



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2017**

# Chairman's Statement

Our aim, way back in 2016, was to make a real statement of our project's intent in 2017. This year, after all, signalled the Scottish Government's 'Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology', a year of special events and projects celebrating Scotland's fascinating past.

We wanted to make a real show of who we are and what we are capable of doing, and I think we have done just that.

Looking back at the past year, I am very pleased with the progress being made. We've organised a number of well-attended and successful events and projects, our finances look healthy, and the team are more organised and enthusiastic than ever. You can read all about this in what I hope is an informative annual report!

At the heart of our events was a celebration of Caithness' rich heritage and archaeological landscape. However, we were really eager to create events which would involve the community – we cannot hope to inspire tourists from across the world to visit here, without having at least an awareness of our own past.

Once that awareness has been developed, we can create an understanding. And from that understanding, we can begin to cultivate a sense of appreciation, pride, even enjoyment in our historic environment, and the brochs of Caithness.

It would also be interesting to note what those looking from the outside in thought of Caithness - If they've even heard of the place, first of all – what do they think? Usually they mention Dounreay - but I recall speaking to a family from the Channel Islands who remarked *"Oh Caithness – the place where they make Caithness Glass...?"*

I withered. Is that what people think? Defunct businesses or soon-to-be-closed-down industries?

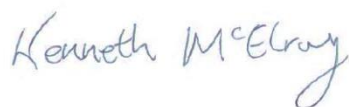
I hope that these associations and conceptions of Caithness will soon change. I believe that Caithness is a bustling, vibrant place with some hugely interesting and beneficial developments in terms of industry – just look at what's happening in Wick with the new offshore windfarms - cutting-edge technology, and Caithness is at the forefront of it all.

Similarly, I believe that the heritage and archaeology of Caithness can be used to stimulate growth and success. There are already other groups out there doing sterling work – Dunbeath Heritage, Castlehill Heritage Centre, Caithness Horizons, Thurso Heritage Society and Wick Heritage Society, Yarrows Heritage Trust – and together, we can make Caithness an exciting place to visit and live.

From our perspective there is still much to be done, and I hope you will continue to join us on our journey. I cannot thank you enough for your support, you are making a huge difference to not only our organisation, but Caithness too.

From all of us at CBP HQ, have a wonderful festive season and all the best for 2018.

Warmest regards,



Kenneth McElroy  
Chairman  
Caithness Broch Project

# The Team

I'd like to introduce a few new members to Caithness Broch Project, as well as say goodbye to two.

Earlier this year Karl Rosie stepped down from his position as Membership Secretary, as he was soon to become a lot busier with councillor duties – congratulations Councillor Karl Rosie, by the way!

He was, however, replaced by local designer Lisa Poulsen, whom some of you may know as the friendly face behind Inspired by Caithness. Lisa has handled the role fantastically well and I would like to thank her for making sure new members receive their packs, and for helping to keep the project on track.

I was also sad to see Jill Smith, our treasurer, step down. Jill has a wealth of experience in finance and I really could not have asked much more from her – but we cannot thank her enough for her assistance in keeping us financially in-check. Or is that in-cheque? (Sorry).

As some of you may know, finding someone to fill the treasurer role can be a difficult task, and so only very recently have we managed to find a suitable replacement: so, please say hello to Sarah Cowe, business lecturer at University of the Highlands and Islands North Highland College, who has agreed to take on the role. Thank you and welcome to the team, Sarah!

We were also joined by young IT whizkidd Michael Matheson, who has not only been developing our new website throughout 2016, but has also been helping to process all our many sales orders – our broch brooches, tees and totes have all been packed and sent off by Michael. A busy 2017 for him, and we thank him for his efforts.

We were also joined by two new young faces: Alexander Macphail, a 6<sup>th</sup> year student at Wick High School, and Frances Grant, a 6<sup>th</sup> year student at Thurso High School. Alexander and Frances are two keen young historians, who have helped us out with a number of events and projects: Alexander has taken over from Alex Paul as Lifetime Membership Secretary (I should point out that Alex is still a member of the CBP Committee while she studies Heritage Tourism at Stirling University – a subject very much in tune with the Broch Project!), and Frances, one of our newest recruits, who has been on hand to help at events such as 'Brochtoberfest', which I shall discuss later. I hope they will find their time with CBP enjoyable and beneficial!



*Left to Right: Frances Grant, Alexander Macphail, Lisa Poulsen, Sarah Cowe, Michael Matheson*

And, as much as I hope the team benefit from their experiences with Caithness Broch Project, I hope YOU, the fantastic supporters of Caithness Broch Project, are enjoying what we are doing. If you were not able to join us on our events this year, then I hope you will enjoy the short summaries of some of our exciting projects and activities we organised throughout 2017, which you will find in this report.

# The Caithness Broch Project in Numbers!

**Caithness Broch Project Members: 412**

**Yearly Members: 323**

**Lifetime Members: 89**

**Business Sponsors: 14**

**Facebook Followers: 9,367**

**Twitter Followers: 2,655**

**Instagram Followers: 1,233**

**Talks Given: 42 (ish)**

**Children's Events Organised: 27**

**Emails Sent: 2,981**

**Brocholates Eaten by Iain: Too many**

**'Brochtee' Photo Submissions: 87**

*Photos taken in **19** different countries – England, Scotland, Ireland, Iceland, France, Spain, USA, Australia, Germany, USA, Malta, China, Zambia, Cambodia, Kenya, Italy, India, Croatia and Slovenia!*

*Remember you can get your own CBP Brochtee from Caithness Horizons, Coo's Tail Gallery and Forse of Nature in Caithness; alternatively, if you don't live locally, you can purchase yours from **[www.thebrochproject.co.uk/shop](http://www.thebrochproject.co.uk/shop)** - all proceeds go to Caithness Broch Project!*

*Send in your photograph to **[caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com](mailto:caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com)** or via any of our social media platforms, and we'll share it with the world*

**Visitors to the Caithness Broch Exhibition: 4,168**

**Bricks used in Lego Broch: Around 10,000**

**Attendees to Brochtoberfest: 40**

**Attendees for Westerdale Wander: 18**

**Attendees for Between the Brochs: Around 45 over 4 days**

**Attendees for Caithness Broch Festival: Around 60 over 8 days**



**REGISTERED CHARITY: SC046307**

# 2017 Round-Up:

## January – April



**19 days into 2017**, we made a trip across to BBC Radio Orkney to contribute to a fantastic programme for BBC Radio Shetland about the brochs of Scotland, featuring a number of notable archaeologists and academic speakers.

If you wish to listen to the excellent programme, then search for the below website:

<https://soundcloud.com/bbcradioshetland/a-history-of-shetland-the-story-of-brochs-wednesday-1st-february-2017>

In **March** we organised a meeting between several heritage and tourism bodies based in Caithness – and further afield - from Highland Council's Historic Environment Record team, to Mary Ann's Cottage, Venture North, Historic Environment Scotland's "Scotland's Urban Past" and the newly-established John O'Groats Trail.

Our aim was to understand what everyone was doing, and how we might best work together and complement one another's events and projects.

Mutual understanding and co-operation is very important in progressing the heritage and tourism of Caithness, and this is one way in which we can improve relationships or even create them!



From **April** and throughout 2016, our broch design was expounded by students of Edinburgh University's Architecture and Landscape Architecture Department, as they looked to understand and 'test' our own broch design.

Their designs and tests would form part of a module by Dr. Dimitris Theodossopolous, with whom we have worked closely to better develop our broch structure.





Orcadian archaeologist Chris Gee carved two stone balls (also known as petrospheres) for us in **April**; these were used to great effect, especially at the various childrens' events we participated in and organised.

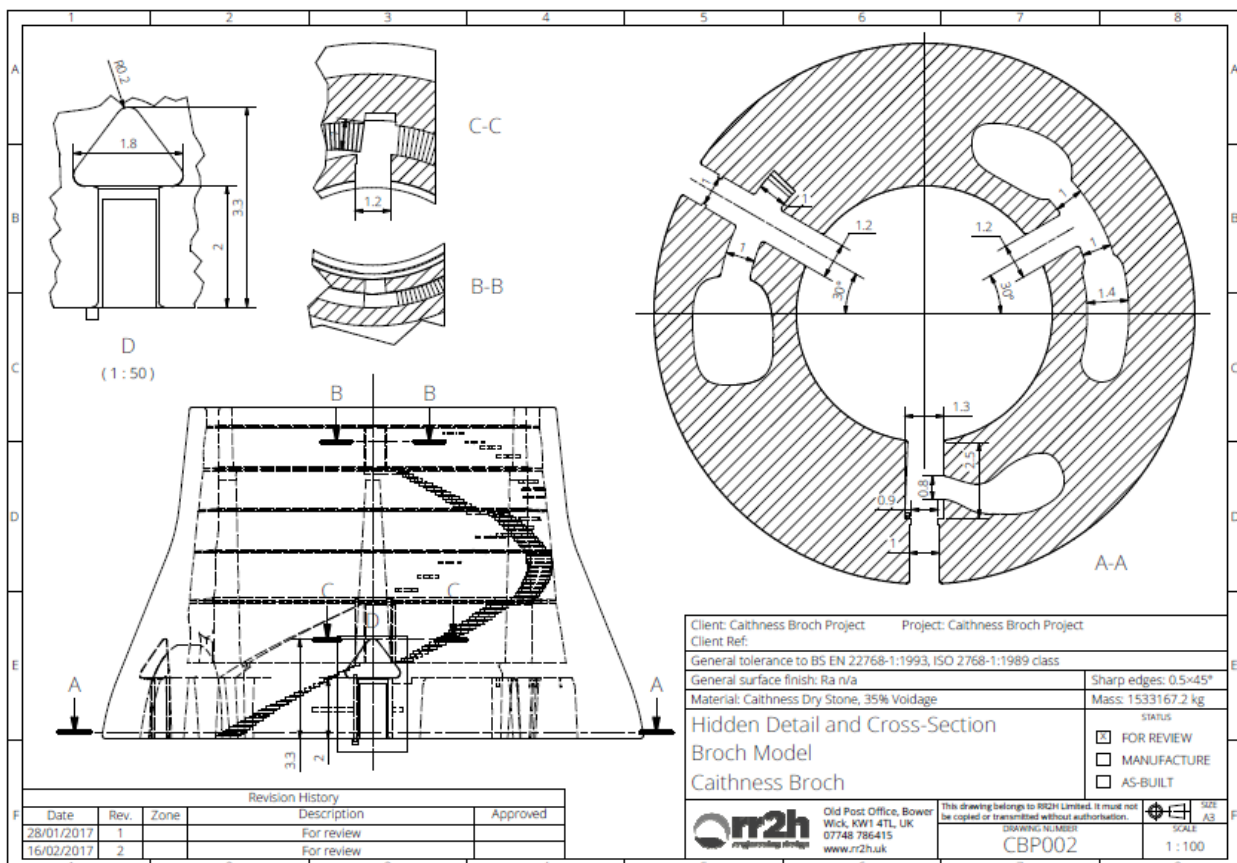
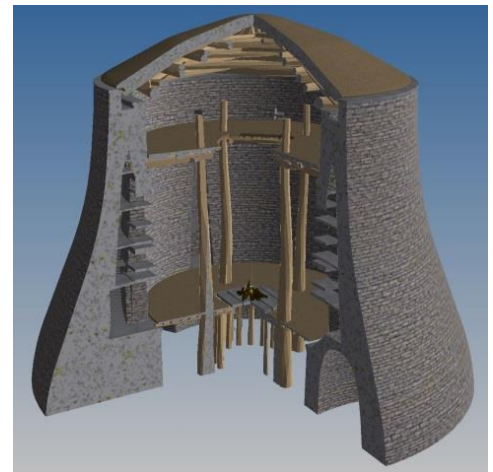
A blog on how he made these can be found at the below URL:

<http://www.thebrochproject.co.uk/single-post/2017/04/04/Petrospheres>

We also revealed the early designs of our broch to the public in **April**.

Robin Herrick of RR2H was able to take Iain Maclean's initial broch sketches and turn them into fully realised visions – not only in plan and section, but in glorious 3D too!

Please note that the images shown here are very much preliminary examples and we fully expect to make several changes and alterations as we continue to fine-tune our broch. Robin has also produced a detailed report on various aspects of the design and construction of the broch. If you would like to read more on this, please just email us at [caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com](mailto:caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com) . Alternatively we can post a copy out to you too, if you wish.



# May - Our First Ever 'Proper' Archaeological Event!

In May we were able to organise our first ever archaeological event! Working alongside Scotland's Coastal Heritage



at Risk Programme, (SCHARP) we ran 'Between the Brochs' – a community-based archaeological walk-over survey along a stretch of Caithness coast, between the brochs of Skirza and Nybster. SCHARP's mission is to record, investigate and in some cases rescue or protect sites across Scotland before they are lost to the sea. So we invited them to Caithness to admire our own fantastic coastal heritage, and help get the local community involved.

Around 50 volunteers – from across Scotland! - joined us across 4 days of fairly decent weather and intriguing archaeology, investigating sites including mills, crofts, fishing huts, carved stones, fossils, harbours, monuments, tangs, kilns, forts, tank traps, Viking settlements, castles and of course, our favourite, brochs!

SCHARP were tremendously knowledgeable and helpful as they helped discuss the ways of recording our coastal heritage – which is at the mercy of our sometimes inclement weather, and, with that, at risk of erosion.



Of particular interest was the discovery of a sculptured stone, most likely by the farmer / artist / sculptor John Nicolson, who accompanied famous (or infamous!) antiquarian Sir Frances Tress Barry on his numerous broch excavations. The style is certainly in tune with other examples of Nicolson's work, which can be found at sites across Caithness, including Canisbay Churchyard, Nybster and the statue of J.T. Calder in Wick.

The event was a great success and we hope to see SCHARP in Caithness again soon.

For more details on the event, visit [www.thebrochproject.co.uk](http://www.thebrochproject.co.uk) and select the 'Blogs' section and read our 'Scoping the Coast with SCAPE' blogs.



# May - Ousdale Broch



Also in **May** Iain Maclean spoke with the BBC Radio Scotland's 'Out of Doors' team down at Ousdale Broch, discussing our plans to help 'save' this broch.

If you follow our newsletters or social media posts then you'll know Ousdale Broch is one of our prime concerns – it is undoubtedly one of Caithness' finest brochs, but has recently suffered a fair amount of collapse and damage.

All of this started in 2016 when we discovered that the broch had fallen into

disrepair. We spoke with Historic Environment Scotland who agreed to fund an 'initial assessment'; carried out by Andrew Mennie of Fairhurst Architects (if anyone would like a copy of this, please email [caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com](mailto:caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com))

The assessment was fairly positive about the condition of broch, and, after inviting Archaeology Scotland's Rebecca and Phil (and Phil's dog!) down to the broch to assess the damage again, we spoke with Historic Environment Scotland about the next steps.

They advised to tender for a 'prioritised scheme of works' – that is, a detailed plan as to how the broch will be consolidated and conserved, and how much it should cost. After tendering to two companies, we wish to work alongside Addison Architects.



I am pleased to announce that HES were very recently (so recently, in fact, that I had to re-write this paragraph to announce the good news!) able to provide us with funding to go towards this report. We expect Krysna Pystasz of Addison Architects to undertake the work early 2018, and we will keep you up to speed with what happens!



*"Where's the 'woof' gone?" (sorry, again.)*



## June – Progress with the Caithness Broch Trail

In June, after working with local artist Kerrie Moncur, we were able to unveil our new Caithness Broch Trail leaflets, featuring a map of all the (known) brochs of Caithness, and features on Achvarasdal, Keiss and Thing's Va Broch.

If you would like a copy, please email [caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com](mailto:caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com) and we'll get one sent out to you. They are available throughout most of Caithness, Orkney and the Highlands too, after a couple of jollies by Iain and Kenneth.

And, earlier in August, we were able to install our first stone – with the help of a few hardy volunteers (close friends and members of the Iain's Community Service Team). The next stones should be installed within the next couple of weeks. We apologise for the time it has taken to get round to this part of the project!

The stones feature exclusive artwork by renowned archaeological illustrator Alan Braby as well as art by Caithness Horizons' 'Peter's Pals' Youth Group! Have you visited yet?



*Achvarasdal Stone now in place*



*The panels feature artwork by Alan Braby*



# June – Business Case and Feasibility Study

Last year we were awarded £10,000 from Big Lottery Fund Scotland and £2,000 from Highland Council towards the creation of a business case and feasibility study for our 'ultimate aim', the construction of a replica broch. This piece of work was undertaken by Alan Jones Associates, and, in June, this body of work was completed.

This was an important step in realising our vision, and understanding the mechanics of how the broch would fare as a business. Would it work? Is this something worth investing in? Good news – the report states that our broch would be a sustainable venture!

One of the most important aspects of this project was understanding where we should build the broch. This was, for us and for many others, the burning question!

We were offered 5 sites, all along the east coast of Caithness, and by the 'North Coast 500' route. After many discussions we decided on a site at John O'Groats, beside to the John O'Groats Mill.

There are a number of reasons as to why we have chosen this site – it has beautiful sweeping views across the Pentland Firth; ease of access and development potential, and perhaps most importantly, proximity to the NC500 and the major tourist landmark of John O'Groats would make the venture not only sustainable, but successful. This was a key requirement from Heritage Lottery Fund (whom we hope would fund our venture) – the proposition should be sustainable above all else.

We have tried to strike a balance between authenticity and sustainability, however - there is archaeological evidence for brochs being built in this area, too – with a possible broch under Canisbay Church, and at Duncansby Head.

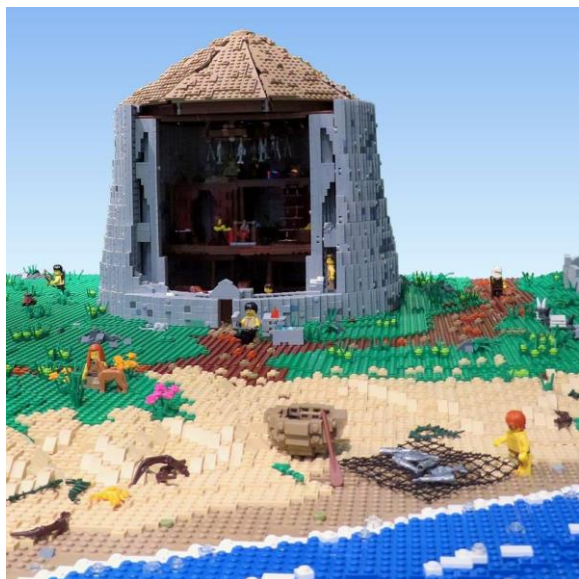
Perhaps it's time for a new broch to be built here too!

Below is a visualisation by Martin Kelly, a local visual artist, of how our broch might look in the landscape, at our chosen location.



# July – The Lego Broch Exhibition

Arguably our most exciting project came to fruition in July – the Brick to the Past Lego Broch!



In a departure from most other funding applications, we were, in 2016, rather quickly and easily able to get funding from Santander UK's 'Discovery Grant' towards the creation of a Lego Broch – and so we should really thank Santander for a pain-free experience from start to finish.

The Broch was built by Dan Harris and James Pegrum of 'Brick to the Past', a small company who specialise in making epic Lego sets, inspired by historical events – they've built sections of Hadrian's Wall, castles, even Medieval towns – but the broch would be their biggest challenge yet.

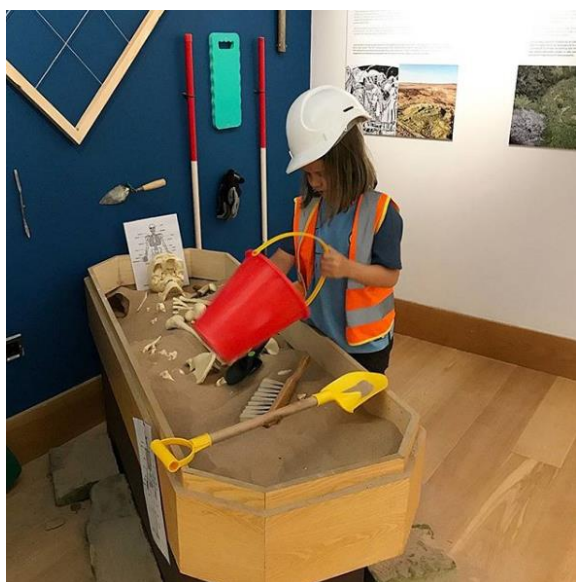
Obviously, building round things using square things is quite difficult, but Dan (who built the broch structure) managed to find a way, employing a technique called SNOT – 'studs not on top' - which we won't try and explain here!

Dan even helped to make us a wee 'minibroch' (right) for folks at home to have a go at themselves – instructions can be found on the below link:

<https://digventures.com/2016/11/how-to-make-a-mini-iron-age-broch-out-of-lego/>

The broch was delivered intact (one Lego man fell out during the journey) and on time, so special thanks, though, to Dan and James of Brick to the Past for their amazing Lego Broch construction.

Our aim was to use the broch as a way to introduce brochs to children (and us big kids too...) with schools in the area, as well as create a broch exhibition to introduce the general public to the 'Home of the Broch'.



Though we lacked in broch 'finds' – something we hope to remedy in the coming years – we were still able to create an engaging and interesting exhibition, featuring an extremely popular 'Iron Age Burial'! The exhibition itself was a real group effort, and I'd like to thank Iain Maclean, Lisa Poulsen and Joanne Howdle especially for their energies and efforts in bringing it all together. Of course we would also like to thank Tamara Hicks for her amazing broch map mural!

Working closely with Caithness Horizons, we were able to combine the two, and have some fantastic outreach sessions too. Funding from the Spirit of Caithness – A Fourteen Community, administered by Foundation Scotland and the Baillie Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund enabled specialists from the School of Ancient Crafts and ImmersiveMinds to travel to Caithness to work with primary schools from across the



county. The funding enabled children to participate in hands-on workshops where they learnt about Caithness' rich archaeological heritage, and discovered more about the science, technology and engineering associated with the construction of the Iron Age brochs of Caithness.

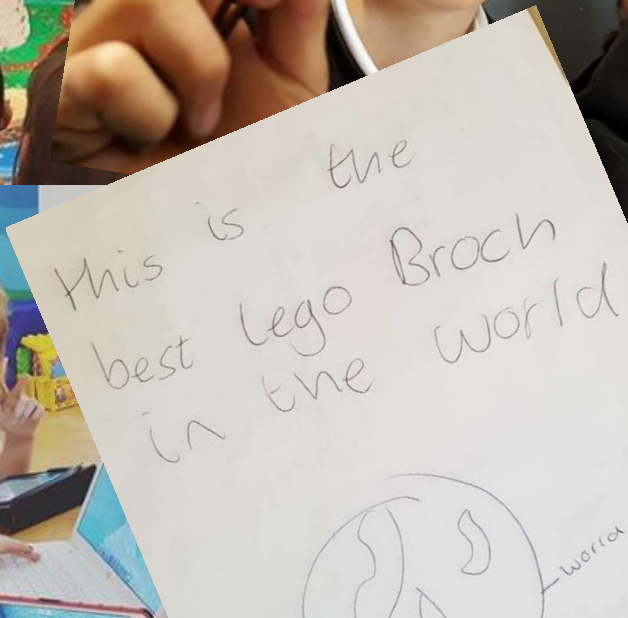
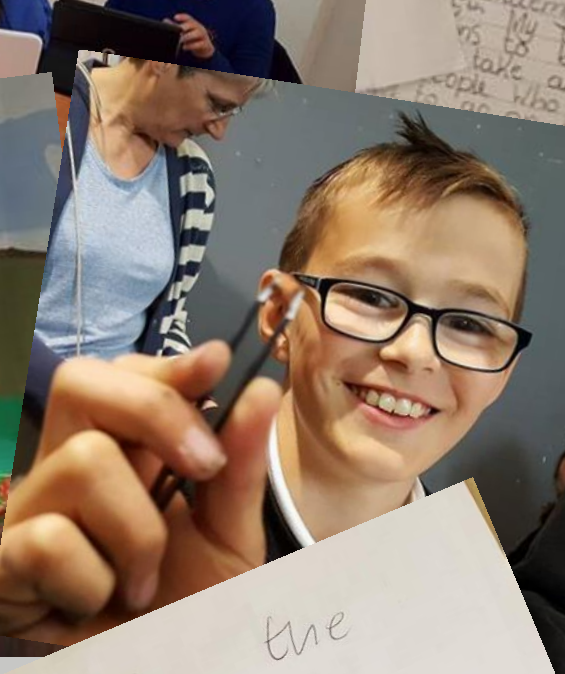
Katy Firth, from the School of Ancient Crafts was on hand to introduce the world of archaeology in a fun and engaging way - with activities associated with Iron Age life ranging from grinding enough grain to feed a family, analysis of the different types of pollen found in brochs and even having a go at building broch roofs from the simple materials that would have been available to the children's Iron Age ancestors.

Meanwhile, we were able to show children the 10,000-piece Lego broch, before working with ImmersiveMinds to get the children to build a digital broch on laptops - funded by the Spirit of Caithness and the Dounreay Communities Fund - using Minecraft, a popular digital building game.

In all, we talked to over 650 pupils about brochs, and there were over 4,000 visitors to the Broch Exhibition.





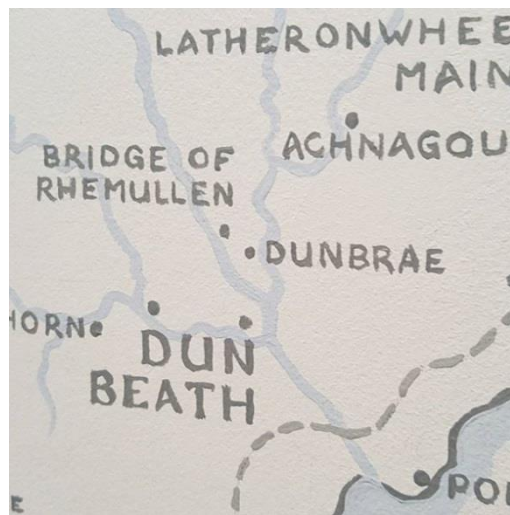




# Tamara Hicks and Her Mural of Caithness Brochs



Local artist Tamara Hick's wonderful map was carefully researched and then drawn out by hand at the Broch Exhibition – a sterling effort, and a beautiful, unique piece of work was created. We hope to make this image available online soon, as well as other exciting plans surrounding this bit of artwork.





# August – The Caithness Broch Festival

In August we commenced with the Caithness Broch Festival, a series of archaeological investigations at two broch sites in Caithness – Bruan Broch, just south of Whaligoe; and Thing's Va Broch, a little west of Thurso.



*Bruan Broch*



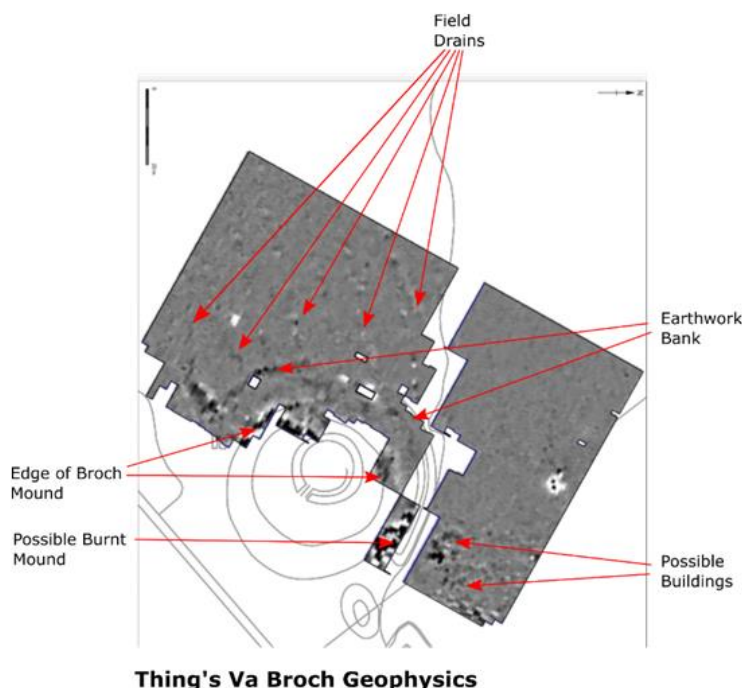
*Thing's Va Broch*

These brochs were chosen so that the festival had a 'pan-Caithness' feel, and would allow different part of the community to get involved; but also given their position in the funding landscape. Both fell under two windfarm funds, namely Baillie Community Wind Farm Fund and the Tannach and Camster Windfarm Fund. Together, and with further funding from Caithness North Sutherland Fund (NDA) we were able to put together a number of events and activities alongside the University of the Highlands and Islands Archaeological Institute, which would both investigate the archaeological landscapes of these brochs, as well as provide the community with the opportunity to get involved with archaeological processes. We'd very much like to thank the volunteers who attended, but especially James Swanson, Margaret Maclean, Alan Macdonald and Derek Oag for their co-operation in letting us carry out the work on their land, and to the legend that is Ali Simpson for helping us make direction signs!

The first set of events was geophysics at Bruan and Thing's Va, the summaries of which can be found below here. If you would like to see the full report, please drop us a line at [caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com](mailto:caithnessbrochproject@gmail.com)

## Thing's Va

*A fluxgate gradiometer survey and an earth resistance survey were carried out on the 17th and 18th of August 2017 at Thing's Va, on land c. 1.3km to the south of the A836 road and c. 2km west of Thurso (see Figure 1). The survey formed part of the Caithness Broch Festival Archaeology Programme, which aims to provide the opportunity for the local community and visitors to the county to engage with their local archaeology, whilst conducting significant archaeological research. The results of the geophysical survey provide a basis for subsequent archaeological fieldwalking and test-pitting. The main focus of this survey was an area around the broch, covering both the scheduled area and beyond. It was hoped that any areas of archaeological interest outwith the*

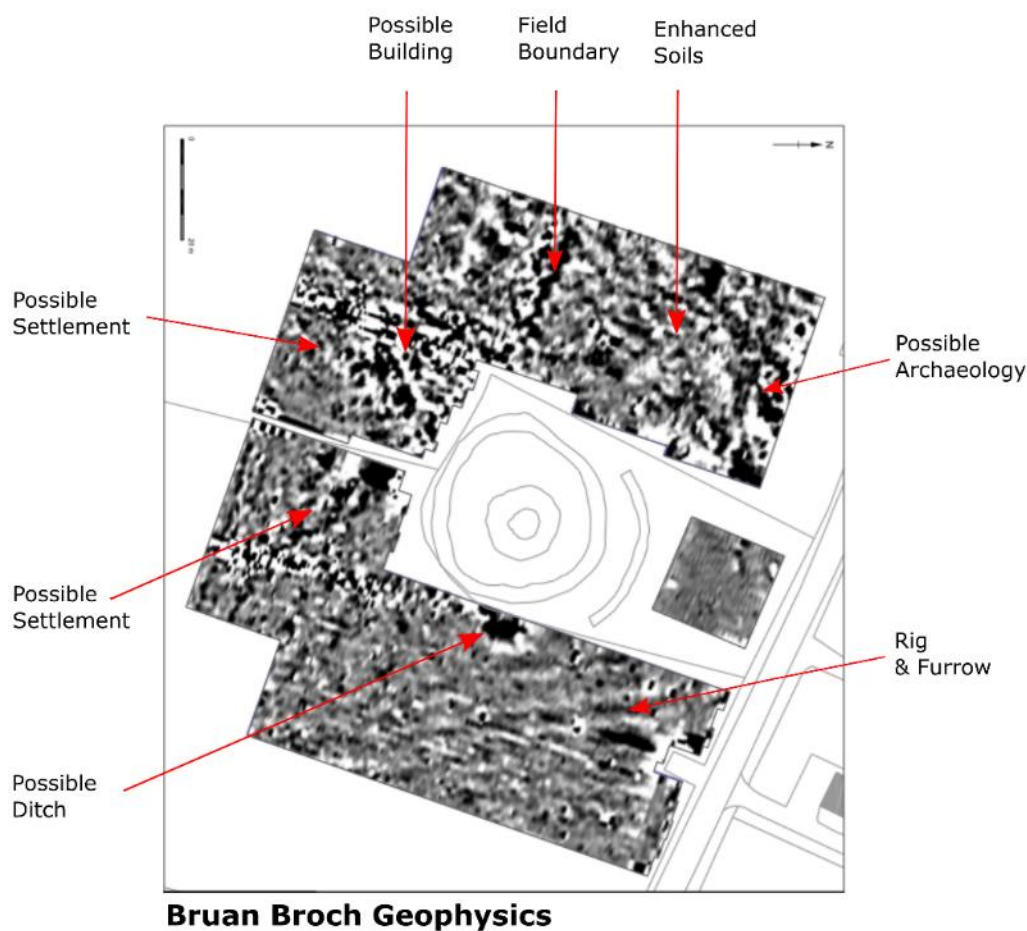


**Thing's Va Broch Geophysics**

*Scheduled Area would provide a target for future trial trenching and field-walking.*

*At Thing's Va, c. 1ha of gradiometer survey was carried out around the broch, with subsequent targeted earth resistance survey over areas of potential archaeological interest. A further small area of magnetometry survey was carried out over a cairn in a field to the southeast of the broch. The field was under crop at the time, with the cairn uncultivated. Within the Scheduled Area of the broch, the magnetometry survey showed the line of the extant bank as well as some indication of another extant earthwork on its southwest side. An area of strong response was visible on the northeast side, perhaps indicative of a burnt mound. Two possible structures were identified to the northeast of the broch. The targeted earth resistance survey focused on an area to the northeast of the broch. The results echoed those from the magnetometer survey in showing the presence of the possible burnt mound, and suggestions of other possible structural remains in the east of the survey area. The results of gradiometer survey carried out over the nearby cairn suggests that this is likely to be a settlement site or a possible burnt mound.*

## Bruan Broch



*A fluxgate gradiometer survey and an earth resistance survey were carried out on the 15th and 16th of August 2017 at Bruan, on land located to the south of the A99 road, north of Lybster, Caithness. The survey formed part of the Caithness Broch Festival Archaeology Programme, which aims to provide the opportunity for the local community and visitors to the county to engage with their local archaeology, whilst conducting significant archaeological research. The results of the geophysical survey provide a basis for subsequent archaeological fieldwalking and test-pitting.*

*The main focus of this survey was an area around the broch, covering both the*

*Scheduled Area and beyond. It was hoped that any areas of archaeological interest outwith the Scheduled Area would provide a target for future trial-trenching and field-walking.*

*At Bruan c. 1ha of magnetometry survey was carried out around the broch, with subsequent targeted earth resistance survey over areas of potential archaeological interest. The magnetometry survey revealed the presence of several areas of archaeological interest, in particular possible settlement and buildings to the south of the broch. Several other possible structures were identified adjacent to this, which may be related. An area of increased magnetic response was revealed across the west area of the survey, while a cluster of features of possible archaeological origin were located c. 20m south of the A99 road. In the east of the survey area, the results showed*



*less general enhancement, although a large anomaly may relate to the ditch around the broch. Rig and furrow cultivation remains were apparent here.*

*The targeted earth resistance survey results appear to correlate with the magnetic survey showing the presence of a possible structure to the south of the broch. The results have provided a sense of the landscape immediately around the broch and a series of targets for trial-trenching.*

## Test Pitting

The next stage of the festival took place between the 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> of October at Bruan and Thing's Va - and while we're waiting for the official results (spoiler alert: we didn't find anything particularly interesting!) - here are a few photos from the Bruan test pitting.





# Everybody's Talking...

Throughout 2017 we provided several talks across Caithness and Scotland. In April we made the journey to Anstruther, 270 miles away, to provide a talk for Anstruther Rotary Club. In November Iain provided a talk for Wick Girl Guides whilst on the same day Kenneth provided a talk in Mull for Mull Archaeology and History Society and Mull Museum – two talks at the same time, 225 miles apart! In July, Kenneth and Iain spoke to an Icelandic tour group, our most international talk to date, whilst in August Kenneth spoke to several groups in a day – children from a number of schools, before chatting to the ladies of West Church - we are delighted to speak to people of all ages and interests, to groups large and small.





# Brochtober!



We decided to go out with a flourish and organise a number of events (including the 'Caithness Broch Festival' excavations) in October, culminating in our joint venture with Caithness Horizons and Orkney Archaeology Society – 'Brochtoberfest'! Our month of activities kicked off with a Highland Council Ranger-guided walk across Westerdale, which features surely one of the highest concentrations of brochs anywhere in Scotland. The day, though a little 'drizzly' was well-attended and very enjoyable. So thank you very much to Highland Council Ranger Paul Castle for leading the group.

*Left: the group at Cairn Merk*

Following on from last year's 'Brochtoberfest' in Orkney, we decided to cap off a fantastic year by organising a day of academic and archaeological guest speakers, hailing from all over Scotland – and even one from Bradford – to talk about brochs at Caithness Horizons, on the 21<sup>st</sup> October.



Kicking off the day was Iain Maclean and Robin Herrick, who discussed our broch design in great detail. This was followed by Martin Carruthers from Orkney Archaeological Institute, who revealed his discoveries at 'The Cairns' Broch in South Ronaldsay, Orkney, a site he has been investigating for the past ten years. Another 'Orcadian', Alexandra Sanmark, from UHI's Centre for Nordic Studies, talked about brochs as 'thing' sites – a subject of great interest after our investigations at Thing's Va, which in all probability is a Norse Parliament. Brochs, Crannogs and Mounds were the subject of Michael Stratigos'

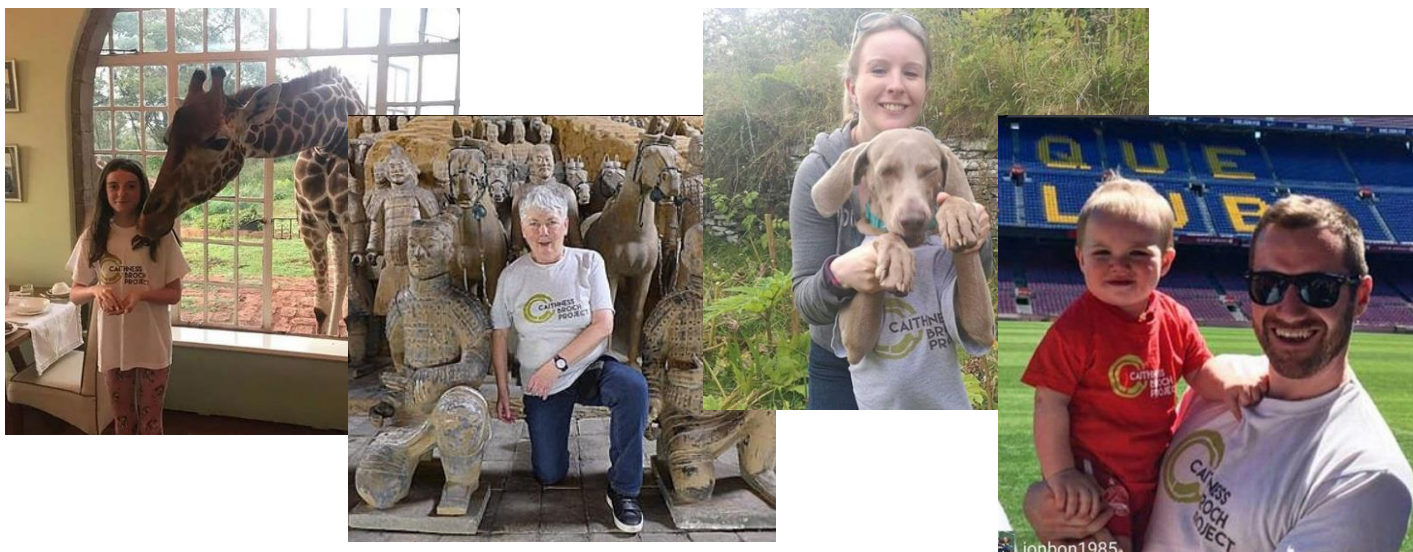
discussion, as he provided a fascinating discourse into his 'Living on Water' project, run between the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre and the Scottish Crannog Centre. It's good to shake things up a little bit every once in a while, so we allowed a little chat about crannogs...

After lunch – paid for by the very generous Orkney Archaeology Society - we heard from Dan Harris, the creator of our Lego Broch, on how he went about creating the Lego Broch – a beguiling talk as always! Samantha Dennis from Shetland Amenity Trust and the Old Scatness Broch Project brought in some fancy finds from her cataloguing project, allowing attendees to feel and touch real-life Iron Age objects, which went down very well indeed. Following on from this we heard from another Shetland-based archaeologist, Li Sou, from the University of Bradford. Li was tasked with documenting Mousa – the best preserved broch in Scotland – using photogrammetry and 3D visualisations. Finally, Dave McBain, a volunteer from the epic AOC Archaeology and Historic Assynt-developed Clachtoll Broch Project, spoke with great enthusiasm about the utterly incredible work being undertaken on the west side of the North Highlands, at Clachtoll. A packed house – sold out, in fact – and some intriguing talks. A great day for everyone involved!



## CBP Merchandise

Remember you can help support Caithness Broch Project by buying a CBP tshirt (or totebag!) from Caithness Horizons, Coo's Tail Gallery or Forse of Nature! Our 'Brochtee' have been worn around the world too – send your submissions into us so we can share them with the world on our social media. What country will we tick off next?



We were also pleased to announce a wee collaboration with Gina Ramsay, an Orkney-based designer, who designed a series of 'broch brooches' for us to sell. These have sold fantastically well, and we only have around 50 left, at time of writing.

Look out for some more Gina Ramsay x Caithness Broch Project collaborations in the future...!



Remember you can buy all of the above merchandise from  
**[www.thebrochproject.co.uk/shop](http://www.thebrochproject.co.uk/shop)**

**All proceeds to Caithness Broch Project!**



## Local Business Support

We simply wouldn't get very far without support from the local community. And that includes local businesses who have been so helpful and supportive to our cause.

Special thanks must go to **JA Mackays** and **Coo's Tail Gallery**, who stock our various items at no profit to themselves and at no cost to us! Remember you can buy mugs and Caithness Chocolate Brocholates from J.A. Mackays, and from the Coo's Tail you can purchase our tees, totes and broch brooches.



Additionally, we'd like to especially thank local crafter Kelly Munro of **Kelly Munro Jewellery** for her super kind venture earlier in the year. Kelly made an exclusive range of brooches with £15 from each pin going to us – a fabulous gesture! Kelly had this to say about her wee project:

*"I usually do my piece for charity each year through my jewellery and this year created 35 mini brooches inspired by the Caithness landscape. I have been following the broch project since the beginning and thought it was the perfect charity to donate to. It's aim to engage the public with archaeology and promote the history which Caithness holds is extremely important. The project was greatly received in nearly selling out of all the brooches (the remaining 4 are in the Coo's tail gallery in Thurso). Brooches were sent all over the UK, Ireland and one was even posted as far as Canada! I am delighted with the response and wish the broch project all the best with their future plans"*



**Left:** CBP member Lisa (left) presents Kelly with her very own tee! **Right:** Kelly's Broch Brooches

# Big Thanks to All Our Business Sponsors!

Y-Not Bar and Grill - £1000



GMR Henderson - £1000



The Park Hotel - £1000





**The Weigh Inn - £500**



**The Seaview Hotel - £350**



**Howden's Joinery - £250**

**Craigie Joinery - £250**

**Greendale Computer Services - £126**

**Coo's Tail Gallery - £100**

**Melvich Hotel - £100**

**Noss Head Cottage - £100**

**The Kiln Store - £100**

**The Caithness Collection - £100**

**Elizabeth's Fabrics - £78**

We would also like to thank **Rembrand Timber**, whose donation of materials and equipment allowed Iain to construct a bridge at Thing's Va, and **Pennyland House B&B**, who provided our Brochtoberfest speakers with complimentary accommodation!



**The bridge at Thing's Va**



**Pennyland B&B**

## Some nice words about our project!

*"A big thank you to Iain for coming along tonight. The girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves and would love if he would come back again sometime soon."*

*"Huge congrats to @TheBrochProject for all that you do in the name of brochs! Raising the profile of Caithness brochs."*

*"Great to see #creative, fun and engaging ways of exploring our ancestral #history. Great work @TheBrochProject"*

*"It has been a distinct pleasure watching the CBP going from what at first appeared to be some lads posting snaps of their days out to broch sites, to a formidable campaign with the amazing goal of recreating an actual broch in Caithness over the past few years. It is always a pleasure to see that there is still plenty of room for the dedicated 'amateur' in the field."*

*"The Caithness Broch project is a valuable initiative to improve the understanding of Caithness history and should prove a draw for tourists to the area."*

*"Whoever is in charge of this Twitter, you're my favourite person ever and I love you"*

*"The kids had a fantastic time - such a brilliant, fun and hands on way to discover their local history."*

*Keep up the great work guys it's going in the right direction with the outcome hopefully on the horizon.*

*"I love the enthusiasm of the Caithness Broch Project team - keep it up!"*

*"I think you guys are fantastic, love all your f/b posts. I'm learning all about my local area, amazing to know all this is on our doorstep. Keep up the good work."*

*"I love visiting brochs in all their various states and I think the Caithness Broch Project is a fantastic initiative."*

*"Good luck to you all. Fantastic work being undertaken."*

*"I lived in Caithness between 1988 and 1996, studying and researching the ancient landscape and was co-author of 'The Sculptured Stones of Caithness' published in 1998. We hoped there would be greater interest in the monuments of Caithness in the future to preserve and further understand the neglected historical remains for future generations. I am therefore delighted to hear of this initiative"*



# And Finally...

We were asked to give a wee poem by Historic Environment Scotland on #HeritageDay17. We hope you approve!

## An Ode to Scotland #HeritageDay17

Remote  
Historic  
Island  
Spaigie  
Viking  
Peerie  
Croft  
Filsket

Blue  
Grey  
Seas  
Coral-sinking Sun  
The standing stones whisper  
Stony stares  
Old scars

In Harris  
The bedrock breathes  
Soil skin spread thin. Atlas heaves  
Speed, bonny  
boat!  
Predator gull,  
sailing  
in the  
blue

A Caithness icon  
Once-proud monuments  
Now sheathed in heather  
We'd write a proper  
rhyming poem

But broch  
Only rhymes with

Loch.

Castle country  
Bishop's seat

Green hills  
and remote glens

Sun on sandstone  
Cold, but beautiful

I saw the finest minds of my generation  
Wide-eyed and blissed out  
Beside the slam tent

Mining, salt-panning  
lino and linen

Crime novels and

Gagarin Way.

Precipitous  
A spider-web city  
green-edged with  
a whiff of sea air

There once was a broch  
In Kirkintilloch  
Where a chieftain  
did sit down to dine  
He feasted on hough  
and fish from the loch  
Getting quietly sozzled on wine!  
Because I'm Abbey!  
Clap along, if you feel  
like a room without  
a roof...

OUTSTANDING  
ARCHAEOLOGY



HISTORIC  
ENVIRONMENT  
SCOTLAND

ARAINNEACHD  
EACHORRAIDHEIL  
ALBA

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Twitter: @thebrochproject

Instagram: @caithnessbrochproject



**REGISTERED CHARITY: SC046307**