

Welcome to our summer 2016 newsletter, with information about our last of the ARCH lectures this spring, summer offerings and project reports.

Summer lectures and courses

ARCH Lecture, Wed. 29th June, 7:30pm

Bronze Age burials in Drumnadrochit: Understanding the specialist work.

Mary Peteranna of AOC Archaeology describes exciting results from recent excavations in Drumnadrochit. Dingwall Community Centre.



Invergordon in World War II

A new project run on behalf of Invergordon Museum and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Beinn Tharsuinn Community Benefit fund



begins over the summer, investigating the World War II remains of Invergordon. It follows on from the successful project last year looking at World War I remains. This town was no less busy in World War II, but the focus was very different. We encourage anyone with memories of Invergordon in World War II to come to our sessions or get in touch! We'll also look at archive information, aerial photographs, old photographs and other sources. We'll meet on Thursday evenings, 7-9:30 starting 14th July at Invergordon Museum (except for 28 July—see next column). Free and all welcome!

The Cromarty Firth in World War II

Talk by Allan Kilpatrick (HES)
Thursday 28th July, 7pm, Invergordon Arts Centre

Allan Kilpatrick is well known to many here, and will give a talk on wartime remains in the Cromarty Firth a part of the Invergordon in World War II project.

Standing Building Survey Workshop, Dingwall

Saturday, 30th July

The Scotland's Urban Past team will provide a day training in how to record standing buildings. Free but booking essential via the ARCH



[website](#), email to info@archhighland.org.uk, or by phoning 077888 35466.

ARCH Quern Display at Black Isle Show

The ARCH display on querns will be at the Black Isle Show again on 2nd August from 4pm and all day 3rd August. We are still working on progressing this project, and welcome any information about Highland querns!

And advance notice for October ...

ARCH will as usual have a full programme for the Highland Archaeology Festival in October. Further details will be in the next newsletter, and in the HAF programme which will be distributed in September. But a date to put in your diary now: **Sunday 9th October, 7:30pm** when ARCH will sponsor an **Archaeology Pub Quiz** at the National Hotel in Dingwall. Either come as a team (of up to four), or we will join teams at the door. Do you know your Mesolithic from your Neolithic? Your crannogs from your castles? Raffle, prizes and much more. £10/team or £2.50 per person.

Highland Archaeology Festival

ARCH is pleased to announce that it is now organising the Highland Archaeology Festival on behalf of the Highland Council. This year it runs from 1-16th October, with the 'What's New in Highland Archaeology Conference' taking place on 15th & 16th October. Working with the Historic Environment Team, we are planning a number of new ventures including:

- a keynote speaker to launch the conference on the 30th of September – this year Richard Oram will look at medieval Highlands.
- a keynote speaker on Friday, 14th October – this year Rod McCullagh talking on Reflections of Lairg.
- an afternoon of workshops on Friday 14th October at Council Headquarters
- a dedicated website to launch soon: www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org
- an artefact trail of HAF 2016 objects, with a passport to record visits

The deadline to submit events is the 24th June, so if you haven't done so yet, do so immediately! Events which miss the printed brochure will be on the new website.

More details will be in the next newsletter.

Self-Guided Trails for the Summer

If you are planning a day trip or a holiday in the Highlands over the summer there are a number of self-guided walks or field trips available. ARCH has produced a number including:



- Walk around Strathpeffer (leaflets from Strathpeffer Community Centre, Old Pump Room, Highland Museum of Childhood, or online from ARCH website)
- Invergordon World War I trail (leaflets from Invergordon Museum)
- A walk around Munloch (leaflet from ARCH website and possibly locally).

- Evanton Airfield Past and Present (available from Cornerstone Café and ARCH website)
- Heritage Along the Kyle Line (available from ARCH website and Dingwall Station). The leaflet shows heritage remains along the rail journey.
- Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland (available from Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust). A trail by car.

ARCH is currently compiling a list of other self-guided trails. If you have produced one, please send details of web information and also where printed copies can be found. Similarly there are a growing number of digital apps trails including Strathpeffer and TimeSpan.

Project Reports

Remembering the Strathpeffer Area



The project investigating the heritage of the Strathpeffer Area finished in spring 2016. Over 400 records were submitted to the Historic Environment Record, and once they have been given numbers there, will also be forwarded to Canmore. A full sites listing is available now from the ARCH website, with paper copies at the Strathpeffer Community Centre, Old Pump Room, Highland Museum of Childhood and Dingwall Library. Full archives of information can be found at the Community Centre, Museum and Pump Room. Remembering the Strathpeffer Area was a joint project with Strathpeffer Community Centre, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Mackenzie New York Villa Trust.

Exploring Strathpeffer Station

We were delighted when the Highland Museum of Childhood asked ARCH to facilitate sessions to research Strathpeffer old station and help produce interpretative panels.

From February to May 2016 participants met to share memories, look at archives and photographs,



©Highland Railway Society

and discover the history of the station from its building in 1884 up to today. The research was in advance of building works on the canopy, after which the three signboards written by the group will be erected. The results of the research are also being published as a blog from the [Highland Museum of Childhood website](#) which will also record the building works once they commence. A

leaflet about the station is also in preparation. Some surprises from the project were the rediscovery of the film which showed at the cinema in the station in the 1980, and recording of some of the many original fenceposts – metal and wood – and bridges which survive.



Home Front Legacy Training

In this joint event with ARCH, CBA, Archaeology Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland held in February, participants had talks about World War I activities in the Cromarty Firth by Allan Kilpatrick and Susan Kruse of ARCH, and then had training in how to use a new app to record wartime remains. The practical session on the Sunday looked at remains at Dalmore, and using old photographs and archive information was able to record a surviving wartime building.



On-Line Heritage Explorations

ARCH held two further On-Line Heritage Explorations funded by High Life Highland, at Ardersier and Invergordon.



We explored old maps, heritage databases, aerial photographs on-line, family history website, and any other computing topic of interest, including file organisation, powerpoint and the wonders of the snipping tool. We grappled with multiple operating systems and platforms (tablets and laptops) as well as the ScotlandsPeople voucher system, but everyone gained new skills and we were able to submit information and photos to both the HER and Canmore. There was more than enough to fill five sessions. The fantastic map archive of the National Archives of Scotland ([maps.nls.uk](#)) was a real favourite.

Heritage Events

The [ARCH website](#) posts any events we know about—and already the next few months are filling up. If you are member of a local heritage society, or know of something interesting, forward the details to ARCH, and we'll post them on the website.



Friends Visit

ARCH Friends had a fascinating day in May visiting sites in Strathglass. We started



with a visit to the 19th century Chisholm graveyard, probably on the site of an earlier motte. Overgrown and atmospheric, the cemetery had splendid examples of Celtic revival tombstones. We then walked over to Erchless Castle, a well-preserved tower house castle with later additions. After a lunch we visited Eskadale Church, built by the Frasers of Castle Beaufort. Our final stop of the day was an enigmatic vitrified hillfort at Fionn Dun. Thanks to Roland Spencer-Jones for organising a splendid trip.

Valerie Reid

We regret to note the untimely death of Valerie Reid, a longtime ARCH supporter and Friend. After many years working in Dingwall Library, on retirement Valerie turned to heritage pursuits in earnest. With Maureen Grey she wrote and produced a series of quirky walk leaflets highlighting Dingwall heritage. (These are available at Dingwall Museum and Library amongst other venues). More recently with ARCH she was involved with developing the Querns project. She will be missed very much.

Kenny Stewart

Kenny Stewart was one of our major informants for the Remembering the Strathpeffer Area project, providing a wealth of details for the project. Always ready with a good story and smile, his contributions enriched the project. We are so thankful he took part, even when his health was failing. He too will be missed.

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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

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