging activity.

The museum was open on Saturdays and Sundays 1-4 pm from May 31st to September 27th, which is essentially the same pattern as was established since COVID. Volunteer numbers are adequate for our opening days.

John Bain our blacksmith has again attended almost every weekend and as usual provides a lively demonstration of blacksmithing skills and engaging chat with visitors. He was joined most days by Janey Seymour who can now confidently take on the role of blacksmith demonstrator for visitors.

We had a total of 381 recorded visitors during our normal weekend openings. This is an underestimate of the total and does not usually include the locals who drop in for a chat. That may not seem a huge number of visitors, but you have to bear in mind that it is a very small space, and some visitors stay for quite a long time. We do reach what seems like maximum capacity of busy days, though there are also quiet days when we could accommodate more.

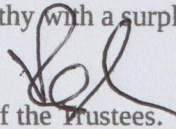
Friday has now become a regular forging day with John, Janey and three or four others spending time to learn blacksmithing skills and create metalwork to sell in the shop with minimal interruption by visitors. This is something that was probably not envisaged when the Smiddy first opened as a museum, but the trustees agree that it is of benefit to our charitable aims. It means that we have enthusiastic and knowledgeable volunteers able to demonstrate and discuss blacksmithing, and it means that we have our own product in the shop. It does raise potential health and safety hazards which we have kept under review in our risk assessments and practices.

In addition to regular weekend openings we have had a few special openings at the request of groups of visitors, and two evening events (one for halloween, and one for story-telling) which were a great success.

It was mentioned in last year's report that we were considering changing from a Trust to a SCIO, but after obtaining legal advice we decided that we should stay as a Trust,

Finances remain healthy with a surplus of £862.97

A Patrick Gibb
Treasurer on behalf of the Trustees.



14 Mar 2026

Summary

Old Smiddy Strachur Museum Society

SCO22780

Account Summary for 1 Jan 2025 to 31 Dec 2025

Income	2025	2024	Variation
Smiddy Craft sales	3,474.29	2,832.90	641.39
Donations	1,556.03	1,403.84	152.19
Events	100.00	0.00	100.00
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
GiftAid Tax Refund	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest on Bond	562.17	169.36	392.81
Total Income	5,692.49	4,406.10	1,286.39
Expenditure			
Stock for resale	1,396.93	1,335.46	61.47
Water and Electricity	620.47	589.80	30.67
Repairs and Upkeep	541.00	597.94	-56.94
Insurance Premiums	618.82	602.38	16.44
Room Hire	30.00	11.50	18.50
Advertising and Printing	266.88	441.98	-175.10
Event Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
Website	78.00	39.95	38.05
SumUp fees	29.11	24.29	4.82
Coal	192.50	110.00	82.50
Metal	303.23	37.27	265.96
Other forge supplies	232.07	0.00	232.07
Tools	69.54	0.00	69.54
Additional deposit to bond	450.97	0.00	450.97
Total Expenditure	4,829.52	3,790.57	1,038.95
Surplus / Deficit at 31 December	862.97	615.53	247.44
Assets			
Bank Balance	5,722.58	5,420.59	301.99
Savings Bond	11,332.91	10,319.77	1,013.14
Smiddy Floats	60.00	60.00	0.00
Smiddy shop stock at year end	598.00	200.00	398.00
TOTAL ASSETS	17,713.49	16,000.36	1,713.13

Signed

Treasurer

Date

14 March 2026
 On behalf of the Trustees