

Welcome to our autumn newsletter! It contains a report on our summer excavations, details of all the courses on offer this autumn, a full schedule of ARCH events for the Highland Archaeology Festival in October, the ARCH autumn lecture series and much more.

Summer Dig at Foulis

In July ARCH held a two week training excavation at Foulis near Evanton. We were digging at a flat –topped mound near the current Foulis Castle reputed to be a motte (old castle) site. As well as determining the nature of this mound we also hoped to explore the existence of an old route way running through the site.

The first stage of investigation was led by Eric Soane of Highland Historical Search Society who conducted a metal detector survey on site, unearthing a series of metal finds from the more recent past (1700s-1900s). These included musket balls, a shoe buckle, a copper ingot, a lead stylus, a button and a George III 'bullhead' coin. This told us that the area had been in use in the past few centuries and gave us some insight into the reuse of the site.

Further investigation confirmed that the mound was not natural. A substantial spread of stone on the top and base of the mound also hinted at structural debris or stone dumping. At this point the purpose of this is unknown.

Meanwhile in a trench in the nearby field the search for the location of the old route way running through Foulis identified some ephemeral archaeological features. Extensive environmental sampling took place and we await the results to give us more data on this feature.

Thanks to all the hard working participants, who persevered through some challenging weather. Evaluations show that people enjoyed the opportunity to try out a range of activities including towelling, using a Total Station, finds conservation and planning.

Altogether it was a good start to the project with many results to tease out in the post-excavation analysis and in future investigations next summer. Our blog is still available to read on the ARCH website. A course using the results to learn about what happens after a dig begins 30th August in Ainess (see page 4).

Bring and Buy Heritage Book Sale

Do you have heritage books, pamphlets or CDs which just gather dust on your bookshelves? Or are you looking to add to your collection? ARCH has organised a heritage book sale for **Saturday, 1st October** at Strathpeffer Community Centre, 10am-12pm. Tables can be booked for just £10 (share one with a friend if you wish), and entrance is just 50p for those just wanting to buy. Any profits will be used by ARCH to provide further events and activities.



Last Chance for HER Survey

The Highland Council Historic Environment Record survey finishes at the end of the month.

For anyone who uses the HER, it's important to give feedback—positive and negative. We are fortunate that our HER invites members of the public to contribute. All ARCH courses submit information to the HER—and already have added a large number of new sites and updated information. So if you haven't completed the online form available from the HER website <http://her.highland.gov.uk>, do so by the end of the month. You might even win an Amazon voucher.

ARCH Touring Displays

ARCH touring exhibitions are proving very popular. All have been created by course participants—and show what a great deal can be learned and displayed in a very short period of time!

- Last chance to catch the Community Timeline displays at Glengarry Community Hall, Invergarry (until mid September), and Aultbea Hall (until the 2nd September). The panels will then be given to Glengarry Heritage Society and Gairloch Museum respectively.
- Heritage along the Kyle Line
 - ◊ Dingwall Library until the end of August
 - ◊ From mid September at the Friends of the Kyle Line Museum, Kyle Station
- Pathways into the Past: Alness
 - ◊ Mercat Centre, Milton until end of August



ARCH Open Meetings

This summer we passed the half way mark in our 3 year Stop, Look and Listen project. We are now looking towards future projects, and welcome input. Was there a course elsewhere which you wanted in your area? Were there certain skills you wanted to learn? Let us know, by e-mail, post, telephone, or at one of the ARCH .

ARCH will host two open meetings this autumn, where we invite you to come and share your knowledge of local heritage and help shape ARCH's future plans.

The first will be on 31st August at Boat of Garten Community Hall, 7-8:30pm.

The second will take the form of a panel discussion at the joint WEA/Highland Council Archives Service/ARCH session to be held at the Highland Council Archives in Inverness on 10th October, 10-4.

ARCH Courses

A varied and full programme of courses continues this autumn—full details on p. 4.

The final two **Community Timeline** courses will take place in Boat of Garten and Broadford, Skye. This is a great way to learn about the heritage of the area, and to have fun researching the heritage of the local area. The Community Timelines created by previous 6 communities in Golspie, Evanton, Tomatin, Auldearn, Invergarry and Gairloch have featured a number of new sites and new information about old, and will make a fascinating book when compiled together in 2012.

Meanwhile the addictive **Pathways into the Past** continues to follow its route ways northwards, now focussing on the Milton area. Learn how to research and record in this mixture of indoor and outdoor sessions.

For those of you who have wondered what happens after an excavation, the **Delve into the Past Post-Excavation** course is for you! Using the results from this summer's excavations at Foulis, learn about finds, illustrations, data crunching and sample floating, and help to pull together the results into a small display.

After Christmas, look out for the final **Heritage Along the Kyle Line** course, where the results of the previous 3 courses will be pulled together into a leaflet and MP3 commentary, as well as the final two **Pathways into the Past** courses.

Exhibitions

Killearnan Memories

(arising out of ARCH's Black Isle Heritage Memories Project)

Tore Hall, 24th Sept, 10am-4pm

Castles, Cairns, Crofts and so much more!

Under the auspices of North Kessock and District Local History Society, and funded by SSE Fairburn Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund administered by the Scottish Community Foundation and Killearnan Community Council

Port Henderson Past and Present

Gairloch Museum, 17th Sept-29th Oct

An exhibition focussing on fieldwork and archival research of this west coast fishing and crofting village which was part of a Scotland's Rural Past project and ARCH Community Timeline.

ARCH at HAF

As this newsletter goes to press, we await the Highland Council's Highland Archaeology Festival events programme for the first two weeks of October. This is the high point of the archaeological calendar in the Highlands, with many organisations contributing a range of walks, talks and other activities.

ARCH is offering a wide range of activities this year, much as we try to do with our courses! Hopefully there is something for everyone.

- **30th Sept: Insight/On Site Tour of Foulis excavation site near Evanton**

10-11:30. Meet on Old Evanton Road at Foulis Burn layby (NH59325 63756). A guided tour of the site of ARCH excavations this summer.

- **1st Oct: Bring & Buy Heritage Book Sale**

10-12 Strathpeffer Community Centre
Buy and sell archaeology, history or heritage books, pamphlets and CDs. Sellers: Book a table for £10. Buyers: 50p entry. A chance to pick up some bargains and hard to find items.

- **3rd Oct: Remembering Strathpeffer**

2-4pm. Meet at Victorian Market, Strathpeffer. A walk around Strathpeffer, looking at buildings, sites and photographs of this historic spa village. Results from an ARCH project recording memories of the physical remains of the village will also be featured – and people are invited to contribute their own memories.

- **5th Oct: Walk to Coignafeuinternich**

2-4pm. Contact ARCH office for parking details. A short walk in the Findhorn valley to explore the ruins of Coignafeuinternich – a settlement abandoned in the early 20th century. Organised by Strathdearn Natural History Club and ARCH.

- **9th Oct: Walking the Stories in Torrachilty Forest to Rogie, near Contin**

1-5pm. Meet at Torrachilty Forest Car Park. Join storyteller Bob Pegg and Susan Kruse from ARCH for a walk through Torrachilty Forest to Rogie township, exploring heritage, stories, literary links and natural history. At the end we will meet for a warm drink and biscuits, more stories and a chance to browse the results of local research. Sponsored by Forestry Commission Scotland for the International Year of Forests, 2011.

- **10th Oct: The Stone Tape - A Storehouse of Memory**

10-4, Highland Council Archive Centre, Inverness
Talks, tour of the archive, displays and debate. Talks on medieval Inverness, the Caledonian Canal, archives & archaeology, Highland graveyards, and heritage courses. Also a panel

discussion: Is heritage a luxury in the current economic climate? A joint venture with the Highland Council Archive Service and the Workers' Educational Association. Limited spaces so booking essential on 01463 256444.

- **12th Oct: GIS & Digital Mapping Workshop**

Strathpeffer Community Centre, 10-12:30
A brief overview of how to make your own archaeological maps on the computer using GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and digital mapping available online. Booking essential.

- **14th Oct: Insight/On Site tour of Balloch**

10-11:30. Meet at Balloch Shop (NH72032 47181)
A guided walk of sites in the Balloch area.

- **15th/16th Oct: What's New in Highland Archaeology Seminar**

Eden Court, Inverness.

Cathy MacIver from ARCH will give a talk on the ARCH project, including the results from excavations at Foulis. ARCH will also have a display showing work from many of the courses.

The full HAF programme will be available on the Highland Council website, or paper copies can be obtained at libraries or from the Archaeology Unit directly.

ARCH Lecture Series

The popular ARCH lectures on the last Monday of the month continue! All lectures will be in Dingwall Community Centre at 7:30pm and will be followed by coffees and teas. Suggested donation of £3 per lecture.

- **26th Sept: Highlands at war!**

Allan Kilpatrick of the RCAHMS looks at the archaeological remains of the world wars in the Highlands and the role they played leading to victory in Europe. The talk will feature all aspects of the remains in the Highlands and in particular discuss the results of the recent survey of Inchindown underground fuel depot, truly the biggest secret in the Highlands.

- **24th Oct: Mesolithic hot spots, chambered cairn, Pictish cemetery and Medieval castle - the multi-period landscape of Tarradale in the Black Isle**

This illustrated talk by Eric Grant will examine the current state of knowledge about the archaeologically rich area of Tarradale in the west of the Black Isle and what research design and strategies should be employed to increase our understanding of the area and its potential.

- **28th Nov: Nybster Broch**

Andy Heald of AOC Archaeology will provide a talk on recent fieldwork on brochs in Caithness, including the community excavation at Nybster broch.

ARCH Courses

All courses are low cost and free to anyone on low income—and coffees and teas are provided. Everyone is welcome on any course - no previous experience necessary. Help with childcare is available—please contact us if you need childcare. To find out more or to book a place, please get in touch with us at info@archhighland.org.uk or 01349 868 230.

Pathways into the Past

Taking ancient route ways as a theme, these sessions will offer an introduction to landscape archaeology for all those who want to research and record their local archaeology. The next section of the route to be explored will focus on Milton and Kildary, using maps, aerial photographs and other sources.

Mercat Centre, Milton

Thurs, 1 Sept-6 Oct, 6:30-9pm

Thurs, 24th Nov-15th Dec, 6:30-9pm

£2.50 per session/free for low income

Community Timeline Heritage Overview

Interested in your past but confused about what happened when? This short course will provide an introduction to the archaeology of the areas near Boat of Garten and Skye, from earliest settlers to recent remains.

Boat of Garten Community Hall

Wed, 7th-28th Sept, 7-9:30pm

Broadford, Skye Village Hall

Thurs, 8th-29th Sept, 10:15am– 1:15pm

£2.50 per session / free low income

Surveying Your Heritage

Learn practical survey techniques which will enable you to record archaeological features in your area. There will be two introductory sessions (**27th Oct and 3rd Nov 6.30 – 9.00pm**) at the **Mercat Centre, Milton**, then a practical outdoors session over the weekend of **5th/6th-Nov**, 10am-4pm near Milton. This will be followed by a third session indoors at the Mercat Centre (**10th Nov**, 6:30-9pm) to look at the results. **Booking essential.**

Indoor sessions: £2.50 / free for low income

Outdoor practical sessions: £5/ per day /free for low income.

Community Timeline: Focus on Your Past

A chance to research sites, buildings or finds in either the Boat of Garten area or Skye, contributing to the creation of a Community Timeline display. New members welcome.

Boat of Garten Community Hall

Wed, 26th Oct-30th Nov, 7-9:30pm

Broadford, Skye Village Hall

Thurs, 27th Oct-1st Dec, 10:15am– 1:15pm

£2.50 per session / free low income

Delve into the Past: Post-Excavation

These sessions will look at the results from our summer excavation, going into more detail on what happens next in the excavation process. Learn about finds, illustrations, data crunching and sample floating and help to pull together our results into a small display. All welcome even if you have not been to any previous sessions or the dig!

Alness Heritage Centre

Tues, 30th Aug-4th Oct, 10am-12:30pm

Tues, 25th Oct– 6th Dec excluding 15th

Nov, 10am-12:30pm

£2.50 per session/free for low income



The ARCH website has a full list of courses and events, by ARCH and others, information about programmes and much, much more!

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