



SCOTTISH POTTERS ASSOCIATION SCIO
Annual Report & Financial Statements
For the period ending
30 November 2025



Photo: Jamie Cutts

Scottish Charity No SC048850

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TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2025

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 2025.

This annual report covers the period from 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Current Trustees

Connie Robertson	Chair / Membership	Appointed March 2024
Carol Hiles	Treasurer	Appointed March 2022
Kirsty Forsyth	Secretary	Appointed January 2023
Caroline Gault	eBulletin	Appointed March 2019
Rona Slevin	Exhibitions	Appointed March 2023
Sylwia Kolasinska	Social Media	Appointed April 2025
Maria Poyato	Student Officer	Appointed March 2025
Oonagh Gil	Workshops	Appointed March 2025
Evie Jackson	Website Edits	Appointed April 2025

Former Trustees

Brothaigh Russell	Newsletter	Appointed February 2024	Resigned April 2025
Roos Eisma	Website	Appointed March 2022	Resigned March 2025
Marion Marshall	eBulletin	Appointed March 2025	Resigned August 2025

Email Chair@scottishpotters.org

Website www.scottishpotters.org

Bankers Bank of Scotland, PO Box 1000, BX2 1LB

Independent Karen Henderson CA

Examiner 

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2025

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.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2025

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 members
- organise public exhibitions of members' work
- maintain a map of potters in Scotland with studios open to the public, and of pottery / ceramic events and exhibitions
- provide opportunities for members to network.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2025

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

This year has been one of transition and growth for the Scottish Potters Association. Despite changes in leadership, the committee has worked together to maintain momentum and deliver opportunities for members to connect, learn, and showcase their work. I am pleased to share an update on our activities and progress since taking on the Acting Chair role.

Caroline Gault stepped down temporarily from the Chair role in July 2025 and confirmed in October that she would not be returning to the position. Caroline hosted a wonderful Spring Gathering at our new venue of Millport earlier in the year. Her vibrant personality is always uplifting and was very much needed in the organisation and behind the scenes leading up to the event. Caroline has kindly offered to continue producing the monthly eBulletin which is greatly appreciated. As I was willing to help keep the SPA wheels turning, the committee encouraged me to take on the Acting Chair role. I also continue to manage membership, and I can confirm that the combined responsibilities are not overly onerous.

The committee has been incredibly supportive during these first few months, helping me find my feet. Carol and Kirsty have been a great source of guidance. I attended an OSCR workshop and have been working through their excellent information sheets, which have answered many of my questions about charity governance.

My focus is to maintain continuity and build on the progress made in the previous year. A key highlight has been promoting SPA through exhibitions organised by Rona Slevin, workshops organised by Oonagh Gil and Carl Radford, and attendance at Potfest.

In February 2025 SPA advertised a workshop with Jeremy James at Sylwia's Mud Station Pottery in Edinburgh, which was very popular with members, in fact, we were oversubscribed within a few days.

In March 2025, we held our first Spring Gathering on the Isle of Cumbrae the weekend was reminiscent of the Kindrogan days, and even the weather played its part!

Millport proved to be an excellent venue, offering accommodation and facilities for smoke firings, and demonstrations at a reasonable cost. Our Spring Gathering in 2025 was such an unexpected change from previous years the committee were anxious about the facilities at new venue and how it would work. It is thanks to Roos, Clare and the team for sourcing, booking, and organising such a successful event. With a lot of research, planning and organisation by the committee the weekend went exceptionally well, and was enjoyed by many members.

In June SPA volunteer members were in attendance at our stand at Potfest, Scone.



Photo: Jeremy [REDACTED] and course participants at Mud Station



Photo: Carol [REDACTED] and Connie [REDACTED] manning the SPA Stand at Potfest, Scone, June 2025

The Made in Stirling Pottery Exhibition was a successful open exhibition from September to October which encouraged many new members to display their work for the first time. Networking with Made in Stirling staff has opened opportunities to use their premises for meetings/workshops.

We also had an opportunity to exhibit at An Talla Solais during May and June when 46 members took part, Ullapool is a very popular holiday destination with high visitor footfall.

Our final event of the year happened at short notice when volunteers from the committee organised a table at a new annual event, Potfest in Glasgow at end of November 2025.

Our communications team—Caroline, Sylwia, and Fiona—continue to manage eBulletin, social media and newsletters. Sylwia is keeping SPA on the forefront of Facebook, Instagram etc and our experienced newsletter editor, Fiona, consistently delivers creative content showcasing diverse clay techniques while keeping members informed of events and opportunities.

Every Wednesday morning a member hosts an online coffee morning, this year we took a break during July and August and started again in September.

We continue to keep in touch with queries and questions on our Internal Forum on Facebook. Weekly there is the opportunity to meet and communicate with members via online coffee morning hosted by Susan Bromiley.

Although Roos Eisma stepped down as Website Coordinator at the last AGM she continues to volunteer, providing technical support for the SPA. Evie Jackson has been mentored by Roos to take over the role of updating the webpages and has shown great aptitude and speedy responses to requests.

Membership continues to grow steadily, currently standing at just over 520 members. Our Student Coordinator, Maria Poyato, is actively promoting SPA to student groups across Scotland to attract younger members and secure the future of the association.

Carol, our Treasurer, has kept a close eye on finances. As a non-profit charity we aim to run all events as cost neutral. Workshops, exhibitions and events are costed and charged out to ensure we run everything to budget.

The William Syson Foundation kindly awarded SPA a grant to produce our book, *50 Years of the Scottish Potters Association*. This is now available for sale at events and online. We sent out 50 complimentary copies to contributors and libraries, in accordance with the grant. We ordered 200 books and have approximately half still to sell.

STATEMENT OF THANKS

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the entire committee for their dedication and support during this period of transition. Your hard work and enthusiasm have ensured that SPA continues to thrive. Thanks too, to our volunteers who willingly give their precious time to support the committee, Fiona, Clare, Roos, Susan and Carl are pivotal in helping us maintain our momentum with newsletters, booking, hosting coffee mornings and sourcing demonstrators. I also thank our members for their ongoing engagement and creativity, which remain at the heart of everything we do. Together, we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2025

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overview

Our main source of funding is subscriptions from members. This year we saw an increase of 10% in membership subscriptions, mainly due to an increase in membership numbers.

Once again there were significant receipts from our spring gathering at Millport, workshops and exhibitions. Other receipts were from a raffle and trading.

Receipts in the unrestricted funds were £38,261.83. There was no restricted income.

Unrestricted payments for the accounting period were £35,098.72 and there were restricted payments of £2,000. The purposes of these funds can be found in Note 11.

The charity had a surplus of £1,163.33 for the year.

The charity aims to run all events, exhibitions and workshops as cost neutral as possible, which has been achieved this year.

Reserves Policy

Scottish Potters Association has reserves of £36,462.46, less liabilities of £16,500 (which is set aside for an invoice for the spring gathering at Tulliallan 2024). This gives us approximately 6 months running costs. The trustees believe that three to six 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.

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING NOVEMBER 2025

FUTURE PLANS

Looking ahead, the committee will dedicate significant time to finalising plans for our Spring Gathering and AGM, scheduled for 13–15 March 2026 at Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae. Due to the success of 2025, we booked Millport for 2026 and have put a deposit down for 2027, giving us time to explore other options for future years.

Prior to the Spring Gathering we will be advertising roles on the committee that will become vacant from March 2026. Two members, Rona and Fiona, are standing down from committee and volunteering roles, namely Exhibitions and Newsletter. We also still have a vacancy for vice-chair.

Our members value meeting others and working with clay. Oonagh Gil, our new Workshop Organiser, has started enthusiastically, planning a range of events across Scotland for the coming months. An advance throwing workshop with Lexie Macleod at Fran Marquis studio in Arbroath in February 2026, Decorating at Aden Theatre in Mintlaw with Susan O’Byrne in April, an online course with Carol Sinclair about pricing and selling creative work, Ronnie Fulton with a hand building course at ACVC Hub and another throwing workshop with Tom Knowles Jackson later in the year, date and venue to be confirmed, probably in November 2026.

An exhibition with “Colour, Tone and Texture” as the theme is being planned for The Barony in West Kilbride during April and May 2026. We are waiting on confirmation of another venue for the northeast of Scotland.

We continue to look at merchandise to help promote SPA with quality products such as aprons and beanies, these continue to sell well, pin badges have been ordered, and we now have a stock of our 50 years of SPA books, all these items will be on sale at our Spring Gathering as well as other events throughout the year. We now have wooden cardholders with our logo and QR code promoting SPA for members that have stands at these and other events.

Susan Bromiley continues to host weekly online coffee mornings; we are looking at different avenues to advertise this to all our members as this is another opportunity to chat and meet up with other potters throughout the organisation across Scotland.

APPROVAL

This report was approved by the trustees on 06/01/2026 and signed on their behalf by

.....

Connie Robertson, Chair

.....

Carol Hiles, Treasurer

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SCOTTISH POTTERS
ASSOCIATION
YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2025**

I report on the accounts of the above charity for the period ended 30 November 2025 which are set out on pages 13 to 17.

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.

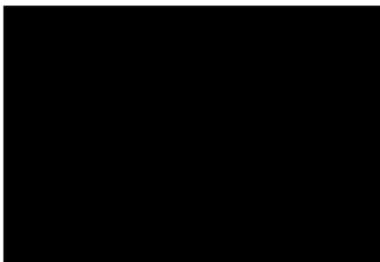
BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

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.



6 January 2026

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Receipts					
Charitable Activities	4	36,981	0	36,981	44,192
Trading	5	1,281		1,281	409
Donations	6	0	0	0	137
		38,262	0	38,262	44,738
Payments					
Bursary Award		-	-	-	-
Charitable Activities	7	32,001	2,000	34,001	27,667
Governance Costs	8	0	-	0	202
Trading	9	3,098	-	3,098	712
		35,099	2,000	37,099	28,582
Surplus/(Deficit)for year	10	3,163	-2,000	1,163	16,156

The Notes on pages 15 to 17 form an integral part of these accounts.

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

AS AT 30 NOVEMBER 2025

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total £
Funds Reconciliation			
Balance at 30 November 2024	33,299	2,000	35,299
Surplus/(Deficit) for year	3,163	(2,000)	1,163
Balance at 30 November 2025	36,462	0	36,462
Bank & Cash Balances			
Cash at Bank			36,462
Cash in Hand			0
			36,462
Liabilities			
Charitable activities			
Tulliallan invoice			16,500

Scottish Potters Association has no contingent liabilities

The Notes on pages 15 to 17 form an integral part of these accounts.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on 06/01/2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Connie Robertson
Chair



Carol Hiles
Treasurer

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2025

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 restricted funds see Note 10.
- (d) The purposes of the funds are shown in Note 11.

3. Transactions with trustees and related parties

- (a) No remuneration was paid to any trustee or connected person during the accounting period.
- (b) Travelling expenses were reimbursed to four trustees during the accounting period, this amounted to £515.
- (c) No accommodation costs were reimbursed to trustees during the accounting period.

4. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	TOTAL 2025	TOTAL 2024
	£	£	£	£
Membership Fees	11,179	-	11,179	9,711
Spring gathering	20,291	-	20,291	20,327
Exhibitions	3,437	-	3,437	6,675
Workshops	1,419	-	1,419	4,779
Fundraising	655	-	655	700
Book	-	-	-	2,000
	36,981	00	36,981	44,192

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2025

5. Trading

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Merchandise Sales	1,281	-	1,281	409
	<u>1,281</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,281</u>	<u>409</u>

6. Donations

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Membership	-	-	-	137
Amazon	-	-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>137</u>

7. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Newsletter	2,121	-	2,121	2,727
Insurance	1,294	-	1,294	962
Consumables	251	-	251	290
Spring gathering	19,912	-	19,912	3,889
Workshops	1,589	-	1,589	6,880
Website	477	-	477	1,975
Events and exhibitions	3,725	-	3,725	6,971
Volunteer Expenses	830	-	830	1,818
Administration Costs	1,101	-	1,101	530
Catering	309	-	309	0
Book	0	2,000	2,000	0
Sundries	74	-	74	0
Marketing	318	-	318	1825
	<u>32,001</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>34,001</u>	<u>27,667</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 NOVEMBER 2025

8. Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Committee Meeting	0	0	0	202
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>202</u>

9. Trading Costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Merchandise	3,098	0	3,098	712
	<u>3,098</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,098</u>	<u>712</u>

10. Movement in Funds

	As of 30 Nov 2024	Receipts	Payments	As of 30 Nov 2025
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>				
General Fund	33,299	38,262	35,099	36,462
<u>Restricted Funds</u>				
Fund (1)	2,000	0	2,000	0

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. The restricted fund (1) was a grant from The William Syson foundation for use to produce a book celebrating 50 years of the Scottish pottery Association.