The Inverness Darkroom

Trustees' Annual Report

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Scottish Charity Number SC053487



Members' day out at Loch of Blairs, with the day's cyanotypes drying behind them.

THE INVERNESS DARKROOM

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026

Registered Charity Name: The Inverness Darkroom

Charity Registration Number: SC053487

The Trustees:

The trustees who served the charity during the year were as follows:

Matt Sillars
Anne Thomson
Rachel Fermi

Contact Address:

c/o WASPS Inverness Creative Academy
Midmills Building
Stephens Street
Inverness
IV2 3JP

Independent Examiner:
P Munro ACMA, ATT, CTA
Munro Accounting Services Limited
Fouracres
Northfield
Invergordon
Ross- Shire
IV18 0LN

Bankers:

Santander Bank

THE INVERNESS DARKROOM

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Trustee recruitment and appointment:

Trustees are appointed or reappointed by the charity at our annual general meeting.

Type of governing document:

Constitution

Charitable purposes:
The purposes of the charity are advancement of education, the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science.

Summary of the main activities & achievements in relation to these objects: See following Objective and Achievements section

Trustee's remuneration and expenses:

M Sillars received reimbursement of expenses of £292.66

R Fermi received reimbursement of expenses of £114.35

Reserves:

As a result of the deficit of £1,095.68 , the charity has unrestricted funds of £9,366.87 at the year end. The financial position of the Charity remains stable with sufficient funds to uphold the objectives for the forthcoming financial year.

Approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Matt Sillars

Matt Sillars

Date:

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes

The purposes of the charity are:

- the advancement of education; and
- the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science.

Our mission

The Inverness Darkroom exists:

- to promote photography as an art form in the Highlands of Scotland;
- to provide an open-access darkroom to local area residents and visitors;
- to provide an independent teaching centre for photography;
- to provide accessible workshops in creative strategies and technical skills; and
- to explore the creative possibilities of chemical and digital photography.

What we do and who we help

We run an open-access, community darkroom in the WASPS Inverness Creative Academy at the Midmills Building. Members can book the darkroom to develop film and make prints using shared enlarging and processing equipment, and we run workshops, visits and events that are open to members and the wider public. Membership costs £120 a year, payable annually or monthly by standing order.

Our members are photographers of all levels, from beginners and students to established artists. Most are based in and around Inverness, but members travel from across the Highlands and beyond to use the darkroom.



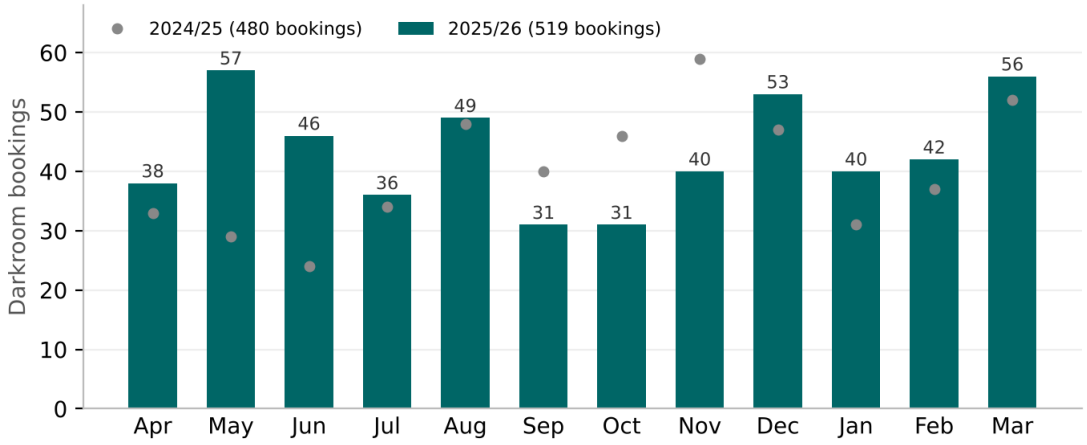
Where our members come from, as presented at the 2026 AGM.

Achievements and performance

This was another year of growth for the darkroom. Both the number of members and ordinary use of the facility rose, membership income grew by a third, and members took darkroom-made work into galleries and venues across Inverness and the Highlands.

Use of the darkroom

Members made 519 darkroom bookings during the year, up 8% from 480 in 2024/25. Average monthly bookings have risen every year since the darkroom opened, from 15 in 2022 to 32 in 2023, 39 in 2024 and 42 in 2025, and stood at 47 for 2026 to the date.

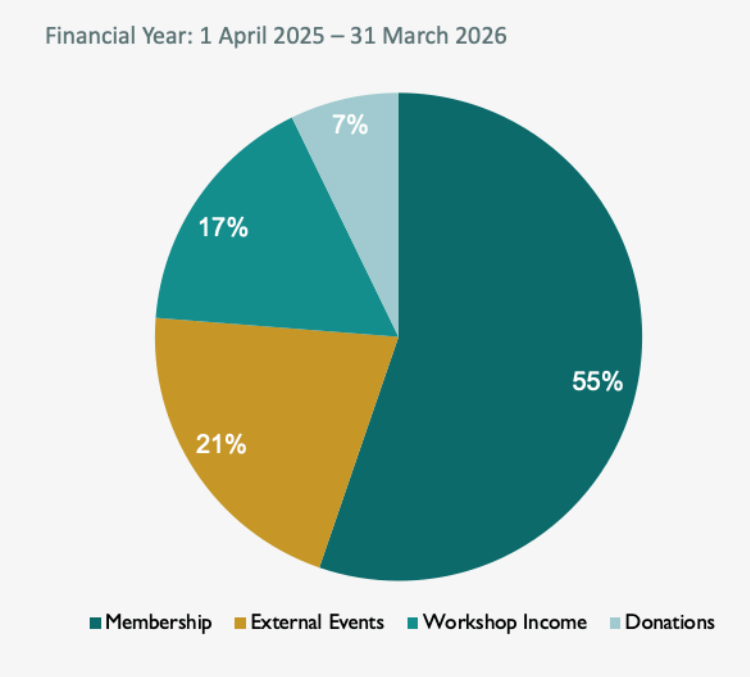


Monthly darkroom bookings, April 2025 to March 2026, with 2024/25 for comparison.

Membership

Membership is the charity's main source of income, and membership rose from 55 last year to 65 current members.

Income overview



Workshops, visits and events

Our programme of workshops and events advanced both of our charitable purposes, teaching technical skills and creative approaches while bringing photography to new audiences.

During the year the darkroom ran five ticketed workshops:

- Beginners Black and White Photography: 27 July 2025
- Beginners Black and White Photography: 22 November 2025
- Beginners Black and White Photography: 24 January 2026
- Experimental darkroom processes (photograms, chemigrams and lumigrams): 28 February 2026
- Beginners Black and White Photography: 14 March 2026

As well as weekly evening sessions for members only to share practice.

The Inverness Darkroom also hosted a variety of visits, events and member activities throughout the year including:

- **Workshops for outside organisations:** the ***Skye Photo Academy*** and the ***Photowalk Podcast*** both hired the darkroom for the darkroom part of their wider programmes. For each, we provided the space and a tutor to lead the session.
- **Royal Photographic Society member visit:** the darkroom hosted a visit from RPS members.
- **Loch of Blairs members' day out:** a day of outdoor photography and cyanotype printing.
- **Mat cutting night:** a practical session on mounting and presenting prints.
- **Cyanotype workshop at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery:** a public workshop using natural materials to make cyanotype prints.
- **Winter Market:** a stall selling photographic bric-a-brac and promoting the darkroom's open day.
- **Spring clean:** members came together to clean and reorganise the darkroom.
- **Zine project:** we published a zine showcasing members' work, printed by local printer The Isle of Riso. Copies went to members, and the zine is now in the collection of the Highland Zine Bothy. We plan to make it an annual publication.
- **Annual Members' Exhibition 2025** – our annual exhibition of members' work: The Inverness Darkroom held their annual members exhibition at Eden Court Theatre's Stalls Gallery May 24 - June 27 2025
- **Partnership with Ffordes Photographic**: through our partnership with Ffordes Photographic, darkroom members get discounts at the Ffordes shop in Beauly.



Skye Photographic Workshop



Photowalk podcast workshop



Mat cutting night



Cyanotypes drying at Loch of Blairs



Cyanotype workshop, Inverness Museum and Art Gallery



Winter Market

Members' exhibitions, projects and awards

Members' work made in the darkroom reached audiences well beyond our own walls this year:

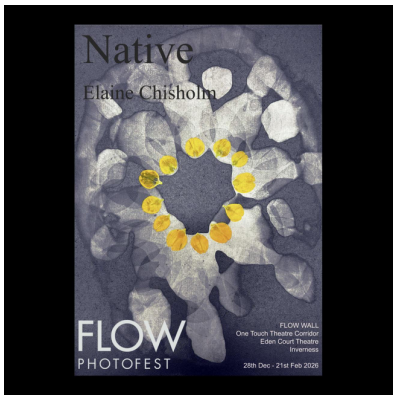
- **Rhys Campbell** – VACMA funding recipient, with a showcase at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery in December.
- **Ellie Kergozou** – an exhibition of experimental printing at XOKO.
- **Elaine Chisholm** – 'Native', shown on the FLOW Wall at Eden Court Theatre as part of FLOW Photofest (28 December to 21 February).
- **Brian McIntosh** – the Ness Project.
- **Rob Sutherland** – British Institute of Professional Photographers.



Rhys Campbell



Ellie Kergozou at XOKO



Elaine Chisholm, 'Native'

Future plans

Ideas discussed with members at the 2026 AGM, which the trustees will take forward over the coming year, include:

- **Artist in Residence** – exploring an artist residency at the darkroom, potentially including involvement in our workshop programme.
- **An annual publication** – building on our zine with a yearly publication showcasing ongoing darkroom activity and members' work.
- **A sign-in** book to capture an accurate record of numbers of people attending during a particular booking. This may help with future funding applications..
- **A Camera Loan system**
- **Amendments to the booking system** - to allow, for example, a note to be made saying that the booking could be shared.

THE INVERNESS DARKROOM

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
RECEIPTS		
Donations	£906.90	£327.65
Grants	£0.00	£2,000.00
External Events Income	£2,217.40	£1,810.00
Workshop Income	£2,080.76	£2,365.52
Membership	£6,951.00	£5,206.00
Other charitable activities	£420.00	£0.00
Total Receipts	**£12,576.06**	**£11,709.17**
PAYMENTS		
Payments for Charitable Activities:		
Purchase of Materials	£1,918.01	£557.56
Rent	£10,230.43	£6,993.12
Repairs and Renewals	£0.00	£0.00
Printing Postage and stationery	£0.00	£0.00
Travel and Subsistence	£28.90	£22.84
Telephone	£0.00	£0.00
Fees for workshop bookings	£201.25	£327.76
Bank fees	£24.95	£3.78
Governance Costs : Accountancy Fees	£922.60	£245.40
Computer Costs incl Website	£345.60	£0.00
Total Payments for Charitable Activities	**£13,671.74**	**£8,150.46**
Payments relating to assets and investment movements		
Purchase of Fixed Assets	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	£0.00
Total Payments	**£13,671.74**	**£8,150.46**
[Deficit]/Surplus for the year	**-£1,095.68**	**£3,558.71**

All funds are unrestricted

The notes on form an integral part of these accounts.

THE INVERNESS DARKROOM

STATEMENT OF BALANCES

31 MARCH 2026

	Note	2026	2025 £
Bank and Cash in hand			
Opening Balances		£10,462.55	£6,903.84
Surplus/Deficit for the year		-£1,095.68	£3,558.71
	2	£9,366.87	£10,462.55
Reserves			
General Funds	3	£9,366.87	£10,462.55
		£9,366.87	£10,462.55
Other Assets:			
Enlarging Equipment		£2,830.00	
Cameras		£1,200.00	
Processing Equipment		£2,775.00	
Digital Equipment		£500.00	
Furniture		£190.00	
Miscellanous		£381.00	
Total Estimated Value		£7,876.00	

The Inveness Darkroom has the above equipment and furniture as fixed assets that were donated so the values above are market value, estimated by the Trustees. The equipment was acquired pre registration of the charity.

All funds are unrestricted.

The notes on form an integral part of these accounts.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by :

Matt Sillars

Matt Sillars

Date:

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1 **Accounting Policies**

Accounting convention and policies
The accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Taxation
The Inverness Darkroom is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from Taxation.

Legacies and Donations
Legacies and donations are included in the financial statements when received.

2 **Cash at bank and in hand**	2026	2025 £
Santander Bank	£9,102.72	£10,246.54
Paypal	£264.15	£216.01
	£9,366.87	£10,462.55

3 **General Fund**	£2,026.00
At1 April 2025	£10,462.55
Net movement for the year	-£1,095.68
As at 31 March 2026	£9,366.87

4 **Related party transactions**
During the year M Sillars received reimbursement of expenses of £292.66, mainly for the purchase of materials. and R Fermi received remibursment of expenses of £114.35

Independent Examiner's Report on the Accounts of The Inverness Darkroom
Report to the Trustees of The Inverness Darkroom, Registered charity Number SCO53487 on the Accounts of the charity for the period ended 31 March 2026.

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 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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.

Basis of independent examiner's statement
My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. 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 of the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on 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.

Signed..... Dated: 15/6/2026
Name: Pamela Munro

Relevant professional qualifications: Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, Association of Taxation Technicians, Chartered Institute of Taxation.

Address: Fouracres, Northfield, Invergordon IV18 0LN