

THORNHILL FRIENDSHIP CLUB SCIO
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 23RD FEBRUARY 2026

REPORT OF CHAIR

This past year has been a successful and productive year for the Friendship Club.

There has been a significant increase in activity within the building and a wider range in terms of age group and diversity.

Regular users now include the Alzheimers Scotland dementia group, instrumental tuition, Gaelic classes, Church teas and lunches, Board Buddies (board games), folk music jamming sessions, the bridge club, the heritage society and Morton Thistle junior football club.

This year has been notable by our becoming a SCIO (Scottish Incorporated Charitable Organisation) thanks to the hard work over a lengthy period by Sue Smith. This new status as a charity provides us with considerably greater legal protection.

The latter part of this year has been dominated by the pressing need to carry out work to the building - not only to improve its insulation, increase energy efficiency and bring down heating bills but also to maintain the fabric of this old building.

The detail of this project can be left for discussion at board meetings. Contributions from board members have been a vital part of agreeing and planning the parameters of this project.

However, I would just make one general point. As a board we have a responsibility on behalf of everyone in the village to ensure that the Friendship Club is properly maintained and is as made as economically sustainable as possible for future generations of users. As we will hear from Susan we currently have extremely healthy reserves.

Unlike many charities we employ no staff so are not obliged to hold reserves for potential redundancies. Our primary responsibility is not to build up and retain our reserves for its own sake but to use these in the best interests of the organisation. We will continue to maximise the use of funding from grants and a lot of work has already been put into grant applications. Hopefully we will be able to wholly or mostly cover costs from the various grant bodies. However if the necessary work could only be completed via a contribution from our reserves I will be recommending that we do this. One grant body has already queried the size of our reserves in asking for additional monies.

The Friendship Club could not function without the continued efforts and dedication of its voluntary board members. I would like to thank all the board members for their loyalty and wise counsel.

In particular may I thank

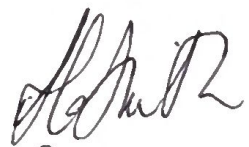
- Claire McGinley for yet another year of behind-the-scenes efficiency without which the Club would not operate
- Sue Smith for all her other duties as secretary on top of all her other commitments
- Susan Maxwell for keeping all our financial arrangements in order
- Elizabeth Shelby for supporting me around the maintenance of the building and (I hope!) continuing to act as Minutes Secretary to relieve Sue of this responsibility

Chair's Report:

Proposed to Accept:
Morag Murray

Seconded:
Elizabeth Shelby

Date: 23rd February 2026


Secretary