



Inveraray Bell Tower SCIO

Preserving a Special Place of Historical & Cultural Significance

Annual Report & Financial Statements for the Year Ending 31st December 2025

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity Name

Inveraray Bell Tower SCIO

Charity No

SC050075

Address

20, Kingshill Avenue
Blackwood
Cumbernauld
G68 9NF

Trustees

Jonathan Frye	Chair	
Ruth Marshall	Secretary	
Robert Hancock	Treasurer	Resigned 26/07/2025
Rachel Milner	Treasurer	Elected 26/07/2025
G Jessica Durham	Trustee	Elected 26/07/2025

Structure, Governance & Management

Constitution

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered as a new entity on 8th April 2020 and has a membership structure.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are elected at the annual general meeting. All trustees retire at the AGM and are eligible to be re-elected. There is a minimum of three and a maximum of five trustees. The trustees have the power to co-opt up to two trustees at any time, subject to the maximum number of trustees.

At the 2025 AGM Robert Hancock retired as a trustee and Rachel Milner and Jessica Durham were elected.

Objectives & Activities

Charitable Purposes

- The advancement of the arts, heritage and culture.
- To advance heritage by preserving the historic Bell Tower for the benefit of the residents of Inveraray and the public in general as a place of historical and cultural significance, particularly in the context of the Bell Tower's status as a World War One War Memorial and it's internationally recognised ring of bells.
- To advance heritage and the arts by providing a functioning set of full circle change ringing bells for the benefit of bell ringers from across the UK and the world.

Activities

2025 was an exciting year for the charity. At the beginning of the year the trustees signed a licence with the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles for the use of the bell tower. This enabled the charity to take on the full operation of the tower including opening to tourists over the summer.

During the early part of the year many policies and procedures were put into place to be able to operate the tower. This included taking out public liability & employer's liability insurance, registering with HMRC and the Pensions Regulator, setting up a payroll, arranging to accept contactless payment and writing risk assessments & procedures for each of our activities.

The first event of the year was the annual maintenance weekend. This was very well attended with 19 people contributing to the work and 166 hours of volunteer labour given over the weekend. The focus of the weekend was to prepare the tower for opening to the public and so the majority of the work was painting and cleaning. This included repainting the downstairs display boards, staining the ringing room floor, painting the roof with a specialist lead repair paint, repainting the lantern shutters and thoroughly tidying the tower from top to bottom.

During the weekend the tenor clapper was found to be loose on its pin. This was thought to be resolved during the weekend by tightening four grub screws but it worked loose again. A further two visits and a phone call with the manufacturer were required, along with some new grub screws, to get the right solution.

A group of charity members worked to deliver an update to the exhibition for 2025 including three new large display boards, some new artifacts, a new AV exhibit and an updated website. In parallel with this another group worked on branding and publicity. A logo, branding and font are now available. 5,000 leaflets were printed and distributed to advertise the tower to tourists. A new social media presence was created with accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Threads and BluSky along with claiming Google and Trip Advisor entries. These were used to good effect throughout the year to advertise and give information to the public.

The tower opened to the public Monday – Saturday for 10 weeks running from mid-June to the end of August. This was done with a paid position Monday – Friday and using volunteers on Saturdays. The opening was very successfully with 1,791 visitors to the tower. Of these 1,350 (75%) paid to ascend the tower to see the higher levels and the view from the roof. Data was gathered from the visitors including visit time, visit day, nationality and age profile. This information will be used to inform decision making in future years.

The 51st annual ringing festival was held at the end of July. There was 8 hours of open ringing across the weekend, available to all ringers. There were 8 peal attempts during the year and one group of visiting ringers. In November half-muffled ringing was provided prior to a requiem for the departed held in All Saints Church. There was also ringing prior to the Inveraray Carol Service in December. All of these performances were free for members of the public to listen to.

Financial Review and Financial Statements

Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st December 2025

Unrestricted Funds	Year Ended 31/12/2025 £	Year Ended 31/12/2024 £
Receipts		
Subscriptions	76	62
Ringling Fees	2,140	700
Donations	2,811	1,319
Tower Admission	8,931	-
HMRC Gift Aid	227	-
Debtor (Peal fee Nov 2024)	100	-
Total Receipts	<u>14,286</u>	<u>2,081</u>
Payments		
Maintenance	1,379	1,060
All Saints Licence Agreement Maintenance	281	-
Wages	4,262	-
Insurance	1,434	-
Admin Expense and other (incl. SumUp fee)	202	-
Electricity	818	-
Set-Up	196	-
Exhibition	794	-
Publicity	141	-
Total Payments	<u>9,507</u>	<u>1,060</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>4,779</u>	<u>1,021</u>
Statement of Balances at December 2025		
Opening bank balance	4,136	3,115
Surplus for year	4,779	1,021
Closing bank balance	<u>8,915</u>	<u>4,136</u>

Other Assets and Liabilities

There were no other assets and liabilities

Notes to the accounts – for the year ended 31st December 2025

1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2. Nature and purpose of funds

Unrestricted funds are those that may be used at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity. The trustees maintain a single unrestricted fund for the operation of the Inveraray Bell Tower.

3. Ringing Fees

Charges are made for use of the bells mainly for the activity of peal ringing performances taking three and a half hours and for other ringing visitors who may ring the bells for a lesser period.

4. Donations

These are largely from the community of ringers both in Scotland and further afield. We have had two very generous personal donations this year. Over £1,700 was given at the time of the annual ringing festival, held each year at the end of July. We are grateful for donations from peal ringers in addition to their peal fees, to our regular donors, and to those who add Gift Aid to their donations.

5. Tower Admission

Ticket sales and donations from visitors exceeded expectations for the 2025 season. We are grateful to the volunteers who manned the tower exhibition on the Saturdays, which proved to be a very worthwhile undertaking.

6. Expenditure

Expenditure of £9,507 was made up of wages, the expenses of the March 2025 maintenance weekend, set-up of the exhibition, and maintenance and electricity expenses associated with the licence agreement with All Saints Episcopal Church.

None of the trustees has been paid remuneration or expenses. All the trustees declare that they benefitted from food items, and three of the trustees from 50% subsidised Youth Hostel accommodation, during the maintenance weekend 21st – 23rd March 2025.

7. Funds

Funds are banked in a current account with Virgin Money (Clydesdale Bank).

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Inveraray Bell Tower SCIO

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 4-5.

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 Account 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.

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, and
 - 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.



Alasdair Nichols, CA, 8 Hillpark Brae, Munlochy, IV8 8PL

Date: 15/06/26

Plans for Future Period

Inveraray Bell Tower SCIO will continue to operate the tower in 2026 for use by bell ringers and as a visitor attraction during the summer. There are forward bookings for bell ringers for all of 2026 and into 2027. The SCIO intends to expand the bell tower opening hours to 7 days a week for the 2026 season using paid employees and to open for a 15 week period.

Approved by the Trustees on 29/06/2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Jonathan Frye

Chair of the trustees