

WRITING ORKNEY

Scotland · Charity number SC039924

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2008-10-07
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	93 Victoria St Stromness Orkney KW16 3BU
Website	www.gmbfellowship.org.uk

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

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

What the charity does: Writing Orkney is set up to promote creative writing in Orkney, primarily through providing a platform for local writers and by publishing new material in digital and printed form. We also celebrate and promote the legacy of Orkney writers past and present.

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

Objectives: The organisation's purposes are the advancement of the arts, and in particular: (a) To raise awareness and understanding of creative writing (b) To develop and encourage the practice of creative writing in Orkney (c) To celebrate the contribution made by writers past and present to the cultural life of Orkney, and to Scottish literature

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-09-30	£3,905	£8,574	-	0
2024-09-30	£3,905	£8,574	-	0
2023-09-30	£14,838	£7,887	-	0
2022-09-30	£9,101	£12,015	-	0
2021-09-30	£16,424	£4,207	-	0

WRITING ORKNEY

Scotland - Charity number SC039924

Accounts

**Trustees' Annual Report for the period**

Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	01	10	2024	To	30	09	2025

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Reference and administration details

Charity name
Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number

Charity's principal address

Writing Orkney SCIO

SCIO SC039924

93 Victoria Street

Stromness

Orkney

Postcode KW16 3BU

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	Alison Miller	Chair		
2	Pamela Beasant	Treasurer		
3	Sylvia Hays	Trustee		
4				
5				
6				
7				
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9				
10				
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13				
14				
15				
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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
Barbara Stevenson	Resigned as trustee on 02.04.2025

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Charity Constitution. SCIO. The organisation was registered as a charity on 23rd September 2024

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The Association's management committee are appointed by the members at the AGM each year.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The organisation's purposes are the advancement of the arts, and in particular:

- (a) To raise awareness and understanding of creative writing
- (b) To develop and encourage the practice of creative writing in Orkney
- (c) To celebrate the contribution made by writers past and present to the cultural life of Orkney, and to Scottish literature

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The organisation operates primarily within the Orkney Islands local authority area to advance the arts, with a particular focus on creative writing. Its activities aim to benefit the wider community rather than any specific group. The organisation delivers its services directly and engages in a range of activities including:

To arrange and provide for, or join in arranging and providing for, the holding of readings, meetings, lectures, classes, seminars and training courses or any other event.

To publish, promote and disseminate work by writers living in Orkney, or associated with Orkney, including adults and children; in Orkney language, English and other languages of Scotland.

To liaise with other voluntary sector bodies, local authorities, UK or Scottish government departments and agencies, and other bodies, all with a view to furthering the company's objects.

To cause to be prepared or printed or otherwise reproduced and circulated, free of charge or for payment, such papers, books, programmes, periodicals, pamphlets, or other documents or films or recordings (whether audio or visual) as shall further the objects.

Achievements and performance

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

Writing Orkney was formed as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on 23 September 2024. The organisation converted from the charity and company known as the George Mackay Brown Fellowship, retaining the charity number SC039924.

Writing Orkney will continue the work of the George Mackay Brown Fellowship, to encourage and develop the practice of creative writing in Orkney.

Activities in 2024-25 were as follows.

Two publications launched in late 2023, *A Glist of Sun* and *Salt Songs* continued to sell well during this period; there were also continued sales of *The Storm* print, created by artist Erlend Brown, sold through the Pier Arts Centre and online.

The Wirdsmit group for young people aged 8-15 continued to meet monthly, and collaborated with various Orkney festivals such as the Nature Festival and the Orkney International Science Festival. Coordinator Gabrielle Barnby stepped down in March 2025. We are continuing to look for a replacement coordinator for the group.

The Orkney Voices group, for writers in Orcadian, had a busy year and were invited to create material and read their work at various festivals, such as the St Magnus International Festival and the Orkney Nature Festival. The group had a successful weekend in Westray, holding readings and workshops, collaborating with the Westray writing group.

An audio book of the earlier publication *Gousters, Glims and Veerie-orums*, was professionally recorded, read by group members, and is now available on the Writing Orkney Vimeo channel.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

This is an organisation run by volunteers.

Trustees believe that 6 months running costs is an appropriate level of reserves in order to cover the timing differences between receipts and payments and to allow for any unexpected expenditure.

Details of any deficit

Donated facilities and services (if any)

The charity would like to recognise and thank the time and commitment given to it, by its many volunteers. If it were not for these volunteers, the organisation would not exist, and the many services/activities it plans and organises would not take place.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)



Full name(s) Pamela Beasant

Position (e.g. Chair) Treasurer

Date 5 June 2026

OSCr

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Report to the trustees/members of	Independent examiner's report on the accounts																											
Registered charity number	WRITING ORKNEY																											
On the accounts of the charity for the period	Scottish Charity SC039924																											
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Period start date				Period end date																								
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Respective responsibilities of trustees and 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) 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.																											
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 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.																											
Signed:				Date: 17/06/26																								
Name:	David Campbell																											
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):	Voluntary Action Orkney, Anchor Buildings, Bridge Street, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1HR																											

WRITING ORKNEY

SC039924

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	10	2024		30	09	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable endowment funds to nearest £	Permanent endowment funds to nearest £	Total funds current period to nearest £	Total funds last period to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	41				41	122
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	1,030				1,030	3,783
A1 Sub total	1,071	-			1,071	3,905
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets						
Proceeds from sale of investments						
A2 Sub total	-					
Total receipts	1,071	-			1,071	3,905
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	3,049				3,049	8,334
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts	255				255	240
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
A3 Sub total	3,304	-			3,304	8,574
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets						
Purchase of investments	-				-	
A4 Sub total	-				-	
Total payments	3,304	-			3,304	8,574
Net receipts / (payments)	(2,233)	-			(2,233)	(4,669)
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	(2,233)	-			(2,233)	(4,669)

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	31,541				31,541	36,210
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	(2,233)				(2,233)	(4,669)
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	29,308	-			29,308	31,541
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))						

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

	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	-		-

		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



Pamela Beasant

5 June 2026

Section C Notes to the Accounts

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

All Current Funds are Unrestricted

C2 Grants

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

C3a Trustee remuneration

C3b Trustee remuneration - details

	£

C4a Trustee expenses

	£

C4b Trustee expenses - details

	Number of trustees	£

C5 Transactions with trustees and connected persons

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

C6 Other information

WRITING ORKNEY

Scotland - Charity number SC039924

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

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Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Reference and administration details

Charity name
Other names charity is known by
Registered charity number
Charity's principal address

Writing Orkney SCIO

SCIO SC039924

93 Victoria Street

Stromness

Orkney

Postcode KW16 3BU

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		Chair		
2		Treasurer		
3		Trustee		
4		Trustee		
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Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

Charity Constitution. SCIO. The organisation was registered as a charity on 23rd September 2024

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- (a) To raise awareness and understanding of creative writing
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Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The organisation operates primarily within the Orkney Islands local authority area to advance the arts, with a particular focus on creative writing. Its activities aim to benefit the wider community rather than any specific group. The organisation delivers its services directly and engages in a range of activities including:

- Organising workshops, readings, and events to promote awareness and enjoyment of creative writing;
- Supporting local writers through development opportunities and networking;
- Creating platforms to celebrate Orkney's literary heritage and its contribution to Scottish culture;
- Collaborating with schools, libraries, and cultural organisations to broaden community engagement with writing and the arts

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

This is an organisation run by volunteers.

Trustees believe that 6 months running costs is an appropriate level of reserves in order to cover the timing differences between receipts and payments and to allow for any unexpected expenditure.

Details of any deficit

Donated facilities and services (if any)

The charity would like to recognise and thank the time and commitment given to it, by its many volunteers. If it were not for these volunteers, the organisation would not exist, and the many services/activities it plans and organises would not take place.

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (e.g. Chair)

Treasurer

Date

30.06.2025

Achievements and performance

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

Writing Orkney was formed as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on 23 September 2024. The organisation converted from the charity and company known as the George Mackay Brown Fellowship, retaining the charity number SC039924.

Writing Orkney will continue the work of the George Mackay Brown Fellowship, to encourage and develop the practice of creative writing in Orkney.

Previously, as the George Mackay Brown Fellowship, activities in 2023-24 were as follows.

Two publications, *Salt Songs* and *A Glisk of Sun*, were launched towards the end of 2023. *Salt Songs*, an anthology compiled and edited by [REDACTED], was the culmination of the Words into Music project in 2021-22, as part of the George Mackay Brown centenary. It has been very well received and is selling steadily. *A Glisk of Sun*, a compilation of the nature writings of [REDACTED] (known as Countrywoman) by her granddaughter [REDACTED] was launched in late 2023. Put together to mark the centenary of [REDACTED] birth, it continues to be a popular publication, selling steadily through local bookshops.

The Orkney Voices and Wirdsmit groups continued to flourish during 2024. Orkney Voices were asked to read at several festivals and events, and recorded the 2022 anthology *Gousters, Glims and Veerie-orums*, which is now available as an audio book on the Vimeo platform. Founder and coordinator [REDACTED] stepped back from a leadership role in the group, with group members agreeing to take turns to coordinate sessions. The Wirdsmit group held regular monthly meetings, and held events at the Orkney Nature Festival and the Orkney Science Festival. Coordinator [REDACTED] gave notice of her plan to step down in early 2025. Trustees are exploring options for the future of the group.



Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

Report to the trustees/members of Registered charity number On the accounts of the charity for the period	Independent examiner's report on the accounts																											
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Address:	Voluntary Action Orkney, Anchor Buildings, Bridge Street, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1HR																											

