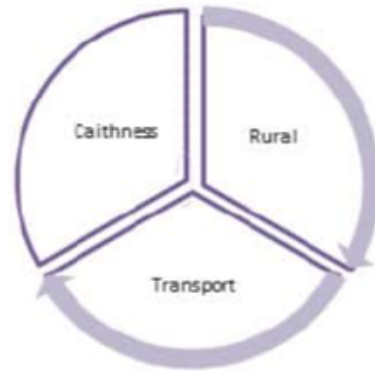




# Caithness Voluntary Group 2023/2024 Annual Report



Befriending  
  
Caithness

Prepared by  
**Alistair Jack**



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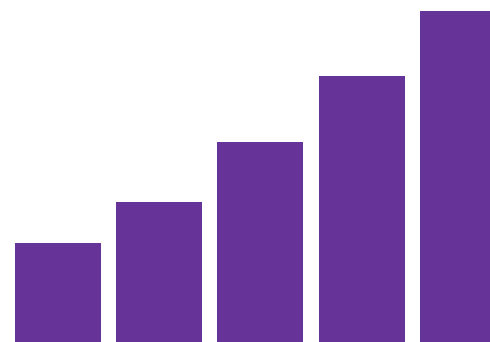
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# Mission Statement

Caithness Voluntary Group exists to support the voluntary sector and to assist organisations in coming together for common purposes and local people in gaining access to the decision-making progress which affects their community.

It aims to present to the outside world the common policies and concerns of the voluntary organisation and to develop new ways of responding to need in partnership with statutory health, social work, education, housing, employment, environmental and recreation agencies in the social and economic regeneration of the area.





# Meet Our Team



## **JAN BANKS**

TRUSTEE/DIRECTOR - CHAIRPERSON

Jan is a trustee, volunteer director and the chairperson of Caithness Voluntary Group. Jan who is a retired nurse has been a director with CVG since November 2005. As a member of the board, Jan is tasked with toplevel oversight and decision making that falls outwith the day to day running of the company/charity.



## **WILLIE MACKAY MBE**

TRUSTEE/DIRECTOR - VICE CHAIRMAN

Willie is a trustee, volunteer director and vice chairman of Caithness Voluntary Group. Willie who works as a Councillor for Highland Council has been a director with CVG since August 2012. As a member of the board, Willie is tasked with toplevel oversight and decision making that falls outwith the day to day running of the company/charity.



## **ANNE ALEXANDER**

TRUSTEE/DIRECTOR

Anne is a trustee and volunteer director of Caithness Voluntary Group. Anne has held this position with CVG since May 2008. As a member of the board, Anne is tasked with toplevel oversight and decision making that falls outwith the day to day running of the company/charity.



## **DEIRDRE AITKEN**

### TRUSTEE/DIRECTOR

Deirdre is a trustee and volunteer director of Caithness Voluntary Group. Deirdre who works as a manager for a hearing and sight charity has held this position with CVG since March 2019. As a member of the board, Deirdre is tasked with toplevel oversight and decision making that falls outwith the day to day running of the company/charity.



## **JAMES ROBSON**

### TRUSTEE/DIRECTOR

James is a trustee and volunteer director of Caithness Voluntary Group. James who works as a busy community worker has held this position with CVG since January 2021. As a member of the board, James is tasked with toplevel oversight and decision making that falls outwith the day to day running of the company/charity.



## **LUKE GRAHAM**

### TRUSTEE/DIRECTOR

Luke is a trustee and volunteer director of Caithness Voluntary Group. Luke who works as a busy Hotel Receptionist has held this position with CVG since February 2018. As a member of the board, Luke is tasked with toplevel oversight and decision making that falls outwith the day to day running of the company/charity.



## **ALLAN TAIT**

### SENIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER & COMPANY SECRETARY

Allan oversees the day to day running of Caithness Voluntary Group, and is overall responsible for all staff. Allan also deals with Third Sector organisations across Caithness with their many needs and also attends most meetings with the local authorities and other stakeholders as the voice of the Third Sector. Allan is Company Secretary and the main contact between Caithness Voluntary Group and the Highland Third Sector Interface



## **YVONNE HENDRY**

### CORE SERVICES DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Yvonne supports Third Sector Organisations across Caithness with setting up advice, governance advice including constitution creation, funding advice, crisis management, recruitment and any other general enquiries. Yvonne also is the administrator and assessor for the SPR Halsary Caithness Community Fund and the SPR Lybster Latheron & Clyth Halsary Fund. Yvonne also chairs the Caithness Village Hall Federation.



## **ALISTAIR JACK**

### EAST CAITHNESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Alistair supports Development Trusts and Third Sector organisations within the Community Council areas of Sinclair's Bay, Wick, Tannach & Thrumster, and Dunbeath & Berriedale with community project ideas including project development, sourcing funding, project management, and delivering projects through to completion. Additionally, Alistair provides support and advice to these areas regarding setting up new groups, governance, crisis management, and funding.



## **ALIX SUTHERLAND**

### WATTEN & HALKIRK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Alix supports Third Sector Organisations within the Community Council areas of Watten, and Halkirk & District with community project ideas including project development, sourcing funding, project management, and delivering projects through to completion. Additionally, Alix provides support and advice to these areas regarding setting up new groups, governance, crisis management, and funding.



## **BARBARA GRAY**

### JOHN O GROATS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Barbara supports Development Trusts and Third Sector Organisations within the Community Council area of Dunnet & Canisbay with community project ideas including project development, sourcing funding, project management, and delivering projects through to completion. Additionally, Barbara provides support and advice to these areas regarding setting up new groups, governance, crisis management, and funding.



## **JULIE LORD**

### OFFICE MANAGER

Julie works part-time and deals with general enquiries, company finance, office services including copying, minute taking and production for CVG and other Third Sector organisations meetings, contracts, reports and all other admin aspects of company business.



## **PETER GUNN**

### ACCOUNTS VERIFICATION OFFICER

As a former Bank Manager, Peter is a qualified Accounts Verifier and works part-time verifying Third Sector organisation accounts prior to them submitting them to Companies House or OSCR for their annual return.



## **BRYAN DODS**

### POVERTY ACTION OFFICER

Bryan is chair of the Caithness Poverty Action Group and provides advice and support to organisations and individuals dealing with those in food or fuel poverty. Bryan also provides energy advice to organisations that own community buildings to help them on their transition to Net Zero. Bryan is also leading the feasibility study on the Warmlie District Heating proposal.



## **AMANDA SNASHALL**

### ASPIRING COMMUNITIES PROJECT OFFICER

Amanda is chair of Caithness Cares which is a network of different organisations, both statutory and Third Sector which supports the Caithness Community Partnership Plan. Amanda is also the lead for the Website and weekly bulletin, HERE for Caithness which focuses on Mental Health and Wellbeing, aiming to signposting and offering support to those requiring it in Caithness.





## **STEPHANIE REMMERS**

### PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Stephanie works part-time and assists Bryan with CPAG communications and social media posts.



## **PHARNELL GEDDES**

### PROJECT COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Pharnell works part-time and assists Amanda with the Friday HERE for Caithness bulletin and with updates on the Here For Caithness Website and social media pages.



## **CATHERINE PATERSON**

### VOLUNTEERING OFFICER

Catherine's role is to match volunteers to organisations seeking volunteers as well as trying to find volunteers to work within the Third Sector in Caithness. Catherine also works with teenagers who are volunteering and working towards their Saltire Award.



## **ELAINE FRASER**

### CRT SENIOR COORDINATOR

Elaine is the Senior Coordinator for Caithness Rural Transport, and deals with general enquiries, bookings, membership, routing, shift rotas, organising maintenance, CRT Finance, banking, CRT Staff and Volunteers, all legal paperwork and record keeping.





## **KATY MALCOLM**

### CRT COORDINATOR

Katy assists Elaine with all of the Caithness Rural Transport, general enquiries, bookings, memberships, routing, shift rotas, organising maintenance, CRT Staff and Volunteers, all legal paperwork and record keeping, as well as producing Monthly statistics and Social Media posts.

## **BRUCE ROBERTSON**

### CRT DRIVER

Bruce is one of our paid drivers for our busy Caithness Rural Transport services, and transports our vulnerable passengers to and from their appointments in one of our 10 wheelchair accessible mini buses.

## **ROY MAJILTON**

### CRT DRIVER

Roy is another of our paid drivers for our busy Caithness Rural Transport services, and transports our vulnerable passengers to and from their appointments in one of our 10 wheelchair accessible mini buses.

## **IAN MACPHEE**

### CRT DRIVER

Iain is another of our paid drivers for our busy Caithness Rural Transport services, and transports our vulnerable passengers to and from their appointments in one of our 10 wheelchair accessible mini buses.



## **ANGIE HOUSE**

### **BEFRIENDING SENIOR COORDINATOR**

The Senior Befriending Coordinator oversees the day-to-day running of the Befriending Service, ensuring it effectively supports local residents by alleviating loneliness and fostering meaningful connections. The role involves managing all aspects of the service, including volunteer recruitment, training and supervision, promotion and administration, while maintaining regular contact with both service users and volunteers.



## **ELSPETH MANSON**

### **BEFRIENDING ASSISTANT COORDINATOR**

The Befriending Assistant Coordinator will assist the Senior Coordinator in developing the provision of a befriending service for older isolated adults in Caithness. The Assistant Coordinator will assist in recruitment and training volunteers to provide support and friendship to lonely or isolated older people in their own homes.



## **RICHARD THURLING**

### **BEFRIENDING ASSISTANT COORDINATOR**

The Befriending Assistant Coordinator will assist the Senior Coordinator in developing the provision of a befriending service for older isolated adults in Caithness. The Assistant Coordinator will assist in recruitment and training volunteers to provide support and friendship to lonely or isolated older people in their own homes.



## **KAYLEIGH SINCLAIR**

### **BEFRIENDING ADMINSTRATOR**

Kayleigh's duties include but are not exclusive to, dealing with incoming and outgoing correspondence, Data entry, retrieval and database maintenance, Filing and archiving, Creating and managing documents, managing diaries for team members, scheduling meetings, taking minutes and arranging befriending groups, and events. Speaking to referrals and family members and relaying information to befriending team.





## **DIANE PRICE**

### BEFRIENDING TRANSPORT SUPPORT

Working as a Befriendee Transport Lunch Group Assistant Diane provides support to Befriendees with mobility issues and early stage dementia in the journeys between their homes to, during Befriending Lunch Group and return. Helping to support Befriendees to stay connected in their community. Diane collects Befriendees from Wick and the surrounding areas.

## **TOM KIRKWOOD**

### BEFRIENDING TRANSPORT SUPPORT

Working as a Befriendee Transport Lunch Group Assistant Tom provides support to Befriendees with mobility issues and early stage dementia in the journeys between their homes to, during Befriending Lunch Group and return. Helping Befriendees to stay connected in their community. Tom collects Befriendees from Halkirk and Thurso area.

## **ALISON SHARP**

### BEFRIENDING TRANSPORT SUPPORT

Working as a Befriendee Transport Lunch Group Assistant Alison provides support to Befriendees with mobility issues and early stage dementia in the journeys between their homes to, during Befriending Lunch Group and return. Helping to support Befriendees to stay connected in their community. Alison collects Befriendees from Thurso, Castletown, Dunnet , Brough and surrounding areas.

## **MAGGIE DOULL**

### CLEANER

Maggie is our part-time cleaner who keeps our offices and toilets spotlessly clean.





# Annual Reports

## Chairpersons Report

I would like to thank my fellow directors for their continued support and the staff for their commitment and dedication to the C.V.G.

This year has heralded a huge change to our organisation as we get ready to move from the premises that we have used for so many years, changes will have to be made and adapting to our new home may prove difficult but I am sure the staff and volunteers will rise to the challenge.

I am pleased to acknowledge the continuing support of the The Third Sector Interface and the Scottish Government Third Sector team which helps meet our core costs also thanks go to our many fund raisers who help us in many ways and without whom we could not do all that we do.

## Senior Development Officer's Report

It has been yet another busy year as we continue working with many groups in Caithness on a wide range of issues, such as updating constitutions and groups becoming a SCIO, funding, employment, policies and procedures. Sadly however this will be the last year that we deal directly with volunteers as our Volunteering Officer is due to retire in March 2024 and all volunteering will be handed over to HTSI.

I continue to be impressed with the range of work we are undertaking and the fact that we are operating in every corner of Caithness. We continue to support the Community Planning Partnership as they deal with issues arising from the cost of living crisis. Our Development Officers covering east and central Caithness continue to do outstanding work within the communities that they support.

We provide vital support to many community organisations and are well respected with Third Sector organisations and Local Authorities alike. The Halsary Windfarm Benefit Funds are going from strength to strength, with the Caithness Community Fund now oversubscribed at each funding round. Our Befriending and Rural Transport teams are doing some amazing work, but see an ever increasing need for their services. Our Aspiring Communities Team continue to do sterling work as our communities battle the issues caused by the cost of living crisis.



## Core Services Development Officer's Report

It has been another busy year supporting Third Sector organisations on all aspects of our core services, primarily around finding funding to support their activities and projects.

Many unincorporated Groups this year have been looking to become SCIOs, so time has been spent providing advice and helping them prepare their SCIO constitutions for submission to OSCR.

Finding funding for CVG projects has also been challenging but we have managed to secure continuation funding for our Community Development Officers, with a further two years for the East Caithness post and another year for the Watten and Halkirk post.

The Caithness Community Fund and the LL&C Halsary Fund that we administer are increasing in popularity, with the CCF being oversubscribed on each funding round. A lot of my time during the year is now taken up supporting groups who are applying to the two funds and of course assessing all of the funding applications.

I continue to update the website, produce newsletters and columns to the local press.

## East Caithness Development Officer's Report

It has been a very busy year supporting all of the organisations and groups within my sphere of influence, and many major projects that I have working on for the last few years to develop and source funding for are now at a critical juncture.

The Caithness At War project for Sinclair's Bay Trust and Wick Development Trust is finally finished after over 4000 hours of work has been spent on it, and the grand opening of the trail is set for April 20th 2024. Another project for Sinclair's Bay Trust that has been completed this year is the installation of three notice boards, located at Keiss, Reiss and Reiss Beach.

I have managed to secure all of the funding for the new playpark at Dunbeath for the Dunbeath & Berriedale Development Trust and work on the new park is due to start June 2024.

Staxigoe Hall Net Zero Upgrades are now started after two years of planning and sourcing the required funding. This project is scheduled to be completed by late summer 2024.

Work with Wick Development Trust continues and the construction of the Phase 2 new facilities block has started at the Wick River Campsite and is scheduled to be completed by July 2024. We have also started work on the designs for the Phase 3 Reception building that is due to start in January 2025.

I have sourced the funding to replace the playpark and tennis court fencing at Thrumster and to renew the tennis court surfacing for Thrumster Community Development Association, and work also continues on the plans for the new Thrumster Village Hall.



## Watten & Halkirk Development Officer's Report

My first priority was to carry out community consultation in both districts and learn about the wants and needs to the communities I serve. I held coffee mornings in both areas where people within the community could come and give their thoughts and ideas, projects they would like to see happen etc. This enabled me to create a report for both areas and also provide me with a list of projects to work through.

In Watten the first priorities were the community buy out of the shop and the setting up of a community group to run events throughout the year. Both of these projects are ongoing and have had great successes with the shop group getting set up as a Community Benefit Society and the shop initially being leased with a view to purchasing it and the community group (Watten Helps Out) fully set up as a SCIO and gaining funding to run a full schedule of events over the winter into the spring.

In Halkirk, funding has been gained for the Church Lane playpark project and discussions are underway and new drawings received for a new pavilion at Morrison Park. Works have commenced in Scotsclader with funding for storage container and new kitchen equipment been granted.

I will continue to work along side organisations within the Halkirk district in the coming months to facilitate new projects – including a walkway and bridge around Westerdale, community lunches and a bus service.

## John O' Groats Development Officer's Report

Recruitment for this position has been problematic, with three officers being appointed throughout the year due to resignations, however the role has managed to secure funding for four electric bicycles and an electric mobility scooter plus storage facility situated at John O' Groats which will be operated by John O' Groats Development Trust to be loaned out to locals and visitors to the area.

With the help of the East Caithness Development Officer a project was formulated and funding applied for to renovate the toilets in the John O' Groats Hall, as well as installation of a disabled toilet facility which the hall has never had. If funding is approved the project will also see the hall have LED lighting installed through out as well as some new fire exit doors and a generator changeover switch and socket installed to enable the hall to be used as a community resilience hub in the event of a prolonged power outage.

Work has started on developing a new path from John O' Groats to the Ness of Duncansbay, but this is still at the early stages as we attempt to procure landowner consent for the new path.

We continue to support the John O Groats Playpark project as they strive to reach their £465,000 goal to fund a destination playpark for John O' Groats. Work is ongoing to create the funding strategy and secure funding for this major project.



## Poverty Action Officer's Report

CPAG continued to bring county groups and organisations together in dealing with the causes and effects of poverty. I obtained funds that allowed members to deliver crisis food vouchers, warm items and assistance with energy bills.

The Warmlie district heating project gained support from the Scottish Government for a feasibility study, which showed the way forward and allowed the steering group to progress our plans. I also attended the Energy Action Scotland conference, represented Caithness at other regional and national gatherings, and helped local organisations find ways to make their buildings greener.

I developed our Community Training Programme in helping local organisations reduce costs, improve resilience and offer work opportunities, training over 400 people through almost 50 training events including first aid, food safety, family cookery, PAT testing, security operatives and mental health support.

I also supported Caithness Drug & Alcohol Forum, Rumster Outdoor Centre project and Castletown youth sports group.

## Aspiring Communities Project Officer's Report

Projects that have been delivered this year include the HERE For Caithness Weekly Bulletin which is a one stop shop for 'Signposting' people to vital and important information. I have also organised Signposting Hubs at the Wick and Thurso Vaccination Clinics.

The Mental Health Awareness Raising Forum is a new project that I set up in collaboration with partners at the Kyle of Sutherland Trust. The forum meets quarterly in order to update all the partner agencies on current projects, initiatives, funding applications & opportunities.

Collaborative partnership working - I have proactively promoted and engaged in partnership working, both locally, regionally and nationally amongst a wide spectrum of organisations.

I am currently engaged in working with Police Scotland, via their local Partnership & Outreach Policing Together Division, into the possibility of establishing a collaborative working partnership between statutory and third sector organisations with a focus on promoting harm reduction and harm prevention within the wider Caithness area.

I organised a meeting at the CVG offices in Wick inviting partner organisations to attend and speak with the The Scottish Human Rights Commission about any and all of the inequalities and concerns within Caithness.

I have also recently been tasked with liaising with NHS Highland and other agencies regarding establishing a community hub possibly within the Carnegie Library in Wick. I have also been working closely and collaboratively with Caithness Mental Health Support Group.

Full annual report available upon request.





# Befriending Caithness Annual Report

Befriending has had a busy year with 59 referrals received and we continue to support and work alongside 57 Volunteer Befrienders many who see more than one Befriender while also helping at one of our Befriending groups. At this time we have just under 90 Befrienderes who are either matched, attending groups or waiting for a match.

We continue to be contacted by people wishing to become a Befriender and have regular Volunteer training sessions . Although not as busy as before through word of mouth from our Volunteers and social media posts have proved fruitful.

Our senior Coordinator Angie House will be retiring at the end of March 2024, and Elspeth Manson will take up the role of senior coordinator . We are very lucky to have Richard Thurling join the team as assistant Coordinator. Richard was a Volunteer Befriender for a number of years with us so had experience of Befriending. We will also be moving office at the end of March to a shared office space in the Pulteney Centre.

## **Befriending Groups :**

All our befriending groups have their own unique vibe, whether it's the interests of the people involved, the activities they do together, or the way they connect.

**Lyth Arts Centre** – We secured funding from HTSI for a third year we have a regular attendance of between 25 – 35 Befrienderes. This a vibrant group who enjoy and appreciate getting out and about. Befrienderes are attending from, Broch, Castletown, Halkirk, Thurso, Wick, Staxigoe, Keiss and Lyth at the moment. We have enjoyed outdoor yoga sessions along with a visit from Bower Primary school for a New Year Caleigh with Ady Harper.

**Armada Group** – average number that attend 18 – 20 each event, this group enjoys having a speaker each month which has included Highlife Highland Ranger service .

**Mens Group** – Peerie CaféScrabster

This is a deliberately small group that is led by two volunteers. There are 3 men who attend the group and have a great time chatting and reminiscing.

## **Raising Awareness / Donations**

We have been very lucky to have been approached by community organisations to help raise awareness for Befriending by helping with the teas and coffees at local craft fayres , this has been a wonderful way to meet the community and have a chat about Befriending in an informal setting and had let to new volunteers coming forward . We've been very lucky to have received donations from family members, which have helped us continue our work and bring people together.

We continue to be grateful for the ongoing support that we receive from funders, organisations and people within Caithness .



# Caithness Rural Transport Annual Report

It has been another busy year for CRT with 317 members at the end of the year. Some members were temporary members with only joining us for medical seasons for the short term etc but many members use us weekly and many 2-3 times a week.

We only have one pupil for the Highland Council contract as we lost our other runs when Aaron's Transport bid for all the runs. We still have many members who use us through the NHS for Renal appointments so that is quite a good income and helps cover the costs for smaller runs.

We managed to replace 3 buses this year. We bought 1 new and 1 nearly new bus and we had 1 bus funded through the Energy Saving Trust. Unfortunately, the new electric bus doesn't always meet our needs especially during the winter months. We then managed to sell 2 of our buses for a small income.

In March we held our first fundraising event. We organised a Prize Bingo night with a raffle and bottle stall and raised £2,493 for CRT running costs. The event was well supported by our local businesses and individuals alike, we were very lucky. Our running costs, especially repairs to our vehicles, has increased drastically over the year mainly due to the conditions of our roads and the costs continue to grow.



## Halsary Caithness Community Fund Report

The funding received for the financial year 2023 – 2024 totalled £62,781.46 with CVG receiving 8% (£5022.52) as an admin fee.

There was one round for applications during the year, with the panel meeting being held on 21st August 2023 at Latheron Hall.

Seventeen applications were received requesting a total of £75,972.32 with the amount of funding available being £69,877.00.

Of these, two applications were declined and fifteen awarded with a total of £63,438.43 being paid to the groups.

## Lybster, Latheron & Clyth Halsary Fund Report

The funding received for the financial year 2023 – 2024 totalled £31,390.73 with CVG receiving 8% (£2,511.26) as an admin fee.

There were two rounds for applications during the year with the panel meetings both held at Seaview House, Lybster on 18th September 2023 and 18th March 2024.

18th September 2023 – seven applications were received requesting a total of £12,056.00 with the amount of funding available being £78,376.24. Of these, one application was declined and six awarded with a total of £10,056.00 being paid to the groups.

18th March 2024 – nine applications were received requesting a total of £34,374.80 with the amount available being £68,320.24. All the applications were successful and paid in full.



# CVG Membership

Our membership as of March 2024

- 1st Thurso Boys Brigade
- 1st Wick Scout Group
- 1285 Caithness Squadron Air Training Corps
- Alan Gow Groundworks
- Archie Sinclair Fossil Centre
- Argyle Square Area Association
- Auckengill Hall
- Barnardos
- Befriending Caithness
- Befrienders Highland
- Berriedale Church/Cemetery Association
- Berriedale Portland Hall
- Bethany Gospel Hall
- Bilbster & Thuster Hall Committee
- Bill Fernie
- Bower Busy Bees
- Bower Community Centre
- Britannia Hall Committee
- Brough Bay Association
- Caithness Agricultural Society
- Caithness Amateur Athletics
- Caithness Badminton Association
- Caithness Broch Project
- Caithness CAB
- Caithness Community Connections
- Caithness Disability Multi-Sport
- Caithness Disabled Access Panel
- Caithness District Scout Council
- Caithness District Young Farmers
- Caithness Federation SWRI Show Committee
- Caithness Federation SWRI
- Caithness Field Club
- Caithness FM
- Caithness Foodbank
- Caithness Gymnastics
- Caithness Health Action
- Caithness Heart Support Group
- Caithness Heritage Trust
- Caithness Junior Pipe Band
- Caithness Kayak Club
- Caithness Klics
- Caithness Mental Health Support Group
- Caithness Music Association
- Caithness Pony Club
- Caithness Quilters
- Caithness Retired Teachers Association
- Caithness Rural transport
- Caithness Stroke Group
- Caithness SWI County Show Committee
- Caithness & North Sutherland Junior Golf Partnership
- Caithness & Sutherland Women's Aid
- Castletown Football Club
- Castletown Gala Committee
- Castletown Youth Club
- Clyth Burial Ground
- Connecting Carers
- Diabetes UK Caithness Branch
- Douglas Fraser
- Dunbeath & Berriedale Development Trust
- Dunbeath & District Centre
- Dunbeath Preservation Trust
- Dunbeath Raleigh Motorcycle Club
- Dunnet & Canisbay Community Council
- Dunnet Forestry Trust
- East End Boys Football Club
- Elise Lyall School of Dance
- Enable Scotland
- Enable Works
- Endometriosis UK
- Esme Duncan
- Forss Hall
- Freswick Hall
- Friends of John O'Groat Trail
- Friends of Newtonhill Woodland
- Friends of Older Adult Mental Health Fund
- George Budge
- Girlguiding Caithness
- Halkirk Games
- Halkirk Heritage & Vintage Motor Society
- Halkirk Village Council
- Halkirk & Westerdale Church of Scotland
- Hamilton Optimum Fundraisers
- Healing Hub Oxygen Therapy/MS Therapy Centre
- Hearing & Sight Care
- Highland Third Sector Interface
- Home-Start Caithness
- John O' Groats Development Trust
- John O'Groat Trail
- Keiss Bowling Club
- Laidhay Preservation Trust
- Latheron Agricultural Society
- Latheron Hall Committee
- Latheron SWRI



- Latheron Lybster & Clyth Community Council
- Latheronwheel & Latheron Improvement Group
- Laurandy Centre Ltd
- League of Friends of Caithness General
- Learanaich Common Grazings
- Lieurary Hall
- LLCCDC
- Lorraine Bremner School of Dance
- Lybster Community Improvement Fundraising Group
- Lybster Community Association
- Lybster Day Care Association
- Lybster Golf Club
- Lybster Heritage Trust (Waterlines)
- Lybster Junior Badminton
- Lybster Primary School Parent Council
- Lybster and Tannach Fund
- Lyn Ball
- Mackays Hotel
- Macmillan Cancer Support Thurso
- Macmillan Cancer Support Wick
- Mey Hall
- Mey & District Senior Citizens
- MS People Caithness
- Murkle Community Association
- National Sheepdog Trials Caithness
- Norse Stone Ltd
- North Apex Gymnastics Club
- North Coast Parish Church of Scotland
- North Highland Cancer Information & Support Centre
- North Highland Harriers
- North Shore Surf Club
- NOSN Charity Group
- Orlig & District Beekeepers Association
- Order of the Eastern Star
- Ormlie Community Association Ltd
- Pentland Parish Church of Scotland
- Poltney Bellringers
- Pulteneytown People's Project
- Pulteneytown Toddlers
- Reay & District Garden Club
- Reay Hall
- Reay Young-Stars
- Reiss Gardening Club
- Reiss & Killimster Hall
- Reiss & Killimster Park Committee
- Riding for the Disabled Association
- Riverbank Practice Patient Participation Group
- Rotary Club of Wick
- Royal British Legion Scotland (Wick)
- Rumster Outdoor Centre Management Group
- Scallywags Nursery
- SCDA
- Science 03
- Seafarers Memorial Group
- Second World War Air Raid Victims
- Sinclair Bay Community Council
- Spittal Hall
- St Fergus Bowling Club
- Staxigoe Community Football Pitch
- Staxigoe Playpark Project
- Tannach & District Community Council
- Tanya Horne Dancers Parents Association
- The Wick Society
- Thrumster Community Development Association
- Thrumster Game & Countryside Fair
- Thursday Group
- Thurso Community Café
- Thurso Community Council
- Thurso Community Development Trust
- Thurso Heritage Centre
- Thurso Heritage Society
- Thurso Players
- Thurso Squash Tennis & Racketball Club
- Thurso Town Improvements Association
- Thurso West Church of Scotland
- Thurso Youth Club
- Thurso & District Pipe Band
- Tutti Choir
- Volunteering Highland
- Watten Church of Scotland
- Watten Community Council
- Watten Hall
- Wick Accordion & Fiddle Club
- Wick Adult Basketball Club
- Wick Amateur Swimming Club
- Wick Baptist Church
- Wick Choral Society
- Wick Christmas Lights
- Wick Community Council
- Wick Development Trust
- Wick Flower Baskets
- Wick Girl Guides
- Wick Gala Committee
- Wick Golf Club
- Wick Groats Football Club
- Wick High School
- Wick Junior Badminton Club
- Wick Netball Club
- Wick Paths Group
- Wick Players
- Wick RBLs Pipe Band
- Wick St Fergus Church
- Wick Youth Club
- Wick & District Gardening Club
- Yarrows Heritage Trust



# Financial Statements

	2022/2023	2023/2024
Income	£641,055	£602,193
Expenditure	£575,406	£607,599
Restricted Reserves	£126,065	£178,527
Unrestricted Reserves	£305,357	£247,489
Total Available Funds	£431,422	£426,016

The full set of audited accounts are available upon request. We had to change auditor this year as our previous auditor no longer had the capacity to carry out our audit due to staff shortages. Saffery LLP were appointed with carrying out the audit, and apart from some mistakes they found with the data inputted by our accounts, Victor Fraser & Co, they were happy with our accounts for the year ending March 2024.

Our expenditure has increased this year due to rising energy costs which has led us to search for a new office space to lease. There were some large payouts required to end some of our agreements early such as the printer/copier and broadband provider to enable us to move to our new office in April 2024.

Securing funding for core operations and projects is proving more and more difficult, which affects not only us but all of the other Third Sector organisations in Caithness as well. This actually increases our workload as more and more organisations request our help and support as they struggle through these difficult financial times, and with no additional funding available to support this additional workload, there will be some challenging times ahead in 2024/2025 if this trend continues and we attempt to continue providing the same level of support as we have to date.



# Contact Us



01955 608535



Office@cvg.org.uk



<https://cvg.org.uk>

Caithness Voluntary Group is a Company Limited by Guarantee Registered in Scotland Reg No 150015

Caithness Voluntary Group is a charity registered under the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, Scottish Charity Number SC002484

Caithness Voluntary Group's registered address is: Telford House, Williamson Street, Wick, KW1 5ES

