

ORKNEY HERITAGE SOCIETY

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER SC004033

ANNUAL REPORT and FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 AUGUST 2024

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 August 2024

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 August 2024.

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 |
| Neil Kermode | Vice Chair |
| Lynn Campbell | Secretary |
| John White | Treasurer |
| Sandy Firth | President |
| Sheena Wenham | Vice President |
| Andrew Hollinrake | |
| Andrew Lind | |
| Ann Marwick | |
| Tom Rendall | |
| Annie Thuesen | |

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; maintaining the website; publishing books, newsletters and Journals; selling books and journals; campaigning on Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Infrastructure Project in Orkney; arranging talks, outings and 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, and campaigns to raise public awareness of the issues; has published its 2024 Newsletter; continues to monitor and comment on planning applications; has organised the annual Fereday Prize and the Laura Grimond Award. Once again the Society was able to organise an evening trip in July 2024 to the uninhabited island of Eynhallow.

Financial Review

The Society's income from membership subscriptions has fallen, largely due to no Gift Aid reclaim being made on subscriptions from the previous year. Sales of the HMS Hampshire book have increased but sales of the Society's other books and journals have fallen. Bank interest received has increased in view of higher interest rates. During the year the Society gave two amounts of sponsorship. The Eynhallow Trip costs are higher this year on account of two years worth of Evenbrite fees being included in the one year. The increase in the surplus for the year is due to the Society still holding some grant monies pending completion of an oral history project concerning St Magnus Cathedral.

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 in person and is continuing with the abovementioned range of activities.

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 | | |