



**WELCOME** to the *Islay Heritage newsletter*  
Read about our current projects,  
and news of future events

### COMING UP IN 2017

➔ **The excavation of the 'Giant's Grave'**, the Neolithic chambered cairn in the Rhinns, will continue for a final season of fieldwork between 29 July and 19 August. This will expose further evidence for its architecture and material for dating. Volunteer helpers for the excavation are welcome and should email [info@islayheritage.org](mailto:info@islayheritage.org).

➔ **The Dunnyvaig Project** is being planned by Islay Heritage as a community-excavation to explore the history of Dunnyvaig Castle, to enhance public access and conserve the monument. A geophysics and topographic survey will be undertaken in August 2017. Islay Heritage will bring leading academics to Islay in October to discuss the research questions that can be addressed by the forthcoming excavation, planned to begin in the summer of 2018.

➔ **Islay Archaeology Week 9–16 August 2017** will start with an exhibition and experimental archaeology demonstration at the Islay Show, followed by guided walks to the Giant's Grave excavation and a series of public lectures.

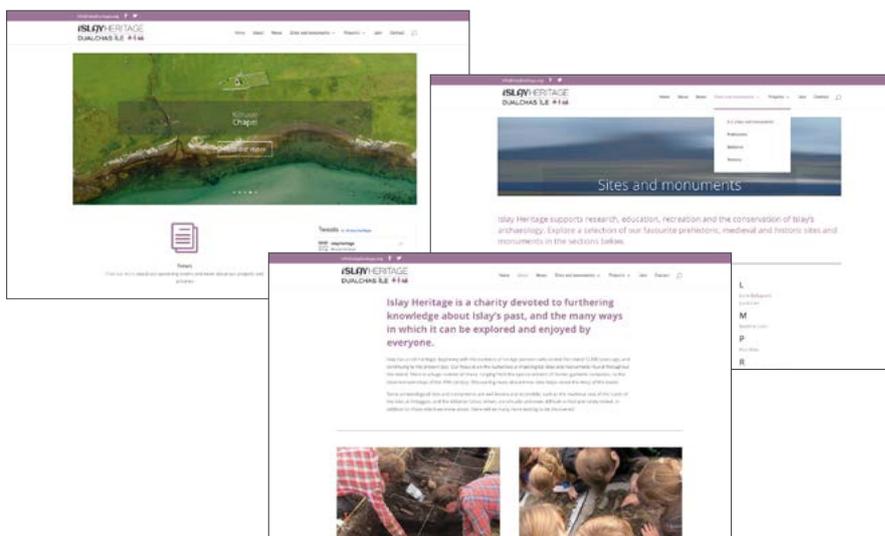
**Islay Heritage thanks**, the Ian Mactaggart Trust and the University of Reading for funding, and all of those on Islay who enabled access to archaeological sites, and who provide encouragement, support and advice.



### Primary Schools' Project

Children from Port Charlotte at Carnduncan Bronze Age Cairn

The Islay Heritage Primary Schools' Project continued in March 2017 with each school undertaking a survey of a chosen monument supported by professional archaeologists. Bowmore went to Cill a'Bhulig, a buried platform close to the shore of Loch Indall, Port Charlotte School to the Carnduncan Bronze Age cairn, Port Ellen School to Kilbride Chapel and Keills and the Small Isles Schools to the crannog in the (drained) Loch nan Della close to Port Askaig.



### Our website

Islay Heritage's website carries news items, reports and information about the charity's activities, with film clips and images from its excavations and projects. Please send your own contributions about Islay's heritage to [info@islayheritage.org](mailto:info@islayheritage.org).

Find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter

Visit our website: [islayheritage.org](http://islayheritage.org) to find out more about Islay Heritage and how to get involved



Mapping and surveying Creagfinn in the vicinity of Kintour

### Creagfinn settlement

The Ardtalla Landscape Survey for Islay Heritage was directed by Roddy Regan from Kilmartin Museum in April 2017. This mapped and surveyed deserted settlements in the vicinity of Kintour, the largest being Creagfinn. While some are known to have been used in the mid-19th century, their origin and development remain little understood. A program of targeted excavation is required to establish the history of these abandoned and largely forgotten settlements in this archaeologically-rich corner of Islay.

### Excavation at Rubha Port an t-Seilich

The Rubha Port an t-Seilich (RPAS) Excavation Project is being undertaken for Islay Heritage by the University of Reading and began in April 2017. RPAS is the earliest known settlement on Islay with traces of ice age hunter-gatherers from c. 12,000 years ago, followed by Mesolithic hunter-gatherers until 7000 years ago. The excavation is planned to continue over several years to meticulously recover evidence about the date and activities of the very first people to arrive on the island.



Excavation well underway at the Rubha Port an t-Seilich Excavation Project



### Dun Fhinn survey

In April 2017 Islay Heritage undertook an archaeological and topographic survey of Dun Fhinn, located in the SE of Islay on a rocky outcrop. This has massive walls with traces of internal structures emerging from below rubble and vegetation across its summit and around its base. While presumed to be Iron Age, the origin and development of this fortified site will only be revealed by future excavation.



Archaeological and topographic survey being carried out high-up on the rocky outcrop



### Digital Kildalton

Islay Heritage is undertaking a digital reconstruction of Kildalton Chapel to recreate its 14th century exterior and interior. This has involved collecting data by laser scanning, geophysics and flying a drone for aerial photographs. This data will be combined with historical records and evidence from comparable chapels, drawing on the expert knowledge of Professor Richard Fawcett (St Andrews University).



Flying over Kildalton Chapel



Sample of a bog oak from Loch nan Gabhar, Machrie Moor

### Bog oaks from Loch nan Gabhar

These date back to at least 7500 years ago and can help reconstruct the past climate and environment of Islay. Following the survey and sampling of the bog oaks in August 2016, laboratory analysis has been undertaken by Dr Karen Wicks (University of Reading) and Dr Rod Bale (University of Wales) to prepare samples for analysis involving radiocarbon dating, isotopic chemistry, palynology and tephrochronology.