

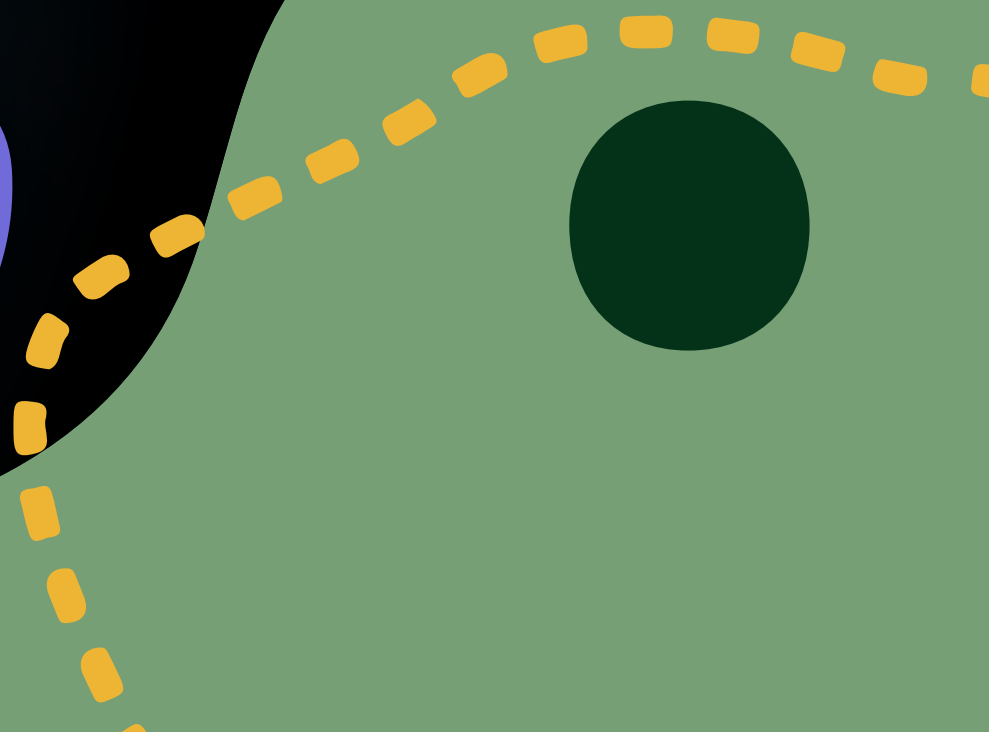
**CHARTS.**  
ARGYLL & ISLES



# **Annual Review**

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2022-23



# About

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The CHARTS network supports a sustainable future for the culture, heritage and arts sector in Argyll and Bute.

It was developed through the Creative Scotland and Argyll and Bute Council Place Partnership Programme, with additional European funding secured through the Leader programme. Following extensive consultation with the sector, CHARTS became a registered, membership-guided charity (SCIO) in 2019.

## We aim to:

- Foster collaborative working across the whole culture, heritage and arts sector
- Build the area's cultural profile
- Co-operatively grow our audiences and customers by marketing ourselves and others locally, nationally and internationally
- Co-design and deliver partnership projects that engage communities and visitors
- Advocate for the needs and benefits of cultural activity

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# Welcome

On behalf of the Board, I am delighted to introduce our Annual Review 2022–23. A huge amount of work has been delivered during this period that not only shows the impact of co-designed and collaborative working across the culture, heritage and arts sector in Argyll and Bute, but also the potential for future development.

CHARTS' services are increasingly in demand and meaningful engagement with our over 700 members can be challenging. We have continued to forge relationships with key regional and national bodies to reach and support members more effectively. These include the Scottish Government, liveArgyll, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, greenspace scotland, the Innovation School at the Glasgow School of Art, the Art Fund, and Foras na Gaeilge.

We constantly strive to support members and build regional connectivity through profile raising, mentoring and assisting businesses. This has been made possible in part thanks to the invaluable support of the many funding streams and partnerships outlined in this Review. We have been especially grateful for the vital ongoing foundational support of Argyll and Bute Council, and project support from

Creative Scotland alongside other investment, including from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which supported our programme of paid apprenticeships and traineeships.

Employability and skill-building opportunities have involved working with organisations such as the Friends of the Argyll Papers and the Argyll Estate at Inveraray Castle, Auchindrain Historic Township, Dunollie Museum, Developing the Young Workforce, liveArgyll, and the Friends of Campbeltown Museum. Qualification assessors have included Museums Galleries Scotland, the University of Dundee and Rewards Training Scotland. Our arts award schemes have now also been extended with support from the newly established staff roles of Islands Culture Officer and Gaelic Culture Officer, supported by the Scottish Government and Bòrd na Gàidhlig, respectively.

I would like to thank our Director and the dedicated staff team, Steering Group and fellow Trustees for their boundless creativity and commitment to success. I hope you enjoy reading this Review and can appreciate the breadth of all that has been accomplished.

*Jo McLean*

CHAIR



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*CHARTS mobilises collaboration, adding value to project outcomes. Our way of working creates impactful and impressive legacies for the individuals, organisations and businesses involved by creating new opportunities and responding to the sector's needs.*

# How we work

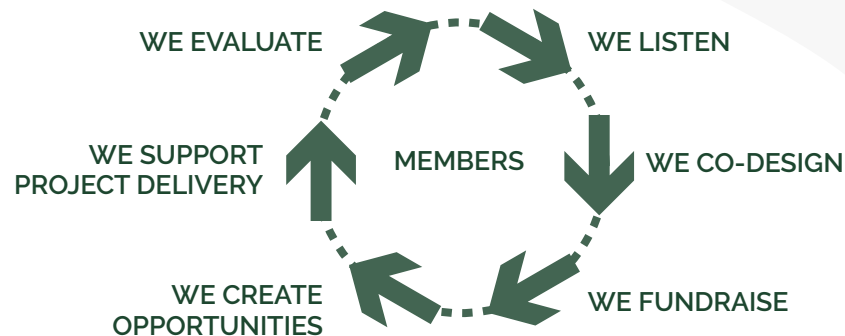
## The Board (2022–23)

Jo McLean CHAIR  
Seymour Adams VICE-CHAIR

Cllr Ross Moreland ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL  
Dr Michael Pierre Johnson  
Julian Forrester  
Rachel Kellow (APPOINTED 2023)  
Jim Anderson (RETIRED 2022)  
Ellen Potter (RETIRED 2022)

The Board is supported by:

Arlene Cullum ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL  
TRANSFORMATION AND REGENERATION,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Our way of working creates a virtuous cycle focused on members and their needs.

## Core staff

Kathleen O'Neill DIRECTOR  
Kirsten Millar COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING MANAGER  
James Coutts COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING COORDINATOR (2022)  
Rhiannon McIntyre VIRTUAL CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Project teams consist of freelance staff commissioned on a project-by-project basis. These staff members work to fixed term contracts to support arts and heritage commissions and projects with costs met by project funders. Additionally, during 2022–23, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and the Scottish Government provided funding to secure the employed positions of Gaelic Culture Officer and Islands Culture Officer, respectively. All staff work closely across project themes as appropriate, forging skills networks to ensure that all strategic goals are met.

Argyll and Bute Council provide year round in-kind support and during 2022–23 provided a foundational grant to contribute in part towards core staffing costs and operational delivery.

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As part of the recruitment working group for Argyll Aspires, I worked imaginatively and collaboratively with CHARTS first-hand to develop additional experiences for the many worthy applicants competing for the single archive traineeship available. Such joint working and operational planning remain critical to sustaining our sector.

- Alison Diamond, Archivist, Argyll Estates

## Infrastructure

CHARTS is hybrid support charity, guided by its membership network, with a Digital First approach to day-to-day operations. This approach maximises our impact across Argyll and Bute, Scotland's second largest region, including the mainland and its 23 inhabited islands.

The organisation's infrastructure involves the Board and staff working together digitally and attending meetings, projects and member events in person as needed. A Steering Group strengthens development, enabling us to deliver local in-person support to our members and directly helping project design and delivery. Working groups are also an essential part of how we involve a wide range of stakeholders in the co-design and supportive delivery of projects, building on the overall success of the CHARTS network.

## Working groups

Working groups are attached to award-giving, project commissioning and staff recruitment processes to assist the membership in meeting project milestones.

These are strategic groups with specialist stakeholders, often including funders and partnership representation, to support and signpost engagement. Board members, Steering Group and staff also contribute to working groups.

## Steering Group

The Steering Group, with members based across Argyll and Bute's mainland and islands, sits at the organisation's heart and is critical to development. The Steering Group's role is to facilitate growth, advance knowledge, and share experience to build the capacity of the CHARTS network to meet local needs.

The group currently comprises ten people supporting staff to develop arts, heritage and placemaking initiatives at a local and regional level. Leaders with an understanding of strategic development in their field are invited to become group members. Current representation includes:

- Oban, Lorne & Isles – Carol Devine (*Operations Manager, The Rockfield Centre*)
- Mid Argyll, Kintyre & Isles – Iain Johnson (*Kintyre Cultural Forum*)
- Bute – Julie Tait (*CEO, Rothesay Pavilion*)
- Cowal – Holly McAllister (*Operations Manager, Dunoon Burgh Hall*)
- Helensburgh & Lomond – Alexia Holt (*CEO, Cove Park*)
- Island Development – Jen Skinner (*Director, Screen Argyll, Tiree*)

Other independent strategic representation includes Brian Barker (ArtMap Argyll) on behalf of arts collectives; Eleanor McKinnon, culture and heritage; and Giles Perring (Jura) offering member support.

The group also benefits from specialist officer support from link officer Arlene Cullum, Senior Officer, Transformation Projects and Regeneration, Economic Development and other Argyll and Bute Council officer support as needed. Representatives undertake to: advocate for CHARTS throughout the region; maintain contact with members in their representative areas to gather and disseminate information; and offer direct hands-on support to initiate and develop projects.



*Steering Group members support exciting new initiatives and assist staff in achieving their goals. This virtual forum brings people together, sharing knowledge and reflecting on challenges in a very open and trusting environment. As we exercise and grow this model, more commissions are evolving, and this, in turn, demands that we continually act to review the group. Knowing first-hand how group members have assisted development demonstrates the group's value as an important cog in the wheel that continually drives the organisation forward.*

- Eleanor McKinnon, Steering Group, Placemaking and Heritage

## Delivery themes

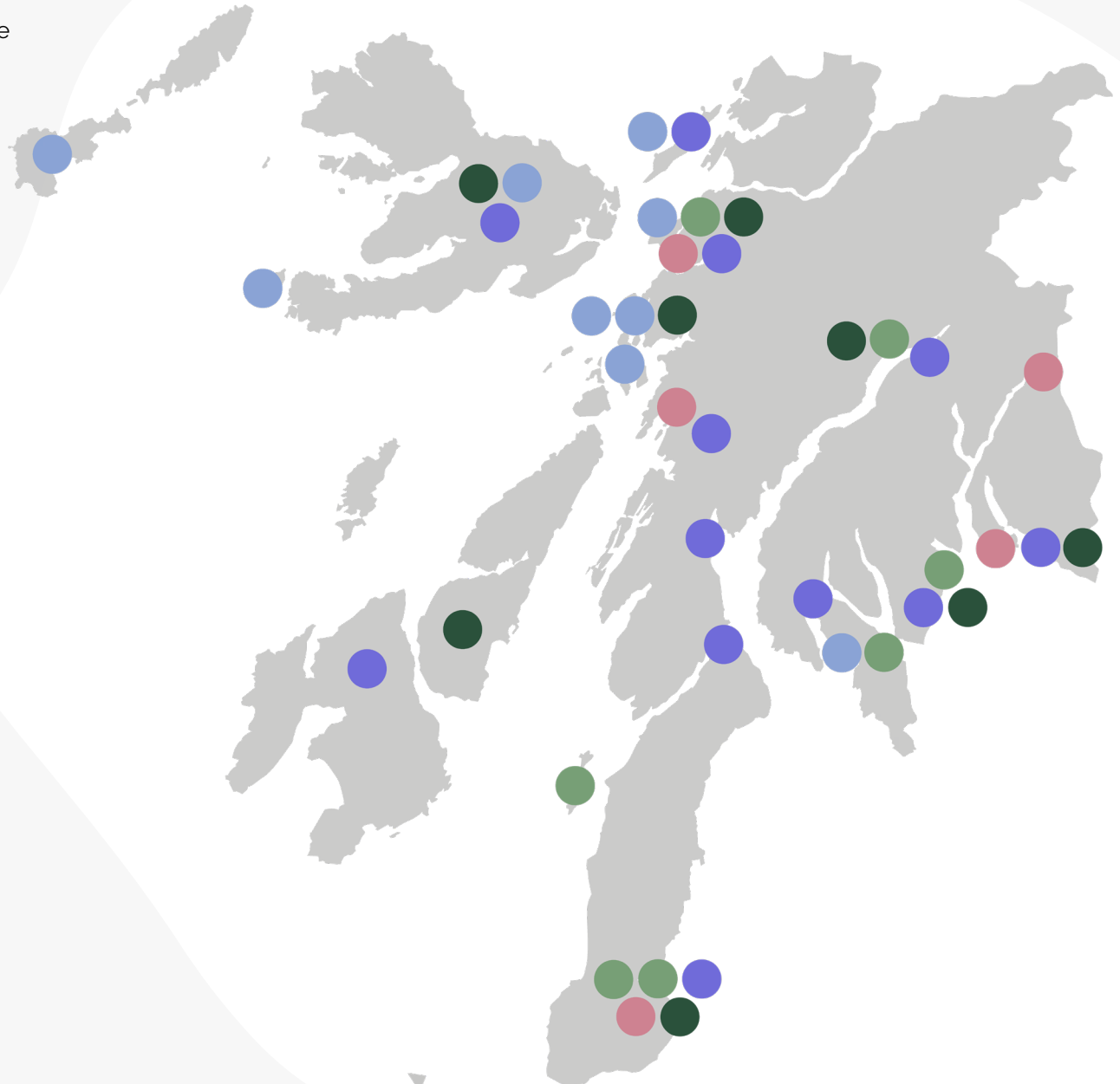
Funders 2022–23 have so far supported investment in the following areas:

- A. Increasing access to heritage
- B. Supporting islands as distinct cultural centres
- C. Increasing the visibility of Gaelic culture
- D. Supporting member engagement
- E. Developing a national presence

“

*The CHARTS model, with all its operational features, cultivates a collaborative culture of excellence. To support our membership, made up of individuals and organisations (including arts centres and museums), bespoke working groups bring together a range of professionals with a wealth of complementary experience whose skills and experience are matched to the job at hand. This is critical to our success, maximising capacity through joining intellectual and material resources to reach the best possible outcomes for people and projects.*

- Kathleen O'Neill, Director, CHARTS












Figures relate to the period  
April 2022–April 2023.



# Key funders

			 <p>ALBA   CHRUTHACHAIL</p>	 <p>MAINICHTHE LEIS A' CHRANNCHUR LOTTERY FUNDED</p>
 <p>Foras na Gaeilge</p>		 <p>Thanks to National Lottery players</p>	 <p>Argyll and Bute</p>	 <p>Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba</p>

# Partners & collaborators

	 <p>ARGYLL &amp; BUTE MUSEUMS &amp; HERITAGE FORUM</p>		 <p>A PLACE IN SCOTLAND'S HISTORY</p>	
	 <p>ARGYLL &amp; BUTE Developing the Young Workforce</p> <p>Proudly part of <b>Young Person's Guarantee</b></p>	 <p>Museum • Castle • Grounds</p>	 <p>Dunoon Burgh Hall</p>	



	 <p>transforming urban spaces into people places www.greenspacescotland.org.uk</p>			
 <p>Supporting Scotland's Museums</p>		 <p>Training Recruitment Consultancy</p>	 <p>WORLD GAELIC WEEK</p>	
			 <p>SCOTLAND ACT 2018 Achd nan Eilean (Alba)</p>	 <p>IONAD ACHADH NA CREIGE</p>
	 <p>University of St Andrews</p>			<p>Led by</p>  <p>Supported using public funding by</p>  <p>LOTTERY FUNDED</p>

# A. Increasing access to heritage

Argyll and Bute faces multiple challenges to sustain and grow the heritage sector in terms of regional demographics and routes to employability.

By increasing access to the sector, we aim to encourage and train the next generation of heritage professionals. During 2022–23 CHARTS assisted young people in gaining skills and qualifications by working creatively with host-heritage venues. These collaborations included Campbeltown Museum (liveArgyll), Campbeltown; Dunollie Museum, Oban; Auchindrain Historic Township, Inveraray; and The Argyll Papers, Inverary Castle. We also worked with pupils of Rothesay Academy and Mount Stuart on Bute to support and raise awareness of the council-owned Argyll Collection, located throughout the region.

Young people were recruited for paid assignments through modern apprenticeships, traineeships and internships. These have included learning how to care for collections, curate displays, manage volunteers, market heritage assets, fundraise, provide public access, and assist researchers. These young people have not only gained confidence but built knowledge and pride of place through raised awareness of heritage.

1. My experience: Campbeltown – Khara MacPhail
2. Case study: Campbeltown – The Wild Escape
3. Dunoon
4. Gigha
5. Case study: Inveraray – Donald MacDougall
6. Case study: Oban – Shannen Calderwood
7. Rothesay

Funded by:

Art Fund\_



MAOINICHTE  
LEIS A' CHRANNCHUR  
LOTTERY FUNDED



Argyll Aspires is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Our collaboration with liveArgyll builds on the success of Heritage Horizons (2021–22) in partnership with the Argyll and Bute Museums and Heritage Forum. This project, funded by the Scottish Power Foundation, identified the need for paid training in the museums and heritage sector for young people. Limited access to further education and professional employment leads many 16–24-year-olds to move to urban areas in search of opportunities.

## Staff

### Argyll Aspires

Lucy McAra Neish	PROJECT MANAGER
Claire McDade	PROJECT MANAGER
Sarah Longfield	EVALUATION SUPPORT

We continue to create accredited, entry-level, professional employment opportunities otherwise unavailable in the area. Job creation not only benefits individuals but also boosts the local economy and helps stem the region's depopulation.

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/argyll-aspires](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/argyll-aspires)

*Image: Dawn 'til Dusk Exhibition at Mount Stuart, part of Argyll Aspires' work with Rothesay Academy, 2023.*

© CHARTS

### Heritage Horizons

Kirsty McNab	PROJECT MANAGER
Pamela Campbell	PROJECT MANAGER

### Campbeltown Museum partnership

Muriel MacKaveney	APPRENTICESHIP & WILD ESCAPE PROJECT FACILITATOR
Claire McDade	MUSEUM DEVELOPMENT
Kirsten Millar	LEAD ARTIST, WILD ESCAPE

“

*Since our Campbeltown Museum partnership with CHARTS began to develop the museum's capacity and help build reputation, I have been hugely impressed with the level of expertise, professionalism, and accessibility that CHARTS provided in relation to the fine art, social history and natural history collections. Kathleen and her team have been a delight to work with to grow audiences and project partnerships. I very much look forward to the liveArgyll and CHARTS partnership continuing.*

- Robert Judge, Operations Manager, liveArgyll



# MY EXPERIENCE: Khara MacPhail, Apprenticeship in Museums & Galleries Practice

Campbeltown Museum  
Campbeltown

“

This apprenticeship with CHARTS and Museums Galleries Scotland has exceeded any expectations. The main goals were to get an insight into the cultural and heritage sector and build on my existing skills, knowledge, and confidence. Safe to say, these have been achieved!

The modules for this course have allowed many key aspects of the 'museum world' to come to life for me:

- Learning about the importance of visitor experiences as a tool to improve the museum was very valuable. This led to the creation of visitor surveys so that people could tell us about their favourite objects and make any suggestions for improvement.
- The developing community engagement module led to the planning and running of events for children and families during the school holidays to attract local people and enable them to connect with their heritage.

- The care of collections module included pest control management and carbon literacy training. The importance of these topics had never been obvious to me before starting at the museum.

The support and guidance from my tutor, Natalie Milor at Museums Galleries Scotland, has been incredible. She created a comfortable learning environment, and we worked together to apply the qualification criteria within the broad scope of the opportunity presented.

From the beginning, CHARTS was amazing in the amount of support and knowledge provided, as well as the trust and creative freedom given to me. This has created an invaluable experience.

The apprenticeship has widened my thinking and allowed my prior history knowledge and research skills to be applied in a 'real-life' setting. Through researching the museum's collection, my understanding of history has greatly improved, including through a 'Scotland's Slavery' online course.



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My time with CHARTS has rekindled my love for history, and the practical experiences gained have given me the confidence and drive I needed to continue my degree. I have learned so much about my local history and the behind-the-scenes of the cultural and heritage sector. Overall, this experience has been amazing, and that has been down to the support and trust I have received from CHARTS and Museums Galleries Scotland.

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/  
campbeltown-museum](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/campbeltown-museum)

*Image: Khara MacPhail at Campbeltown Museum, 2022. © CHARTS*

# CASE STUDY: The Wild Escape

## Creative learning at Campbeltown Museum Campbeltown

CHARTS collaborated with liveArgyll to participate in The Wild Escape to celebrate wildlife and creativity alongside hundreds of UK museums and schools. The project was delivered through Campbeltown Museum and led by artist Kirsten Millar, supported by project facilitator Muriel MacKaveney with assistance from the museum's apprentice Khara MacPhail.

The project engaged Castlehill, Gigha and Clachan primary schools by inviting them to Campbeltown Museum to consider contemporary issues facing Kintyre's wildlife. These issues were explored, including studying the taxidermy collection which dates back to 1903, with guest talks from Angus Martin, an author and historian, and Nancy Stewart, a Masters ecology student at the University of Glasgow.

To help the children develop a creative response to the wildlife collection, each school received art materials, an educational pack with custom-made wildlife cards and inspiration in Gaelic and English. This empowered children to learn about their local environment, consider the impacts of climate change and what positive action they could take to support the future of Kintyre's wildlife. Pupils were asked to "imagine

what changes the animals would find if they could fly through the window and out the museum door" by choosing one creature in the museum's collection to bring to life through a work of art, poem or story.

On 22nd April 2023, CHARTS hosted a Family Fun Day at the museum, which showcased work created by local schools and included free family activities for all ages, such as bird nest-making workshops run by artist Lorien Silvan and specially designed quizzes. A participant said, "I've very much enjoyed nest building – it meant we visited the museum as this gave us a reason to come along."

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/campbeltown-museum/wild-escape](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/campbeltown-museum/wild-escape)

*Image (above): a local primary school explores the wildlife collection at Campbeltown Museum as part of #TheWildEscape, 2023. © CHARTS*

*Image (below): a completed bird's nest made during a workshop led by Lorien Silvan at CHARTS Wild Escape Family Fun Day at Campbeltown, 2023. © CHARTS*



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*I was extremely impressed by the young people who took part and the sensitivity and creativity shown responding to the difficult issue of climate change.*

*- Kirsten Millar, Lead Artist, Wild Escape*

# CASE STUDY: Donald MacDougall, Assistant Archive Trainee

## The Argyll Papers, Argyll Aspires Inveraray

The Argyll Papers Archive hosts the 14-month-long Archive Assistant Traineeship. It is based at Inveraray Castle and includes the opportunity to undertake study modules towards the Archival Studies PGCert with the Centre for Archive and Information Studies at the University of Dundee.

Donald MacDougall, a resident of the Isle of Seil, took up the role in September 2022 and has flourished since being in the post. The traineeship has been wide and varied, including areas such as conservation and digitisation of the archive, working on a new exhibition in time for summer opening at Inveraray Castle, hosting a range of tours and talks for a variety of groups, such as Dunoon Inner Wheel, and writing articles for the Friends of the Argyll Papers newsletter and website.

One outcome was joining the Archives & Records Association (ARA) at Foundation level, which Donald quickly achieved. He will also attend its annual conference in Belfast during the summer of 2023, and he has been networking through the Scottish Association of Country House Archivists, supported by Alison Diamond, Archivist at the Argyll Papers.

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/argyll-aspires/the-argyll-papers-at-inveraray-castle](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/argyll-aspires/the-argyll-papers-at-inveraray-castle)

*Image (above): Donald MacDougall, in the Argyll Papers Archive, 2022. © CHARTS*

*Image (below): the Argyll Papers also hosted a month-long internship with Rosanna Barraclough, culminating in a popular talk by her on the history of Roseneath House, owned by the Dukes of Argyll, 2022. © Friends of the Argyll Papers*

“

*The thing I love most about Argyll Aspires is its ambition – the archive sector is extremely difficult to break into, with any paid opportunities few and far between. The fact that this traineeship is in Argyll is just fantastic and incredibly meaningful to me as someone who wants to continue living and working in the area. I also really appreciate being able to study for a postgraduate qualification at the same time. By combining on-the-job training in Inveraray with distance learning, I do feel as if I'm building some solid foundations for a career in archives.*

- Donald MacDougall, Assistant Archive Trainee



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# CASE STUDY: Shannen Calderwood, Apprenticeship in Museums & Galleries Practice

Dunollie Museum, Argyll Aspires  
Dunollie, Oban

Shannen Calderwood is undertaking a year-long Museums & Galleries Practice SVQ, a level 7 qualification supported by Museums Galleries Scotland and Skills Development Scotland. She came on board as an apprentice in December 2022 and will be at Dunollie throughout 2023. As Emma Sutcliffe, General Manager, says, "these opportunities are hard to come by – it's great we can invest so much time in someone. I actually started in a similar way with a bursary and qualification".

Shannen's main role is caring for collections and – as the castle opens for the summer season – some tour guiding and working on the image library. Although these activities were new to Shannen, she found her background in hospitality provided many transferable skills that have been useful in her apprenticeship. Her enthusiasm for social history and working in a heritage setting has been evident throughout.

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/argyll-aspires/dunollie-museum-castle-and-grounds-museums-galleries-technician-modern-apprenticeship](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/argyll-aspires/dunollie-museum-castle-and-grounds-museums-galleries-technician-modern-apprenticeship)

Image (left): Dunollie Castle. © Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds

Image (right): Shannen Calderwood at Dunollie, 2023.  
© Shannen Calderwood



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*My role here at Dunollie has had an overwhelmingly positive impact on me. It has allowed me to learn about working with collections, as well as all the other activities that go into keeping visitor attractions such as Dunollie Museum, Castle and Grounds running smoothly. I have learned about the vast history of both the site itself – the Clan MacDougall, Miss Hope MacDougall as a social historian – and the wider history of Argyll and the Isles. I have been encouraged to feel confident in my abilities, to learn new things and to present ideas despite being very new to the team. I have never felt part of a more supportive, kind and hardworking team and I feel really lucky to be here.”*

– Shannen Calderwood, Apprentice

# B. Supporting islands as distinct cultural centres

During 2022 CHARTS received funding directly from the Scottish Government, with the support of Argyll and Bute Council, to assist cultural development across Argyll's 23 inhabited islands. This work supports the National Islands Plan Strategic Objective 11 – Arts, Culture and Language. In January 2023, this project was entitled *Ràmh /Ra v/*, named after the Gaelic word for 'oar', inspired by the Gaelic saying 'air an aon ràmh' which literally means 'on the same oar'. The spirit of the phrase is about working together.

## 1. Case study: Bute – Kate Clayton

2. Easdale
3. Iona
4. Kerrera
5. Lismore
6. Luing
7. Mull
8. Seil
9. Tiree

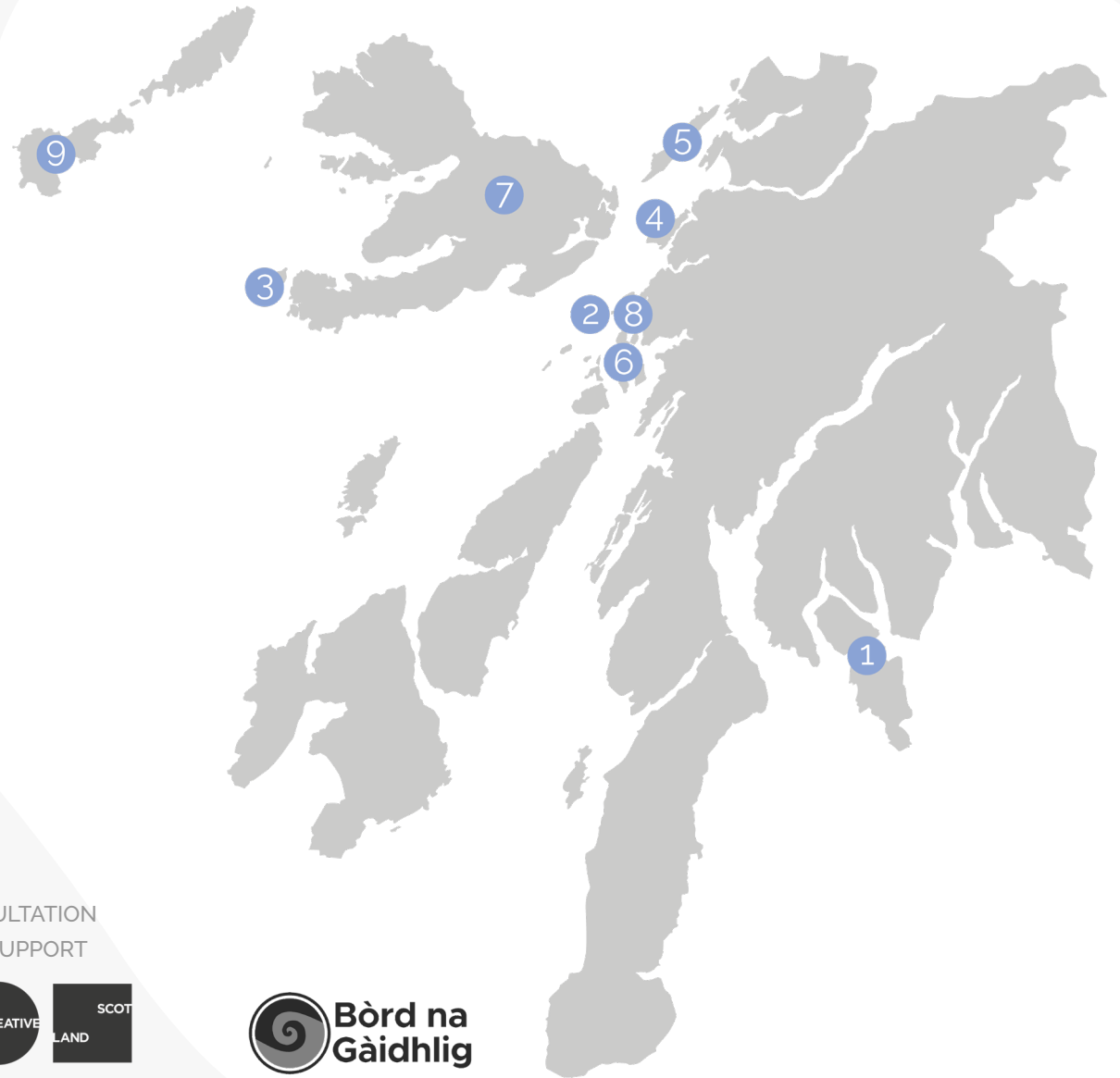
## Staff

Caitlin McNeill	ISLANDS CULTURE OFFICER
Mary Morrison	ISLANDS STRATEGIC SUPPORT
Amy Dunnachie	LEAD ARTIST, YOUTH ARTS-LED CONSULTATION
Rhona Taylor	COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING SUPPORT

Funded by:



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL





Ràmh supports island practitioners and organisations to undertake new projects, promote existing successes and protect the remarkable heritage which underpins our work. Ràmh:

- Asks Argyll's island communities who they are, what they need and what they want to achieve
- Connects individuals and organisations through CHARTS' extensive network of partner organisations and funders
- Creates links between islands and supports a self-sustaining, resilient community of culture, heritage, and arts practitioners
- Brings the incredible work of islanders to a wider audience and considers how we can sensitively help improve local economies and year-round socio-economic outcomes for island communities
- Develops opportunities for young people
- Maximises the impact of national resources with networked support

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/ràmh-islands-development-project](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/ràmh-islands-development-project)

“

*My role is such an incredible opportunity to put Argyll's islands in the spotlight and celebrate their diversity. It is so important to me, as Islands Culture Officer, to hear from islanders and have the remit to offer support. Recognising the individuality of each island community is easy for me as I grew up in tiny Colonsay, nestled between the far more populous Mull and Islay. There I learned early on that a one-size-fits-all approach does not work for our islands!*

*Now positioned to work at a micro level, taking the time to listen carefully is paramount to my job and bodes well to support the further meaningful, sustainable growth of our arts, culture and heritage industry. What islanders are able to achieve, entirely on their own and facing any number of island-related challenges, is already immense.*

*My own identity as an islander is rooted in culture – a certain way of doing things, of treating people, of telling stories. I truly believe that by supporting islanders, particularly young islanders, in celebrating and performing their 'islandness', we embolden fragile communities and protect the vitality of island identity for future generations.*

- Caitlin McNeill, Island Culture Officer



*Remains of a Cuvier's beaked whale, washed ashore in Bragar in 2018. Etched silver with words from "Ossuary" by Miek Zwamborn and calligraphy by Susie Leiper.  
© Sarah Darling*

# Understanding needs

In the first half of the project, the staff team consulted widely throughout the islands to understand how best to support the current and potential cultural activity in each community. A survey was launched in February 2023 with a deadline of September for individuals and organisations working in and engaged with arts, creative industries and heritage on islands. Responses to date have included representation from all of Argyll's 23 inhabited islands.

The information collected:

- Informs our Islands programme
- Allows CHARTS' Islands team to develop relevant services, as well as opportunities and events
- Monitors engagement and interactions with our services as an organisation



Creative Scotland has since funded Coastal Culture, Islands, including the development of three new arts residencies.

*Image: Paps of Jura © Caitlin McNeill*

“

*I was really happy to be invited to be involved as part of this project in my capacity as a socially engaged artist, particularly so because CHARTS is embracing the idea of what a progressive organisation can look like. Practicing in a socially engaged way on islands comes naturally, but to have the support of an organisation which understands the challenges of more practical issues like finding commissions, sustainability, timeline disruptions (and many more) makes a huge difference.*

- Amy Dunnachie, Artist, Youth Consultation Islands

# Supporting artists

The Ràmh programme made three awards due to the significant demand to assist arts development evidenced through the VACMA selection process. Artists who offered interesting perspectives and showed a deep connection with the islands were chosen.

Scott O'Neill (Isle of Bute) received funding to create an abstract, impressionistic film focusing on Bute's sense of history and place as viewed from the island's remote landscapes, environments, and abandoned places.

Mhairi Killin (Iona) was funded to develop 'Conversations Through a Whale' during a residency on Grinneabhat, Bragar, Isle of Lewis, in August 2023.



*Ràmh logo design © Eve Campbell*

# CASE STUDY: Kate Clayton

## Artist Isle of Bute

Kate Clayton received funding to support her work 'Broken Blue', a mixed-media installation and performance which will be part of Bute Open Studios. It is based on a rucksack of broken blue and white pottery she found in a Rothesay charity shop. Kate imagines this was "a local inhabitant's collection from a lifetime of walking back and forth along the shore where they lived."

“

*I am a 73-year-old performance artist based on the Isle of Bute. My main focus is on the visibility of older women in what is, in part, an attempt to claim agency for the over-70s. My methodology includes the collaborative process: primarily intergenerational and queer friendships. Activism is as important as aesthetics. My practice exists under the overall banner of 'NOT DEAD YET'. My solo work often involves artistic personas performed in different contexts and environments. For 'Broken Blue' I will be performing as Sybylla, an Ancient Greek prophetess whose message is 'Put nothing bad into the sea, get nothing but good out of it... Think not of exploitation but of sustainability'.*

- Kate Clayton, artist



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*Image (above): 'Silver Swimmer v Fish Farms', 2021. Documentation of performance, Kilchattan Bay, by Kate Clayton. © Kate Clayton, photograph by Duncan McLaren*

*Image (left): 'Broken Blue' by Kate Clayton, 2023. © Kate Clayton*

# C. Increasing the visibility of Gaelic culture

Bòrd na Gàidhlig will fund the CHARTS Gaelic Officer post until September 2024, supported by Argyll and Bute Council. The role is critical to CHARTS efforts to grow opportunities in Gaelic language and culture and embedding Gaelic across a range of services.

Work to date has included developing CHARTS' Gaelic Culture Policy with key stakeholders and creating a suite of dedicated Gaelic resources to facilitate and promote projects. This role aims to increase the visibility of Gaelic language and culture in Argyll, and build on other project successes, including regional and cross-border partnerships begun in previous years.

1. Arrochar
2. **Case study: Campbeltown – Cearcall-Cànain**
3. Cove
4. Craidich
5. Oban
6. **Case study: Ulster – Building relationships in Ireland**

## Staff

Àdhamh Ó Broin	GAELIC CULTURE OFFICER
Rody Gorman	TRANSLATION SUPPORT
Claire McDade	EXHIBITION SUPPORT
Muriel MacKaveney	PROJECT FACILITATOR (EVENTS)

Funded by:





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*CHARTS has a vital focus on creative and effective communication. Communities, rural and non-rural, can be fragmented or isolated from each other. CHARTS has a central focus on creative and effective communication which can overcome this. Its involvement with Gaelic is significant for at least two reasons: Argyll and the Isles have a Gaelic heritage that is important throughout Scotland and Ireland and beyond. Furthermore, the arts have a key role in re-imagining and enlivening languages like Gaelic that have become minoritised in their own homeland. The involvement of CHARTS with Gaelic brings with it the hope that Gaelic language is not just past heritage, but can enrich and vitalise communities into the future and for future generations.*

- Maolcholaim Scott, Colmcille Development Officer, Foras na Gaeilge

*Images (left): Cuairt Chaluim Chille // Touring St Columba launch at Campbeltown Museum, 2023. Diane Cannon and Rody Gorman (above) and Archie McAllister (below). © CHARTS*

*Image (right): James MacDonald Reid speaking at Cearcall-Cànain (World Gaelic Week event) at Campbeltown Museum, 2023. © CHARTS*



## CASE STUDY: Cearcall-Cànain

### World Gaelic Week/Seachdain na Gàidhlig Campbeltown

Each year CHARTS contributes to World Gaelic Week/Seachdain na Gàidhlig, a festival established to raise the profile of Gaelic through community initiatives, projects and events in Scotland and further afield. This year we developed a project to further explore Argyll's languages as a key theme of our main event at Campbeltown Museum.

Three speakers represented languages including Gaelic, Scots, English, Traveller Cant, Serbian, Bulgarian, Vlach and other Slavic tongues. The day was introduced by CHARTS with an exploration of Argyll Gaelic dialect, detailing the sub-dialects of north, central and south Argyll, and focussing on the speech of Kintyre.

A 45-minute sharing of Traveller Cant idioms and vocabulary by Traveller tradition-bearer Kathy Townsley McGuigan followed this talk. James MacDonald Reid then gave an hour's lecture on the connections and similarities between Gaelic – and broadly Scottish – and Balkan languages and culture. The event attracted many Gaelic speakers, and it was a real pleasure to hear the language spoken throughout the day – even for those who didn't understand what was being said!

Attendees were delighted to learn about Traveller Cant, much of which the speaker had never shared before in public. Kathy McGuigan, presenting Traveller Cant, also brought along a basket as a tangible expression of Traveller culture for attendees to examine and enjoy, contextualising her presentation.

Many enjoyed learning about Balkan languages, and there was an emphasis on audience interaction. Another attendee commented that, "[James MacDonald Reid's] ability to speak and sing in different Balkan languages whilst dancing is incredible!".

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/charts-gaelic-development/cearcall-cànain-celebrating-gaelic-week-2023](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/charts-gaelic-development/cearcall-cànain-celebrating-gaelic-week-2023)

[www.seachdainnagaidhlig.scot](http://www.seachdainnagaidhlig.scot)

*Image: Cearcall-Cànain (World Gaelic Week event) at Campbeltown Museum, 2023. From left: James MacDonald Reid, Àdhamh Ó Broin and Kathy Townsley McGuigan. © CHARTS*



“

*Kathy told me that some people could make more than one (basket) daily! This is outstanding, as the skill needed to make a basket is amazing.*

- an attendee

# CASE STUDY: Building relationships in Ireland

## Cuairt gu Éirinn Ulster

Research and development for our Gaelic Culture Strategy has also led to CHARTS building relationships with artists across borders and developing new projects with equal participation between Argyll and Ireland. Àdhamh Ó Broin, Gaelic Culture Officer, has made several trips to Ireland to cement relationships and strengthen ties with artists and organisations.

These include visiting Ulster, connecting with Donegal County Museum and Derry Tower Museum staff, and discussing shared exhibitions. Building on CHARTS' work for the themed year Colmcille 1500 (2000–22), relationships with Donegal Museum have led to new collaboration. CHARTS will tour a Colmcille exhibition on loan from Donegal (2023–24) which will provide new opportunities for artists from Ireland and Argyll to display/perform their work at host-venues across prominent Columba-linked sites in Argyll.

Further growing Gaelic networks for Argyll and Bute, in March 23 Àdhamh attended a conference facilitated by Anna Mhàrtainn and the Social Enterprise Academy in Galway, tackling the challenges around healthy tourist practices and infrastructure in Gaelic-speaking regions of Scotland and Ireland. This contributed

to a recent collaboration with Wild About Argyll, where Àdhamh provided poetic quotes from the Gaelic tradition relating to each local area within Argyll.

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/charts-gaelic-development](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/charts-gaelic-development)

*Image (above): Cuairt Chaluim Chille // Touring St Columba exhibition is transported from Derry to Campbeltown by boat, 2023. © CHARTS*

*Image (below): Àdhamh's trip to the Seaweed Centre, County Galway, Ireland. © CHARTS*

“

*On behalf of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, we would like to commend CHARTS in strengthening the bonds between Gaelic Ireland and Scotland.*

- Brian Ó hEadhra,  
Partnerships & Development  
Manager, Bòrd na Gàidhlig



4



# D. Supporting member engagement

CHARTS continually supports artists in developing their practice through the design and development of bespoke awards, commissions and projects. This includes encouraging younger arts practitioners and heritage enthusiasts aged under 30 as advocates for the cultural sector.

VACMA is a Scotland-wide grants programme encouraging visual artists' and craft makers' creative development at all career stages. These awards are supported by Creative Scotland through funding from the National Lottery in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council and made possible in Argyll and Bute by support from CHARTS. The VACMA scheme offers two levels of bursaries: £500 and £750. During 2022–23, VACMA in Argyll and Bute received an unprecedented number of applications, showing a high demand for support and investment into individual practice, including for early-career bursaries.

- |                                       |                     |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Campbeltown                        | 5. Jura             |
| 2. Dunoon                             | 6. Mull             |
| 3. Case study: Helensburgh/Kilcreggan | 7. Case study: Oban |
| 4. Inveraray                          | 8. Seil             |

## Staff

Kirsten Millar	YOUTH ADVOCATE
Mary Morrison	VACMA SUPPORT
Peter Forbes	MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT (CU30)

Funded by:





CU30 is for CHARTS members under 30 years of age. It was created to allow younger people the chance to represent themselves with a louder voice within the organisation, by designing and implementing ideas for youth engagement across Argyll and Bute. During 2022, CU30 received funding from the Third Sector Interface to develop the group and build a manifesto for young people. With this and support from Argyll and Bute Council, CU30's members were able to engage in physically accessing arts and heritage projects, enabling them to meet up with experts post-pandemic.

CU30 created a Zine Making Tool Kit with the Glasgow Zine Library. The kit is now available online as a resource and has been shared in person with the CU30 group. Zine Making Tool Kits can be downloaded to help other younger voices to be heard.

Peter Forbes assisted marketing and communications, working with the CHARTS Communications Manager to support CU30 project development. Peter said, "It has been really valuable to be able to gain some copywriting and digital marketing experience, and it has been a pleasure working with everyone at the organisation. The experience gained has helped me a lot in securing a job. Hopefully, I will eventually return to the heritage sector with a wide array of skills gained from working in a tech position."

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/charts-under-30](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/charts-under-30)

*Image (right): CU30 member Amy Johnstone, ready to guide visitors around the Joan Eardley 100 exhibition at Dunoon Burgh Hall, 2022. Both images © CHARTS*

*Image (below): attendees at the Heritage Horizons' celebration event held at Dunoon Burgh Hall, 2022.*

“

*Opportunities like this are important because it gives young people the opportunity to work on projects they might not necessarily be exposed to, it lets them develop new skills and lets them have an input into something they might not have otherwise had the opportunity to do... The experience I have had been really positive, everyone is really supportive and is really enthusiastic about having placements on board.*

*- Amy Johnstone, Joan Eardley100, Heritage Horizons, Dunoon Burgh Hall placement*



# CASE STUDY: Emma Henderson

## Visual Artist and Craft Makers Awards (VACMA) Helensburgh

Emma Henderson received support in February 2023 to develop skills in screen printing with natural and botanical inks. The award will enable her to undertake an online course and experiment with locally foraged materials.

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/visual-artist-and-craft-makers-awards-argyll-bute](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/visual-artist-and-craft-makers-awards-argyll-bute)



Images (clockwise from left): Hawthorn Print 1, colour sample work in progress, and Honeysuckle Print.  
© Emma Henderson.

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*I'm really interested in the different ways in which we can, as a society, navigate what I believe is an important question. What happens when the urgent need to protect our environment and the challenges of sustainability come head-to-head with consumerism and our desire to express ourselves as individuals? I want to use this question as an opportunity to work in a different way. My ambition is to transition to natural and botanical inks rather than continue using water-based inks for screen printing.*

*I'm drawn to the tactile quality of screen-printed fabric, the layering of shapes, textures and colours which blend into each other to become something else. These are qualities that I also see in the environment around me. Scotland's rainforests, most of which sit within Argyll and Bute, are a rare and threatened habitat. They are fascinating other-worldly places, characterised by the layering of plant varieties which all grow in harmony with each other. I use bold colours, shapes and textures to represent the rare mosses, liverworts and lichens that grow in these damp and temperate environments*

- Emma Henderson, artist



# CASE STUDY: Samuel McManus-Shanks

## Historic Kilbride Oban

CU30 encourages members under 30 years of age to act as advocates for the sector and to inform programming to engage and support other young members. Activities include researching and learning about the rich cultural environment of Argyll and Bute and helping to design fundraising bids with staff, further promoting the interests of young people into the future.

Young graduates have benefited from CU30 in various ways. Samuel McManus-Shanks worked at Historic Kilbride through our introductory youth-heritage engagement project, Heritage Horizons (2021). Samuel said, "I think it is important to have young people involved and represented in heritage because it allows the old narratives to be challenged".

Sam's continued engagement with CHARTS through CU30 has allowed him to develop a stronger relationship with the Historic Kilbride Trust and further develop his interests in history and heritage.

CU30 builds on past work, launched following the success of Heritage Horizons (2021-22), funded by the Scottish Power Foundation. Films of youth placements in heritage contexts

showed the impact of work experiences for young people and these were presented at a celebration of achievement event, alongside new qualifications for participation, at Dunoon Burgh Hall in May 2022.

*Image (above): Samuel McManus-Shanks at Historic Kilbride showing the QR audio tour he created, 2022. © Kathie Griffiths, The Oban Times*

*Image (below): audio recording for Heritage Horizons' film at Historic Kilbride, 2022. © CHARTS*



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*My experience has involved curating a digital tour using QR codes for visitors to scan to learn about the history of Historic Kilbride. CU30 has additionally allowed me to develop transferable skills which will be useful after I graduate with my archaeology degree.*

- Samuel McManus-Shanks, Historic Kilbride, Heritage Horizons placement



# E. Developing a national presence

From consultation to exhibitions, our work has reached across Argyll to engage individuals in decision-making processes and as far as London to profile our members' work. New collaborations have included greenspace scotland and Craft Central in London. Across geographic borders we are also growing links with Ireland.

1. Ardrishaig
2. Cairndow
3. Campbeltown
4. Dunoon/Innellan
5. Helensburgh
6. Islay
7. Kilmartin
8. Lismore
9. **Craft Central, London**
10. Mull
11. Oban
12. Tarbert
13. Tighnabruaich

## Staff

*Remembering Together, delivered by Lateral North:*

Graham Hogg	PROJECT LEAD
Simon Forsythe	PHOTOGRAPHY / FILMMAKING AND ENGAGEMENT
Meghan Doran	GRAPHIC DESIGN AND ENGAGEMENT
Steve Colmer	DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT
Sarah Robinson Frood	OUT OF ARGYLL

## Funded by:



To enable success, we:

- Build business by profiling our members.
- Grow audiences by supporting an events diary linked to social media channels.
- Encourage member contact across the mainland and islands by hosting digital events & workshops.
- Create new income streams by co-designing projects for the funding bids we lead.
- Add value by supporting members to develop their own independent funding bids.
- Broker and maintain relationships with funders.
- Co-design and manage apprenticeships and training programmes.
- Collaborate with creative industries, academic institutions, museums, and heritage organisations to strengthen and grow their business goals.
- Develop partnerships to creatively grow regional cultural, social and education services.
- Broker peer-to-peer relationships to develop new work.
- Build the reputation of Argyll and Bute as a place to work, live and visit.
- Attract interest in national and international collaboration by profiling the sector across geographic borders.
- Offer a highly experienced and networked staff team and Steering Group to support this work.



*Image (left): modern African artworks from the Argyll Collection displayed at Dunoon Burgh Hall during the Art Conservation Open Day, 2023. © CHARTS*

*Image (right): visual identity and alphabet developed as part of the Remembering Together project, 2022–23. © Lateral North*



# CASE STUDY: Remembering Together

## Scotland's Covid Community Memorial Programme Throughout Argyll & Bute

CHARTS is taking part in Scotland's Covid Community Memorial Programme, named Remembering Together, working in partnership with greenspace scotland and Argyll and Bute Council, funded by the Scottish Government. As an arts-led national project involving 32 local authority areas, Remembering Together encourages acts of reflection, remembrance, hope and healing within communities across Scotland.

In June 2022, CHARTS appointed Lateral North to consult with local communities, groups and organisations across Argyll and Bute.

Lateral North's commission was the first phase of the Argyll and Bute project (2022–23) to explore people's experiences of the pandemic and what they wanted from phase two of the project (2023–24). As well as visits to mainland and island communities, outcomes included creating an alphabet that represented how people felt during the pandemic or actions people undertook during lockdown.

Given the geographic expanse of the Argyll and Bute region, participants agreed that no single commemoration should exist. Instead, the second phase of investment should

include ways for local communities to increase their creative engagement with nature and build on aspects of 'coming together' and 'reflection' as positive aspects of the pandemic experience. The arts and community design brief for Remembering Together Phase 2 was completed in summer 2023.

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/remembering-together-argyll-and-bute](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/showcase/remembering-together-argyll-and-bute)

*Image: Remembering Together in-person community consultation workshops in Argyll, 2022. © Lateral North*



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*Covid has touched everyone in Scotland, and across the world. Coming together now to co-create memorials gives us an opportunity to pause, to reflect and to consider all that has happened in our communities.*

*Remembering Together does not mark the end of the pandemic. Covid will be with us for some time to come and we cannot predict how we will be impacted in the future. Remembering Together instead seeks to provide much-needed acknowledgement and recognition of those we have lost and the challenges we continue to face.*

- greenspace scotland

# CASE STUDY: Out of Argyll

## Craft Central London

Out of Argyll was an exhibition curated by Sarah Robinson Frood created to highlight the influence of the coastline on practitioners' work and to promote a selection of Argyll-based artists, craft makers and artisans, building on the success of an earlier project supported by Creative Scotland, Evolve Arts and Tourism (2021-22).

Placemaking and coastal environments play a pivotal role in the creative life of Argyll and many of our members' work, with many residents living within a kilometre of the coast. Aiming to inform and engage visitors while contextualising the rich landscape of Argyll and its relationship to our creative industries, this exhibition was shown in London by working in collaboration with Craft Central. It was supported by the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative.

The exhibition included artwork presented by CHARTS and artisans promoted by the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative. Work by Deb Wing, Gabor Horvath, Seadrift Pottery, Hannah Clinch, Own Way, Anthea Gage, Siamh Sound, Eve Campbell, Deborah Gray and the Drey Workshop was displayed. Artisanal products including from Lussa Gin, Unexpected Gin (a collaboration between Cove Sailing Club, Cove Park and Little Brown Dog), Wild Thyme Spirits,

Kilmartin Gin, Islay Cocoa, Isle of Mull Seaweed and Argyll Coffee Roasters was showcased.

The success of this collaboration helped develop ongoing work, growing UK-based and international projects and connections for our members.

[www.chartsargyllandisles.org/show-case/out-of-argyll-2022](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/show-case/out-of-argyll-2022)

*Image (above): Out of Argyll at Craft Central. © CHARTS*

*Image (below): printed sweatshirts and syrups developed for 'Dunoon Goes Pop' by Tacit-Tacit led by Hannah Clinch, Out of Argyll at Craft Central, London, 2022. © CHARTS*

“

*It is so important that work produced in Argyll is taken out of Argyll and seen in places that give makers and small producers opportunities to connect with new audiences and opportunities. Out of Argyll achieved this.*

- Hannah Clinch, designer and maker, Tacit-Tacit



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# Ongoing work & future plans

The organisation will continue to broker new relationships and support the sector to thrive by building on the outcomes of past work and identifying new opportunities. Areas of work will include:

- **Supporting islands**  
We will continue to support islands as distinct cultural centres, building our knowledge of needs.  
*Funder: Scottish Government*
- **Growing global networks**  
We will collaborate with the Innovation School at the Glasgow School of Art, supported by XPO North and the Argyll and Isles Tourism Cooperative, to assist members to connect and create projects internationally. *Funder: Creative Scotland*
- **Gaelic language and culture**  
We will deliver a Gaelic Culture Strategy, working closely with Gaelic language and culture networks and Argyll and Bute Council. *Funder: Bòrd na Gàidhlig*
- **Growing engagement with Ireland**  
We will develop relationships between Argyll and Ireland for Gaelic speakers and practitioners working with Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Foras na Gaeilge. This will include developing a year-long Colmcille exhibition tour in collaboration with Donegal Museum and creating opportunities for arts interpretation of St Columba across Argyll.  
*Funders: Bòrd na Gàidhlig & Foras na Gaeilge*
- **Coastal Culture, Islands**  
We will commission three new island residency projects to support social engagement on Tiree, Lismore and Mull.  
*Funder: Creative Scotland*
- **The Argyll Collection, Reconnected**  
We will review the Argyll Collection to highlight its cultural significance, working in collaboration with Argyll and Bute Council.  
*Funder: the Art Fund*
- **Campbeltown Museum development**  
We will grow our partnership with liveArgyll to support delivery at Campbeltown Museum. *Funder: liveArgyll*
- **Access to heritage**  
We will grow opportunities for young people, including routes to qualifications and employability.  
*Funders: National Lottery Heritage Fund & the Art Fund*



- **Further supporting members**  
We will continue to:
  - Build capacity for growth by creating opportunities for business mapping development using our Creative Growth Toolkit developed in collaboration with the Innovation School at the Glasgow School of Art.
  - Raise awareness by strengthening members' profiles, including by developing our locations map and by highlighting arts and heritage events and trails.
  - Bring people together by offering support via digital and in-person workshops and events.

*Image: Boat on the coast. © Dr Michael Pierre Johnson, GSA Innovation School*



“

*It has been delightful to work at Campbeltown Museum – every day is different. The lives and environment of the people of Kintyre are celebrated here in art and in artefacts ranging from the Neolithic period to the present day. They include objects relating to pioneering cancer treatment and a taxidermy collection that stimulates important discussions around climate change. CHARTS has brought so much combined expertise and energy to this project – it has been a pleasure to be part of the team.*

**Muriel MacKaveney, Project Facilitator, CHARTS**



*Image (top): Coastal Cultures Residency project, Expressing an Island, led by Norman Bissell. Filmmaker Glenda Rome, Isle of Luing, 2023. © CHARTS*

*Image (left): Research Project Harris Tweed Selvedge, VACMA awardee Pieter Van Der Werf, 2022. © Pieter Van Der Werf*

*Image (right): Leabaidh Rìoghail do Chalum Chille, A Royal Bed For Colmcille, Cobhan Cùildeach (Secluded Hollow), Iona. Temporary installation by Alicia Hendrick, 2022. © Gordon Bruce*

# Stay in touch

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Become a member of CHARTS for free: [www.chartsargyllandisles.org/register](http://www.chartsargyllandisles.org/register)



*Cover image: Mhairi Killin holding the remains of a Cuvier's beaked whale, washed ashore in Bragar in 2018. Image © Shannon Tofts*

Review designed by CHARTS members, Abigail Daly ([ruskinlane.co.uk](http://ruskinlane.co.uk)) and Hannah Clinch ([tacit-tacit.co.uk](http://tacit-tacit.co.uk)).

The Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly, Argyll and Isles, is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in Scotland: SC049113