

Welcome to our autumn 2016 newsletter, with information about the Highland Archaeology Festival, new courses and lectures and a roundup of project reports.

Autumn Courses and Lectures

Telford in Badenoch and Strathspey

Join us at Grantown Museum, 1-3:30pm to research the remains and impact of the early 19th century engineer Thomas Telford in the area. Sessions in the autumn will feature:



10th Nov: Setting the scene

17th Nov: Researching Local History I: Old maps

24th Nov: Researching Local History II: Heritage Databases

1st Dec: Courses on paper and the internet, including the Old and New Statistical Accounts

Sessions in the New Year will include archive work, fieldtrips and much more. All sessions free. No experience necessary, just an interest!

Exploring Telford's Archives

Tuesdays, 15th November for 4 weeks, 1-4:30pm at Highland Archive Centre in Inverness. Learn how to use the Highland Archives, and explore documents relating to the work of Thomas Telford and his times in the Highlands. Free – all welcome. For those who have never used the archives before, or for people who want to gain more experience and familiarity with them.



Both of these courses are funded by Historic Environment Scotland.



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ARCH Lecture Series

All talks take place at Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30pm. Suggested donation £3.

Wed 28th Sept: **The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework**

What is the current knowledge of Scottish Archaeology, and what research questions need to be investigated? Anna MacQuarrie, ScARF Museums Officer, presents a talk about past and future activities of the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework.

Wed 26th Oct: **Kirkmichael: Past, Present and Future**

Dr Jim Mackay will explore the medieval architecture and carved stones at Kirkmichael and Cullicudden in the Black Isle and compare with those found elsewhere. He will describe how the ancient buildings at Kirkmichael are being returned to life as a magnificent heritage resource, hosting a display of medieval carved stones.



Wed. 30th November: **The Rose Street Foundry's 120 Year Old Tile Mosaic Murals**

Eileen MacAskill will look at the Rose Street Foundry in Inverness, placing it in its context in Scotland, and in particular will focus on the wonderful tile mosaic murals made and brought all the way from Shropshire in 1896.

Talks in the New Year will take place on:

Wed 25th Jan: to be confirmed

Wed 22nd Feb: Simon Gunn on Rosemarkie Caves

Wed 29th Mar: to be confirmed

Wed 26th Apr: to be confirmed

Wed 31st May: Martin Cook on Dun Deardail

Wed 28th June: Laclan McKeggie on Tornagrain

Details to follow in our next newsletter.

Highland Archaeology Festival

ARCH has been organising the Highland Archaeology Festival on behalf of Highland Council this year. For many of us HAF is the highlight of the heritage year. This year the festival runs from 1st-16th October, showcasing Highland Archaeology from earliest times to recent past. Look out for some new features including:

- **a dedicated website** at www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org which has all events listed, and downloadable brochures and forms.
- **special keynote talks.** Richard Oram will open the festival on Friday, 30th September with a talk on 'Climate, Cattle and Caters: Environmental Change and the Transformation of the Medieval Highlands'. Rod McCullagh will launch the conference on Friday 14th October with a talk on 'Reflections on Excavations at Lairg.' Both are held at Highland Council HQ in Inverness, with suggested entry donation of £3.
- **an afternoon of workshops** at Council Headquarters on Friday 14th October. This is a chance to try your hand at a number of skills. See page three for further details.
- **a Highland Artefact Trail** to look at featured objects in 31 museums throughout the Highlands. There is a passport to record visits and the person with the most stamps wins a prize.
- **Poster sessions** for groups at the Conference.

ARCH as usual will be offering a range of events:
Sat 1st Oct we will have a stall featuring the querns project at the Strathnairn Agricultural Working Vintage Rally & Display.

Tues 4th Oct 2-4pm.

Kiltearn Walk, exploring the old Kirk and remains along the shore in Evanton



Sat 8th Oct 1-3:30pm. Launch of new exhibition at Invergordon Museum on **Invergordon in World War II** followed by a walk around the town looking at surviving remains.

Sun 9th Oct, 7:30-9:30-pm. **Archaeology Pub Quiz** at the National Hotel in Dingwall.

Come test your knowledge in a fun-filled evening with quizmaster Lachlan McKeeggie. Come as a team or we will make them up at the door. £10/team, £2.50 per person. Raffle and prizes.

Mon 10th Oct, 10am-12pm. **Strathpeffer Station Walk.** Explore part of the old branch line looking at some surviving remains, and then back to the Goods Shed for a warm drink and a look at archive material. Wellies recommended!



Tues 11th Oct 2-4pm. **Archives for Archaeological Research.** Join Susan Kruse at the Highland Archive Centre in Inverness to look at a selection of archive material useful for archaeological research.

ARCH will also be running two of the workshops on **14th October**: Roland Spencer-Jones on **Using GPS for Survey and Mapping** and Susan Kruse with an **Introduction to using the HER.**

The **Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Research conference** on 15th/16th October looks to be its usual diverse and interesting lineup. New this year is a round table panel discussion looking at Iron Age architecture. As usual ARCH will have a display with information and secondhand books. Susan Kruse will give a talk on the Sunday about the ARCH Invergordon wartime projects. Bookings this year can be done over the HAF website as well as by post.

See the [full programme](#) for details of these and many other events. Printed copies of the brochure are available in a number of locations including libraries or service points, or contact ARCH. Electronic copies can be downloaded from the [HAF website](#).

Project Updates

Exploring Strathpeffer Station

As part of a project at the Highland Museum of Childhood, ARCH ran sessions investigating the history of the station, with participants helping with creating interpretative panels (see ARCH newsletter 34, June 2016). The panels are currently being printed, and should be installed in the next months. The group also helped with the [blog](#) which summarises some of the research and should become more active in the autumn when building works start.

Invergordon in World War II

ARCH has been providing sessions for Invergordon Museum where people have been gathering to remember the town in World War II, and to investigate the changes by using aerial photographs and other resources. The lively, well-attended sessions have unearthed a wealth of information and detail. The group is currently pulling it together into a display which will be launched on 8th October. Look for further details about the project in the next ARCH newsletter.



Scotland's Urban Past Training Day

On 30th July, the Scotlands Urban Past team came to Dingwall to run a session on how to record standing buildings. The enigmatic doocot on Castle Street was the focus of attention, as participants learned how to examine, sketch, plane table and photograph the structure. Inevitably more questions were raised than answered about the structure, but all found it a useful and stimulating day.



Training Opportunities

The Highland Archaeology Festival will have a workshop afternoon on Friday 14th at Highland Council where you can get hands-on training on a number of skills led by experts:

- Introduction to Using the HER (with Susan Kruse and Ian Scrivener-Lindley)
- Using GPS for Survey & mapping (with Roland Spencer-Jones)
- Photogrammetry Introductory Workshop (with Alan Thompson)
- What to do before you get into the field (with Andy Heald)
- Aerial Photography (with Allan Kilpatrick)
- Archaeological Photography (with Michael Sharpe)
- Building Detectives (with Scotland's Urban Past)

Each workshop will run twice during the afternoon — 2-3:30, and then 3:30-5; specify when booking. Full details are in the HAF programme available in printed form in various locations or electronically from the HAF website www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org Suggested donation is £5 for the afternoon. Bookings to 077888 35466 or highlandarchaeologyfestival@gmail.com

Kirkmichael looking for Volunteers

Volunteers are required for general archaeological work in and around the old kirk

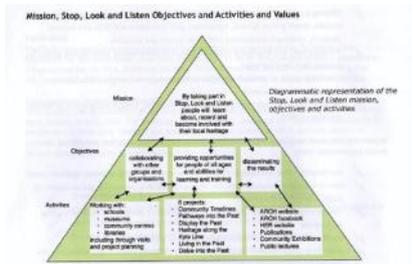


buildings at Kirkmichael, near Balblair on the Black Isle. They will be processing floor debris to find any fragments of broken monument among other interesting activity required by the repair works. No previous experience is needed, but you should have a reasonable level of fitness and be able to commit to at least two days at a time. Provisional dates are 17th October onwards for three weeks, with the possibility of some Saturday working. Please register interest with Lachlan McKeggie in the first instance (lachlan.mckeggie@hi-arch.co.uk) or call Verity Walker on 01381 620575 for further details.

ARCH in the news

The Heritage Lottery Fund's Programmes Evaluation and Outcomes Review (2010-2013) singled out ARCH for praise in its project evaluation of our Stop, Look at Listen project (run 2010-2012). We are cited as the Best Community Archaeology evaluation report they received, with the Social Audit undertaken by project seen as an example of a 'robust or innovative approach to making evaluation matter'. ARCH is also cited as an example of good practice in setting out a 'theory of change' in diagrammatic format (credit for this goes to Caroline Vawdrey, the outreach officer of the project).

Altogether this is high praise, since of the 92 reports considered by the review, only 16% were seen as very good, 22% as good, 40% as fair and 22% as poor, and the sample included projects from throughout the UK. The evaluation report can be downloaded from the [Heritage Lottery website](http://www.heritage-lottery.co.uk)



Querns Project

ARCH continues to progress a project to investigate hand querns in the Highlands.



We had another successful day at the Black Isle Show in August, where a number of visitors came to report querns they knew about. We are working with Dr Fraser Hunter of the National Museums of Scotland to set up a recording project, and will be submitting funding applications in the next months.

ARCH

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Friends of ARCH

If you enjoy what ARCH provides, please consider becoming a 'Friend of ARCH'. The Friends are a group of supporters who help ARCH in many diverse ways – by assisting at events, by offering specific skills or just by donating a small financial contribution to sustain ARCH's work. Friends of ARCH are requested to give an annual donation of £10 (or more if you wish). There is an annual Friends' invitational event, a presentation or a visit. To become a Friend—or to renew -contact the ARCH office or fill in the form below.

Name :

Address :

Email :

Phone :

Gift aid : Please tick if you are happy for your details to be used to allow ARCH to reclaim gift aid

I would also be happy to help ARCH by :

- Offering practical help at ARCH events (e.g. stewarding, setting-up, etc.)
- Helping to organise fund-raising activities
- Contributing to fund-raising activities (e.g. baking, hosting, providing a talk or presentation, etc.)

Please tell us how you would like to help:

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Offering skills (e.g. crafts, admin, design, etc.)

Please specify

Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'

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