

EDINVILLIE COMMUNITY HALL COUNCIL

SC002527

Trustees's Report

1st October 2024 – 30th September 2025

Edinville Community Hall Council is a Scottish charity, and we are regulated by OSCR – the office of the Scottish Charities Regulator. All charities have nominated Trustees who are responsible for managing the affairs of the charity following the charity's constitution. ECHC's trustees are detailed in our constitution as the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer and at present those roles are filled by me as Chairman, Dougal Fraser as Vice Chairman and Margaret Grant as Treasurer. The constitution lays out management responsibilities, but essentially ECHC's main purpose is to provide a community meeting place, helping to bring people together and looking after the fabric of the hall.

We hope you'll have noticed that we've been very active on these fronts in the last year, building on the good work completed in previous years. This year we moved our attention mainly to the exterior of the hall, which was badly in need of upgrade, as it's had little work done over the years. The passage of time had not been kind to the exterior fabric of the building, and a significant amount of repair work was needed. But we're fortunate to have great, willing trades people in our community and all the contractors pulled together to deliver an outstanding job. The weather even played ball and stayed mostly dry for the duration of the works, although George McKenzie deserves a medal for doing the exterior cleaning and painting work on some very warm days. But hopefully these repairs and upgrades will maintain the integrity of the hall for a good many years.

We've also managed to refurbish the gent's toilets, which were long overdue an upgrade. I'm not sure when they were last done or if they'd even been done since the hall was built and they really were a bit of an eyesore. We didn't have sufficient funds to do both the exterior of the hall and the toilets, so we applied to Berry Burn Community Fund for support and were granted just under £12000 (that was the full amount we requested) to

complete the work. We're extremely grateful to the folks at Berry Burn as we wouldn't have been able to do this work without their help. Again, our local trades folks stepped up and did an excellent job.

Our music nights have continued to be a success. We've had a number of well attended events this year which have brought people from near and far to the hall and we've enjoyed great music from a range of talented musicians. These events have not only brought people together but have also helped raise funds for the upkeep of the hall and to help with the costs of hosting the annual kid's Halloween and Christmas parties. Special thanks to everyone who buys a ticket and comes along and to those who donate raffle prizes and buy raffle tickets, as without you, we can't run these evenings. Of course, the music nights have become much easier to organise and manage now that we have our own PA and lighting system. We applied to the National Lottery for funding and in January we were awarded just over £12000 to complete the works – again, this was the full amount we applied for. The new system is working well and is now in regular use. We're very grateful to local Edinville resident and sound engineer, Johnny Battersby at More Power Engineering for designing, installing, and commissioning the system.

You may recall that we had issues with our water supply last year. Thankfully these issues have been resolved, and we now have mains supply to the hall. Our supply is commercial, and we had some concerns that we may face significant charges for our water, but as a charity we qualify for an exemption, although getting this confirmed required terrier like tenacity from our secretary Pat Shanks – she also deserves a medal for going above and beyond! Coming into this year we had one final piece of work to do to upgrade the water supply – replacing the pipe to the toilet area at the rear of the hall – and we've now completed that as part of the gent's toilets upgrade, so everything water related should now be tickety boo!

The hall continues to be well used and there are regular Pilates and circuit training classes, both run by Edinville locals, and the craft club continues to meet regularly through the winter months. The general improvement in the hall's facilities seem to be leading to increased use – which of course is great to see – and we've hosted a good number of parties and events, two weddings and a few funeral teas. And, of course, the year wouldn't be

complete without the annual kid's Halloween and Christmas parties and as usual they were very well attended, a great success and the kids had a fantastic time at both!

Maintaining funding for the hall is a major part of the committee's work and we feel we've had a reasonably successful year. The funding from the National Lottery and Berry Burn, totalling almost £24000, has helped significantly and allowed us to do things that wouldn't otherwise have been possible. Of course, we also receive annual funding from Paul's Hill windfarm fund, currently just under £10,000 annually.

But we need to bear in mind that our windfarm funds can only be spent on capital items and that we can't use them for operating expenses – essentially the day to day running costs of the hall. So, we need to raise funds regularly to cover our operating costs and we need to minimise our outgoings where we can. The funds raised from the music nights, the 100 Club and hall rentals are a big help in maintaining funds, and we get income from our solar panels as well, and thankfully, our balance sheet is in good order, which Margaret will cover in her report. But one of our main costs is electricity, so this year we have managed to extricate ourselves from our SSE supply, and I use that word advisedly, as Pat again had to tussle with SSE to sort out our billing scenario. We have now changed to a new supplier which has reduced our costs significantly and things are running so much better! We have locked in our contract pricing with the new supplier for 2 years as well, so we should see good benefit from the change going forward.

It's also important to note that the hall doesn't run itself. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to keep everything going and as we don't have any employees, everything that has to be done is being done on a voluntary basis, mainly by our hard-working committee members, and often by our hard-working Treasurer, Margaret Grant. It isn't economic or practical to run the hall by using paid contractors for the routine things we need to do like cleaning the hall, keeping the hall supplied with everything it needs to run effectively, cutting the grass, maintaining the flower tubs and doing basic repairs and maintenance – all these things are done by our community of volunteers. This year, though, to help make the exterior maintenance easier we invested in a new

high quality battery mower and strimmer, so if you'd like to help out with the grass cutting in summer, please reach out.

Joking aside, we could use some more help on the committee – we have lost a few members in the last year or so, with people retiring after having served for a long time or people having a change in personal circumstances. So, if you'd like to help, please get involved. And if you can't commit to being a committee member, there are opportunities to help with things like the grass cutting, organising and preparing for events and music nights, helping out with the kid's parties, cleaning and maintenance, putting the bins out and other such jobs.

In closing I'd like to thank my fellow trustees and committee members for all their hard work throughout the year and to everyone in the community for supporting the hall.

Stuart Mathieson

Chairman, Edinville Committee Hall Council