

Tullynessle and Forbes Community and Hall Association

Trustees Report – 2026 AGM

On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to briefly report on our activities over the 12 months from 5 th April 2025

At present we have 12 trustees on the board. Over the past year we have had 1 resignation: David Marshall in October 2025. We have co-opted one new board member - Alex Templeton in Feb 26, and in addition we have 2 new prospective trustees, Carol Cushnie and Ross Imrie.

With regard to our objectives for 2025-26, we have managed to achieve or partly achieve most of them.

Social Objectives

We have achieved most of these objectives. Those which are not yet complete include the distribution of a Household Resilience Plan, although this has been created and printed - we plan to distribute this in the Autumn.

One of the objectives which has not yet been completed was to organise an event aimed at engaging with young people. This is in the process of being organised in the form of a family games evening/afternoon.

Facilities

Again many of these have been achieved. Still included in our objectives is laying slabs on the North side of the carpark, which is part of the wider carpark upgrade. This is in the early stages of being considered.

Also upgrading of the toilets will be on the objectives for 2026-27.

Social/Fundraising

Providing a social hub continues to be a main focus for the hall, which provides a venue for a range of events and activities involving communities and families from the local area. This also includes fundraising events. We have held several events including some which have become annual occasions. These include 2 Producer's Markets, concerts by Jenny Sturgeon and Allan Taylor, a Christmas Shopping Evening, a Craft Stash sale, a weather talk by Chris Booth (local amateur weather forecaster), the Hogmanay Ceilidh and several NEAT (North East Arts Touring) productions. Other fundraising activities include the Hall calendar and the 50/50 club.

Going forward, we have several other future events planned including the Old Blind Dogs Concert, BBC Radio 4 Any Questions programme, family games evenings/afternoons and a Children's Clothing and Equipment Sale.

Facilities

The upkeep of the hall is a continuous requirement. Over the past year several initiatives have been undertaken. These include the installation of a new Community Noticeboard and Lychgate, which was made in conjunction with the Alford Men's Shed and with funding from the Donside Community Council. Smart Sensors have been installed on the radiators - to save on heating costs, and new waste bins have been provided. Unfortunately heavy snowfall caused the gutters to collapse along the side of the hall so these had to be replaced - this was partly covered by building's insurance. The meeting room is currently in the process of being refurbished - painting completed, new flooring ordered and curtains being considered. Other aspects of continuing to keep the hall up to an excellent standard include outside weeding, strimming and filling the planters, general maintenance tasks and cleaning. This year we have also managed to obtain all the necessary resilience equipment, to enable the hall to operate as a place of safety and respite if required.

Financial

The treasurer has produced monthly reports which are shared with all board members. Funds are set aside monthly to replace aging equipment. We close this year to 5th April 2026 with a surplus of £12,697.45

Governance

All regulatory controls have been carried out for OSCR and HSE compliance.

Policies which have been reviewed over the course of the year are : Safeguarding, Health and Safety for Employees and Volunteers, Privacy Notice and Rules and Conditions of Let.

Health and Safety

All required checks are carried out - fire alarms, emergency lighting, other systems and alarms. All the automatic fire detectors have been replaced and additional fire extinguishers have been provided as required.

Future Plans

The main focus for the future is to try and secure funds to upgrade the carpark and the refurbishment of the toilets.

Finally I would like to thank the board for all their hard work over the past year. Everyone has a part to play in continuing to ensure that Tullynessle Hall is the first choice venue for the local community and families.

In particular, thanks need to be extended to Bob and his maintenance team - both board members and other hall members, for their work on building the lychgate and the refurbishment

of the meeting room and all the other tasks required. Thanks to Alicia for her expertise and hard work keeping on top of the financial aspects of running the hall - and her organisational skills in providing refreshments at hall events! To Sue for her work in compiling the calendar every year, to Edna Harris for her work in bringing everything together and making sure we all know what we're doing. To John for his work in liaising with Aberdeenshire Council regarding resilience matters, his enthusiasm and ideas for organising a family event and for finding and completing various grant applications and to Malcolm for his support with maintenance of the hall and surrounding grounds. And to everyone else for their continuing support of the hall and for volunteering to help at events, setting up, hall checks, car park duties, advertising and promotion - we couldn't keep running without you all.

We also must thank all our hall hirers - both regular and one off - who make a valuable contribution to the hall funds and provide a diverse range of activities for our community. **These include the Film Club, SWI, Table Tennis Club, Cushnie Bellringers, Line Dancing, Pilates, Yoga, Circuits, Young Farmers etc.**

Finally huge thanks to our employees Maureen and Edith. We would have chaos with our bookings if Maureen wasn't there to keep on top of things. In addition Maureen goes above and beyond her remit helping out at events and her local knowledge is a huge help.

Edith works hard behind the scenes to maintain the high standards of cleaning which hall users expect.

M. Farquhar (chair)

June 2026