



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



A Year On The Road: Roadshow Revelations

Dr Laura Ferguson, Project Officer

Scotland's Community Heritage Conversations

28th February 2026

Outline

Introduction to the Scottish Community Heritage Alliance

Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project

Roadshows & Gatherings

The Main Issues in Community Heritage

Support For Resilient Grassroots Heritage



SCHA: Our Mission

SCHA supports both individuals and organisations involved in community heritage throughout Scotland.

SCHA strives to represent these grassroots voices at a national level, while providing advocacy, networking, support and research opportunities.

We are looking for people who are passionate about community heritage to join us and make their voice heard.

www.scottishcommunityheritagealliance.org





SCHA: The Board

Chair: Seymour Adams

Treasurer: Dr Susan Kruse (pictured)

Board Members

Dr Helena Koumbouzis

Dr Julian Grant

David Fayle

Iain Ross Wallace

Neil Smith





SCHA: Membership



SCHA is free to join

Direct input into SCHA

Support, advocacy, networking and resources

Monthly newsletter

Group and individual membership



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Grassroots Heritage in Scotland

Main aims were to provide those involved in community heritage with opportunities for networking and to identify and report on issues both unique to areas and common across our network.

Grassroots Heritage in Scotland Roadshows

Grassroots Gatherings

These common issues were used to inform co-created training



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Grassroots Heritage Roadshows

12 community heritage roadshows held across Scotland, between September 2024 and September 2025.

The roadshows were a mix of displays, networking and discussions on important topics that matter to local heritage organisations.

Local Steering Committees for each region ensured that the discussion sessions represented the issues that mattered to local



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Grassroots Gatherings

6 online discussions sessions held September to November 2025.

Designed to build on the roadshow discussions and allow those who missed their roadshow the opportunity to have their say.

Topics: General Discussion (1), Funding, Volunteering, Communications, Signposting Resources, and General Discussion (2)



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Grassroots Heritage Roadshows

Argyll

Glasgow-N.Ayrshire

Western Isles

Southwest

Central Region

Northern Isles

Borders

Highland

Edinburgh & East

Aberdeen & Moray



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



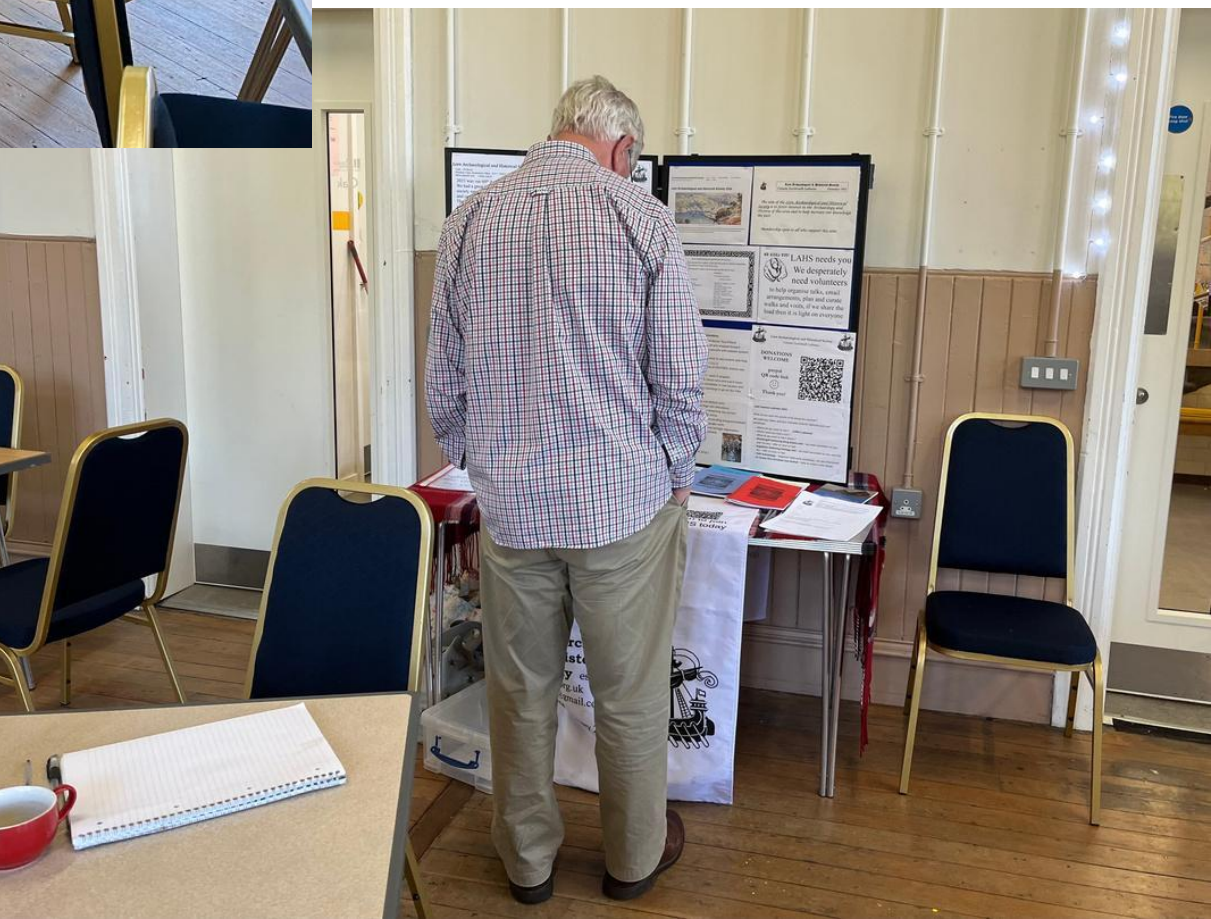
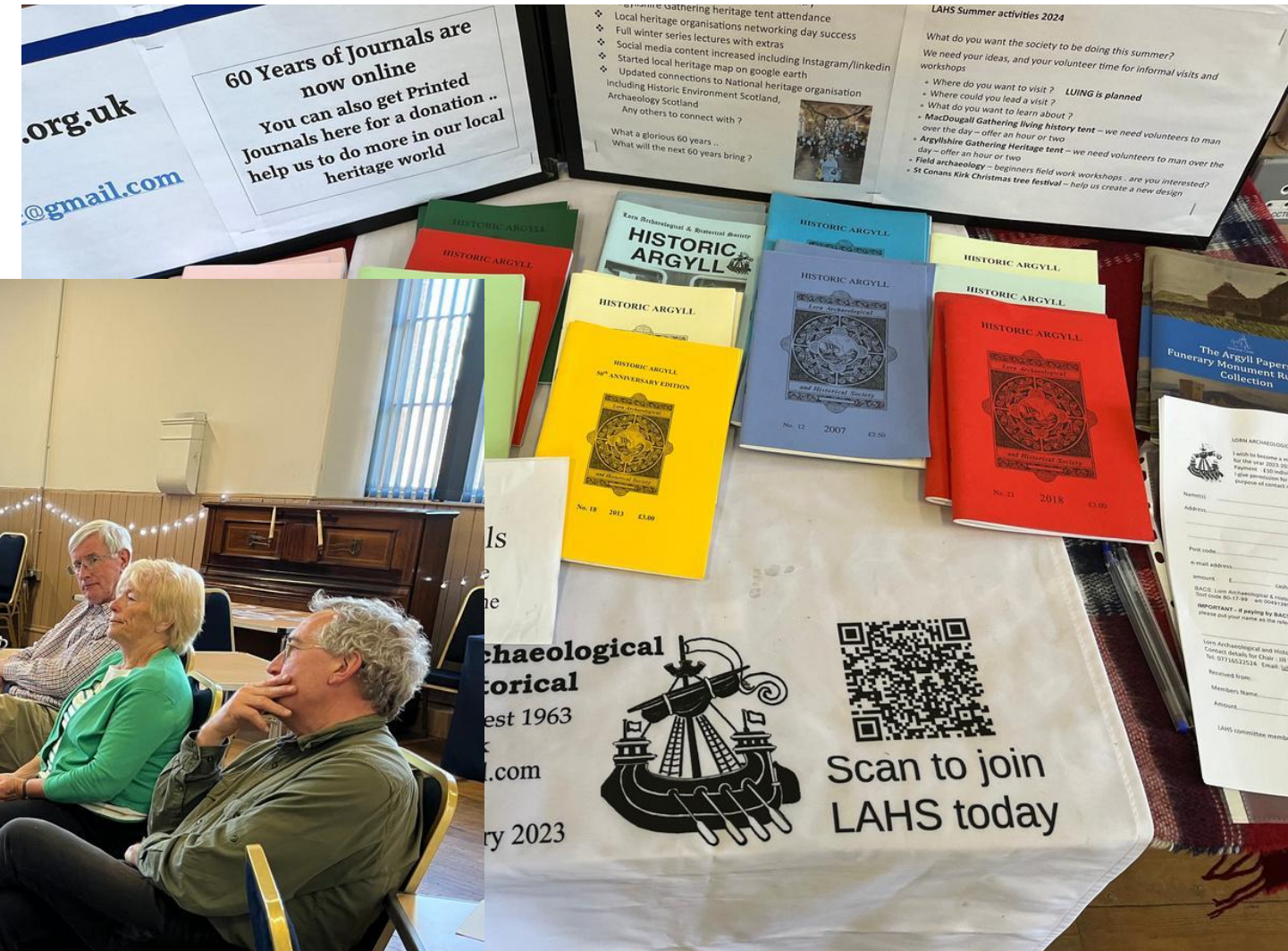
Roadshow Format

Stalls: Provided a point of contact, facilitated networking and allowed sharing of printed materials.

Talks: Local heritage groups were invited to talk about their work and how they were tackling challenges in community heritage.

Discussion: Identified key issues for heritage groups.

Signposting resources: Provided lists of useful resources and invited





SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Argyll Roadshow

21st September 2024

Heritage Tourism

Volunteering

**Collaboration and
Integration**



Southwest





SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Southwest Roadshow

5th October 2024

Collaboration

Volunteering

Heritage Tourism



Borders



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Borders Roadshow

26th October 2024

**Conservation of
Built Heritage**

**Preserving
Intangible Heritage**

**Building
Relationships with
Communities**



Edinburgh & East



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Edinburgh & East Roadshow

9th November 2024

**Volunteering and
Engagement**

**Fundraising and
Income Generation**

**Heritage and the
Climate Emergency**



Clyde
Valley



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Clyde Valley Roadshow

23rd November 2024

Funding

Collaborating

Volunteering



Glasgow
to North
Ayrshire





SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Glasgow to North Ayrshire Roadshow

1st February 2025

Problem Solving

Training

Social Media



Central

Region



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Central Region Roadshow

15th February 2025

Collaboration

Funding

**Preservation of
Local Industrial
Heritage**



Highland



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Highland Roadshow

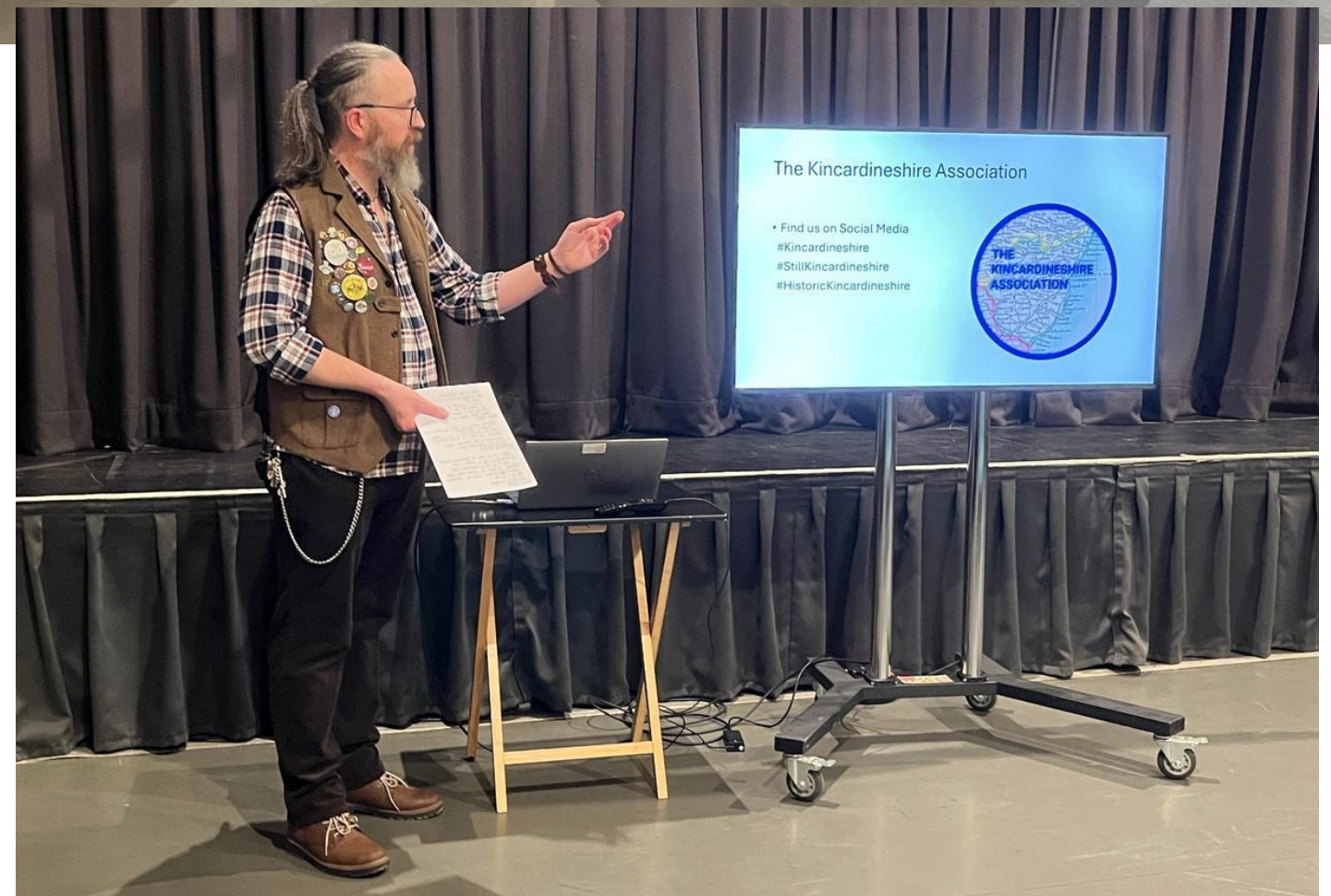
15th March 2025

Fundraising

Succession Planning



Aberdeenshire & Moray





SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



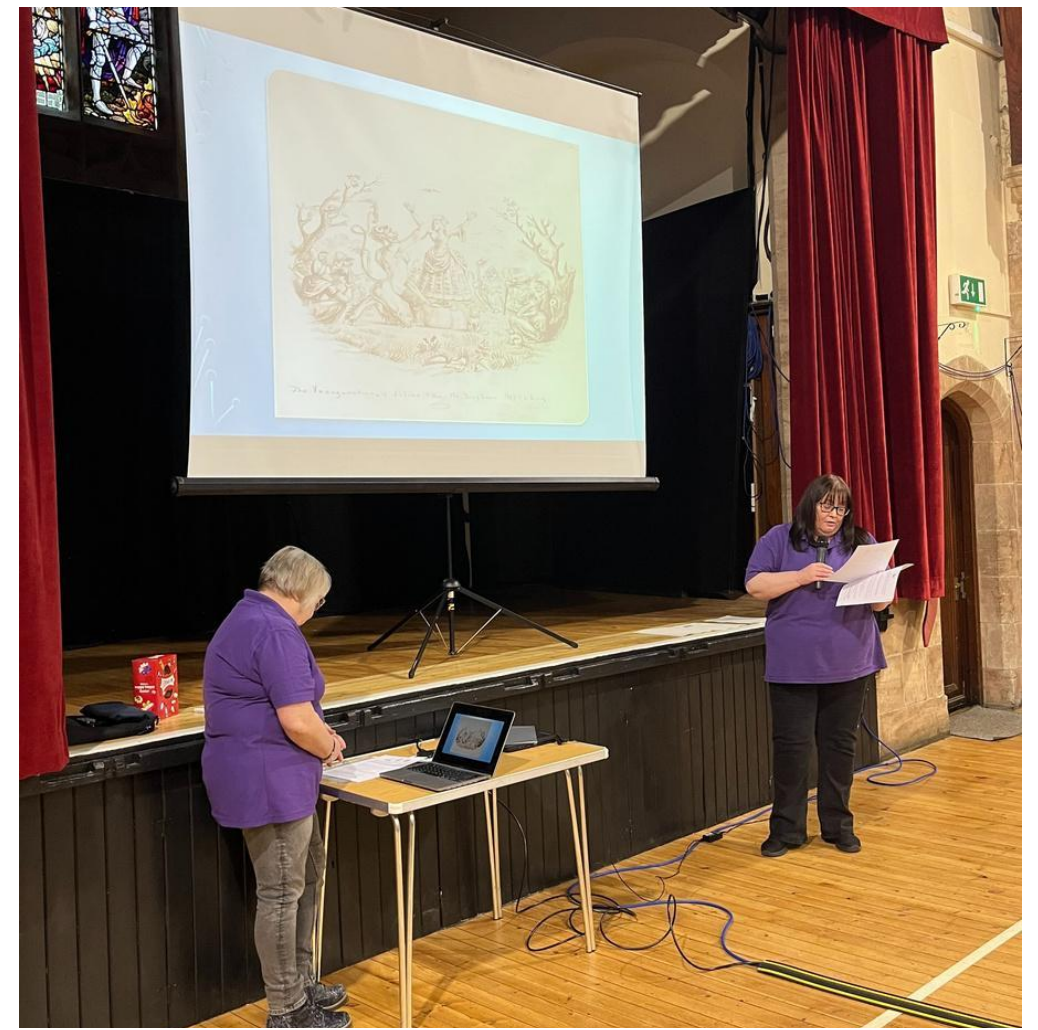
Aberdeenshire & Moray Roadshow

22nd March 2025

Funding

Volunteering

Promotion



Dundee & Fife





SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



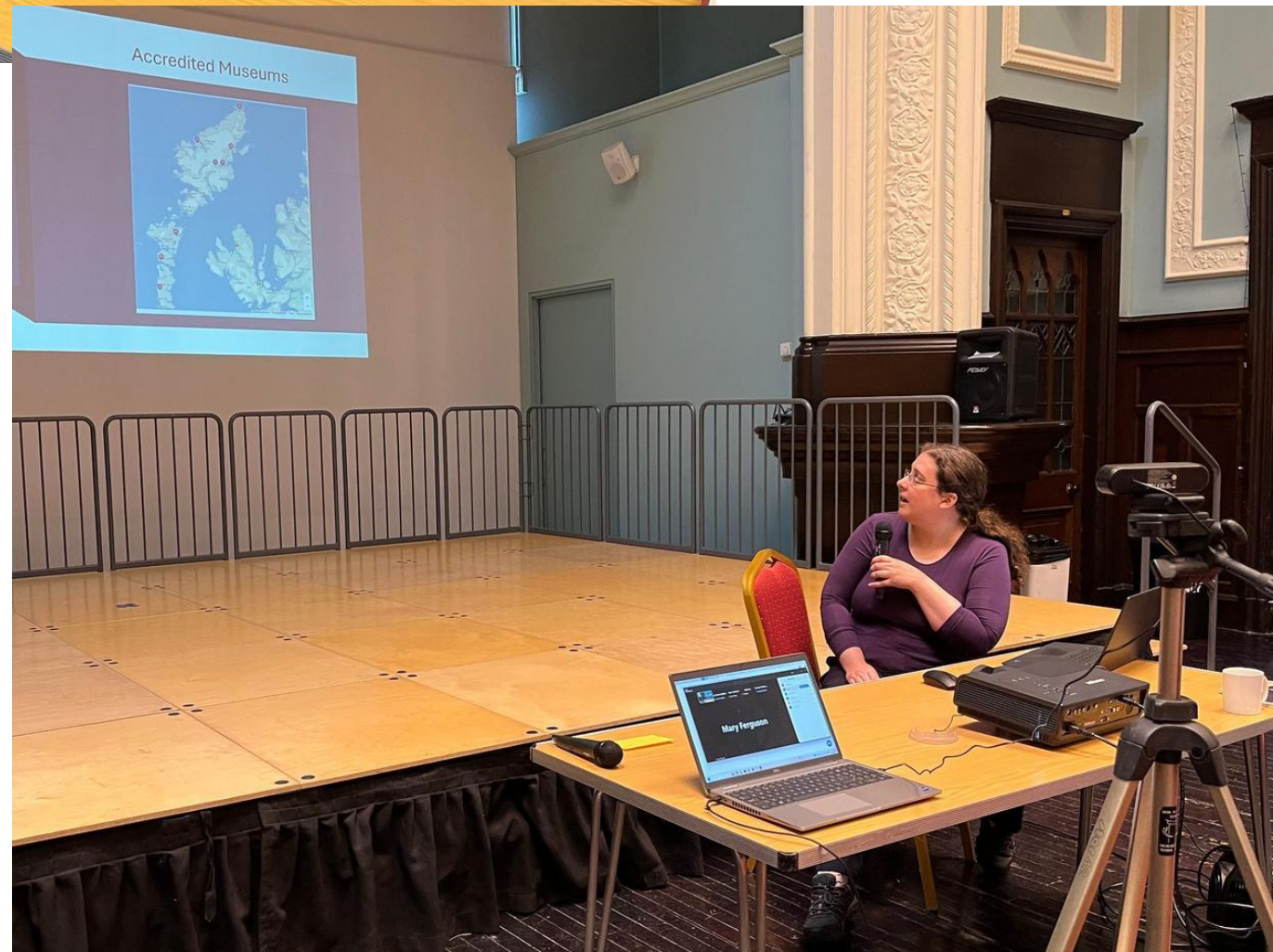
Dundee & Fife Roadshow

29th March 2025

Funding

**Recording Local
History & Memories**

**Environmental
Sustainability**



Western Isles



SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



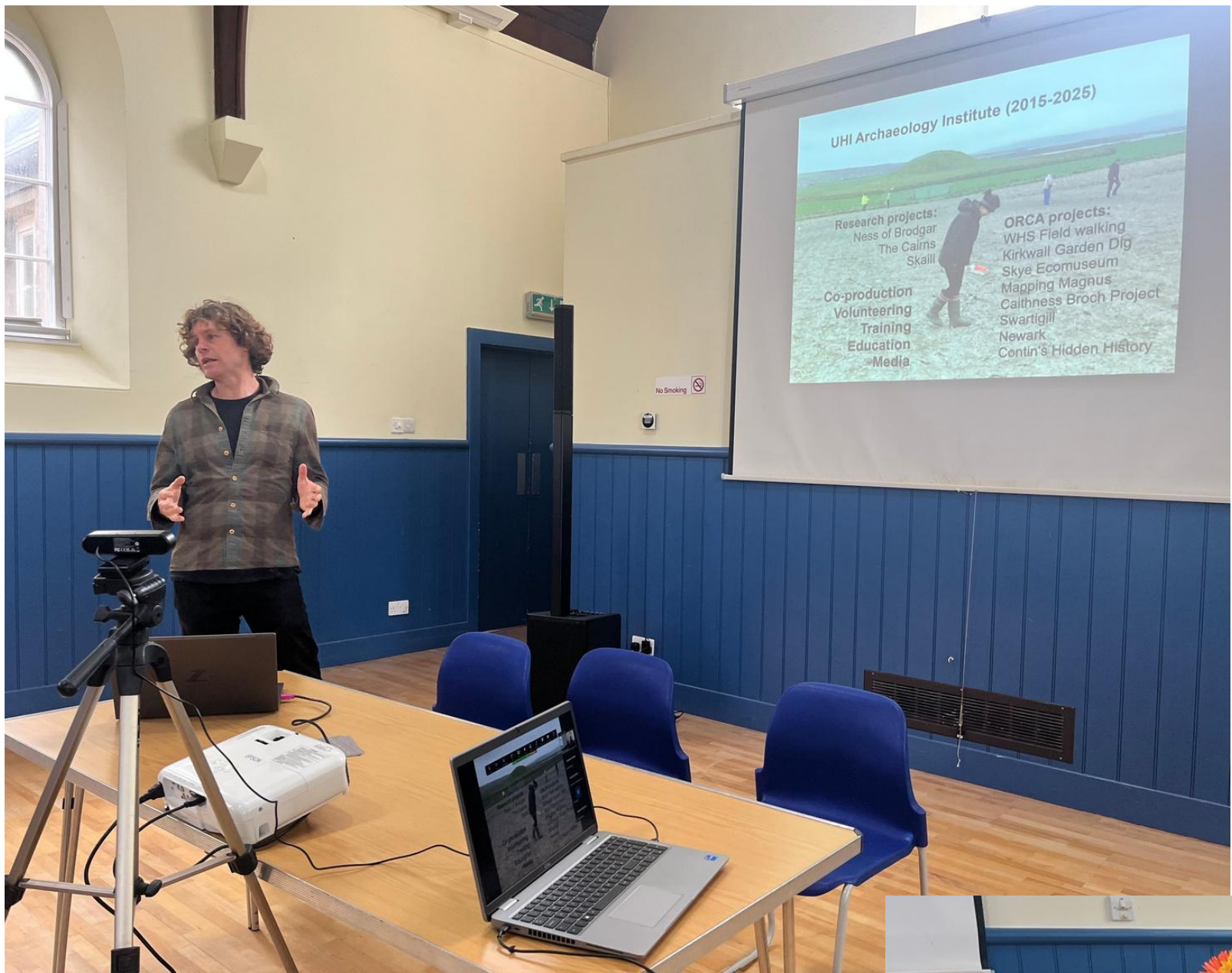
Western Isles Roadshow

6th September 2025

Funding

Succession Planning

**Gaelic Language and
Culture**



Northern Isles





SCHA's Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project is supported by



Northern Isles Roadshow

13th September 2025

**How Can SCHA
Support?**

Curating Collections

Sharing Learning



Main Issues

Funding

Volunteer recruitment and management

Communications

Succession planning

Heritage at risk of loss

Skills and training

Networking and collaboration

Survival!



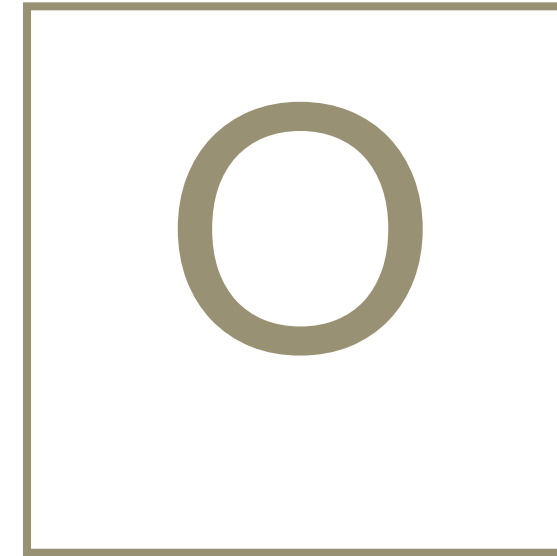
Strengths

Dedicated volunteers
Skills and expertise
Community engagement
Local identity
Contributing to wellbeing



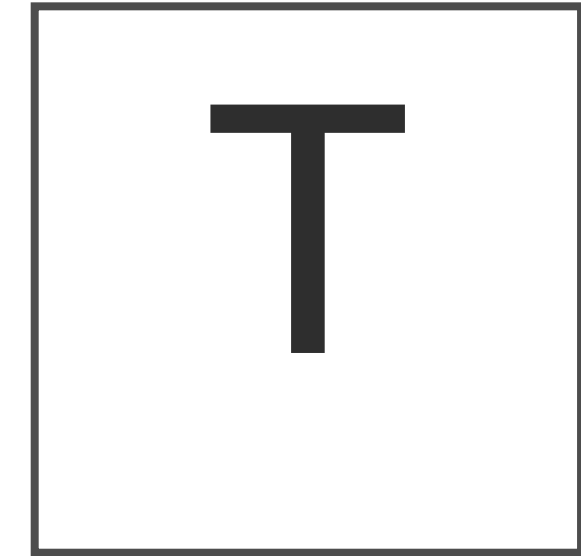
Weaknesses

Volunteer recruitment
Volunteer retention
Funding applications
Lack of skills (e.g. technical)
Lack of planning



Opportunities

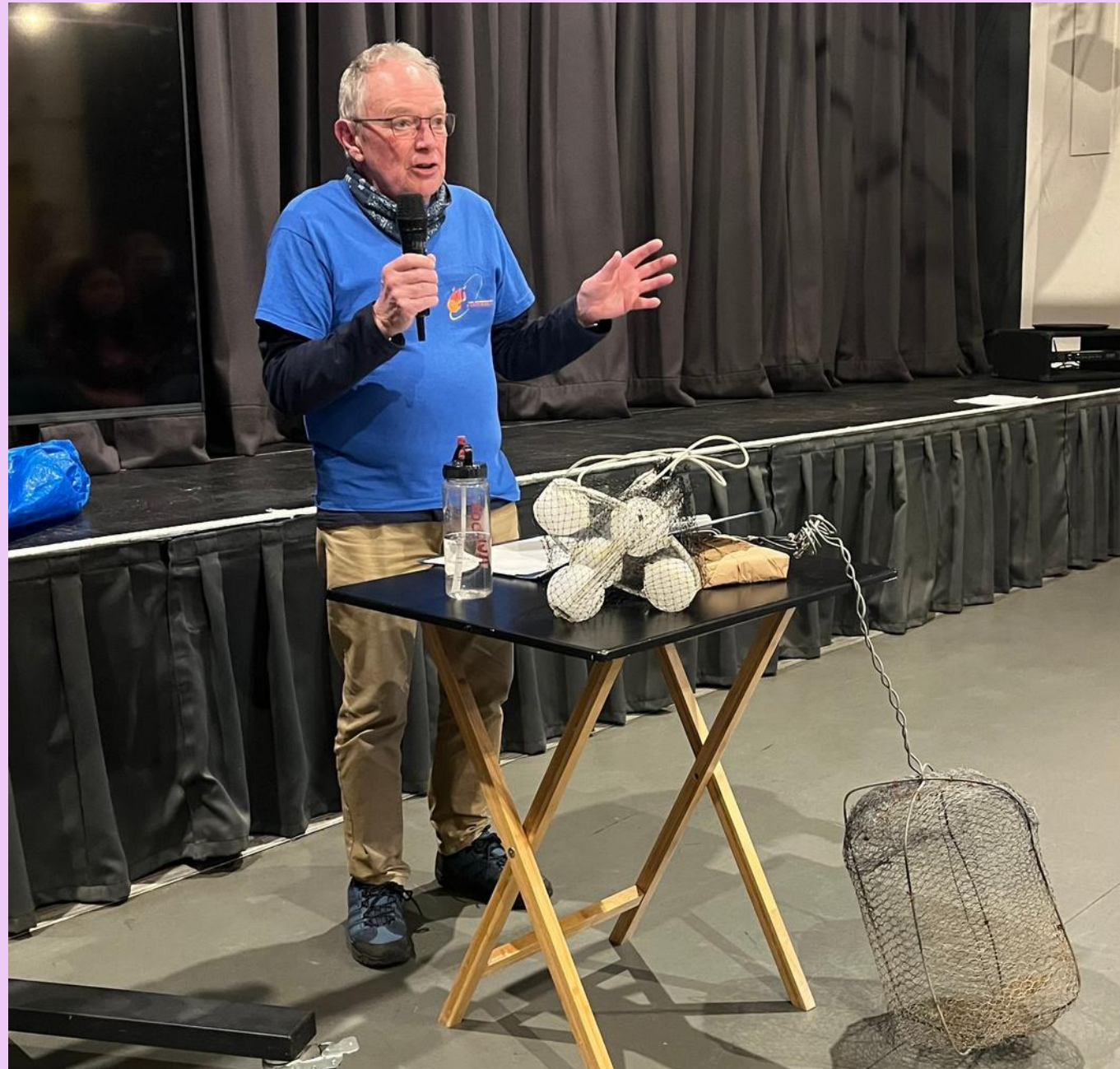
Tourism
Collaboration
Pool resources
New technology
More diverse
volunteerforce
New ideas



Threats

Insufficient core funding
Climate change
Heritage loss
Mismanagement of
data/research
Dwindling/ageing
committees

Case Study 1



Stonehaven Fireballs Association

- Brought back from the brink
- Revitalisation of event
- Hugely successful community engagement
- Exemplary diverse funding methods

Featured in our funding training

Case Study 2



Dundonald Castle

- Community-led
- Building wealth together
- Empowerment through shared history
- A hub of connection and inclusion
- A vision for the future

Article available in our Dec 2024 Newsletter



Support for Resilience

Advice from peers - e.g. a forum, networking

Mentoring from the experienced/experts

Plain language funding applications

Accessible funding sources

Help with administrative matters

Support with volunteer management

Skills/resources sharing platform

Volunteer directory

Facilitate collaboration

Thank You

scottishcommunityheritage@gmail.com

Follow us on Facebook for news and events!

28th February 2026