

Mountain Aid (SCIO)

Report and Accounts

31st March 2025

Mountain Aid (SCIO)

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for the period ending 31st March 2025
Scottish Charity Number SC051112

Trustees acting throughout the period

Jane Kale (Chairman)
Mairi Paterson (Secretary)
Robert Jopling (Treasurer)
Susan Beech
Karin Helwig
Marguerite Robertson
Alexander Slimon

The Trustees noted above were re-appointed at the Annual General Meeting held on 24 October 2024.

Contact Address

Drumbeg Cottage, Gartness Road, Drymen, G63 0DW

Registered Address

Drumbeg Cottage, Gartness Road, Drymen, G63 0DW

Formation of the organisation

Mountain Aid (Charity No SC040294) was formed in February 2009 as an unincorporated charitable organisation. In 2020, the status of the organisation was changed to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, resulting in the formation of Mountain Aid (SCIO) (Charity No SC051112) and the winding up of Mountain Aid (Charity No SC040294).

All of the assets and liabilities of Mountain Aid (Charity No SC040294) were transferred to Mountain Aid (SCIO) (Charity No SC051112)

Recruitment and appointment of Trustees

Trustees will be appointed or reappointed in accordance with the provisions in the Constitution.

Governing Document

Mountain Aid (SCIO) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation and the purposes and administration arrangements are set out in our constitution.

Charitable purposes

Our purposes, as stated in our constitution, are:

- 4.1 *To seek to reduce the number of Mountain Rescue Team callouts and rescues by promoting mountain safety awareness in all its forms through free or subsidised education and training.*
- 4.2 *To provide financial support to Mountain Rescue Teams to help in their rescue efforts.*
- 4.3 *To supply equipment and/or services, not readily available from other sources, to persons injured as a result of a climbing / hillwalking accident to help ease their situation*
- 4.4 *To support or initiate other charitable causes which the committee deem suitable. Such causes will normally have direct relevance to mountaineering activities and in particular, safety aspects of these activities*

Activities and achievements

Skills training

In the last reporting year Mountain Aid provided funding for 5 Navigation and 2 Winter Skills courses, all of which were delivered by Andy Cloquet, an experienced and qualified mountaineering instructor.

Navigation

Mountain Aid also provided funding for 5 1-day First Steps with Navigation course aimed specifically at beginners. It was hoped that some Next Steps with Navigation courses could be arranged but unfortunately the instructor was unavailable during the latter part of 2024.

There were 40 places available, of which 37 places were booked but there were only 29 attendees. This was the worst level of attendance on any of the courses. Some of the cancellations were due to illness or injury and all were received in just prior to the date of the course, which made it difficult to fill the spaces. Some participants simply did not turn up on the morning of the course and gave no explanation as to the reason for not attending. Most deposits were forfeited (three were refunded due to covid*) so instructor's costs were covered but training opportunities were lost.

Winter Skills

Mountain Aid planned 3 2-day courses and 2 1-day courses in Winter Skills but unfortunately, inclement weather conditions led to cancellations. Both 1-day courses were cancelled due to lack of snow. The first 2-day course went ahead but conditions were challenging with strong winds and drifting snow. The second 2-day course started but the first day had to be cut short due to storms and decision was taken to cancel second day for safety reasons. The final 2-day course was planned for early March but was not advertised so weather conditions could be monitored. In the end it could not go ahead. When the 1-day courses were cancelled, it was suggested to participants that these might be rescheduled for March; unfortunately, this was not possible due to a lack of snow.

In summary, 1 2-day course and 1 shortened 2-day course went ahead. These had places for 12 participants but in the end only 11 attended.

(* Course terms and conditions no longer state that deposits will be refunded if cancelled due to covid).

Dundee Mountain Film Festival

Mountain Aid had a stand at DMFF in December 2024. This was organised by Trustee Susan Beech, who attended on Friday evening and Saturday afternoon and evening. Trustees Karin Helwig, Jane Kale and Mairi Paterson attended at various times during the event.

Scottish Charity No. SC051112

The stand generated interest, although most people had not previously heard of Mountain Aid. One lady did say she had been on both a navigation and a winter skills course.

An interactive game was available on the stand and despite it not being promoted so much this year many people did still have a go. Plenty of leaflets and pens were handed out to people. These prove very useful as a conversation starter and are items that will remind people of the charity.

The sum of £58.05 was raised in donations

Several people who stopped by the stand remembered Mountain Aid's predecessor, Boots Across Scotland, but were not aware of Mountain Aid. This highlights a couple of issues: firstly, that Mountain Aid does not have the same high profile as its predecessor and secondly that most of the attendees at DMFF are of an age who remember Boots Across Scotland.

Plans for 2025/2026

Plans for 2024/2025 include 4 1-day First Steps with Navigation courses in Spring/Summer 2025. It is also hoped that Next Steps with Navigation course will be available in Autumn 2025 but these are still to be finalised. As far as Winter Skills are concerned, further discussions are required as the unpredictable weather conditions in recent years have resulted in too many courses being cancelled.

Event

A major event is being planned for Spring 2026. Further details will be released in due course.

Davy McLellan Memorial

Davy McLellan was one of the founding members of Mountain Aid's predecessor Boots Across Scotland. He sadly died in 2021 and his family very kindly made a donation from his estate to Mountain Aid. The trustees decided that they would like to remember him by installing a memorial at Tinto which was one of his favourite hills. The memorial was unveiled in June 2024 with a small gathering of Davy's family and friends.

Donations

Donations of £32, all anonymous, were received through PayPal in the accounting period.

Trustee remuneration and expenses

The Trustees did not receive any remuneration or expenses during the year, other than reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred because of their dual role as committee members. These are detailed separately.

Reserves

The charity ended the accounting period with total cash reserves of £10,802.65.

This represents a decrease in unrestricted funds of £1,294.92 over the period.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Jopling', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert Jopling
Treasurer and Trustee
11 November 2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Mountain Aid

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 5 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). 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 as required 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 in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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 seeks 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 view given by 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, or

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



Kate Baxter
Chartered Tax Advisor
Baxter Accounting and Tax Services
12 Southview Road, Blanefield, Glasgow, G63 9JQ

Mountain Aid

Receipts and Payments for the year ending 31st March 2025

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Receipts		
Donations		
Donations from Winter Skills courses	143.09	743.14
Donations from Navigation courses	874.85	1618.43
Total donations from courses	1017.94	2361.57
Through PayPal Giving Fund	32.25	207.25
From DMFF	58.05	57.51
From family of D McLellan (dec'd)	100.00	0.00
Total donations	1208.24	2626.33
Legacies	0.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	0.00
Receipts from fundraising activities		
Winter Safety Talks	0.00	0.00
Total receipts from fundraising activities	0.00	0.00
Gross receipts from trading	0.00	0.00
Receipts from investments, other than land and buildings	176.08	134.08
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	0.00	0.00
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	0.00	0.00
Total Receipts	1384.32	2760.41

Payments	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Expenses from fundraising activities		
Winter Safety Talks	(0.00)	(0.00)
Expenses from providing courses		
Winter Skills Courses	(870.00)	(1740.00)
First Aid Courses	(0.00)	(0.00)
Navigation Courses	(1000.00)	(2420.00)
Total expenses from providing courses	(1870.00)	(4160.00)
Course deposits refunded	(0.00)	(100.00)
Gross trading payments	(0.00)	(0.00)
Payments relating to charitable activities		
Consumables (paper etc)	(0.00)	(0.00)
Web presence (Weebly/GoDaddy)	(109.18)	(0.00)
Auditing	(0.00)	(0.00)
Venue hire for AGM	(0.00)	(0.00)
DMFF Expenses	(180.00)	(85.86)
Cost of D McLellan Memorial plinth	(418.34)	(0.00)
Total payments relating to charitable activities	(0.00)	(85.86)
Fees paid to PayPal	(0.00)	(0.00)
Total donations to like-minded organisations	(0.00)	(0.00)
Governance costs (incl insurance)	(101.72)	(101.16)
Purchase of fixed assets	(0.00)	(0.00)
Purchase of investments	(0.00)	(0.00)
Total Adjustments	(0.00)	(0.00)
Total Payments	(2679.24)	(4447.02)
All funds are unrestricted		

Mountain Aid

Statement of Balances as at 31st March 2024

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Opening Balance - Cooperative Bank – Current account	43.86	1071.80
Opening Balance - Cooperative Bank – Savings account	10646.46	11512.38
Opening Balance - PayPal	1407.25	1200.00
Total	12097.57	13784.18
Total receipts in period	1384.32	2760.41
Total payments in period	(2679.24)	(4447.02)
(Deficit) / Surplus for period	(1294.92)	(1686.61)
Closing Balance - Cooperative Bank - Current account	797.86	43.86
Closing Balance - Cooperative Bank - Savings account	10002.54	10646.46
Closing Balance - PayPal	2.25	1407.25
Unrestricted funds at end of period	10802.65	12097.57
Change in unrestricted funds in period	(1294.92)	(1686.61)
Assets		
Equipment (for fundraising events)	0.00	0.00

Mountain Aid

Trustee Expenses for the year ended 31st March 2024

	2024/25	2023/24
	£	£
Robert Jopling	(629.52)	(0.00)
Susan Beech	(0.00)	(28.35)
"Expenses" are solely to cover financial outlay for purchases. There are no expenses paid for services.		

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf



Robert Jopling
Treasurer and Trustee
11 November 2025