



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	01	10	2023	To	30	09	2024

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Writing Orkney SCIO
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SCIO SC039924
Charity's principal address	

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		Chair		
2		Treasurer		
3		Trustee		
4		Trustee		
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

## 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

Charity Constitution. SCIO. The organisation was registered as a charity on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The Association's management committee are appointed by the members at the AGM each year.

## Objectives and activities

### Charitable purposes

The organisation's purposes are the advancement of the arts, and in particular:

- (a) To raise awareness and understanding of creative writing
- (b) To develop and encourage the practice of creative writing in Orkney
- (c) To celebrate the contribution made by writers past and present to the cultural life of Orkney, and to Scottish literature

### Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The organisation operates primarily within the Orkney Islands local authority area to advance the arts, with a particular focus on creative writing. Its activities aim to benefit the wider community rather than any specific group. The organisation delivers its services directly and engages in a range of activities including:

- Organising workshops, readings, and events to promote awareness and enjoyment of creative writing;
- Supporting local writers through development opportunities and networking;
- Creating platforms to celebrate Orkney's literary heritage and its contribution to Scottish culture;
- Collaborating with schools, libraries, and cultural organisations to broaden community engagement with writing and the arts



## Financial review

### Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

This is an organisation run by volunteers.

Trustees believe that 6 months running costs is an appropriate level of reserves in order to cover the timing differences between receipts and payments and to allow for any unexpected expenditure.

### Details of any deficit

### Donated facilities and services (if any)

The charity would like to recognise and thank the time and commitment given to it, by its many volunteers. If it were not for these volunteers, the organisation would not exist, and the many services/activities it plans and organises would not take place.

## 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)

Position (e.g. Chair)

Treasurer

Date

30.06.2025

## Achievements and performance

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

Writing Orkney was formed as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on 23 September 2024. The organisation converted from the charity and company known as the George Mackay Brown Fellowship, retaining the charity number SC039924.

Writing Orkney will continue the work of the George Mackay Brown Fellowship, to encourage and develop the practice of creative writing in Orkney.


Previously, as the George Mackay Brown Fellowship, activities in 2023-24 were as follows.

Two publications, *Salt Songs* and *A Glisk of Sun*, were launched towards the end of 2023. *Salt Songs*, an anthology compiled and edited by Yvonne Gray, was the culmination of the Words into Music project in 2021-22, as part of the George Mackay Brown centenary. It has been very well received and is selling steadily. *A Glisk of Sun*, a compilation of the nature writings of Bessie Skea (known as Countrywoman) by her granddaughter Sarah Jane Gibbon, was launched in late 2023. Put together to mark the centenary of Bessie Skea's birth, it continues to be a popular publication, selling steadily through local bookshops.

The Orkney Voices and Wirdsmit groups continued to flourish during 2024. Orkney Voices were asked to read at several festivals and events, and recorded the 2022 anthology *Gousters, Glims and Veerie-orums*, which is now available as an audio book on the Vimeo platform. Founder and coordinator Alison Miller stepped back from a leadership role in the group, with group members agreeing to take turns to coordinate sessions. The Wirdsmit group held regular monthly meetings, and held events at the Orkney Nature Festival and the Orkney Science Festival. Coordinator Gabrielle Barnby gave notice of her plan to step down in early 2025. Trustees are exploring options for the future of the group.

# OSCr

Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator

<p>Report to the trustees/members of</p> <p>Registered charity number</p> <p>On the accounts of the charity for the period</p> <p>Set out on pages</p>	<p>Independent examiner's report on the accounts</p> <p><b>The Writing SCIO</b></p> <p><b>Scottish Charity SC039924</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">Period start date</th> <th></th> <th colspan="3">Period end date</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Day</th> <th>Month</th> <th>Year</th> <th></th> <th>Day</th> <th>Month</th> <th>Year</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>01</td> <td>10</td> <td>2023</td> <td>to</td> <td>30</td> <td>09</td> <td>2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4">6 - 9</td> <td colspan="3"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Period start date				Period end date			Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year	01	10	2023	to	30	09	2024	6 - 9						
Period start date				Period end date																									
Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year																							
01	10	2023	to	30	09	2024																							
6 - 9																													
<p>Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner</p>	<p>The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) 2005 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.</p>																												
<p>Basis of independent examiner's statement</p>	<p>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 the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.</p>																												
<p>Independent examiner's statement</p>	<p>In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and</li> <li>to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations</li> </ul> have not been met, or</li> <li>to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.</li> </ol>																												
<p>Signed:</p> <p>Name:</p> <p>Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any):</p>																													
<p>Address:</p>	<p>Voluntary Action Orkney, Anchor Buildings, Bridge Street, Kirkwall, Orkney KW15 1HR</p>																												

