

An Gaeláras Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Report of the directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025. The directors of An Gaeláras Limited for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report are as follows:

Deaglan Ó Mocháin	Nicole Rabbet - Resigned 14th November 2024
Mary McCallion	Dr Éamonn Ó Ciardha - Resigned 27th October 2025
Laurence McCurry	Antoin De Brún - Resigned 1st April 2025
Bernadette Heery - Appointed 21st October 2025	Dr Katie Nic Aindreasa - Resigned 31th October 2024
Fiachra Mackle - Appointed 14th November 2024	Sinead Coyle- Resigned 27th October 2025

Chairperson Introduction

I'd like to start by paying tribute to the previous chair, Mary Nic Ailín, who gave huge commitment and energy to the role in a period of significant transition, including helping to manage a change in leadership in the organisation. The main development this year is the departure of our previous director, Siubhán Nic Amhlaoibh in April 2025. On behalf of the board I'd like to thank her for her professionalism and commitment, and for all her hard work over the past two years. We wish her well in her new role with Gael Linn.

We have subsequently recruited a new director, Jack Mac Íomhair, who started in September 2025, and we are very much looking forward to working with him to advance the aims of the organisation over the next few years.

Other members of staff to depart include Peter Doherty, our events manager, who leaves an incredible legacy in respect of IMBOLC, our annual music festival, now approaching its 10th year. Peter has been replaced by Ryan Harling, who had previously done a fantastic job in charge of marketing.

Paul McIntyre moved on from the role as Acadamh coordinator, and was replaced by Orla Ní Chorrágáin initially, and more recently by Saoirse Barbour. We look forward to a period of stability, growth and development of the Acadamh, and are always excited to see our young performers coming through Feiseanna and Fleadhanna, and performing in the Cultúrlann and elsewhere. Cara McLoughlin also moved on from the Muinítereas project, and was replaced by Amanda Koser-Gillespie, and we also welcomed Lauren Ní Néill back to the Cultúrlann as project officer for the UU affiliated FLOURISH project. Our heartfelt thanks to those who have left, and a very big welcome to the new members of staff, and we look forward to their contribution alongside our existing team members.

In terms of board membership, we welcomed Fiachra Mackle, and we said farewell to a number of former board members for various reasons, including Dr. Katie Mac Aindreasa, Nicole Rabbet, Antóin De Brún and Grace Ní Niallais. We thank them all for their valuable input and continued support.

We also welcomed An Creann Beatha Café to An Chultúrlann, and they have brought a lot of energy and life to the building. We would like to thank all of our existing tenants for their ongoing support, including The North West Academy, In Your Space Circus, The Soundworks, and An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge.

An Gaeláras Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Report of the directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

A big thanks too to our funders: Foras na Gaeilge, The Arts Council, The Department of Foreign Affairs, The Community Relations Council, Derry City and Strabane District Council, as well as the Ultach Trust. The Education Authority continues to fund Club Óige Setanta our all Irish youth club, one of only 2 all Irish clubs funded through this scheme, and we have recently secured two additional funded positions through Peace Plus. We would not be able to achieve our objectives without this ongoing help and support from the groups mentioned above and we hope we have repaid their confidence through the quality and breadth of our programmes and activities.

We would like to pay tribute to our various departments, as we had our usual extremely busy year, book ended by Imbolc in February, and our Halloween and Christmas celebrations. In between we had a very busy Seachtain na Gaeilge, summer schemes, numerous events, talks, classes, trips, book launches and concerts. It was another very good year overall, with hundreds of regular attendees at our various classes, and thousands of visitors to our festivals and other activities. Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin remains one of the most active, and innovative Irish language organisations in the country, and we are extremely grateful to our departments and full time and part time staff members for their hard work and dedication. Our ancilliary and support staff are a crucial part of the Cultúrlann, and we also want to highlight their dedication and commitment to the work of the organisation.

The main challenge we faced over the financial year relates to running costs such as electricity, gas and water, as they continue to rise beyond our control, as well as other fixed costs involving services, insurance, and ongoing repairs.

Everyone's rate has risen over the past year, while funds remain static, creating real difficulties for the staff, in terms of cost of living, and for the organisation, in terms of balancing our budget. We are committed to working with the new director to identify new sources of funding, particularly unrestricted funding and the exploitation of our existing heritage assets. This work has already started, and will be discussed further as part of a strategic focus on finances before the end of 2025, with the aim of approaching the 25-26 year with renewed optimism and confidence.

Deaglán Ó Mocháin, Cathaoirleach an Bhoird

Our Aims and Objectives

An Gaeláras Limited is a charity, which was established to promote the Irish language and Irish culture in Derry and the north west. The organisation's vision is to create a shared, bilingual community, invested in Irish culture in the broadest sense. We nurture the Irish language and Irish culture, connecting generations and communities, through education, celebration and creativity.

We have values that are important in the work we do, and these values are empathy, community, appreciation, gratitude and integrity.

In order to contribute to the charitable goals of the organisation, throughout the year 24-25 we undertook the following events:

Our educational department taught around 400-450 people weekly through formal classes, conversation classes, masterclasses, intensive courses, social events and trips to the Gaeltacht. We also taught Irish to 400+ people, with 4x intensive courses, weekly classes and classes over the summer. In addition, we ran a programme of weekly introductions to language and culture for younger children not attending Irish medium education.

An Gaeláras Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Report of the directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

Our cross community department taught 5 classes per week to non traditional learners of Irish, including members of the PUL community, new arrivals to the country and others. It also organised talks, seminars and language related workshops in community groups and schools.

Our youth service - Club Óige Setanta - is an Irish language youth club that meets the needs of young Irish speakers in the city. It offered youth services three nights a week, as well as additional youth related trips and events, including a well attended summer scheme.

Our music academy taught music to 300+ people throughout the academic year, and organised additional performances, including at the Feis and Fleadh, as well as showcases, facilitating music grades and a summer workshop.

Our culture and arts department had another successful year including the annual IMBOLC festival in February, and various concerts, book launches, talks, poetry readings and other events throughout the year.

We continued to work with partners in building the community wealth of Derry community, including our ongoing commitment to protect and utilise the heritage buildings under our custodianship.

The board and the team continued to work on our 2024-27 strategy based on 5 major goals for the coming years:

- Teaching Irish and traditional music through a range of formal and informal learning opportunities.
- To provide a broad artistic program, focusing on creating opportunities for education and creativity through the medium of Irish, and the traditional Irish arts, and to hold exhibitions of the best Irish and Irish artists.
- To provide an Irish youth club that provides language, culture and leadership opportunities, and links to the wider program of the Uí Chanáin Cultural Centre and the regional needs of Irish medium youth services.
- Introducing non traditional learners to the Irish language and the arts, especially those from a broad PUL background, and who are not traditionally associated with the Irish language, and to use the language to foster links between different communities in Derry and the north-west.
- Building a strong organisation, developing staff, managing human and physical resources, financial resources, maintaining positive relationships with stakeholders while practising high standards of governance.

Financial Review

Principal Funding Sources

The principal funding sources over the relevant financial year have been the Arts Council, Foras na Gaeilge, Derry City and Strabane District Council, The Education Authority, The Department of Foreign Affairs, The Community Relations Council and the Ultach Trust. We have also secured new funding through the Peace Plus scheme. We also develop a significant return from our core tenants - the North West Academy, Crann Beatha (café), In Your Space Circus, The Soundworks and An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge.

An Gaeláras Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Report of the directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

This year, our financial health faced significant challenges. Our main sources of revenue - grant and government funding - remain stable, but we faced considerable increases in running costs, particularly in electricity and gas, leading to a budget deficit. To manage this, we are undertaking proactive measures to reduce operational costs, particularly in areas such as energy efficiency, office expenses and building maintenance. We are reviewing all aspects of our income and expenditure as a matter of urgency, and are engaging with all members of staff to focus on raising additional funds throughout the 2025-26 financial year. We have applied for a number of funds that will help improve the efficiency of our main building and we are also undertaking a major strategic investment in the Teach Scoile to ensure our financial sustainability via the provision of student accommodation from 2027 onwards.

In the face of these current challenges, we are continually assessing our financial position and we are very confident that our additional efforts to increase income and reduce expenditure will return us to our customary financial stability over the coming financial year.

Achievements and Support

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters, community members, learners, and attendees of our activities for their unwavering commitment to our mission. The participation of our learners, attendees, and community partners in our Irish language classes, cultural events, and music programs keeps the heart of our organisation beating. We are deeply thankful to our dedicated team and board for their hard work and passion, which enables us to continue promoting the rich heritage of Irish culture and language.

We remain optimistic about the future and confident that, together, we will continue to make a lasting impact on the community, keeping the Irish language and cultural traditions alive and thriving. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 22 November 1999 and registered as a charity on 22 November 1999. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed by its Articles of Association.

Recruitment and Appointment of the Board of Directors

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law and under the company's Articles are known as members of the Board. Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, one third of the members of the Board must stand for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

All members of the Board give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

Members Induction and Training

Board members are already familiar with the work of An Gaeláras Limited. Board members are encouraged to participate in relevant activities.

An Gaeláras Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Report of the directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

Obligations of the Board

The main obligation of the Board is to develop and oversee the implementation of policy and to ensure that structures and management comply with legal requirements and good governance practice.

Risk Management

The Board has conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure that appropriate systems and procedures have been established to mitigate the risks. Internal control risks are minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions and projects. A possible breach of confidentiality is an obvious risk, and Board members, staff and volunteers have signed the appropriate confidentiality agreements.

The major risk we face is the increase in running costs of the organisation, and we have taken short term, medium and long term steps to address this. Another major risk is loss of funding, and we are proactive in maintaining positive relationships with existing funders while also identifying new sources of support.

Organisational Structure

The An Gaeláras board meets every two months and is responsible for policy, strategic direction and monitoring overall performance. There are fortnightly staff meetings and a finance, and human resources committee meets prior to every board meeting. The director provides bi-monthly reports to the Board which include detailed financial reports (delivered alongside the treasurer) and updates on project development. Regular contact is maintained with the chair of the board, and issues are brought to the attention of the board members as appropriate in between the regular board meetings.

Responsibilities of the Board of Directors

The directors are responsible for preparing the Director Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Practice).

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company at the Balance Sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is not appropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis;

An Gaeláras Limited
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)
Report of the directors for the year ended 31 March 2025

- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The directors are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The directors are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In accordance with company law, as the company's directors, we certify that:

So far as we are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the company's auditors are unaware; and as the directors of the company we have taken all steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

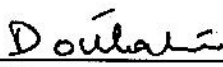
Auditors

McGroarty McCafferty & Company are deemed to be reappointed in accordance with Section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

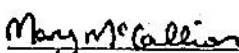
Small company provisions

This report is prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Directors on 5 November 2025 and signed on its behalf by;



Director



Director