

# Orkney Folk Festival

Scotland · Charity number SC027280

## Details

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Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	1997-11-25
Register	<a href="#">View on the OSCR register</a>

## Contact

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Address	Festival Office Ferry Terminal Building Stromness Orkney KW16 3BH
Website	<a href="http://www.orkneyfolkfestival.com">www.orkneyfolkfestival.com</a>

## Activities

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**Activities:** 'It carries out activities or services itself'

**Purposes:** 'the advancement of education', 'the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science'

**What the charity does:** To preserve and advance public education in and appreciation of Orkney as avenue for ethnic, traditional and contemporary folk music and cultural activities, by promoting, or assisting in the provision of, concerts, recitals and other productions for the benefit, enjoyment and education of the local and visiting public. Promoting Orkney as a cultural destination.

**Beneficiaries:** 'Children or young people', 'Older People', 'People with disabilities or health problems', 'People with a particular ethnic or racial origin', 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

**Objectives:** to preserve and advance public education in and appreciation of Orkney as a venue for ethnic, traditional and contemporary folk music and cultural activities, by promoting, or assisting in the provision of, concerts, recitals and other productions for the benefit, enjoyment and education of the local and visiting public.

## Geography

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- **Main operating location:** Orkney Islands
- **Geographical spread:** Wider, but within one local authority area

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-01-31	£279,152	£286,487	-	0
2024-01-31	£267,019	£274,310	-	0
2023-01-31	£279,186	£239,682	-	0
2022-01-31	£91,768	£92,860	-	0
2021-01-31	£31,281	£22,937	-	0

**Orkney Folk Festival**

Scotland - Charity number SC027280

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# Accounts

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Charity registration number: SC027280

**ORKNEY FOLK FESTIVAL  
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2025**

**ORCADIA**  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS



Orcadia  
1-3 East Road  
Kirkwall  
Orkney  
KW15 1HZ

**Orkney Folk Festival  
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**Orkney Folk Festival  
Trustees' Report For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

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The trustees present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 January 2025.

## **Objectives and Activities**

### **Aims and Objectives**

The objective of the Orkney Folk Festival is to advance the education of the public in the art of music, in particular folk music by the promotion of an annual festival of ethnic, traditional and contemporary music through the organisation, management and promotion of concerts, ceilidhs, workshops, exhibitions or other presentations of an educational, cultural or artistic nature.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### **Main Achievements**

The 2024 Festival marked our forty-second year and built on the outstanding success of the 2023 festival. This year's programme once again attracted an exceptional line-up of artists, reinforcing the Festival's reputation as one of the UK's premier folk music events. A particular highlight was the return of capacity audiences across multiple venues, demonstrating the continued strength of audience demand and community support.

Financially, the Festival once again demonstrated robust performance. Ticket sales income reached a new record, reflecting both strong audience appetite and the effectiveness of our programming and marketing strategies. Attendance also surpassed the previous year, cementing our growth trajectory. The "Friends" scheme, introduced in 2023 as a replacement for the former patronage model, continued to prove highly successful, delivering income significantly above expectations and creating a stronger sense of community ownership of the Festival.

Merchandising, sponsorship, and retail activity also remained positive contributors. The relocation of the Festival shop to the Travel Centre site continues to deliver incremental improvements in net income, while sponsorship partnerships grew both in number and value, reflecting the Festival's strengthened brand and reach.

Like many cultural organisations, the Festival continues to operate in a challenging cost environment. Rising expenditure in travel, accommodation, performers' fees, and venue hire has required prudent financial management and increased reliance on external contractors for specialist tasks. Despite these pressures, the overall financial position of the Festival remains strong, with reserves well managed and sufficient to safeguard sustainability.

Looking forward, the Festival is strategically well placed to continue building on its success. With a clear governance structure, strong community engagement, and the ongoing support of our funders and sponsors, we are confident in our ability to meet future challenges and to sustain the Festival's reputation as a flagship cultural event in Scotland.

We would like to record our deep gratitude to Creative Scotland, Orkney Islands Council, our sponsors, and our Friends – whose support makes it possible for us to deliver a Festival of such exceptional quality and reach.

## **Financial Review**

### **Financial Position**

The charity had total incoming resources for the period of £279,152 and total resources expended of £286,488.

Incoming resources included grants of £60,013, sponsorship of £42,779 and ticketing/ merchandise income of £176,360.

Closing fund balances at 31 January 2025 amounted to £68,148.

**Orkney Folk Festival  
Trustees' Report (continued)  
For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

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**Reserves Policy**

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to two month's expenditure. The board of trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The board of trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

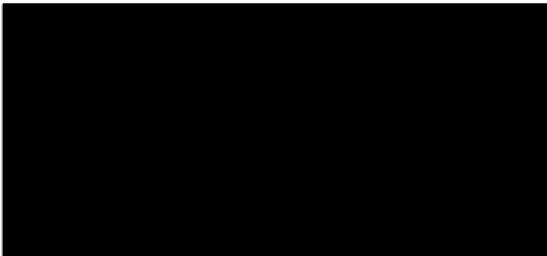
**Governance Structure**

The charity operates a two tier structure with the Board of Trustees overseeing the Governance of the Charity and a Management Committee focusing solely on the planning and deliverance of the Festival.

The charity is a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), governed by a written constitution. The charity was incorporated on 8 January 2014.

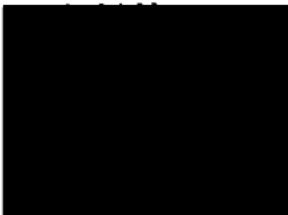
**Reference and Administrative Details**

**Trustees**



**Charity Number**

SC027280



**Independent Examiner**



Orcadia  
1-3 East Road  
Kirkwall  
Orkney  
KW15 1HZ

**Orkney Folk Festival  
Trustees' Report (continued)  
For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

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The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee  
Date 9 October 2025

**Orkney Folk Festival**  
**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Orkney Folk Festival**  
**For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

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I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Orkney Folk Festival (the Trust) for the year ended 31 January 2025.

**Responsibilities and Basis of Report**

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 (as amended). The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(a) to (c) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was 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 seeking explanations from you as 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 connection with 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 to comply with Regulation 8 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 *16 October 2023*



**Orkney Folk Festival  
Statement of Financial Activities  
For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Unrestricted funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:</b>			
Donations and legacies	3	103,164	101,044
Charitable activities		165,534	153,711
Other trading activities	4	10,454	12,264
		279,152	267,019
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>			
Raising funds	5	(286,488)	(274,310)
<b>NET EXPENDITURE</b>		(7,336)	(7,291)
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>		(7,336)	(7,291)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>			
Total funds brought forward		75,484	82,775
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	11	68,148	75,484

The notes on pages 7 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

**Orkney Folk Festival  
Statement of Financial Position  
As At 31 January 2025**

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Total funds £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks	8	1,500	2,000
Debtors	9	9,317	2,676
Cash at bank and in hand		78,010	85,501
		<u>88,827</u>	<u>90,177</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year</b>	10	<u>(20,679)</u>	<u>(14,693)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>		<u>68,148</u>	<u>75,484</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>68,148</u>	<u>75,484</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>68,148</u>	<u>75,484</u>
<b>FUNDS OF THE CHARITY</b>			
Unrestricted Funds		<u>68,148</u>	<u>75,484</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	11	<u>68,148</u>	<u>75,484</u>

On behalf of the board



Trustee  
Date 14 October 2025

The notes on pages 7 to 12 form part of these financial statements.

**Orkney Folk Festival  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

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**1. General Information**

Orkney Folk Festival is an unincorporated charity registered with the Charity Commission, registered charity number SC027280. The principal address is [REDACTED]

**2. Accounting Policies**

**2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" ("FRS 102") and the Charities SORP "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

**2.2. Fund Accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor.

**2.3. Incoming Resources**

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Donations and other forms of voluntary income are recognised as incoming resources when receivable, except insofar as they are incapable of financial measurement.

Income generated from the supply of goods and services is recorded in the period the supply is made.

The value of services provided by volunteers has not been included in these accounts.

**2.4. Resources Expended**

Expenditure is included in resources expended on an accruals basis, inclusive of any VAT which cannot be recovered.

Costs of generating funds comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income and the costs of fundraising events.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred in the delivery of the charity's activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

**Orkney Folk Festival**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

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**2.5. Stocks and Work in Progress**

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks.

Cost is determined using the first-in, first-out method. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

**2.6. Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

**2.7. Financial Instruments**

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

**Basic financial assets**

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

**Classification of financial liabilities**

Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the company after deducting all of its liabilities.

**Basic financial liabilities**

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**Orkney Folk Festival**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

**3. Income from Donations and Legacies**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Donations and gifts	372	1,964
Member subscriptions and sponsorships	42,779	33,052
Grants	60,013	66,028
	<u>103,164</u>	<u>101,044</u>

**4. Income from Other Trading Activities**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fundraising events	5,229	6,784
Shop income	5,225	5,480
	<u>10,454</u>	<u>12,264</u>

**5. Analysis of Expenditure**

	<b>2025</b>		
	<b>Activities undertaken directly</b>	<b>Support costs (see note 6)</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Raising funds	274,025	12,463	286,488
	<u>274,025</u>	<u>12,463</u>	<u>286,488</u>
			<b>2024</b>
	<b>Activities undertaken directly</b>	<b>Support costs (see note 6)</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Raising funds	258,118	16,192	274,310
	<u>258,118</u>	<u>16,192</u>	<u>274,310</u>

**Orkney Folk Festival**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

**6. Support Costs**

	<b>2025</b> <b>Raising funds</b> <b>£</b>
Employee costs	1,659
Premises expenses	4,324
General administration	6,480
	12,463
	12,463
	<b>2024</b> <b>Raising funds</b> <b>£</b>
Employee costs	3,473
Premises expenses	4,056
General administration	8,663
	16,192
	16,192

**7. Average Number of Employees**

Average number of employees during the year was: NIL (2024: NIL)

**8. Stocks**

	<b>2025</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£</b>
Stock	1,500	2,000
	1,500	2,000

**9. Debtors**

	<b>2025</b> <b>£</b>	<b>2024</b> <b>£</b>
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	-	320
Other debtors	9,317	2,356
	9,317	2,676
	9,317	2,676

**Orkney Folk Festival**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

**10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year**

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade creditors	709	694
Payments on account	18,955	12,260
Other creditors	831	658
Accruals and deferred income	184	1,081
	<u>20,679</u>	<u>14,693</u>

**11. Movement in Funds**

	As at 1 February 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 January 2025
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	75,484	279,152	(286,488)	68,148
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>75,484</u>	<u>279,152</u>	<u>(286,488)</u>	<u>68,148</u>

	As at 1 February 2023	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 January 2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	82,775	267,019	(274,310)	75,484
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>82,775</u>	<u>267,019</u>	<u>(274,310)</u>	<u>75,484</u>

**12. Transactions with Trustees**

During the year the expenses reimbursed to the trustees or paid directly to third parties were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other Expenses	<u>161</u>	<u>-</u>

Number of trustees reimbursed for expenses during the year was 1 (2024: 0)

**Orkney Folk Festival**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 January 2025**

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**13. Related Party Disclosures**

During the year there were the following related party transactions:

Payment of performace fees and expenses of £1,120 to Fara, a group in which [REDACTED] is a member;  
Payment of flights and expenses for [REDACTED] husband of [REDACTED] for attendance at the Kings Place Concert.