



Kirk Michael Trust

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Community newsletter July/August 2016

The tide turns for Kirkmichael at last - as project works begin on site



Laing Traditional Masonry (LTM) Ltd's **Derek Cunningham** and his assistant **Walter Adelfio** have begun work on the careful removal and repair of our fine Kirkmichael monuments. The fine white marble monument in the nave (left) is being boxed in, but the two oldest sandstone monuments in the chancel (below) have already been removed for **painstaking conservation work**. These will then be stored until the building is roofed again. One discovery already: a chancel monument when removed to be made only of very thin slate surrounded by a chiselled sandstone frame

which will of course be conserved too. This was held in place by plaster of Paris, simply poured down the back into the gap.

As soon as Derek and Walter finish their crucial protection/removal tasks, LTM site manager **Peter MacLeod** will be starting work - the **blue project base portacabin** is in and we will soon see **scaffolding erected** on the main building. Progress reports on Facebook and in issue.



our September



Kirkmichael Creative was launched in style on June 25 with music, writing, photography, art and craft workshops on offer – thanks to all who came or helped! Here is one of **30 clay tiles** (made by a talented Tore Primary pupil) which will be fired and displayed at a Resolis Hall event in late Oct/Nov. Cromarty and Resolis Primary schools also have **découpage** kits and some sketch books. You can take part in Kirkmichael Creative too by entering our **500 word writing challenge** (deadline 30 September – full details on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KirkmichaelTrust) or by **making something arty or a craft** over the

summer inspired by one of our ancient Resolis burial grounds. We are happy to help with **tours, photos** and any **queries**.

NEXT BIG EVENT! Don't miss **Naturally Kirkmichael** on **Saturday 27 August 11 – 4** – we'll be exploring the plant-, insect- and wildlife of Kirkmichael and its coast with our **RSPB** neighbours and **Butterfly Conservation Highland** taking part.

More information from **Verity Walker** on **01381 620575** or **verity@interpretaction.com**.

In June we secured **Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent** for our project works (thank you to Historic Environment Scotland) and:

- welcomed **Stewart Anderson** from the **Heritage Lottery Fund** for a very useful planning visit (NB full list of funders on our website)
- took **Inverness Field Club** on a Resolis tour
- enjoyed visits from **Fortrose Academy S6, Fortrose Academy/Lyce Saint Charles exchange pupils (they liked it so much they came twice!)** and **Cromarty Primary**
- arranged a **free tour of Alness and Kiltearn Kirkyards on 14 August** (contact Verity for details)
- started to plan our **Traditional Skills Open Day** as part of **Resolis Country Fair on 17 September** and our **'9 Days of Wonders'** as part of **Highland Archaeology Festival 1 – 9 October**



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