

Dòrlach

Trustees' Annual Report

1st May 2024 to 9 October 2025

Scottish Charity Number: SC050162

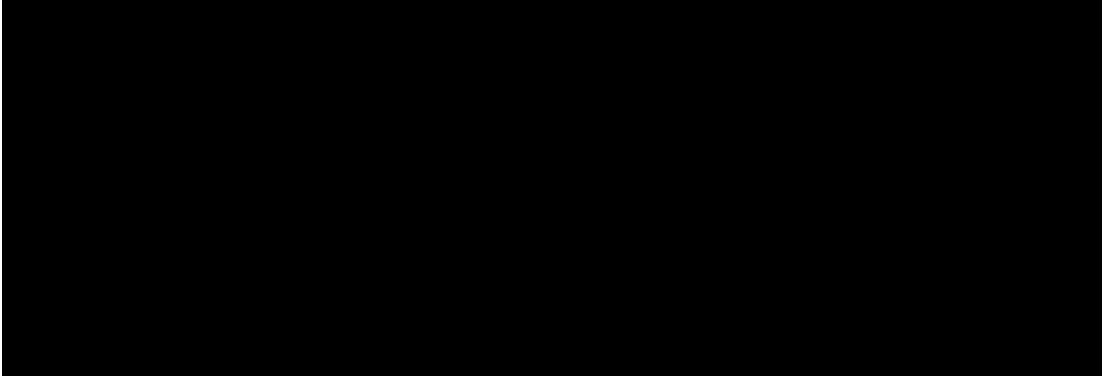
Address: 17 Àird an Aiseig, Scalpaigh, Na Hearadh, HS4 3XZ



Facebook: Dòrlach

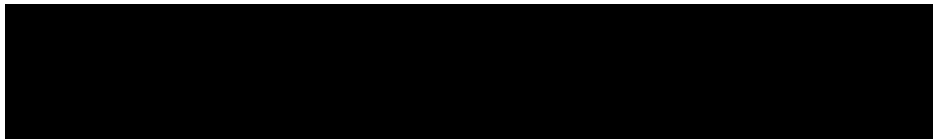
Charity Trustees

The following Trustees took office at the last charity AGM on 1st May 2024:



■■■■■ stepped down from her role due to personal commitments in September 2025.

Apart from the above Trustees, the following people have taken or renewed their office in the steering committee:



Objectives and activities

Dòrlach was established to advance education, heritage and culture by:

- researching and recording the minority Gaelic dialects of Scotland, and encouraging, enabling and promoting their active use as living community vernaculars;
- organising cultural and linguistic exchanges between speakers of Scottish Gaelic and speakers of other Goidelic, Celtic and minority languages around the world;
- developing an orthographic approach to dialect representation in Gaelic which allows for flexibility beyond the Gaelic Orthographic Conventions (GOC).

Structure, governance and management

Dòrlach is a single-tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Its affairs were managed by its Trustees. Business management of the charity is in the hands of its Chair, [REDACTED], its Secretary, [REDACTED], and its Treasurer, [REDACTED].

Thanks to financial support from Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Dòrlach was able to contract a self-employed Digital Officer, [REDACTED], between August 2023 and August 2024. While the contract has now come to an end, [REDACTED] is still supporting the charity on a voluntary basis for minor tasks, and remains available for more demanding ones on a freelance basis.

The 2025 AGM has been called later than originally anticipated due to various personal commitments within the steering committee, and therefore this report covers a period of about 14 months.

Achievements and performance

Dòrlach's Fifth Year: June 2024 – September 2025

Overview

The main success of the 2024-2025 year were as followed:

- 1) Continuation of fieldwork;
- 2) A significant increase of Dòrlach's online following through our social media outreach, contacts with other indigenous groups, and public talks;
- 3) The processing of some of the data collected through the fieldwork, and its subsequent use to produce an academic paper currently under review.

Each point is further explored below.

Fieldwork

Dòrlach's members have continued to carry out fieldwork through the past year. While this was less regular than it had been in 2024-2025, it was accompanied by successful reconnaissance into areas in which we did not have knowledge of remaining speakers. These allowed us to identify new people who displayed interest in supporting our endeavour and providing us with their knowledge of the local varieties of Gaelic, in particular in the north-west of the Highlands. Initial contact allowed us to collect words and local lore and prepare the ground for questionnaire interviews in the coming few months.

The fieldwork continues with the support of [REDACTED] of the University of Nevada, who has been instrumental in starting the process of sharing our data within academic circles.

Outreach

Dòrlach's presence online continues to grow, even though the loss of funding that allowed us to hire a part-time Digital Officer has slowed

down that process. Recent posts sharing some of our data in a map format resulted in a significant increase in engagement from our audience and gave us good hope that as we are processing and sharing said-data, interest for our work will spread more broadly.

At the time of writing, the Charity has 863 followers on Instagram, 2192 followers on Facebook, and 498 on TikTok compared to last year's 636, 1991, and 158 respectively. That increase is significant and encouraging, even though activity on the latter account has diminished since the end of our Digital Officer's contract. Engagement from the audience has increased and we intend on building upon it.

Academic Output

Following the digitisation and processing of the data collected within our 50-word questionnaire, Prof. Ian Clayton produced an article detailing our fieldwork and preliminary results, with input from [REDACTED]. The paper was presented at the Eleventh Cambridge Conference on Language Endangerment (9 July 2025) to an international audience, with positive feedback. This led to the completion of the written article, which was submitted for review to *Scottish Gaelic Studies* in September 2025.

Future plans

Fieldwork across the Highlands & Islands remains a priority as several areas are still missing if we wish to have as complete a picture of the current state of Gaelic as possible. Plans have already been made for several visits by the end of 2025, and people have been approached for further research in the new year.

Now that fieldwork is well underway and that the data is being processed, we are also intending on sharing more of our results with our audience with the aim to not only draw more attention to our work but also encourage people to reclaim local dialects and do their own collecting.

Our project to produce an online platform dedicated to Scottish Gaelic dialect, called the BlasRm, has currently taken a backseat due to lack of the financial support that could help us hire qualified web designers. The project is still being discussed and shaped in order to have a strong plan and concept when circumstances finally allow us to begin the work in earnest.

Our two main challenges remain funding and time. While our members and followers are extremely supportive, only a handful of people are able to dedicate any time to fieldwork and data processing, and they do so in their own free time. Donations allow us to cover travel expenses for fieldworkers when they occur, but the budget is tight if we are hoping to conduct more ambitious works. The current economic climate is still difficult to navigate for a small charity like Dòrlach, and we are hoping to find a new treasurer and operation manager in order to share the workload and follow up more efficiently on opportunities.

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's policy is to hold reserve funds equivalent to one year's running costs excluding any activities. In 2025, the required level of reserves is £500.

Accounts 2024-25

Accounts 2024-25

Independent Examiner's report on the accounts

Independent Examination of Charity Accounts

To the Trustees of Dörlach:

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) Act 2005 and the Charities

Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 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 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.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention [other than disclosed below]

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
 - 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.

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	01	04	2024		31	03	2025

Section A Statement of receipts and payments

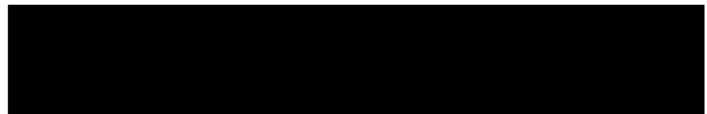
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Expendable endowment funds	Permanent endowment funds	Total funds current period	Total funds last period
	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
A1 Receipts						
Donations	4,324				4,324	
Legacies					-	
Grants	-				-	
Receipts from fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading receipts					-	
Income from investments other than land and buildings					-	
Rents from land & buildings					-	
Gross receipts from other charitable activities					-	
					-	
A1 Sub total	4,324	-	-	-	4,324	-
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets					-	
Proceeds from sale of investments					-	
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	4,324	-	-	-	4,324	-
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities					-	
Gross trading payments					-	
Investment management costs					-	
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	2,543				2,543	
Grants and donations					-	
Governance costs:					-	
Audit / independent examination					-	
Preparation of annual accounts					-	
Legal costs					-	
Other					-	
					-	
A3 Sub total	2,543	-	-	-	2,543	-
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets					-	
Purchase of investments					-	
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	2,543	-	-	-	2,543	-
Net receipts / (payments)	1,781	-	-	-	1,781	-
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds					-	
Surplus / (deficit) for year	1,781	-	-	-	1,781	-

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the charity trustees:



Print name

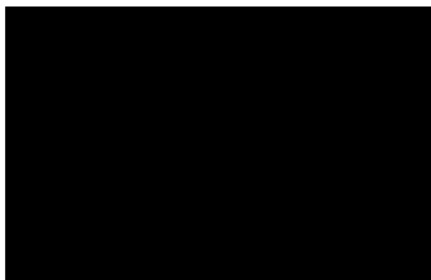


Designation

Cathraiche / Chairman

Date

October 2025



Print name



Designation

Rùnaire / Secretary

Date

October 2025