APPENDIX 1

OSCR

Office of the Scottish **Charity Regulator**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
	Period start date				Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year
From	06	April	2025	To	05	April	2026

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Orkney Historic Boat Society	
Other names charity is known by	OHBS	
Registered charity number	**SC044884**	
Charity's principal address	The Sycamores	
	23 Church Road	
	Stromness	
	Orkney	**Postcode KW16 3BA**

Names of the charity trustees on date of approval of Trustees' Annual Report

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Michael McLaughlin	Chair		
2	James Clouston	Vice Chair		
3	Susan Paice	Minutes Secretary		
4	T Harcus Hutchison	Treasurer		
5	Smith Foubister			
6	Keith Johnson			
7	Ian Richardson			
8	Brian Pottinger			
9	Matthew Vaughton	Membership Secretary		
10	Willie Mackay			
11	Robbie Drever			
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

APPENDIX 1

Reference and administration details

Names of all other charity trustees during the period, if any, (for example, those who resigned part way through the financial period)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	The organisation is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by our Constitution (updated 09/09/2020)
Trustee recruitment and appointment	The management committee, which meets as and when required, are the charity's trustees. Trustees are elected by members at the Annual General Meeting. Under the constitution, there must be a minimum of four and a maximum of 18 elected trustees

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes	OHBS aim to preserve historic Orkney boats of note as well as traditional boat building skills and crafts. Also, to collect, preserve and publish knowledge relating to either boats built in Orkney or contributing to Orkney life and to further the education and knowledge of the public in relation to Historical Orkney Boats. A long-term aim is to support the establishment of a Boat Museum/Haven and workshop.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	OHBS recover boats and artefacts of note and significance to Orkney maritime heritage. The restoration team consist of amateur boat builders and keen enthusiasts who preserve and restore the boats and artefacts collected by the society. Ongoing work: - 1) Preserving and restoring boats and artifacts in the OHBS collection and the OIC collection when necessary. 2) Producing an audio archive of memories of Orkney Boat Builders. 3) Archiving photographs of boats and artefacts collected. 4) Archiving information and details on traditional wooden boats known to us but not in our collection. 5) Archiving in detail all boats and artefacts collected. 6) Maintaining a Website and Facebook page to share information about our collection and volunteer activities. 7) Producing an annual newsletter. 8) Continuing towards establishing a Boat Haven/Museum on the Orkney Mainland.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the financial period

OSCR Report (April 2025 – March 2026)

Another busy year with a continued focus on adapting our workshop /storage premises to maximise the best use of available boat storage space and to support our volunteer work on restoring/preserving traditional wooden boats in our collection.

Our work on the acquisition of suitable premises to create an Orkney Historic Boat Haven also continued, and by the end of 2025 a full feasibility study, including a museum interpretation plan and business plan ready to submit to Orkney Islands Council for the acquisition of the use of a long-time empty seafront property in Stromness. This was submitted to the Council in January 2026 to be considered by their Asset Management sub-committee.

Herring Factory

During the year our volunteers undertook construction of mobile racking units to allow us to stack many of the smaller boats, providing additional boat storage space and creating better workshop space. Restoration work continued on the Grieve/Groat 10ft Orkney dinghy, Venture - the first Orkney built racing catamaran, steam boat Nellie, and Laverne, an early 1930s yole, built by the Baikie boatbuilders in Stromness for regatta racing.

Fundraising and Donations

This year we began welcoming visitors to see our work and some of our boat collection in the old Herring Factory. We had many visitors, including from locals and visitors to Orkney.

Boat displays in 2025 at Stromness Shopping week in June and Orkney Vintage Club Rally in August, followed by an Open Day in October. These events attracted significant public engagement with our work, as well as donation and signatures in support of our Boat Haven project. Once again, we received a very kind donation from The Robertson Trust to support our work and costs.

Acquisitions

Just before the end of the year, Pearl II, an Orkney dinghy built by the late Ivan Hourston , a renowned Orkney boatbuilder, in the early 1980s for the then Shapinsay doctor, Dr Macgregor. Fitted with mast, boom lugsail, rudder and oars, the boat was lightly used and stored indoors, so remains in very good condition, and is an excellent example of Ivan's workmanship.

We also acquired a large bandsaw used by the late boatbuilder Arthur Sinclair, who took over J W Mackay's boatbuilding business in Stromness in 1965, running to the late1970s. This has now been restored to full working condition, and will be a very functional addition to our collection.

Newsletter

The 2025 Christmas Newsletter, with details of all our activities and developments over the year, was distributed to all members, as well as being posted on the OHBS website (OHBS.net), where details of all our boat collection, significant Orkney boatbuilders, and more, can be found.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves	The charity maintains a reserve surplus to facilitate the acquisition of our own boat storage, workshop and public display (museum/haven) facilities.
Details of any deficit	None
Donated facilities and services (if any)	**Storage facilities during the year donated by: -** Angus Sinclair, Ness Boat Yard, Stromness. **Shop Display facilities at 140 Victoria Street, Stromness donated by:-** James and Cathy Stronach. All aspects of the organisation, management and the restoration/ preservation of boats are carried out by volunteer members of the Society, who collectively contribute very many hours of unpaid work annually.

APPENDIX 1

Other optional information

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Michael G McLaughlin	
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chair	
Date	26th October 2026	