

LUMSDEN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Trustee Annual Report & Annual Accounts 2025-2026

SC028733



How Lumsden Community Association operates

Lumsden Community Association operates as a two-tier Scottish charitable organisation made up of members and a Board of Charity Trustees.

Members play an important role in the governance of the charity by attending meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, appointing trustees, and approving any changes to the constitution.

The Board of Charity Trustees is responsible for the day-to-day management and overall direction of the Association. Trustees meet regularly to oversee activities, make decisions in the best interests of the charity, and ensure that finances, governance, and operations are properly managed and monitored.

Trustees are recruited either at AGMs or through Trustee meetings.



TRUSTEE INFORMATION

Name	Role	Date appointed
Thomas Jackson	Chair (resigned)	10 April 2018 to 15 April 2025
Alastair Rhind	Treasurer (resigned)	20 April 2021 to 15 April 2025
Bethany Cross	Trustee	8 September 2022 to 15 April 2025
Kenneth Bruce	Trustee (resigned)	16 April 2024 to 14 April 2025
Sue Cross	Trustee	21 April 2015 to present
Debbie Rennie	Chair	15 April 2025 to present
Maggie Gillies	Treasurer	15 April 2025 to present
Kiera Mauro	Secretary	15 April 2025 to present
Patricia Ellis	Trustee (resigned)	15 April 2025 to 19 May 2026
Jools Mauro	Trustee	15 April 2025 to present
Richard Barrett	Trustee	15 April 2025 to present
Andrew Balchin	Trustee (resigned)	15 April 2025 to 19 May 2026
Sandra Barrett	Trustee (resigned)	15 April 2025 to 19 May 2026
Jools Mauro	Trustee	15 April 2025 to present

Why was our charity set up?

Our community area and purposes as set out in our constitution are:

The Organisation has been formed to benefit the community of **people living in the catchment area of Lumsden Primary School**, with the following purposes:

1. **The advancement of community development**
2. **The provision of recreational facilities, and the organisation of recreational activities**
3. **The advancement of the arts, heritage and culture**
4. **The advancement of environmental improvement**

As a small, geographically isolated village, the community faces particular challenges including limited public transport, lack of local employment, and distance from essential services.

We try and achieve our charitable purposes through our work to:

- Manage and maintain the Lumsden Village Hall as a community asset for the benefit of all residents
- Organise and support community events, social activities and local services
- Strengthen community resilience, cohesion and wellbeing
- Attract and manage funding on behalf of the community for projects that benefit local people
- Support the long-term sustainability of the village and its facilities

During 2025/26 the committee has grown significantly with new trustees joining and a drive to develop governance, subcommittee structures and longer-term strategic planning as well as making sure the voice of the local community is at the heart of our work.

Our strategic direction 2025–2028

A significant milestone in 2025/26 was the development of the LCA’s first formal Strategic Plan, covering the period 2025–2028. This emerged from a Board development session held in June 2025, at which trustees came together to reflect on what the Association stands for and where it wants to go.

Lumsden Community Association Strategic Plan 2025–2028



OUR VISION

Lumsden Community Association commits to relentlessly explore and work towards ways to enrich and improve the lives and spirit of Lumsden Community.'

OUR MISSION

To unite all parts of the community in kindness and equity, providing a vibrant central hub in which to come together

OUR AIMS



MAKING LCA AS STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE AS IT CAN BE



LISTEN, ASK AND CONSULT WITH THE COMMUNITY TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY WANT, INCLUDING THOSE WHO ARE SELDOM HEARD



WORK WITH OTHERS IN PARTNERSHIP TO BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY



MAKE THE HALL A HUB FOR COLLABORATION AND DEVELOPMENT



FACILITATE AND/ OR DELIVER EVENTS FOR THE COMMUNITY

OUR VALUES

Responsibility

Transparency

Integrity

Serve the community

5

Who do we work with?

The LCA primarily serves the residents of Lumsden village and the wider surrounding rural community.

Based on the community survey carried out in summer 2025, the community served includes:

- Residents of all ages: from young families with children under 18 to long-established residents of 60–70+ years
- A predominantly female respondent base, reflecting the demographic of those perhaps most engaged in community life
- Households with and without children
- Long-term residents alongside newer arrivals showing the village attracts incomers who quickly engage
- Non-drivers and those with limited mobility who rely on local facilities and community transport links
- Individuals experiencing social isolation, particularly noted among newer residents and those without private transport

Beyond direct residents, the LCA's hall and events attracted visitors and participants from neighbouring communities such as Rhynie, Kildrummy and the wider Strathdon valley. Regular hall hirers including the Lonach Pipe Band, bingo groups, and Gordon Rural Action.

What did we do?

The Association had a busy and positive year from February 2025 to January 2026. We focused on good governance, legal compliance and careful financial management, while also running community events and improving our hall and facilities.

Governance and Management

Following a period of time of a small number of trustees maintaining the organisation we were delighted in April 2025 when we held our AGM, and a full committee of 9 existing and new trustees were elected and the 2024/25 accounts were audited, approved and submitted to OSCR. During May and June 2025, we began work on updating our vision and mission, and more recently the committee has started to work on sub-groups, to share the work out and involved more members of the community.

Partnership & outreach

Partnership and outreach activity also featured across the year. Since May 2025 the CFine Connecting with Communities van visited the village, offering a community fridge and Gordon Rural Action financial advice support. In November 2025 volunteers installed the village Christmas lights, and the school Parent Council ran a Christmas Fair in the hall, with the Association combining it with the Christmas lights switch-on.

Along with the Scottish Sculpture Workshop, Lumsden Primary School and Lumsden Primary School Parent Council, we also formed **‘Lumsden Together’**, a partnership that allows us to be a collective voice for Lumsden as well as work together, not duplicate activities and secure more funding for the area.

What else did we do?

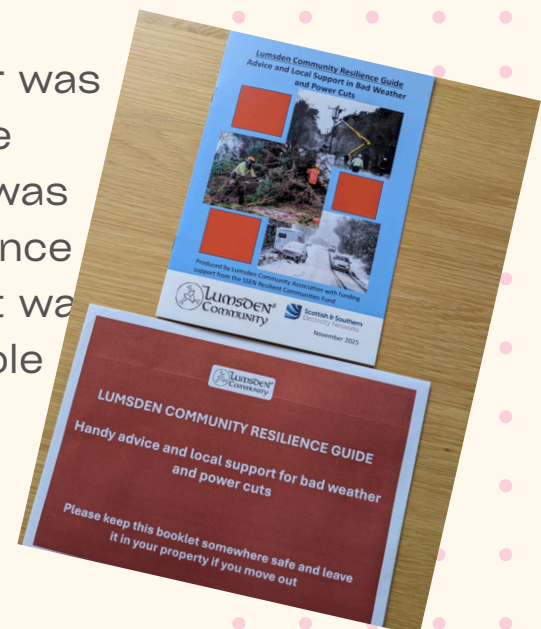
Compliance and Facilities

Several important contracts and safety measures were put in place during the year. In April 2025 we renewed the electricity contract, securing a new three-year EDF tariff at reduced rates, and renewed the Public Entertainment Licence for a further three years. In May 2025 we awarded a new fire safety maintenance contract to Realm Fire & Security, and in July 2025 PAT testing was completed on all hall equipment and a Legionella risk assessment was arranged for the hall water system.

We also invested in facilities. In May 2025 new children's swings were installed in the village park after discussions with the council. In January 2026 we agreed to a new broadband installation for the whole hall.

Digital systems were also modernised. In June 2025 the committee approved the HallMaster booking system and SumUp card payments for events, helping to streamline hall bookings and income collection.

Throughout the year the community generator was kept under review; in September 2025 the Resilience Plan was updated, the generator was tested and, with a huge thanks to our Resilience sub group, an A5 household resilience booklet was drafted and distributed throughout the whole community.



Even more that we did!

Community and Events

Community events remained central to our work, with clear dates across the year. In May 2025 we held the Mary Fair, an outdoor community event with sports, BBQ, entertainment, and stalls. In May 2025 we also ran a pop-up community café in the hall, serving around 43 covers and supported by approximately 53 volunteer hours. A second community cafe took place in July 2025 in a Sunday roast format, serving over 60 covers; a similar community cafe followed in August 2025.

During Summer 2025 we also distributed a community survey, which received 21 responses and helped to inform future planning.

The Lumsden 200 celebrations were held on 18 October 2025, with a daytime treasure trail and an evening ceilidh with the Lonach Pipe Band, attracting over 200 attendees.

On 31 December 2025 we held a Hogmanay event – a ticketed ceilidh-style evening with a bar and received very positive feedback, with a rapid volunteer clean-up. In January 2026 we prepared for a Burns Night “Burnt Oot” event with a band, haggis address, quiz and a volunteer kitchen team.



Volunteers run the Pop Up Shop, which is available at most events. It encourages the reduction and reuse of clothes, games and household items that people can drop off or take for free. It's proved really popular.



What did we achieve?



Between February 2025 and January 2026, the Association became more active, better organised, and more financially secure. We improved governance, delivered more community events, upgraded facilities, and strengthened support for local residents.

1. Stronger Governance and Capacity

The AGM in April brought in more people to help lead the Association and develop new ideas. Trustees worked on updating the vision and mission, and by January 2026 planning was underway for a new budget and the recruitment of a part-time community development worker.

2. Vibrant Community Life

The hall hosted a wide range of events during the year, including the Mary Fair, community cafés, Lumsden 200 celebrations, Hogmanay, and the Free Shop. These activities brought people together, raised funds, and received positive feedback from residents.

3. Improved Facilities and Operations

We made several improvements to keep the hall safe, affordable, and easy to use. This included reducing electricity costs, updating fire and water safety checks, introducing online bookings and card payments, and starting to install faster broadband and Wi-Fi. New swings in the park also improved facilities for local families. Planning also began for future building repairs and upgrades.

What did we achieve?

4. Financial Sustainability

Fundraising events, careful budgeting, and additional grant funding improved the Association's financial position. Multi-year funding awards have also provided greater security for future projects and running costs.

5. Enhanced Community Resilience

Residents were able to access food support, financial advice, and improved emergency planning. Updated procedures and equipment mean the Association is now better prepared to manage risks and respond to local disruptions.

6. Listening to the Community

A community survey in January 2026, along with feedback from events throughout the year, showed strong support for the Association's work. Residents highlighted the need for more activities for children, young people, and adults. This feedback is helping shape plans and projects for 2026/27.



What difference do we hope we have made?

The Association's work in 2025/26 helped strengthen community life in Lumsden in several ways

Social connection and belonging

Regular events helped people meet others, reduce isolation, and feel more connected to the village. Events such as Mary Fair, Lumsden 200, Hogmanay, and Burns Night also strengthened local pride and community spirit.

Mental health and wellbeing

Friendly, low-cost activities such as bingo, cafés, and wellbeing sessions gave people opportunities to socialise and stay connected. Local events are especially important in rural areas where travel can be difficult.

Financial benefits for the community

Fundraising events generated income that can be reinvested into the hall, facilities, and future activities. Affordable events and donation-based cafés also helped residents access food and social activities at low cost.

Stronger partnerships and organisations

Working with groups such as the Parent Council and Lumsden Together helped build stronger links across the community and support joint activities and projects. A busy programme of events also helps demonstrate to funders that the Association is active and trusted.

Keeping the Hall at the centre of village life

Regular activities, including fitness groups, pipe band practice, bingo, and social events, kept the hall well used and valued by the community. Increased use of the hall also encourages volunteering and greater involvement in future projects.

FINANCE

The Association remained in a strong and stable financial position throughout 2025/26. Total income for the year was £35,403.06, with the majority coming from grant funding, alongside fundraising events, hall rental income, donations, and other community activities.

Over the year, the Association secured and managed several important funding streams. In May 2025, the remaining £2,500 from Foundation Scotland for the Transition & Sustainability project was received. In July 2025 £6,100 was received from the Wheedlemont Turbine Fund, with ongoing annual income expected. The SSEN Resilience Project balance of £2,997 was retained within the accounts, and AVA awarded £11,950 towards the planned community development worker post through the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund.

Careful financial management helped keep expenditure low at £13,385.79, while still supporting charitable activities, hall improvements, maintenance, and day-to-day running costs. This resulted in a year-end surplus of £21,917 and total funds of £51,542.60.

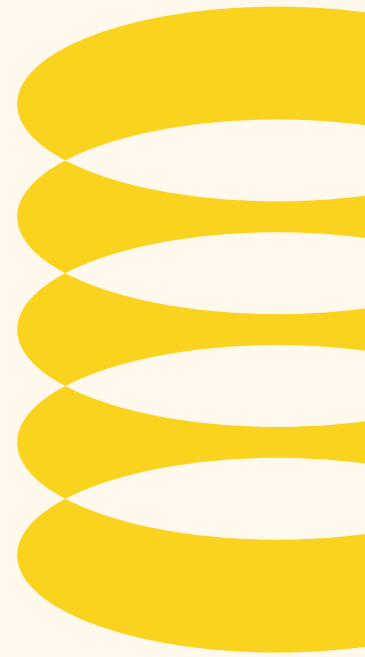
This positive financial position gives the Association a stronger foundation for future work. Multi-year grant awards and increased fundraising income provide greater confidence in covering core costs and developing new projects for the community. The year also showed the value of local support, with events and hall use continuing to generate income while bringing people together. Overall, the Association is now in a healthier and more sustainable position to maintain the hall, improve facilities, and expand community activities in the years ahead.



FUTURE PLANS

As we plan for 2026-27, we want to strengthen our Lumsden Together work, will be recruiting our first staff member in the role of Community Development Worker.

We will also be developing our sub groups who will have a particular focus on areas such a building work, events, fundraising and governance and would welcome new members to join these.



The Board extends its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the key trustees, members, volunteers, partners and Lumsden residents that drive this work on



Signed:

Name: Debbie Rennie

Position: Chair

Date: 19 May 2026