

BOHRA ANNUAL REPORT 2025

BOHRA structure

The committee of Trustees has remained consistent throughout the year, comprising Kate Skinner and Anna Hock (co-chairs), Sandy MacLean (Treasurer), Hilary Pearce (Secretary), Gilbert MacLellan, Fergus Speight, Mary Redman and Angus Ferguson.

The Trustees held 3 meetings in 2025. BOHRA has a formal constitution, was registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (SCIO54030) on 5 March 2025 and opened its bank account on 26 March 2025 (Bank of Scotland).

BOHRA activities

2025 was arguably BOHRA's most successful year. It was dominated by the preparations for and delivery of the hugely popular **Lighthouse Festival** held on 8-10 August 2025. The festival was to celebrate the bi-centenary of Orsay Lighthouse and the part it has played in the community over the past 200 years. It managed and led by the Rhinns Lighthouse Festival committee which included representatives of all four local collaborating organisations: The Rhinns Hall, the Friends of Portnahaven Church, the Rhinns Playing Field Association and BOHRA, (which acted as the 'umbrella' organisation for legal and accounting purposes).

In preparation for the festival, BOHRA arranged for 10 half-barrel planters, previously donated by Bruichladdich distillery, to be for adopted by local residents for planting to enhance the edges of the path, and purchased and installed solar lights along the path. BOHRA organised an informal and enjoyable working party day on Saturday 12 April 2025 to clear debris and tidy up the path and surrounding area.

The festival itself comprised a wildly popular opening Ceilidh with raffle in the Rhinns Hall on the Friday evening and an exhibition about Orsay Lighthouse and its history over the weekend. Saturday saw a sports Gala day, fun run and BBQ at the Playing Fields, and a story-telling and music session in Portnahaven Church. On Sunday morning an ecumenical service was held in the church and the festival culminated in an afternoon festival 'street' party along the coastal path on Sunday afternoon including the live band North of the Bridge, tea tent, beer tent and stalls. A memorial plaque, provided by the Northern Lighthouse board was unveiled at 3pm. Boat trips over to Orsay island quickly sold out and were greatly enjoyed although unfortunately some trips had to be cancelled due to bad weather.

Around 1,837 people attended the festival over the weekend and its success was the result of immense amount of hard work and collaboration by many individuals and organisations too numerous to mention here. The grants and expenditure relating to the festival are set out in the accounts and the surplus funds, after expenses, have been split between the 4 participating organisations.

BOHRA also obtained a detailed civil engineer's report on the condition of the path and its facilities (slipway and pier) and has consulted the relevant authorities about signage. Both of these will be taken forward in the coming year.

Lastly, the phone box was officially adopted by BOHRA from BT for £1 in October 2025. Consultation was undertaken which resulted in a preference for it to be used as an information hub focussing on wildlife of the area.

Look ahead to 2026-2027

It is clear from the engineer's report that major renovation and repair work to the slipways, pier and path itself are required, and quotes for this are being sought. Grant funding will be applied for to carry this out over the next 12-24 months. Also planned is a spring working party to tidy the coastal path (24-25 April 2026) and the installation of the commemorative plaque and lifebelts along the path.

Anna Hock and Kate Skinner
Co-chairs, BOHRA
February 2026

Approved by Trustees at AGM on 2 March 2026

Signed: *Anna Hock, Chair, BOHRA, 02.03.2026*