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SCOTTISH POTTERS ASSOCIATION SCIO

Annual Report & Financial Statements

For the period ending

30 November 2024



Scottish Charity No SC048850

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2024

INTRODUCTION

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements and independent examiner's report for the period ending 30 November 2024.

This annual report covers the period from 1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Current Trustees

Caroline Gault	Chair	Appointed March 2019
Carol Hiles	Treasurer	Appointed March 2022
Kirsty Forsyth	Secretary	Appointed January 2023
Roos Eisma	Website	Appointed March 2022
Rona Slevin	Exhibitions	Appointed March 2023
Brothaigh Russell	Newsletter	Appointed February 2024
Connie Robertson	Membership	Appointed March 2024

Former Trustees

Carl Radford	Chair	Appointed March 2022	Resigned May 2024
Chris Pellow		Appointed November 2022	Resigned March 2024
Susan Bromiley		Appointed March 2024	Resigned November 2024
Julia Albert-Recht		Appointed March 2024	Resigned August 2024

Email	Chair@scottishpotters.org
Website	www.scottishpotters.org
Bankers	[redacted]
Independent Examiner	Karen Henderson CA [redacted]

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2024

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 19 November 2018. The charity was previously an unincorporated association but changed its legal form to a SCIO. The assets of the unincorporated association were transferred to the SCIO on the 19 November 2018. It is governed by a written constitution.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected annually by the membership at its Annual General Meeting. Additionally, Trustees may be appointed during the year subject to approval by the Management Committee to fill a post that has become vacant or that was not filled at the AGM. Trustees usually serve for a minimum 3-year term to ensure continuity.

The people serving on the Management Committee are the Trustees. The Management Committee consists of up to fifteen members who are all volunteers. During the year five trustees resigned. Membership of the Management Committee is open to all paid-up members of the SPA.

Working Teams

The Management Committee is supplemented by voluntary working teams whose members offer their services either to assist with specific projects or to support committee members where the role involves a lot of work such as setting up exhibitions or running workshops. The work of team members is invaluable.

Organisational Structure

The structure of the organisation consists of: -

- the MEMBERS - who have the right to attend members' meetings (including any annual general meeting) and have important powers under the constitution; in particular, the members appoint people to serve on the Management Committee and take decisions on changes to the constitution itself;
- the MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - who hold regular meetings and generally control the activities of the organisation; for example, the Management Committee is responsible for monitoring and controlling the financial position of the organisation.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2024

OBJECTS & ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purposes

The Scottish Potters Association objectives are the advancement of the Arts and Culture and in furtherance of this:

- To promote and encourage the making, appreciation and development of Scottish pottery and ceramic craft, art and culture.

- To provide information and opportunities for communication and collaboration between ceramic makers, artists and the public.

- To work in partnership with other organisations.

- To provide and promote Equal Opportunities such that; the organisation will not discriminate based on race, sex, disability, sexuality, age or based on political, religious or other opinions. As and if required by funders and/or members, the fuller Local Authority Equal Opportunities policies may be adopted.

Activities

To meet those objectives, the SPA aims

- to arrange opportunities for the public:
    - to see potters at work
    - to see potters work on display
    - to get hands on with clay

- run workshops for members

- organise demonstration events for member
-
- organise public exhibitions of members' work

- produce and distribute a trail map of potters in Scotland with studios open to the public

- provide opportunities for members to network.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2024



Photo: Members Fiona [redacted], Maria [redacted] and Christine [redacted] enjoying the Spring Gathering in 2024

ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Our 50th year has been a bumper of a year in many ways, we have achieved almost everything that we set out to achieve and took on more than we expected. At the start of our 50th year we had many plans to celebrate those that have gone before us and the bright future ahead of us. The committee reviewed the suggestions from the 50th subgroup to narrow down all those wonderful ideas into the best and most achievable ones. The ones that made it through the sift are: 5 exhibitions across Scotland celebrating our Roots and Wings; 50 mugs for Maggie's; 50kg Challenge; a Scottish Potters Book.

We held those 5 exhibitions, 2 of which were run by SPA and invigilated by our members. This ambitious project allowed us to take Scottish pottery and potters to 5 locations across Scotland for over 100 days of exhibiting. 96 individual members celebrated their Roots and Wings, some with lots of experience and some who had never had the opportunity or confidence. During our Haddington exhibition we hosted a throwing demonstration and workshop with Belinda Glennon, and people were inspired to go home and practice what they had learnt. Our committee member Rona Slevin organised, corralled and supported our members to not only take part, but to support each other by invigilating, advertising and pulling together as group to transport the art to various locations.

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ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE Continued...

To commemorate our 50 years, we wanted to give back to the wider community and chose Maggie's charity to help us do this. We collaborated with Maggie's to develop "50 Mugs for Maggie's", where we asked our members to donate their handmade mugs to be distributed across the 8 Maggie's centres in Scotland. Many of our members have been affected by cancer, some of our potters have been lost to cancer and many have been grateful for the support that Maggie's has given them, their friends and family. Over the year we managed to donate more than 50 mugs across the 8 Scottish Maggie's centres. We met with Calum Ross, the Maggie's Social Media co-ordinator and collaborated on a video celebrating Maggie's, the mugs and the potters. We hope for many years to come that Maggie's visitors are brought joy and an escape from their worries by a Scottish potter's mug to hold in their hands and discuss the artist, the art and how a cuppa tastes better in a handmade mug.



In early July we invited Geoff Cox - the potter who first started Potfest and who now runs a "Go Big" challenge at Spring Potfest in Pens - to Glasgow to host a bunch of potters to turn 50kg of clay into something over a weekend. At least 21 potters took part across 3 venues in Scotland. We managed to take videos at all the events and shared them on our Facebook public page so all our members and the wider community could enjoy our 50 kg exploits.

Geoff [redacted] and Liz [redacted] at 50kg Challenge
Photo by Rona Selvin

The 50 years of SPA book is well underway, we hope to have it ready for Spring Gathering 2025. We successfully applied for a grant from the William Syson Foundation. The William Syson Foundation helps to provide opportunities for practice and enjoyment of the arts, and to assist and encourage the country's next generation of musical and artistic talent, their support for the SPA book is greatly appreciated. Members of the committee, Kirsty Forsyth and Rona Slevin, worked with a group of enthusiastic members Hannah McAndrew, Annie Lamb, Fran Marquis and Iain Campbell to pull together pictures (many of which were taken by Shannon Tofts who has been a long time supporter of Scottish Potters), nominations, testimonials, forewords, biographies and funding for our book.

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ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE Continued...

The book is now in its final phase. The sub-group has been working hard independently, and we are all getting excited about seeing the final product at the launch.



Green Lady made by Caroline Gault at Moira Ferguson's workshop

During the 50th year we did our best to keep the business of being the Scottish Potters Association at the forefront of work by supporting our potters to promote Scottish pottery and potters during the year. We ran 3 workshops for Scottish Potters across the Year. The first was a wonderful hands-on with long time Scottish Potter Moira Ferguson. Moira inspired us with her Greenman workshop at the Allan Clark Veteran Centre (ACVC) in Glasgow. The workshop brought together Scottish Potters and some of the veterans from the centre to learn about the history of the Greenman and then learn how to make our own. Moira donated her time and allowed us to run the workshop at a very reasonable price.

The workshop was very well received and many of us were inspired to create Green Men and Women in our own studios.

The second was meant to be with Andrew Pentland at Fran Marquis's studio in Arbroath, but family concerns meant he had to pull out at the last minute. Fortunately, one of our own, Lexi Macleod, stepped in and ran the workshop instead. Lexi has apprenticed with a wide range of potters in quite a few different countries and has gained much knowledge of wood firing and making pots using Hakeme Slipware as decoration. Lexi led a group of 8 potters through throwing and surface decoration for wood firing pottery.

In September, during our Barony exhibition, we had our final workshop of the year. Frances Clark, one of our members, led a group of potters through all the stages of building large human busts - torso, neck and faces. Feedback from all the courses has been good and we continue to look for new teachers to bring their skills and knowledge to the Scottish Potters members.

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ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE Continued...

During the year our website committee member Roos completed many of the goals for the website that we commissioned last year. Members are now able to create and update their own events (markets, fairs, classes, open studios) and these events are shown on in the form of an activities map on the landing page of the website for anyone to see and find out more about. This allows more of our members to take part, and the events can go up in a timely manner. The members can also consent to have their studio details shown on the map if they have studios that the public can visit.

Our Spring Gathering in 2024 hosted Jim Robison, Hannah McAndrew, Doug Fitch and Mark Smith to show the members their skills in hand building, extruding and surface decoration; slip trailing, slip decoration and large vessel throwing; sculpting and texture. The event was very well attended with loads of potters taking part in the Anne Lightwood award, membership display, the mug swap and the raffle.

We had already booked our venue for Spring 2025, which was unfortunately cancelled by the venue in late summer. Our Spring Gatherings are the highlight of the year for many of our members and allows us to come together as a community to celebrate each other and our love of pottery. This cancellation brought a massive challenge to the team to find a new venue that suited the membership's needs. We consulted the membership to find possibilities and to also find out what they would and would not be willing to change about Spring Gathering. The management team rallied together, and Roos spearheaded our investigation, without Roos' determination we would not have been able to offer a new venue - Millport Field Activity Centre, Isle of Cumbrae - to our members by the end of 2024.

Throughout the year we have continued to support, inspire and signpost our members to opportunities through our regular eBulletins and our quarterly Newsletter. We continue host a weekly Zoom chat which is open to all members and most of our members have access to our private Facebook community. By building and supporting our community we've brought members together to start their own ceramics festivals – Mudfest and Clay North East – negotiated members discounts with suppliers, inspired members to take start mixing their own glazes, replace their own kiln coils and invest in their own kilns knowing they had a network behind them to answer their queries. We've shared their stories, journeys and triumphs and we've linked them together through secret Santa, mug swaps, winter challenges, continuous communication and our Spring Gathering.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2024

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

Our main source of funding is subscriptions from members. This year we saw an increase of 30%, partly due to an increase in membership fees of 25% and partly due to an increase in membership numbers.
There were significant receipts this year from our spring gathering at Tulliallan, workshops and exhibitions. We also received a grant from the William Syson Foundation towards our book for the 50th anniversary. Other receipts were from donations, a raffle and trading.

Receipts in the unrestricted funds were £42,738.20, an increase of nearly 50%. We received a £2,000 grant in the restricted income.

Unrestricted payments for the accounting period were £28,582.31 and there were no restricted payments.

The charity had a surplus of £16,155.89. However, we are still awaiting an invoice for our 2024 Spring Gathering, and we have an estimated £16,500 liability for this. The purposes of these funds can be found in Note 11.

Reserves Policy

Scottish Potters Association has reserves of £33,299.35, less liabilities of £16,500, which gives us four months running costs. The trustees believe that three month's running costs are a good level of reserves. This will allow for the day to day running of the organisation and to cover any unexpected eventualities.

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
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FUTURE PLANS

The Trustees continually discuss ways to improve the services offered by the SPA to both members and the public. The Management Committee took the decision to increase the members subscription fees for 2025. This is to help with the increased costs across the board.

Our annual Spring Gathering event will take place from 14th – 16th March 2025 at our new venue. Three very prestigious demonstrators will be present and for the first time in a quite a while we will be offering some hands-on workshops at Spring Gathering. Our members can participate in all the activities they have come to expect at our Spring Gatherings - Anne Lightwood award, mug swap, raffle, display of members work and lots of cake, fun and networking. Our 2025 AGM will take place in person on 15th March 2025.

Our first workshop of 2025 will be held in February at Mud Station pottery in Edinburgh with Jeremy James. We will also be looking to host another professional pottery teacher later in the year and some member's run sessions during the year. We have a Spring exhibition at An Talla Solais in Ullapool and are planning a second exhibition for later in the year (venue to be confirmed). We will continue to hold our coffee mornings via Zoom as a networking opportunity for members, as well as continue to encourage participation in our Facebook group. Our eBulletins will continue to include information on member's activities as advertising for those events, and our newsletter will continue to inspire and enthuse our members with interesting articles.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the trustees on 12/02/2025 and signed on their behalf by

[redacted] [redacted]

Caroline Gault, Chair Carol Hiles, Treasurer

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SCOTTISH POTTERS ASSOCIATION

YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2024

I report on the accounts of the above charity for the period ended 30 November 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE 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 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations").

The charity's Trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the 2005 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 2006 Regulations. 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 STATEMENT

In connection with 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 Regulations, and
   - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 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.

Karen Henderson CA
Independent Examiner

[redacted]

[redacted]

Date: 12 February 2025

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STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities	4	42,192	2,000	44,192	28,689
Trading	5	409	-	409	195
Donations	6	137	-	137	168
		42,738	2,000	44,738	29,052
Payments					
Bursary Award		-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	7	27,667	-	27,667	21,973
Governance Costs	8	202	-	202	131
Trading	9	712	-	712	-
		28,582	-	28,582	22,104
Surplus/(Deficit)for year	**10**	**14,156**	**-**	**16,156**	**6,947**

The Notes on pages 14 to 16 form an integral part of these accounts.

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STATEMENT OF BALANCES

AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total**
Funds Reconciliation	£	£	£
Balance at 30 November 2023	19,143	-	19,143
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	14,156	2,000	16,156
Balance at 30 November 2024	33,299	2,000	35,299
Bank & Cash Balances			
Cash at Bank			35,299
Cash in Hand			-
			35,299
Liabilities			
Charitable activities Tulliallan invoice			16,500

Scottish Potters Association has no contingent liabilities

The Notes on pages 14 to 16 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 12/02/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

[redacted]…….. [redacted]……

Caroline Gault
Chair

Carol Hiles
Treasurer

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2024

1. Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts & payments basis in accordance with:

(a) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

(b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Fund Accounting

(a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.

(b) Designated funds are unrestricted funds that the trustees have set aside for particular purposes. The designation is administrative only and does not restrict the trustees' ability to apply the funds. There were no designated funds during the accounting period.

(c) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes. The charity had no restricted funds see Note 10.

(d) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 11.

3. Transactions with trustees and related parties

(a) Remuneration of £1,500 was paid to Roos Eisma, a trustee or connected person during the accounting period for work on the website.

(b) Travelling expenses were reimbursed to four trustees during the accounting period, this amounted to £742.90.

(c) No accommodation costs were reimbursed to trustees during the accounting period.

4. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**TOTAL 2024**	TOTAL 2023
	£	£	£	£
Membership Fees	9,711	-	9,711	7,462
Tulliallan Weekend	20,327	-	20,327	15,514
Exhibitions	6,675	-	6,675	-
Workshops	4,779	-	4,779	4,871
Fundraising	700	-	700	642
Newsletter	-	-	-	200
Book	-	2,000	2,000	-
	42,192	2,000	44,192	28,689

5. Trading

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Merchandise Sales	409	-	409	195
	409	-	409	195

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2024

6. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Membership	137	-	137	149
Amazon	-	-	-	18
	137	-	137	168

7. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Newsletter	2,727	-	2,727	2,795
Insurance	962	-	962	488
Consumables	290	-	290	158
Tulliallan Costs	3,889	-	3,889	13,816
Workshops	6,680	-	6,680	2,529
Website	1,975	-	1,975	384
Events and exhibitions	6,971	-	6,971	-
Volunteer Expenses	1,818	-	1,818	1,196
Administration Costs	530	-	530	430
Rent	0	-	-	-
Sundries	0	-	0	77
Marketing	1,825	-	1,825	100
	27,667	-	27,667	21,973

8. Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Committee Meeting	202	0	202	131
	202	0	202	131

9. Trading Costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	**Total 2024**	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Merchandise	712	0	712	0
	712	0	712	0

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2024

10. Movement in Funds

	As at 30 November 2023	Receipts	Payments	As at 30 Novemt 2024
Unrestricted Funds				
General Fund	19,143	42,738	28,582	33,299
Restricted Funds				
Fund 1	0	2,000	0	2,000

11. Purpose of Funds

General Fund An unrestricted fund that can be expended at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted Fund A restricted fund can only be used for a specified purpose.