

Garlogie Beam Engine Trust

Scotland · Charity number SC049632

Details

Status	Active
Legal form	SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation)
Registered	2019-09-23
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	34 Hazledene Road Aberdeen AB15 8LD
Website	www.garlogie-engine.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: We are working to conserve and restore the 1805 beam engine and listed building to create a museum focussed on the development of power sources through the industrial revolution, the textile industry in Aberdeenshire and social history of those who worked in the former mill. The work to conserve and restore the engine is volunteer led whereas the work to repair the fabric of the buildings will be done by qualified building contractors. We are presently seeking grant money towards these major works. Although the conservation restoration is work in progress, we ran several open days in 2025 which were well attended by the public.

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

Objectives: The former Garlogie Mill houses a rare early beam engine and hydroelectric power plant, is leased by the Garlogie Beam Engine Trust, and is the focus of the organisation's activities. The purpose of the organisation is to advance industrial heritage, inform and educate on the engineering science of the design and operation of these artefacts, advance knowledge of local social history and benefit the local community. It will do this by developing the site as a museum and making the Garlogie Beam engine, turbine house and associated buildings and mill site accessible to the public. The organisation will undertake whatever preservation and restoration is necessary and appropriate in order to enhance the value of the buildings and artefacts as engineering and historic monuments. The Trust will also acquire and curate additional exhibits to further illustrate to the story of the site and the people that worked there.

Geography

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

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-12-31	£12,432	£11,708	-	0
2024-12-31	£9,572	£5,899	-	0
2023-12-31	£3,078	£1,838	-	0
2022-12-31	£3,512	£429	-	0
2021-12-31	£700	£287	-	0

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Accounts

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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	Jan	2025	To	31	Dec	2025

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Garlogie Beam Engine Trust
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC049632
Charity's principal address	34 Hazledene Road
	Aberdeen
	Postcode AB15 8LD

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	Leofric Studd	Chairman		The members
2	David Wolfe	Treasurer		The members
3	Peter Thompson			The members
4	Martin Klauz			The members
5	Elaine Percival			The members
6	Nicholas Graves			The members
7	David Hargreaves		From 22 nd Oct on	The members
8				
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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
Jonathan Eng	1 Jan to 29 th April

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document

SCIO 2 tier constitution based on the SCVO model form

Trustee recruitment and appointment

From within the members by members' vote at the AGM although trustees may be co-opted by the trustees from outside the membership if they have specialist experience or skill which could be of assistance to the board.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The former Garlogie Mill houses a rare early beam engine and hydroelectric power plant, is leased by the Garlogie Beam Engine Trust, and is the focus of the organisation's activities. The purpose of the organisation is to advance industrial heritage, inform and educate on the engineering science of the design and operation of these artefacts, advance knowledge of local social history and benefit the local community. It will do this by developing the site as a museum and making the Garlogie Beam engine, turbine house and associated buildings and mill site accessible to the public. The organisation will undertake whatever preservation and restoration is necessary and appropriate in order to enhance the value of the buildings and artefacts as engineering and historic monuments. The Trust will also acquire and curate additional exhibits to further illustrate to the story of the site and the people that worked there.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The conservation of the engine and hydroelectric plant and Hercules turbine. The inspection and recording of the engine's condition with a view to returning it to movement, initially by electric drive. To conserve the hydroelectric plant for display purposes. The renovation of the fabric of the buildings, held under a 99 yr lease, to create a suitable environment for the long-term conservation and display of the machinery within. To create a quality accredited museum open to visitors on a regular basis and to provide educational material on the operation of the machinery. To research the social history of the mill, those who worked there and the wider Garlogie area to create a series of visitor displays.

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Achievements and performance

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

The architect led Building Condition survey report which had commenced in 2024 was completed with the report and cost estimate issued. These documents are the foundations to seek grants for the renovation of the buildings. Funding for this work was largely from a grant from The Pilgrim Trust.

Work on the beam engine progressed and by the end of the year a thorough inspection, cleaning, preserving all surfaces and cataloguing of the components and their condition had been completed. This has given confidence that it can be restored to motion and a Listed Building Consent has been sought for the necessary works. A notable activity was that new bevel gear for the governor drive was made to replace that found broken. All work on the engine has been led by volunteers and volunteers also did extensive maintenance and improvements of a DIY nature to the buildings' fabric.

We increased the number of open days in 2025 and ran them monthly from April to September, finishing with the Doors Open weekend. We also hosted 6 visits by special interest groups. These events were successful in attracting good numbers of visitors and generous donations.

Following the discovery of bats in the engine house we had a bat survey undertaken by a qualified bat surveyor and the report will be necessary to support any consents for the renovation of the buildings. Aberdeenshire Council provided a grant towards the survey and for some essential interim roof repairs to the turbine house to stop water ingress. We were also able to obtain a grant from the Shell Communities Fund towards the interim roof repair and this work was completed by year end.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

We shall retain a minimum of £5000 uncommitted funds at all times to cover unplanned costs arising. The poor condition of the buildings' fabric is where such costs are most likely to arise until the full renovation project has been completed, which is several years hence. In general we need to build a significant pool of reserves towards the cost of the full renovation of the buildings not covered by grants. The exact amount will depend on what we can obtain in grants but assuming that GBET needs to contribute a minimum of 10% of costs we will need to build a dedicated reserve of at least £15,000 to fund the work over the next few years.

Details of any deficit

There was a surplus generated.

Donated facilities and services (if any)

We have had extensive support from industry during the year. Amongst various others we give mention to Taylor's of Hamilton who cast the new bevel gear pro bono and similarly Whittakers Engineering machined the new beam trunnion bearings and bevel gear. Various lifting equipment was serviced and certified by EMM Corp. TDC assisted with oil sampling and testing free of charge. Altogether this is several thousand pounds of free services.

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Other optional information

Our volunteers together have put in several thousand hours of work through the year. Their work covered a huge range of activities on the beam engine, the hydroelectric plant, buildings and grounds maintenance. They acted as host and guides to our visitors at the very successful open days and manned our stall at 2 steam and vintage fairs which generated a lot of interest in our mission. Not to be forgotten is the time put in on back office work necessary to run the charity dealing with grants, Listed Building Consents, general organising and the running of the board.

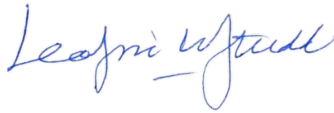
We appointed a part time PhD researcher for 6 months to carry out quality research into audience development for the Trust. This will assist our application for accreditation. Research has been undertaken to better understand current and underrepresented audiences at the museum. Research has included an online survey of the membership, examining the tourist and heritage landscape across Aberdeenshire. The final output will be a written report to inform the Audience Development Plan for Accreditation to be delivered in February 2026. The Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities funded the researcher's work.

To assist in our museum accreditation application, we have updated our constitution which is now ready to be submitted to OSCR for approval and subsequent members' approval. Following this we will submit the Museums & Galleries Scotland eligibility questionnaire to achieve Working Towards Accreditation status. Thereafter we have up to three years to make a full application.

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)	David Wolfe	Leofric W Studd
Position (e.g. Chair)	Treasurer	Chairman
Date	26 th January 2026	29 th January 2026