

Orkney Nature Festival

Trustees' Annual Report

20 November 2024 – 30 November 2025



Reference and Administrative Information

Orkney Nature Festival

Registered charity number: SC053793

Principal address: 4 Norseman, Finstown, Orkney, KW17 2NY

Email: orkneynaturefestival@outlook.com

Website: <https://orkneynaturefestival.co.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OrkneyNatureFestival>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/orkneynaturefestival/>

Charity Trustees

Trustees serving during the period:

- *Tom Hadley* – Chair (Appointed 20/11/2024)
- *Megan Taylor* – Secretary (Appointed 30/11/2024)
- *Leah Hunter* – Treasurer (Appointed 30/11/2024)
- *Henry Memmott* – Trustee (Appointed 30/11/2024)
- *Alice Toepritz* – Trustee (Appointed 30/11/2024)
- *Martin Greaves* – Trustee (Appointed 03/10/2025)
- *Gemma MacDonald* – Trustee (Appointed 03/10/2025)

Foreword from the Chair

This reporting period, covering 20 November 2024 to 30 November 2025, marks a significant stage in the development of Orkney Nature Festival as our first year as an OSCR registered Charity. The Festival continues to provide a platform for people to connect with Orkney's exceptional natural environment, while celebrating the deep links between nature, culture, science and community.

Over the year, the Festival has delivered a varied and inclusive programme that has engaged residents and visitors alike. Activities have supported learning, creativity and environmental awareness, while encouraging people of all ages to explore the outdoors and develop a stronger sense of stewardship for the natural world.

The Trustees are grateful to the many speakers, artists, partners and supporters whose enthusiasm and generosity have made the Festival possible. Despite ongoing challenges faced by the voluntary sector, including funding pressures and limited capacity, the organisation has continued to grow in confidence and ambition.

As we look to the future, Orkney Nature Festival remains committed to delivering public benefit through accessible, environmentally responsible events that celebrate Orkney's nature and inspire positive action to protect it.

Objectives and Activities

Orkney Nature Festival exists to celebrate, explore and protect Orkney's natural environment through events, education and community engagement. Our charitable purposes, as set out in our constitution, are:

1. **The advancement of education** around nature and conservation in Orkney, to improve accessibility to the outdoors and to foster appreciation and protection for wildlife within the community.
2. **The advancement of the arts, heritage, culture and science** through deeper appreciation of Orkney's natural heritage, and engagement with local artists, historians and natural scientists.
3. **The advancement of environmental protection and improvement** throughout Orkney by encouraging people to engage with, and develop a deeper understanding of, their natural environment and the impacts they have upon it, and by connecting people with other local charities and organisations that share these aims.

During the reporting period, the Trustees have ensured that all Festival activity delivered clear public benefit and directly furthered these charitable purposes.

Our activities during the year can be grouped into the following key areas:

- Delivery of the annual Orkney Nature Festival programme
- Education, learning and community engagement
- Arts, culture and heritage engagement rooted in nature
- Partnerships and collaboration
- Organisational development and governance

Festival Programme and Events

The Orkney Nature Festival took place in May and featured a varied programme of talks, walks, workshops, exhibitions and family-friendly activities. Events were delivered across multiple locations, both indoors and outdoors, and aimed to appeal to a wide range of ages and interests.

Highlights from the programme included:

- A wildlife of Orkney talk by Raymond Besant
- Guided walks and wildlife watching hosted by organisations and individuals such as the RSPB, Tim Dean, Species on the Edge, Wild Orkney Walks, Orkney Field Club, SeaSearch Scotland to mention but a few.
- Creative Events hosted by No25/ Orkney Creative Hub, Westside Cinema, Moonshine Candle Makers and Robin Palmer Ceramics.
- As ever, many of the events above were family friendly but some highlights from the family programme included Rockpooling and the Shoogly Pencil Club. With the Island Games being hosted in Orkney 2025 we hosted a brilliant event in schools from all of the islands attending the games giving them the opportunity to share posters about the amazing native wildlife where they live. This was very well received with submissions from 12 different islands nations. You can view the submissions here <https://onf2025.wixsite.com/collab>.

Attendance levels were encouraging, with strong local participation alongside visitors to Orkney. Feedback from participants indicated high levels of satisfaction and a strong appreciation for the breadth and quality of the programme.

Education and Community Engagement

Education and engagement remain central to the Festival's mission. During the year, activities were designed to:

- Increase understanding of Orkney's wildlife, landscapes and seascapes
- Promote environmental awareness and climate literacy
- Encourage active participation in nature and the outdoors

The Festival worked with schools, community groups and partner organisations to deliver accessible and inclusive opportunities for learning. Particular emphasis was placed on informal learning, storytelling, and direct experiences in nature.

With the International Island Games 2025 taking place in the Orkney Islands, we used this as an opportunity to tap into the buzz around the community, and expand the reach of the Orkney Nature Festival beyond the island's shores. A collaborative project was launched, in which all students in schools within one of the Islands who was going to be represented at the International Island Games was asked to create a poster celebrating native flora and fauna species. There were submissions from 12 different island nations (Åland, Falkland Islands, Faroe Islands, Gozo, Guernsey, Isle of Man, Isle of Wight, Jersey, Orkney, Saaremaa, Shetland and the Western Isles), totalling over 300 different posters. These were collated on a specially created website, which was launched during the Orkney Nature Festival 2025 (over 2,500 page views have been recorded on this).

Throughout the International Island Games 2025 (12-18th July 2025), an exhibition of some of these submissions from each island was created in a window on the High Street of Kirkwall, allowing even more people to view the works.



Partnerships and Collaboration

Collaboration is essential to the success of Orkney Nature Festival. During the reporting period, we worked with a wide range of partners, including:

- Local environmental and conservation organisations
- Artists, writers and creative practitioners
- Researchers and educators
- Community groups and venues

These partnerships enhanced the Festival programme, avoided duplication of effort, and helped strengthen the wider environmental network within Orkney.

This year the Orkney Nature Festival partnered with 28 different organisations to deliver 50 events throughout the festival.

Fundraising and Financial Support

Income during the year was generated through a combination of:

- Ticketed events
- Sale of branded goods
- In-kind support

The Trustees are grateful to all supporters whose contributions made the Festival possible. In-kind support, including venue use, speaker time and volunteer input, continues to be a vital part of the Festival's delivery.

Governance, Structure and Management

Orkney Nature Festival is governed by a Board of Trustees who are responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of the charity. The Board met regularly during the year to review activities, finances and risk.

The charity operates under a constitution and maintains appropriate policies, including:

- Financial management
- Conflicts of interest
- Safeguarding
- Health and safety
- Confidentiality
- Environmental
- Financial management
- Recruitment

The Festival is entirely volunteer-led, with Trustees and volunteers contributing significant time and expertise.

Achievements and Performance

Key achievements during the reporting period include:

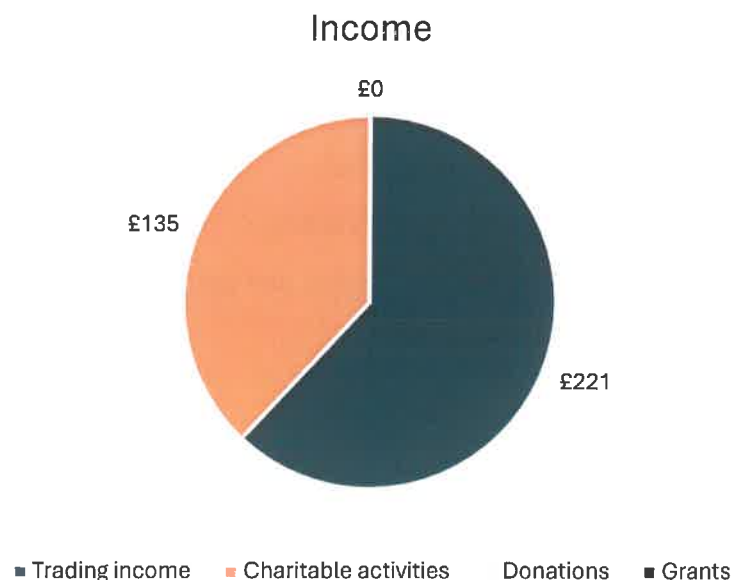
- Successful delivery of the annual Orkney Nature Festival
- Growth in audience reach and community participation
- Strengthening of partnerships with local and national organisations
- Continued promotion of Orkney's natural heritage and environmental issues

Financial Review

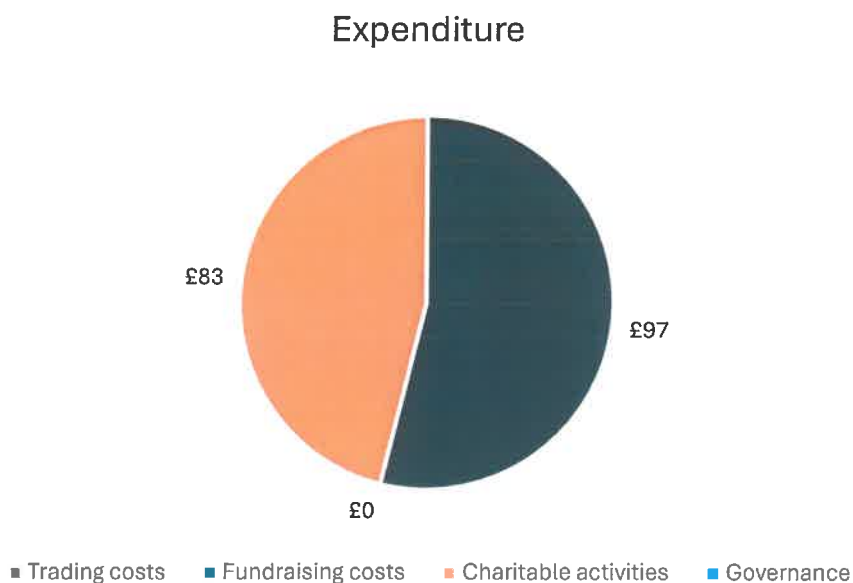
The Trustees have continued to manage the charity's finances prudently. Expenditure during the year focused on direct Festival delivery, including event costs, marketing, insurance and administration.

The charity ended the reporting period in a stable financial position, enabling planning for future Festivals while maintaining a cautious approach in light of wider economic uncertainty.

Below are the excerpts from our financial statement submitted to OSCR. In the 2024-2025 period we received income from two main sources, an event that we hosted during the 2025 festival and through the sale of merchandise, some of which was through 59 Degrees North where they sell clothing to merchandise on our behalf. The second was direct sales of calendars that we produced late in 2025.



Our expenditure was split across charitable activities such as paying for venue hire and website upkeep costs. The expenditure in the trading costs was relating to the initial purchase of the printed calendars that we were then able to sell.



Reserves Policy

The Trustees aim to maintain reserves sufficient to meet short-term commitments and provide resilience against unforeseen costs. Given the event-based nature of the charity, reserves are kept under regular review.

Plans for the Future

In the coming year, Orkney Nature Festival aims to:

- Continue developing a high-quality, inclusive Festival programme
- Expand educational and outreach activities
- Strengthen long-term funding and sustainability
- Deepen engagement with local communities and partners

Declaration

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:


Name:  _____

Role: Chair

Date: 2/6/26 _____

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	Orkney Nature Festival (ONF)						
	Registered charity number	SC 053793						
	Period start date				Period end date			
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	
	20	11	2024	to	30	11	2025	
							(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)	10-11
Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner Basis of independent examiner's statement	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>							
Independent examiner's statement	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <p>1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 <p>have not been met, or</p> <p>2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</p>							
Signed**: Name:	 Anne Stacey				Date:		10/06/26	
Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):								
Address:	Voluntary Action Orkney 6 Bridge Street Kirkwall Orkney KW15 1HR							



Orkney Nature Festival (ONF)

SC053793

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date			to	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
	20	11	2024		30	11	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	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross trading receipts	239	-	-	-	239	-
Income from investments other than land and buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rents from land & buildings	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	135	-	-	-	135	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
A1 Sub total	374	-	-	-	374	-
A2 Receipts from asset & investment sales						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
A2 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	374	-	-	-	374	-
A3 Payments						
Expenses for fundraising activities	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross trading payments	97	-	-	-	97	-
Investment management costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	83	-	-	-	83	-
Grants and donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Governance costs:	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audit / independent examination	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preparation of annual accounts	-	-	-	-	-	-
Legal costs	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-
A3 Sub total	181	-	-	-	181	-
A4 Payments relating to asset and investment movements						
Purchases of fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of investments	-	-	-	-	-	-
A4 Sub total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	181	-	-	-	181	-
Net receipts / (payments)	194	-	-	-	194	-
A5 Transfers to / (from) funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus / (deficit) for year	194	-	-	-	194	-

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	-		-	-	-	-
	Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account	194	-			194	
						-	
						-	
	Cash and bank balances at end of year	194	-	-	-	194	-
	(Agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))						

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Market valuation to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B2 Investments	None			
		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	None				
		Total	-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B4 Liabilities	None			
		Total	-	-


	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (estimate) to nearest £	Last year to nearest £
B5 Contingent liabilities	None			
		Total	-	-

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval



Thomas Hadley

2.6.26