

ORKNEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC004033

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2021

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 August 2021

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2021.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name

Orkney Heritage Society

Charity Number

SC004033

Address

P O Box 6220, Kirkwall, KW15 9AD

Current Trustees

Spencer Rosie	Chair
Caroline Wickham-Jones	Vice Chair
Neil Kermode	Secretary
John White	Treasurer
Sandy Firth	President
Sheena Wenham	Vice President
Lynn Campbell	
Chris Gee	
Joyce Gray	
Andrew Hollinrake	
Ann Marwick	
David Murdoch	
Tom Rendall	

Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution

The charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 20 October 2016. The Society was previously an unincorporated association founded in 1968 and a registered charity from 28 January 1969.

Appointment of Trustees

The Board members are the charity's trustees. Membership of the Board is open to all paid up members. Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting. There must be a minimum of five and a maximum of twenty trustees.

Objectives and Activities

Charitable Purposes

The Society's purposes are:

To stimulate public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of Orkney;

To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest;

To encourage high standards of architecture and planning in Orkney;

And in furtherance thereof: to organise public lectures, conferences, exhibitions and trips, publish various publications and organise a series of awards

Activities

The Society's activities consist of: Trustees' meetings (held virtually on account of the coronavirus epidemic); maintaining a new website; publishing books, newsletters and Journals; selling books and journals; campaigning on Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Infrastructure Project in Orkney; arranging visits; monitoring and being consulted on planning applications; liaising with the Orkney Local Access Forum; organising and promoting the Fereday Prize for a local history investigation amongst second year pupils in Orkney, the Marjorie Linklater Award for creative writing and the Laura Grimond Award for architectural projects in Orkney.

Achievements and Performance

The Society continues to liaise with SSEN and Orkney Islands Council over the Infrastructure Project in Orkney; has published its 2021 Newsletter; has been considering ways of assisting with the purchase of historical artefacts relevant to Orkney; continues to monitor and comment on planning applications; has been pleased with the number of sales of a Journal to commemorate the victims of the Orkney witchcraft trials; is planning for the annual Fereday Prize and the Laura Grimond Award. The coronavirus pandemic has restricted activities, including the cancellation of the Eynhallow trip, the Society's main fundraiser, for a second successive year.

Financial Review

The Society's membership has fallen and no Gift Aid has yet been claimed on member subscriptions for 2019-20. Donations have also reduced. There has been a fall in sales of the HMS Hampshire book but the sales of other books and journals has increased significantly, largely due to sale of the New Orkney Antiquarian Journal number 9. The cost of book and journal sales has increased, largely due to the cost of producing Journal 9. The increase in the cost of membership is due to the increased costs of producing the 2021 Newsletter for members. The deficit for the year is due to the above factors together with the cancellation of the annual trip to Eynhallow for a second year.

Reserves Policy

There is no policy as such on reserves but the Society holds sufficient cash and investments for its ongoing needs.

Designated Fund

The Ernest Marwick Bequest of £28,000 “for the express purpose of enabling the Society to finance and carry on the fight against the prospecting for, or mining of, the mineral uranium in any part of Orkney” is a Designated Fund, held in the Aegon funds investment. The will stated that if it was “absolutely clear that uranium mining was not going to take place in Orkney “at any time” then the legacy could be used to “help to conserve the landscape, buildings and traditions of Orkney in whatsoever way seems best to the Members of the Committee”. With the Society’s conversion to a SCIO those “Committee Members” are now “Board Members”. To date, the Board has made no such decision. It was, however, recorded at the Society’s 2019 Annual General Meeting that the Board had agreed that the amount to be held under this restricted heading should now be £30,000.

Plans for Future Period

The Society’s Board continues to meet regularly (and hopes to meet in person again soon) and is continuing with the abovementioned range of activities as far as these are possible in the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Declaration

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees’ Report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signatures

Full Name

Position

Date

(Approved at the Board meeting on 12 October 2021)