

IONAD EACHDRAIDH AN ROIS MHUILICH



ROSS OF MULL HISTORICAL CENTRE NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2017

Sùil Air Àird Chiabhaig - Focus on Ardchiavaig

Earlier in the year we announced:

As part of Scotland's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, the Ross of Mull Historical Centre (ROMHC) was delighted to receive an award of £9200

from Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). An exciting project, Focus on Ardchiavaig, aims to bring to life the heritage of the now deserted rural township of Ardchiavaig on the Isle of Mull. The HLF grant will be used to carry out an archaeological survey and make a digital documentary of the process.

The combined results of the survey, the study of the natural environment, ROMHC archives and reminiscences by descendants of Ardchiavaig families will provide more detailed information on the past. Digital recording and editing of the survey will create a range of materials and formats to exhibit at the Historical Centre. Many of these activities will be used for training our archivists and young people in the application of digital recording and presentation. A series of events will be open to all members of the local community and visitors. The National Trust for Scotland's Ranger Service will conduct three guided walks over the area, discussing the geology, flora and fauna. A local Gaelic scholar will assist us to investigate and interpret the place-names which describe the topography and activities carried out there. Volunteers from the Historical Centre will coordinate and manage the activities and events throughout the project, culminating in a final exhibition. **(Now read on...)**



In August we were able to give this update:

Ardchiavaig lives!

In the last few months this beautiful but apparently empty corner of Mull, near Uisken on the Ross, has become better known to many people. Though the houses of the township have long been ruined, family names and connections are remembered, and – as a series of walks this summer showed – flora and fauna flourish there. Local people and visitors to the island enjoyed three guided walks, in June, July and August, at Ardchiavaig with Ranger Emily Wilkins and ecologist Sue Clare. The first focused on Gaelic Place names, with the help of Gaelic scholar Jane Brunton.

A walk-through archaeology survey by Dr Clare Ellis of Argyll Archaeology in July, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, has produced a detailed report, now being studied by volunteers at the Ross of Mull Historical Centre, which commissioned it.

During the week she gave on-site training in surveying techniques. Alasdair Satchel, a professional film-maker from north Mull, recorded the events on film and ran a workshop aimed at aspiring young film-makers. The film he has now produced includes lively interviews and drone footage.

<https://youtu.be/Kzslgvtv5XA>



Welcoming back

Tom Devine (Professor Emeritus Sir Thomas M Devine) – coming to Bunessan Hall

on **Tuesday 17 October at 7.30 pm** to speak on

Poetry of the Clearances – context and comment

Poems read by Eleanor MacDougall.

Refreshments. Suggested donations for the Ross of Mull Historical Centre: £5 (concessions £3)

.....

SANDY MACCALLUM

A sad loss to the Centre and the Community was the death of Sandy MacCallum this August. A Director for many years and organiser of the popular annual Duck Race, he was also a good friend of the Centre.

A charity registered in Scotland No SC 030873 Co.Reg, No SC213395

ROMHC 'Calendar' for 2017: memorable dates

January 10	Site visit to Ardchiavaig
April 3	Open to public
April 16	Duck race (Easter Sunday)
June 20	Ardchiavaig Gaelic place-names walk
July 8	Yacht Race Meal and Dance (fundraiser)
July 9	Afternoon film training for YP
July 10-14	Ardchiavaig on-site activity
July 17	Ardchiavaig wild-life and plants walk
July 21-Aug 4	Gala (with RoMHC scarecrow)
August 2	Eco Day at RoMHC
August 4	Bunessan Show, with display
August 8	Ardchiavaig wild-life and plants walk
October 17	Poetry of the Clearances –Tom Devine
October 27	Season ends.
November 18	AGM

Winter opening by appointment

***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEXT SEASON –
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH IF INTERESTED***

IONAD EACHDRAIDH
an Rois Mhuilich



Ross of Mull
HISTORICAL CENTRE

**Ross of Mull
Historical Centre**
Millbrae Cottage, Bunessan

AGM
Saturday

18th November, 2017
at 2.00pm

Followed by an opportunity to learn more about the RoMHC Heritage Lottery funded project 'Focus on Ardchiavaig: Sùil air Àird Chiabhaig', and presentation of prizes for the young people's film competition.

ALL WELCOME

Millbrae Cottage, Bunessan, Eilean Mhuile,
ARGYLL, PA67 6DG 01681 700 659
enquiries@romhc.org.uk

