

O-Bon on the Foyle Festival Group

Northern Ireland · Charity number 103135

Details

Known as O-Bon Festival Group/ O-Bon

Status Received

Registered 2016-02-09

Register [View on the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland register](#)

Contact

Address 70 Birch Hill
Derry
Bt47 2fj
BT47 2FJ

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Email obononthefoyle@gmail.com

Website www.foyleobon.com

Activities

Purposes: The objectives of the group are to celebrate and promote Japanese culture and arts in Northern Ireland, principally in Derry/Londonderry, through festivals and outreach programmes. In particular: - to increase public knowledge and understanding of the Japanese community in Northern Ireland through our outreach programme, school workshops, taiko instruction sessions and other activities deemed to further the purposes of the group. - to address the barriers existing in Northern Ireland, in particular in relation to music and festivals by creating a new shared space where both traditions of this historically divided country can feel safe and included while simultaneously providing opportunities for resident Japanese to contribute their traditions to the local cultural calendar - to promote the development of Japanese arts and culture within the city and county as a legacy to the work initiated during UK City of Culture 2013 particularly via continued fostering of links between our community and communities in Japan

What the charity does: The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science, The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity

How the charity works: Arts, Community development, Cross-border/cross-community, Cultural, Rural development

Who the charity helps: Children (5-13 year olds), Ethnic minorities, General public, Interface communities, Learning disabilities, Youth (14-25 year olds)

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£124,615	£126,472	£0	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Cara Mcloughlin		
Geraldine Delaney Carlin		
Ms Colleen O'neill		
Ms Sinead Reddin		
Shay Clyde		
Yoriko Marshall		

O-Bon on the Foyle Festival Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103135

Accounts

Organisation Name	Obon on the Foyle Festival Group
Reporting Period	1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025
Charity Reference Number	NIC103135

Statement of Receipts and Payments

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
ACNI Project Lottery	35,179.10	-	35,179.10	35,203.50
ACNI Rural Engagement Project	5,060.70	-	5,060.70	7,461.90
ACNI Premium Payments	-	-	-	-
DCSDC Festivals Fund	8,061.00	-	8,061.00	9,177.51
BBC Children in Need	-	-	-	9,995.00
Daiwa Foundation	-	-	-	2,000.00
GB Sasakawa Foundation	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	4,800.00
PHA Short Term Funding	5,000.00	-	5,000.00	9,490.00
CFNI DOC Carers Fund	30,145.00	595.00	30,740.00	30,145.00
CFNI DOH Mental Health Fund	2,648.00	-	2,648.00	9,754.80
Halifax Foundation	-	-	-	9,984.00
Keadue Fund	-	-	-	10,224.00
Honourable the Irish Society	-	-	-	579.00
DFA Reconciliation Fund	11,749.27	-	11,749.27	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000.00	-	15,000.00	-
Esme Mitchell Trust	1,000.00	-	1,000.00	-
Donations				
Amazon Smiles Programme	-	-	-	20.05
Other	-	1,205.00	1,205.00	-
Paypal Donations	-	175.00	175.00	-
Other Income				
Box Office	-	1,759.01	1,759.01	835.00
Paypal taiko fees	-	604.00	604.00	928.19
Taiko Class Fees	-	1,024.00	1,024.00	460.00
DCSDC One World Festival commission	-	-	-	1,000.00
Refunds/returns	350.00	60.00	410.00	2,224.95
TOTAL RECEIPTS	119,193.07	5,422.01	124,615.08	144,282.90
Payments				
Artistic Director	14,040.00	-	14,040.00	14,040.00
Administration	34,566.00	-	34,566.00	27,884.00
Artist and Facilitation Fees	35,154.77	-	35,154.77	35,000.00
Festival Costs	3,603.75	-	3,603.75	5,623.92
Venue and Transport Hire	11,605.00	295.00	11,900.00	6,023.61
Volunteer Costs	-	-	-	397.62
Accomodation and Travel Costs	7,544.70	358.43	7,903.13	5,351.16
Office Rental	840.00	-	840.00	1,680.00
Accountancy	500.00	-	500.00	1,500.00
Insurance	-	940.60	940.60	940.60
Social Media, Website Costs	155.88	327.66	483.54	498.60
Printing, postage and stationery	520.64	79.50	600.14	2,766.24
Bank Charges	-	57.54	57.54	177.19
Equipment Hire	1,168.00	-	1,168.00	1,168.00
Purchase of small equipment and consumables	380.99	84.61	465.60	989.98
PR, photography and video costs	1,970.00	-	1,970.00	2,110.00
Class lunches and event catering	4,830.99	-	4,830.99	5,137.26
Tee Shirt and hoody design and supply	736.92	-	736.92	1,735.74
Translation Fees	2,130.00	-	2,130.00	3,690.00
Asset Purchase	-	-	-	1,868.52
Payments Sub total	119,747.64	2,143.34	121,890.98	118,582.44



Organisation Name	Obon on the Foyle Festival Group
Reporting Period	1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025
Charity Reference Number	NIC103135

Statement of Receipts and Payments continued

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Payment Sub Total Carried Forward	119,747.64	2,143.34	121,890.98	118,582.44
Research and evaluation fees	1,100.00	-	1,100.00	11,250.00
Membership fees	-	75.00	75.00	75.00
Van costs	-	2,019.97	2,019.97	1,219.89
Training	-	45.00	45.00	-
Misc	350.41	-	350.41	-
Google	-	15.99	15.99	-
Microsoft	-	79.99	79.99	-
Kodo/Sado Tickets	-	284.65	284.65	-
Kodo /Sado workshop	-	336.40	336.40	-
Adobe	-	262.51	262.51	-
Paypal tech payments	-	-	-	95.98
Paypal fees	-	10.68	10.68	8.02
Total Payments	121,198.05	5,273.53	126,471.58	131,231.33
Surplus (deficit) for the period	2,004.98	148.48 -	1,856.50	13,051.57
Cash at bank 1st April 2024	51,168.70	1,280.39	52,449.09	39,397.52
Cash at bank 31st March 2025	49,163.72	1,428.87	50,592.59	52,449.09

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at bank 31st March 2024	51,168.70	1,280.39	52,449.09	39,397.52
Surplus (deficit) for the period	2,004.98	148.48 -	1,856.50	13,051.57
Cash at Bank 31st March 2025	49,163.72	1,428.87	50,592.59	52,449.09

Bank and Cash Balances

Bank Current Account	48,904.11	50,476.90
Paypal Account Balance	1,688.48	1,972.19
	50,592.59	52,449.09

Other Assets

	2025	2024
All Assets	56,689.06	56,689.06
TOTAL	£56,689.06	56,689.06

Liabilities (Restricted Funds)
Liabilities (Unrestricted Funds)

Approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf by 28/05/2025

Yoriko Marshall

Cara

Yoriko Marshall, Chair

Cara McLoughlin, Treasurer

O-Bon on the Foyle Festival Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103135

Accounts

Organisation Name	Obon on the Foyle Festival Group
Reporting Period	1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024
Charity Reference Number	NIC103135

Statement of Receipts and Payments

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
ACNI Project Lottery	£35,203.50	£0.00	£35,203.50	£32,691.00
ACNI Rural Engagement Project	£7,461.90	£0.00	£7,461.90	£0.00
ACNI Premium Payments	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£2,010.00
DCSDC Festivals Fund	£9,177.51	£0.00	£9,177.51	£10,000.00
BBC Children in Need	£9,995.00	£0.00	£9,995.00	£10,495.00
Daiwa Foundation	£2,000.00	£0.00	£2,000.00	£0.00
GB Sasakawa Foundation	£4,800.00	£0.00	£4,800.00	£0.00
PHA Short Term Funding	£9,490.00	£0.00	£9,490.00	£4,000.00
CFNI DOC Carers Fund	£30,145.00	£0.00	£30,145.00	£0.00
CFNI DOH Mental Health Fund	£9,754.80	£0.00	£9,754.80	£0.00
Halifax Foundation	£9,984.00	£0.00	£9,984.00	£3,000.00
Keadue Fund	£10,224.00	£0.00	£10,224.00	£0.00
Honourable the Irish Society	£579.00	£0.00	£579.00	£0.00
ACNI H&S Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£11,262.29
BBC Comic Relief	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£12,480.00
PCMDT Social Work Grants	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£5,217.80
Donations				
Paypal Giving Fund	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£1.00
Amazon Smiles Programme	£0.00	£20.05	£20.05	£23.29
Other Income				
Box Office	£0.00	£835.00	£835.00	£1,061.28
Paypal taiko fees	£0.00	£928.19	£928.19	£0.00
Taiko Class Fees	£0.00	£460.00	£460.00	£655.00
T shirt/hoody payments	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£140.00
DCSDC One World Festival commission	£0.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
DCSDC Culture Night Fee	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£300.00
Refunds/returns	£2,224.95	£0.00	£2,224.95	£203.92
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£141,039.66	£3,243.24	£144,282.90	£94,540.58
Payments				
Artistic Director	£14,040.00	£0.00	£14,040.00	£13,910.00
Administration	£27,884.00	£0.00	£27,884.00	£17,070.00
Artist and Facilitation Fees	£35,000.00	£0.00	£35,000.00	£35,156.10
Festival Costs	£5,623.92	£0.00	£5,623.92	£11,107.77
Venue and Transport Hire	£6,023.61	£0.00	£6,023.61	£5,118.12
Volunteer Costs	£397.62	£0.00	£397.62	£4,926.58
Accommodation and Travel Costs	£5,351.16	£0.00	£5,351.16	£2,702.47
Office Rental	£1,680.00	£0.00	£1,680.00	£840.00
Accountancy	£1,500.00	£0.00	£1,500.00	£0.00
Insurance	£0.00	£940.60	£940.60	£915.60
Social Media, Website Costs	£20.15	£478.45	£498.60	£707.94
Printing, postage and stationery	£2,503.73	£262.51	£2,766.24	£1,067.50
Bank Charges	£0.00	£177.19	£177.19	£67.20
Equipment Hire	£1,168.00	£0.00	£1,168.00	£0.00
Purchase of small equipment and consumables	£989.98	£0.00	£989.98	£1,621.31
PR, photography and video costs	£2,110.00	£0.00	£2,110.00	£1,400.00
Class lunches and event catering	£4,940.80	£196.46	£5,137.26	£151.06
Tee Shirt and hoody design and supply	£1,735.74	£0.00	£1,735.74	£4,208.56
Translation Fees	£3,690.00	£0.00	£3,690.00	£2,550.00
Asset Purchase	£1,754.00	£114.52	£1,868.52	£12,567.17
Research fees	£11,250.00	£0.00	£11,250.00	£4,000.00
Membership fees	£0.00	£75.00	£75.00	£0.00
Van costs	£0.00	£1,219.89	£1,219.89	£1,109.45
Paypal tech payments	£0.00	£95.98	£95.98	£0.00
Paypal fees	£0.00	£8.02	£8.02	£0.00
Total Payments	£127,662.71	£3,568.62	£131,231.33	£121,196.83
Surplus (deficit) for the period	£13,376.95	(£325.38)	£13,051.57	-£26,656.25
Cash at bank 1st April 2023	37791.75	1605.77	39397.52	£66,053.77
Cash at bank 31st March 2024	£51,168.70	£1,280.39	£52,449.09	£39,397.52

Organisation Name	Obon on the Foyle Festival Group
Reporting Period	1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024
Charity Reference Number	NIC103135

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at bank 31st March 2023	£37,791.75	£1,605.77	£39,397.52	£66,053.77
Surplus (deficit) for the period	£13,376.95	(£325.38)	£13,051.57	£26,656.25
Cash at Bank 31st March 2024	£51,168.70	£1,280.39	£52,449.09	£39,397.52
Bank and Cash Balances				
Bank Current Account			£50,476.90	£38,249.52
Paypal Account Balance			£1,972.19	£1,148.00
			£52,449.09	£39,397.52
Other Assets				
All Assets			2024 £58,557.59	2023 £56,689.06
TOTAL			£58,557.59	

Liabilities (Restricted Funds)	0
Liabilities (Unrestricted Funds)	0

Approved by the Trustees on 24th APRIL 2024
and signed on their behalf by

Yoriko Marshall

Yoriko Marshall, Chair

Cara

Cara McLoughlin, Treasurer

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O-Bon on the Foyle Festival Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103135

Annual report



Japanese Arts in the Community

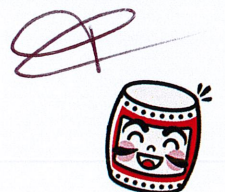
The Obon on the Foyle Festival Group

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees Yoriko Marshall
 Cara McLoughlin
 Colleen O'Neill
 Shay Clyde
 Gerry Delaney

Charity Number NIC103135

Registered Office The Playtrail
 15 Racecourse Road
 Derry
 BT48 7RE



The Obon on the Foyle Festival Group

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2024

The trustees present their report and financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company in the year under review is the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation, the promotion of racial harmony, equality and diversity. Provide opportunities for the Japanese community living in the North West and surrounding areas to make their customs and tradition part of the local cultural calendar. Address the barriers existing in N Ireland in particular in relation to music and festival by creating a new shared space where both traditions can feel safe and included.

Trustees

The trustees serving during the year were as follows:

Yoriko Marshall
Cara McLoughlin
Colleen O'Neill
Shay Clyde
Gerry Delaney

About the Obon on the Foyle Festival Group

Foyle Obon is a pioneering Japanese arts organisation leading the way in the development and delivery of Japanese arts in Northern Ireland. We focus on local and international partnership building, commissioning, education projects, supporting emerging and established artists and building community and intercultural understanding. We deliver a year-round outreach programme and flagship Foyle Obon Japanese festival. We are passionate about our work and community and are core deliverers of this work in N Ireland.

Our Vision

Using Japanese arts & festival to create & share joy, build community, and celebrate hope in a diverse, inclusive, and peaceful Northern Ireland.

Our Purpose

We empower and support our community of Japanese facilitators, artists, and practitioners of Japanese art forms through innovative artistic programmes, professional development and capacity building.



Our Values

Integrity: The ethical framework of our organisation. We are committed to following defined principles of ethical, honest, and trustworthy leadership. We treat everyone with respect and kindness.

Empowerment: The work of our organisation. We are committed to empowering our artists, audiences, and volunteers by developing artistry, confidence and skills. We support people to own their voices and take their place in the world.

Inclusion: The community building role of our organisation. We are committed to bringing our diverse and far-reaching community together through our Japanese arts and festival programme. We hold space for kind and brave community connections. OF/BY/FOR/ALL.

Wholeheartedness: The spirit of our organisation. We are committed to supporting creativity, inspiration, and connection through our arts. We are passionate about cultivating courage and compassion in the spirit of joy and festival. We seek to actively create happiness and celebrate life.



2023 – 2024: Key Projects and Activities

Introduction:

2023 – 2024 was another successful for the Obon on the Foyle Festival Group. Our outreach programme of community workshops continues to focus on using taiko for mental and physical wellbeing. We are delighted with our project with Ulster University which has resulted in a ground-breaking piece of research on the use of taiko as a tool to improve health and wellbeing.

Recognising the therapeutic benefits of the arts is an exciting new phase of development within our work. It formalises relationships that we have built over many years and aims to 'engage all actors who can help and support a healthy local population'. It brings community and voluntary organisations together, sharing skills and expertise as part of an inclusive mental health service as 'true partners.' It is a recognition of the value of the arts and music for a happy, healthy life'.

Our work with carers is solidifying these results. We play an important role in the cultural calendar of the local area with our Festival, our Christmas concert and our appearance at the inaugural One World Concert. We continue to be recognised as an important organisation in the international taiko world, illustrated by our work with Shogo Yoshii and the ongoing exciting collaboration with Kodo.

Key notable activities of the Obon on the Foyle Festival Group in 2023 -2024 include:

Projects:

Taikolove for Carers

This 18-month project, funded by the Department of Health Carers Fund, is delivering 10x 6week courses in Taiko drumming to people with caring responsibilities, in an effort to improve their mental health and wellbeing and to encourage them to take some time for themselves.

The project began in September 2023 and will run to March 2025. We are currently running two classes a week, on a Wednesday and Thursday morning, at the Light Space in Pennyburn. The feedback to date has been overwhelmingly positive with participants expressing their newfound love of taiko and the camaraderie that exists in the groups. We had the idea to provide a small lunch after the workshop so people could come together and chat, this has been a really important part of the experience and has allowed the participants to share stories, to bond and the relax.

Participants will be invited to perform at our Festival in May, but no pressure!

Sunflower Taiko – Drumming for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

We completed our 18-month project with Ulster University to conduct research on the mental health and wellbeing benefits of taiko drumming. A core group of 15 participants committed to three ten weeks blocks of taiko drumming and a performance or volunteering opportunity at our Obon festival. The project began in September 2022 and progressed very well with some members performing at our Christmas concerts in 2022 and 2023 as well as at our Obon Festival concert in May 2023. The research report was collated by Dr Grainne Mc Anee with



editorial input from Sinead Reddin and was launched on March 26th, 2024, in St Columb's Park House. The project is funded by the Department of Health Mental Health Fund.

Irodori Taiko for LGBTQ+ Teens and allies

We are now in the final year of this 3-year project funded by BBC Children in Need. Irodori taiko offers a safe and inclusive space for building confidence, exploring identity, and learning to use your voice – as well as learning to play and perform taiko!

Our group of young LGBTQ+ players and their allies/siblings have been continuing to learn taiko and have performed at our Obon Festivals and Christmas concerts. This year they have once again had the opportunity to go to Tullarvan Mill for a 3-day residential which was really successful and enjoyable.

Going forwards, we are meeting with BBC CIN to explore further development of this project for 25-27.

Foyle Obon Festival Concert 2023

On the evening of May 20th, 2023, we held a Foyle Obon Festival Concert in the amphitheatre of the Playtrail. We had intended to stage our full festival but owing to funding constraints we were only able to stage the taiko and bon odori concert.

We were delighted to welcome Shogo Yoshii to the stage to take part in the performance of Junko's song, which was a wonderful celebration of Junko's contribution to taiko.

Shogo and Fiona also performed together, in a fantastic display of the power of taiko.

Ibuki Taiko, Irodori Taiko and our community taiko teams also performed in the night. Hannari dance led the audience in Bon Odori and staged some beautiful traditional dance pieces of their own. Despite the terrible weather, this was a very successful evening, with high quality taiko and great community atmosphere. The festival concert was funded by DCSDC Community Festivals Fund.

Shogo Yoshii at Foyle Obon Concert 2023

We have been working with Shogo Yoshii since 2019 when he was commissioned to write a taiko piece for performance at Foyle Obon 2020. Sadly, the Covid19 pandemic meant that the festival was cancelled. Shogo continued working on the piece and Ibuki taiko members had been learning this intricate and complex work since 2020. The piece was without a name, and we were honoured to have it named by Junko Okura, one of our longest standing taiko players. She named it 'Inochi Kagayake, warera ga matsuri' but after her sad death from cancer we have been calling it 'Junko's Song'.

We were delighted to welcome Shogo to Derry in May 2023 to take part in final workshops of the piece and to perform as part of the festival concert. This was an amazing performance, and we were delighted to be able to show our audience such a talented player.

One World Festival 2023

The first DCSDC One World Festival was held on September 23rd in the Guildhall. We successfully tendered to perform as part of event and were scheduled as part of the programme in the Guildhall Great Hall. This was a great opportunity for our community taiko groups – Himawari and Irodori – to perform in a public space. They rehearsed hard and were great on the day. Our performance team, Ibuki Taiko, also performed. As part of the festival programme, we also displayed two large lanterns decorated with lantern panel dedications in the Harbour Museum.



Christmas Community Concert 2023

On the afternoon of December 10th, 2023, we held our second Christmas Community Concert at Lisneal College. Funded by the PHA/Clear Project, this was once again an opportunity for the entire Foyle Obon Family of participants, Japanese families, performers, Volunteers, and staff to come together socially to reconnect, perform, dance, sing and have craic!

We had 40 drummers, as well as 125 friends and family members. There was taiko and Bon Odori, talent spots, a quiz and lots of Japanese (and more local) food. This was a wonderful opportunity for our community taiko players to perform for their families and friends and to feel part of the wider Obon family.

Crossing Oceans – Kodo and Foyle Obon collaboration project

The "Crossing Oceans: A Journey through Taiko Drumming and Matsuri Traditions" - Kodo & Foyle Obon Collaboration was an innovative community initiative that sought to unite diverse cultures through the universal language of taiko drumming and festival.

In August 2023, Foyle Obon Directors, Katsu and Fiona Umetsu, travelled to Sado Island in Japan for the Earth Celebration festival, funded by the Daiwa Foundation. Their visit included masterclass workshops with Kodo, meeting with festival production staff gaining insights into festival logistics and planning. Fiona and three members of the Ibuki Taiko team took a private Odaiko masterclass with Tomohiro Mitome.

In November 2023, Kodo members then conducted an online course for our local taiko teams. These early morning Saturday workshops were completely new and extremely significant. Our members were able to directly learn from Kodo masters, increase their knowledge about taiko fundamentals and learn a Kodo One Earth Music composition.

Additionally, Yuichiro Funabashi and Taro Nishita visited Derry in February 2024 to lead workshops, strengthening our cross-cultural collaboration. This visit resulted in the invitation to members of our performance group, Ibuki Taiko, to come to Sado island in August 2024 and perform as one of only three groups chosen as part of the Earth Celebration fringe festival.

Taiko development

As part of our ACNI Project Lottery funding for 23-24, we run a year-round programme dedicated to the development of taiko artists. This initiative offers workshops, training, and performance opportunities, nurtures local talent and expands the reach of taiko drumming in the community. While it is important to provide performance opportunities for our community participants, we are also committed to supporting the development and inspiring the creativity of our local experienced musicians. Over the past year, our artists have worked on developing new pieces and have had workshops with Shogo Yoshii and Kodo.

Intern/Taiko trainee

In late 2022, Foyle Obon welcomed Forton Umetsu to the team as our Intern and trainee taiko teacher. Funded through the Keadue fund (CFNI) Forton has continued to develop their skills and role throughout 23/24. They have worked closely with Fiona on the Carers Project, assisting with all Carers workshops and helping participants with taiko practice. They have set up a system to measure attendance at all events and keep track of evaluations.

They were instrumental in managing Christmas concert and the Obon Festival Concert in May 23, as well playing taiko at the concert! They are a huge asset to our tiny team, and we are delighted to see them grow and become more confident in their abilities.



Funding review:

During 2023 – 2024 we successfully secured funding from the following bodies.

Arts Council of Northern Ireland Project Lottery
Arts Council of Northern Ireland Rural Engagement Programme
Department of Health Carers Fund
BBC Children in Need
Daiwa Foundation
GB Sasakawa Foundation
Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland
Derry City and Strabane District Council Community Festivals Fund
CFNI Keadue Fund
PHA Making Life Better Short-Term Fund
The Honourable the Irish Society

We would like to thank all our funders for supporting us during this past year. We will continue to focus on maintaining relationships with existing funders and diversifying the sources of income.

Financial review

As of 31st March 2024, due to successful funding applications the group was in a good financial position with restricted funds in place in the sum of £52449 towards ongoing festival and programming costs, and ongoing further funding applications prepared, submitted, or pending towards 2024/25. The group has no overdraft facility and no outstanding liabilities.

Structure, Governance and Management

During the period, the Obon on the Foyle Festival Group has ensured stability in structure, governance, and management. Board meetings have been regular and consistent.

Thanks and summary

Thank you to our committee members for their hard work and efforts throughout the year and everything they do to help the core team make our events a success. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in events and workshops and/or been audience members throughout the year. We are proud that our Obon family remains connected and together. Finally, thank you to our funders who have continued to be supportive over the past year.

Yoriko Marshall

23/4/24

Yoriko Marshall, Chairperson

Date



O-Bon on the Foyle Festival Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103135

Annual return

CHARITY NAME:
REPORTING PERIOD:
CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER:

OBON ON FOYLE FESTIVAL GROUP
1ST APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024
NIC103135

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Obon on Foyle Festival Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 1 to 4 of the enclosed charity accounts.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



CHARITY NAME:

OBON ON THE FOYLE FESTIVAL GROUP

REPORTING PERIOD:

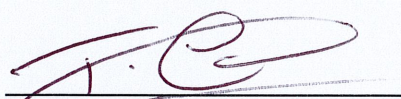
1ST APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER:

NIC103135

Independent examiner's statement

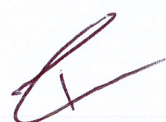
I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Tony Clarke

53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

8/8/24
Date



O-Bon on the Foyle Festival Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103135

Accounts

Organisation Name	Obon on the Foyle Festival Group
Reporting Period	1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023
Charity Reference Number	NIC103135

Statement of Receipts and Payments

	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
ACNI Project Lottery	£32,691.00		£32,691.00	£26,562.50
ACNI H&S Fund	£11,262.29		£11,262.29	£0.00
ACNI Premium Payments	£2,010.00		£2,010.00	£0.00
DCSDC Festivals Fund	£10,000.00		£10,000.00	£9,985.70
Awards for All			£0.00	£10,000.00
BBC Children in Need	£10,495.00		£10,495.00	£9,995.00
BBC Comic Relief	£12,480.00		£12,480.00	£12,480.00
PHA Short Term Funding	£4,000.00		£4,000.00	£3,931.20
The Japan Society			£0.00	£1,000.00
CFNI			£0.00	£31,819.20
Halifax Foundation	£2,500.00	£500.00	£3,000.00	£0.00
PCMDT Socail Work Grants	£5,217.80		£5,217.80	£0.00
Donations				
Paypal Giving Fund		£1.00	£1.00	£0.00
Amazon Smiles Programme		£23.29	£23.29	£15.16
Other Income				
Box Office		£1,061.28	£1,061.28	£0.00
Taiko Class Fees		£655.00	£655.00	£130.00
T shirt/hoody payments		£140.00	£140.00	£131.50
DCSDC Summer Scheme			£0.00	£2,600.00
Refunds/returns	£203.92		£203.92	£709.50
DCSDC One World Festival tender		£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£0.00
DCSDC Culture Night Fee		£300.00	£300.00	£0.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£90,860.01	£3,680.57	£94,540.58	£109,359.76
Payments				
Artistic Director	£13,910.00		£13,910.00	£13,000.00
PR, photography and video costs	£17,070.00		£17,070.00	£13,840.00
Import Fees and Taxes	£33,506.10	£1,650.00	£35,156.10	£32,358.23
Miscellaneous Expenses	£11,107.77		£11,107.77	£1,060.00
Translation Fees	£4,818.12	£300.00	£5,118.12	£1,815.00
Asset Purchase	£4,926.58		£4,926.58	£400.00
Research fees	£2,702.47		£2,702.47	£1,458.48
Van costs	£840.00		£840.00	£2,158.14
Accountancy	£0.00		£0.00	£400.00
Insurance		£915.60	£915.60	£650.21
Social Media, Website Costs	£642.36	£65.58	£707.94	£411.65
Printing, postage and stationery	£1,067.50		£1,067.50	£572.49
Bank Charges		£67.20	£67.20	£50.87
Equipment Hire			£0.00	£121.95
Purchase of small equipment and consumables	£1,621.31		£1,621.31	£1,308.34
PR, photography and video costs	£1,400.00		£1,400.00	£2,350.00
Import Fees and Taxes	£151.06		£151.06	£0.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	£4,098.56	£110.00	£4,208.56	£4,603.40
Translation Fees	£2,550.00		£2,550.00	£2,160.00
Asset Purchase	£12,567.17		£12,567.17	£0.00
Research fees	£4,000.00		£4,000.00	£0.00
Van costs	£819.45	£290.00	£1,109.45	£0.00
Total Payments	£117,798.45	£3,398.38	£121,196.83	£78,718.76
Surplus (deficit) for the period	-£26,938.44	£282.19	-£26,656.25	£30,641.00
Cash at bank 1st April 2022	£64,730.19	£1,323.58	£66,053.77	£35,412.77
Cash at bank 31st March 2023	£37,791.75	£1,605.77	£39,397.52	£66,053.77

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Organisation Name
Reporting Period
Charity Reference Number

Obon on the Foyle Festival Group
1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023
NIC103135

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Restricted Funds £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at bank 31st March 2022	£64,730.19	£1,323.58	£66,053.77	£35,412.77
Surplus (deficit) for the period	-£26,938.44	£282.19	-£26,656.25	£30,641.00
Cash at Bank 31st March 2023	£37,791.75	£1,605.77	£39,397.52	£66,053.77
Bank and Cash Balances				
Bank Current Account			£38,249.52	£65,294.55
Paypal Account Balance			£1,148.00	£759.22
			£39,397.52	£66,053.77
Other Assets				
All Assets			2023 £56,689.06	2022 £46,295.89
TOTAL			£56,689.06	£46,295.89

Liabilities (Restricted Funds)
Liabilities (Unrestricted Funds)

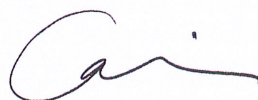
Approved by the Trustees on
and signed on their behalf by



19/04/2023

Yoriko Marshall, Chair

Date



19/04/2023

Cara McLoughlin, Treasurer

Date



O-Bon on the Foyle Festival Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103135

Annual report

The Obon on the Foyle Festival Group

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2023

Trustees **Yoriko Marshall
Cara McLoughlin
Colleen O'Neill
Shay Clyde
Gerry Delaney**

Charity Number **NIC103135**

Registered Office **The Playtrail
15 Racecourse Road
Derry
BT48 7RE**

TC

The Obon on the Foyle Festival Group

Report of the Trustees For the year ended 31 March 2023

The trustees present their report and financial statement for the year ended 31 March 2023

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the company in the year under review is the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation, the promotion of racial harmony, equality and diversity. Provide opportunities for the Japanese community living in the North West and surrounding areas to make their customs and tradition part of the local cultural calendar. Address the barriers existing in N Ireland in particular in relation to music and festival by creating a new shared space where both traditions can feel safe and included.

Trustees

The trustees serving during the year were as follows:

Yoriko Marshall
Cara McLoughlin
Colleen O'Neill
Shay Clyde
Gerry Delaney

About the Obon on the Foyle Festival Group

Foyle Obon is a pioneering Japanese arts organisation leading the way in the development and delivery of Japanese arts in Northern Ireland. We focus on local and international partnership building, commissioning, education projects, supporting emerging and established artists and building community and intercultural understanding. We deliver a year-round outreach programme and flagship Foyle Obon Japanese festival. We are passionate about our work and community and are core deliverers of this work in N Ireland.

Our Vision

Using Japanese arts & festival to create & share joy, build community, and celebrate hope in a diverse, inclusive, and peaceful Northern Ireland.

Our Purpose

We empower and support our community of Japanese facilitators, artists, and practitioners of Japanese art forms through innovative artistic programmes, professional development and capacity building.



Our Values

Integrity: The ethical framework of our organisation. We are committed to following defined principles of ethical, honest, and trustworthy leadership. We treat everyone with respect and kindness.

Empowerment: The work of our organisation. We are committed to empowering our artists, audiences, and volunteers by developing artistry, confidence and skills. We support people to own their voices and take their place in the world.

Inclusion: The community building role of our organisation. We are committed to bringing our diverse and far-reaching community together through our Japanese arts and festival programme. We hold space for kind and brave community connections. OF/BY/FOR/ALL.

Wholeheartedness: The spirit of our organisation. We are committed to supporting creativity, inspiration, and connection through our arts. We are passionate about cultivating courage and compassion in the spirit of joy and festival. We seek to actively create happiness and celebrate life.

TC

2022 – 2023: Key Projects and Activities

Introduction:

2022 – 2023 was another successful for the Obon on the Foyle Festival Group. We were delighted to stage our first Obon Festival after Covid19 caused the cancellation of both the 2020 and 2021 Festivals. This was a year of 'opening up' for the arts and communities and people were excited to experience live arts and culture safely once again. We were delighted to be back to face-to-face teaching with our existing taiko groups and with new groups. We are excited to be working with Ulster University on a ground-breaking piece of research on the use of taiko as a tool to improve health and wellbeing.

Key notable activities of the Obon on the Foyle Festival Group in 2022 -2023 include:

Projects:

Sunflower Taiko – Drumming for Mental Health and Wellbeing.

We are working with Ulster University to conduct research on the mental health and wellbeing benefits of taiko drumming. A core group of 15 participants commit to three ten weeks blocks of taiko drumming and a performance or volunteering opportunity at our Obon festival. The project began in September and is progressing very well., some members even performed at our Christmas concert. At the end of the project, Dr Grainne McAnee will collate all her research and evaluations into a much-anticipated report. The project is funded by the Department of Health Mental Health Fund.

Irodori Taiko for LGBTQ+ Teens and allies

We are now in year 2 of this 3-year project funded by BBC Children in Need (this is the second round of 3-year funding for this project). Irodori taiko offers a safe and inclusive space for building confidence, exploring identity, and learning to use your voice – as well as learning to play and perform taiko!

Our group of young LGBT+= players and their allies/siblings have been continuing to learn taiko and have performed at our Obon Festival and Christmas concert. This year they have had the opportunity to go to Tullarvan Mill for a 3-day residential which was really successful and enjoyable.

Foyle Obon Festival 2022

On May 28th, 2022, we held our first Obon Festival since the pandemic caused the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 festivals. We once again transformed the Playtrail into a Little Tokyo and welcomed 300 members of the public to join us for workshops, food, dance and taiko. This was our first time to pre-sell the event online only, to avoid overcrowding, and tickets sold out before the day.

We were happy with the overall success of the event. We felt we could have increased our ticket allocation, but it was hard to judge in the pre-Covid world.

The festival was funded by DCSDC Community Festivals Fund, TNL Community Fund for NI, ACNI Project Lottery Fund, the Halifax Foundation and The Japan Society.

Culture Night 2022

'Culture Night 2022 – One Night for All' was held on the night of September 23rd in venues across the City. We successfully tendered to perform as part of evening and were scheduled as part of the programme in the Guildhall Great Hall. This was a great opportunity for our community taiko groups – Himawari and Irodori – to perform in a public space. They rehearsed hard and were great on the evening. Our performance team, Ibuki Taiko, also performed. Culture Night offers an excellent profile boost for Foyle Obon and feedback from members of the public in the audience was excellent. We look forward to Culture Night 2023.

Christmas Community Concert

On the afternoon of December 4th, 2022, we held a Christmas Community Concert in the hall at Lisneal College. Funded by the PHA/Clear Project, this was an opportunity for the entire Foyle Obon Family of participants, Japanese families, performers, Volunteers, and staff to come together socially to reconnect, perform, dance, sing and have craic!

We had 40 drummers and 10 dancers, as well as 125 friends and family members. There was taiko and Bon Odori, talent spots, a quiz and lots of Japanese (and more local) food. This was a wonderful opportunity for our Sunflower Taiko drummers, members of the CFNI Mental Health Project – to perform for the first time. There were nerves but they were great, and their families were delighted!

This was also our first project that our new Intern worked on, they were a fantastic asset, and we look forward to seeing them develop in the year ahead.

Matsuri Performance Team development

As part of our ACNI Project Lottery funding for 22-23, we are working to develop a Matsuri performance group to perform as part of our 2023 Festival. We have put together a high-level group of experience local musicians in taiko, flute, marimba, harp, and vocals who are rehearsing throughout the year, developing a repertoire to be premiered at the festival. While it is important to provide performance opportunities for our community participants, we are also committed to supporting the development and inspiring the creativity of our local experienced musicians.

Intern/Taiko trainee

In late 2022, Foyle Obon welcomed Forton Umetsu to the team as our Intern and trainee taiko teacher. Forton has been playing Taiko and volunteering at Obon since they were very small! As a member of the Japanese community with an in-depth knowledge of the organisation and the art of Taiko, Forton is an invaluable asset to Foyle Obon. They were a great help with the admin and organisation of the Christmas Concert and are now shadowing Fiona at the Gaelscoil Taiko classes. They also recently facilitated Origami workshops in the community.

This week we were delighted to secure funding from the CFNI Keadue Community Grants scheme to support this as a paid role for 2 years.

Mentoring

As part of our funding from CFNI/Doh, our organisation has been selected to be part of CFNI's Capacity building Accelerator and Mentoring Programme. This programme provides a range of workshops as well as the chance to access bespoke mentoring. As a result, we were



paired with mentor Una Lynch. We worked with Una on our application to the DoH Core Fund. This was a large, unwieldy application process and Una proved to be a fantastic mentor. Her approach to fund writing was very enlightening and despite the fact that the fund itself was ultimately suspended, we felt that we learned so much from Una's advice and guidance.

A handwritten signature or set of initials in purple ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page. The signature is stylized and appears to consist of a few connected strokes.

Funding review:

During 2022 – 2023 we successfully secured funding from the following bodies.

Arts Council of Northern Ireland Project Lottery
Arts Council of Northern Ireland Health and Safety Capital Programme
The National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All
Department of Health Mental Health Fund
BBC Children in Need
Comic Relief
WHSC Social Work Grants
Derry City and Strabane District Council Community Festivals Fund
Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland
The Japan Society
PHA Making Life Better Short-Term Fund

We would like to thank all our funders for supporting us during this past year. We will continue to focus on maintaining relationships with existing funders and diversifying the sources of income.

Financial review

As of 31st March 2023, due to successful funding applications the group was in a good financial position with restricted funds in place in the sum of £37791 towards ongoing festival and programming costs, and ongoing further funding applications prepared, submitted, or pending towards 2023/24. The group has no overdraft facility and no outstanding liabilities.

Structure, Governance and Management

During the period, the Obon on the Foyle Festival Group has ensured stability in structure, governance, and management. Board meetings have been regular and consistent.

Thanks and summary

Thank you to our committee members for their hard work and efforts throughout the year and everything they do to help the core team make our events a success. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in events and workshops and/or been audience members throughout the year. We are proud that our Obon family remains connected and together. Finally, thank you to our funders who have continued to be supportive over the past year.



19/4/23

Yoriko Marshall, Chairperson

Date



O-Bon on the Foyle Festival Group

Northern Ireland - Charity number 103135

Annual return

CHARITY NAME:

OBON ON FOYLE FESTIVAL GROUP

REPORTING PERIOD:

1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER:

NIC103135

Independent examiner's report to the charity trustees of Obon on Foyle Festival Group

I report on the accounts of the Trust for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 1 to 4 of the enclosed charity accounts.

Respective responsibilities of charity trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 65 of the Charities Act
- follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Commission under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

I have examined your charity accounts as required under section 65 of the Charities Act and my examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland under section 65(9)(b) of the Charities Act.

My examination included a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as charity trustees concerning any such matters.

My role is to state whether any material matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe:

1. That accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 63 of the Charities Act
2. That the accounts do not accord with those accounting records
3. That the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act
4. That there is further information needed for a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

CHARITY NAME:

OBON ON THE FOYLE FESTIVAL GROUP

REPORTING PERIOD:

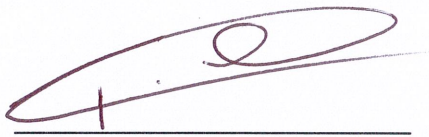
1ST APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

CHARITY COMMISSION NUMBER:

NIC103135

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination and have no concerns in respect of the matters (1) to (4) listed above and, in connection with following the Directions of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, I have found no matters that require drawing to your attention.



Tony Clarke FCPA
Certified Public Accountant
Clarke&Co Accountants
53 Andersonstown Road
Belfast
BT11 9AG

31/8/23

Date

TC