

**Welcome** to our late summer newsletter, as ever we've lots to share with you, including a photo report from our summer dig, new courses starting, lots of ARCH activity at the Highland Archaeology Festival, our own celebration in Strathpeffer on Saturday 22 September, and news from Inverness Museum.

## A celebration of 3 years of Stop, Look and Listen

If you've been on one of the classes in this project - Community Timelines, Pathways into the Past, Heritage along the Kyle Line, Display the Past, Delve into the Past or Living in the Past - come and join us in Strathpeffer Community Centre on Saturday 22 September.

We're having a day to celebrate all that you've achieved through being part of ARCH. You'll be able to find out more about what the different ARCH classes have discovered, to share with us what went well - and what didn't - and to help us to plan for the future.

We're delighted that Cait McCullagh, now with Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, will be coming along to talk about 'Material Insights' - how finds can help us to understand more about where we live and how our area has changed over time. Cait has been involved with ARCH from the start, is a fantastic advocate for us and an enthusiastic and inspiring speaker.

It's always fascinating to learn from others, so we'll also be hearing from people from across the Highlands about what they discovered in their ARCH groups. In the afternoon there will be workshops to continue to share that experience.

We'll also be having a mystery object display. Bring along an object or a photograph and see if others can identify what it is.

***The event is free, includes lunch, and we'll arrange busses from the areas the courses took place in.***

If there are low numbers from some areas, we may arrange car-shares and pay mileage.

***Contact us for more details and to book a place. To book transport we'll need to know by 31 August.***

## We need your help with a couple of questions!

Have you been on an ARCH course? If so, we could do with some help in making sure that we've got all the information we need for our end of project evaluation.

ARCH's grant support comes to a close in January 2013, and the organisations who have supported us would like to know how we've done. If you've been on an ARCH course you'll know that we pester you with a variety of forms, including evaluation. You've all been great at filling these in - but we still have very little data on the following two questions :



***\* After the course did you go on to join a local society or volunteer in a local museum?***

***\* Did you use public transport, walk or cycle to SLL classes or events?***

We'd love to hear from you. Just get in touch using any of the ARCH contacts on the last page of the newsletter.

## Have you heard our Kyle Line MP3?

It is on the ARCH website and free to download - just hover over the 'home' tab and look for 'podcasts'. The script was written by course members, narrated by Irene Cronie from Dingwall Academy, and recorded by Alexander Gallacher, student at Edinburgh University, and covers many aspects of the history along the line including crofting, sporting estates, wartime and hydro schemes.

## Evanton wartime remains

ARCH is delighted to have been given funding by the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme, Kiltearn Community Council, The Highland Council, the Co-

operative Membership Community Fund and the Robert Kiln Trust to study the wartime remains of the Highlands.

We'll be drawing together sources to create a database of all known Highland sites, and working with the Evanton community to collect memories of the wartime remains in the village.

We'll be bringing you more details as plans develop. Keep an eye on our website and facebook page for information on this and many other heritage activities across Highland.



# Delving into the Past at Foulis Mound

An account of two weeks at the ARCH community dig by those who took part



**Day 1** Our mound trench is revealing an interesting feature, a line of large stones close to the surface running across the trench. *Lachlan*

**Day 2** On the mound we started to come across an area of darker soil with flecks of charcoal, which is exactly where the geophysics suggested an area of burning may be. *Lynne*

**Day 3** A copper alloy button was found early on in the day by



Fergus. It is imagined that the button may have been worn by a labourer as he worked on the field. Quite a few pieces of glass were found (one by me), as well as a piece of slag (a piece of iron rich metal left over from the smithing process). *Kirsty*

**Day 4** Our star find was by Kirsty - a piece of unglazed pottery possibly dating from the dark ages. In the barley field there was plenty of hard work for the farmers. All of the plough soil has been removed. Much mattocking, shovelling and wheelbarrow pushing as the spoil heap reaches higher and higher. *Bob*



**Day 5** 'Cleaning' is very difficult when incessant rain is determined to turn everything to churned mud. Whilst water will be very useful for processing the samples it is not much good when collecting them. *Lynne*



**Day 6** I spent most of the time troweling soil, of various tones of brown into a wee shovel and then tipping it into a bucket and, when the bucket was full, sieving it to see if I had missed any treasures - I did find a wee bit of bone!. *Trish*



**Day 8** The Open day was upon us before we knew it. Chief attraction was of course the Mound, but not far behind was our resident Jacobite Ian Devenne. Eric, the metal detectorist, also brought along a collection of 'objets trouves'. *Simon*



**Day 7** A memorable day in the trenches. The Young Archaeologists Club (YAKs) visited the Old Archaeologists Club (OAKs). The Yaks were given the opportunity to dig, sieve, collect soil samples, draw the bridge abutments, practice flotation and take photographs. *Karen*



**Day 9** On the mound, in the wind, we continued taking out a deep band of mottled brown and black with lots of stones. This layer contains lots of charcoal and is almost certainly what produced the strong positive reading on our geophysics. *Lachlan*



**Day 10** Our 'road' and associated ditches in the field trench slowly became more apparent. The ditches are proving to be of considerable width approximately 1m wide, partially filled with stone a mix of cobbles and broken sharp stone, with a depth of around 10 - 15 cms. *Allan*



**Day 12** We have taken off the final layers in the mound trench, revealing a layer of black soil, charcoal, large stones and lots of animal bone. This suggests the mound was a site of repeated burning and animal butchery.

**Day 14**

The last day was a busy one, with some last minute recording. In the field trench a lovely little horse shoe was discovered. After the back-filling out came the barbeques and a wee celebration to say thanks to all those who have come along to help us out. *Lachlan*

**Day 11** Ideal dig weather, dry, some sunshine and a slight breeze to keep the midges and flies at bay. The mound - a lot of work done by the main team. Evidence of charcoal layer appearing. David made some bone discoveries. *Catriona*

But when? We shall have to be patient to find out. *Lynne*

**Day 13** There was a hunt on for charcoal which was put very carefully into little bits of tin foil and then into bags. These will be used in our barbeque tomorrow... only joking, they will be used for radiocarbon dating. *Trish*



See next page for our conclusions & details of post-excavation classes

## Foulis conclusions



So what did the archaeologists decide about the Foulis Mound? Well it's definitely a mound! But more than that it is hard to tell. There was no clear pattern to the stonework, and no obvious depth to the stones. But there were some interesting areas of charcoal and, once these are dated, they may give us some further clues.

We do know that a routeway crossed the field, and the trench that was dug there confirmed that. Cnoc an Teampuill across the field is thought to be an early religious site, though there is no evidence, beyond its name. As this too lies on the routeway the thought is that the mound could be a Thing or meeting place - or of course, it could still just be a natural mound but it has definitely had significant human activity at some time in the past.



You don't need to have been on the dig to join in the debate, come along to the **post excavation workshops** with dig leaders, Lachlan and Lynne McKeggie.

At these you'll be able to find out how to look at all the information from the dig to understand more about the site. Activities will include taking a closer look at the finds, using water to see what interesting things float to the surface and learning how to ink up plan drawings.

There will also be a special day where you can learn how to create archaeological illustrations. And the beauty is you don't need to be arty or even able to draw! All the techniques you need will be taught on the course.

The dates for the post-excavation workshops are: **Alness Heritage Centre on Sat 25 August & Sun 2 September and in Dingwall Academy on Sat 8 & Sat 15 September. All the workshops are from 1.00 - 4.00 pm.** Cost for each workshop is £3.00 or free for low income. No need to book

**The illustration workshop is on Sat 1 September from 10.00 - 3.00pm in Dingwall Academy.** Cost for the workshop is £5.00 or free for low income. Bring your own lunch. You'll need to book for this workshop - just use the contacts on the back page.

## Inverness Museum events



Cait McCullagh, co-founder of ARCH, and still a director, joined Inverness Museum and Art Gallery as their Assistant Curator this spring.

As Cait says, " We have fabulous archaeological and social history collections at the museum, both on display and in storage, and I am arranging a couple of exciting opportunities to welcome folk into our stores during Scottish Archaeological Month, this coming October."

### The dates are:

Saturday 25th August, 2012: **The city beneath our feet - discover the archaeology beneath the streets of Inverness.** Step into the past with archaeologist/curator, Cait McCullagh. A compelling story of tsunamis, middens, castles, medieval merchants and monks. Tours start at 11am and at 2pm and begin in the museum gallery. Each lasts around 2 hours. The tours are free, but booking is essential.

Saturday 6th October 2012: **Behind the scenes at the museum - delve into the archaeology stores at IMAG.** Explore behind the scenes in our stores and discover the objects that reveal ancient maths,

prehistoric bling and medieval money! Tours start at 11am and 2pm. Both last for around 2 hours. The tours are free, but places are limited, so booking is essential.

*email: [cait.mccullagh@highlifehighland.com](mailto:cait.mccullagh@highlifehighland.com) or call me on 01463 237114*

### Treasurer trove at the museum

Treasure Trove will be visiting Inverness Museum on Saturday 13th October, as part of Highland Archaeology Festival. From 11.00 - 4.00 you'll be able to take along any interesting finds that you've made, discuss what they might be with an expert and find out more about the Treasure Trove system.

### Caledonian Canal workshop

Saturday 29 September: Muirtown Basin, Inverness from 10.00 - 4.00 : ARCH project officer, Susan Kruse will be leading this for The Waterways Trust. The day will focus on the Caledonian Canal and include a little classroom learning, practical outdoor sessions and group project work. Find out more and book a place from: Stephen Wiseman, Caledonian Canal Heritage Officer on 01463 725561 or email [Stephen.Wiseman@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk](mailto:Stephen.Wiseman@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk)

# ARCH Events

ARCH has a busy events calendar this autumn - including the start of the lecture series and a number of events (all of which you can get to by public transport) at the Highland Archaeology Festival, which takes place from Saturday 29 September - Sunday 14 October. *Most of these events are free, but we do welcome donations to ARCH, to help us keep delivering community archaeology in the future.*

## ARCH at the Highland Archaeology Festival

Sunday 30 September 2.00 - 3.30pm: **A tour of the recently-excavated mound and other archaeological sites in the vicinity of Foulis, near Evanton.** Find out on-site what our excavation revealed about this site and its use in the past. Meet at Foulis Burn bridge layby on the Old Evanton Road (NH 593 637). Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian. Wear stout shoes & bring waterproofs.

Monday 1 October 10.30 - 12.00: **A guided tour of the medieval remains of Beaulieu Priory** by Susan Kruse of ARCH and John Finlay. Part of a Priory Trail accessible by public transport. Wear stout shoes and wet weather gear. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian.

Wednesday 3 October 10.30am - 12.00: **A guided tour of the medieval remains of Fortrose Cathedral** by Susan Kruse of ARCH and John Finlay. Part of a Priory Trail accessible by public transport. Wear stout shoes and wet weather gear. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian.

Thursday 4 October 2.00 - 3.30pm: **A guided tour of the medieval remains of Fearn Abbey** by Susan Kruse of ARCH and John Finlay. Part of a Priory Trail accessible by public transport. Wear stout shoes and wet weather gear. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian.

Saturday 6 October: **Build an Iron-Age hillfort:** Strathpeffer Community Centre. Join Lynne McKeeggie of ARCH to find out what it takes to build an Iron Age hillfort and then do it (in miniature). A family event (or for unaccompanied adults) taking place in the shadow of Knockfarrel hillfort. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian. £2/person

Tuesday 9 October 2.00 - 4.00pm: **Join Lachlan McKeeggie of ARCH for a guided walk around the Iron Age/Pictish hillfort of Craig Phadrig** on the outskirts of Inverness. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian. Wear stout shoes and bring waterproofs.

Thursday 11 October 2.00 - 4.00pm: **Textile workshop:** Join Lynne McKeeggie of ARCH at a workshop exploring various textile technologies and methods used in the past. Black Isle Leisure Centre, Fortrose. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian. £2/person

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 October - **ARCH displays and bookstall** at Highland Archaeology Festival Seminar

## ARCH Lectures

Monday 27th August

### Following Foulis

Lachlan and Lynne McKeeggie describe the ARCH excavations at Foulis investigating an enigmatic mound and routeway in 2011 and 2012. The finds, the fun and how you can still get involved!

Monday 24 September 7:30 - 9.00pm:

### A Tale of 8 Communities

An illustrated talk by Susan Kruse of ARCH featuring 8 communities in the Highlands through the ages, investigated as part of the Community Timeline project.

29th October

### 'Museum Without Walls: Scotland's Clearances Trail App'

Jacquie Aitken presents a beginner's guide to digital app technology and its uses as a heritage resource for a worldwide audience. Come along and hear about Timespan's digital journey beginning with an idea to the launch of the new app and what was learnt along the way.

26th November

### 'Adopt-a-Monument - working with local communities to conserve and promote their local heritage'

Cara Jones discusses the new phase of Archaeology Scotland's Adopt-a-Monument project, a five year scheme which helps support and train local groups who wish to take a leading role in preserving their local heritage. Some recent Highland projects will be featured.

All lectures take place in Dingwall Community Centre. Suggested donation of £3

### Find ARCH at :

Education Centre, Castle Street,  
Dingwall, IV15 9HU

[info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk)

T. 01349 868230

*take a look at our website*

[www.archhighland.org.uk](http://www.archhighland.org.uk)

*or find us on facebook at*

[www.facebook.com/ARCHhighland](http://www.facebook.com/ARCHhighland)

