



Radio West Fife (SCIO) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation  
Number: SC048378



# Annual Report 2024/2025

The year since the last AGM has probably been both challenging and exciting in equal measure. After the challenges of the previous year this year started with more of the same but, with hard work and dedication from several Trustees we have come out of the year with exciting opportunities.

We have continued to face challenges in fundraising and volunteer recruitment and maintaining normal operation of the station has, at times, been challenging. Programming has continued on the remote only basis put into place following our exit from Rosyth Business Centre in October 2024.

Most of our previous fundraising through public events is no longer available with only 1 such event being available to us this year. We have failed to identify new and sustainable source of income.

Having surrendered our FM licence in 2024 it was not clear the best direction of the station. Fortunately, events in 2025 have brought new opportunities and successes which make 2026 look like a very exciting year.

The Trustees have taken steps to make the station more financially stable but that remains a challenge and needs to be an area of constant focus.

There are both challenges and opportunities facing the station in 2026, and it is essential that we take constant action to address any challenges in our income, maintaining a full schedule, training new volunteers and growing the station. None of these will be achieved without everyone involved in the station doing more than they may have done in the past. One or 2 individuals cannot keep Radio West Fife running and growing without a significant uplift in involvement from all members and new members coming on board. It is not unreasonable to highlight that, without a significant uplift in income new volunteers and activity, the station's future is challenging.

Following receipt of support from Fife Council we have now secured a new studio facility in Blairhall Community Centre which we will develop.

In October 2025 we were also awarded a Community DSP licence which will allow us to broadcast on DAB and discussions have commenced on that opportunity.

## Programming

This year the schedule has remained as previous years with a broad mix of programmes. Again, this year, not enough new presenters have joined us during the year and bringing their own personality to our output. We have supplemented our programming with several syndicated programmes which on some days are the mainstay of our output. There remain continued, unacceptable gaps in the schedule and the lack of continuity of live programmes during broadcast hours certainly does not help maintaining and growing listeners. This means there are still opportunities to develop our output. Live music and the promotion of new and unsigned, local artists has continued to be a strength of the station this year with some top-quality programming maintaining our position as a supporter of the local music scene.

With new opportunities now in DAB broadcasting developing full, varied and engaging programme output will be part of making DAB a success.

# Community

As a community organisation we have continued to struggle in growing our profile with the community. There is still lots of opportunity to grow this. Much of this has been down to individuals taking the lead on different activities. This remains a challenge with still not enough being done in this area. There are lots of opportunities and the station must put itself out there to engage community groups and events and be seen to be part of or community. This will drive listeners as well as making Radio West Fife the main choice for local radio.

Fortunately, we had 2 new Roadshow invitations in Crossgates and South Dunfermline which both boosted our profile but were enjoyed by those members who supported them. We also attended the Donkey Brae event in Aberdour which has become a regular event for us.

# Funding

As a charity, the money we spend is the money that is raised by the membership or the organisation.

This year income had continued to be challenge with too few advertisers and declining funding for running the station. In fact, without donations from some Trustees and some our bills being paid personally by individual Trustees the station would struggle. This reliance on Trustee support can only ever be temporary, and the new Board need to make it a priority to replace this generosity with secure and sustainable sources of income.

During the year we have ran a small number of successful fundraising Quiz Nights that have brought in much needed cash. Sadly, many members have not supported any of these evenings and it is hoped that more will.

Grant funding is essential for the development of the station. This year we were fortunate to receive a grant from Fife Council, South West Fife Local Community Budget. This is intended to support development of bringing a working Radio station in Blairhall Community Centre.

As has been said before it is essential we have a strong fundraising team, so I would encourage members to consider their ability to support this work. At present funds are primarily raised through membership fees and roadshow donations. It has been clear that these are not meeting all our day-to-day expenditure and over the last few years we have been dependent on reserves to meet station costs.

# Membership and Training

We have not conducted volunteer training since before the pandemic. We have had enquiries over the last few years and have tried to maintain interest but need to refocus our efforts to bring any members on board. Again, this is not sustainable if we want to grow and expand our programming.

We urgently need members to step up to provide training for new volunteers and in the coming year we should appoint someone to take on volunteer recruitment.

## **IT & Technical**

With the closure of the studio in Rosyth Business Centre our previous studio equipment remained in storage. We will look at utilizing this in the new studio, but we have also invested in new equipment for the new studio in Blairhall utilizing National Lottery grant money awarded for this purpose.

Our remote broadcasting facility utilising PlayIt Live and MediaStore has proved resilient and adaptable enabling our remote broadcasting. This will remain a key part of our technical set up as we build our new studio.

## **Premises**

Having left Rosyth Business Centre in October 2024 we had been looking at options around premises. In the summer of 2025 we agreed to take on an area within Blairhall Community Centre.

Our focus now is on fitting that out as a studio but also a production facility and potentially a community media hub that we can support other groups through and provide training opportunities for the community. This is an exciting opportunity so we hope that can be brought up to requirements by early 2026.

## **Committee/Board of Trustees**

As always, some Trustees have had conflicting availability and, as in past years, this has meant that the running of the station has fallen to a smaller number of people than is ideal or healthy and has meant we have not achieved many of the things we wanted to do. As we are operating as a SCIO the station requires to have a full and active Board of Trustees to continue to grow the station. Regular absence of Trustees from meetings is a challenge that the station must address. A minimum commitment of 1 x 2-hour meeting per month does not seem to be onerous to some but presents a challenge to others. The Trustees are responsible for running the station and, by being Trustees, have accepted a responsibility to contribute.

If the station is to achieve its goals, then the type of Trustees the station needs will have to change. Going forward we will need sound commercial experience, experience of running social enterprises and experience of developing businesses not maintaining what we have. I propose that we address this as a priority.

## **OFCOM Licensing**

Early in 2025 the operator of the Stirling and Falkirk DAB multiplex applied for and was granted a coverage extension to include West Fife including parts of Dunfermline. After consultation we applied for and were awarded a licence to broadcast on this multiplex. The next step is to get the

studio up and running and get access to the multiplex to broadcast across West Fife and incidentally, Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire. This is an exciting opportunity and we hope to be on-air late 2025 or early 2026

Ofcom have also advertised for a multiplex for South West Fife covering Dunfermline to Leven. It is unclear if any operator will apply for this licence, but we have decided to apply for access to that multiplex allowing us the broadest coverage across our target broadcast area. It is unlikely this will be live till sometime in 2027.

## Social

There has been little or no social activity in 2025. I'm sure we all hope this will change in 2026.

In conclusion there have been some real challenges and some exciting new opportunities this year and the coming year will be a similar mix. As always there are many opportunities for members to be involved with the work of the station and I would encourage all members to look at their availability and see where they can do more than just present. It does seem that it is the same faces at everything we do so would ask all members to consider where they can find a bit more time to help the station grow.

In 2026 we must move from several years of just about surviving to a focus on growth or the long-term viability of Radio West Fife will not be guaranteed. After over 50 years of broadcasting, it would be sad to see the station close or not take advantage of the opportunities it now has.

Finally, a thank you to the Trustees and all members for everything they have contributed this year and for their continued support in maintaining and managing the station.

Joe Parker  
Chairperson

