

**Crathes Public Hall Trust (SCIO 043007)**  
**Annual Report**  
**1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024**

It has been a very productive and progressive year at Crathes Hall.

During July and August 2023, we saw the Hall close to allow for the internal renovation and insulation works to be carried out.



Before any works could take place, remedial under floor timber treatments were undertaken to reinstate and preserve some of the woodwork under the hall.

The east and west facing internal walls were then removed, further “damp related” remedial woodwork was undertaken before insulation was inserted. The walls were relined, and new panelling attached.

New windows were installed all round along with various electrical works to transform the lights to LED and hand dryers installed in the toilets; all this to increase the energy efficiency of the hall. New external fire doors were also installed.

As can be seen from the financial revue, the works were broadly funded by a combination of grants and ongoing loans.

The past year has seen a “steady state” of Trustees at the Hall that has provided an excellent balance of intervention and ability.

The current Board of Trustees is as follows;

- Neil McHattie – Convener
- Joan Willox – Secretary
- John Gaunt – Treasurer

- Jac Elliot – Booking Secretary
- Jennifer McHattie, Derek Johnston, Geoff Knight, Bert McIntosh, William Binnie, Gareth Hunt, Sophie Wright
- 1 x vacancy

## **Bookings and Hall use**

Regular bookings for Yoga, TRX, Core strength, Table Tennis, Footstars, Morris Men and HIT fitness continue to be extremely popular at the Hall, which all contribute to a healthy average of 120 hours of hire / use per month.

Over and above the regular hires we had 4 Hall organised music events – Adam Holmes, Gnos, RANT and Lauren Collier, 25 children’s birthday parties, 3 overnight hires, 2 Craft Fairs and numerous other meetings and workshop type events, that meant the Hall remains as popular as ever.

## **Station Wood**

The process to purchase the 2.2-acre woodland surrounding the Hall from the National Trust for Scotland was completed in the autumn of last year.

Since then, a local fencing contractor has kindly donated a new fence along the boundary between the Hall and the main road.

In order to comply with the funding that was provided to support the purchase a Community event is being planned for later this summer.

## **Other matters**

### **1. Solar Panels**

Over the past 6 – 8 months, a small group of Trustees have been exploring options to locate solar panels on the Hall roof in order to further enhance our energy efficiency. At the time of writing, it has been proposed to site 22 panels on the west facing roof. The project is being significantly funded by CARES with a top-up contribution from Hall funds.

There are a couple of minor structural enquiries ongoing however once complete the Hall stands to benefit from a real term saving of about £1500 per annum in heating costs.

### **2. Chairs**

In last years report it was mentioned that a further 25 chairs were to be purchased from the supplier of the 100 that we already have. In April 2023 the order was placed and £2762.63 was paid.

After several months of hearing no update regarding the chairs, enquiries began to be made with the supplier, Rosehill Furnishings Ltd. Who proved very difficult to contact. In



April 2024 notification was received to the effect that Rosehill had gone into Administration. A claim for compensation has been lodged with Administrators and this remains ongoing.

The Hall remains a hugely important resource for the Community and is facility beloved and enjoyed by many, many people.

The work that has already been undertaken has been well received and supported by the Community.

Next years report will further detail work that has more recently been completed and will hopefully include updates on the installation of solar panels and a new kitchen.

The current group of Trustees are enthusiastic and keen to work on behalf of the Hall and Community.

The Trustees have a sense of renewed vigour and are working hard in to make the Hall the best place it can possibly be to safeguard it's use for generations to come.

**Neil McHattie**  
**Convener,**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**July 2024**