

Cupar Arts

Annual General Meeting

Saturday 1st March 2025, YMCA



Present: Sarah Kennedy (Trustee); Mairi MacGregor (Trustee); Margaret Robertson (Trustee & Chairperson); David Hill (Trustee); Kate Cowcher (Trustee); Kate Strang (Trustee); Victoria Donovan (member); Zoe Barrie (member); Goodwin Ogbuehi (member); Robert Black; Lera Grant; Gill Smith; Sofia Sefraoui

Apologies: Yvonne Melville (member); Mike Melville (member)

Mission

Our mission is to advance, promote and sustain arts, heritage and culture in and around the Cupar area. Cupar Arts is a voluntary, community organization. All proceeds go towards sustaining the continuation of the project.

Scottish charity # SC043402

cupararts.art@gmail.com

Welcome and introductions

Margaret Robertson opened the meeting with a warm welcome and introductions. She thanked the trustees for their continuing commitment over this year.

Prior to the AGM formalities, we had a general introduction about Cupar Arts, including a Meet the Neighbours event, with Zoe Barrie, Photographer and a question and answer session.

What is Cupar Arts – our History and Journey, 2007 until today, Margaret Robertson, outgoing Chairperson

Looking Ahead - Kate Cowcher and David Hill, trustees

Short Term Goals

- Meet the Neighbours, community building
- Membership connections
- Pop up events

Medium Term Goals

- 2027 Anniversary Festival

Long Term Goal

- Arts Hub for Cupar

Coffee Break/Meet the Neighbours – Zoe Barrie, exhibition

Ideas, Question and Answer Session

- The roles of Trustees and Members
- Arts Hub progress and issues
- Possible membership structures and fees

Minutes of 2022/23 AGM, January 2024

Minutes agreed.

Chairperson's report, 1.03.25

Margaret Robertson presented the Chairperson's Report.

This past year has been full of steady and sustainable progress for Cupar Arts.

1. Recent Developments

I'm pleased to say Cupar Arts is now in a much stronger position, with new trustees, ideas and enthusiasm since post Covid days. I'm now happily stepping down as Chair, after a long second

stint since 2017, knowing that all is well in hand for its future success. As founder and first Cupar

Arts chair (October 2007 - Dec 2008), I have seen a lot of exciting approaches to bringing the arts to the Cupar area, and I have consistently observed strong local interest and support over the years. As determined volunteers, it never-the-less takes time, patience and effort, and we have been diligently working on increasing our trustee numbers, contacts, memberships and profile, in line with our stated aims and vision for the future, during this past year. We hope to continue with this successful momentum and trajectory throughout year ahead.

2. The Arts Hub Project

The latest update from the three SCIO scoping study collaboration (Cupar Arts, Cupar Museum

and Three Estates Cupar), completed in September 23, is that the Watts and Ferguson Square buildings are no longer available, therefore only the County Buildings is left from the top three most suitable buildings identified in the scoping study. Cupar Museum and TEC have recently

agreed that Cupar Arts should “go it alone” in taking things forward, and the County Buildings is

the next, logical option to be investigated, amongst other possibilities. Anyone who becomes a

member of Cupar Arts can potentially be involved in this project. A Cupar Arts “Arts Hub subgroup” will be more nimble and able to navigate any funding or other issues towards

achieving this goal in the future. Our thanks to Cupar Museum and Three Estates Cupar who have significantly contributed to and supported this project to date.

3. Events - Music, “Meet the Neighbours” and Other

To increase awareness of Cupar Arts, we took a Cupar Market stall in September, which was a

great way of meeting the public and increasing awareness of Cupar Arts once again. We also

staged a very successful music event in December 2024 at Castlehill Hall, featuring fabulous musicians Adam Ross and Gillian Fleetwood, supported by David Hill and Goodwin Ogbuehi.

This success has happily paved the way for more of the same throughout the coming year. The

acquisition of a small grant from St Andrews University has allowed us to plan our new “Meet the Neighbours” series of community arts talks and other creative sessions. This project aims to

bring people in the locality together through an interest in the arts, on a regular, small-scale basis. Watch out for this exciting series of varied events! Other ideas, such as a possible large arts festival in 2027 or 2028 (marking 20 years since Cupar Arts began or the first Festival in 2008), are bubbling away for now. We will keep our members directly informed, and others through our contact list and social media.

4. Way Forward

This past year’s work has consolidated some great achievements, ideas and possibilities. We hope to continue with our local focus on inclusion and sustainable development of the arts -

ideally and ultimately creating an Arts Hub in Cupar which it greatly needs and deserves. With renewed energy and enthusiasm, there should be exciting times ahead. Please contact us if you

would like to get involved in any way – taking out a (free) membership is a great way of keeping

in touch with developments and opportunities.

5. Thanks

Financial report 2023/24

Mairi MacGregor, Treasurer, introduced the Financial Report which is a snapshot of finances to date. AGM could take place at start of December, to tie in with financial year-end, but due to events we had in the calendar, we pushed it back this year to March 2025

Calendar

1 st December 2023	Start of 2023/24 financial year
30 th November 2024	End of 2023/24 financial year
1 st December 2024	Start of 2024/25 financial year
April 2025	2023/24 Accounts to Independent Examiner
June 2025	2023/24 Accounts to OSCR
30 th November 2025	End of 2024/25 financial year

Bank Account – Receipts/Payments 2023/24

1.12.23 Start of 2023/24 financial year	Bank Account			£774.83
		Payments	Receipts	
Fundraising, donations etc			£0	
AGM venue hire	Cupar YMCA-YWCA	£43.84		
Meeting venue hire	Cupar YMCA-YWCA	£23.00		
Independent Examination of Accounts 2023/24	Fife Voluntary Action	£60		
Website Hosting and Maintenance 2023/24	Rory Fraser	£150		
30.11.24 End of 2023/24 financial year	Bank Account			£497.99

We currently have £685.37 the bank account on 28.02.25.

2023/24 Activities

In 2023/24, through our AGM and through other public engagement events, we welcomed a number of new members and four new Trustees. Establishing an Arts Hub remains a long-term goal. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this from our new members and Trustees, following on from the Scoping Study produced last year, in association with Cupar Museum and Heritage Trust and the Three Estates Cupar group. In order to achieve this long term goal, there is a recognition that we need to increase our membership through events and activities and develop our organisation in the short to medium term.

Governance

Our new Trustee team have been reviewing our processes and procedures over 2023/24, updating policy, including creating an Interim Privacy Statement and redeveloping our website. During 2024/25, we aim to include links to OSCR and to make our Trustees' Annual Report available via the website. This will support increased transparency as we grow our organization. Our Trustees will also take part in training, offered by Fife Voluntary Action, to develop understanding of our roles as Trustees.

Events

Much of our work during 2023/24 involved planning events for the next financial year. These plans included a gig at Castlehill Community Centre, with Adam Ross and Gillian Fleetwood headlining, in December 2024. A programme of events for 2025 called 'Meet the Neighbours' was also developed during 2023/24. This involves bringing together creative people from the Cupar area to discuss and showcase their work. The first Meet the Neighbours event took place on 20th February, featuring the work of local artist Carolyn Scott. These series of events is funded by University of St Andrews Community Fund. Full coverage of these events and costs will be reported in the Treasurer's Report 2024/25.

Fundraising

We applied for and were successful in being granted £1000 funding from the University of St Andrews Uni Community Fund in September 2024. The funding, which is expected to arrive in March 2025, relates to our Meet the Neighbours programme which will run throughout 2025. Thank you to University of St Andrews Community Fund for their support. This funding will appear in our 2024/25 financial report.

Core Administrative Expenses

As previously noted in our annual Treasurer's report, the auditor's report tended to be one of our largest expenses, at over £400, in the past. In recent years, we have been very grateful to Fife Voluntary Action for carrying out the independent examination of our accounts. The cost increased from £50 to £60 last year. It is very worthwhile to continue this relationship. Our other core expense is our annual website hosting, costing £150. During 2023/24, we explored various venues for meetings and events. Costs for venue hire in 2023/24 came to £66.84. A further core administrative cost for 2024/25 will be Public Liability Insurance.

Ongoing budgeting and fundraising needs to take these core expenses into account. All our finances have been approved by OSCR, the charity regulator and are available to review through OSCR.

Discussion

We have also added more than a hundred extra followers on social media over the last year. It would be good to attract interest from individuals with specialisms such as accounting, fundraising and grant funding applications to become trustees in future.

Trustees Standing Down

Sarah Kennedy (Trustee, Secretary); Mairi MacGregor (Trustee, Treasurer); Margaret Robertson (Trustee & Chairperson); Kate Strang (Trustee); Kate Cowcher (Trustee); David Hill (Trustee)

Trustees Election

The following trustees stood for re-election in the following roles –

Sarah Kennedy (Trustee, Secretary); Mairi MacGregor (Trustee, Treasurer); Margaret Robertson (Trustee); Kate Cowcher (Trustee, Joint Chairperson); David Hill (Trustee, Joint Chairperson). They were proposed and seconded by Victoria Donovan and Goodwin Ogbuehi.

AOCB

Next meeting –Everyone welcome!

Next AGM - December 2025 tbc

Kate Cowcher thanked everyone for attending.