

Auchtermuchty Heritage

Trustees' Report

Year ending 31 December 2024

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Charity Trustees

Ted White

Brian Slattery

Fiona Macmillan

Shirley Marshall

Christine Little

Kenneth Swan

Membership

The Charity had a membership of 156 members in 2024. This increase was largely as a result of our more accessible (online and electronic) membership process, together with people opting to sign-up for membership to access our interactive on-line talks held primarily throughout the covid/lockdown periods of 2020 to 2022. Membership is drawn locally and from around the world with members supporting our work and very often having a link/connection to Auchtermuchty.

Purpose, Mission and Aims

The advancement of education, arts, heritage, culture and science by undertaking the following:

- to advance and encourage an interest in history, with particular emphasis on the history of the Royal Burgh of Auchtermuchty and the Parish of the same name in Fife and the surrounding area (the said Royal Burgh and Parish of Auchtermuchty and the surrounding area being hereinafter referred to together as “Auchtermuchty”);
- to educate and inform members of the organisation and the public generally, and to encourage and facilitate research, understanding and publication of the cultural heritage of Auchtermuchty;
- to preserve, conserve, understand and interpret, within the national context, the historical and cultural heritage of Auchtermuchty;
- to provide a community resource through the collection, classification and conservation of items of historical interest relating to Auchtermuchty;
- to promote and advance heritage in Auchtermuchty as a source of pride and to address heritage issues affecting Auchtermuchty;
- to hold meetings, exhibitions, lectures and conferences and to issue publications relating to the history and heritage of Auchtermuchty; and
- to promote any other activities as will properly attain the objects of the organisation.

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

Muchty Heritage is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by its OSCR approved constitution. Charity number: SC048894.

The structure of the organisation consists of:

- the MEMBERS - who have the right to attend members' meetings (including any annual general meeting) and have important powers under the constitution; in particular, the members appoint people to serve on the board and take decisions on changes to the constitution itself;
- the BOARD - who hold regular meetings, and generally control the activities of the organisation; for example, the board is responsible for monitoring and controlling the financial position of the organisation.
- The people serving on the board are referred to as CHARITY TRUSTEES.

Member Application

Membership is free and open to any individual aged 16 or over, to any corporate body with which the organisation has close contact in the course of its activities, and to any individual who has been nominated for membership by an unincorporated body with which the organisation has close contact in the course of its activities.

Any person or body who/which wishes to become a member must sign a written or electronic application for membership. Application forms are made available on the Facebook page, website, at events held, at meetings or by request. Any application for membership received by the organisation will be considered by the Board at its next board meeting. The Board keeps a register of members.

Trustee Recruitment and Appointment

The Board may at any time appoint any member (unless they are debarred from membership) to be a charity trustee. The Board may at any time appoint any non-member of the organisation to be a charity trustee, either on the basis that they have been nominated by a body with which the organisation has close contact in the course of its activities or on the basis that they have specialist experience and/or skills which could be of assistance to the Board. The Board keeps a register of charity trustees.

At each AGM, all of the charity trustees appointed shall retire from office - but shall then be eligible for re-appointment.

2024 Activities, Achievements and Performance

Annual Summer Exhibition and Face-to-Face Events

The Trustees, with great community engagement, ran a very successful Summer Exhibition in August 2024, the second one that we were able to hold since 2019, with excellent community feedback and approximately 500 people attending. We received some amazing comments!

Trustee Meetings

A total of 7 Trustee meetings were held during 2024. In addition, a Sub-Committee was formed to plan for delivery of the 2024 Summer Exhibition with a similar format now in place for 2025. The 2024 Sub - Committee met 8 times to prepare for the Summer Exhibition and there was therefore a total of 15 meetings during 2024.

Social Media

The Charity has its own Facebook page 'Muchty Heritage'.

Our Facebook page is utilised as a platform to advertise our upcoming events and to sell our annual calendar. A link to the membership form is also available via the Facebook page.

As at the date of this report the Facebook page had a 'Following' of 743, a steady increase over 727 reported in the 2023 Trustees Report.

Illustrated Talks

Our focus during 2024 was on the Reminiscence Project (see below) and on building up our face to face Annual Summer Exhibition after three years when it could not be held due to Covid-19 (2020 -2022) and the ensuing restrictions for us as a small charity. We are entirely reliant on volunteers and have no employees.

All the illustrated on-line talks carried out previously were recorded and can still be viewed online via our Facebook page and website. Past talks have included:

History of Stratheden Distillery

Whites of Auchtermuchty

History of Muchty Golf Course

Archibald Findlay, Muchty Potato Breeder Extraordinaire

History of Stratheden Curling Club

Website

The Trustees have a dedicated website space www.muchtyheritage.org. Launched in 2022 the website complements our Facebook page and helps further our reach into the Community. The website is used to host some of the groups' previous publications, research and a library of historic imagery. It is also used as a platform to advertise up-coming events and to attract new membership.

Reminiscence Project

A key deliverable for us during 2024 was to publicise the reminiscences of some older members of the community in Auchtermuchty captured in a structured and consistent manner. A digital sound recorder was purchased in 2023 and one of our Trustees has led this project and conducted all the interviews. To date Shirley Marshall has recorded 5 interviews and arranged for this material to be shared at the 2024 Summer Exhibition.

Financial Review

(See separate report)

Future Plans

In its sixth year as a formal charity Muchty Heritage will continue to advance its knowledge and understanding of the historical and cultural heritage of Auchtermuchty. It will share this knowledge and understanding with its members and the general public via a range of media and sources.

Outreach

We aim to widen our outreach, to share our knowledge and resources (eg models, photos, stories) and to capture knowledge and material from those audiences too.

We plan on continuing to support 'Heritage in School' projects in conjunction with the local Primary School. Muchty Heritage will assist the school in using local heritage themes to connect children to where they live, develop a sense of a place and an understanding of how local heritage relates to the national story.

Annual Exhibition

It is proposed the 2025 Annual Exhibition will take the form of a 'drop-in' event as held in previous years and 2024, over 4 weekends in August 2025 with a mid week opening evening too. The Sub-Committee will discuss and agree how best to prepare for and stage such an event.

Presentations and Events

Visual presentations such as talks, film shows and photo galleries work very well in communicating and sharing the past. The group will discuss what presentations and events could be provided in 2025. How these can be undertaken in public, face-to-face, as well as online will be considered.

2025 Calendar

A calendar for 2025 was produced and sold at the Summer Exhibition in August 2024 to share some of our library images, as well as to raise funds and to raise our profile in the community. This was very successful and gave a great start to our selling campaign and it is planned to repeat this pattern at our 2025 Summer Exhibition.

Additional Information

We hope to utilise the experience and services of other groups and organisations in our pursuit to grow our own knowledge and resource. Expanding our networks will assist in this.

We will continue to utilise social media and website to increase our network and to advertise our events.

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

Fiona Macmillan

Acting Chair 28 / 05/ 2025