

Let's Sing
(Scottish Charity No SC047131)
Annual Report for 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026

Introduction

2026 is a momentous year for Let's Sing, it's our 10th anniversary! We began in a small way in January 2016, meeting in the rehearsal room of the Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh. It was a good start but very soon we found the accommodation was unable to offer access to all. We were delighted to move to a very suitable ground floor room at the Fisherrow Trust Community Centre, Musselburgh.

Unfortunately, circumstances changed at the Centre and in October 2025, we moved to the dementia-friendly St Peter's Church Hall, Musselburgh. This is on a good bus route and very central for those with early dementia living locally or coming from other parts of East Lothian and Portobello. The move was a little disruptive for some of our singers living with dementia, for whom familiarity is key to their sense of security. Our trained volunteers were very sensitive to helping our singers to feel settled.

In 2017 we successfully registered for charitable status. This has enabled us to apply for funds from a wide variety of sources. We have been extremely fortunate to attract grants from several well-established trusts with a focus on improving quality of life for older people and with music related interests. We were particularly fortunate to have been awarded a major grant from the Queensberry House Trust, which will keep us in funds for the next few months. Some of the grant has helped us become more inclusive, meeting the cost of taxis and petrol for volunteer drivers to bring in singers who would otherwise be unable to come.

Highlights

St. Cecilia's Day Concert

We were delighted to receive an invitation to perform again at the annual concert. This has been a special occasion for several years. The event provides an opportunity for a variety of community-based music groups to perform for friends, family and others. St. Cecilia's Concert

Hall is reputed to be the first concert hall in Scotland dating back to 1763. It is a great morale boost for our choir to perform for the public in such a beautiful setting.

Burns ceilidh and lunch

On 27 January we honoured the anniversary of Robert Burns's birthday in traditional style with songs and poems. John Simpson kindly agreed to pipe in the haggis with a very unusual pipe indeed and the address to the haggis was performed by Tricia Nicolson. It was a joyous occasion, saddened by the loss of two of our long-time singers who, had recently died.



John Simpson piping in the haggis and Tricia Nicolson ready to give the address.

Creating our banner

Let's Sing frequently performs in public venues such as the Scottish Portrait Gallery, St Giles Church and St Cecilia's Hall. Everyone was enthusiastic when Penny, our lovely song-leader, asked our singers what they thought of the idea of creating a banner to take with us. We started

by exploring ideas about images which give members a sense of identity. Over the weeks ideas have literally materialised, with contributions of materials and cut-outs of the images which give a visual sense of Let's Sing and the songs we sing. The banner is work in progress but will be ready for our 10th Anniversary Concert in October.

Summer Picnic

We always celebrate the end of the summer term with a picnic. This year we are grateful to Duddingston Kirk for allowing us to use their beautiful garden and cafe, adjacent to Dr Neil's garden at the foot of Arthur's Seat.

About our singers and the songs we sing

The songs we sing are chosen from a mixture of well-known and new songs. We gradually discover what music and interests each of our singers and find songs that will resonate with people in different ways.

As well as singing some familiar songs, each week we learn new songs, both in English and in other languages from around the world. We usually sing in harmony, often in 3 parts, and often keep lyrics to a minimum.

As well as exercises to warm up our body and voices at the beginning of each session, we use a lot of movement – often clapping, stamping our feet or breaking out into hand jive movements. This engages different parts of the brain as well as keeping us all laughing together!

We sing songs that energise us, as well as songs that ground us, slowing down our breathing and helping us all to feel calmer. Whether living with a dementia diagnosis, as a care partner, or as a volunteer, we all benefit from the many things singing together gives us.

Our volunteers

We have a brilliant team of committed volunteers who support and encourage our singers living with dementia. They also take on the practical tasks such as meeting and greeting, serving refreshments, setting out chairs (we sit in a circle). Everyone wears a name badge as few of us would be able to remember the names of our (usually) 30 singers – those living with a diagnosis, carers/supporters and volunteers. We make no distinctions.

Monitoring and evaluation

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation are crucial to ensuring we meet our aims. The most appropriate approach for our group is to use semi-formal methods: observation; attendance; feedback from informal focused chats with singers and their supporters prompted by our volunteers; and comments slips. Feedback is coordinated and documented by the Chairperson and reviewed at meetings with committee members and volunteers.

Health and safety issues are also part of this process and we have recently reviewed our and updated our Safeguarding Policy.

About our management

Let's Sing has a small management committee with representation from singers affected by dementia. We pay fees to our professional song leader, Penny Stone, who attends and contributes to our meetings each term. We consult our singers on all decisions affecting the group, such as invitations to take part in events, song writing workshops and celebrations such as our Burns lunch and ceilidh.

As Chairperson I lead on administrative tasks (in a voluntary capacity) with assistance from our Secretary, Katherine Ashe and Treasurer, Hilary Patrick. Penny Stone is key to making connections for us with, for example, the Luminate Dementia Inclusive Singing Network and St Cecilia's Concert Hall and assists with taking forward fundraising applications.

The sad loss of Clunie Mackenzie last December came as a shock to us all. Clunie, despite the challenges dementia caused her, remained a valuable contributor to the issues we discussed. We are most fortunate to have recruited Hermine Smith and Emma Smith at our April committee meeting.

Thank you to our Trust Fund Supporters

We are extremely grateful to our many supporters without whom we could not exist. Very many thanks to our funders at Queensberry House Trust, whose generosity has provided us with substantial financial security for three years. This comes to an end within the next few months.

We are now putting our efforts into applying for grants to sustain the choir for a further three years. We are also grateful for the donations received from our participants every week and those who kindly make collections at the funerals of singers who have died.

We wish to acknowledge the valuable contribution to our work of the late Alison Douglas CA., Alison was the independent examiner of our work seven years, and very generously gifted her work. Sadly, Alison died suddenly last year.

We are grateful to Hilary Patrick, Treasurer, for identifying a suitably qualified organisation to take on the role, for a reasonable fee. We owe a big thank you to Hilary for not only looking after our money so efficiently for the best part of 10 years, but for providing financial reports which exemplify a 'dementia friendly' way of presenting complex information.

Future

Over the next few months and into next year we have plans to perform more in public. First, our own 10th Anniversary Concert to be held in October at St. Cecilia's Concert Hall (generously no charge for the venue). We'll invite participation from other choirs in the dementia inclusive network and aim to raise funds. Next, we'll look forward to performing at the annual St Cecilia's Day Concert in November.

We also plan to write a short book about the Let's Sing journey as part of our 10th Anniversary celebration. It aims to hold the memories of everyone involved, especially our singers and their families. Hopefully it will also inspire others to join or create dementia-focused singing groups in their areas.

We are excited to have been invited by Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing organisation, to participate in plans for a concert at the Queens Hall, Edinburgh in March 2027.

We will be able to wave our banner at these events and help raise awareness that a diagnosis of dementia can release hidden voices and creativity.



Our first Christmas at St Peter's Church Hall, 9 December 2025

Committee members

Jan Killeen, Chairperson
 Hilary Patrick, Treasurer
 Katherine Ashe, Secretary
 Mary Duncanson
 Patricia Nicolson
 Pat Rae
 Hermine Smith, from May 2026
 Emma Smith, from May 2026
 Clunie MacKenzie (until December 2025)



Celebrating 25 Years of Giving

This Annual Report is signed on behalf of the trustees

by Jan Killeen, Chairperson

.....J.M. Killeen.....
Jan Killeen

.....1st September 2026.....

Date

Let's Sing

(Scottish Charity No SCO47131)

Financial report for 1 August 2025 to 31 July 2026

I attach Let's Sing accounts for last year. We are very grateful for all the help we have received to allow us to carry on running our incredible singing group.

We have now spent most of the money our main funder, the Queensberry House Trust, gave us, although we still still have just over **£13,500** in our **deposit account**. We earn a bit of interest on this each year. We took £8000 out of the account this year to help pay our running costs. We have just over £3000 in our current bank account.

We spend just over £11,000 a year in running Let's Sing, though this goes up each year with the cost of living. We have enough money in the bank to keep going for another year. But we have now started **fundraising** so we have enough money for all we want to do in the years ahead.

We are very grateful for the **generous donations** from our singers. These help us run Let's Sing each week. But no one should feel they have to give us anything. It is very important that Let's Sing is open to everyone.

This year we received three donations in memory of some of our singers who have died. We remember with thanks Philip Allison, Clunie Mackenzie and Harald Glas.

We also thank the the local Family Group of the Iona Community
for their kind donation.

Best wishes to all at Let's Sing for the year ahead!

Hilary Patrick

Treasurer

4 August 2026

Let's Sing accounts 1 August 2025 - 31 July 2026

Money coming in to us (Receipts)

Donations	£2638.01
Bank interest	£ 412.91
TOTAL	£3050.92

Money we spent (Payments)

Hall rent	£2000.80
Song leader's fees	£5705.00
Song leader's travel	£ 222.75
Refreshments	£ 106.53
Printing/ CDs	£ 72.00
Special events (<i>see note 1</i>)	£1564.50
Taxis for singers	£1529.96
Insurance	£ 139.81
Accountant's fees (<i>see note 2</i>)	£ 90.75
Bank charges	£ 77.00
TOTAL	£11,509.10

(So we spent £ 8458.18 more than what we received)

Bank balances
(see note 3)

Opening balance	£25264.20
Excess of income over expenditure (as in receipts and payment account)	£ 8458.18
Closing balance	£16806.02

Notes

1. The events were singing at St Cecilia's Hall, the Burns Lunch and our picnic at Duddingston Kirk.
2. We have to have our accounts examined each year to make sure they are accurate. For many years this was done free of charge for us by Chartered Accountant, Alison Douglas. We are very grateful to her and were very sorry to hear that she had died unexpectedly and far too young.

We were delighted to discover that the Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) runs a very efficient accounts service and we used them successfully for the first time last year. We are using them again this year.

3. These figures show the total amount of money in our current account and our deposit account.

4. We can confirm that Let's Sing did not pay any wages, salary or any other financial payment to any trustee during the year. We did not pay any trustees' expenses, other than reimbursing Jan, our Chairperson, for the cost of tea, coffee, milk and biscuits she bought for our sessions.

5. Some charities have money which the grant giver says they have to use for a certain purpose. These are called restricted funds. Let's Sing does not have any such funds.

These accounts are signed on behalf of the trustees by Jan Killeen, Chairperson

.....*J. M. Killeen*.....
Jan Killeen

.....*1st September 2026*.....
Date

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						v2
Report to the trustees/members of	Charity name	Lets Sing						
Registered charity number		SC047131						
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Period start date	Day	Month	Year	to	Day	Month	Year
		1 st	August	2025		31 st	July	2026
Set out on pages		(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)						
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 - 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 - to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.							
Signed:	Rosalind McIlwain				Date:	07/09/2026		
Name:	Rosalind McIlwain							
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	A.C.I.E							
Address:	The Ayrshire Community Trust (TACT) 27 Vernon Street Saltcoats KA21 5HE							

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose