

ANNUAL REPORT

Supporting a diverse Campus
and innovative centre for
learning and enterprise

2025/2026

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MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

The following Committees and administration team are responsible for overseeing the routine operation of the Crichton Foundation. They are supported by independent advice on audit, investment and legal compliance:

Executive Committee

Andrew Walls (Chairman)

Gordon McKerrow

Dave Roberts

Gavin Stevenson

Awards Committee

Charlie Auld

Fiona Neilson

Fraser Sanderson

Jenny Smith

Kate Thomson

In attendance

Andrew Walls

Company Secretary

Pamela Stokes

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FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Accounts

The results for the year to 31st March 2026 are set out in the statement of financial activities. These are available on the Crichton Foundation's website.

Incoming Resources

The operational costs of the Crichton Foundation are funded through the income received from our investment portfolio, which is managed on our behalf by Brewin Dolphin. Income from donations, subscriptions, fundraising and profile-raising activities is used to support the awards distributed throughout the year. The fundraising income received during the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026 was £18,973, which is applied 100% to further the charitable aims of the Crichton Foundation.



Convenor's report

The Crichton Foundation celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2025. One year after Glasgow University put down its embryonic roots on Elizabeth Crichton's land the Crichton Foundation was established. Our aims then, and now, were to support the students and academic institutions of the Campus. Sir David Landale started the enterprise and Dame Barbara Kelly continued it. To both we must be hugely grateful for their enthusiasm and drive which got the show on the road.

In its first years the Crichton Foundation raised substantial sums of money, both from most generous individuals and from very productive fundraising activities. The Dumfries and Galloway Women's Lunch and Autumn events which took many different forms were very successful, attracting large crowds, including many individuals with deep pockets. That generosity allowed the Foundation to fund a number of significant developments on the Campus. The arrival of Dumfries College and other institutions boosted the academic offering, allowing the unique possibility of progress from minimal achievement at school to significant postgraduate excellence, all at the same location.

But while Crichton's academic performance has flourished other factors such as Covid and a changing pattern of charitable giving have begun to negatively influence the Crichton Foundation's fundraising ability. Yes, we have had excellent Conversations and a tremendous new event, the Crichton Awards, which highlighted both academic and commercial success and we intend that it will continue. However, as administrative costs spiral upwards our ability to provide financial support diminishes. Your Trustees have therefore decided to look at much "leaner" models of conducting our business. As I write we are formulating a different form of Crichton Foundation, one which will absolutely preserve Elizabeth Crichton's endowment and legacy, but will allow us to substantially increase our contributions to the students of the south west of Scotland and their parent academic bodies.

At our Annual General Meeting in September, I will be presenting the Board's proposals for change. We have already begun an extensive programme of consultation with our Patrons, members and supporters, and we are absolutely determined to maintain the ethos and values which have driven us for the last 25 years and will continue to do so for at least the next 25. We also recognise the importance of our other activities and their contribution to the social life of the region. We are therefore seeking alternative ways of ensuring continuance of these important events.

For me personally, having been involved with the Crichton Foundation for 16 years, 13 of them as Convenor, has been an extraordinary privilege. I have enjoyed it thoroughly, have met some of the Country's most influential and important people, every one of whom, without exception, on discovering what we have here, has been both admiring and envious. I will be stepping down as Convenor at the AGM, but not stepping away from what is truly a jewel in Scotland's crown. Thank you all for allowing me to have enjoyed it with you.

Floreat Crichton

Andrew Walls FRCS
Convenor





The Women of Dumfries and Galloway Lunch

The Women of Dumfries and Galloway was held on Friday 16th May 2025. One hundred and sixty-seven guests assembled in Easterbrook Hall to enjoy a drinks reception and two-course meal. The guest speaker was Jilly Goolden, one of the best known wine personalities and experts in the UK.

Jilly is almost single handedly responsible for the way wine is now described all over the world. On BBC TV's iconic Food and Drink programme which launched her wine career in the eighties, she reached audiences of up to 8 million a week over the course of two decades, in the UK and internationally. Unconventionally she abandoned traditional 'winespeak' as being out of touch with her huge and diverse audience. Instead she described wines in the much more vivid, accessible way that has not only become her trademark but has also been adopted all over the world: 'a whiff of hot buttered toast' being much more evocative than 'pedigree and finesse'.

The story of her surprising wine journey on (and off) TV was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. The fundraising surplus from the event was £3,800.

The Women of Dumfries and Galloway Lunch Committee

Robyn Gladwin (Chairperson)

Abby Butcher

Elizabeth Ann Hughes

Barbara Kelly

Totty Rotheroe

Helen Steele

Annabel West

Maria Yerburch



Scottish Charity Number: SC024589
Scottish Guarantee Company Number: SC361942
Registered Office: Grierson House, Dumfries, DG1 4ZE

CRICHTON CONVERSATIONS

The 2025/2026 series of Crichton Conversations lectures were very successful and well attended. We were delighted to be able to welcome one hundred and fifty guests to join the debates and due to their generosity with sponsorship and donations (including Gift Aid where applicable) raised a surplus of £1,213 for the Crichton Foundation.



- The programme started in style as we welcomed one of our Honorary Patrons as we hosted **An Evening With Kirsty Wark** on Thursday 2nd October 2025. Kirsty was in Conversation with Crichton Foundation Convenor, Andrew Walls. Guests enjoyed a rare opportunity to hear firsthand from Kirsty herself about her extraordinary career, her experiences on both sides of the camera, and her reflections on the changing landscape of journalism, broadcasting, and culture. We are very grateful to the Open University in Scotland for their sponsorship of the event.



- The second Crichton Conversation of the series took place on Tuesday 17th February 2026. **Professor Leigh Sparks** considered *the future for high streets in Scotland*.



- The season concluded on Tuesday 17th February 2026 when **John Burns OBE, MBA, BA (Hons), DipHSM** spoke about the *NHS in Scotland: past, present and future*.

Conference

On Thursday 13th November 2025 the Crichton Foundation hosted a conference on **Delivering Scotland's Future: Skills, Innovation and Opportunity**.

The guest speakers were:

Douglas Dickson - Dumfries and Galloway College

Liam Middleton - University of Glasgow

Michael Dodds - SOSE Youth Advisory Forum

Jake McLaughlan - SOSE Youth Advisory Forum

Angela Cox - Ayrshire College

Lucinda Bruce-Gardyne - Founder of Genius Foods and executive Chair of Edinburgh New Town Cookery School

Phil Robinson - Jas P Wilson

Douglas Morrison - BE-ST

David Lowe - Borders College

John McKendrick - University of Strathclyde

Lynne Sommerville - Digital Dairy Chain, University of the West of Scotland

Janet Brown - RSE

Gavin Stevenson - Crichton Foundation

The conference was hosted in partnership with RSE



Crichton Foundation 25th Anniversary Awards

The Crichton Foundation marked a major milestone on Thursday 4th December 2025 as it celebrated its 25th Anniversary with a special Awards Evening at Easterbrook Hall. The event honoured individuals and organisations whose work inspires, supports and strengthens the Crichton community.

A total of 142 guests attended the celebration, which opened with a drinks reception followed by a three-course meal. Sponsored by the Open University in Scotland, the awards ceremony was hosted by Lori Carnochan, who presented winners across eight categories. Finalists were shortlisted from a strong field of nominations, with selections made by an independent panel comprising Gillian Brydson, Russel Griggs and Matthew Wallace.

2025 Award Winners

Staff Member of the Year, Dumfries and Galloway College: **Danielle Higginson**

Recognised for her remarkable early career achievements, progressing from learner to first-class BA (Hons) graduate in Rural Business Management.

2. Staff Member of the Year, Open University in Scotland: **Derek Goldman**

Honoured for his extensive partnership work across educational, charitable, business and governmental sectors and his longstanding advocacy for the Crichton.

3. Staff Member of the Year, Scotland's Rural College (SRUC): **Lucy Thornton**

Celebrated for her commitment to inclusive education, innovative teaching and community engagement, as well as her inspirational personal resilience.

4. Staff Member of the Year, University of Glasgow: **Freya Skinner**

Awarded for her dedication to education, sustainability and community initiatives.

5. Staff Member of the Year, University of the West of Scotland: **Julie Orr**

Acknowledged for excellence across both nursing practice and academic leadership.

6. Small Business Organisation: C&C Insurance Brokers – **Lauren Kerr**

Recognised for her dedication to building a successful business while balancing the demands of family life.

7. Medium Business Organisation: Solway Disability Support – **Tammy McCollm**

Honoured for her compassion, dedication and deep commitment to supporting others.

8. Large Business Organisation: **The Holywood Trust**

Celebrated for more than 45 years of quietly transforming the lives of thousands of young people across the region.

Acknowledgements

The Crichton Foundation extends its sincere thanks to its headline sponsor, The Open University in Scotland; to the University of the West of Scotland for sponsoring both a table and the Medium Business category; and to the University of Glasgow for sponsoring the Small Business category.

Special appreciation is also given to the event working group whose efforts brought the celebration to life:

Fiona Kerr, Liz Griggs, Andrew Walls, Kate Thomson, Laura Williamson, Jennifer Challinor, Derek Goldman, Julie Orr and Pam Stokes.



Students and Awards

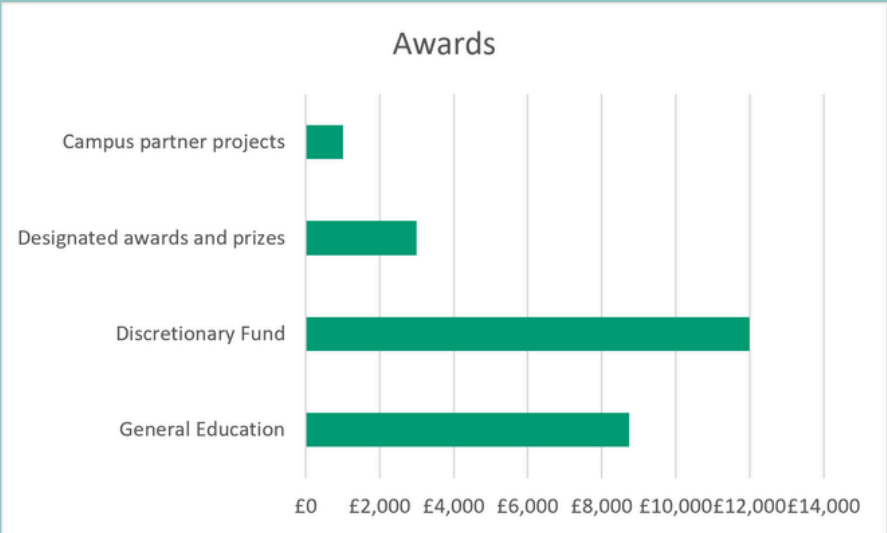
The Open University in Scotland	No. of students		Total
Undergraduate students	510		540
Postgraduate students	20		
Access students	10		
University of Glasgow			
Environmental Science and Sustainability	UG	48	355
Global Sustainable Development	UG	4	
Health and Social Sector Leadership	UG	10	
Primary Education with Teaching Qualification	UG	112	
Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Primary)	PG	25	
Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary STEM)	PG	2	
Ecology and Environmental Monitoring	PG	8	
End of Life Studies	PG	23	
Enhanced Practice in Education	PG	17	
Environment, Culture and Communication	PG	19	
Environmental Risk Management	PG	6	
Management and Sustainable Tourism	PG	22	
Sustainable Tourism and Global Challenges	PG	16	
Tourism, Development and Culture	PG	5	
Postgraduate Research	PG	38	

Dumfries and Galloway College	No. of students				Total
	FE-PT	FE-FT	HE-PT	HE-FT	
Beauty Therapy	8	40	0	22	70
Business and Accounting	53	15	1	51	120
Computing	53	23	0	27	103
Construction	0	182	0	337	519
Creative Industries	47	28	0	42	117
Early Years	40	100	16	77	233
Engineering	31	137	25	145	338
English for speakers of other languages	0	0	0	182	182
Hairdressing	0	55	0	33	88
Health and Social Care	58	74	0	78	210
Hospitality	0	53	0	27	80
Life Skills, Employability and Pathways	0	21	0	99	120
Open Learning	0	0	6	341	347
Renewable Transport	0	33	0	40	73
Short Courses (External Development)	0	0	94	505	599
Sport and Fitness	60	42	0	18	120
Work-based SVQs	0	0	171	700	871
Totals					4190

University of the West of Scotland				
	Part time	Full time	Total	235
Childhood Studies	0	15	15	
Social Work	0	30	30	
HN PG Modules	5	0	5	
Pre-Reg Nursing BSc - Adult	0	140	140	
Pre-Reg Nursing BSc - Mental Health	0	35	35	
Research - Education	<5	0	<5	
Research - HNM	<5	0	<5	
Scotland’s Rural College (SRUC) Barony Campus		No. of students		Total
Higher Education		318		912
Further Education		507		
Short courses		87		
Total				6232

General Education Awards

Thirty-eight individual student applications were received. Twenty-eight students received awards totalling £8,750.



Evelyn Hastings Prize

This prize was established to recognise the work of Miss Evelyn Hastings OBE. Evelyn had a long career in nursing, culminating in becoming the chief nursing officer for Scotland. The Prize is awarded each year to a nursing student at the University of the West of Scotland in Dumfries who has demonstrated high standards in clinical practice placements and resilience in the face of adversity in the final year of their BSc in Nursing (adult or mental health). In 2025 the prize was awarded to Anna McKenna. Mara was chosen as the winner due to her determination to achieve her goal of becoming a nurse, whilst also coping with her mum's terminal illness, subsequent bereavement and all of the associated arrangements.

Sir David Landale Prize

This prize is funded through a bequest from the late Sir David Landale, to be awarded to a university student who is nominated for making an outstanding contribution to the Crichton Campus in the Dumfries and Galloway region. The winner in 2025 was Meg Crawford. Meg is a student graduating with First Class Honours from our MA Primary Education programme. She is a passionate new teacher who roots her practice in Social Justice. She was an excellent representative of the university on a teaching placement in Bonn, Germany.

Meg's work as a Student Ambassador for the University, School, and Campus is nothing short of exemplary. Her work ethic, motivation, and willingness to always lend a hand when needed, has made her a true asset to the team over the years. She is kind, thoughtful, patient, and always goes the extra mile. She represented the School and her Programme in videos and articles, some of which have been key parts of national and international campaigns.

Terry Prize

These prizes are funded through a bequest from the late Dr Anne Terry in memory of her husband the late Professor Roland Terry. The prize is awarded to a University of Glasgow undergraduate studying BSc Environmental Science and Sustainability. In 2025 the winners were Yifei Wang and Benjamin Davidson.

Yifei is a kind and supportive member of her class, supportive of peers, and always willing to contribute. She is active in the wider school as Student Ambassador, helping with recruitment and induction events, assisting during Induction weeks, and embodying school values of inclusivity and community. Yifei is also involved in social events and other activities through the newly established GUDU (Glasgow University Dumfries Union) and in their wider community initiatives and events. Yifei is popular among her cohort and staff for her happy and engaging personality.

Benjamin has been a strong student since joining the campus in 2022, excelling in Earth System Science and Geographic Information Systems initially and now in his courses at level 3. He has performed exceptionally well in his courses; in addition to contributing to laboratory and fieldwork, and the creation of an insightful learning journal, Benjamin authored an excellent critique of the impacts of unsustainable fishing practices. This work clearly demonstrates Benjamin's ability to analyse and interpret academic literature in relation to practical experience and real-world observations. Benjamin is an accomplished presenter and achieved the top grade in the group project

Awards to Partners

Dumfries and Galloway College received £12,000 which they distribute as a discretionary fund to students in need.

The Open University in Scotland received a contribution of £1000 toward the Mock COP event held in Dumfries.

FRIENDS SCHEME

The Foundation encourages local people, businesses and organisations to take an active interest in the Crichton. The Friends Scheme enables people to demonstrate their support for the Foundation by donating an annual subscription to help us achieve our charitable aims. During the year to 31st March 2026 the scheme generated a total of £7,005 in subscriptions. Gift Aid is added where applicable.

We are grateful to all our Friends who continue to support our activities, those who are listed here and many more who wish to remain anonymous: (Individual, Joint, Associate and Life Friends)

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Mrs Susan Bedford
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Mrs Mimi Craig
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Mrs Marion Bone

Dr Janet Brennan

Mrs Margaret Burton

Mrs Margaret Carruthers

Mrs Maureen Corrie

Mr Christopher Craig

Mrs Mimi Craig

Mr Roger Crofts

Dr Maureen Crowley

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Mr Robert Lee

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The Foundation is grateful for the generosity of companies and individual donors who have continued to support our activities throughout the year:

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Dumfries and Galloway Council
Dumfries and Galloway Life Magazine
Dumfries Courier
Dumfries Standard
D&G Advocacy Service
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