

Helensburgh Festive Lighting Charitable Trust

Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Scottish Charity Number SC034029

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 23rd February 2025

APPENDIX 1

OSCr

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
From	Day	Month	Year	To	Day	Month	Year
	24 th	Feb	2024		23rd	Feb	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name Helensburgh Festive Lighting Charitable Trust

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number SC034029

Charity's principal address "Barremman", Clynder, Argyll and Bute.

Postcode G84 0QX

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	Convenor		
2			
3			
4			
5			

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document The Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and is governed by a Constitution adopted on 11th June 2019.

Trustee recruitment and appointment All Trustees are re-elected by members at the Trust's AGM. In addition, the Board may co-opt any member to be a Trustee. Recruitment of additional Trustees is a standing item at all Board meetings.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes The Trust's objective is the provision of festive lighting in Helensburgh, the provision of recreational activities and the organisation of recreational activities, with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the Community of Helensburgh and Lomond as a whole (the three electoral wards).

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects The Trust's activities comprise the provision, storage, repair, maintenance and installation of Helensburgh's festive lighting display, the establishment of storage and workshop facility, Health and Safety training, fundraising activities and grant funding applications.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Objectives and Governance.

The Trust's Strategic Plan states, "the Trust aspires to repeat the Christmas lights spectacle on an annual basis and to secure sufficient funds to make this possible". The Trustees are delighted to be able to report that the volunteers, known locally as the "Helensburgh Elves" once again achieved this very challenging objective and surpassed all previous outcomes. It was an outstanding year on a number of fronts.

Significant activities.

Thanks to the help of [REDACTED] and fellow registered kennel club judges we were able to hold our second annual local Dog Show in July and this was a resounding success, both as a fundraising venture but more importantly as a very popular social occasion in the town.

All repairs were completed in the Spring and Summer and we were grateful to N.J. Slee Welding and Fabrication for welding repairs to features (including our very special [REDACTED] which ensured they were part of the Christmas show. The team completed the testing and repairs of all the features in time for an October installation. Fundraising continued and thanks to the generosity of one of the Trustees a new venture became part of the summer activities with donated cacti and succulents being sold at the town market. This raised £2140 plus Gift Aid and also helped to maintain a high profile for the Trust and its community project.

Installation on the lights began in October and by the beginning of November the elves had installed the annual Christmas lights display throughout the town centre and once again 150 features, two over street features in Sinclair Street, sixteen illuminated living trees and fifteen halos on the seafront were ready for the switch on, scheduled for the 23rd November.

Luss Estates once again donated and delivered the Christmas tree for the square and, with the help of local businesses, West Coast Cutters, M&T Builders Merchants and James Daly & Son Scaffolders a magnificent thirty-five foot fir tree was installed. The elves moved in and decorated "Douglas", completing all the work needed for the town to be ready to welcome Santa.

This year the Christmas Lights Switch On once again received funding from Argyll and Bute Council' Strategic Events and Festival fund and this enabled the Trust to expand the community entertainment on the stage, all organised by local volunteers, [REDACTED] who make sure all our entertainers are welcomed and appreciated. We are very grateful for the support given by Argyll and Bute Council and our band of happy entertainers.

The Switch On event was a difficult day weather wise, our worst day since the inception of the switch on event. It was bitterly cold, we even had snow first thing in the morning, but we managed to fulfil most of our planned programme. Santa arrived on time, splendid atop his heritage fire engine, kindly brought to Helensburgh once again by the team from Scottish Fire and Rescue Heritage Trust. Loud applause and cheers from the large crowd, all in their big coats, was really welcome and everyone was determined to enjoy and support the event regardless of the cold.

We were delighted that Bethesda and Baptist churches braved the cold and encouraged everyone to join in with their hearty carol singing and that our usual band of very enthusiastic teenagers, dressed as characters from Christmas stories, took to the stage to welcome Santa and present their very own dance routines. Santa was joined on stage by a very special Helensburgh lady, [REDACTED], who had just celebrated her 100th birthday and she was delighted to press the magic Christmas lights switch with Santa which lit up the town once again for the next four months. Thanks to Grey Matters for all their help in making Isa's birthday very special and for their donation of a special feature to mark the occasion.

The lights were spectacular, our repairs over the summer months to a number of lights had added more colour to the display and we received very positive feedback on the lights this year, with many commenting that this was our best show and we had obviously bought a number of new features! Let's hear it for the repair team, well done all of you.

The Christmas lights were removed the week after Twelfth Night but the sixteen trees in the town square remained lit until the end of March, an extremely popular attraction for residents and visitors alike in the dark months of winter. The provision of Helensburgh's festive lighting display involves over eight thousand hours of voluntary labour from a team of seven volunteers.

The volunteers work at least one day a week on the Christmas lights project in the grotto, kindly donated by an extremely generous and supportive local businessman without whom this project would not be possible, and additionally spend two weeks on the installation and one week on the take down.

Our team of volunteers works together to ensure a professional and competent approach to what is a very complex project and compliance with all current Health and Safety requirements is standard practice.

We are very grateful for the help that we receive from local officers of Argyll and Bute Council, particularly with regards to the crib. This year we were especially grateful for the help with cold/freezing weather preparation that was essential on switch on day. Without this assistance the event could not have gone ahead and we really did appreciate the fact that everyone pulled together to ensure that all our objectives were achieved once again for Christmas 2024. We are extremely pleased to record that our Partnership Agreement with Argyll and Bute Council has been extremely successful and productive over many years.

Investment in infrastructure both at the grotto and for the events is now paying dividends and we are able to stage two professional events in the town and comply with the very high standards demanded nowadays from event organisers.

In addition to actually completing all the work, the elves have to raise all the necessary funds for the project. This year we raised a significant sum, £25,000, a most impressive total given the current economic times. We received a number of very generous donations this year including Bethesda Church, the Lions Club, HEART, RAOB, D.C Fraser, the Ashton bar and once again our local Knit and Natter group selected the Christmas Lights as their chosen charity. We also receive an impressive number of donations in kind from local businesses, particularly the Clyde Café and Viton Services Ltd. which saves on revenue costs. We are greatly indebted to the local community for the support that we receive and the fun we have achieving the common goal of the town's Christmas Lights. In particular, we are grateful for the support we receive from the Beacon Trust who assist us with transport of infrastructure and we are pleased to be able to support them in return.

The "elves" receive many appreciative comments and feedback and the lights are still worthy of the accolade, "Best in the West". Local traders tell us that the Christmas lights are a significant economic boost to town businesses. The work involved in the Christmas lights project is very demanding of the volunteers as expectations now run very high because of the outstanding standard of Helensburgh's festive display. Our enthusiasm does not diminish as the years pass because of the appreciation we receive from the local community and the tangible support we receive from sponsors and the town as a whole.

During the year the five Trustees met regularly to ensure the delivery of the lights. The governance of the organisation is robust and the Trust continues to meet all its statutory obligations.

Strategic planning

We intend to maintain our small efforts in support of climate change by further reducing our use of plastics and recycling whenever possible as we move to adopt the use of more multi use plastic ties, an item that is unfortunately a mainstay of our repairs to the features and our working practices. However, a trial on the multi-use items has been successful and we will expand this in future years. All our features are now LED after a number of years of investment and replacement of the original stock.

Fundraising will always need to be the focus of attention for the Trustees in the years ahead as responsibility for this rests solely with the Trust. Our application to Argyll and Bute Council's Strategic Events and Festival fund for £5000 has again been successful for Christmas 2025 and we are delighted that our contribution to the town over the winter months has been recognised and we are very grateful for the generous support. New ideas will be pursued and the Trust will widen the scope of its search for funds and trust that the track record of the organisation and the superb five month display of town lighting will attract funders as it represents an excellent investment when assessed against economic impact and "bang for your buck" criteria.

The Trust always aims to hold a small fund for contingencies, such as weather damage, and replacement of damaged features but always takes the view that funds donated to the Trust are for investment in the project, not for retention in the bank, hence the impressive spend this year on the lights and events, both of which are significant contributions to the life of the Helensburgh community.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The Trust aims to hold a reserve sufficient to make payments when they fall due without recourse to borrowing. The Board reviews the appropriate level of the Trust's uncommitted funds regularly in the light of the Trust's ongoing and anticipated future activities. A financial statement is discussed at each meeting of the Trustees.

Details of any deficit

None

Donated facilities and services (if any)

The provision of a site for the Trust's storage containers and workshop facility ("the grotto").

APPENDIX 1

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (e.g. Chair)

Convenor

Date

18th June 2025

Helensburgh Festive Lighting Charitable Trust

SC034029



Receipts and payments accounts						
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date	
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Year
	23rd	February	2024		24th	February 2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	15,416				15,416	
Legacies					-	
Grants	5,000				5,000	
Receipts from fundraising activities	4,582				4,582	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	24,997	-	-	-	24,997	-
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	24,997	-	-	-	24,997	-
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	15,732				15,732	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	15,732	-	-	-	15,732	-
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	15,732	-	-	-	15,732	-
Net receipts / (payments)	9,266	-	-	-	9,266	-
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	9,266	-	-	-	9,266	-

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	1,022				1,022	
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	9,266				9,266	
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	10,288	-	-	-	10,288	-
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))						

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					
		Total	-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature*

Print Name

Date of
approval

APPENDIX 3



Report to the trustees/members of

Registered charity number
On the accounts of the charity for the period

Set out on pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

Basis of independent examiner's statement

Independent examiner's statement

Signed**:

Name:

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):

Address:

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

v2

Charity name

Helensburgh Festive Lighting Charitable Trust

SC034029

Period start date

Day Month Year

23rd February 2024

to

Period end date

Day Month Year

24th February 2025

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

2 pages Appendix 2

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 trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 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.

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.

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [~~other than that disclosed on the attached page*~~]

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

hed.

Date: 07/04/2025

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

** OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures