# Introduction and background

- Hello my name is Finn Delaney and I am a field archaeologist with Eachtra Archaeological projects
- Eachtra have worked on archaeological projects throughout Ireland for the last 16 years
- During that time we have worked on many community archaeological projects many of them involving historic graveyard
- Arising out of this engagement the Historic Graves project was born.
- It is an ambitious community-focussed, grassroots, heritage project which aims to digitally record and publish thousands of historic irish graveyards.
- Local community groups are trained in low-cost, high-tech, field survey of historic graveyards and recording of their own oral histories.
- We then curate and unite them through the website to form a national resource.
- Caimin O'Brien (DOE) who wrote the heritage council guidance encouraged us to develop the multimedia elements of the graveyard surveys and this dovetailed perfectly with the hyperlocal heritage teachings of Bernie Goldbach (Tipp Institute). We incorporated their guidance into our sytem.

# Technology

- The project makes use of off the shelf relatively low cost technology such as smartphones, iPod Touch's, GPS enabled cameras, digital audio recorders and laptops. The power of these devices is harnessed to satisfy the needs of local community groups who want to undertake an historic graveyard surveys.

# Workshops

- The system advocated by the Historic Graves project is demonstrated during our workshops and flows from the fieldwork through to the data entry and publication.
- Everyone gets some hands on recording experience and is also introduced to a systematic method for recording a graveyard
- The survey system revolves around taking geolocated photographs of the memorial stones.
- Primary names and dates can then be transcribed from the photographs allowing them to be searchable and findable.
- Standard forms are used to record memorial inscriptions, iconography, and other details and these forms correspond to our database input forms
- Techniques like low impact rubbings and oblique lighting are demonstrated which allow faint inscriptions to be read.

- In the afternoon, in a local hall or hotel we upload some of the geo-tagged photographs recorded earlier in the day.
- We also use some of the completed memorial recording forms to fill in the details into the database.
- Some of the information collected that day is then published live on the Historic Graves website immediately becoming searchable and findable on line

## Website

- The historic graves website allows people to explore and search the growing database and allows communities to engage and publish historic graveyard surveys and related multimedia stories.
- In essence we register
  - Historic graveyards
  - Within those we register memorials/graves
  - From those we register people
  - Audio and video stories are attached to the graveyards and individual memorials

- This data can then be explored through list of gravyards and stories or through maps.
- The database can be searched by name, date and place.
- The website also allows community groups up to register a graveyard access the databse and publish their surveys and stories.

## Multiplatform

- This community in Ballymoney had published two books one with the inscription surveys and one exploring the stories attached to the graveyard.
- We geolocated the memorials and recorded the community retelling the collected stories – and both published live on the web

## Margaret Corcoran

- Maragaret came to our first ever workshop
- She went away and bought her own camera and conducted and published a survey of her own graveyard in Portnahinch to the historic graves site – we were delighted
- She then gathered a group of local people to her house and we recorded stories about the graveyard and the people
- These stories were published alongside the survey on the portnahinch page on the website
- This to my mind is a great example of new technology empowering local communities

## Uses of the data

- Historic Graveyards are presently a much under used heritage resource

- They are unique connectors between people and place.
- The authentic community created geolocated heritage media can be harnessed to enhance both local community engagement but also draw visitors into the heart of local communities and encouraging hyper local tourism
- The survey information and recorded media can be distributed through traditional channels like hese leaflets
- But due to its geolocated nature the data can also be distributed and explored across different media platforms
- Using smartphone apps and augmented reality technology the multimedia records can be explored on-site in local graveyards in real time.

## Conclusion

- Phillip Bromwell from visited one of our communities in Ennisnag in Co Kiolkenny and recorded a piece which was broadcast on the six one news
- He captured the essence of the project 'Local stories uniting to form a national resource with a global audience.