

APPENDIX 1



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	1st	February	2024	To	31st	January	2025

Charity name
Other names charity is known by
Registered charity number
Charity's principal address

Ellon and District Men's Shed
SC044586
Hospital Road
Ellon
Postcode AB41 9AW

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Andrew Leonard	Chairman/Treasurer		AGM election
2	Colin Gibb	Vice Chairman		AGM election
3	Gillian Forrest	Secretary	From 16/06/2025	Trustees
4	Ronnie Gair	Trustee		AGM election
5	Alexander Burnett	Trustee		AGM election
6	Ian Elder	Trustee		AGM election
7	Duncan Macrae	Trustee		AGM election
8	John (Jim) Hardy	Trustee		AGM election
9	Allan Forrest	Trustee		AGM election
10	Mike Bruce	Trustee		AGM election
11	Niall Webster	Trustee		AGM election
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Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year
William Kerr, Secretary	01/02/2024 – 28/08/2024
Piero Pintus, Trustee	01/02/2024 – 28/08/2024
John (Jim) Hardy & Allan Forrest	From 24/10/24 onwards

Type of governing document

Constitution

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Nominations at AGM and co-options at other times.

Gillian Forrest co-opted 16/6/25

Charitable purposes

The purpose of the organisation is to provide recreational facilities and advance the social needs, health and wellbeing of men of all ages and backgrounds living in Ellon and surrounding area

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

- a) Creating, developing and maintaining a facility, namely a Men's Shed.
- b) Offering opportunities for men in the Ellon area to meet and undertake creative, physical, purposeful and recreational activities of their choice.
- c) Reducing isolation of men in the area thus contributing to their physical and mental wellbeing.
- d) Developing the capacity of men in the Ellon area to share their skills and knowledge with others in the community.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

I will talk about what we've done in the 12 months since the last AGM. The year has been another busy one for the Shed – we've had a good number of new members and visitor numbers are back to pre-Covid levels. We've made significant changes to the workshops and increased the activities that the members can do.

In terms of membership and visitor numbers – total membership is over 200, of course many are infrequent visitors or 'sleeping members'. We are updating individuals' membership 'status' via a new membership form. We have a good number (nearly 50) of 'core' members who attend on a regular basis. In terms of visits to the Shed this has shown a progressive increase over the last 4 years – the average visits per week was 16 in 2020; 23 in 2021, 38 in 2022 and 47 in 2023 and 2024.

Sadly, we lost two Shed members this year – Laurence Galvin and George Robb. Both were enthusiastic shed members who succumbed to long term illnesses.

We've made big changes this year to improve the indoor workspaces and to further increase the range of activities available to our members. In spring 2024 we embarked on a major revamp of the main wood working workshop – we changed the workbenches, adding wheels to some, shifted cupboards and revamped the extraction system. This has made the workspace more flexible, safer and improved the air extraction (but further extraction improvements are needed).

The biggest workshop change was the installation of a 2nd portacabin as a mechanical workshop. We received planning permission and soon after we bought the cabin (which was funded by the Communities Mental Health and Well Being Fund). The cabin was installed in October and quickly came into operation for the refurbishing of bikes & motorbikes and for cold metal forming. As a result, the number of bikes we are fixing/selling increased and we also refurbished two motorbikes and a 3rd is being worked on now.

This portacabin is a tremendous new asset for the Shed – but we could be making more use of it if we had more members who wanted to get actively involved in bike/motorbike refurbishing. Cycling UK (via the Aberdeenshire Bothy) have supported one of our members to attend bike maintenance courses (to Silver level), so we now have accreditation for repairing bikes and we have hosted 2 bike maintenance training courses at the Shed.

In autumn 2024 we purchased a laser engraving machine for high-precision marking and engraving on wood, slate and other hard materials. The combination of 3D printer, laser engraver and CNC router means we have added high tech, high precision crafting/wood working tools to our capabilities.

The IT training initiative with Aberdeenshire, Community Learning and Development (CLD) is continuing and proving to be very popular. The drop-in sessions are on Thursdays at 10.30-11.30. Ian Elder is progressing his SQA qualification to further support this activity and to help Shed members increase their computing skills and to provide training in 3D printing etc..

To accommodate the increased use of computers, especially associated with the training, 3D printing, the CNC machine and laser engraving we have expanded our computing area in the main shed. To do this, the model railway was dismantled (we also had no members interested in the model railway).

The main activities of members are woodworking, bike restoration, furniture refurbishment, 3D printing and gardening but we have significant other activities: laser engraving, CNC, motorbike restoration, picture framing. Examples of items made includes: Vespa Scooters, hedgehog houses and feeding stations, benches, log stores, bird tables, bird boxes (including an owl box), signposts, wooden mushrooms, planters, wooden poppies for Remembrance Day, house signs and window boxes.

In summer 2024 at the request of the Scottish Invasive Species Initiative we made 20 floating platforms that trap or record the presence of mink. In April 2025 we started making another 20.

The CNC machine that we acquired in 2022 is getting more use. There is a significant learning curve for those wanting to use it and John Urquhart and Charlie Forrest have been training others, creating bespoke items and running demonstrations at the Open Days. Ralph Watson is using the machine to create bespoke tables for his bonsai trees.

We received numerous donations of tools (manual and powered) through the year. Where appropriate we use them ourselves or we offer them to other sheds, members or to Stella's Voice.

On the gardening front the polytunnel was well used last summer – with lots of tomatoes and other veg. In 2024 Richard Jones used one of the greenhouses to grow heritage tomatoes – and David Stark is using the other greenhouse this summer.

Our pétanque piste was completed in summer 2024 and we established a pétanque club (for men and women) with our first meeting held on the 8th August. The club is now affiliated with the Scottish Pétanque Association and has been running every week since – with some gaps for weather during the winter months.

Harry Emslie has continued with his terrific gardening work at Ythanvale and has been largely responsible for maintaining their gardens.

We'd like to attract more men who are in full or part time employment. We experimented with Thursday evening opening to try and attract men with full time jobs – but we didn't have any takers. We have significant capability at the Shed (3D printing, laser engraving, CNC router, picture framing, bike maintenance...) that more men could use. We need ideas on how to attract them.

We have been very successful with our fund raising in the last year.

In December we received a grant of £18903 from the Just Transition Participatory Budgeting Fund for the installation of solar panels and associated battery and electrical work. This work was started in March 2025 and is expected to be completed shortly. We hope it will reduce our electrical bills by 25-50%. Thanks goes to all the people from Aberdeenshire who voted for this project.

We have received £7500 from the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (round 4) to support our mechanical workshop and our running costs in 2025. We also were delighted to receive £500 from Greens in Ellon from their Christmas collection and a very generous donation of £2000 from the crew of the Ocean Endeavour's Christmas collection.

In March 2025 we received £6000 from Rural Communities Poverty Alleviation Fund for equipment and materials to expand our activities beyond what we would otherwise be able to do. All the workshop areas and the garden benefitted from this grant.

We have also recently received £1500 from the George Crombie Trust to go towards our running costs.

In terms of 'external' events. We held an open day 11th May 2024 giving visitors a chance to have a look round, see what we are doing, play with the railway and, of course, have tea, cake and burgers.

On the 10th April, in collaboration with Aberdeenshire Council's Community & Learning team, we held a Family Learning Workshop at the Shed. Several families with young children came along and had a good time undertaking some craft and model building activities and watched a demonstration of the Shed's 3D printer.

In May 2024 and March 2025 we had a visits from the 2nd Ellon Brownies to learn some basic 'workshop' skills and learn a bit about how to use tools safely.

On the 30th November we held a pre-Christmas Open Day. A big thank you to all the Shed members who produced items to sell.

On 25th October we held a fund raising quiz at McDonald Golf Club.

With the cost of living crisis affecting the pockets of many people. We again decided to open the Shed as a 'Winter Café' for adults to come for warmth, company, refreshment and food. We opened every second Wednesday through November until late February. Attendance was variable (zero to 20).

To conclude, I look forward to the rest of 2025.

We want to replace the polytunnel with a polycarbonate version and are seeking funding for that. We will also seek funds to further upgrade the extraction system.

In March we submitted an Expression of Interest to Aberdeenshire Council for a Community Asset Transfer of the Shed. This is because our lease runs out in 2030 and we have run out of internal and external space at the Shed. We wish to:

- Secure long-term control of the Shed and it's site by purchase or, long term lease
- Expand the site area
- Ensure long term adequate electrical supply

We will progress the CAT process through 2025. As part of this process we have re-written the Shed's constitution and we are awaiting OSCR's consent will also need to pull together a business plan for the future.

In early 2025 we floated the idea of a 'Women's Shed' to run in parallel with the Men's Shed. There has been considerable interest and initial steps are progressing the idea – closely following the route that has been taken by Westhill Shed.

To be clear – the Men's Shed will continue to operate in its current form on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. The Women's Shed is starting to meet on a Wednesday.

We will continue to try and increase membership, expand into new activities, and provide a safe and enjoyable space for members to socialise and progress their hobbies. We will also look at other ways we can support the members – eg. more health talks, If you have other ideas please let us know.

As the treasurer will tell you, we remain in a healthy financial position which gives us a solid basis to work from.

It's been a very active and progressive year. This doesn't happen without hard work. I'd like to thank all the Trustees for their efforts throughout the year. As Chairman I'd also like to express specific thanks to some others: Mike Bruce for his amazing creations and very hard work before the open days; Elsie Gibb for her support to our external events; Gillian Forrest for taking on the administrative role after Bill Kerr moved to Glasgow; Jane Smith for help with the bookkeeping and accounts; John Urquhart for CNC, the constitution and CAT process;

Please remember this is your Shed and we welcome your ideas and feedback on better ways to support you and the community. We also would welcome members to step up and become trustees to help run the Shed – the effort needs to be shared about.

One last comment, as the Trustee's know, it is my intent to stand down as Chairman by the end of the year. I will have been in the role for over 4 years. I will not leave the Shed in the lurch and will carry on as Treasurer and will stick with the CAT process.

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	We aim to maintain reserves amounting to c 3 months' running costs.
Details of any deficit	No deficits
Donated facilities and services (if any)	

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)	<div>AJ Leonard</div>
Full name(s)	Andrew Leonard
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chairman
Date	26/06/2025

ELLON & DISTRICT MEN'S SHED **SC044586**
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCLUDING RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

		Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2025	Total Funds 2024
	<i>Notes</i>	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS					
Grants	<i>1</i>	28,403	1,000	29,403	4,335
Donations		-	2,903	2,903	4,583
Receipts from Fundraising Activities		-	3,657	3,657	3,770
Receipts from Charitable Activities		-	7,548	7,548	7,685
Investment Income		-	108	108	-
		28,403	15,215	43,618	20,373
PAYMENTS					
Resources Expended for Fundraising		-	393	393	1,331
Resources Expended for Charitable Activities		11,722	17,702	29,424	21,985
Governance Costs - Independent Examination		-	180	180	180
		11,722	18,275	29,997	23,497
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) resources for Year		16,681	(3,060)	13,622	(3,124)
Total Funds at 1 February 2024		1,913	16,439	18,351	21,475
Total Funds at 31 January 2025		18,594	13,379	31,973	18,351

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year.
The above receipts and payments are split between restricted and unrestricted funds.

ELLON & DISTRICT MEN'S SHED
STATEMENT OF BALANCES
AS AT 31 JANUARY 2025

SC044586

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Cash and Bank Balances at 1 February 2024	1,913	16,439	18,351	21,475
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	16,681	(3,060)	13,622	(3,124)
Cash and Bank Balances at 31 January 2025	18,594	13,379	31,973	18,351

Cash & Bank Balances as at 31 January 2025:

Treasurers Account	3,793.41
Instant Access Account	27,483.79
Account 2	334.07
Petty Cash in Hand	361.36
	<u>£31,972.63</u>

Fixed Assets

CNC Machine (Year 3/7)	£7,000.00
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The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on..... 6/26/2025
and were signed on its behalf by:

AJ Leonard

.....

Trustee
Andrew Leonard

ELLON & DISTRICT MEN'S SHED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

SC044586

Nature & Purpose of Funds

The organisation successfully applied for funding for various projects and equipment with funding held as restricted and spent under the terms of the relevant funding agreements. Unrestricted funds consist of donations, fundraising and sales of new and refurbished items.

Trustee Remuneration & Expenses

No remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee in this period.

Direct reimbursement of purchases on behalf of the organisation were paid to 6 trustees on submission of receipts. These payments amounted to £993.80.

Grants

1 CMHW Fund	£2,000 (restricted)
CMHW Fund	£7,500 (restricted)
Just Transition Fund	£18,903 (restricted)
Robertson Trust	£500 (unrestricted)
Formartine Rural Partnership	£500 (unrestricted)
	£29,403

ELLON & DISTRICT MEN'S SHED
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025

SC044586

Receipts	£	Payments	£
3D printer	63.00	3D printer	138.51
Bank Interest	108.09	Benches	230.80
Benches	677.56	Bike costs	80.88
Bike sales	646.92	Building Maintenance	1,526.98
Building work	120.00	Building work	1,981.20
Cards	9.50	Christmas items	15.44
Christmas items	797.94	CNC	374.07
CNC	395.00	Extra space	7,192.41
Donations	2,902.53	Furniture assembly-repair	0.00
Easy Fundraising	40.40	Garden	554.02
Furniture assembly-repair	130.00	Grants	667.94
Garden	105.00	Major Eqpt	1,713.96
Grants	29,403.00	Metal Forming	285.36
Kindling	39.59	Miscellaneous	298.96
Laser engraver	12.00	Motorbike costs	239.54
Metal Forming	5.00	Picture Framing	5.00
Miscellaneous	236.97	Quiz	46.00
Miscellaneous Refurbishing	743.00	Railway	0.00
Picture Framing	70.00	Running costs	6,034.46
Quiz	645.00	Teas/coffees/burgers	331.62
Railway	100.00	Solar	3,938.07
Teas/coffees/burgers	2,124.46	Tools	359.15
Tools	341.00	Trailer	631.94
Trailer	237.97	Training	30.00
Wooden items	3,637.17	Workshop supplies	3,320.54
Workshop supplies	27.32		
	43,618.42		29,996.85

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
Ellon & District Men's Shed
Registered Charity Number: SC044586**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st January 2025 which are set out on pages 7 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of 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 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required 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 2006 Accounts 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.

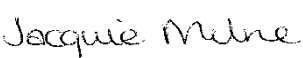
Independent examiner's statement

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

Signed: 

Name: Jacquie Milne

Designation: Finance & Administration Manager, Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action

Address: AVA, PO Box 18706, Peterhead, AB42 9BA

Date: 26 June 2025