

BORDER BOTHIES ASSOCIATION



School children walking out from Fingland – Winter 2024



Two groups of school children crossing over at Stanhopehope – Winter 2024

57th ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

2024 - 2025

Border Bothies Association

A Charity Registered in Scotland SC 006486

57th Annual Report & Accounts (October 2024 - September 2025)

Office Bearers:

President: David Dixon (Prestonpans)
Vice-President: Vacancy
Secretary & Treasurer: Keith Anderson (Musselburgh)

Bothy Convenors: David Dixon (Prestonpans) - Glensax
Chris Dixon (Inverness) - Stanhopehope
Alex Scroggie (Bishopbriggs) - Fingland
John Campbell (Ardchattan) – Barrs
Tom Sharp (Dunbeg) – Barrs
Murray Young (Dunbeg) – Barrs to Jan '25
Alan McQuiston (Ayr) - Polmood

Principal Address: 7 Oswald Terrace, Prestonpans EH32 9EG

Independent Examiner: Christine Peace, 35 Clarebank Crescent,
Edinburgh EH6 7NL

Bankers: TSB, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4TS

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES: To maintain overnight shelters (bothies) in suitable condition where young persons can spend their leisure in recreational and educational pursuits so that they may learn to know and appreciate the countryside.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT: Founded 1968 incorporating the *Glensax Lodge Association* founded 1967. The Association elects Office Bearers rather than Trustees who are eligible for re-election every year and who are responsible for the affairs of the Association. As well as the AGM there are usually two meetings of Office Bearers each year. There are no sub-committees of the Association. The Association has negotiated Public Liability Insurance to cover any claims against it. The constitution has been accepted by OSCR and the Scottish Borders Council in whose jurisdiction we mainly operate.

PREVIEW

Although usage has dropped slightly from the previous year it is still at a very satisfactory level especially since we are now having to cope with a shooting season and new rules which are affecting access to Fingland. Those using the bothies are very appreciative of the facilities the Association provides. Here are some recent encouraging comments from youngsters using our bothies:

"I left my home and you gave me another place to call home" – MissAdventure Cycling Group.

"All round experience was wonderful" – Venture Scotland.

"Great wee place as always, we'll be back" – Bothwell Scouts.

"Clearly the BBA have invested a great deal of time and energy in improving the bothy, many thanks" Cockleroy Explorer Scouts at Glensax.

1. MEMBERSHIP

Membership stands at 24 which is an adequate number to allow the Association to function effectively.

2. OVERNIGHTS & USAGE 2024-25 (2023-24 figures in brackets and 1966-2025 figures at the end of the Report).

	Nights Open		Overnights	
Glensax Lodge	12	(13)	21	(33)
Stanhopehope	29	(36)	295	(365)
Fingland	22	(22)	168	(156)
Polmood (Albert Watson Memorial Hut)	107	(110)	233	(316)
Barrs	83	(63)	159	(196)
	253	(244)	876	(1066)

3. FINANCE

As forecast we have registered a small deficit for this year but our funds are still more than adequate. We will probably reduce the funds further with more alterations to the gas supplies and work required on the roof at the Polmood Hut. Other equipment may have to be replaced subsequently but we are confident that such expenses will still leave us with more than sufficient for the Association to continue to operate effectively.

4. REPORTS ON BOTHIES; REPAIRS & IMPROVEMENTS

a) GLENSAX LODGE: Re-proofing of the rear roof was completed, the shed door repaired and the porch supports strengthened. The Estate has continued renovating the "Lodge" and done some landscaping at the rear of the building.

b) STANHOPEHOPE: Routine maintenance of the roof, gutters and drainage continues. A better wooden cover for the septic tank has been made and the gas re-positioned at the back of the bothy (outside) and changed to Propane.

c) FINGLAND: Unfortunately one of the severe winter gales peeled back the old corrugated iron roof of the woodshed. This was replaced with Onduline sheeting in April and the structure strengthened. A good deal of pointing of the shed walls has also been done and the storage space better organised. A fair amount of maintenance has also been required on the slated roof of the bothy. The woodworm treatment seems to be effective. We are very grateful to Lady White for organising the transport of materials.

d) ALBERT WATSON MEMORIAL HUT (POLMOOD): The hut gates have been repainted, the leak in the roof repaired and the chimney re-sealed. The woodshed has been treated with preservative and the grounds kept tidy. The gas lighting system has been disconnected but could be connected again if needed. Special electrical fittings have been fitted to the old lights. Plans are in hand to re-cover the roof.

e) BARRS BOTHY: A lot of work was done in the Spring including more tree planting, completing the painting of roof sheets, some pointing and a general tidy-up. A beautiful wooden bench has been donated to the bothy by Murray Young's friends and a cherry tree planted in his memory.

5. OTHER PROJECTS

Members continue to be responsible for the maintenance of a number of MBA bothies and Aidan Hedley has installed solar lighting at the Border Forest Trust's property in Gameshope.

6. BBA NEWS

Four people long connected with the BBA have died during the year under review. Valerie Robertson edited our Newsletter for many years and made it a very interesting and informative publication. Murray Young was one of the Convenors for Barrs' and spent many enjoyable times in that area canoeing and fishing.. Iain Miller was a joiner who did a huge amount of work for the MBA and as a Boys' Brigade Leader enjoyed taking the youngsters to the BBA bothies and helping with any work required. Jenny Brockie along with her late husband Bill, looked after Hope bothy until Bill retired, and took part in many BBA social events, organising a Summer barbecue at Hope every year. Many of her family stayed at the bothies over the years and her son Nick was Convenor of Hope (before Bill and Jenny) and then took on Auchope when we were given the use of it in 1993. We are indeed fortunate to have had such dedicated people willing to support the Association over the years and we will miss their presence among us.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


We are extremely grateful to the bothy owners, the local farmers and shepherds for their friendship, assistance and support for the aims of the Association, without which we could not operate.

We are also indebted to the members who give up their time, talents and equipment to help keep the bothies in good condition, and to Christine Peace who kindly audits our accounts at no cost to the Association.

8. CONCLUSION

The continuing restrictions at some of the bothies may constrain usage again in the coming year but the links being built with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme may bring additional usage. It is fascinating that we were recently contacted regarding a possible bothy in Wester Ross – well over 60 years since the first BBA type bothy at Upper Brotherstone, Midlothian. The building concerned may now be run by the MBA, but it is good to know that we are held in such high regard still in Scotland and Northern England.

It is my great privilege to present this Report for the approval of the Membership.



David Dixon, President 8th November 2025

APPROVED by the MEMBERSHIP at the AGM and signed on their behalf

BORDER BOTHIES ASSOCIATION (SC006486)
Year from 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025

Receipts and Payments Accounts

	Unrestricted Funds 2024-25 £	Restricted Funds 2024-25 £	TOTAL 2024-25 £	TOTAL (last year) 2023-24 £
Receipts				
Membership Fees	24.00		24.00	24.00
Donations - General	3029.00		3029.00	3256.74
Total Receipts	3053.00	0.00	3053.00	3280.74

Payments

Gas and Accessories	476.50		476.50	166.00
Gas Alterations	828.00		828.00	0.00
Gifts to Estates and others	40.00		40.00	33.00
Affiliation Fees	45.00		45.00	45.00
Maintenance and Stores	600.39		600.39	522.65
Public Liability Insurance	570.57		570.57	557.15
Trustee Liability Insurance	341.67		341.67	341.67
Buildings Insurance (Polmood)	451.80		451.80	442.00
Fire Extinguisher Testing	120.00		120.00	90.00
AGM expenses	0.00		0.00	33.00
Donation to Venture Scotland	0.00		0.00	820.00
Re-rpofing Fingland Shed	250.32		250.32	0.00
Total Payments	3724.25	0.00	3724.25	3050.47

Excess of Receipts over Payments			-671.25	230.27
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Statement of Balances

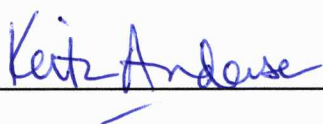
Funds	£
Total brought forward	10759.62
Surplus for year	-671.25
Carried Forward	10088.37

Represented by	£
Lloyds Bank (TSB) Bank Account	10000.64
Cash	87.73
	10088.37

No Fixed Assets or Investments are held.

There are no outstanding liabilities

The accounts were approved by the Trustees at the AGM on Date: 8th November 2025
For and on behalf of the Trustees



Keith Anderson (Treasurer)

Date: 8/11/25

BORDER BOTHIES ASSOCIATION
Scottish Registered Charity SC 006486

Year from 1st October 2024 to 30th September 2025

Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts of Border Bothies Assoc.

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) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity's 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

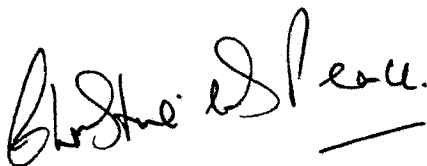
In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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, and
- 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.



Christine Peace
Independent Examiner

35 Clarebank Crescent
Edinburgh EH6 7NL

Accounts Examined 24th October 2025

ANNUAL USAGE 1966-2025

Year	Glensax	S'hope	B'shiels	S'daw	L'chrm	Hope	Auchope	Fingland	Polmood	Barr's	Total	Total Nights Open
66/67	81	-	-	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	81	18
67/68	176	10	5	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	191	43
68/69	211	-	37	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	248	44
69/70	348	16	136	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	500	70
70/71	229	81	192	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	502	84
71/72	241	151	81	-	*	-	-	-	-	-	473	80
72/73	302	145	86	166	*	-	-	-	-	-	699	109
73/74	360	221	123	386	-	-	-	-	-	-	1090	159
74/75	375	199	99	481	-	-	-	-	-	-	1154	150
75/76	400	432	109	760	-	-	-	-	-	-	1701	194
76/77	483	401	104	693	-	-	-	-	-	-	1681	197
77/78	493	423	75	584	15	-	-	-	-	-	1590	176
78/79	434	247	112	510	72	-	-	-	-	-	1375	170
79/80	207	173	60	506	76	-	-	-	-	-	1022	137
80/81	225	234	17	518	107	-	-	-	-	-	1101	125
81/82	178	226	-	144	53	-	-	-	-	-	601	74
82/83	181	247	2	304	118	-	-	-	-	-	852	96
83/84	163	148	-	233	69	-	-	-	-	-	613	79
84/85	147	184	-	458	112	-	-	-	-	-	901	105
85/86	83	53	-	93	68	-	-	-	-	-	297	50
86/87	100	129	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	229	28
87/88	84	182	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	266	24
88/89	74	232	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	306	34
89/90	116	385	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	501	60
90/91	116	283	-	-	-	145	-	-	-	-	544	54
91/92	102	58	-	-	-	214	-	-	-	-	374	45
92/93	103	25	-	-	-	170	23	-	-	-	321	55
93/94	77	83	-	-	-	301	56	-	-	-	517	80
94/95	100	110	-	-	-	322	114	-	-	-	646	86
95/96	90	38	-	-	-	262	110	-	-	-	500	72
96/97	140	86	-	-	-	197	89	-	-	-	512	74
97/98	56	84	-	-	-	171	54	-	-	-	365	69
98/99	60	51	-	-	-	164	25	-	-	-	300	48
99/00	65	105	-	-	-	177	50	-	-	-	397	78
00/01**	66	33	-	-	-	85	7	-	-	-	191	33
01/02	57	32	-	-	-	111	51	-	-	-	251	47
02/03	35	119	-	-	-	226	93	-	-	-	473	72
03/04	105	263	-	-	-	322	101	75	-	-	866	140
04/05	60	436	-	-	-	262	156	146	-	-	1060	157
05/06	132	362	-	-	-	287	96	82	-	-	959	142
06/07	137	323	-	-	-	323	74	125	-	-	982	158
07/08	108	286	-	-	-	331	162	152	90	-	1129	185
08/09	212	220	-	-	-	337	123	164	190	-	1246	180
09/10	56	295	-	-	-	254	205	193	147	-	1150	188
10/11	86	515	-	-	-	-	154	180	232	-	1167	181
11/12	174	317	-	-	-	-	289	154	238	-	1172	183
12/13	32	339	-	-	-	-	89	214	240	79	993	194
13/14	88	239	-	-	-	-	158	309	181	107	1082	196
14/15	81	255	-	-	-	-	119	230	274	142	1101	215
15/16	117	281	-	-	-	-	183	172	264	86	1103	199
16/17	55	248	-	-	-	-	164	221	275	150	1113	211
17/18	122	138	-	-	-	-	42	132	342	114	890	182
18/19	74	184	-	-	-	-	-	168	344	115	885	191
19/20***	21	73	-	-	-	-	-	132	142	63	431	119
20/21***	15	33	-	-	-	-	-	45	186	173	452	190
21/22	26	239	-	-	-	-	-	100	511	200	1076	296
22/23	27	261	-	-	-	-	-	228	427	224	1167	270
23/24	33	365	-	-	-	-	-	156	316	196	1066	244
24/25	21	295	-	-	-	-	-	168	233	159	876	253
TOTAL	8540	11593	1238	5836	690	4661	2787	3546	4632	1808	45331	7393

* Maintained as a Private Bothy

** Activities severely disrupted by Foot & Mouth Disease epidemic.

*** Activities severely disrupted by Coronavirus pandemic