

Friends of Kilbride

Report of the Trustees

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Structure, Governance and Management

The Charity is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (a SCIO). It was registered in its current legal form on 4 December 2015. It has a single tier structure and as such the trustees are the members of the Charity.

Appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited from individuals with an interest in the activities of the charity and with the requisite skills to effectively deliver the aims of the charity.

Objectives and Charitable purposes

The charity's objectives are for the advancement of heritage, by way of preserving the listed sixth century chapel and surrounding graveyard at Kilbride, and the advancement of education and culture by way of researching, recording and preserving the history and records of the Kilbride chapel and graveyard, and providing educational material for the benefit of the public on the subject.

Activities, Achievements and Performance

Vivien Barlow was appointed as a trustee on 6th January, under paragraph 18 of the FoK constitution.

The principal achievement of the charity in 2025 was the completion of our programme of improving the accessibility of the site, with generous financial assistance from the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust with the work being carried out by our contractors Heritage Builders. The first stage had been the replacement of the dilapidated and irregular stairs with a new concrete staircase with handrails. In March, Heritage Builders installed a non-slip pathway from the top of the steps to the prayer house west entrance. The completion of the project was reported in the *Oban Times*.

The D'Cruz Trio presented fundraising concerts in July (Fontmell Magna) and in September (Oban), the latter partly for the benefit of the in Oban cathedral. Added to the annual Carol singing in Lerags House, these musical events raised nearly £500.

Friends of Kilbride continued to make the ruins available for the benefit of the local community and on 10th September welcomed a party of staff and volunteers from the Inverary Archive.

Discussions commenced with the Dunollie Preservation Trust for transfer of the 1786 built structure of the Clan MacDougall Memorial Burial Aisle to Friends of Kilbride, which it was agreed was better placed to commission the renovation work which was

increasingly seen to be necessary. It was hoped this transfer would be completed in 2026.

On 6th December, the charity celebrated its 10th anniversary with the lighting of the Kilbride Star. The event was reported favourably in the *Oban Times*.

Financial review

In the year the Charity made a deficit on unrestricted funds of £77 and a deficit on restricted funds of £234. At the year end the charity had retained reserves of £1684.16 unrestricted.

Reserves policy

The trustees manage the activities of the charity and ensure that funds for projects are identified either through the use of available reserves or by new grant funding prior to commencement. This means that sufficient reserves are maintained at all times.

Plans for future period

Looking forward for 2026 we hope further to progress the investigation of the medieval grave slabs which we have confirmed lie underground in the churchyard, drawing on the expertise not only of our trustee Dr Bob Irving but also Archaeology Scotland and Dr Susan Buckham of Stirling University. We also plan to take ownership of the main structure of the MacDougall Burial Aisle the management and maintenance of which the Dunollie Preservation Trust wishes Friends of Kilbride to take over.