

Islay Community Access Group

**Trustees' report & financial accounts
for the year ended 31 January 2026**

Registration No – SC037772



Simmers & Co
Chartered Accountants
OBAN

Islay Community Access Group

Financial Statements

Year ended 31 January 2026

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Islay Community Access Group

Trustees' Annual Report

Year ended 31 January 2026

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 January 2026.

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name Islay Community Access Group

Charity registration number SC037772

Principal office Lochindaal House
Port Charlotte
Isle of Islay
PA48 7UD

The trustees

Mr G Roberts
Mr P Graham
Mr J Thurgood
Mr N Woodrow
Captain J Dobson
Mr J MacTaggart
Mr J MacIntyre

Independent examiner David McGregor CA
Simmers & Co, Chartered Accountants
Albany Chambers
Albany Street
Oban
Argyll
PA34 4AL

Islay Community Access Group

Trustees' Annual Report (continued)

Year ended 31 January 2026

Structure, governance and management

The organisation is a charity and registered as a charity on 30th January 2007.

The Trustees who served during the year were:

Captain John Dobson (Chair)

Mr Paul Graham

Mr Glen Roberts

Mr Niall Woodrow

Mr Jolyon Thurgood

Mr James MacTaggart

Mr John MacIntyre

Under the requirements of the constitution, the Management committee is elected at the AGM and members serve for three years with the possibility of being elected for a further three years. The Chairman may only serve a term of two years unless overridden by the Committee, this having happened by unanimous decision since 2013. Additional members, up to a maximum of 15, may be co-opted between AGMs to a maximum of 15 of the Management Committee. The Management Committee is deemed to meet a minimum of four meetings in the year. Zoom meetings have supplanted face to face meetings during Covid and even greater emphasis on IT communication has been necessary. Such contemporary communication has been deemed adequate and effective by the Management Group.

The Trustees have delegated the day to day running of the organisation to the Management Committee on a relevant skill basis and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Most new Trustees are familiar with the practical work of the charity, either by members of the company or living within the community. By way of welcome and familiarisation of the working of the charity and induction package has been devised.

Islay Community Access Group

Trustees' Annual Report (continued)

Year ended 31 January 2026

Objectives and activities

The charities objectives are:

Improve the quality of life for those who live on Islay and those visiting Islay by creating a safe and accessible range of opportunities to access the countryside for recreation and enhanced health and wellbeing;

Advance education about environmental and cultural aspects of the countryside;

Increase learning opportunities about safety and accessibility of the countryside for all;

Increase community benefit, involvement and interest in responsible access to the countryside.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

The Trustees and members of the Management Committee are all volunteers. Additional volunteers help with the Group's activities from time to time.

Achievements and performance

The purpose of the Islay Community Access Group (ICAG) is to design and maintain wheeling and pedestrian pathways between the villages on Islay where there are presently insufficient pavements or paths. To facilitate this, we need to raise funds from private businesses and through grants and funding from local and national governments. We also seek public donations and are still working on introducing a QR system to allow direct transfer of funds as more and more people visiting the paths do not carry cash. This year we have received several donations from private individuals and local businesses. Sadly, the problems with ferry bookings and unreliable ferry services have seen a downturn in visitors this last year and a similar downturn in our public donations. In addition to the fund raising, we have limited responsibility to maintaining some pathways that give access to beaches and open spaces.

The start of 2025 saw storm Eowyn cause severe damage to the island in general and the seawall that protects the Three Distilleries path at Stinky Bay was badly damaged. Our local contractor was very swift to clear the pathway and then rebuild the wall using stronger materials in order that this does not happen again.

We have been working with the owners of the new Portnatruin Distillery, Elixer Distillers, to change the signs on the Three Distilleries Path from Port Ellen to Ardbeg to the Four Distilleries Path and they have agreed to cover all the costs of the new signs. It is hoped that the new signs are more accurate and more informative than the previous signs.

In order to facilitate the arrangements for the maintenance and construction of the paths under our responsibility we hold four management meetings per year with the ICAG trustees. At present we have seven trustees holding office. There have been no changes in the trustees in this year, but we do need to attract new members as we all grow older. This is to be discussed again at the AGM.

In 2025/26 we have responsibility for the maintenance of two paths. The Three Distilleries path, shortly to be renamed as the Four Distilleries path when the Portnatruin Distillery comes into operation, from Port Ellen to Ardbeg, and the Lochindaal Way which joins the villages of Bruichladdich and Port Charlotte. To maintain these paths, we have engaged with a local contractor who will continue to cut back undergrowth and clear grass where this is overgrowing the path. Various works have been completed where walling repairs were required where these have been damaged through wear and tear and animals.

The Lochindaal Way was severely damaged when the verge was cut through and allowed flood water to cascade onto the path surface causing severe erosion of the path and lifting a large area of the top surface. The repairs took a long time to arrange due to winter temperatures and lack of manpower but were eventually completed in the summer.

The housing development by West Highland Homes, (A&B C and the Scottish Government) at the Port Charlotte end of the Lochindaal Way is nearly completed and we understand that occupancy of the new homes will happen as soon as road material is supplied to surface the roads in the development. It is still unclear as to what the plan is for the Lochindaal Way where it rejoins the pavements in Port Charlotte, but we understand that some sort of chicane system will be installed to avoid speedy cyclists from joining the pavements or carriageway. The contractors have also stated that they will reinstall the path signs and dog waste bag dispenser when the works are completed.

At the end of January 2026, we received the excellent news that we have been allocated funding to start the pathway from Bowmore to Bridgend and specifically the section from Beech Avenue to Kilarrow House. Although we are still waiting for the funding in writing we have engaged with a local contractor and he has started the work. This small section has to be completed by 31st March in order to qualify for the funding in this financial year but will put us in a very good position for future funding.

We have also been given full planning permission for the remainder of the path to Bridgend.

Islay Community Access Group

Trustees' Annual Report (continued)

Year ended 31 January 2026

Financial review

It is policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees considers that reserves at his level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue that Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The organisation generated total income of £14,430 (2025 - £77,791) of which £10,799 (2025 - £13,802) was unrestricted and £3,631 (2025 - £63,989) was restricted. Total expenditure was £10,380 (2025 - £72,983) of which £6,749 (2025 - £8,994) was unrestricted and £3,631 (2025 - £63,989) was restricted. As a result, the charity generated an overall surplus of £4,050 (2025 - £4,808) and made a surplus on unrestricted funds of £4,050 (2025 - £4,808) and a surplus/ deficit of £nil (2025 - £nil) on restricted activities. Total funds at the year-end were £53,405 (2025 - £49,355), £53,405 (2025 - £49,355 including £20,000 designated) were unrestricted and £nil (2025, - £nil) were unrestricted.

Principle funding sources in the year were donations from the donation boxes and local businesses to maintain the existing paths and grants from Argyll & Bute Council for maintenance and planning of the Bowmore to Bridgend path.

The Trustees have considered the most appropriate policy for investing funds and has found that short to medium term investment of funds should be held in a mixture of current accounts.

Plans for future periods

In 2026 we will aim to continue our maintenance of the two existing paths, the Four Distilleries path and the Lochindaal Way, using our local contractor and raising funding from the distilleries and other businesses on the Island. We will also continue with our pathway from Bowmore to Bridgend and hope to secure funding for the section as far as the Gaelic College in 2026. The next section of pathway will be the Bridgend to Port Askaig section and while this is less channelling in way of SSSI etc it will require a deal of cooperation with various landowners.

In 2023 we started the process of applying to become a SCIO however the application has been rejected as our constitution does not meet with the requirements of OSCR. We have drafted a new constitution in line with the SCIO guidance, and this will be agreed at the AGM in April 2026. Once we have achieved our SCIO status we will develop a new land agreement.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 24 March 2026 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:


Mr G Roberts
Trustee


Captain J Dobson
Trustee

Islay Community Access Group

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Islay Community Access Group

Year ended 31 January 2026

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Islay Community Access Group ('the charity') for the year ended 31 January 2026.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the '2005 Act') and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). You are satisfied that your charity is not required by charity law to be audited and have chosen instead to have an independent examination.

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements as carried out under section 44(1)(c) of the 2005 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed the requirements of Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity has prepared its accounts on an accruals basis your examiner must be a member of a body listed in Regulation 11(2) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a registered member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept as required by section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended); or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



David McGregor CA

Independent Examiner
Simmers & Co, Chartered Accountants
Albany Chambers
Albany Street
Oban
Argyll
PA34 4AL

Islay Community Access Group

Statement of Financial Activities

Year ended 31 January 2026

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	10,002	3,631	13,633	64,631
Charitable activities	5	–	–	–	13,160
Investment income	6	797	–	797	–
Total income		<u>10,799</u>	<u>3,631</u>	<u>14,430</u>	<u>77,791</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	7,8	6,749	3,631	10,380	72,983
Total expenditure		<u>6,749</u>	<u>3,631</u>	<u>10,380</u>	<u>72,983</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>4,050</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>4,050</u>	<u>4,808</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		49,355	–	49,355	44,547
Total funds carried forward		<u>53,405</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>53,405</u>	<u>49,356</u>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Islay Community Access Group

Statement of Financial Position

Year ended 31 January 2026

	Note	2026 £	2025 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	13	1,125	1,405
Current assets			
Debtors	14	98	98
Cash at bank and in hand		56,283	48,514
		<u>56,381</u>	<u>48,612</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	15	4,101	662
Net current assets		<u>52,280</u>	<u>47,950</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>53,405</u>	<u>49,355</u>
Net assets		<u>53,405</u>	<u>49,355</u>
Funds of the charity			
Unrestricted funds		53,405	49,356
Total charity funds	16	<u>53,405</u>	<u>49,356</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 24 March 2026, and are signed on behalf of the board by:


Mr G Roberts
Trustee


Captain J Dobson
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Islay Community Access Group

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year ended 31 January 2026

1. General information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in Scotland and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Lochindaal House, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, PA48 7UD.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charity Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Going concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Tangible assets (continued)

An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery	-	20% reducing balance
Fixtures and fittings	-	20% reducing balance

Impairment of fixed assets

The trustees review the assets values at each year end date and consider whether impairment provisions are required.

Financial instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Financial assets that are measured at cost or amortised cost are reviewed for objective evidence of impairment at the end of each reporting date. If there is objective evidence of impairment, an impairment loss is recognised under the appropriate heading in the statement of financial activities in which the initial gain was recognised.

Any reversals of impairment are recognised immediately, to the extent that the reversal does not result in a carrying amount of the financial asset that exceeds what the carrying amount would have been had the impairment not previously been recognised.

Islay Community Access Group

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31 January 2026

4. Donations and legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £
Donations			
Donations	10,002	–	10,002
Grants			
Grants' receivable	–	3,631	3,631
	<u>10,002</u>	<u>3,631</u>	<u>13,633</u>
	<u><u>10,002</u></u>	<u><u>3,631</u></u>	<u><u>13,633</u></u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations			
Donations	642	–	642
Grants			
Grants' receivable	–	63,989	63,989
	<u>642</u>	<u>63,989</u>	<u>64,631</u>
	<u><u>642</u></u>	<u><u>63,989</u></u>	<u><u>64,631</u></u>

5. Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Other income from charitable activities	–	–	13,160	13,160
	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>13,160</u>	<u>13,160</u>
	<u><u>–</u></u>	<u><u>–</u></u>	<u><u>13,160</u></u>	<u><u>13,160</u></u>

6. Investment income

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Bank interest received	797	797	–	–
	<u>797</u>	<u>797</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
	<u><u>797</u></u>	<u><u>797</u></u>	<u><u>–</u></u>	<u><u>–</u></u>

Islay Community Access Group

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31 January 2026

7. Expenditure on charitable activities by fund type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2026 £
Paths maintenance and development	6,130	3,631	9,761
Support costs	619	–	619
	<u>6,749</u>	<u>3,631</u>	<u>10,380</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Activity type 1	8,520	63,989	72,509
Support costs	473	–	474
	<u>8,993</u>	<u>63,989</u>	<u>72,983</u>

8. Expenditure on charitable activities by activity type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total funds 2026 £	Total fund 2025 £
As above	9,761	–	9,761	72,509
Governance costs	–	619	619	474
	<u>9,761</u>	<u>619</u>	<u>10,380</u>	<u>72,983</u>

9. Net income

Net income is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2026 £	2025 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>280</u>	<u>351</u>

10. Independent examination fees

	2026 £	2025 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>630</u>	<u>662</u>

Islay Community Access Group

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31 January 2026

11. Staff costs

The average head count of employees during the year was Nil (2025: Nil).

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2025: Nil).

12. Trustee remuneration and expenses

No remuneration or other benefits from employment with the charity or a related entity were received by any of the trustees.

13. Tangible fixed assets

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 February 2025 and 31 January 2026	<u>2,153</u>	<u>7,243</u>	<u>9,396</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 February 2025	1,921	6,070	7,991
Charge for the year	46	234	280
At 31 January 2026	<u>1,967</u>	<u>6,304</u>	<u>8,271</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 January 2026	<u>186</u>	<u>939</u>	<u>1,125</u>
At 31 January 2025	<u>232</u>	<u>1,173</u>	<u>1,405</u>

14. Debtors

	2026 £	2025 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>98</u>	<u>98</u>

15. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2026 £	2025 £
Accruals and deferred income	<u>4,101</u>	<u>662</u>

Islay Community Access Group

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31 January 2026

16. Analysis of charitable funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 February 2025	Income	Expenditure	At 31 January 2026
	£	£	£	£
General funds	29,355	10,799	(6,749)	33,405
Designated Fund	20,000	-	-	20,000
	<u>49,355</u>	<u>10,799</u>	<u>(6,749)</u>	<u>53,405</u>

	At 1 February 2024	Income	Expenditure	At 31 January 2025
	£	£	£	£
General funds	24,547	13,802	(8,993)	29,356
Designated Fund	20,000	-	-	20,000
	<u>44,547</u>	<u>13,802</u>	<u>(8,993)</u>	<u>49,356</u>

Within unrestricted funds the trustees have designated the sum of £20,000 to be held to fund repairs to the paths as required

Restricted funds

	At 1 February 2025	Income	Expenditure	At 31 January 2026
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund Path development	-	3,631	(3,631)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>3,631</u>	<u>(3,631)</u>	<u>-</u>

	At 1 February 2024	Income	Expenditure	At 31 January 2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Fund Path development	-	63,989	(63,989)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>63,989</u>	<u>(63,989)</u>	<u>-</u>

Path development - funding was received from Argyll & Bute Council to continue the development of a path from Bowmore to Bridgend.

Islay Community Access Group

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year ended 31 January 2026

17. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,125	1,125
Current assets	56,381	56,381
Creditors less than 1 year	(4,101)	(4,101)
Net assets	<u>53,405</u>	<u>53,405</u>
	<u><u>53,405</u></u>	<u><u>53,405</u></u>
	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,405	1,405
Current assets	48,612	48,612
Creditors less than 1 year	(662)	(662)
Net assets	<u>49,355</u>	<u>49,355</u>
	<u><u>49,355</u></u>	<u><u>49,355</u></u>