



Aithisg Bhliadhnail

Annual Report

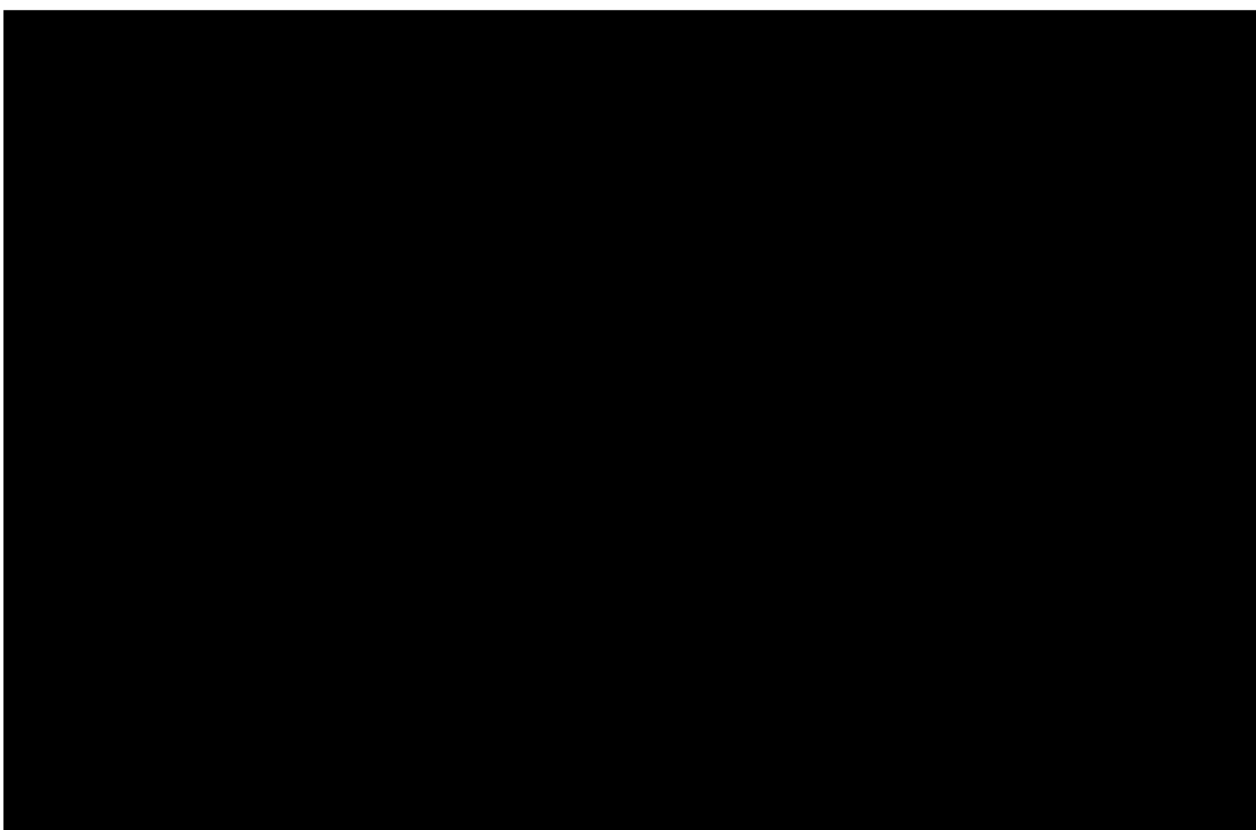
Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan

Scottish Charity Number SC017646

2024 – 2025

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Overview

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan was established in 1991 to provide traditional music and Gaelic opportunities for young people in Ardnamurchan, Sunart and Morvern.

The Fèis delivers lessons during the school term to children in Lochaline, Ardgour, Strontian, Acharacle and Kilchoan.

Each summer, during July, a week-long summer Fèis is run where residential and day attendees receive music tuition, and take part in a range of Gaelic activities including song, drama, film-making, dance and shinty.

This report covers lessons delivered during the school year from August 2024 to July 2025 and the summer Fèis which ran from 14th to 18th July 2025. It also presents the most recent financial statement covering the financial year from April 2024 to March 2025.

The Fèis is managed by a team of volunteers and employs one part-time administrator on a freelance basis.

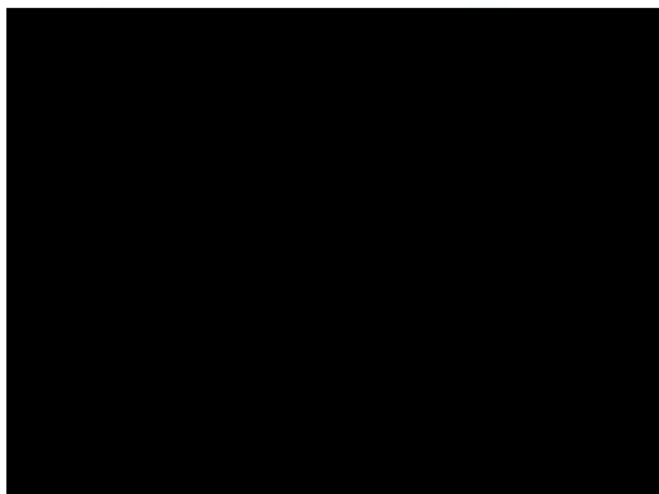
There were no changes to the makeup of the committee during the financial year covered by this report (April 2024 to March 2025) and the management committee comprised the following individuals:

Committee Members 2024-25	
Position	Name
Chairperson	
Treasurer	
Gaelic Officer	
Child Protection Officer	
Committee Member	
Committee Member	
Administrator	

Chairpersons Report

I am pleased to present the Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan Annual Report for 2024/2025 outlining our activities and celebrating our success.

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan took place from the 14th to the 18th July 2025 at Acharacle Primary School, bringing together young people, talented musicians, and a supportive community for a memorable week of traditional music, song, and culture. This year's Fèis welcomed 72 participants in the main Fèis programme, with an additional 32 younger children enjoying activities in the Fèis Bheag. The week was led by a fantastic team of highly respected tutors whose enthusiasm and talent provided inspiration and fun throughout the week as they guided participants in music, song, Gaelic, and drama.



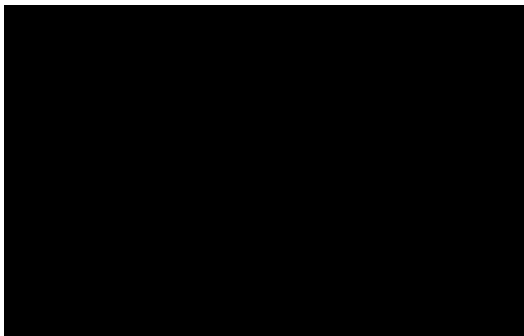
A series of well-attended community events added to the lively atmosphere. On Tuesday evening, in Mingarry Hall, [REDACTED] captivated audiences with his talk, The Supernatural History of the Highlands and Islands. Wednesday night saw the Family Cèilidh with the Lochaber Cèilidh Trail in Shielbridge Hall followed by a lively music session in Loch Shiel Hotel. Thursday night's Tutors Concert in Mingarry Hall was a highlight, showcasing the exceptional skill and passion of the teaching team, supported by local youth band Sealladh. The week concluded with the Fèis Dance on Friday night, featuring music from [REDACTED] and the Kentra Cèilidh Band.

We have continued to offer a comprehensive provision of weekly ongoing instrument tuition in local primary and secondary schools across Ardnamurchan, Sunart and Morven, with more than 1,700 lessons having been delivered to 95 different students during the reporting period from April 2024 to March 2025.

Fundraising opportunities and community events included the annual Garden Open Day at Ardshealach Lodge; the New Year Dance; and the Blas Festival with some of our students supporting the Glenfinnan Cèilidh Band in 2024 and again supporting Eabhal in 2025. We cancelled our Dannsa an Earraich due to low ticket sales but hopefully this can be rearranged for next year.

I'd like to extend sincere thanks to the tutors, students, committee, parents, volunteers, and friends of the Fèis for their time, efforts and dedication over the past year.

We are thankful to Fèisean nan Gàidheal for continuously supporting and funding our activities and for the generous donations received from individuals and local businesses. This support has been instrumental to our success.



Cathraiche | Chairperson
October 2025

Financial Report

This has been a good year in terms of Fèis finances.

I have been Fèis Treasurer for two years now and it has been my pleasure to keep an eye on the financial side of our organisation.

The Financial Statement (see Annex A) shows details of bank transactions during the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 and shows the bank balance at the end of the financial year.

We have been working solely with a Bank of Scotland account.

The tutors' hourly rate has been kept at £28. We aim to work towards suggested Musicians' Union rates and at the AGM I will be recommending that we increase the hourly rate by at least 15% and that we continue to keep an eye on tutor payments/lessons of other Fèisean.

I'd like to mention the ongoing Fundraising efforts to keep our finances healthy: such as the Garden Open Day, the Main Fèis Raffle and the Fèis Dance. This is making a huge difference now, and for the future, to provide experiences and services for the local youth in Gaelic music, language and culture.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Fèis Administrator, who is always there with help and advice when it comes to banking and accounting and makes the role of Treasurer so much easier.

The Fèis finances have been independently verified and our thanks must go to [REDACTED] at Voluntary Action Lochaber for her assistance. Her report, including the financial statement is attached as Annex A to this report.

[REDACTED]
Treasurer

October 2025

Weekly Lessons

Student numbers have been reasonably stable throughout this reporting year with nearly 100 students taking lessons across the range of instruments.

Weekly lessons 2024-25		
	Number of lessons	% of total lessons
Accordion, Group Lessons	52	2.9
Accordion, Individual Lessons	119	6.7
Chanter/Pipes, Individual Lessons	147	8.3
Fiddle, Group Lessons	245	13.8
Fiddle, Individual Lessons	439	24.8
Guitar, Group Lessons	252	14.2
Guitar, Individual Lessons	56	3.2
Keyboard, Group Lessons	117	6.6
Keyboard, Individual Lessons	342	19.3
Total Lessons Delivered	1769	100.0%

Tutor pay remains at £28 per hour which is still short of the industry standard rates (Musicians Union rate = £44 per hour from August 2025). An increase to this hourly rate will be discussed at the AGM. The mileage allowance remained at 40p/mile throughout this year.

Fèis week 2025

A full week of activities was held in July 2025 with attendees enjoying music tuition and a variety of additional activities including Gaelic song, drama, film making and sports. This year the Fèis again made use of the facilities in Acharacle Primary School with lunch being provided each day by [REDACTED] and her team from Ardshealach Lodge.

Fourteen choices were offered to participants. The tuition was provided by many talented musicians. The tutors for Fèis 2025 were:

Fèis tutors July 2025	
Accordion	[REDACTED]
Chanter/Pipes	
Clarsach	
Drama	
Drumming	
Fiddle	
Film making	
Gaelic song	
Groupwork	
Guitar	
Keyboard	
Shinty	
Tin whistle	

We also had a shadow tutor this year, [REDACTED] who assisted in the teaching sessions and gained valuable experience towards becoming a Fèis tutor in the future.

There were 72 participants at the main Fèis including nineteen residential attendees.

Thanks must go to the three supervisor [REDACTED] who looked after the residential participants, supervised break and lunch times, assisted with evening activities and generally made themselves very useful. The residential attendees stayed in accommodation at Resipole and at Moss and huge thanks must go to the owners of the accommodation for making it available to the Fèis.

Fèis Bheag was attended by 22 children from P1 to P3 including two Gaelic-speaking guests from Canada. A further ten nursery-aged children attended Fèis Bheag Bhìodaich. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Evening activities for attendees included football and a farm visit (many thanks to Dalilea farm) while events for the wider community included a family cèilidh, a concert by the tutors, a music session in the Loch Shiel Hotel and an evening of story -telling. As usual, the week ended with an excellent participant's concert on Friday afternoon followed by the Fèis dance in the Shielbridge Hall on Friday evening.

Thanks to all of the tutors, committee members, parents, helpers and volunteers who made the week such a success.

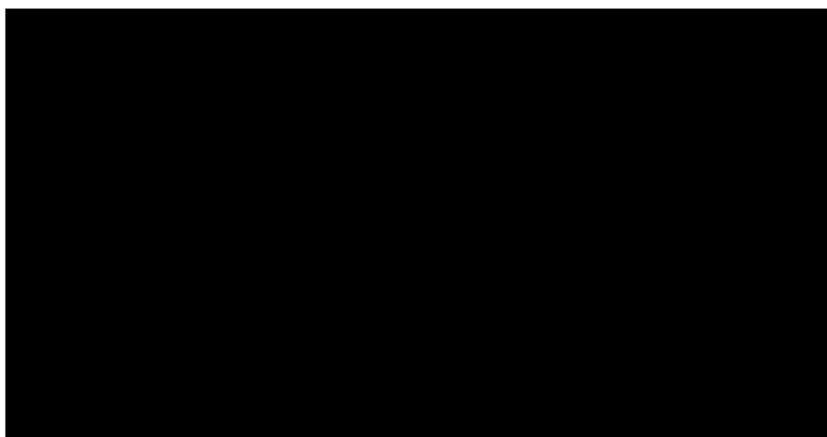
From the feedback received after the event 85% of attendees who responded thought the Fèis was excellent with the others saying it was good. It was the first time that 30% of the responders had attended the Fèis so it is great to see that new children are being introduced to the Fèis experience. Some of the comments from the feedback were very encouraging:

"Lovely welcome, location, School, food, mix of ages, tutors, evening events! All of it was brilliant"

"I enjoyed the amount of different activities and things you could do"

"The film work, the evening activities, just being with everyone"

"Group work and hanging out with others my age, the food, and learning new fiddle tunes"

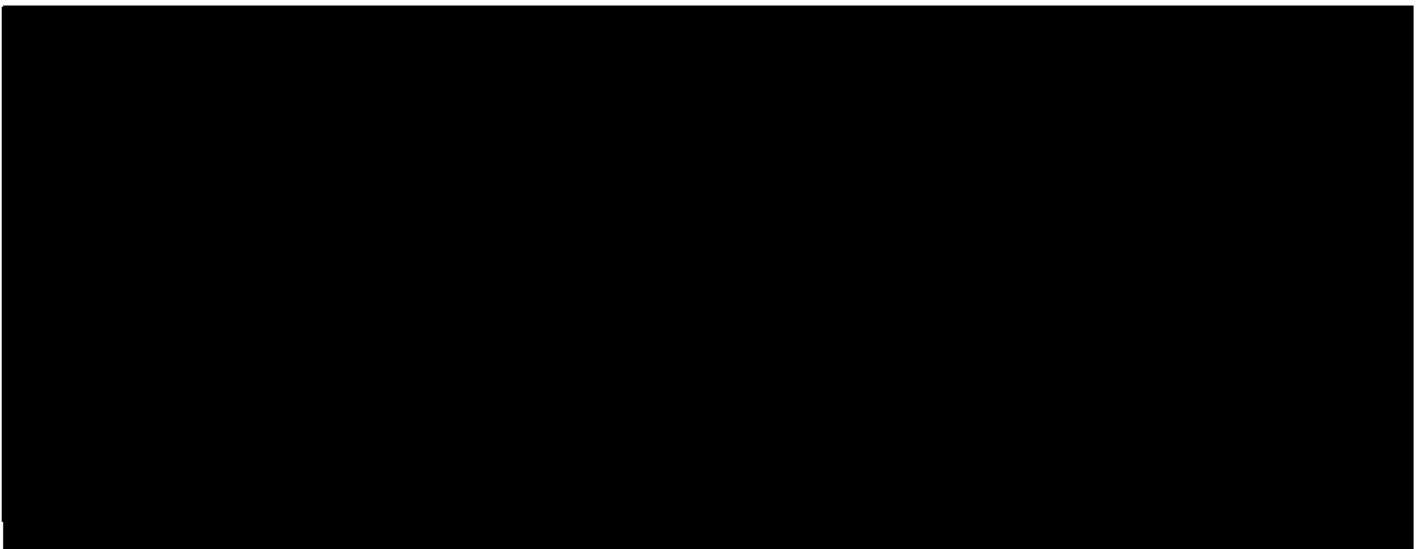
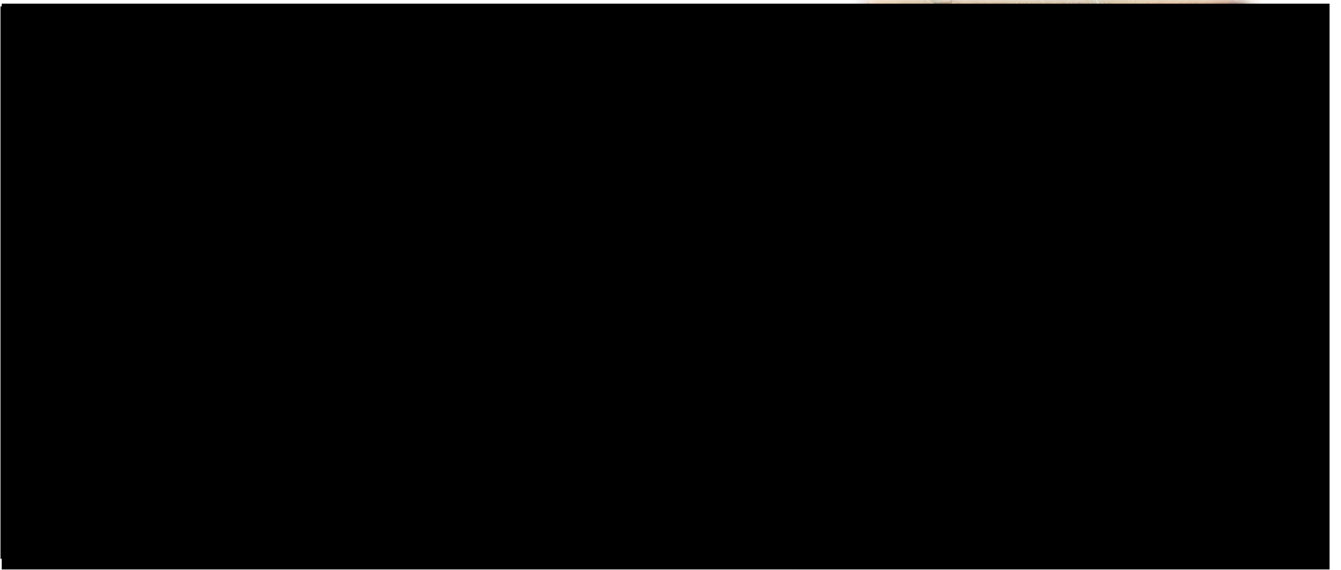
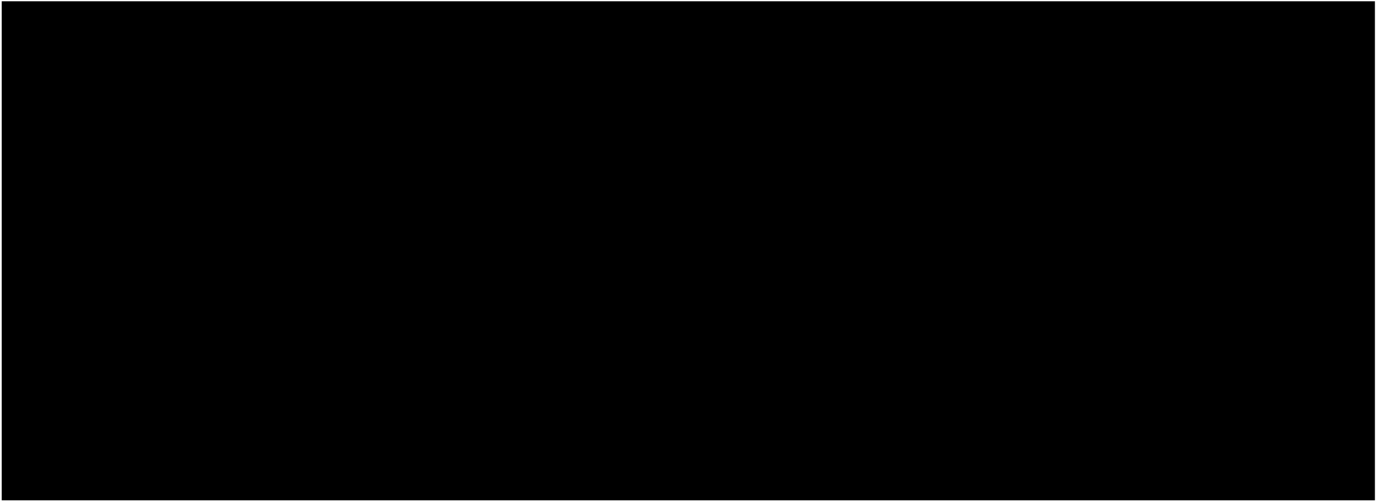


There were also suggestions for new activities that could be introduced e.g. art tied in to local stories and for some possible improvements e.g. drama groups being larger and with pupils closer in age (if numbers allowed for that).

Feedback from the tutors noted that the communication and administrative support was very good and that the facilities were great, although internet access at the school would have been appreciated. Their feedback was generally very positive with comments such as:

"Overall, a fantastic week teaching and some great music played"

"Really enjoyed the fèis, would love to come back next year"



Annex A: Audit Report and Financial Statement

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan

Scottish Charity Number SC017646

Receipts and Payments Accounts

For the year ended 31st March 2025

Independent examiner's report to the charity on the unaudited accounts of Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2025 which are set out on pages 3 to 6.

Respective responsibilities of trustee and independent 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) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 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 Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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.

Date: - 25/7/2025
Finance Manager
Voluntary Action Lochaber
An Drochaid, Claggan Road
Fort William
PH33 6PH



VOLUNTARY ACTION LOCHABER
Buidheann Sàbaid Tòileach Lochabar

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan
Receipts and Payments Accounts
For the year ended 31st March 2025
Scottish Charity Number SC017646

		Year to 2025 Unrestricted £	Year to 2025 Restricted £	Year to 2025 Total £	Year to 2024 Total £
Receipts	Note				
Grants and Donations					
Grants	4	16,277	-	16,277	10,779
Donations	5	3,239	-	3,239	-
Bank interest received		-	-	-	-
Charitable Income					
Fundraising Events		5,656	-	5,656	4,735
Merchandise		789	-	789	-
Performances		300	-	300	-
Raffles		2,184	-	2,184	-
Instrument Hire		1,123	-	1,123	-
Registration Fees		6,896	-	6,896	-
Tuition Fees		17,084	-	17,084	-
Classes / Workshops		-	-	-	21,022
Main Fèis		-	-	-	7,290
Return of Overpaid Expenses		-	-	-	427
Miscellaneous		-	-	-	31
Tfr from Virgin A/C		-	-	-	1,984
Total Receipts		53,548	-	53,548	46,268
Payments					
Charitable Activities					
Advertising / Promotion		50	-	50	-
Administrators Expenses		1,737	-	1,737	743
FnG Subscription		150	-	150	150
Instrument Purchases / Maintenance		674	-	674	837
Insurances		214	-	214	309
Meals, Entertainment, Performers		900	-	900	-
Printing, Postage and Stationery		104	-	104	-
Room Hire / Accommodation		4,287	-	4,287	1,175
Software Expenses		242	-	242	144
Supplies		1,219	-	1,219	-
Tutor Expenses		6,327	-	6,327	8,283
Tutor Fees		29,116	-	29,116	-
Other Expenses		-	-	-	1,389
Classes / Workshops		-	-	-	35,705
Governance Costs					
Independent Examination	7	-	-	-	-
Total Payments		45,020	-	45,020	48,735
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year before transfers		8,528	-	8,528	(2,467)
Transfers between funds	6	-	-	-	-
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year		8,528	-	8,528	(2,467)

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan
 Receipts and Payments Accounts
 For the year ended 31st March 2025
 Scottish Charity Number SC017646

	Year to 2025 Unrestricted £	Year to 2025 Restricted £	Year to 2025 Total £	Year to 2024 Total £
Statement of Balances - as at 31st March 2025				
Opening cash at bank and in hand	13,317	-	13,317	15,785
Add Income	53,548	-	53,548	46,268
Less Expenditure	66,865	-	66,865	62,052
Transfers	45,020	-	45,020	48,735
	6	-	-	-
Closing cash at bank and in hand	21,845	-	21,845	13,317
Bank and Cash Balances				
Treasurers Account	21,845	-	21,845	13,317
Outstanding Lodgements	-	-	-	-
Outstanding Cheques	-	-	-	-
Petty Cash	-	-	-	-
9 & 10	21,845	-	-	13,317

Statement of Balances - as at 31st March 2025

Date: 18/7/2025

The notes on pages 5 to 6 form part of these financial statements

Fèis nan Garbh Chrìochan
Scottish Charity Number SC017646
Notes to the accounts
For the year ended 31st March 2025

1 Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the day-to-day running of the Charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

3 Related party transactions

No remuneration was paid to the trustees or any connected persons during the year (2024: £NIL).

4 Grants

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Fèisean nan Gàidheal	16,277	-	16,277	10,979
	16,277	-	16,277	10,979

5 Donations

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Misc Donations	3,239	-	3,239	-
	3,239	-	3,239	-

6 Transfers between funds

There were no transfers between funds during the year (2024: £NIL).

7 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Independent Examination	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-

8 Volunteers

The trustees would like to record their thanks to all the volunteers who dedicate a significant amount of time for no remuneration to the charity.

9 Restricted Funds

	At 1st April 2024	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	At 31st March 2025
Restricted Funds	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-

10 Unrestricted Funds

	At 1st April 2024	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	At 31st March 2025
Unrestricted Funds	13,317	53,548	(45,020)	-	21,845
	13,317	53,548	(45,020)	-	21,845