

The Book of Deer Project (SCIO)

Scottish Charity No: SC030656

Annual Report and Financial Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2025

Trustees' Annual Report

For the year ended 31 March 2025

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

Reference and Administrative Information

Charity name:

The Book of Deer Project SCIO

Charity no:

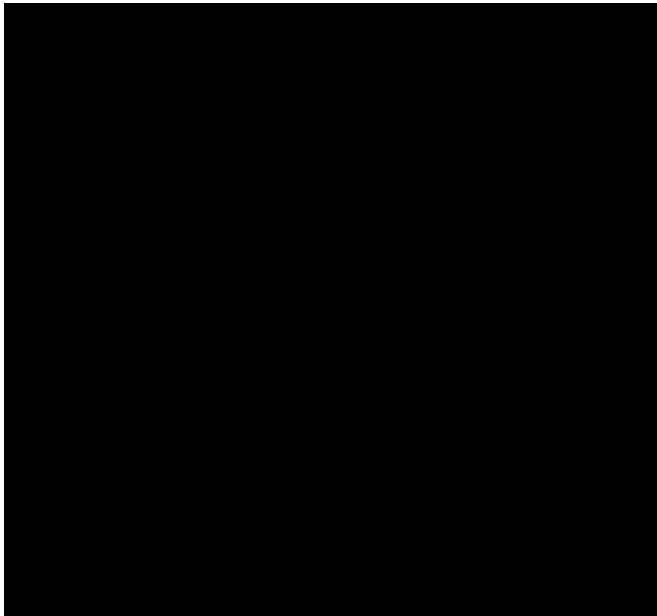
SC030656

Address:

c/o 14 Academy Gardens, Mintlaw AB42 5GS

Current Trustees:

Elected at the AGM at Deer Parish Church, Old Deer, 23 August 2025



Structure, Governance and Management

Constitution:

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 6 March 2017. The charity was previously a company limited by guarantee, first registered in October 1997 but took a decision to change its legal form to a SCIO at an EGM in July 2016. It has a two-tier structure and as such the trustees are drawn from the members of the charity.

A small change was made to the constitution at the AGM in June 2019 with advice from OSCR to alter the quorum.

A full review of the constitution against the model two-tier SCIO constitution updated May 2022 will be undertaken in early 2026.

Appointment of trustees:

Trustees are elected at the annual general, held in August this year. There must be a minimum of three and a maximum of eleven trustees.

The trustees meet regularly as the Board of the organisation and at least four times a year. Non-trustee members are encouraged to attend these meetings and to contribute to the work of the charity.

Currently there are nine trustees and thirty-four members.

Objectives and Activities:

Charitable purposes:

The charity exists to benefit the community of Buchan by advancing the knowledge and appreciation of the public in its history and heritage, particularly that of the mediaeval manuscript known as the "Book of Deer" by:

the advancement of education,
the advancement of citizenship or community development,
the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science.

Activities:

The project has a dedicated room within the museum at Aden Country Park Mintlaw and works alongside Aberdeenshire Council's Museum Service to promote the Book of Deer with volunteers staffing the display at weekends and taking part in special events in the park. This year we participated in Seedy Sunday, Wild about Aden and the Aden Tractor Day. We were also fortunate to participate in the Princess Royal's visit to Aden Country Park on April 2025 where we presented her with a Book of Deer lapel pin and a copy of our late trustee, [REDACTED] book on The Book of Deer and Its Place in History.

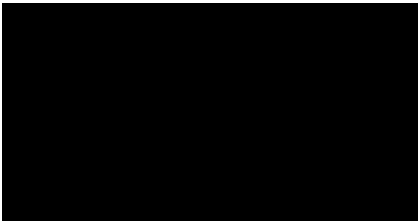
There is a special exhibition in the museum created as part of the Book of Deer 2022 programme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) which we refreshed in time for the 2025 season. It continued to be well received. It is unlikely that we will be able to use this space in future years so as mentioned below we are working closely with another SCIO, Deer Heritage Initiative (DHI) to create an alternative exhibition space.

We hold talks on topics of interest to our members and the wider public, and trips to places elsewhere in Scotland of historical and archaeological significance when circumstances allow.

We give talks to various local groups, including church guilds, Rotary clubs, and heritage groups. We have good links to our local schools, in particular Mintlaw Academy where we promote local heritage and the “splendid little book” that is the Book of Deer. We take part in the Academy’s transition programme for children moving to the school from primary seven and contribute to ASN classes and alternative curricular groups. We are working on a new pilgrimage route, ST. Drostan’s Way, between New Aberdour and Old Deer, alongside DHI and the Friends of New Aberdour Church.

We make use of social media channels to promote our programme with FaceBook, Instagram, Twitter and You Tube accounts.

The financial statement is supplied as a separate document.



Book of Deer Project

Financial Report 01 April 2023 - 31 March 2024

Opening Balance 01 April 2024 £3,822.82

Income

Subscriptions	£	290.00
Donations	£	116.00
Merchandise/Book Sales	£	485.66

Expenditure

Donations to groups	£	550.00
Project Room	£	130.00
Insurance	£	363.86
Just Giving Monthly Fees	£	162.00
Accounting Fees	£	75.00
Printing	£	250.00
Meeting Costs	£	150.00
Bank Charges	£	6.50

TOTAL INCOME £ 891.66

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £ 1,687.36

Closing Balance 31 March 2024 £3,027.12

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention

- a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the Book of Deer Project have not met the requirements to ensure that:
- i) proper accounting records are kept
 - ii) accounts are prepared which agree with the accounting records and comply with generally accepted accounting requirements; or
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

