

AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

Management

The Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, who are the Trustees for charity law, have pleasure in presenting the Report for the year ending 31st January 2026 as follows:

1. **Contact and Address**

c/o Ian Holland, 41 East Park Road, Ayr, KA8 9JF

2. **Objectives**

The Society's objectives are:

to promote an interest in heritage, culture and environment particularly of and within Ayrshire by:

- encouraging the study of these subjects and stimulating research;
- holding regular meetings and organising excursions;
- promoting the conservation of the heritage of Ayrshire;
- publishing regularly material related to these objectives;
- co-operating with any other organisation(s) as may be appropriate.

3. **Constitution**

The Society is a Scottish Charity, Number SC044758, and is governed by the constitution last revised and adopted at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on Thursday 9 October 2014.

4. **Current Management Committee**

Chair/President & Trustee	Mr Rob Close
Vice President & Trustee	Mr Denis Rattenbury
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer & Trustee	Mr Ian Holland
Minutes Secretary	Mrs Katherine Scott
Excursions Convenor	Vacant
Lectures Secretary	Mr Billy Young
Publications Convenor	Vacant
Publications Committee	Messrs Dane Love and Billy Young
Ordinary Members	Mrs Merry Graham, Ms Nora Solesbury, and Messrs Robert Beaton, Gordon Higgs, Dane Love, Lauren Mitchell and Alan Macfarlane

Two Convenorships are at present unfilled. Mr James Brown demitted the office of President for health reasons and the previous incumbent, Mr Rob Close, took over as President leaving the Secretary position vacant. Mr Simon Glendenning left the committee due to other commitments and Alan Macfarlane and Lauren Mirchell were co-opted to the Committee.

Members of the Management Committee are elected at the Annual General Meeting each year and a member can serve for a maximum period of three years before standing for re-election. The Management Committee elect from their members persons to act as Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Their tenure of office is the same as for the other members of the Management Committee. These three positions then become the Trustees for the Society.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 8 October 2026 at an in-person/on-line meeting.

**AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

5. Management

The Management Committee, who hold regular meetings, are responsible for the strategic direction and governance of the Society. They generally control the activities of the Society and have a general responsibility to safeguard the assets of the Society.

6. Activities

In order to achieve the Society's aims, relevant lectures are held over the winter season, relevant excursions are held over the summer season and monographs are produced on relevant subjects. The lectures and excursions are open to members of the public.

The monographs, on topics relevant to Ayrshire, are published at a minimum rate of one per year and are free to members.

"Ayrshire Notes" are published twice yearly in conjunction with Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies and are free as downloads from our website. A small number are published in paper form for those members who do not use the internet.

7. Achievements and Performance

The Society continued to meet this year through in-person and on-line meetings at a new venue. Using the "hybrid" meeting has allowed our overseas members to join our meeting. We continue to have reciprocal arrangements with the Dumfries & Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society through Zoom and our publications. This has now been extended and we have a Zoom arrangement with the Kirkcudbright History Society. These have been most successful. A Zoom meeting can easily have between 40 and 70 attendees which is comparable with our previous in-person meetings.

We are receiving a positive response regarding the subject matters of the lectures and the standard of our publications. We have returned to having Summer Excursions but to local locations and these were well attended.

We are now advertising through the Scottish Local History Forum and through Nielsen, our ISBN contact. Our monograph publication sales have greatly increased following the publications on Ayr, Arran and on Gallipoli.

We have continued to scan a number of our older out-of-print monographs and collections and have up-loaded them to our new website. Likewise, we have up-loaded all of our Ayrshire Notes. Also uploaded, are publications from the previous organisation – the Ayrshire and Galloway Archaeological Association. This will make them more readily available to the general public. There has been an increase in website visits and this has resulted in more sales of our available publications. It has also resulted in new members.

We now have a Facebook presence which holds up-to-date information for our members and other interested parties.

**AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

8. Financial Review

The main sources of our funding are from memberships and from sales of publications.

The Receipts exceeded the Payments in the year by £2,615, increasing our total liquid funds balance to £18,920. The reason for the increase is that had then all the equipment required for the hybrid meetings. We also have missed one publication of one of our monographs due to a hiatus in potential subjects. We have also started getting returns from people and institutions accessing our publication. Our Bank investment has also given us £534 in interest.

We have a commitment to reducing our expenditure wherever possible. As such we are moving to more use of emails and to Facebook. We have had to post out most of our publications this year resulting in an increase in postage costs. However, we still managed to save over £300 in postage costs by hand delivering publications where possible. We at present operate a current account with Virgin Money and there continues to be a Term Deposit Account with them.

9. Reserves Policy

The Management Committee's policy is to maintain reserves at a level which will allow the Society to take advantage of any publishing opportunities which may arise from time to time. Accordingly, the Trustees expect to maintain reserves at a minimum equivalent of 12 months expenditure. The current reserves meet this criterion.

10. Plans for Future Periods

The Management Committee is keen to publish monographs relevant to Ayrshire but occasionally there is the potential to publish a series of related monographs into a larger publication. We are awaiting potential publication of an archaeological investigation. Previously we published a similar article in an A4 layout and we would like to do the same here. This would be in place of our normal A5 publications. We also have a number of potential monographs which are progressing towards publication stage.

The Society is continuing to update its new website and are committed to keeping the Facebook page up to date and interesting. The numbers accessing our sites have increased and we have gained new members through these media. We have also increased our local advertising.

We have found that recently that academics are now approaching us to publish their articles through our system which means that we are being seen as the publishers of up-to-date and reliable articles. By using Zoom we have increased the potential for new speakers from further afield. It is our intention to continue to make use of this additional facility.

The Committee also intend to attempt to reach a wider field of interest for our publications.

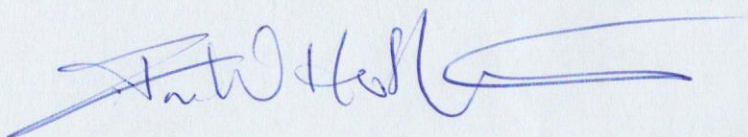
**AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT (continued)**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

11. Statement of Trustee's Responsibilities

The Trustees must prepare financial statements which give sufficient detail to enable an appreciation of the transactions of the Society during the financial year. The Trustees are responsible for the keeping of proper accounting records which, on request, must reflect the financial position of the Society at that time. This must be done to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. They are responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society and must take reasonable steps for the prevention and/or detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approved by the Management Committee and signed on their behalf by:



Ian Holland
Treasurer

Date

9 April 2026

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

I report on the financial statements of the Society for the year ending 31st January 2026, which are set out on pages 6 to 8.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The Society's Management Committee are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustees Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The charity's Management Committee consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10 (1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44 (1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the society 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 Management Committee 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

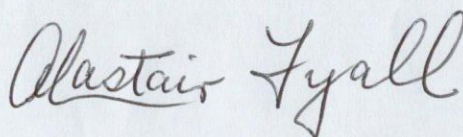
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 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.

Alastair Fyall

Danderin
Craigend Road
TROON
KA10 7LE

Signed:



Dated:

23rd April 2026

AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Unrestricted Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	2025/26 Total £	2024/25 Total £
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Receipts:</i>					
Donations		425		425	67
Socials				0	0
		425	0	425	67
<i>Receipts from Charitable Activities:</i>					
Publication Sales		1,873		1,873	3,404
Memberships		2,330		2,330	2,232
Excursions				0	0
Bank Interest		534		534	330
Other Income				0	0
Gift Aid		559		559	353
		5,721	0	5,721	6,387
Total Receipts		5,721	0	5,721	6,387
Payments					
Cost of Charitable Activities	3	(3,106)		(3,106)	(5,385)
Social Events				0	0
Governance Costs	4			0	0
		(3,106)	0	(3,106)	(5,385)
Total Payments		(3,106)	0	(3,106)	(5,385)
Net Receipts / (Payments) for the year before transfers					
		2,615	0	2,615	1,001
Transfers between funds				0	0
		2,615	0	2,615	1,001
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year		2,615	0	2,615	1,001

The Notes on page 8 form an integral part of these accounts

AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF BALANCES

AT 31 JANUARY 2026

	<i>Notes</i>	<i>Unrestricted Funds £</i>	<i>Restricted Funds £</i>	2025/26 Total £	2024/25 Total £
Funds Reconciliation					
Bank Balances at 31 January 2025		16,304	0	16,304	16,800
Surplus / (Deficit) for year		2,615	0	2,615	1,001
Bank Balances at 31 January 2026		18,920	0	18,920	17,801
Bank Balances					
Current Account		5,524	0	5,524	5,471
Deposit Account		13,395	0	13,395	12,330
PayPal Account					
Bank Balances at 31 January 2026		18,919	0	18,919	17,801
Other Assets					
Nominal value of Books, Maps, Tubes				3	3
				3	3

Liabilities

All liabilities were settled before the year end

The Notes on page 8 form an integral part of these accounts

The Accounts were approved by the Trustees on 9 April 2026 and signed on their behalf by:



Rob Close
President

AYRSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2026

1. Basis of Accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & 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 furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Restricted funds may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

In the Trustees' opinion all end-of-year funds are unrestricted.

3. Cost of Charitable Activities

	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	2025/26 Total	<i>2024/25 Total</i>
	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>£</i>
Excursions	0	0	0	0
Printing, Postage & Stationery	(1,192)	0	(1,192)	(3,044)
Hire of Hall/Room	(674)	0	(674)	(1,276)
Lectures	(345)	0	(345)	(476)
Subscriptions	(475)	0	(475)	(247)
Equipment	(87)	0	(87)	(3,977)
Other Expenses	(333)	0	(333)	(737)
	(3,106)	0	(3,106)	(9,756)

4. Governance Costs

No charge has been made by the Independent Examiner.

5. Trustee Remuneration and Related Party Transactions

During the year no trustee received remuneration.