



St Serf's Players

Trustees' Annual Report

From 1st May 2025 to 30th April 2026



Charity contact information

St Serf's Players

Scottish Charity Number: SC018937

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Charity Trustees

Name all of your charity trustees for the period, and the date they left if they were not in post for the whole year

1. Alison Carcas
2. Trevor Garlick
3. Alison McCallum
4. Rona Arnott
5. Glenn Liddall
6. Jack Paterson
7. Sheila Paterson
8. Glen Sutherland

Objectives and activities

The association's objects are to educate the public in the dramatic arts, and to further the development of public appreciation and taste in the said arts by presenting public performances of works of drama:

The club is open to anyone with an interest in presenting drama, whether it is on stage, back stage or any other supporting role. The club welcomes new members and provides support for those interested in learning new skills.

The club produces a pantomime in December and a full length play in May each year. The club is also a member of the SCDA and often performs in the One Act Play competition on February each year.

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The club is governed by a constitution and is run by a committee of up to 9 members of which 3 are executive roles, chair, treasurer and secretary.

The committee members are nominated and voted onto the committee each year at the AGM.

Achievements and performance

The year began, as always, with our panto. Many of the regular panto team had decided to step back this year, and so we took the opportunity to work with a guest director in the shape of Rik Kay. We chose a version of Dick Whittington, by James Barry, which was not only a very funny script, but had a small cast – something of a necessity with such small numbers of people available. We decided, nonetheless, to hold open auditions, which were well attended, and we gained several new members through that process. A number of those new members have since taken part in other productions, and we hope that they will stay with us and have many happy years in St Serf's Players. As a brand new Chair, and someone who had previously only ever turned up and learned lines without having to think too much about what else went into a production, organizing a panto with a guest director who, of course, was not familiar with the Club's resources and processes, was a bit of a baptism of fire for me. However, the Club members who were involved in the production really stepped up to the mark and everyone pulled together to produce what many audience members said was the best panto we've put on for quite some time. A lot of this, of course, was down to Rik's imaginative and colourful vision for the production, and I have to credit him with taking on perhaps a little more than a guest director might normally expect to. He was aware that many of us had taken on new and unfamiliar roles, and was always willing to be flexible and work with us to find a way to make things work; he joined us in creating props and scenery, and he took on the additional rehearsals with our wonderful junior chorus of Brownies, who were such an integral part of the show. The whole team worked hard, and I have to thank every single one of you for everything you did (and there are too many people to mention all of them individually). There are a couple of people who stepped a long way out of their comfort zones and took on massive jobs, without necessarily intending to, and without whom I'm not actually sure we would have got to the finishing line. I certainly wouldn't. The first of those people is Graeme, who agreed to be our stage manager without, I suspect, realizing quite what he was letting himself in for. He took a huge amount off my plate, and became not just the stage manager but the *de facto* producer of the panto. He liaised with Rik, and sought advice from several others to co-ordinate and execute the building of the set, the painting and hanging of the many, many back-cloths, and at one point made an emergency trip to the corner shop for extra goodie bag supplies. He even managed to be in the chorus. Which brings me to Moira. Because Graeme was in the chorus, she took on the role of assistant stage manager and, amongst other things, produced a very detailed plan of who needed to be where and when during performances to ensure that we ticked all the boxes for safety and child protection. Having said that she "didn't want to be in charge of anything", she also took on the job of props mistress and was an absolute whirlwind, summoning up all manner of props including flamingos, pineapples, trays of fish and a fanfare trumpet, which she organised to within an inch of their lives, despite being on holiday for most of November. So, a huge, huge thank you again to everyone who contributed, and to Moira and Graeme in particular, for taking on soooooo much more than you really intended to, and for (just about) saving my sanity.



Scene from Dick Whittington

Our next production of the year was our one-act play “All By Myself” by Robert Scott. As well as some of the usual suspects, the cast and crew included three of our newest members, with Janet and Andrew W on stage and Dionne agreeing to be our prompt. I think I can say that we all had a lot of fun at rehearsals, and put on a very entertaining show. I believe the audience appreciated it even more since the item before us was a Greek tragedy; a very well executed Greek tragedy, by all accounts, but obviously not a barrel of laughs. So, the audience enjoyed it, and we managed to secure a place in the Divisional Finals, and had a little trip up to Leslie at the beginning of April, where the sun shone on us (again) and the cast put on an absolutely blinding performance, providing the people of Fife with a good giggle. Thank you to everyone who contributed to that in any way, whether on stage or off.



Scene from All by Myself

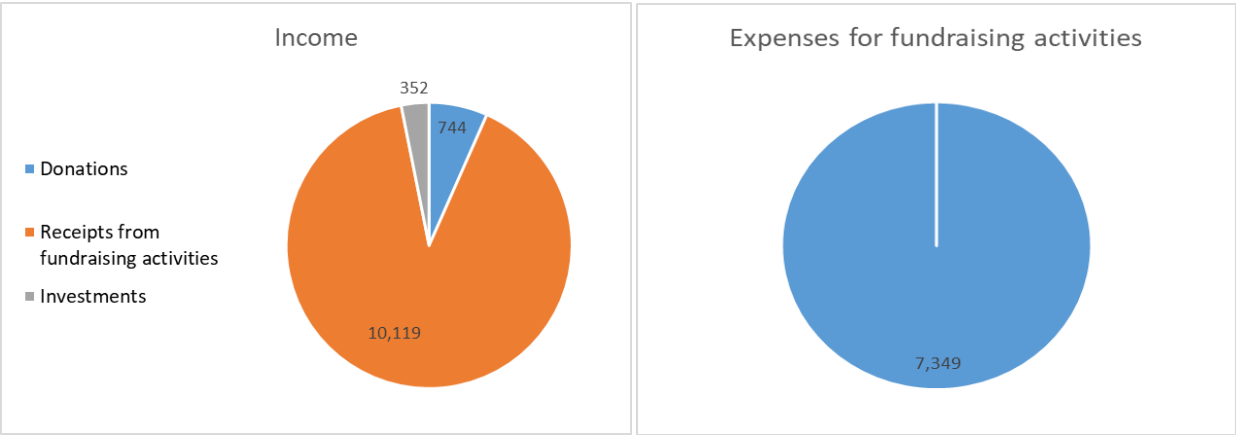
Our final production of the year was "Waiting for Elvis" by Philip Goulding, and marked the return of our regular production team. This was a little bit different from St Serf's traditional May play offering, with a car on stage, some very versatile scenery being wheeled on and off as required, wonderful 1950's costumes, and a live appearance by Elvis himself. Again, two of our newest members took to the stage, including Dionne in her first speaking role with St Serf's. This was probably the cast with the lowest average age we've had for quite some time, and everyone delivered a great performance. The show had excellent reviews both from audiences and the critics. Thank you and congratulations to all who took part.



Scene from Waiting for Elvis

And that brings me to my personal take on my year as Chair of St Serf's Players. There are SO many aspects of this job that I have loved; some of them things that I thought I would find really hard. Being the "friendly face" welcoming new members; that doesn't come naturally to me, but I've really enjoyed it. I'm proud of the fact that we have attracted and retained several new members, so thank you to everyone who made them feel welcome. It's an achievement for the Club and shows that we can build up our numbers if we put our minds to it, and I do believe that that is necessary for the future of the Club. It's lovely to have you here, Janet, Andrew, Dionne and Harriet. I have enjoyed getting things done; the organisational challenge of putting everything in place for the panto, and co-ordinating the Brownie rehearsals, etc was really hard, but ultimately very satisfying; taking on the organisation and directing of this year's One Act, and dealing with the SCDA Edinburgh Committee, and the good folks of Eastern Division has been lovely.

Financial review



Statement of the charity’s policy on reserves

Current reserves are held as Bank £12,688 with £26,634 as a deposit account.

The club is planning to upgrade their current lighting fittings and also ageing curtains in the near future.

Future plans

The club has already selected the pantomime for December 2026 – Sleeping Beauty by Alan P Frayn and casting is underway.

Additional information

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:

TS Gerlich

Print name

TRINER GARLICK

Designation

TREASURER.

Date

2ND JULY 2026