crieffconneXions

Annual Report 2025



Table of Contents

Page	TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT
3	About the charity
4	Charitable Purposes
5 -10	Achievements & Performance
11	Financial Review
11	Reserves Policy
12	Future Plans
Appendix 1	**Financial Report**
13	Statement of Receipts & Payments
14	Statement of Balances
15-16	Notes to the Accounts
Appendix 2	**Independent Examination**
17	Independent Examiners Report

About the charity

Charity Name : Crieff Connexions SCIO
Registered Charity Number: SC051160

Registered address
8 Strathearn Terrace
Crieff
PH7 3AQ

Operational address
Crieff Connexions Centre
Church Street
CRIEFF
PH7 3AE
Telephone number 01764 218933

Email address admin@crieffconnexions.org.uk
Website www.crieffconnexions.org.uk
Twitter crieffconnex
Facebook crieffcons

OSCR Scottish Charity Regulator www.oscr.org.uk Registered SCIO SC051160

Charity Trustees
Mrs. Elizabeth-Anne Clark Philip DCS (Chair)

Mrs. Caroline Murphy (Secretary)

Rev Andrew John Philip (Treasurer)

Dr Anna Sutherland – Resigned 16/8/25

Mr. Robert MacDonald

Structure, governance and management
Crieff Connexions is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organization (SCIO) registered in its current legal form with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) on 28th July 2021. During 2025 Crieff Connexions became a SCIO two tier structure and as such the the members of the charity are members of the Crieff area, with a number of trustees managing the charity.

Trustee recruitment and appointment
The CHARITY TRUSTEES form the BOARD. The Board also appoints Trustees to fill vacancies required. They are recruited following advertising and recommendation followed by an interview and references being taken up. Trustees are also checked through Disclosure Scotland. The Trustees so appointed bring a breadth of experience and expertise to the organisation. All receive appropriate training to discharge their duties as trustees.

Charity Purpose

Our charitable purposes are:

- To advance community development, including the provision of a safe and welcoming space, through which people in Crieff and Strathearn are brought together and connected with partner organisations and services.
- To advance citizenship in Crieff and Strathearn.
- To relieve local poverty in Crieff and Strathearn.
- To advance sustainability and the reduction of pollution and waste in Crieff and Strathearn.
- To provide relief from loneliness and isolation for those living in Crieff and Strathearn





Achievements & Performance

The charitable purposes of Crieff Connexions, based in Church Street, Crieff, are set out above. During the past year, the organisation has sought to fulfil these purposes and respond to the needs of people within the local community. Crieff Connexions continues to develop as a safe and welcoming space, supported by incremental improvements to the building and the facilities it provides. Partnerships with other organisations have also evolved during the year. Staff and volunteers have encouraged active citizenship by enabling community members to offer practical support and donations. The organisation has also engaged young people from Crieff High School through the YPI initiative. Support has been provided to individuals and families on low incomes, people who have experienced abuse or distress, those setting up a home for the first time, kinship carers, and economic migrants arriving in Crieff with limited resources. Through these contacts, the organisation has helped reduce loneliness and isolation while offering further support where required. Underpinning all activities is a commitment to reducing waste and making effective use of donated resources.



Crieff Connexions recruited a new Manager at the beginning of the year. The Manager and part-time employee operate the hub alongside a dedicated group of volunteers, each of whom contributes distinct skills and experience. The trustee group, currently comprising four people following the resignation of one trustee in August, remains actively involved in the work of the charity.

As a two-tier SCIO, the organisation's current membership is primarily made up of service users, reflecting its grassroots character. Volunteers support the day-to-day operation of project areas, collect food donations in the evenings, and return crates to partner shops. Staff and volunteers continue to develop their skills through in-house and external training, including Adult Achievement Awards with LEAD Scotland. The part-time member of staff has also completed training to undertake PAT testing.



During the past year, the Warm Space initiative was again delivered with support from Perth and Kinross Council (PKC). This funding enabled the provision of soup, tea, coffee and activities for people in need of a warm and welcoming space. The initiative contributed to reducing social isolation during the winter period and helped mitigate fuel costs.

During the first half of the year, the space was used for a men's evening group facilitated by one of the trustees. This provided a safe space for reflection and support, targeted at men experiencing vulnerability due to social isolation or alcohol and drug misuse.

One of the organisation's aims is to provide signposting and support to help people access the services they require. Links with the PKC Community Learning team have continued to strengthen, with the team meeting people, signposting them to courses, and connecting them with other forms of community support. Following the closure of the Advice Hub at the Health Centre in the spring, the organisation worked with agencies and providers including PKC Trading Standards and Scam Awareness, Churches Action for The Homeless (CATH), PKC Employment Support, Mindspace, Healthy Communities NHS, the PKC Wellbeing and Support Team, and The Heat Project to host a series of support sessions.





The organisation has also hosted monthly Conscious Connected Breathwork sessions and held a Conversation Café on the theme of "I am here" for Scottish Learning Disabilities Week.

Our school uniform shop remains open year-round with a turnover of over a thousand items this year. Uniform is gently used and turned out at £1/item or less. Contact is made on a regular basis with local schools. We serve all the schools in the Crieff High School cluster which consists of 6 primary schools and 1 secondary. Referrals for support have reduced, possibly due to the accessibility of uniform. Staff and volunteers use their own judgement on providing uniform to families who do present in need when they come. Families using the service include those on a low income and those who choose second hand to reduce environmental impact and waste.

We ran our annual sale promoting the gently used uniform to families in the community. This is a busy period. We are aware that some people from out with our community use the service. When we have surplus uniform or items that is not useful for our schools, we pass this onto Social Flock or use appropriate waste streams to deal with this.

The community pantry remains popular and have settled into a good routine using food from various sources. Over the year we have dealt with fluctuating donations, and due to our rural location, we are limited in the sources of food which we have access to. We use FareShare as well as community donations to stock shelves. We collect donations from Aldi and the Coop who have premises in the town which are frozen or refrigerated and offered for free to people. This allows us to provide a selection of low cost and free produce 3 times a week. We have vegetables and prepacked salads daily. We have also developed a partnership with Auchingarrich Wildlife Park, so that they receive any food that we collect from Aldi and the Coop that cannot be used in the panty. Therefore reducing what goes into landfill.

Additionally, we offer free sanitary products supported by PKC, continence products and toiletries. The surplus flowers and plants from the shops are popular and light up the day for many of our customers. The pantry helps people to take part in waste reduction, reduce their cost of living and connect with further support through meeting with volunteers and staff who they can build relationships with. The demographic is broad including young families, elderly and working couples. We average over 75 transactions over the week. Our waste reduction is reflected in the picture on the left from the neighbourly website.

Our Home Essentials service has grown in popularity and has received additional funding from the National Lottery. Through this funding and in collaboration with “the Big Hoose” project we create packs of home essentials for people who find themselves in need of support. This can be due to several factors. We are able to offer ongoing support through our other services and partnerships. This is achieved through a referral process and in collaboration with professionals in the community.

The community garden, which has been developed in a small space outside the building continues to be a popular feature, with monthly Saturday session during the Spring and Summer months plus a Wee Growers group on a Tuesday morning. The garden produces a variety of fruit and vegetables

More generally we provide anyone who requires it with access to Wi-Fi, computers, telephone and printing. Our public Wi-Fi connections are over 2000 over the year. We continue to seek to engage with the community through social media, local contact and events, like the Crieff Arts Festival, which we are involved in. We have been involved in the participatory budgeting process and event as well as in community action planning. We welcomed two classes of young people from the High school who were interested in considering Crieff Connexions as a subject for their YPI award and were delighted that one of these groups won the competition.



We ran events at Crieff Connexions to encourage people to venture into the space. These have included an Easter event for families; a Penny Book Sale; the Bags for Bairns Project over the summer holidays and the Fall Fun and Feast Project in October - both of these provided lunches and activities for young people through PKC's Fuelled for Fun funding; a digital drop-in with PKCs CLD team; a Halloween Sale; a toy sale; and a family Christmas event. Each targeted a different element of the community and allowed people to see what services we offer. We also were able to offer our premises as a "Warm Spaces" offering soup lunches throughout the autumn and winter multiple times during the week.

On Christmas Eve we worked with a local philanthropist to put together and distribute Fresh Christmas meal boxes for 50 families and in addition to this were able to provide 29 cooked meals through the Giraffe Perth Compassionate Christmas Scheme.

Another way we have supported the community during the "Cost-of-living crisis" was by distributing over £4,500 worth of Aldi and fuel vouchers to local people following securing funding from CORRA. We managed to deliver this with the support of Letham Hub and Broke Not Broken.

A significant area of focus during the year has been to explore how Crieff Connexions can establish a sustainable model for future service delivery and determine the most appropriate location from which to operate.

Funding was secured from the Scottish Land Fund to support this work. To maximize long-term benefit for the community, the trustees are considering options to purchase the Penny Lane building in Church Street and establish it as a permanent community space. This work has included:

- engagement with the community through a consultation process to gather feedback;
- commissioning consultants to complete a feasibility study; and
- using the findings to inform the charity's next steps.

Moving forward we continue to look to the future, identifying the key services to prioritise in response to community needs, and the best way to deliver them.

Financial Review

The Receipts & Payments statement for 2025 highlights a £20,189 shortfall for the year. However, £8,640 of the shortfall related to Restricted Funds, leaving Unrestricted activities with a £11,549 shortfall. This shortfall The main cause of the shortfall in core activities was due to lower income than previous years. Due to cost of living crisis the charity trading receipts was almost £7,000 less than expected. In addition, the additional costs of core cost including energy costs made up the balance of the shortfall.

We were fortunate to receive a £6,000 grant from The Robertson Trust for core activities while we received a range of grants from Perth & Kinross Council for projects such as Warm Spaces, Souper Good, Bags for Bairns. We also received funding from Campion Homes and a £4,727 grant from the National Lottery for the Home Essentials service. We would like to thank all our funders and also those individuals who made donations throughout the year, with these we would not have been able to support the community as we have.

The shortfall in the year reduced our Funds from £102,228 to £82,038. The £13,689 unrestricted funds in the Statement of Balances will be increased during early 2026 when some of the restricted funds are approved with funders as designated funds. This will increase the funds in line with our reserves policy.

To make the charity more financially sustainable we are seeking to reduce our rental changes and find more efficient heating solutions in the future. This could save the charity up to £30,000 per annum and reduce dependencies on grant funding. This would also reduce our risk as we know the competition for grant funding has increased with successful bids beoming more difficult to achieve.

Reserves Policy

The trustees have agreed a policy of holding a minimum of £22,000 unrestricted reserves of 4 months operational running costs to cover any gaps in grant funding. In addition, the charity has set aside £10,000 as a contingency for additional costs during a period of rising costs. The charity has also approved to the designation of £20,000 for the potential contribution towards the purchase cost of the Church Street building.

Future Plans

We look forward to the next year as we await the report of our consultants regarding the potential purchase of the building. Plans for the future are paused while we await condition surveys, feasibility reports and market valuations. The outcome of these will determine whether a Stage 2 application to the Scottish Land Fund (to provide a 95% grant towards the purchase of the building). If this does happen the trustees will negotiate the purchase of the building and develop plans for expanded services within the building.

The charity will continue to provide the wide range of services it provides at present. In addition after securing funding we have will host Perth Citizens Advice Bureau to provide a weekly service to the community from the Connexons building.

We also shall seek to become a key local organisation which supports the Perth & Kinross Council and its community planning partners to improve the lives of those living in Crieff, in particular South Crieff . Crieff Connexions is well placed to support the Fairer Futures agenda which supports communities tackle barriers to economic security – reduce cost of living – employability - income maximization.

Finally, we hope to develop a new Strategic Plan while strengthening our board of trustees during the next 12 months.

APPENDIX 1 – Finance Report

Statement of Receipts & Payments

OSCR Scottish Charity Regulator

Enter SC No. below

Crieff Connexions — **SC051160**

Receipts and payments accounts

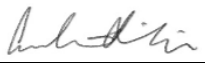
For the period from	Period start date: Day	Month	Year	to	Period end date: Day	Month	Year
	1	January	2025		31	December	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
A1 Receipts						
Donations - identifiable	1,808	0	0	0	1,808	1,926
Donations - general	1,552	0	0	0	1,552	2,308
Legacies	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grants	6,300	13,297	0	0	19,597	59,249
Receipts from fundraising activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gross trading receipts	56	15,264	0	0	15,320	22,291
Income from investments other than land and buildings	966	0	0	0	966	2,183
Rents from land & buildings	3,580	0	0	0	3,580	6,280
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	0	0	0	0	0	0
A1 Sub total	**14,263**	**28,562**	**0**	**0**	42,825	94,235
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Proceeds from sale of investments	0	0	0	0	0	0
A2 Sub total	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total receipts	**14,263**	**28,562**	**0**	**0**	**42,825**	**94,235**
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	0	0	0	0	0	400
Gross trading payments	(94)	3,307	0	0	3,213	2,927
Investment management costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	34,106	25,695	0	0	59,801	72,508
Grants and donations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Governance costs:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Audit / independent examination	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preparation of annual accounts	0	0	0	0	0	0
Legal costs	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0
A3 Sub total	**34,012**	**29,002**	**0**	**0**	**63,014**	**75,835**
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets	0	0	0	0	0	0
Purchase of investments	0	0	0	0	0	0
A4 Sub total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total payments	**34,012**	**29,002**	**0**	**0**	**63,014**	**75,835**
Net receipts / (payments)	**(19,749)**	**(440)**	**0**	**0**	**(20,189)**	**18,401**
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds	**8,200**	**(8,200)**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Surplus / (deficit) for year	**(11,549)**	**(8,640)**	**0**	**0**	**(20,189)**	**18,401**

APPENDIX 1 – Finance Report

Statement of Balances

	Crieff Connexions					SC051160	
Section B Statement of balances						**2025**	**2024**
Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	25,239	76,989	0	0	102,228	83,827
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(11,549)	(8,640)	0	0	(20,189)	18,401
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	**13,689.69**	**68,349.06**	**0.00**	**0.00**	**82,038.75**	**102,228.05**
	Details			Fund to which asset belongs		Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments	n/a						
					Total	-	-
	Details	Date purchased	Fund to which asset belongs		Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets	POS equipment	2023	General		418	0	139
	Fan heaters	2023	General		422	0	141
	Access points	2023	General		707	0	236
	Planter troughs	2023	General		1,104	0	368
				Total	2,651	0	884
	Details			Fund to which liability relates		Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities	n/a						
					Total	-	-
	Details			Fund to which liability relates		Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities	n/a						
					Total	-	-
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	**Signature**		**Print Name**				**Date of approval**
			Andrew John Philip				Thursday, 8 January 2026

APPENDIX 1 – Finance Report

Notes to the Accounts

	Crieff Connexions			SC051160
Section C Notes to the Accounts				
C1 Nature and purpose of funds *(may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)*	General fund: for all expenses relating to the activities of the organisation, other than the following - Restricted funds (see analysis of funds worksheets).			
	Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
C2 Grants	n/a			
			Total	-
C3a Trustee remuneration	If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)			
	Authority under which paid			£
C3b Trustee remuneration - details	n/a			
C4a Trustee expenses	If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)			
			Number of trustees	£
C4b Trustee expenses - details	Travel expenses, 457miles @ 45p/mile		1	199
	Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)
C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons	n/a	n/a		
C6 Other information	n/a			

Notes to the Accounts continued

	Crieff Connexions					SC051160
Additional analysis (1)						
Analysis of receipts and payments						
1 Donations						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
Donations - identifiable donors for Gift Aid	1,808	0	0	0	1,808	3,715
Donations - general donations	1,552	0	0	0	1,552	13,140
Total	**3,361**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**3,361**	**16,855**
2 Grants						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds			Total current period	Total last period
Campion Homes	300	0			300	0
National Lottery - Home Essentials	0	4,727			4,727	0
PKC (Citizen's Advice project)	0	0			0	0
PKC (Souper Good project)	0	528			528	0
PKC (Bags for Bairns project)	0	3,470			3,470	0
PKC (Home Essentials project)	0	2,092			2,092	0
PKC (Warm spaces project)	0	2,480			2,480	2,575
PKC	0	0			0	0
PKC	0	0			0	0
Robertson Trust	6,000	0			6,000	6,000
Circular Communities Fund	0	0			0	815
PKC - CCLD fund	0	0			0	32,000
PKC - Garden grant	0	0			0	927
Total	**6,300**	**13,297**			**19,597**	**42,317**
3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
n/a					0	0
Total	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities						
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total current period	Total last period
Rent	19,360	0	0	0	**19,360**	18,000
Insurance	252	0	0	0	**252**	232
Signage & Promotional leaflets	321	37	0	0	**357**	54
Wages, pension, etc.	40	22,645	0	0	**22,685**	11,955
Contractoor and Consultancy fees	0	1,771	0	0	**1,771**	21,397
Account Inspection Fees	0	0	0	0	**0**	0
Stationery	152	0	0	0	**152**	195
PPE / Cleaning	2,974	10	0	0	**2,984**	2,279
Equipment	90	303	0	0	**393**	3,210
Repairs & Renewals	1,145	87	0	0	**1,232**	949
Catering	-98	198	0	0	**100**	92
Food stock	4	3,109	0	0	**3,113**	2,942
Services & Events	214	570	0	0	**784**	448
School Uniform	0	0	0	0	**0**	0
Training	0	273	0	0	**273**	0
Sumup (banking) fees	1,203	0	0	0	**1,203**	930
Telephone & Internet	752	0	0	0	**752**	826
Electricity & Gas	7,602	0	0	0	**7,602**	12,327
Total	**34,012**	**29,002**	**0**	**0**	**63,014**	**75,835**

APPENDIX 2
INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION

	Independent examiner's report on the accounts v2						
Report to the trustees/members of	**Crieff Connexions**						
Registered charity number	**SC051160**						
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	1	1	2025	**to**	31	12	2025
Set out on pages							

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.
Basis of independent examiner's statement	My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.
Independent examiner's statement	In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*] 1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: • to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and • to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or 2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.
Signed:	 **Date:** 21.5.26
Name:	Colin A. Crawford,
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Retired Chartered Management Accountant,
Address:	53 Turretbank Drive, Crieff PH7 4LW