



**THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY OF LONDON**  
INSTITUTED IN 1778 AND INCORPORATED BY ACT OF PARLIAMENT IN 1816  
REGISTERED AS A CHARITY (NO 244472) IN 1985

**KIL  
MAR  
TIN** MUSEUM

## **Funding the Education Room at Kilmartin Museum**

### **Highland Society of London 2019 Focus Charity Appeal**

<http://www.kilmartin.org/>

<http://highlandsocietyoflondon.org/>

#### **Kilmartin is one of the most important historical sites in the Highlands:**

- Kilmartin Glen is one of the world's most significant archaeological landscapes
- Sites include stone circles, standing stones and rock art about in the Glen
- There are thousands of year of history and nature to explore in the area
- For 20 years, Kilmartin Museum has been discovering, caring for and sharing stories of artefacts from this special place



#### **Highlights include historical monuments from 5,000BC to more recent times:**

- Dunadd – this rocky crag was first fortified around 2,400 years ago and in the 6th century AD become the citadel of the Kings of Dál Riata, the first Kings of Scotland
- Glebe Cairn – one of two cists found here contained an incomplete jet necklace and one of the finest pottery vessels of its time in Scotland, an Irish-style food vessel (the so-called “Beaker” pot)
- Achabreck – the group of carvings at this site are the largest of their type found in Europe; the most common motif on the surfaces is the cup and ring mark
- Temple Wood – a timber circle was originally erected here around 3,000BC, followed soon after by a stone circle, generally accepted to be a place of ceremony
- Ballymeanoch Standing Stones – this monument consists of two groups of stones in parallel lines, with cup and ring markings on two of the stones
- Dunchraigiag Cairn – a prehistoric burial cairn on a raised terrace that looks out over the surrounding area, which had been used for burials over a number of years

## **Kilmartin Musuem is about to embark on a major redevelopment:**

- Plans are well underway for the £6.7 million creation of an ambitious new Museum – over 95% of the funding has already been achieved, and building work is due to start later this year or early 2020
- The Musuem’s collection has grown and now includes artefacts from all corners of Argyll, but there currently is not the space to display all of the Musuem’s treasures
- These hidden treasures include the three earliest “Beaker” pots ever found in Britain, which speak of contact some 4,000 years ago between people living in Kilmartin Glen and those on the Continent
- The new Museum building will showcase these and other artefacts, focusing on the unique aspects of the area’s natural and cultural heritage
- In addition, the exhibition will explain why and how Dunadd became the first kingdom of the “Scotti” and how this influenced the development of Scotland as a nation



## **The Highland Society of London is proposing to fund a new Education Room:**

- Currently, educational visits present something of a logistical challenge for Kilmartin Musuem
- The Musuem simply don’t have a space large enough to accommodate a class of children, and often has to hold evening events and talks off site for this reason too
- As part of the redevelopment, the Museum will establish a “fit-for-purpose” learning space which can be used for all sorts of ventures, and it will also be available for other groups to hire
- As well as hosting school visits from Argyllshire and elsewhere, the Education Room will also deliver adult learning and training in archaeology, as well as supporting new research and excavation projects
- **The Highland Society of London aims to raise the £35,000 necessary to fund the new Education Room through its 2019 “focus charity” initiative**
- Providing support for educational facilities, designed to highlight the history of Scotland and positioned in the heart of the Highlands, is a clear demonstration of the Society’s charitable objectives

## **Unique opportunity with exposure that has the potential to grow exponentially:**

- Raising £35,000 will entitle the Society to name the facility “The Highland Society of London Education Room”, and for this title to be visible to all using the Education Room
- Whilst the Museum is already well attended, the redevelopment is likely to significantly increase visitor numbers over the next few years – and the Education Room will allow access for local schools
- Although unconfirmed, there is a strong possibility that Kilmartin Glen will shortly receive UNESCO World Heritage status – this is will drive visitor numbers up dramatically, particularly from abroad
- Positioning the Highland Society of London as a key partner in this redevelopment, particularly in relation to the Education Room, will generate significant awareness and kudos for the Society

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