



Scottish
CASTLES
ASSOCIATION

For everyone who loves Scotland's castles.

SC029654

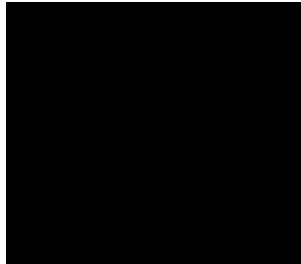
Annual Report and Accounts 2024

Scottish Castles Association

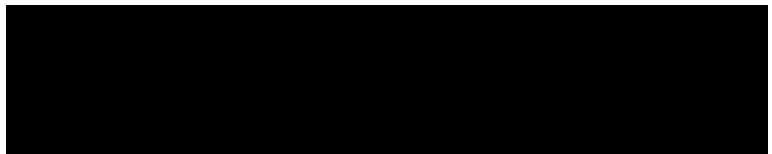
Charity Name: Scottish Castles Association

Charity Registration Number: SC029654

Contact Address:

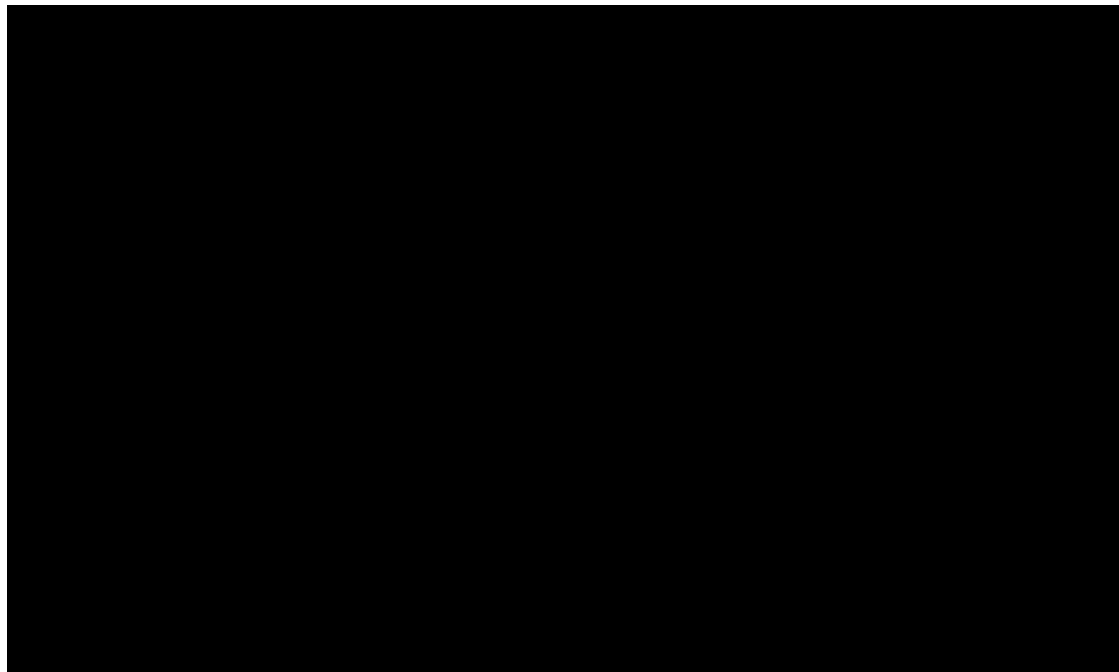


Patron



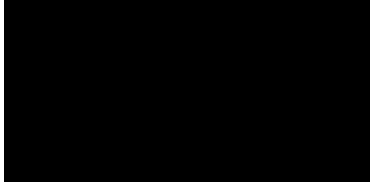
President

Trustees in 2024



Scottish Castles Association

Independent Examiner



Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland
Cartsdye Avenue
Cartsburn East
Greenock
PA15 1EF

Scottish Castles Association

Trustees' Annual Report for the year ended 31 December 2024

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

The Association is administered in accordance with the terms of its Deed of Constitution.

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

All the Association's Trustees are appointed or re-appointed by the members at the Annual General Meeting, which is held in April each year.

Purposes

Our charitable purposes:

- To encourage, by charitable means but not otherwise, the protection, preservation, restoration, research, study and appreciation of Scottish castles, tower houses and manor houses, together with their associated furnishings, settings, gardens and designed landscapes being of merit or historic interest and situated in Scotland
- To co-operate with other bodies with similar aims
- To do anything which may be considered to be incidental or conducive to the attainment of all or any of the objects

Scottish Castles Association

Summary of the main activities and achievements of the charity

This year our Council has implemented key initiatives that will create a firm foundation for continuing to meet our charitable objectives in the years ahead, encouraging the protection, preservation, restoration, research, study and appreciation of Scottish castles, tower houses and manor houses and their furnishings, settings, gardens and designed landscapes.

Governance review

We conducted a review of our governance, which included reviewing and revising our Constitution to reflect best practice in the charitable sector, in accordance with guidance from OSCR. The new Constitution was based on the model constitution produced by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO), of which the SCA is a member. It was approved at our 2025 AGM. Our governance review set out clearly the roles and responsibilities of our Trustees – every member of the Council is a Trustee of the SCA. We developed policies and guidelines including a Privacy Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, an Equality Diversity and Inclusion Statement and Risk Assessments.

Reserves Policy

We implemented a Reserves Policy which set optimal free reserves at a figure equating to 18 months of unrestricted expenditure. We used a risk-based approach to calculate the optimal free reserves that we required to address unexpected costs and opportunities. We considered reliability of income, costs of re-organisation activities and specific liabilities, taking into account risks we are aware of and contingencies, e.g. for our archive project (see below). We also have designated reserves, for funding the archive project, and restricted reserves that relate to income to be used for the specific purpose stipulated by the donor.

New SCA website

We developed a new SCA website that will promote our charitable purposes, showcasing our activities and enlisting support through membership, partnerships, volunteering and donations. Website development was supported by a generous donation from two of our members. The site will be launched in summer 2025.

SCA Online Castles Archive

We began to create the Scottish Castles Association Archive, which will be a leading repository and research tool for Scottish castles. Due for launch in late 2025, it will be available online to anyone in the world with internet access, free of charge. At its heart will be the Bogdan Brothers' Scottish Castles Archive, our unique legacy of research material from archaeologist [REDACTED], our former Chair. Together with other collections gifted or loaned to us, this constitutes an archive of national and international importance. We are working in partnership with the Stirling University Archives and Special Collections department to classify, digitise and protect all the material, which includes previously unseen images and texts. We have begun work on a fundraising initiative to ensure we can sustain our digitisation programme and continue to attract new archive material.

Our Journal

We welcomed our new Editor, who developed a revised format for the Journal to reflect all our charitable purposes. The first issue of the new edition will be published in late 2025.

Conference to encourage castle restoration and use

We worked with Historic Environment Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland to convene a conference, *Scottish Castles – Use Them or Lose Them*, which will take place in Stirling in late 2025. The conference will explore how current planning process can be applied to encourage more people to restore and

re-use Scottish castles and other historic buildings. It will be open to everyone with an interest in castles - restorers, planners, historians, craftspeople, conservation professionals and castle enthusiasts. The conclusions from the day will be taken forward by a working group to help reach consensus on how planning process can be applied to provide a useful and sustainable future for Scotland's built heritage.

Extending the reach of our castles visits and study tours

Our castles study tours continue to prove popular. Our Autumn 2024 Tour to the Black Isle and Nairnshire was well supported and our Spring 2025 Tour of Ayrshire was fully subscribed in the space of 48 hours. However, not everyone can attend a tour, and this year we broadened our reach by launching the SCA pop-up – a day at one or two castles in response to invitations. Pop-ups are ideal for those who cannot commit to a whole weekend tour or an overnight stay.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf:

[Redacted signature]

Date: 12 April 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Scottish Castles Association

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 8 and 9.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustee and Examiner

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirements of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

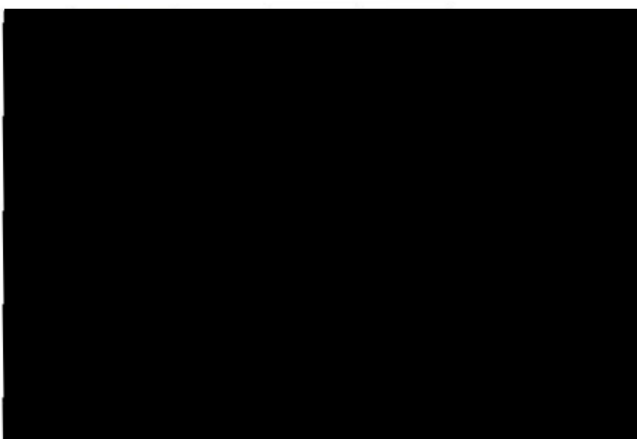
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

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 audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Opinion

In the course of my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024, 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 Charities and Trustee Investment s (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006, and
 - To prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 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.



The Scottish Castles Association

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 December 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
Receipts			
Membership Subscriptions		5,170	4,935
Membership Subscriptions – GiftAid		2,920	-
Income from Events	2	7,015	6,480
Donations		13,419	3,940
Donations – GiftAid		2,811	-
Legacies		10,000	-
Commemorative Mug Sales		30	-
Interest		765	383
Unusual and Miscellaneous Income		2,609	4
		<u>44,739</u>	<u>15,742</u>
Payments			
Payments for charitable activities:			
Direct Costs of Events	2	6,251	5,494
Insurance		168	760
Website Costs		4,546	1,300
Secretarial and Admin Costs		801	586
Liberty Accounts		86	-
The Journal		1,200	1,200
Prizes and Gifts		80	1,334
PayPal Charges		61	66
Archive Costs		4,472	-
Donations		400	100
Gifts		462	-
		<u>18,527</u>	<u>10,840</u>
Surplus for the year		26,212	4,902
Funds at 1 January		38,583	33,681
Funds at 31 December 2024		<u>64,795</u>	<u>38,583</u>

Notes:

1. Trustees Remuneration

None of the Trustees received remuneration during the year (2023 - £Nil)
£Nil (2023 - £Nil) was paid in respect of expenses for Council Meetings.

2. Breakdown of Events

	2024		2023	
	Income	Costs	Income	Costs
Spring Tour	3,440	3,028	3,050	2,412
Picnic - 2024	150	-	180	63
Picnic - 2025	-	100	-	-
Autumn Tour	2,930	2,848	3,250	3,019
Winter Dinner	495	275	-	-
	<u>7,015</u>	<u>6,251</u>	<u>6,480</u>	<u>5,494</u>

The Scottish Castles Association
Statement of Balances as at 31 December 2024

	<i>Notes</i>	2024	2023
Bank and Deposits			
Balance at 1 January		38,583	33,681
Surplus for the year		26,212	4,902
Balance at 31 December		<u>64,795</u>	<u>38,583</u>
Made up of:			
Cash		-	90
Current Account		944	707
Deposit Account		63,851	31,141
PayPal Account		-	5,345
Outstanding Lodgements		-	1,300
		<u>64,795</u>	<u>38,583</u>
Reserves			
Archive Fund		10,508	-
Website Fund		22,500	-
Events Fund		2,264	-
General Fund		29,523	38,583
Reserves		<u>64,795</u>	<u>38,583</u>
Assets (Memo)			
Stock of Plaques (81 @ £12)		972.00	1,152.00
Stock of Commemorative Mugs (45 @ £3.50)		157.50	178.50
		<u>1,129.50</u>	<u>1,330.50</u>
Liabilities			
None			
For and on behalf of the Council			

