

COOL



Annual Report

1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023



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Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name: Christian Outlook On Lochalsh (COOL)

Scottish Charity Registration Number: SC031455

Contact Address: COOL, Free Church Manse, Ardelve, By Kyle, IV40 8DY

Trustees

Mr. Colin MacDonald (Chair)	Glenelg
Mr. Norman Gillies	Ardvasar
Rev. Roddie Rankin	Badicaul
Mrs. Frances Westerduin	Milngavie
Mr. David Mockett	Braeintra

The Management Committee

Mr. Colin Carmichael	SU Scotland (Inverness)
Mr. Norman Gillies	Ardvasar
Mrs. Lynne Kearns (Secretary)	Ardelve
Mr. Colin MacDonald (Trustee)	Glenelg
Mrs. Fiona Macdonald	Ratagan
Mr. Robert McRae (Treasurer)	Breakish
Mr. David Mockett (Trustee)	Braeintra
Mr. Robert Shillaker	Achintraid
Mrs. Helen Strang	Lochcarron

Independent Examiner

Mr. Robert Anderson

Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland

Chairman of the Trustees' Report

As the Chair of Trustees for COOL it is my duty and privilege to present the 2023 Chairman of the Trustees' Report. The Trustees would like to express our thankfulness to God for His faithfulness and for providing the wide number of volunteers, prayer supporters and financial supporters without whom COOL could not function.

COOL is a Christian youth-work project in the West Highlands of Scotland that aims to encourage and support all children and young people, primarily helping to meet emotional, social, and spiritual needs. Our goal is to see young people become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens, and effective contributors through mentoring, providing safe spaces, giving opportunities and encouragement to explore the Christian faith, discovering more about God and the Bible and responding to the significance of Jesus Christ.

COOL's work extends over a geographical area of approximately 640 square miles, and we have the privilege of visiting 10 primary schools and Plockton High School on a regular basis. Our main work in schools includes Religious Observance assemblies, drop-in clubs, Religious & Moral Education and pastoral support as well as supporting specific projects as required. We also work alongside community youth clubs and church groups to encourage, train, and support local parishes. This includes residential youth weekends, Holiday Bible Clubs in the summer and other residential trips to youth events.

COOL works in partnership with SU Scotland through its Associate Worker Scheme and has employed a full-time Youth and Schools Worker for the last 22 years. The Worker is supported by the Management Committee, local church leaders and youth leaders. We are very thankful to have the support and encouragement of our Primary Schools and High School, and therefore, endeavour to have an excellent standard in all that we do. To achieve this we undertake regular training and development offered by SU Scotland as part of its scheme, and also by other organisations offering training for work with children and young people.

We hope this coming year to employ a second worker, in a part-time position to support the Youth and Schools worker in his role as well as liaising with the local churches to encourage unity, volunteering and worship opportunities.

As we look into the coming year with hope, we continually thank the Lord for His provision and pray that He will lead us to serve Him for His glory.



Management Committee Report

With the Covid restrictions well behind us, COOL, and the schools, find a new landscape with the young folk we are working alongside. The impact of lockdown and the demographic changes in the area have had a significant impact. The Management Committee give thanks for the consistency of our God and the provision that He has once again given through COOL's supporters. In the face of a changing society, we have the eternal, unchanging good news to share with young people in the formative time of their lives.



Timmy has continued his work providing help in school with assemblies and with Walks for Wellbeing. It was encouraging to note that a Bible-focused group has restarted in Plockton, and the Management Committee thanks Angela MacInnes for her involvement. COOL's involvement in school is all the more significant as there was no RMPS teacher for a time.

The Management Committee also thanks COOL's Sessional Worker, Megan MacDonald, who has been able to help Timmy in the popular Friday Youth Club in Kyle, and to Lynne Kearns and James MacInnes, who also help. This club draws many who have no other contact with church or the gospel except through the events organised by COOL. Timmy is encouraged and thankful to see the club growing and relationships being built. Many of the young folk attending also signed up for the annual Alltnacriche weekend which was fully booked.

The work also continues in partnership with the local churches, and the Management Committee were pleased and grateful to God that COOL events were once again held in Lochcarron. Timmy was able to organise one-day Easter Clubs in Kyleakin, Kyle and Lochcarron using the Easter Adventure material. In the summer, holiday clubs were run on the theme of The Great Green Garden Show that explained the big Biblical story of creation, ruin and redemption in ways that primary school children could understand and enjoy their time together. The Committee noted the hard work put in by Jackie MacLennan and Anne Sikorski to make these events happen.



Towards the end of 2022 the Trustees, Management Committee and supporters met for a vision day. Of the many things discussed was the generosity and commitment of churches and individual local Christians to the establishment and ongoing running of COOL's work. Over twenty-two years of youth work a lot of things have changed, and it is important that COOL as an organisation keeps close contact with the churches it seeks to serve in the gospel. As a result of the day, with Timmy's primary role and concern being the young folk themselves, the Trustees consider the time is right to employ a part-time Church Liaison Worker. A great deal of the Committee's time in 2023 has been spent working through the details of this, in conjunction with SU Scotland under the dedicated guidance of Colin Carmichael. The post has now been advertised and we look forward to being able to introduce a new member to the team in the early part of 2024, God willing. It is hoped that the Church Liaison Worker can work towards bringing churches closer together.

The Back to School with God service in August was very successful and well attended. Timmy led the meeting in Kyleakin hall and involved representatives from churches across the area, some primary school staff and a lot of children.

The Management Committee looks forward to presenting this report at the Annual Celebration, and together with our supporters, praising the Giver of every good gift.

Financial Review

This financial review covers the period 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023.

The principal source of COOL's income remains regular pledged donations from local supporters, both individuals and church organisations. Contributions from our local church partners have been consistent. Expenditure during the year has increased, but overall, we experienced a net increase of funds amounting to £767.

Once again, we are grateful for God's provision to us through the financial giving and prayerful support of His people during this past year and additionally for the practical assistance provided by supporters which enabled the background work of COOL to be maintained.

Reserves Policy

It is our policy to hold reserves of approximately six months expenditure including designated funds. At the end of the year COOL held unrestricted cash funds of £54,019. During the year £1,206 of restricted funds, which had been designated for trips abroad was donated to a Peru based organization.

Our current reserves will definitely be sufficient to cover anticipated expenditure for the coming year.

Approval Statement and Signature

Approved by the trustees on 9th February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:



C. MacDonald, Chairperson

Independent Examiner's Report

I report on the accounts of the charity for the financial year ended 30th November 2023 as set out on pages 9 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

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 under section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 seeking 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 accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

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.

2. or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed



Name: Robert Anderson M.C.I.B.S., B.A.

Address: 32 Bobbin Wynd, Cambusbarron, Stirling, FK7 9LZ

Date: 9th February 2024

CHRISTIAN OUTLOOK ON LOCHALSH Scottish Charity No: SCO31455

**Statement of Receipts and Payments –
For Period 1st December 2022 to 30th November 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds (£)	Last Year (£)
Receipts					
Individual Pledged Donations		18379		18379	17077
Other Personal Donations		5687		5687	7819
Pledged Church Donations		5646		5646	6494
Other Church Donations		101		101	120
Gift Aid from HMRC		4613		4613	4117
Open Door Café		5405		5405	2151
Easy fundraising & Amazon Smile	1	188		188	218
Special Events		0		0	1727
Peru		0		0	0
Other Receipts		1521		1521	0
Other receipts (Highland Cares)		9510		9510	
Bank Interest		210		210	29
Special Donations		0		0	0
Total Receipts		51260	0	51260	39752
Payments					
Youth Worker Employment costs		31521		31521	27259
Youth Worker Travel		2901		2901	761
Youth Worker Expenses		6460		6460	646
Youth Worker Telephone		0		0	0
Administration & Publicity		2356		2356	1920
Other Sundries		0		0	0
SU Assoc. Worker Scheme		2004		2004	2004
Insurance		615		615	698
Staff Development		75		75	314
Special Events		1166		1166	1730
Peru		0		0	0
Other activities/equipment		3365		3365	2190
Books and Bibles purchased		0		0	0
Payments Subtotal		50463	0	50463	37522
Capital Expenditure					
Total Payments		50463	0	50463	37522
Net receipts / (payments)		797	0	797	2230
Transfers to / (from) funds					
Surplus / (deficit) for year		797	0	797	2230

CHRISTIAN OUTLOOK ON LOCHALSH Scottish Charity No: SCO31455

Statement of Balances – As at 30th November 2023

	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	Total Funds (£)	Total Last Year (£)
Funds Reconciliation				
Bank Balances at start of year	53252	1206	54458	52227
Surplus / (deficit) as shown on Receipts and Payments Account	797	-1206	-409	2230
Bank balances at end of year	54049	0	54049	54457

Bank Balances			
General Account		18232	27623
Deposit Account		25273	15084
Peru Account		0	1206
Virgin Money Account		10544	10544
		54049	54457

Other Assets (Unrestricted Funds)	Purchase Cost (£)	Current value (£)	Value at Last Year end (£)
Laptop	679	1	1
Projector	366	1	1
External hard drive	115	1	1
Brother mono laser printer	40	1	1
Popcorn maker	250	1	1

Approved by the Trustees on 9th February 2024 and signed on their behalf by:-



C. MacDonald, Chairperson

- 1 Easyfundraising.org.uk gave £144 and Amazon Smile £44, from online transactions carried out via their websites by COOL supporters. We would again encourage all our supporters who shop online to consider using Easy fundraising to raise additional funds for COOL at no additional cost to themselves.