

**Registered Charity Number
SC050485**

Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies - ScoTs

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 September 2025

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Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies - ScoTs

Legal and administrative information

Board Member Trustees

Joyce Caplan	Chair
Charles Bruce	Vice chair
Swagatam Sen, appointed 4.12.2024	Secretary
Mridula Chakraborty	
Anindya Ray Chaudhuri - retired	
Gari Donn	
Bashabi Fraser	Director
Neil Fraser	Treasurer
Steve Hillier - retired	
Murdo Macdonald	
Nandini Sen Roy	
Dr Sourit Bhattacharya	

All of the above were trustees during the year under review and at the date the report was signed.

Advisory board members

Mairead NicCraith
Ulrich Kockel
Swagatam Sen
Rachel Caplan
Sangeeta Datta
Debnaryan Bandyopadhyay
Suranjan Das

All the above members have been invited to join as volunteers, as approved at ScoTs board meetings held in 2023.

Charity number	SC050485
Contact	Charity Trustee Neil Fraser 49 Duddingston Avenue Edinburgh EH15 1SQ
ScoTs website and e-journal managing director https://scotstagore.org and e-journal Gitanjali and Beyond https://gitanjaliandbeyond.ac.uk	Alex Dunedin
Scottish principal office	UN House Scotland 44/3 Frederick Street Edinburgh EH2 1EX
Bankers	The Co-operative Bank 29 Gordon Street Glasgow G1 3PF
Independent examiner	Eric Wishart 69 Promenade, Portobello

Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies

Report of the Trustees for the year ended 30th September 2025

Introduction

The trustees present their fourth annual report and accounts for the year ended 30 September 2025. The legal and administrative information given on page 1 forms part of this report.

Objectives and Activities of the Charity

Formed on 18th September 2020 as a Scottish charitable incorporated organisation, the functions of ScoTs in pursuing its purposes are, in accordance with the principle objects of its constitution:

To build on Rabindranath Tagore's legacy and maintain a continuum with his vision through an exchange of ideas, sharing information and knowledge and developing a research institute.

To support a centre as an international hub for connecting scholars and artists globally dedicated to working with the ideas and work of Rabindranath Tagore and his circle and those who continue to carry forward these ideas through their research and work.

FINANCIAL REVIEW AND RESERVES POLICY

The charity began the year with the sum of £15,404 in the bank, to which receipts of £15,297 were added, making £30,701 available. Payments of £29,465 were made within the financial year, leaving £1,236 to carry forward.

The issue of reserves adequate for a cultural charity such as ScoTs will be dealt with in the years ahead.

A full report on the charity's achievements and future plans is given on pages 3 to 5.

RISKS TO WHICH THE CHARITY IS EXPOSED

The Trustees consider that due to its small size and its simplicity there is no material risk to which it is exposed. The situation will be reviewed periodically.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are also responsible for the contents of the trustees' report, and the responsibility of the independent examiner in relation to the trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

This report was approved by a meeting of trustees on 25 June 2026



Charles Bruce, trustee

Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs)

Report of the Trustees for the year ended on 30 September 2025

Introduction

The trustees present their fourth annual report for the year ended 30 September 2025

Achievements and Future Plans

Installation of Rabindranath Tagore's Bust:

The Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs) had a very exciting event which proved to be the climax of the year in the installation of a bust of Rabindranath Tagore on July 3rd 2025 at Sandeman Garden, behind the Scottish Storytelling Centre and in front of the Scottish Book Trust, off the Royal Mile, which is a significant location in Edinburgh. The bust was a gift from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) and sculpted by the renowned Indian sculptor, Mr Ram Vanji Sutar, who celebrated his 100th birthday in February 2025. So ScoTs was able to pay a tribute to Mr Sutar at the unveiling event of Tagore's bust, which was conducted by the High Commissioner of India, His Excellency, Mr Vikram Kumar Doraiswami and The Right Honourable Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Mr Robert Aldridge.

It had been a long cherished dream of ScoTs to have Tagore's bust placed opposite that of his close friend and collaborator, Sir Patrick Geddes, the Scottish polymath, so that the two friends could carry on their conversation beyond death as it were. The current Indian Consul General, Mr Siddharth Malik, and previous Consul Generals, Mr Bijay Selvaraj and Mrs Anju Ranjan have all played key roles through their unflinching support for obtaining the bust, which made the installation happen.

Dance Drama:

A spectacular dance drama presentation, *Palash*, using Tagore's songs and Patrick Geddes' words, followed the installation in the auditorium of the Scottish Storytelling Centre to a packed audience on 3 July 2025.

Exhibition and Reception:

An Exhibition entitled, *Through Kindred Eyes: Two South Asian Artists' Framings of Scotland: Amaranthine* which had paintings by Vibha Pankaj and *Broon Scots* with photographs by Hermann Rodrigues, connecting Scotland and India, was opened by the Lord Provost in the gallery of the Scottish Storytelling Centre, after the staging of *Palash* on 3 July 2025. The Consulate General of India invited all the guests to a Reception where Scottish-Indian fusion snacks and drinks were served.

Installation Project of Rabindranath Tagore's Bust

The installation project was preceded by a campaign to raise the necessary funds through crowdfunding and donations.

The construction of the plinth for the bust and its installation were organised by the Conservation Architect, Ben Tindall as an extremely generous philanthropic gesture. Mr Tindall worked over a whole year to achieve this, providing the plan, drawings, engaging and appointing the various bodies and individuals who fulfilled various segments of the project and brought it to completion.

International Conference:

In October 2024, two of the Trustees attended the centenary celebrations in the ScoTs and Indian Colleges in Montpellier which Patrick Geddes founded. Tagore had been invited by Patrick Geddes to be the President of the Indian College, a position Tagore accepted.

Bashabi Fraser gave a talk and workshop on *Rabindranath Tagore and Patrick Geddes on an Educational Pilgrimage* at the Conference marking the centenary of the Scots College.

The Legend and the Legacy:

Film screening of Goutam Ghosh, Dir, *Satyajit Ray: Life and Work* was organized in May 2025 by ScoTs at the University of Edinburgh, followed by a Discussion by the film director, Goutam Ghosh and a Question and Answer session chaired by Lady Caplan, Chair of ScoTs.

Lectures delivered on behalf of ScoTs by Bashabi Fraser.

Rabindranath Tagore's Poetry and Politics, November 2024.

The Relevance of Rabindranath Tagore, January 2025 at Swami Vivekananda University, Kolkata.

Green Tagore: Listen to the Leaves, for they are restless, at Jadavpur University, Kolkata, January 2025.

Gitanjali and Beyond: the ScoTs International peer reviewed academic and creative e-journal:

Issue 10 of our journal *Gitanjali and Beyond* was published on the web during the year, entitled *Tagore and Rural Reconstruction*.

ScoTs Research Affiliates

Dr Rituparna Chakraborty

Dr Saptarshi Mallick

Prof. Sanjukta Dasgupta

Dr. Payal Mukherjee

Dr Mallick, who also guest edited Gitanjali and Beyond, Issue 10, was able to visit Edinburgh for one week in July 2025 to do research.

Dr Mukherjee visited Edinburgh for three weeks, mentored by Bashabi Fraser and Murdo MacDonald.

Funding

The Installation involved quite an effort of fundraising. It was spearheaded by crowdfunding organised by SABASH (Scottish Association of Bengali Arts and Sanskritik Heritage) for ScoTs, which raised £2783. Other donations £3100, Dr. Bagaria £3000, Bengali Cultural Association £950 (total £9833).

Scots Board Meetings

4 December 2024

27 December 2024

14 March 2025

Trustees - changes:

Dr Anindya Ray Chaudhuri has moved from the Board of Trustees to the ScoTs Advisory Board temporarily: approved at ScoTs Board Meeting held on 11 Oct 2025.

Prof Steve Hillier has stepped down from the Board of Trustees: accepted at ScoTs Board Meeting held on 1 December 2025.

Prof Jayalakshmi Garrabost will join the Advisory Board of ScoTs for now as approved at ScoTs Board meeting held on 16 April 2026. She will, at a later date, join the ScoTs Board of Trustees.

Future Plans

February 2026

The Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies (ScoTs) will continue to collaborate with Swami Vivekananda University with which it has a Memorandum of Understanding. In February 2026, Bashabi Fraser and Neil Fraser were invited to deliver keynote addresses at its Centre for Scottish Studies.

April 2026

Bashabi Fraser has been invited to deliver a special lecture at the Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities (IASH) at the University of Edinburgh at a Symposium on *1725 to 2025: Historical & Contemporary Links Between Scotland and South Asia*.

November 2026

ScoTs has invited Dancers Guild of India to come and perform in Edinburgh and Glasgow, and sought the support of the ICCR for support with international travel for the troupe.

May 2027

ScoTs is organizing an **International Tagore Conference** on *Tradition, Modernity, and Internationalism: Rabindranath Tagore and the Making of a New Cultural Paradigm*, which will be held at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre, Edinburgh, on 7,8 and 9 May 2027.

Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies - ScoTs

S.C.I.O. : SC050485

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT
For the year ended 30 September 2025

	2025	2024
RECEIPTS		
Donated services	£	£
Donations, general	2,550	3,300
Donations for Tagore bust installation	-	465
Grant: Creative Scotland towards Tagore Festival	7,977	3,245
Grant: Inst of Advanced Studies Edinburgh University	4,770	14,310
	-	500
Total receipts	15,297	21,820
PAYMENTS		
Charitable activities	£	£
Tagore bust installation costs	10,208	-
Tagore-Geddes September 2024 Festival costs	16,240	3,386
Research fellows - travel and accommodation	2,550	3,300
Designer for journal : IT design	-	500
Website hosting	267	-
	29,265	7,186
Governance costs		
Independent examination	200	150
Total payments	29,465	7,336
Excess of receipts over expenditure		14,484
Excess of payments over receipts	(14,168)	
Unrestricted Funds:		
Balance of General Fund brought forward	15,404	920
Balance of General Fund carried forward	1,236	15,404
STATEMENT OF BALANCES		
The Co-operative Bank	£	£
Total funds	1,236	15,404
Other assets:		
Sum due to ScoTs after 30.9.2025	£	-
Liabilities:		
Sums due by ScoTs after 30.9.2025	£	
Honorarium Independent Examiner	200	
	200	

This financial statement was approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:

25 June 2026

Neil Fraser
Neil Fraser, trustee and honorary treasurer

Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies - ScoTs

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 30 September 2025

1. **Basis on which accounts have been prepared**

From date of formation, 18th September 2020, the accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis.

The charity is dependent on donations, service benefits in kind, and sponsorship funding for its charitable activities.

2. **Taxation**

As a registered charity, the society is exempt from income and corporation tax to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the society and is therefore included in any relevant costs.

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having objects similar to those of the charity.

3. **Remuneration of Trustees**

The trustees manage the trust in an honorary capacity, with neither fee nor round-sum general expense allowances.

The value of services donated in kind by trustees is conservatively estimated.

4. **Endowment Funds**

The charity had no endowment funds in the year ended 30 September 2025 nor in the year ended 30 September 2024.

5 **Tagore - Geddes 2024 Festival costs**

This festival took place from 28th to 29th September 2024, in the final few days of the charity's financial year. Consequently the majority of costs relating to it were settled in the first quarter of the financial year following.

Payments pre- 30 September 2024	£3,386
Payments post- 30 September 2024	16,240
Total costs	<u>19,626</u>

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of the Scottish Centre of Tagore Studies - ScoTs

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 30th September 2025 which are set out on pages 6 and 7.

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) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 opinion on the view given in the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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.

Eric Wishart



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Date 23rd June 2026