

Ross Of Mull Historical Centre (SCIO)

Scotland · Charity number SC030873

Details

Known as	Ionad Eachdraidh An Rois Mhuilich
Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2000-12-01
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	Ionad Eachdraidh An Rois Mhuilich Millbrae Cottage Buinessan Isle of Mull Argyll PA67 6DG
Website	www.romhc.org.uk

Activities

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: The Historical Centre, located in Buinessan, is open to visitors from April / May to October, with more limited opening during the winter. It has a museum and display area, provides historical, cultural, natural environment and visitor information for the Ross of Mull, has a collection of local artefacts and photographs, a reference library (including Gaelic books) and archives to facilitate genealogy research for those with ancestry links to the local area of Mull. The Centre also sells a number of publications relevant to the area, and has an informative website. The Centre grounds are used by the local people as a community garden.

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: 4 The organisation's purposes are: The organisation's purposes are to promote the advancement of heritage, science and education by the study, display and promotion of the cultural history and natural environment of the operating area.

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Argyll And Bute
- **Geographical spread:** A specific local point, community or neighbourhood

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£27,470	£14,558	-	0
2024-03-31	£7,585	£12,065	-	0
2023-03-31	£6,681	£5,798	-	0
2022-03-31	£13,849	£6,503	-	0
2021-03-31	£5,421	£4,868	-	0

Accounts

APPENDIX 1

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	1	April	2024	To	31	March	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name	The Ross of Mull Historical Centre		
Other names charity is known by	Ionad Eachdraidh an Rois Mhuilich		
Registered charity number	SC030873		
Charity's principal address	Millbrae Cottage		
	Bunessan		
	Isle of Mull		
	ARGYLL		Postcode PA67 6DG

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1				Board of Trustees
2				
3				
4				
5				
6		Treasurer		
7				Membership at members meetings (AGM)
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Constitution under SCIO

Trustee recruitment and appointment

Under our constitution, a member can be appointed / reappointed (trustees are required to retire from office at the AGM, but are eligible for reappointment at the AGM) as a trustee by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board of Trustees may at any time appoint a non-member of the organisation on the basis that he/she has specialist experience and/or skills which could be of assistance to the board.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The organisation's purposes are to promote the advancement of heritage, science and education by the study, display and promotion of the cultural history and natural environment of the Ross of Mull.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The Historical Centre, located in Bunessan, is open to visitors from April / May to October, with more limited opening during the winter. It has a museum and display area, provides historical, cultural, natural environment and visitor information for the Ross of Mull, has a collection of local artefacts and photographs, a reference library (including Gaelic books) and archives to facilitate genealogy research for those with ancestry links to the local area of Mull. The Centre also sells a number of publications relevant to the area, and has an informative website. The Centre grounds are used by the local people as a community garden.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

See report below presented at the AGM

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

N/A

Details of any deficit

N/A

Donated facilities and services (if any)

N/A

APPENDIX 1

Other optional information

See report below presented at the AGM

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s) <i>OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures</i>		
Full name(s)		
Position (e.g. Chair)		Treasurer
Date	01 November 2025	

Trustees Report 2024-25 – presented at the Annual General Meeting 29 November 2025

The Ross of Mull Historical Centre is described on our leaflets, banners and display boards as an 'Information Centre' – that is, a resource for visitors. But equally important is what resources we can offer for the local community, in learning about our shared past, and in building for our future

'Building' is not just about stone, bricks and mortar. Nevertheless, we know that there's necessary work to stabilize the fabric of Bunessan Mill, which is part of RoMHC's estate and our responsibility. That has been taking up a lot of energy, so we need to report what has been done so far and what is planned.

What to do with The Old Corn Mill

In December 2023 we received the report on the condition of the ruin and proposed remedial works for the Old Corn Mill (a category C listed building adjacent to the Historical Centre) that we had commissioned [REDACTED] of Addison Conservation and Design to draw up and that had been paid for by a generous donation. The report advised two levels of remedial work necessary to conserve the ruins. The most urgent and necessary to prevent possible collapse of parts of the walls involved replacing key lintels and removing vegetation growing in the stonework and consolidating the stonework in those affected areas. We were advised to get this work done within 2 years and the report estimated this work would cost £38,000 (plus VAT). The essential but not quite so urgent work involved further repairs to the masonry, including repointing and consolidation of the wall heads. We were advised to get this work done within 5 years and the cost for this work was estimated at £67,000 (plus VAT).

For the small charity that is RoMHC, run by volunteers and relying on donations for our day to day running costs, these sums seemed way beyond reach. The money that had been donated to pay for the report was also for a community consultation to gauge the interest and support of the local community into developing the mill for community use. Our focus in 2024 then was two-fold - to run a community consultation and to scope the grant giving world for funds for pay for the repairs. The community consultation took place in the summer of 2024. We hired [REDACTED], an independent built heritage consultant to consult the community during June and July using a survey and drop-in event on whether we should fully repair the mill and bring it back into use. She delivered her report in October 2024. The summary of the report was that there was support within the local community for a project that brings the mill back into use and support for a variety of new uses.

The next step would be fundraising for an Options Appraisal and Feasibility Study. One question on the survey asked community members if they were prepared to offer practical help to the trustees to move this project further. There was quite a poor response to this question. In light of the results of the consultation the trustees decided we were not able to pursue redevelopment of the mill unless we knew we could rely on significant community practical support. So for now our focus would be the preservation of the ruins in their current state until such time that there was more community support to do more. We decided to focus on the urgent work identified in the report for our initial appeal for grants, so approached a number of organisations that we thought would be sympathetic to our cause.

The corn mill is an important part of the Ross of Mull historical legacy. It had played a significant role in the community from its origins in the mid- 18th century until it stopped operation around the time of the First World War. We weren't looking at restoring it – that was not feasible any more since the lade that brought water to the overshot wheel had been destroyed in the 1960's by the building of the new main road while the wheel itself and much of the internal machinery had been sold for scrap. However we did want to preserve the existing ruins and make them safe so people could walk around them and learn about how a water mill of this sort worked and the history and role in the community of this particular mill.

Making grant applications is slow, tedious and detailed work and there isn't much funding available for repairs to old buildings. By March 2025 we had received one rejection and were in the process of pursuing another three organisations that seemed most likely to support us - The Pilgrim Trust, Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. All three had approved our initial applications and we were through to more detailed project appraisals.

Developments since April 2025.

In May 2025 The Pilgrim Trust agreed to give us £5,000. We are still waiting for confirmation of grants from Historic Environment Scotland and The Heritage Lottery Fund that would cover the rest of the estimated £50,000 needed to complete the urgent work. We are cautiously optimistic that we may be able to get the construction work done before the end of the year. During the winter months we will be working on designing interpretation boards to go in and around the mill describing its history and how it would have looked and worked in its hey-day. We are hoping that by the AGM we will have more definite word on both the grants and the work completion date.

Meanwhile, what can we report about other activities during the last financial year?

Keeping the Centre open: challenges

During the year covered by this report, a small group of hands-on and hard-working Trustees maintained a pattern of opening, where possible, between 10 am and 4 pm each day of the working week. This season, however, it has become much more challenging to recruit volunteers to cover ten sessions of a working week. This has been due to disability, the need to take paid employment, or folk moving off-island.

Over this winter we need to sign up for the 2026 rota more 'time-rich' volunteers who are both interested in local history and the activities of RoMHC. Such people, and their presence to open the Centre, are a vital part of our resources. So are the artefacts and photographs which are constantly being donated – creating serious tasks of accession, storage cataloguing and display. These, besides fund-raising for work on the Mill, are challenges we need to address.

Taking events out into the community

At the same time there are achievements – including events outside the walls of the Centre; for instance, our presence year by year with a stand at the Buessan Show, with eye-catching themes: **'Local heroes'** in 2023, **'Keeping the Home Fires Burning'** in 2024 and **'Waulking the Tweed'** in 2025. In March 2024 an agreement on the details of joint working was signed with SWMID. The Community Garden has developed as an inspiring and practical use of formerly neglected land around the Centre. Several folk – including a couple of Trustees and the Ranger whose office is based in the Centre – are involved in exploring its potential. Local families and schoolchildren benefit from this, and events like 'Wintering Well' or a 'Seed Swap' bring folk together in the open air.

The AGM last year packed members into the Centre and featured a presentation by [REDACTED] from the National Trust Rangers Team, about their current programme, which now takes in the Treshnish Isles as well as Iona, the Ross and Burg, monitoring wild-life and studying land use. Such a focus helps to widen our horizons. Later in the winter we attracted audiences to Buessan Hall – for a lively talk by [REDACTED] of the Place-names project on **An Rois Muleach – origins, songs and stories.**

The Hall has also been the venue for a couple of meetings based on the Shiaba series of novels by [REDACTED] – in which he talked about the background of the Clearances which he has brought alive by the three volumes: **Shiaba**, **Return to Shiaba**, and **Shiaba No More.** In early summer this year these sessions were complemented by a Ranger-led walk out to the ruined township. These books will be available at the AGM and from our website.

An eagerly-awaited talk about the Beaton clan of hereditary healers on the Ross and Brolas and their physic gardens had to be postponed because of the twin challenges of health problems and wild weather. However the excellent book **Hebridean Healers** was at last launched at this end of the island, at Creich Hall, at the beginning of June 2025, with the bonus of a presentation by the four contributors, with their different specialisms.

Also, at Creich Hall, monthly sessions of Remembering the Ross have included a lively talk by [REDACTED] (speaker at this AGM with an intriguing title: **A star is born: the invention of Macculloch's fossil tree**). For Remembering the Ross he described family life at Tormore and his [REDACTED] pottery. Monthly reminiscence sessions round the fire at Creich (stop-press; now a wood-burning stove!) on days when the library there is also open will continue, as will [REDACTED] 'Stone Chat' sessions in the Historical Centre – telling the geological story behind pebbles picked up on the Ross by visitors and local folk. As the Centre opens for half a day over the winter, this will increase our capacity to meet and research genealogy enquiries from folk out-with Mull and local families.

Both challenges and opportunities!

As reported at our last AGM, our archive cupboard holds tapes on which (with the right technology) we could hear again the voices of folk like [REDACTED], already preserved by the School of Scottish Studies Kist o' Riches. In September, [REDACTED] asked whether he could look at our Oral History records, which was arranged. He came to the Centre with Adamh O Broin from Culture, Heritage and Arts, Argyll and the Isles. We have extensive record on cassette tapes and on CDs, none of which we can play. However these should be digitised and transcribed to paper. After discussion our visitors suggested that RoMHC should join CHARTS and it was hoped that funding would be found, with their help, to have the materials saved in accessible format. It would be good to have the capacity to listen to these in the Centre. Alasdair has also offered to help with this process.

Many of the issues we try to tackle in the Trustees' regular meetings include the use of technology, not only hardware in the Centre, but also the new fibre Broadband, phones no longer on a land-line, or Paypal, or QR codes, or computers which don't connect with printers...

Facing up to these challenges is important, but so are all the opportunities we have to come face to face with local folk and visitors. In this way we can be a vital part of our community.

November 2025 [REDACTED]

Ross of Mull Historical Centre

SC 0308373



For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	April	2024		31	March	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	3,137				3,137	2,835
Legacies	20,000				20,000	
Grants					-	650
Receipts from fundraising activities	1,814				1,814	2,549
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings	1,760				1,760	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities Argyll Lottery	553				553	880
Petty cash	206				206	671
A1 Sub total	27,470	-	-	-	27,470	7,585
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	27,470	-	-	-	27,470	7,585
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	14,558				14,558	12,065
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
A3 Sub total	14,558	-	-	-	14,558	12,065
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	14,558	-	-	-	14,558	12,065
Net receipts / (payments)	12,912	-	-	-	12,912	(4,480)
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	12,912	-	-	-	12,912	(4,480)

Section B Statement of balances

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash and bank balances at start of year	24,091				24,091	27,701
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	12,912				12,912	4,481
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	37,003	-	-	-	37,003	32,182
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	-	-	-	-	-	8,961

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (if available) to nearest £	Current value (if available) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B3 Other assets					
		Total	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities				
		Total	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities				
		Total	-	-

Signed by one or two trustees
on behalf of all the trustees

Signature*

Print Name

Date of
approval

#####

Section C Notes to the Accounts

C1 Nature and purpose of funds *(may be stated on analysis of funds worksheets)*

C2 Grants

Type of activity or project supported	Individual / institution	Number of grants made	£
Total			-

C3a Trustee remuneration

If no remuneration was paid during the period to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee cross this box (otherwise complete section 3b)	
--	--

Authority under which paid

£

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

C4a Trustee expenses

If no expenses were paid to any charity trustee during the period then cross this box (otherwise complete section 4b)	
---	--

Number of trustees

£

C4b Trustee expenses - details

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

Nature of relationship	Nature of transaction	Transaction amount (£)	Balance outstanding at period end (£)

C6 Other information

--

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Ross of Mull Historical Centre

SC 030837

Additional analysis (1)

Analysis of receipts and payments

1 Donations

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
	3,137				3,137	2,035
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	3,137	-	-	-	3,137	2,035
	-	-	-	-	-	reference

2 Grants

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Total	-	-	-	-

3 Gross receipts from other charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total current period to nearest £	Total last period to nearest £
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
					-	
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	reference error	-	-	-	reference error	reference error

4 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

[illegible]

Additional analysis (2)

5 Breakdown of unrestricted funds

	Unrestricted fund 1 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 2 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 3 - enter name of fund below	Unrestricted fund 4 - enter name of fund below	Total unrestricted funds	Total unrestricted funds last period
Receipts						
Donations					-	
Legacies					-	
Grants					-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
					cross ref error	
Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-
					cross ref error	
Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities					-	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
					-	
					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
					cross ref error	
Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	-	-	-	-	-	-
					cross ref error	
Net receipts / (payments)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Transfers to / (from) funds						
					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	-	-	-	-	-	-
					cross ref error	
Nature and purpose of funds						

APPENDIX 3



		Independent examiner's report on the accounts						v2
Report to the trustees/members of Registered charity number On the accounts of the charity for the period Set out on pages	Charity name	The Ross of Mull Historical Centre						
	Registered charity number	SC030673						
	Period start date					Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
	01	April	2024	to	31	March	2025	
							(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner Basis of independent examiner's statement Independent examiner's statement	The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) 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. My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. 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. In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than that disclosed on the attached page*] 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.							
Signed**: Name: Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): Address:								

*Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply. If the words do apply, set out those matters which have come to your attention on the following page.

** OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures

APPENDIX 3

Disclosure section

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material problems.

Give here brief details of
any items that the
examiner wishes to
disclose