

Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust

Scotland · Charity number SC029805

Details

Known as	The Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust
Status	Active
Legal form	Trust (founding document is a deed of trust) (other than educational endowment)
Registered	2000-01-28
Register	View on the OSCR register

Contact

Address	13A Ellenabeich Oban Argyll PA34 4RQ
Website	www.slateislands.org.uk

Activities

Activities: 'It carries out activities or services itself'

Purposes: 'the advancement of education', 'the advancement of the arts, heritage, culture or science', 'any other purpose that may reasonably be regarded as analogous to any of the preceding purposes'

What the charity does: The charity aims to promote the history and culture of the Scottish Slate Islands, with its main focus on Easdale. It has owned a small heritage centre and museum at Ellenabeich, which is open to the public April-October and which is staffed by volunteers. About 6,000 visitors a year visit the museum.

Beneficiaries: 'No specific group, or for the benefit of the community'

Objectives: To advance the education of the public or: the former slate industry, together with the life and times of people within the Islands of Easdale, Seil, Luing and Benbulbin, and other areas within these Islands as may be appropriate

Geography

- **Main operating location:** Argyll And Bute
- **Geographical spread:** UK and overseas

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-10-31	£11,082	£10,936	-	0
2024-10-31	£9,876	£5,344	-	0
2023-10-31	£10,849	£7,375	-	0
2022-10-31	£11,381	£6,310	-	0
2021-10-31	£8,304	£4,855	-	0

Accounts

APPENDIX 1

OSCR

Scottish Charity Regulator

Office of the Scottish **Charity Regulator**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day	Month	Year		Day	Month	Year

Reference and administration details

Charity name	Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number	SC029805
Charity's principal address	13A Ellenabeich Oban
	Postcode PA34 4RQ

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	James Fenton	Chairman		
2	Seumas Anderson			
3	Isobelle Smith			
4	George Mackenzie			
5	Julian Taylor			
6	Paul Carling			
7	Maggie Danskin			
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
Alice Clayton	1 November 2024 – 14 July 2025

Structure, governance and management

Type of governing document	Deed of Trust, 9 February 2000
Trustee recruitment and appointment	From Deed of Trust: 9(b) New Trustees may be appointed by resolution of the Trustees recorded in the Minutes and signed by the new Trustees and such records shall be conclusive evidence of the appointment.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purposes	To advance the education of the public on the former slate industry, together with the life and times of people within the Islands of Easdale, Seil, Luing and Belnahua, and other areas outwith these Islands as may be appropriate.
Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects	To welcome visitors to the Heritage Centre and Museum in Ellenabeich, open to the public April-October. To research and record industrial practice, architectural and sociological aspects of the area and the former slate industry within the area. To collect documents, records, artifacts and other items associated with the area and the former slate industry, together with their conservation and preservation. To maintain an indexed catalogue of all such items.

APPENDIX 1

Achievements and performance

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

a. Visit to Inveraray archives

A successful visit was made in May when nine volunteers visited the Archives at Inveraray Castle. The visit was hosted by the archivist Donald MacDougall, who showed us some historical documents relating to the Isle of Seil. After the visit, he kindly emailed us a copy of a 1792 document related to the working of the slate quarries.

b. 25th Anniversary

A buffet lunch was held in Seil Hall on 20 September to celebrate the Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust's 25th year. The lunch was open to all and about forty people attended, with food provided by the Oyster Bar. James Fenton, Trust Chairman, gave an introductory talk, followed by Mike Shaw, President of the Trust, who gave an illuminating insight into the early days of the Trust. Following the cutting of the 25th Anniversary cake (made by Dorothy Haddon), the group proceeded to the square at Ellenabeich, where a plaque was unveiled in celebration of the first 25 years. This is located in one of the raised flower beds which is now to be managed by the Trust (thanks to the efforts of Willie Munro).

c. Visitor numbers

A total of 6,188 visitors this year, compared to 5,289 in 2024; 6,191 in 2023; and 6,723 in 2022.

d. Bus tours

Over the season, Globus notified us in advance of the dates they would be visiting. The approach, pioneered by Willie Munro, was deemed a success, and would continue this year: this involved splitting the visiting group into two, where one was given a guided tour of the village, while the other was in the museum. Other bus companies, such as Lochs and Glens, only visited sporadically.

e. Digital archives (from Tim Sinclair)

He provided an update on the work he had been doing over the year in adding to the digital archive record on the website. This included more information about the doctor Patrick Gillies' time during the 1915 Gallipoli campaign, the island's churches, and the artillery video. He has improved the website to make it better when viewed through a smartphone, and is currently in the process of updating the QR codes in the Heritage Centre.

f. Archive centre plans

In the autumn of 2025, a suggestion was made to the trustees that they investigate buying No.23 Ellenabeich (along the street from the museum) in order to create a new archive centre. After a significant amount of background research, it was decided not to proceed with the idea – not least because of the cost of upgrading the building, and the long-term burden of owning two buildings.

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

Trustees have agreed a policy of retaining a minimum of £10,000 in the charity's accounts.

Details of any deficit

None

Donated facilities and services (if any)

The trustees and volunteers all donate their services without charging.

3

APPENDIX 1

Other optional information

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s) <i>OSCR will accept digital or typed signatures</i>		
Full name(s)	James Heneage Crosland Fenton	Gerard Hoen
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chairman	Honorary Treasurer
Date	3rd April 2026	1 st June 2026