



K i r k m i c h a e l T r u s t
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Community newsletter November/December 2016

Roof and archaeology works nearing completion

As winter approaches it is a real thrill to see a solid roof of sarking over the **nave and chancel** at last. Entering these spaces feels a little unfamiliar at present as they are in relative darkness again after years of exposure to the elements. In just a few short months our community will enjoy renewed access to these wonderful mausolea and the memorials and stones displayed inside them.



Painstaking archaeology undertaken by volunteer trainees under the watchful eye of professional archaeologists **Lachlan and Lynne McKeggie** has enabled the debris from centuries of decay to be removed from the internal floors. This has been carefully sifted to ensure that no broken fragments of wall

monuments (or other significant items from within the nave and chancel) are lost. Tiny treasures found so far include beautiful pins, a thimble and some coins – pictures and story in our next newsletter!



During the cold winter months the project will move into its penultimate phase, focusing on **visitor access and interpretation** of the buildings and the stones and monuments displayed within.



November 5th sees an exciting free training day for **Highlands of Scotland Tour Guides** and all others interested in sharing the stories of Kirkmichael, Old Cullicudden and Resolis in general with a wider audience, notably cruise passengers. A few places are still available so if you would like to attend, please contact Verity. Our exhibition of outstanding **Kirkmichael Creative work** on **November 12th** at the **Cromarty Community Market** in the Victoria Hall (11am – 2pm, great stalls and soup lunch available) provides our last large public event for 2016.

During October we took part in **Highland Archaeology Festival**, gave talks at **Highland Council** and **Inverness Museum and Art Gallery**, secured final formal consent from **Historic Environment Scotland** for the **display of at-risk stones within Kirkmichael**, held **training workshops** in **lime mortar work, building conservation** and **stone carving** and held a **Mediaeval Menu Activity Day** with pupils, staff and parents at **Cromarty Primary School** which involved making and eating **60 beremeal bannocks with butter and honeycomb**. Our special **Kirkmichael Bannock recipe** will be available online next year as part of our schools resources.



Please contact Verity for more details on verity@interpretaction.com, or call her on 01381 620575 .

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