



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	01	09	2023	To	31	08	2024

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Community Roots SCIO
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC051963
Charity's principal address	53A Main Street
	West Kilbride
	Postcode KA23 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	Chairperson		
2	Treasurer		
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			

Reference and administration details

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
	5 th February 2023- October 2023

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

The charity is governed by a 2 Tier SCIO constitution.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

At each AGM, the members may elect any member (unless he/she is debarred from membership) to be a charity trustee.

The board may at any time appoint any member (unless he/she is debarred from membership) to be a charity trustee.

At each AGM, all of the charity trustees elected/appointed under shall retire from office – but shall then be eligible for re-election

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The organisation's purposes are to benefit the community of the KA23 postcode and surrounding district, through:

The organisations charitable purposes the advancement of education, the advancement of citizenship or community development and the provision of recreational facilities, or the organisation of recreational activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended by/through: organising gardening, growing food, a community larder and food preparation advice, prescription, and food deliveries, recreating and maintaining a public play park and providing activities for children

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

Community Roots operates the Village Larder in collaboration with North Ayrshire Council's Fairer Food initiative. Located at the West Kilbride Community Centre, our mission is to offer an affordable range of food and essential items. Through regular use, our aim is to help people avoid poverty.

The Community Roots Garden in Main Street West Kilbride is being developed by our social gardening group SHED (Social Horticulture for Experts and Dummies) for food growing. The food produced primarily is for use in the Village Larder. SHED also promotes good physical and mental health wellbeing by bringing people together to socialise and exercise.

Community Roots provides occasional prescription delivery and errand running support as required.

We have supported Age Well (local charity) in running events for older people.

We have continued discussions with North Ayrshire Council and local parents regarding reinstating a swing park in Craufurd Avenue West Kilbride.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

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

Village Larder

Based at West Kilbride Community Centre, the Village Larder provides subsidised essentials to those struggling with the cost of living. Membership has risen from 86 to 127 between August 2023 and 2024, despite the opening of a second North Coast Larder in Largs, where many Ukrainian households have shifted for support. However, we continue to serve members from Largs and Fairlie due to factors such as work commitments and local support networks.

On average, 221 visitors access the Larder each month, including 88 families, 69 individuals living alone, and 64 couples/households without children. Our 17 volunteers, including coordinator Dawn Williamson and three reserve volunteers, are crucial to its operation.

Community support remains strong, with regular contributions from West Kilbride Parish Church, St Bride's Chapel, and local donors through monthly standing orders. Additional fundraising efforts, such as The Rural's Fashion Show, the Village Ceilidh, West Kilbride Community Initiative's Christmas Craft Fayre, and the Reverse Advent Calendar, have provided invaluable support. We also receive a quarterly NAC Fairer Food payment linked to visitor numbers, ensuring the Larder's smooth running.

A successful Communities Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund (CMHWBF) bid funded an administrative assistant in 2023-24, easing the administrative burden on our Larder Coordinator and Chairperson while strengthening the organisation's overall operations.

SHED & Community Roots Garden

The SHED social gardening group meets at Community Roots Garden (115 Main Street, West Kilbride), with additional growing space at 53 Main Street. Despite weather challenges—including an unusually wet summer impacting crop yields—the group has remained resilient, adapting to setbacks and continuing to grow food for the Village Larder.

This year, the SHED group welcomed three new regular volunteers, while long-standing members continue to strengthen their skills and social bonds. The group is multi-generational, with members aged 25 to 70+, an even male/female gender split, and a majority of participants pre-retirement age.

Funding from the CMHWBF has enabled us to employ two part-time Gardening Assistants and retain our Gardening Coordinator, bringing valuable expertise in gardening, construction, nutrition, and fitness. This has injected fresh energy into the project, greatly benefiting both volunteers and the wider community. We were very grateful for an injection of funding from the West Kilbride Community Trust which enabled us to create the much-needed terraced area at the front-right side of the garden. The two large, terraced beds have tripled our growing space and the newly created arbour on the lower terrace gives support to climbing plants as well as supporting the fence.

Garden Haven & Community Initiatives

In 2024, plans began for a Garden Haven, a dedicated space at the top of the Community Roots Garden for year-round wellness workshops, therapeutic gardening, and small community events. Local architect Allan Hill submitted designs to NAC Planning, and we have applied to the National Lottery Community Led Fund for £50,000 to support the build and fund garden staff for three years.

With £1,000 from Participatory Budgeting, we expanded community growing projects, distributing potato-growing trugs, refurbishing raised beds at Halfway Street Amenity Flats with the Environmental Group, and providing the materials for a raised bed project at Headrigg Gardens Sheltered Housing.

Visitors frequently drop by when our gate is open, and our volunteers enjoy giving garden tours. We also welcomed another Age Well walking group this year.

Age Well & Craufurd Simson Park

We continue to support Age Well, having participated in their annual event at the Village Hall, though they are now well-established and no longer require financial anchoring from us.

Meanwhile, Craufurd Simson Park has officially registered as a charity and now operates independently. We believe the project will thrive under its own dedicated board and remain available to offer guidance and promotional support as needed.

Trustees

We are pleased to welcome [REDACTED] as a trustee. Meanwhile, [REDACTED] has stepped down following her move outside Ayrshire.

Efforts to recruit a Board Secretary are ongoing, and we remain committed to filling this role. In the meantime, our freelance administrative assistant continues to provide essential support to the board.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We do not currently have a reserve policy but we are in the process of creating one

Details of any deficit

N/A

Donated facilities and services (if any)

N/A

Other optional information

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) Chairperson

Date

25/2/25

Community Roots SCIO

SC059163



Receipts and payments accounts						
For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date	
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month
	01	09	2023		31	08
			2024			

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	2,082	7,564			9,646	46,394
Legacies					-	
Grants		32,152			32,152	22,941
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	650
Gross trading receipts					-	8,984
Income from investments other than land and buildings	385				385	108
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	12,535				12,535	
					-	
A1 Sub total	15,003	39,716	-	-	54,718	79,077
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	15,003	39,716	-	-	54,718	79,077
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	740
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	13,327	31,492			44,818	55,544
Grants and donations		7,289			7,289	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination	124				124	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	13,451	38,780	-	-	52,231	56,284
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	13,451	38,780	-	-	52,231	56,284
Net receipts / (payments)	1,552	935	-	-	2,487	22,793
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	1,552	935	-	-	2,487	22,793

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	8,534	14,260			22,794	22,794
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	1,552	935			2,487	
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	10,086	15,195	-	-	25,281	22,794
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	0	0	-	-	0	22,793

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

	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	-	-	-

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

	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

25/2/25

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds (may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Total			-

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	x
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Authority under which paid

£

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	x
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Number of trustees

£

C4b Trustee expenses - details

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

C6 Other information

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						v2
Report to the trustees/members of Registered charity number On the accounts of the charity for the period Set out on pages	Charity name	Community Roots SCIO						
	Registered charity number	SC051963						
	Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
	01	09	2023	to	31	08	2024	
								(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>							
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*]</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>have not been met, or</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached. 							
Signed: Name: Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Address:	[Redacted Signature and Address]				Date: 25-2-2025			

*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.

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

**Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose**