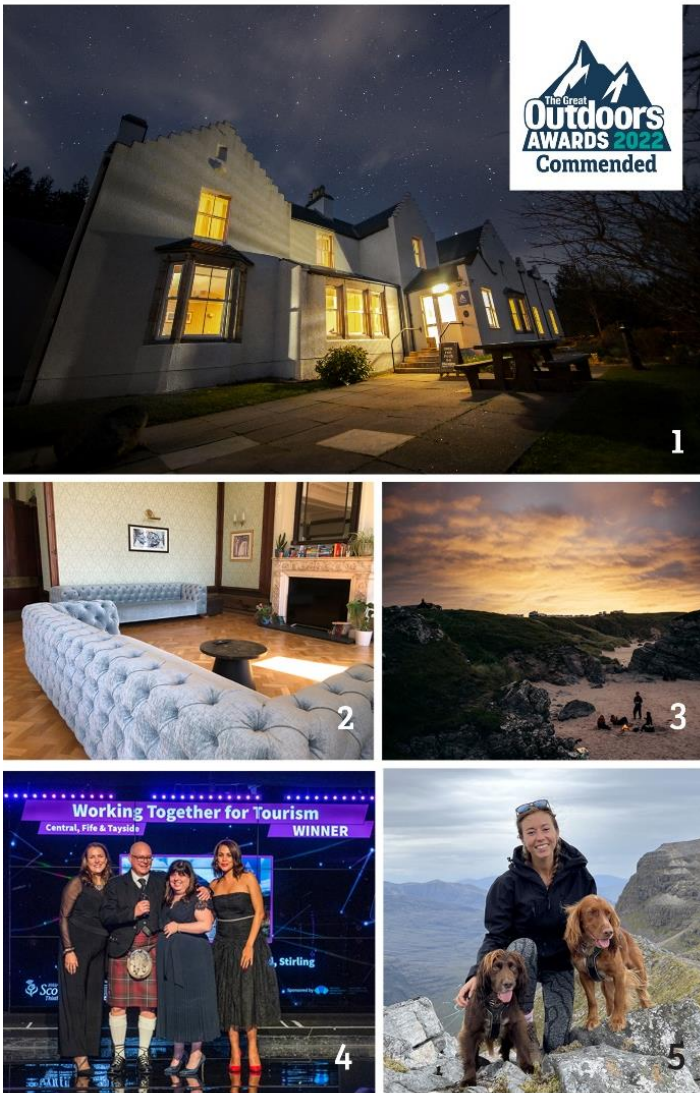




Annual Report and Financial Statements 2022 - 23

The logo for Hostelling International, featuring a stylized house icon with a tree inside, set against a blue background with the text "HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL" below it.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



1. With a record number of hostels shortlisted in TGO Magazine's 2022 Readership Awards, we were absolutely delighted to receive a commendation for our Cairngorm Lodge Youth Hostel.
2. Guests at our Glasgow Youth Hostel can relax in the newly refurbished first floor lounge and enjoy stunning views across the city.
3. Our 'Appetite for Adventure' campaign aimed at promoting Scotland's natural larder enjoyed widespread coverage in the media and was shown to guests attending Scotland Food & Drink's 'Destination Scotland - The Power of Food Tourism' event at the SECC in Glasgow.
4. Our 'What would Mary do?' campaign won a regional award in the 2022 Thistle Awards. The video has now enjoyed over 21K views on YouTube.
5. We were delighted to work with Hollie and the adorable Edinburgh Spaniels as part of a co-campaign with VisitScotland aimed at raising awareness of our WoofHostelling initiative.



Join the conversation



I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Chair of the Board of Trustees and it has been fantastic to see so many of our members staying in our hostels during 2022-23.

The Board of Trustees and Senior Management team worked hard during the year to develop a future strategy for the organisation and this was agreed in early March 2023. The focus of the Recovery Strategy is on activities that will improve the long term future of Hostelling Scotland ahead of our centenary in 2031.

Thank you to all individuals, funders and organisations that have supported our charitable objectives during the year.

To our own people, for their hard work and dedication as employees and contributions as volunteers, to our members and guests for their custom and support, and to those who have provided financial support by gift or waiver.

Claire McCorquodale, Chair

Governance and Strategic Aims

Principal Charitable Objective

The principal charitable objective of SYHA is ‘the advancement of education, for the public benefit, by helping all, but especially young people, to experience and appreciate the Scottish countryside, environment, natural heritage and places of historic and cultural interest in Scotland, and through the promotion of their health, recreation and education, particularly by providing low cost accommodation for them on their travels’.

Patron

Scottish Youth Hostels Association was honoured to have HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, KG, KT, OM, GCVO, GBE, ONZ, QSO, AK, GCL, CC, CMM as patron for many years and look forward to receiving continued royal patronage in the future.

Trustees and Directors

The Board, who are the Charity Trustees and Directors of the Company, received no remuneration for their services. Those who served as Board members during the year were:

			Current Term
Sally Mayer	Chair to 19.11.22	(2019-22)	Retired 19.11.22
Martin Ambrose (co-opted)	Vice Chair to 19.11.22	(2021-22)	Retired 19.11.22
Claire McCorquodale	Chair from 19.11.22	(2020-23)	Appointed 05.09.20
Sophie Bell	Vice Chair from 19.11.22	(2021-24)	Appointed 04.09.21
Paul Randall	Vice Chair from 19.11.22	(2022-25)	Appointed 17.09.22
Michael Anderson		(2019-22)	Retired 17.09.22
Duncan Craig		(2020-23)	Retired 19.11.22
Martin Davidson		(2022-25)	Appointed 19.11.22
Donald Martin		(2021-24)	Appointed 04.09.21
Yvonne Milne		(2022-25)	Appointed 19.11.22
Jennifer Ruddick		(2020-23)	Appointed 05.09.20
Robert Swinfen		(2021-24)	Appointed 04.09.21
Carolyn Wright		(2022-25)	Appointed 19.11.22

Executive Management

Chief Executive & Company Secretary: Margo S Paterson

Director of Operations & Deputy Chief Executive: Sabine Mackenzie

Director of Property and Health & Safety: Audrey Greenwood

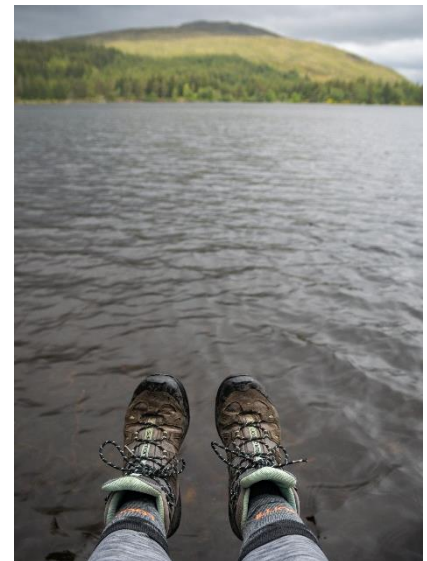
Registered Office:

7 Glebe Crescent
Stirling
FK8 2JA

Telephone: 01786 891400
Facsimile: 01786 891333
Email: info@hostellingscotland.org.uk
Website: hostellingscotland.org.uk



Carers and their families enjoyed trips during 2022-23 through our continued partnership with Respality.



Travel blogger Kay Gillespie (Chaotic Scot) enjoyed a sustainable adventure at our Loch Ossian Youth Hostel.

Outcomes of Strategic Aims 2022-23

Through determination, hard work, dedication and a focus on the future, we have achieved the following outcomes despite the exceptional circumstances brought about by the Covid pandemic and ongoing challenges left in its wake.

Strategic Aim 1: Emerging from the Pandemic

Build the financial health of the organisation to ensure sufficient funds are available for future years to come.

Achieved with revenue and surplus generation exceeding budget along with cash generation and year end cashflow position. Sale of Aberdeen Youth Hostel not achieved.

Relaunch Volunteer and Youth Engagement Programmes working with key partners to deliver on our social tourism commitment

Partly achieved, however, focus has been on delivery of 2020-2021 Explorer Fund breaks along with reconnecting with key partners delivering much needed breaks for carers, young people and families.

Rebuild a resilient workforce with focus on employee satisfaction and retention

Achieved and despite recruitment of new employees being challenging within the hospitality sector, we are delighted at the hard work and effort put in by all employees, resulting in a number of internal promotions.

Develop a future strategy for the organisation from 2023 to 2026

Work commenced on strategy planning throughout 2022-23 with initial strategy aims and activities for 2023-2025 presented and reviewed at the November Board meeting, with final approval in March 2023.

Strategic Aim 2: Customer Service Delivery

Upgrade our facilities and services to provide the optimal customer experience and this will be reflected in our guest reviews and ratings

Achievement reflected through year end guest reviews with all key performance indicators achieving +90% ratings.

Re-commence capital project investment in the network

Achieved on a small scale in line with available cash resources.



Refurbishment projects were carried out at our Glasgow, Broadford, Aviemore and Portree Youth Hostels amongst others.

Recovery Strategy

2023-25

Hostelling Scotland (also known as Scottish Youth Hostels Association) exists to inspire all, but especially young people, through the provision of great value and welcoming hostelling accommodation. Our charitable objectives and our values will be central to the delivery of our 2023-2025 Recovery Strategy. The 2023-2025 Recovery Strategy will concentrate on improving the long term viability of the organisation through meaningful activities that will have the greatest impact on retained surpluses. This will provide Hostelling Scotland with the necessary reserves to develop, invest and grow the organisation ahead of the Centenary in 2031.

Strategy Aims & Activities

This Recovery Strategy is built on four central and interdependent themes.

1. Nurture our Charitable Objectives and Activities

- Progress a governance framework that fulfils our social responsibilities in particular focusing on improving diversity and inclusion opportunities.
- Develop partnership and community engagement initiatives that promote the good work and reputation of the organisation.
- Formulate a plan to enable the relaunch of youth and family explorer programmes and volunteering opportunities.



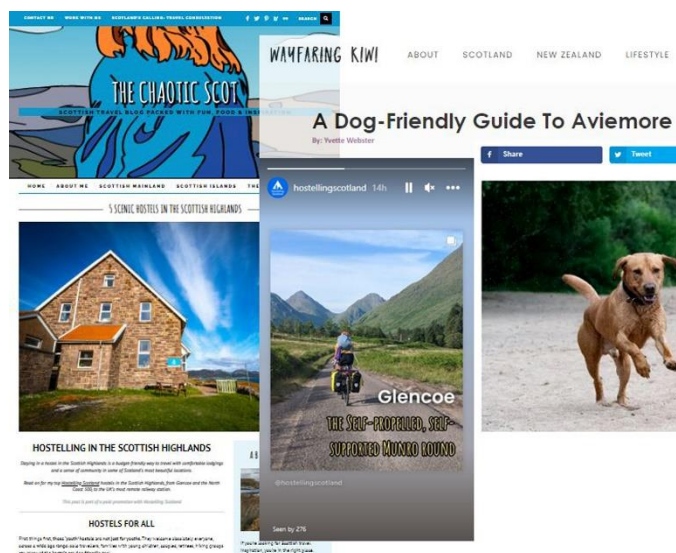
Working in partnership with Parent Network Scotland we helped families enjoy a fantastic break at our Lochranza Youth Hostel on the beautiful Isle of Arran.

2. Foster a Culture of People Development

- Create an environment that promotes diversity, inclusiveness and engagement.
- Provide personal growth opportunities for everyone.

3. Operate and Promote our Hostels Sustainably and Responsibly

- Protect the assets through enhancement and development of our estate, hostel facilities, website and systems including where possible implementation of initiatives that will improve accessibility.
- Deliver the best, affordable and flexible hostelling experiences.
- Inspire travel and promote the Hostelling experience to a wider audience, encouraging adoption as a lifestyle choice.



- Develop an environmental plan to support the delivery of responsible tourism specific to the hostelling sector thereby reducing our carbon footprint and improving operational efficiency.

4. Protect our Financial Future

- Rebuilding of cash reserves to allow for future expansion and financial growth.

Strategic Objectives

2023-24

We had a fantastic time, the hostel was perfectly located for our snowboarding and hiking activities. Stunning location, beautiful dining/seating area with views over surrounding landscape. Good kitchen facilities.

Guest Review of Glen Nevis Youth Hostel
23.01.2023

1. Nurture our Charitable Objectives and Activities

- a. Progress a governance framework that fulfils our social responsibilities in particular focusing on improving diversity and inclusion opportunities.**

2023-24 objectives:

- Trustees to connect with their network and external organisations to promote involvement in governance.
- Board of Trustees to review the effectiveness of the current governance recruitment processes and bring forward a programme of recommendations for change ahead of the call for nominations 2024.

- b. Develop partnership and community engagement initiatives that promote the good work and reputation of the organisation.**

2023-24 objectives:

- Through social media storytelling and media communications, grow awareness of Hostelling Scotland as a sustainable charity to the broadest possible audience.
- Grow partnership connections that support, through association, the promotion of hostelling with a particular focus on under-represented groups.

- c. Formulate a plan to enable the relaunch of youth and family explorer programmes and volunteering opportunities.**

2023-24 objectives:

- Assess the role of Charity Youth Engagement Officer to ensure it best meets the needs of the charity in delivering youth and family breaks.
- Working with key partners to provide access to youth and family breaks.
- Provide opportunities for individuals to apply for volunteer projects.

2. Foster a Culture of People Development

- a. Create an environment that promotes diversity, inclusiveness and engagement.**

2023-24 objectives:

- Create a new induction programme that equips employees with the knowledge and tools to succeed in their role.
- Develop communications within the organisation to include re-energising the employee forum.

- b. Provide personal growth opportunities for everyone.**

2023-24 objectives:

- Provide opportunities for personal development that enhance employee skills to facilitate career progression within the organisation.

3. Operate and promote our hostels sustainably and responsibly

- a. Protect the assets through enhancement and development of our estate, hostel facilities, website and systems and including where possible implementation of initiatives that will improve accessibility.**

2023-24 objectives:

- Refresh the website by improving navigation and product information to enable guests to access content improving their browsing and booking experience.
- Completion of phase 1 of Rowardennan legacy project in March 2023 and commencement of phase 2 from October 2023.
- Upgrading of composting toilets in Loch Ossian.
- Replacement of roofs at Ullapool and Glenbrittle.

Strategic Objectives

2023-24

Planned development at our Braemar Youth Hostel



Sustainable wind power at our Glen Affric Youth Hostel



- Feasibility assessment of Braemar Youth Hostel refurbishment works
- Develop a small hostels project from donation received.

b. Deliver the best, affordable and flexible hostelling experiences

2023-24 objectives:

- Enhance the guest experience and stay satisfaction through the improvement of in room guest facilities including washrooms.
- Develop the hostelling catering provision with a particular focus on breakfast delivery and availability of food and beverage choices.
- Enhance customer responsiveness through developing team product knowledge and improving processes and guest communications.

c. Inspire travel and promote the hostelling experience to a wider audience, encouraging adoption as a lifestyle choice

2023-24 objectives:

- Through targeted marketing activities and supported by influencer/partnership working, stimulate travel by celebrating hostelling's core strengths including:
 - ✓ Fantastic and unique locations
 - ✓ Affordable, flexible, informal and welcoming accommodation that is open to all.
 - ✓ Being part of the communities in which we operate and supporting responsible and sustainable travel.

d. Develop an environmental plan to support the delivery of responsible tourism specific to the hostelling sector thereby reducing our carbon footprint and improving operational efficiency.

2023-24 objectives:

- Working in partnership with VisitScotland and other key organisations, progress a climate action plan.

4. Protect our Financial Future

a. Rebuilding of cash reserves to allow for future expansion and financial growth.

2023-24 objectives:

- Continual review of hostel pricing strategy
- Explore potential cost efficiencies and additional income streams
- Work with online third party agents in the delivery of targeted promotions
- Sale of Aberdeen Youth Hostel
- Research the potential to expand Hostelling Scotland student residency services
- Consider rescheduling of borrowing

Always loved this hostel, central to everything and I wouldn't want to go anywhere else.

Guest Review of Edinburgh Central Youth Hostel
12.12.2022

Our Values, Mission and Vision

Our Values:

1. We promote our charitable objectives by being open to all.
2. We work together with pride and integrity to get things done.
3. We are committed to operating in an environmentally sustainable way.
4. We actively promote and take equality, diversity and inclusion into account in everything that we do.
5. We pledge to give back and provide young people and families, who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity, the chance to experience Scotland and develop their skills for life, learning and work.
6. We empower our teams by providing a fair work environment with meaningful opportunities for advancement.
7. We work proactively in partnership with local communities, authorities and agencies.

Our Mission:

Inspire all, especially young people to experience Scotland through the provision of great value and welcoming hostelling accommodation.

Our Vision:

Staying true to our values, we offer the best hostelling experience throughout Scotland for everyone.

Where to stay?

From cities to islands, beaches to hills and mountains and all points in between, there's no better way to explore and discover Scotland -

#GoHostelling



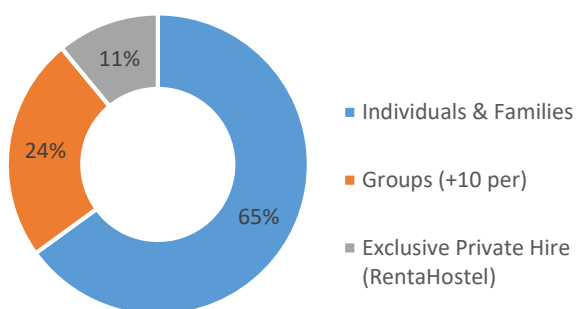
Review of Activities

Hostelling Guests:

We welcomed 292,744 overnight guests (2022: 113,205) during the year, an increase of 159% on the previous year.

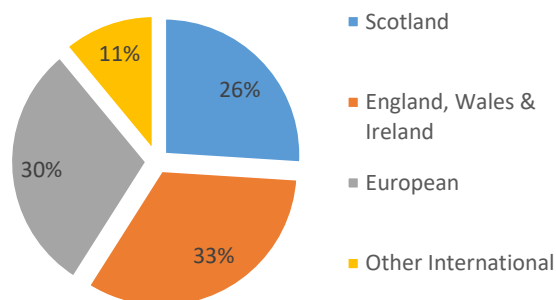
Guest profiles were:

2022-23

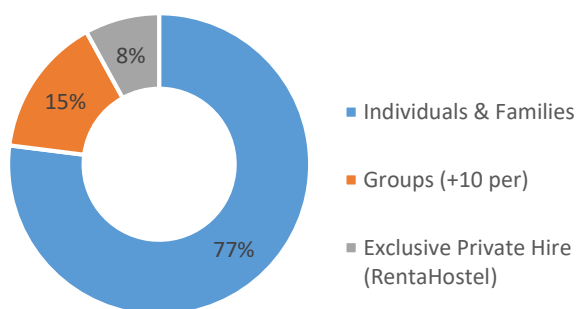


Guest nationalities were:

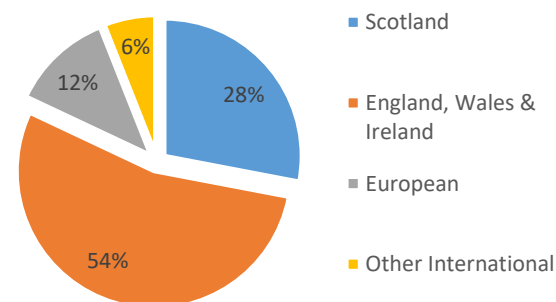
2022 - 23



2021-22



2021 - 22



Affiliates

We are pleased to continue our Affiliate Hostel programme with independent, trust and community accommodation providers. We promote hostels in the western and northern isles belonging to the Gatliff Hebridean Hostels Trust and Orkney and Shetland Councils along with all other Affiliate Hostels throughout the country.

24 affiliated hostels within our network welcomed 41,465 overnight guests during the year.

Membership

Membership increased to 11,784 (2022: 10,985) mainly due to an increase in annual memberships as guests started to travel again. Lifetime membership continues to be popular with 209 new members in this category during 2022-23.

Working with young people and families:

To reach those most in need we will continue to develop partnerships with key organisations, utilising our diverse range of youth hostels in our network to provide memorable positive hostelling experiences for children, young people, families and leaders across Scotland.

Explorer Fund

Ten groups were able to enjoy their funded Explorer trips during the year to 31st January 2023, these having been postponed as a result of lockdown in 2020.



Respality

We continued our partnership working throughout 2022-23, offering 8 much needed short breaks for carers for late 2022 and early 2023. Six carers and their families enjoyed trips during 2022-23.



Parent Network Scotland

We were delighted to offer a 2 night funded trip for families to Rowardennan during 2022-23.

Volunteers

In 2022-23 we were delighted to kick start volunteer project work in various hostels which supported the teams in getting the hostels ready for the start of the season.

Hostelling People:

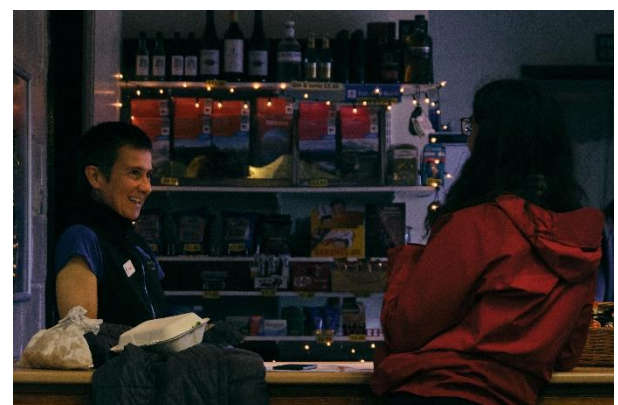
Employees

Following the pandemic Hostelling Scotland secured training funding under the 2022 Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF) and training was focused on supporting both new and returning managers. Courses rolled out were Promoting Positive Diversity, Preventing Bullying, Mental Health Awareness, Emergency First Aid at Work and Fire Safety with 90 colleagues benefitting.

Induction training was revised ahead of the 2023 season with a view to a complete update on our induction programme for season 2024. GDPR training was delivered as part of the induction for every colleague during 2022-23.

All HR policies, procedures and forms were reviewed and updated during 2022 to ensure relevance and continued compliance.

Following extensive research a new HR Information system was procured in December 2022 with all information securely transferred prior to switch off of the old system. 2023 will continue to see all HR processes and procedures transfer to the new system for colleagues to access, providing a secure and paperless system, contributing to our overall environmental objectives



Hostelling Operations:

65% of all bookings in the year (2022: 55%) were generated through Reservations, at the hostels and on our website, with 35% (2022: 45%) being generated through third party booking engines.

On a basis of 5,057 reviews (2022: 1,851), Hostelling Scotland Guest Reviews scored 92% (2022: 91%) for overall stay, with guests scoring the following for the individual parts of their hostelling experience:

	2022.23	2021.22
Good Value	92%	88%
Atmosphere	94%	88%
Cleanliness	92%	93%
Comfort	88%	87%
Facilities	88%	84%
Check-in	94%	95%
Service	94%	91%
Location	96%	97%

Hostelling Scotland Guest recommendation score was 95% (2022: 95%).



Visit Scotland operated hybrid working in 2022, the focus for audit visits involved those properties either new to the scheme or pending appeal since their last inspection.

7 properties received an in person visit, with the remaining hostels having their awards upheld from the inspections completed in 2019. Cairngorm Lodge increased to a 4 star property (Previously 3) following the refurbishment of the ground floor public spaces and new beds throughout. Rowardennan reduced to a 3 star property (Previously 4) reflecting the current aesthetics of the offering. 2019's audit action points highlighted redevelopment required within the bedrooms such as décor, carpeting and furnishing which could not be taken forward as we emerged from the pandemic.

	Hostels 2022/23	Network %	Hostels 2021/22	Network %
4-5 Star	17	57%	17	52%
3 Star	11	37%	11	33%
1-2 Star	2	6%	4	12%
Awaiting Accreditation	0	0%	1	3%
Total Hostels	30	100%	33	100%



Green Tourism: Post pandemic, Hostelling Scotland took the decision to leave the Green Tourism Business Scheme and is currently reviewing alternative sustainable tourism

certification scheme providers that will support the organisation's green credentials and achievement of environmental sustainability objectives.

Hostelling Property

£1,057,023 was re-invested into the network during the year. £129,886 was expended on capital, the major elements of this being replacement fire protection system, water heating system and boiler works. £555,908 was expended on routine property and equipment maintenance and costs relating to statutory compliance and health and safety. £313,846 was spent on furniture and equipment across the network, with the remaining £57,383 spent on upgrading the organisation's information technology infrastructure and system enhancements.

Hostelling International



Since our formation in 1931, we have taken an active part in the activities of Hostelling International (HI) which as a global network provides support by driving direct reservations

and promoting the mission and quality of the brand on behalf of 61 Youth Hostel Associations around the world, with over 3,000 hostels in 59 countries.

We meet regularly with British and Irish Youth Hostelling Associations and other European national associations to discuss matters of mutual benefit and cooperation.

We are delighted to represent the hostelling sector in Scotland on the Council of The Scottish Tourism Alliance (STA) which is the largest member organisation for tourism businesses in Scotland and the leading representative body for its tourism industry.

We also continue to collaborate with the Cairngorm Business Partnership to promote and develop the hostelling ethos within the Cairngorms National Park.

Annual Activities Summary

Following two years of lockdowns, travel restrictions, limited hostel services and reduced customer confidence, 2022-23 certainly could be considered as our year of “bounce back”.

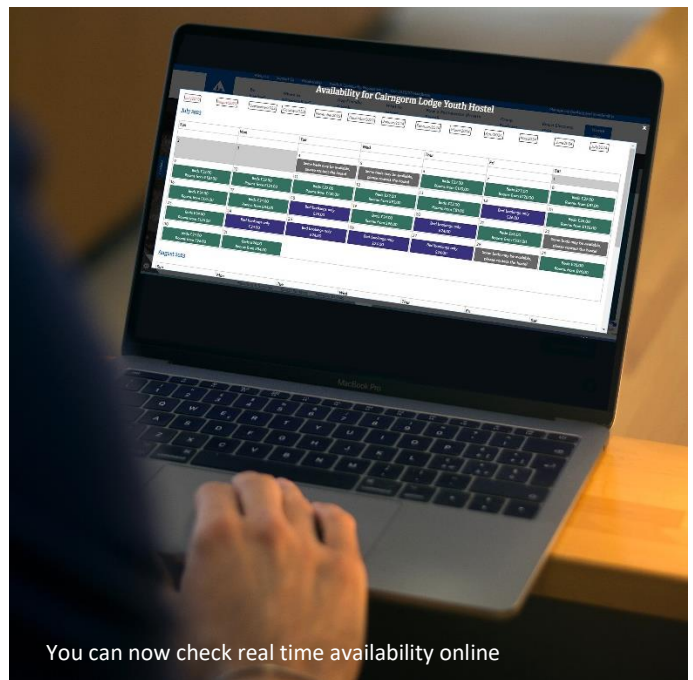
However the return to hostelling as we know it remained challenging as a result of continued economic uncertainty, labour supply issues, unforeseen property concerns and relentless cost increases, particularly utility costs.

That said, we were determined to succeed and with all resources pulling together, we opened up, operated and kept open the network of hostels right through to the end of the season.

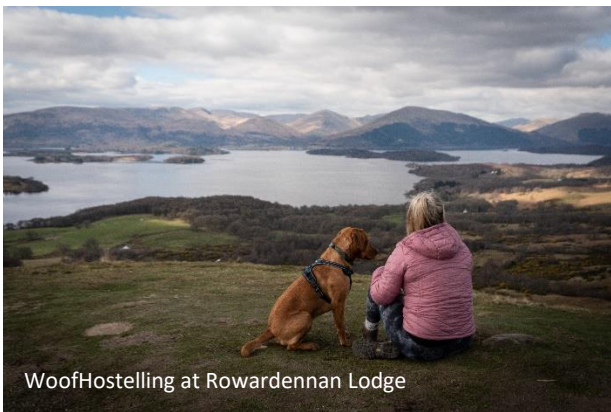
There was much to celebrate during the year. With the popularity of Woofhostelling continuing to grow, we were delighted to secure VisitScotland support and increase the number of Woofhostels to 17 to include Broadford, Kirkwall and Rowardennan.

Lifetime membership once again proved popular, however, it was also good to see an increase in annual membership in the year.

As part of a review of our website and to provide the best experience, we updated the online availability to improve navigation and display availability in real time.



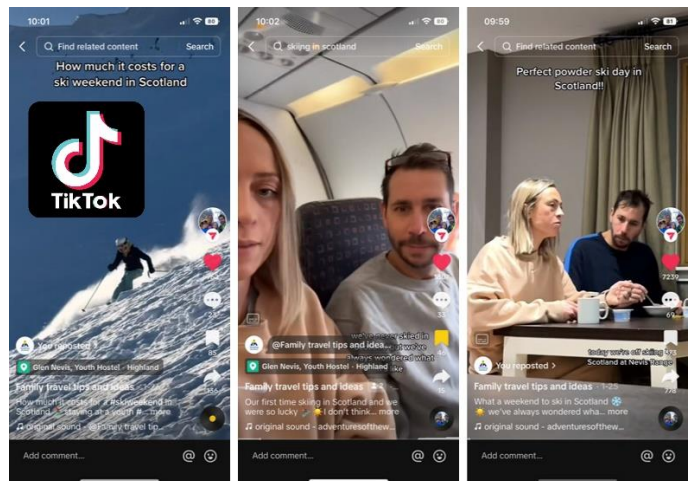
Social media channels continued to be a key source of engagement throughout the year along with communications to our members and followers through regular e-mail and newsletter updates. We launched our own TikTok account and our first activity with a TikTok influencer generating +213K views.



WoofHostelling at Rowardennan Lodge



WoofHostelling at Cairngorm Lodge



Brilliant location. Comfortable, warm and great atmosphere - good to share hill walking stories and be inspired by others. Kitchen facilities fabulous and lounge very cosy - just what is needed.

Guest Review of Glencoe Youth Hostel
19.12.2022

We were proud to attend the Central, Fife & Tayside Scottish Thistle Awards and won the category Working Together in Tourism with our 'What would Mary Do? Campaign. A record number of hostels were shortlisted for the TGO Magazine Awards - Cairngorm Lodge, Glen Nevis, Loch Ossian, Ratagan and Torridon. Cairngorm Lodge Youth Hostel received a commendation award in the hostel or bunkhouse of the year category in The Great Outdoors Readers Awards 2022.



members to attend. At the end of the AGM we welcomed a new Chair, Claire McCorquodale and two new Vice Chairs, Sophie Bell and Paul Randall along with three new Trustees to the Board - Martin Davidson, Yvonne Milne and Carolyn Wright.

Our year has not been without challenges, not least the storm damage to the roof at Glenbrittle Youth Hostel at the end of January 2023 and a flood at Head Office in late December 2022 resulting in employees having to relocate to temporary offices. Glenbrittle roof was replaced ahead of the start of the 2023 season and works to repair the damage to Head Office are now also complete.

Thanks to a busy year our financial year end cash position was better than had been originally budgeted and much improved on prior year. This provided a secure position to move forward into our new 2023 - 2025 Recovery Strategy period.

We look forward to continuing the legacy works at Rowardennan Youth Hostel in 2023 after the main season, these following on from Phase 1 works to create more shower and toilet facilities.



There was great demand in the year for property works to be carried out across the network and these included the completion of the upgrading of hallway lighting at Inverness to energy efficient PIR controlled units and replacement and overhaul of roofs at Crianlarich, Rowardennan and Tobermory.

Our AGM originally scheduled for September 2022 was postponed due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II. On 19th November 2022 we successfully held the first hybrid AGM in person at Glasgow Youth Hostel and online, providing greater access for

Phase 1 of the planned refurbishment works at our Rowardennan Lodge Youth Hostel have now been completed with new washroom facilities now available for guests.

Stunning hostel in a beautiful location with amazing views Ken and all the staff are very accommodating and helpful. 100% recommend.

Guest Review of Oban Youth Hostel
05.12.2022

Our commitment to social tourism and our work with young people and families continued through the delivery of postponed Explorer Fund breaks from 2020 and carer breaks with Respitality. We were delighted to extend our partnership working to include Parent Network Scotland and SOYT (Scottish Outdoor Youth Travel) during the year.



Our recovery post COVID-19 will take a number of years to achieve and we will continue to work with colleagues in hospitality and specifically the hostelling sector to consult with Scottish Government.

We continue to achieve our charitable objectives through our financial management, investment in properties and drive to deliver customer excellence to guests along with our development of and commitment to social tourism and youth programmes.

The Board of Trustees and Directors is committed to rebuilding surpluses to invest back into the Youth Hostelling network as we recover from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensuring our long-term future. Since 1931 it has been our mission to make more of Scotland more accessible to more people. This remains core to everything we do and we will continue to work hard to provide quality experiences for all.



Throughout 2022 Scotland celebrated its Year of Stories, and we certainly had plenty of stories to share!

We started the year on the back of double success in TGO magazine's 2021 Readership Awards with Torriddon Youth Hostel picking up gold and Loch Ossian silver under the 'Hostel or Bunkhouse of the Year' category. This success obviously rubbed off and we ended 2022 by picking up a Regional Thistle Award for our 'What would Mary do?' campaign and had no less than five hostels shortlisted in the 2022 TGO Awards, finally picking up a commendation for our Cairngorm Lodge Youth Hostel.

During the pandemic, restrictions on social distancing prevented the opening of our self-catering kitchens. These social hubs are a key part of the hostelling experience and were sorely missed by all.

In celebration of this important facility, our 'Appetite for Adventure' campaign shamelessly promoted our hostels along with the world class food and drink that can be found on their doorsteps. Supporting local producers, the video also showcases the spectacular scenery of Scotland's NW Highlands and encourages responsible tourism and sustainable active travel which has long been at the heart of hostelling.

Over the last 12 months our WoofHostels have proved to be more popular than ever and with seventeen 'Dog Friendly' hostels to choose from it's never been easier to explore and enjoy Scotland with your best friend. Our exclusive private hire, RentaHostel, has also proved to be a popular and cost effective choice for walking and cycling groups and recent developments to our website have made it even easier to check availability and book.

Our commitment to social tourism and our work with young people and families continued throughout the year working with Respitality on the provision of much needed breaks for carers and Parent Network Scotland providing wellbeing breaks for families.

Margo Paterson, Chief Executive

Don't leave the dogs behind, take them WoofHostelling

Sick of being told she couldn't travel with her two spaniels, Hollie Jenkins sets off with Hugo and Spencer to choose one of Scotland's most dog-friendly hostels.

Don't leave the dogs behind, take them WoofHostelling. I've spent the last few years of my life travelling around Scotland in the past few years. I've been to all the major cities and seen some of the best scenery in the world. I've also seen some of the best dog-friendly hostels in the world. I've been to all the major cities and seen some of the best scenery in the world. I've also seen some of the best dog-friendly hostels in the world.



UNILAD
The pawfect guide to visiting Scotland
Sponsored by VISITSCOTLAND AND HOSTELLING SCOTLAND





Spectacular landscapes, wonderful food and produce, plus camaraderie marked this bike and food themed adventure for food writer **Ghille Basan** as she joined three demon cyclists in the North West Highlands to make a film celebrating sustainability and Scotland's wild spaces

The evening was sweet. You had the breeze sandy beach to ourselves. The air was stung strongly with and a peasy midce

Joining Lee Craigie, the founder of the Adventure Lanes and P... trip around Scot... to make a celebr...

Film turns focus onto bike and food themed alternative to North Coast 500

by ALASTAIR DALTON

A food tourism-themed off-road alternative to part of the North Coast 500 has been captured on film to promote cycling and walking and Scotland's network of rural youth hostels. The short film Appetite for Adventure charts a 250-mile mountain bike trek by The Adventure Syndicate - led by Scottish Government's active travel ambassador Lee Craigie - across the north west from Strathairon to Durness. It shows the trio teaming up with Scottish food tourism ambassador and author of Taste of the Highlands Ghille Basan to forage wild food from croft gardens and other local producers before cooking together in the self-catering kitchens of the Hostelling Scotland hostels they stayed at along the way. Some dishes were prepared on outdoor fires.

... and Philippa Butty - a group of female adventurers whose endurance endeavours and storytelling inspire others to adventure sustainably - pushing and carrying their bikes on some unrideable sections. Commenting their route to the coast of visiting the NC500 car, Craigie said: "It's been pretty much an absolute pleasure to make life hard for people who find off-road alternatives to perfectly good tarmac. It's not easy to think for a second that new routes like this are not a joy. It's a joy and a challenge. We find that joyful and satisfying quality - things better when it's been difficult." Basan, whose son Zeki visited Strathairon Macask Tomack, said: "I need to stay at along the way. Some dishes were prepared on outdoor fires. This campaign is a celebration of the world-class produce that can be found on the doorstep of our youth hostels. Restrictions on social distancing during the pandemic prevented us from meeting and getting to know each other and we know it's one of the facilities that makes the most of the time. Being able to do up a stream in the city of family, friends and fellow adventurers." SEE MAGAZINE



Do you have an Appetite for Adventure? Then this is for you

In recognition of Scotland's Year of Sports 2022, Hostelling Scotland and The Adventure Syndicate have premiered on Scotland's north coast. Filmed and edited by accomplished cycle filmmaker Masak Tomack, assisted by source the food we eat, and at the time we are willing to dedicate to preparing it and sharing with good friends.



HERE WE GO A-HOSTELLING

WORKING TOGETHER FOR TOURISM

2022/23 SCOTTISH THISTLE AWARDS WINNER

OUT AND about this summer and looking for great accommodation that offers value for money. Hostelling Scotland could be the perfect match.

The 91-year-old, not-for-profit, self-funded charity offers a network of 29 VisitScotland quality-assured youth hostels. From cities to islands, beaches to hills and mountains, and all points in between, they offer a warm welcome, flexible and affordable accommodation, and provide a great base for individuals and groups looking to explore Scotland.

Destinations such as the islands, Glen Nevis, Oban, Achmelvich, and Torridon are a popular choice for young travellers, couples and families keen to make full use of the shared public spaces, private rooms, or shared **HOAVE SCOTIA ROOMS FOR FUN, FOOD & INSPIRATION** and facilities such as self-catering kitchens.

There is accommodation on the NC500 route and Skye, while the eco-friendly Loch Oss with people grabbing all in the beautiful s...

City hostels, meanwhile, an increase in Wood hostels and the exclusive private hire offer alternative accommodation extend the appeal of broader audience.

“ The hostelling experience transcends generations and brings people together. Age is irrelevant when you share a love for travel and the outdoors. ”

Group Statement of Financial Activities

(incorporating the Group Income and expenditure account) For the year ended 31 January 2023.

Independent Auditor's Statement on the Summarised Financial Statements to the Members of Scottish Youth Hostels Association

We have examined the summarised financial statements of Scottish Youth Hostels Association for the year ended 31 January 2023. This statement, including the opinion has been prepared for, and only for, the charity's members and trustees as a body and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this statement is shown or into whose hands it may come, save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditor

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the summarised report and financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law and the recommendations of the Charities SORP. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements within the Annual Review with the full annual financial statements and trustees report. Our procedures, which were conducted with regard to Bulletin 2008/3 (withdrawn) which was issued by the then Auditing Practices Board.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the trustees report of the Scottish Youth Hostels Association for the year ended 31 January 2023.

Henderson Loggie LLP

Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditor
11-15 Thistle Street
Edinburgh
EH2 1DF

	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:		
<i>Donations and legacies</i>	164,793	206,665
<i>Grants receivable</i>	-	909,441
Charitable activities - Operating Youth Hostels	7,374,764	3,092,168
Other trading activities		
Commercial Income from SYHA (Trading) Ltd	203,197	170,044
Membership subscriptions	539,100	278,055
Investments – bank interest	14,291	300
Other Income – net gain on disposal of fixed assets	111,259	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total income	8,407,404	4,656,673
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds		
SYHA (Trading) Ltd expenditure	153,259	140,857
Membership costs	38,749	39,155
Charitable activities - Operating Youth Hostels	7,249,050	4,624,339
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total expenditure	7,441,058	4,804,351
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net (expenditure)/income	966,346	(147,678)
Transfers between funds	-	-
Net movement in funds	966,346	(147,678)
Reconciliation of funds		
Total funds brought forward	12,657,238	12,804,916
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total funds carried forward	13,623,584	12,657,238
	<hr/> <hr/>	<hr/> <hr/>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet

At 31 January 2023

	Group 2023 £	Group 2022 £
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	14,960,807	15,153,194
Investments	-	-
	14,960,807	15,153,194
Current assets		
Stocks	29,888	20,108
Debtors	250,660	702,112
Cash at bank and in hand	6,007,548	3,736,805
Assets held for sale	650,174	650,174
	6,938,270	5,109,199
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(4,058,866)	(2,715,988)
Net current assets	2,879,404	2,393,211
Total assets less current liabilities	17,840,211	17,546,405
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(4,216,627)	(4,889,167)
Net assets	13,623,584	12,657,238
Funds		
Restricted Funds	1,053,587	1,053,724
Unrestricted general funds	12,569,997	11,603,514
Total charity funds	13,623,584	12,657,238

Hostelling Finance

Hostelling Finance Total operational income was £8,407,404 (2022: £4,656,673) an 80% increase of £3,750,731 on prior year (2022: £998,196 increase). Total resources expended was £7,441,058 (2022: £4,804,351), a 55% increase of £2,636,707 (2022: £365,474 increase). The resulting surplus of income over expenditure was £966,346 in the year after all costs including depreciation (2022: deficit £147,678).

SYHA (Trading) Ltd. a wholly owned subsidiary trading company generated, in its thirteenth year of trading, incoming resources of £203,197 (2022: £170,044), with resources expended of £153,259 (2022: £140,857) providing a net profit of £49,938 (2022: £29,187), a sum which has been gifted to the parent company.

SYHA gratefully received general donations and legacies of £128,249 (2022: £16,948) along with restricted donations and legacies totalling £36,544 (2022: £189,717).

The following expenditure was made from these restricted funds in the year; • Social Inclusion: £15,139 (2022: £18,221) was expended on social inclusion youth programmes

- Small Hostels Project: £5,595 (2022: £0)
- Property Legacy : We had no expenditure in the year
- Visit Scotland Funding: £15,947 was expended on marketing (£11,147) and IT (£4,800) in the year

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 27th June 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Claire McCorquodale: Director

Paul Randall: Director

Note to the Summarised Financial Statements

The summarised financial statements are taken from the audited statutory financial statements of Scottish Youth Hostels Association for the year ended 31 January 2023. The auditor's opinion on those statutory financial statements was unqualified with no emphasis of matter reporting. Further the auditor's report contained no statement under either s. 498(2) or (3) of the Companies Act 2006. The summarised financial statements may not contain enough information for a full understanding of Scottish Youth Hostels Association's affairs and members are invited to read them in conjunction with the audited financial statements of the charitable company. Copies of the full statutory annual accounts will be delivered to the Register of Companies and a copy can be obtained from The Chief Executive, SYHA, 7 Glebe Crescent, Stirling, FK8 2JA.

The hostelling experience transcends generations and brings people together. Age is irrelevant when you share a love for travel and the outdoors.

Kay Gillespie, Award Winning Travel Influencer



Scottish Outdoor Young Team (SOYT) enjoying a weekend break at our Torrion Youth Hostel

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Scottish Youth Hostels Association (also known as SYHA or Hostelling Scotland) is a registered Scottish charity No.SC013138 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in Scotland, No. SC310841. Registered Office 7 Glebe Crescent, Stirling, FK8 2JA.

