



The Scottish  
**Crannog Centre**

The Scottish Crannog Centre

Strategic Partners

2023-2024



# The Scottish Crannog Centre

## Our Strategic Partners

Our aim is to become a national treasure, loved and admired by all, with social justice at its heart. To achieve this, we constantly reflect, converse and challenge ourselves to deliver work that matters, has impact, and benefits the diverse communities that the museum serves. This is not project work, but core to our mission and vision as a museum. We aim to create an organisation where there are a thousand fingerprints and a thousand voices involved in all we do. We currently have 4 strategic partners that we work closely with as part of these aims, learning from them and changing our approaches to best maximise the potential of this work.

This year we will open a new, sector defining museum at Dalerb. We anticipate welcoming 40,000 visitors per year, with an estimated annual turnover of £1,000,000. On this new site we will continue to deliver our community engagement and social justice work with increased capacity, maximising our new resources and space. This is only possible through the continued care, conversations and relationships with our core strategic partners and other stakeholders, who support us on our mission as we support them in theirs.

## Strategic Partnership Work 2023 – 2024:

### UNESCO chair for Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts

We work closely with UNESCO RILA as a core strategic partner for the museum, influencing the stories we tell within our collections, and supporting our approach to welcoming diverse audiences by being a diverse Crannog community.

We work together on multiple levels, within all areas of the museum, from front of house to curatorial. We have held multiple peer-to-peer reviews between our two teams and shared training days with full teams from both organisations.

We have co-hosted 2 annual events and 1 research weekend, and collaborate with the RILA team on talks for their Spring School 2024, and current conference next week.



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Their artists and academics in residence have contributed to our current museum exhibitions, and have been integral to new interpretations of how we think about the value of objects, the stories they tell, and how this connects us to the rest of the world.

Future:

- Shared events around the Eritrean community and our shared stories
- Speaking at RILA Spring School in Spring 2024
- Aiming to become a Hub of best practices for Scotland
- PhD and MA student research opportunities.

## Glasgow Association for Mental Health

Over the past 3 years we have established a relationship with GAMH as a partner delivering workshops, skill building, respite, craft and creative work, and a venue for group visits and team building. In 2020 we delivered online workshops with weekly postal gifts for a group of GAMH service users, funded through a grant. Two years on, this work is now a part of GAMH yearly budget, and we are part of their yearly planning. They attend 2 onsite visits a year, as well as a series of 6 online workshops, and we are currently exploring options for placements for some of their service users in the future, after expressions of interest at the most recent visit Oct 2023.

Future:

- Enhanced online workshops
- In person visits
- Work placements and opportunities to up-skill and develop cv's, and volunteering opportunities
- Peer to peer staff day visits

## Perth Women's Aid

SCC and PWA have worked together for over 2 years on a pottery project with the museum, exploring the value and importance (academically, socially and emotionally) of our large collection of unresearched pottery fragments from the Iron Age. It has been regarded by the Museums Association and funders as an excellent example of an archaeology collection being enabled to tell its many



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stories to many diverse audiences, and for people to feel part of the story, able to contribute to it, and take something away when they leave.

This work has enabled in-reach sessions for service users both at the museum and in their offices in Perth. This work has changed our museum interpretation, thinking of pottery as powerful, resilient, able to withstand the highest temperatures to make iron and bronze, and the main surviving material from the ancient world. Working with survivors both in PWA and staff with lived experience within the SCC this has been particularly prevalent in discussions.

Since then, we have been working with PWA to look at what they need from us – a lot of planning before in-person work, including staff respite day trips out, closed museum days for safe visits, workshops in-house on specific topics, and exploring cv development options working with the museum. PWA staff and users have been helping the build the new museum at Dalerb, contributing to something they can see and be proud of, combining therapeutic work with history.

Future:

- Work placements and opportunities to up-skill and develop cv's
- Shared publication of pottery project findings
- Collaboration on new museum exhibition and co-producing museum interpretation
- Offer training in qualifications such as food hygiene level 1 and 2
- Staff respite days
- Peer to peer staff day visits

## Breadalbane Academy

The SCC currently works with Breadalbane Academy, families and young people locally who are currently unable to attend school or have left school, and have not progressed into further education or work. One young man is Downes, and non-verbal, and one girl with anxiety who hasn't been able to leave the house. The museum provides a paid staff member to work with these individuals for 10 hours per week, creating 1-2-1 learning that encourages confidence growth. This was unfunded for the first 2 years, we now have a small grant of £9000 from the National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All to pay Jenny through this winter. Our aim is to broaden this offer from November onwards, as we begin work on a new museum site, where we will have greater capacity and accessibility, and we



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are already working with the Sky Group (4 students) every Wednesday, developing soft skills. We have been approached by 2 further parent groups who would like their children to begin work experience placements with us and volunteering/respite experience days weekly, and we would broaden this offer out to the local ASN Group 'Highland Perthshire Plus' which supports young people with activities and days out in the local area.

We attend Breadalbane Academy 5-year strategic planning meetings, our assistant director meets with school staff weekly, and we have the Developing Young Workforce School Co-ordinator on our board. The school currently works with us to provide short, weekly placements (2 hrs per student) which often lead into these post education work placements. Meeting with parents and running group visits for Highland Perthshire Plus, we have been made aware of the strains on families, and their individual needs, and they have asked us for help both in work experience and in respite and family days. Little of this work is currently funded, but it is the right thing to do and makes a big difference to the current and future lives of young people within our community, and their families.

Previous students doing this work experience with us have gone onto Customer Service Apprenticeships after school as a new career and work pathway, we currently have 3 ASN school leavers learning with us. We work with their parents and families to make sure that this work meets the needs and future ambitions of these young people, in a supportive environment where they can succeed.

Future:

- Setting up further apprenticeships such as NPA, and other levels of customer service
- More foundation apprenticeship opportunities working with Perth College and BA.
- Increased 1-2-1 learning opportunities
- Creating a Wellbeing hub on the new site for learning at SCC for students who aren't thriving in school to gain qualifications in a different setting.
- Expand work opportunities for rural skills class to provide practical learning opportunities
- Food tech department – café work and expand apprenticeship relations and work experience opportunities.



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## Additional Partners:

We are currently working with and influencing partners both within and beyond our sector:

- Disability Confident – as a Disability Confident Leader, we are advising the V&A Dundee in their Disability Confident application, and are peer-reviewing potential applicants to Leader status within the Perth, Dundee and Angus areas.
- Perthshire Autism Support working with us to deliver lived experience work experience, and advice for employing and supporting autistic people.
- Mike Benson, SCC Managing Director, was elected to the Board of the Heritage Lottery Fund in 2023.
- Mike Benson worked with Museum Galleries Scotland to develop and launch their MGS Strategy 2023–2030 on Workforce and Fair Work.
- We worked with Perth and Kinross Council to develop the Perth and Kinross Culture Strategy 2023–2028.
- We have increased our Academic Engagement:
  - o Currently co-delivering a PhD in partnership with National Museum of Scotland and the University of Leicester
  - o Our collection is better understood as a result of work with researchers in Bristol University, University of Glasgow, Edinburgh University, AOC Archaeology and external consultants.
  - o We will soon be taking on a 2 year PhD student with the University of the West of Scotland, working with long time museum partner Marco Gilardi.
  - o We are in long term planning conversations with Sadie from UNESCO RILA for a Masters student to work with us for their dissertation in late 2024 into 2025.
  - o We have so far worked with Interface to deliver 21 successful student led projects.

## Future Partnerships:

We are in initial Conversations with PKC regarding long-term support for prisoners both in prison and on day release striving for a multi-agency approach.

HLF app in for us to become a beacon organisation – multiple partners involved in this, led by the Council for British Archaeology.



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January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024



## **Scottish Crannog Centre Partnership with UNESCO Chair for Refugee Integration through Languages and Arts.**

“This place is a well.” These are the words of our Zimbabwean colleague Tawona Sitholé when he first visited The Crannog, just after the fire.

“This is the first time I have been in a place that is not trying to colonize me” These are the words of Dr Hyab Yohannes, survivor of torture and trafficking and researcher of restorative integration for communities working with refugees.

“I’ve found my happiest place” These are the words of Pinar Aksu, survivor of child detention and the asylum system and now a leading community organizer and a PhD student.

“We had an absolutely magical day at the Crannog Centre – everyone up there have been so amazing, they were just true to who they are, so hospitable, welcoming, and treated us like 5-star guests. The only downside was leaving. We had the time of our life” Maryhill Integration Network guest.

Since the fire in the Scottish Crannog Centre we, the UNESCO Chair at the University of Glasgow, have begun a journey of solidarity and care with our partners who lost their heritage and are now moving to new location. We have been companions from our own experiences of loss and displacement, of love of heritage and of gatherings by firesides, of experimentation and of restoration.

The partnership was a surprise, an accident of life, of fire and of serendipity. From it have grown workshops we have undertaken jointly in sustainable development,



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in overcoming domestic violence, in refugee integration, in craft and cultural anthropology, in music and storytelling, in cooking and collaborative drama. The abundance astonishes us all and comes from the well that is the Crannog Centre.

For a team working in the hardest of circumstances in the world, including those in the Gaza strip where 15 years of our work and many of our colleagues have been displaced or killed, the Crannog is our place of physical, mental, emotional, and intellectual restoration. It is where hope is drawn up from the well and we find complementarity and connection.

Three years on we cannot imagine a calendar without events both here, and in other UNESCO TRAIL locations, and at the Crannog. We have taken time to get to know each other through many difficulties and found that the expansive nature of our mutual permaculture visions allows us to know that abundance and care are always present.

**Yours sincerely,**

*Alison M. Phipps*

Alison Phipps, OBE, D.Litt. (*honoris causa mult.*), PhD, FRSE, FAcSS, FRSA  
UNESCO Chair: Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts  
Professor of Languages and Intercultural Studies  
Ambassador: Scottish Refugee Council





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## **The Scottish Crannog & Glasgow Association for Mental Health – 12.03.2023**

It was March 2020 during the first lockdown period that GamH temporarily suspended its group programme and focussed on telephone support. In July we were able to resume our outdoor groups only, however these were not accessible to everyone and many people we supported continued to struggle with the isolation and uncertainty of the pandemic.

At the beginning of the second lockdown, we suspended outdoor groups and started to plan for online groups however although we knew we wanted to provide a place for people to engage, be creative and have the opportunity to be part of a welcoming community we were entering into a world which was uncertain to us having little experience ourselves in providing this type of support.

It was at this time that thankfully we found The Scottish Crannog Centre and I believe they found us also at the perfect time for them. It was at this point we connected and the beginning of a journey which would start with creatively presented online groups opening the door for us on the Iron Age communities of the past would create an enduring and lasting community together which continues to thrive whether in person in the GamH offices in Glasgow, online over the screens we share or on the banks of Loch Tay.

Our most recent get togethers in 2024 have helped us as a group work through overlapping themes of Uncertainty that we all feel by talking together about what these uncertainties are, like the feelings of isolation and anxiety that some feel and how this is removed when we get together regularly and become engaged in each other's lives and interests. We all have faced adversity and trauma to different extents and these groups solidify similarities that are comforting and take away the feeling of being alone with this through shared learning and care and understanding for one another.

The impact of these groups and the connections we have cannot be underestimated as a cornerstone which encourages and recognises everyone's



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contributions both individually and collectively in a caring, positive, and thoughtful way that truly should be the norm and not the exception.

These places we live are all the better for it.

Simon

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## **Perthshire Women's Aid**

Perthshire Women's Aid supports women, children, and young people who are experiencing or recovering from domestic abuse.

Women who seek support often do so having lived with domestic abuse for many years. For some, due to the tactics used by the abuser, it may not be apparent that they are the victim of abuse. Some fear the consequences of disclosing the abuse, the impact on their lives and their family, the response of their community, and the repercussions of their abuser.

Sadly, separation doesn't equal safety. It is often when women seek support and safety that they are at most risk. The abuse can escalate as the abuser tries to regain power and control.

It can take several people to help women and children break free from domestic abuse and an even greater number of supports to aid recovery from the trauma and abuse.

In addition to one to one support for women and children, Perthshire Women's Aid facilitates group work for women, children, and young people. The creation of a community and a safe space to share experiences is key to recovery. To understand and process the past and to create hope for the future.

As well as the ongoing battle to strive for Perthshire Women's Aid's vision of a society in which women, children and young people can live free from any form of abuse and end inequality, there is an ongoing struggle to secure funding for these vital services. The kindness and generosity of individuals and other organisations are key components in supporting the community of women and children needing support in Perthshire.

Danielle

**Danielle K Coll**

**Deputy Manager**

Perthshire Women's Aid

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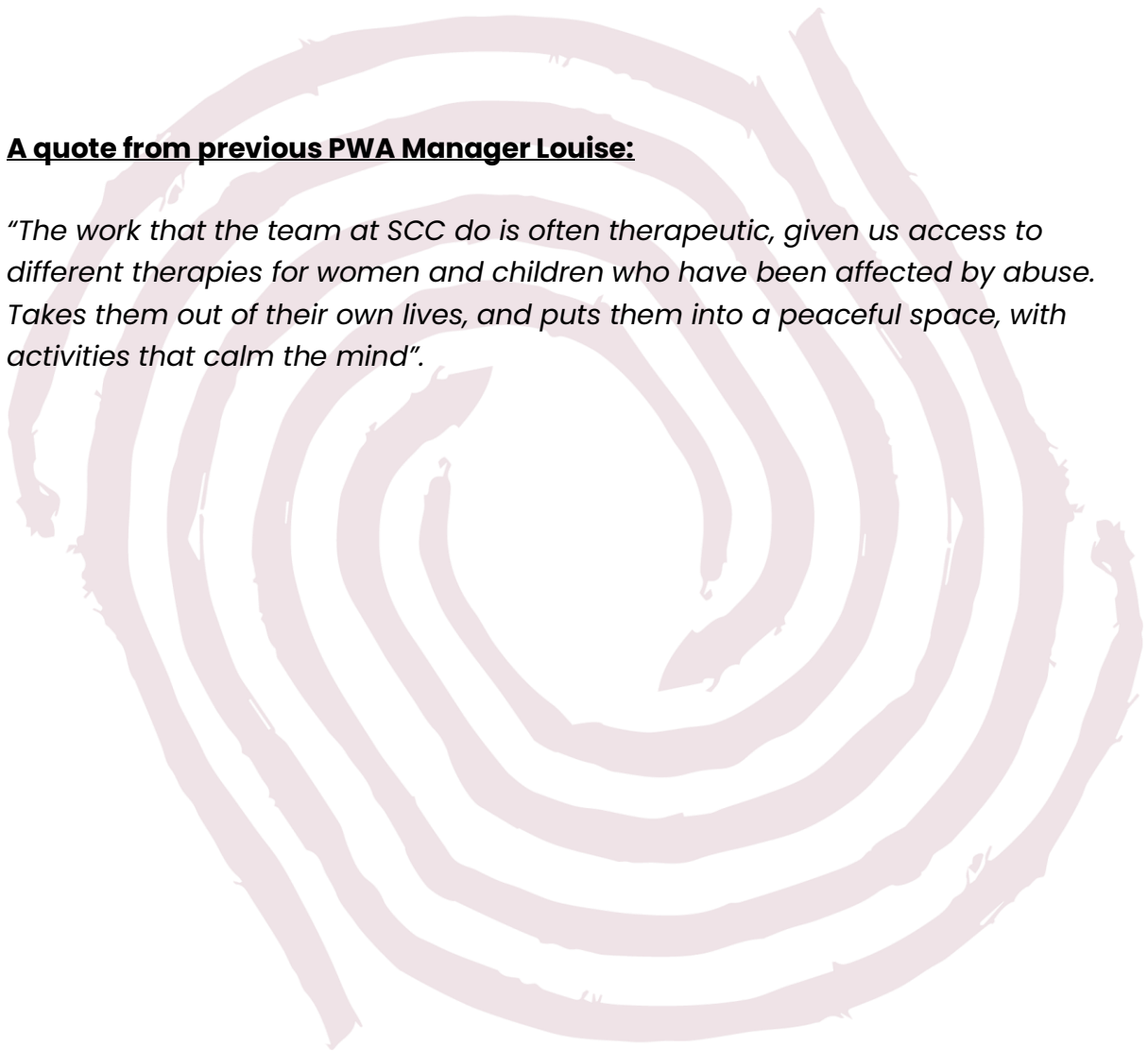


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**A quote from previous PWA Manager Louise:**

*"The work that the team at SCC do is often therapeutic, given us access to different therapies for women and children who have been affected by abuse. Takes them out of their own lives, and puts them into a peaceful space, with activities that calm the mind".*





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Breadalbane Academy

Crieff Road, Aberfeldy, PH15 2DU

10/02/24

Dear Sir/Madam

Our partnership with the Scottish Crannog Centre has been invaluable as part of the positive destinations for young people in our school, especially following covid.

We have seen on numerous occasions the fall in confidence, and non attendance, without the 121 support from the staff at the Crannog these young people would not have achieved a positive destination.

Crannog staff have come into school as part of child plan meetings with young people, families, guidance teachers and myself. The care, support and bespoke planning that forms their next steps is so valuable, making sure the young person structures their placement in their own way and at their own pace.

This funding will enable The Scottish Crannog Centre which works so well and is trusted by partners to widen and deepen its impact. We know the way they work works! Young people with many different types of barriers to employment have flourished there. I have seen young people dis- engaged within school over a period of time after being at the centre delivering tours to groups of 30 adults from all over the world. They learn crafts and can demonstrate them with confidence to the general public. They become key members of the team there and are valued for who they are and what they are achieving.



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It is the approach that creates this success beginning with work experience or through the 1-2-1 work before starting the apprenticeship fully.

Bonds that we have seen formed with the staff and the young people have really helped their confidence. As an example, one young person had not left their home for a full year, not even to visit the dentist, we asked them to come into school where myself, staff from the Crannog, guidance teacher and parent spoke to the young person, they asked to go to the Crannog as they had visited previously, we asked what time commitment they could give, they promised 2 hours a week for 2 weeks and asked if parent could visit site prior to starting, this was all accepted by everyone, we told them we would review things after 2 weeks.

Because of the care and bond staff created, because they understood that this person had crippling anxiety, the staff took the young person in a separate entrance so that they did not have to face anyone. Almost a year has passed and the young person is still going. Not just making up the numbers but thriving and hoping to do an apprenticeship. This is the perfect example of success, and its only one of many that we could give, the Crannog and the staff are much more than a museum, they have created such a fabulous safe space and calm environment for young people to grow. Whether it be the 1-2-1 support where our young people gain confidence and skills, work experience tailored to that young person giving them employability skills or the apprenticeships they offer. The skills the young people learn both soft and hard ensure the young people can succeed either staying on at the museum after their apprenticeship or with their support moving on to employment elsewhere. The new development offers so many more opportunities for young people and I hope the Crannog Centre is successful with this application.

We as a school could not be without them.

Yours faithfully

Belinda Beecroft  
DYW School Coordinator