

**ISLAY BOOK FESTIVAL
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For year ended 31 March 2025
(01.04.2024–31.03.2025)
Charity No. SC037096**

**ISLAY BOOK FESTIVAL
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AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
For year ended 31 March 2025
(01.04.2024–31.03.2025)**

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
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For year ended 31 March 2025
(01.04.2024–31.03.2025)**

The Trustees and Management Committee present their report and unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

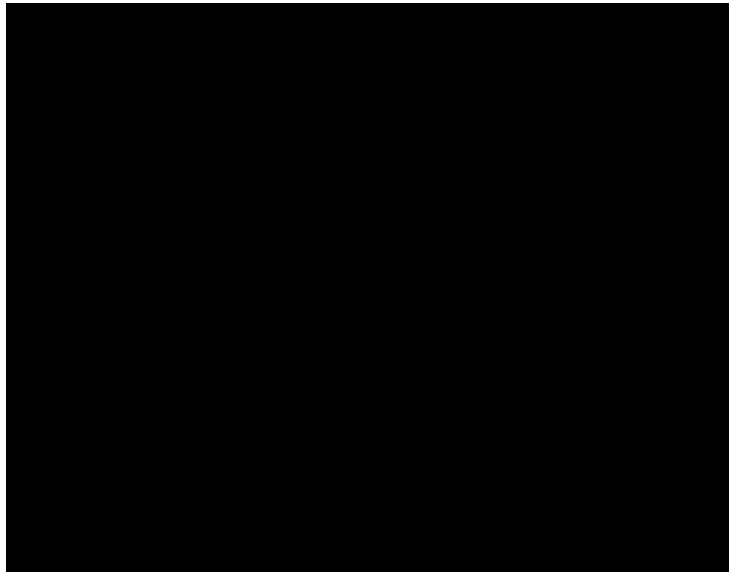
REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

CHARITY NAME: ISLAY BOOK FESTIVAL

CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: SC037096

CHARITY ADDRESS:

TRUSTEES:



BANKERS:

Bank of Scotland
Shore Street
Bowmore
Isle of Islay
PA43 7LB

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For year ended 31 March 2025
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Structure, Governance and Management

The organisation was established in November 2005 and is governed by a constitution. The Trustees, who are the management committee, are responsible for the day-to-day running of the charity and ensuring the aims and objectives are carried out. The management committee consists of a minimum of five members with a quorum of three. Office bearers should resign at the AGM and are eligible for re-election. New Trustees will be nominated by the existing Trustees. The Trustees are familiar with the practical work of the charity by living and working within the local community.

Organisation's Principal Objectives & Activities

The aims of the organisation are:

- (1) Advancement of the arts in the field of literature in particular by organising an annual book festival.
- (2) To foster and promote interest in literature.
- (3) To engage with local authorities, voluntary bodies and the public in a common effort to promote literature.
- (4) To hold other literary events.

The main activity of the organisation is to hold the annual Islay Book Festival, which consists of authors who read to audiences of all ages, from nursery to adults.

Achievements and performance

Organisational changes: Our committee gained in stability this year, with one resignation, that of [REDACTED] on 03.06.24, and three new nominations, [REDACTED] on 01.12.24. [REDACTED] subsequently resigned at the [REDACTED]

All activity was still run by the committee plus a core team of volunteers for the period covered by this report.

Our 2024 festival took place on 29th August-1st September. 20 authors took part, with the biggest names including [REDACTED]. Some event chairs, such as [REDACTED] [REDACTED] also joined us from the mainland. In total we held 28 events, comprising 14 school sessions, and 13 public sessions. Approximately 325 primary school pupils and 120 high school students across Islay and Jura attended our school sessions. We estimate attendance of our general programme based on our ticket sales at 669 attendees, which, along with 12 attendees at Gortanvogie Residential Home, gives a total of 1136 across the full weekend. Our most-attended public session was with [REDACTED] and the event with [REDACTED] as well as our George Orwell panel and our 'experience' sessions with [REDACTED]. These sessions which, rather than the traditional interview format, included respectively a morning swim, a tea party and a whisky tasting, along with a poetry walk with [REDACTED] were a huge success, and this is an aspect we have continued building upon in 2025.

Enthusiastic feedback from our 2024 attendants included: 'Huge congratulations and grateful thanks to the committee for your hard work in organising such a fantastic Festival 24!!!'; 'Well done putting together such a good programme. A lot of hard work goes into the festival and it is very much appreciated.'; 'I was in school at [REDACTED] presentation for kids and she was brilliant. Pitched perfectly, good opportunity for interaction, relatable'.

We held a drawing competition for school children, who took inspiration from the authors who were due to visit them in school: [REDACTED] (although the latter had to cancel his visit at the last minute due to health issues). Locally-based artist [REDACTED] judged the children's artwork, with the winning drawings hung up in the Gaelic College during the festival, alongside [REDACTED] own exhibition.

Having grown our audiences up to 100-120 for headline events, which was the goal we set off with, we feel like we achieved a festival beyond our small team's capacity in terms of workload. Our goal for the following year

was to continue bringing to the island big names as well as new authors to discover, but reducing the number of guest authors back to a more manageable 15, with a number of events only slightly reduced but fewer panels, which we achieved in the period following this report.

In 2025, we continued catering for a diversity of themes including crime fiction, nature writing, poetry, Gaelic, history, whisky and celebrity, alongside our school events, as well as retaining a diversity of formats. Avenues for improvement included better sound provision for the benefit of all attendees – achieved according to audience feedback –, and simplified catering provision to make the organising committee’s job easier, a goal we managed to reach as well. We succeeded in obtaining enough funding to afford freelance help with admin all along the year and hired help for logistical tasks during the festival itself, with the appointment of Dawn Geddes as festival co-ordinator on 13.01.2025.

Principal Funding

Funding for the year relied heavily on support and sponsorship from local businesses and Trusts. Funding was received from the Mactaggart Third Fund (£6,061.71), Ardbeg All Islay Fund (£5,000), Islay Energy Trust (£1,500) and the Schroeder Family (£2,500). Additional funding of £6,000 was also received from Awards for All.

The Scottish Book Trust Live Literature scheme also contributed £1,823.79 which covered the accommodation and travel costs of some of the visiting authors.

Financial Review

In addition to sponsorship, income was also generated through ticket sales, book sales, sale of merchandise, a pop-up event at the local Agricultural Show, and a raffle which was drawn on the last day of the festival. Approximately £1,450 was raised through the raffle and pop-up event and we are grateful to all the local businesses and individuals who donated prizes and to everyone who bought tickets. This was the first year year in which we sold festival merchandise, and this generated income of £723.

Income of approximately £5,500 was generated through ticket sales which was four times the amount generated at the 2023 festival. The increase in sales was mainly due to more sessions being run and by greater numbers attending each session. Particularly popular were the sessions with [REDACTED] and an Orwell panel event.

Ticket prices for most sessions were restricted to £5 with discounts for students and carers. A price of £10 was set for some of the premier events and higher prices were also charged for “activity” sessions such as the wild swimming event with [REDACTED] and the afternoon tea with [REDACTED]

Thanks to a very generous arrangement with [REDACTED] at the Celtic House book shop in Bowmore, we receive 20% commission on all books sold during the festival. As a result of this arrangement, sales of more than £4,800 generated a net profit of £965.

The cost of bringing authors to the island was by far our largest expenditure for the year. In the 2024/25 financial year, more than £10,200 was paid for author accommodation, travel and session fees but an additional £1,700 was also paid up front in financial year 2023/24. On the day catering and a social event for authors and volunteers cost just under £1,400.

The hire of venues, sound equipment, photography and insurance amounted to approximately £2,700 with advertising costing a further £900.

During the festival there were collection buckets in aid of the Brain Power charity supported by Glenn Campbell who chaired one of our events. As a result of these collections, £500 was donated to the charity.

In January 2025 a festival coordinator was employed and during the 2024/25 financial year she was paid £720 and a further £600 was paid to secure accommodation for her on the island during the 2025 festival.

During the year, two Restricted Funds accounts were closed and the balances were transferred to the Treasurer’s Account. This means that there are now only two accounts – the Treasurer’s Account, and a Business Banking Online Instant Access Account which is interest earning.

Money in the bank as at 31st March 2025 was £34,571.71 which represented a surplus of £11,081.48 for the year.

Plans for Future Periods

Our aim is now to further professionalise our processes with the input of our co-ordinator [REDACTED] who has experience working for other book festivals. These include improving some logistical aspects during the festival itself, rethinking our author info sheets to make them easier to refer to for authors, redefining decision making policies, and preparing playbooks to deal with emergencies more efficiently. Some of our office holders having announced their decision to step down after our 2026 festival, we will also be focusing in the next few months on talent search and succession planning.

Overall plans remain the same, to improve the quality and efficiency of the festival, while also continuing to develop the festival in ways that are more accessible and of increased benefit and enjoyment for the local community, as well as those visitors who patronise the festival.

On behalf of the Trustees

Signed

Date 30/11/25

[REDACTED]

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Independent Examiner's Report

The Charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) 2005 Act and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 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 accounts.

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.

Signed



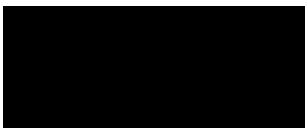
Name



Date

3/12/25

Address



**ISLAY BOOK FESTIVAL
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For year ended 31 March 2025
(01.04.2024–31.03.2025)**

Receipts and Payments for the period ended 31 March 2025

	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	2023-24
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants and Donations	19,561.71	3,323.79	22,885.50	14,034.75
Bank Interest	149.99		149.99	154.88
Income from Fundraising Activities	2,487.19		2,487.19	1,073.00
Income from Charitable Activities	10,380.44		10,380.44	2,164.07
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	32,579.33	3,323.79	35,903.12	17,426.70
Payments				
Directly relating to Charitable Activities	18,693.05	5,528.59	24,221.64	15,436.42
Donations	500.00	0	500.00	0
Governance	100.00	0	100.00	268.08
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	19,293.05	5,528.59	24,821.64	15,704.50
Net Surplus/Deficit	13,286.28	-2,204.80	11,081.48	1,722.20

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Statement of Balances for the period ended 31 March 2025

	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	2023-24
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation				
Cash at Bank and in hand – 01/04/24	23,490.28	0	23,490.28	21,758.03
Surplus/(Deficit) for Year	11,081.43	0	11,081.43	1,722.20
Cash at Bank and in hand - 31/03/25	34,571.71	0	34,571.71	23,490.23

Outstanding Bills	0	0	0	0
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Bank and Cash Balances

Treasurers Account -		10,867.34	9,959.66
BB Instant Account -		23,703.37	10,775.77
BB Inst Restricted -		0.00	2,754.75
BB Inst - Restricted		0.00	0.05
Cash in Hand			
		34,571.71	23,490.23

Signature T [REDACTED] Date 30/11/25

[REDACTED] (Chair) on behalf of the Trustees

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(01.04.2024-31.03.25)**

Notes to the Accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Nature and Purpose of funds		
General Funds	34,571.71	20,753.43
Restricted Funds		<u>2,754.75</u>
	<u>34,571.71</u>	<u>23,490.23</u>

Trustees Remunerations

None

Trustees Expenses

No Trustees were paid expenses during the term.

Transactions with Trustees and Connected Persons

Four trustees, connected persons and management committee were reimbursed for items purchased on behalf of the Organisation in the period 1st April 2024– 31st March 2025

	2024-25	2023-24
	£	£
Total Amount reimbursed	1,471.58	2,208.06

Donations made

A donation of £500 was made through Just Giving to Brain Power the Brain Tumor Research Charity.

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Analysis of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 31 March 2025

	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	2023-24
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
Grants, Trusts and Donations				
Ardbeg All Islay Fund	5,000.00		5,000.00	4,000.00
Ardbeg Distillery VC				600.00
Argyll Events Fund				2,700.00
Awards for All	6,000.00		6,000.00	
Bruichladdich Distillery				250.00
Islay Energy Trust		1,500.00	1,500.00	
Mactaggart Third Fund	6,061.71		6,061.71	4,420.00
Schroder Foundation	2,500.00		2,500.00	2,000.00
Scottish Book Trust		1,823.79	1,823.79	
General Donations				64.75
	19,561.71	3,323.79	22,885.50	14,034.75
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	149.99		149.99	154.99
Income from Fundraising Activities				
Raffle and Islay Show Income	1,053.31		1,053.31	1,010.00
Income from Sale of Merchandise	709.43		709.43	
Dietmar Finger Barnhill Painting	160.00		160.00	
Argyll Client Raffle	78.00		78.00	63.00

Income from Charity Collection	486.45		486.45	
Raffle	2,487.19		2,487.19	1,073.00
Income from Other Charity Activities				
Income from Book Sales	4,765.60		4,765.60	767.30
Income from Ticket Sales	5,624.84		5,614.84	1,323.37
Refund from Cal Mac				73.40
	10,380.44		10,380.44	2,164.07
TOTAL RECEIPTS	32,579.33	3,323.79	35,903.12	17,426.70

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Analysis of Receipts and Payments for the period ended 31 March 2025

	2024-25	2024-25	2024-25	2023-24
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds
Payments	£	£	£	£
Payments directly relating to Charitable Activities				
Advertising	904.28		904.28	386.23
Author Costs Direct Payments	2,059.85	2,204.80	4,264.65	10,608.22
Authors Costs Accommodation	2,803.10	1,395.00	4,198.10	
Author Costs Travel	89.32	428.79	518.11	
Author Costs Payments to SBT	1,350.00		1,350.00	
Catering for Authors etc	1,434.83		1,434.83	1,665.75
Catering for Events	409.00		409.00	
Hall Venue Hire	441.00	500.00	941.00	550.00
Insurance	590.07		590.07	304.00
Photographer	480.00		480.00	500.00
Hire of Equipment	376.04	500.00	876.04	
Transport (From Jura and Taxi)	288.00		288.00	194.20
Volunteer Expenses	142.56		142.56	20.80
Fundraising Expenses	188.00		188.00	139.20
Purchase of Books	3,860.03		3,860.03	
Purchase of Equipment etc	329.96		329.96	
Purchase of Merchandise	964.00	500.00	1,464.00	
Meeting Costs/IT	320.62		320.62	187.08
Admin Staff Costs	1,320.00		1,320.00	
Various Gifts	342.39		342.39	
Miscellaneous				46.80
Printing etc				456.02
On-line Subscriptions etc				55.20
Contractor Costs (website etc)				510.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	18,693.05	5,528.59	24,221.64	15,623.50
Donations				
Donation to Brain Power	500.00	0	500.00	0
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	500.00	0.00	500.00	0

Governance

Accountancy Fees	100.00		100.00	81.00
Trustee Expenses	0	0	0	0
	100.00	0.00	100.00	81.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	19,293.05	5,528.59	24,821.64	15,704.50