STIRLING LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY (SCOTTISH CHARITY No. 38247)
ANNUAL REPORT FROM 31 JANUARY 2025 TO 31 JANUARY 2026

Current Trustees

Margaret Bird
Stuart Campbell
Stephen Digney
John Harrison
Andy Lamb
Kenneth McLaren
Helen Munro
Stuart Morrison
Dorothy Wilson

These trustees were appointed at the Annual General Meeting on the 24th of April 2025**.**
None receive any remuneration.

Constitution and Objectives

These remain unchanged, the key aim being 'to promote public awareness and an understanding of the local history of Stirling'.

Activities

The society was established in 2006. Membership this year is 39.

Our 2025/26 season was well received, with an entertaining cross-section of excellent speakers. The season 2026/27 has already been planned with a full syllabus of speakers. Details of these will be sent out in due course.

Unfortunately, we did experience sound and visual glitches at some of our talks. This was due to technical issues with the equipment provided by the Smith. Kenny McLaren sent a strongly worded letter of complaint to the Smith about these shortcomings. The Smith did admit these failings and in fairness, very quickly took measures to resolve these issues. There is still a problem with the headset microphone, but with thanks to Jonathan Kaney we hope that this is now addressed.

Due to family and work commitments, we are very sadly losing Andy Lamb as a committee member and membership secretary. Andy has been with the Society for a good number of years and has been a valued and hard-working part of the committee. We send him our thanks and very best wishes.

On a positive note, we have new members who have joined the committee, Dr Ian Cawood, Anne Monaghan and Jonathan Kaney. Jonathan has very kindly taken on the role as membership secretary. Although we have a healthy committee membership, we are always looking for new volunteers. If you are interested, please let us know through the Societies' website or talk to any of the committee members.
The Society has a long association with Stirling University, this year, with the addition of Dr

Ian Cawood from the University as a committee member, we have been able to strengthen this relationship.

With the Society running at a small loss for the past two years, we have decided to host a Summer Lecture Day as a fundraising exercise. This will be held in the Smith on Saturday 6th June 2026 between 1.30 -4.00pm. As a fundraiser we have set the ticket price at £10.00/head, payable at the door on the day. We will have four speakers, Aoife McKenna, Elaine Whiteford, Stuart Campbell and keynote speaker Prof Richard Oram. The theme of the lecture will be "Ordinary Day Life in Stirling". Details of this event will be sent out in due course.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Society I would like to thank everyone for their support throughout our last season and look forward to seeing you all again for our 2026/27 season.

Finance and Reserves

Subscriptions (at £15 per sub) continues to be our main source of income. In season 2025-2026 we had 39 members resulting in £585 of income. An additional £378.20 came from visitor entry fees (£3) and donations to well attended meetings. Sales from booklets brought in a further £76.50. In total our income for the year was £1039.76, £112.84 less than the previous season.

Our expenditure for the year was £1172.52. This was a decrease of £169.90 on our expenditure from the previous season. Our main outlay were payments (£760) to the Smith for the hire of the hall and equipment. An increase to the new rate of £120 per meeting from September onwards meant an overall increase of £60 on the previous years hire. We paid £160 to cover speaker costs. Our general admin fees for the year were £142.65 which included printing costs for flyers and posters. We also printed a new batch of publicity leaflets at the cost of £26. Bank of Scotland informed us that starting from last November they were introducing service charges, £1.87 so far, this charge will be included as general admin in future. Other payments included our annual membership to the Forth Naturalist and Historian. Membership of the Scottish Local History Forum was maintained, and the payment for of the previous season made an appearance in the accounts at the start of the year.

For season 2025-2026 we had an overall deficit of £132.76. Our overall financial position decreased slightly on the previous season from £3819.17 (31st of January 2025) to the current balance of £3819.17 (31st January 2026). There are ample reserves for the coming season. With the increase in the rent of the Smith to £60 per hour (£120 per meeting) and following two seasons in a row in deficit, it is proposed that the subscription fees for member be raised to £20 per person per year. Entry fee for non-members is currently set at £5

Stuart J Campbell, Chairman

