

*Welcome to our September newsletter, with lots of activities including information about the ARCH lecture series this autumn and the Highland Archaeology Festival in October.*

## **Highland Archaeology Festival 2019**

One of the high points each year is undoubtedly the HAF festival, featuring over 100 events and exhibitions in a packed three weeks. As usual, ARCH is involved in a number of events:



### **Monday 30th September, 1:30-3:30pm HERO Day: Contributing to Our Heritage Knowledge**

Bring photographs and information to this drop in session at Culloden Library, and we will help you add them to the Highland Historic Environment Record, Highland Council's database of all known heritage. Scanner and computers available, and opportunities to explore this fantastic resource.



Thursday 3rd October, 10-4pm

### **The Northern Barrage in the Highlands**

Free, one-day conference on the U.S. Navy activity in the Highlands in World War I, assembling and then deploying mines on the Northern Barrage between Orkney and Norway. Various community groups which have researched the topic will present their findings of this little known presence. Spectrum Centre, Inverness (near the bus station). Bookings to ARCH.

Thursday 3rd October, 4-7pm

### **The Northern Barrage in the Highlands: exhibition**

Browse displays created by groups from Inverness, Ardersier, the Black Isle, Alness, Invergordon and Strathpeffer. Spectrum Centre, Inverness.

Thursday 3rd October, 7-8:30pm

### **Mine How You Go**

Lecture by Allan Kilpatrick discussing all aspects of the operations required in the creation of the Northern Barrage, pulling together findings of the conference and placing them in context. Spectrum Centre, Inverness. Free, no booking needed.

Friday 4th October, 1-4pm

### **War-time Remains at the North Sutor and Nigg**

Join Allan Kilpatrick of HES for a tour of the war-time defences on the North Sutor, and if time permits, at Nigg Battery. Bookings to ARCH. Free/donations welcome.

Saturday 5th October, 10am-4pm

### **Black Isle Gathering**

ARCH will have a stall at this indoor 'street market' promoting Black Isle groups and activities. Fortrose Academy.



Sunday 6th October, 1:30-3:30

### **A Walk Around Ashaig**

Join John MacLeod for a walk around the multiperiod site of Ashaig near Broadford on Skye, looking at prehistoric roundhouse, burnt mound and shell middens, the chapel site with holy well, a preaching site and a limekiln. Meet at Ashaig cemetery car park. During HAF, finds from excavations at the well be on display at the Skye & Lochalsh Archive Centre in Portree.



Tuesday 8th October, 1:30-3:30

**A Guided Visit to Dunrobin Castle Museum**

Join Susan Kruse of ARCH for a guided visit to the wonderful museum in the grounds of Dunrobin Castle. This hidden gem includes an important collection of prehistoric finds and Pictish stones. The free event is only to the museum, and anyone wishing to visit the castle and grounds will need to purchase entry tickets. Bookings essential to ARCH.

Friday 18th October, 2-4pm

**Highland Artefacts**

Workshop leaders at ARCH’s Experimental Archaeology project made a variety of objects, and have donated them for loans boxes. Come and handle prehistoric to modern artefacts and replicas, and hear stories of their manufacture and use. Culloden Library. Free.

Friday & Saturday 12th & 13th October  
**Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Research conference**, Highland Council Chamber, Inverness. As usual there is a range of interesting talks, including on ARCH’s Experimental Archaeology project, as well as displays and stalls. Details and bookings on [www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org](http://www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org) or contact ARCH.

Look out for exciting keynote talks as well. On Friday 27th September Steven Birch will talk about ‘Out of the Dark: Looking beyond the High Pasture Cave Complex, Skye’ to launch the festival. The keynote talk on Friday 11th October will be Andy Heald talking about ‘Living and Dying in Iron Age Caithness’. Both talks are in the Council Chamber, Inverness. No booking necessary. Suggested donation £5.

HAF brochures are available from libraries, museums, service points, and leisure centres. They were also sent to everyone who confirmed last year that they wanted a copy sent directly.

**ARCH Lecture Series**

The ARCH lectures take place on the last **Tuesday of the month** at Dingwall Community Centre at 7:30pm, with a suggested donation of £3. Talks this autumn are:

Tuesday 24th September

**Highland Artefacts**

Highland heritage is about more than sites and buildings. Susan Kruse will bring the loan boxes created for the ARCH Experimental Archaeology project, for an evening of handling and discovery.



Tuesday 29th October

**Heritage and Archaeology in the Digital Age: Reconstructing the past in Kildonan and Helmsdale**

Jacque Aitken of Timespan Museum describes the CINE project which aims to transform people’s experiences of outdoor heritage sites through technology, building on the idea of “museums without walls”. She describes work done in Helmsdale as part of this international project.

Tuesday 26th November

**Visiting Lumberjacks: Forestry Corps in Wartime Scotland**

Alasdair Cameron will talk about the importance of timber in both World Wars and how lumberjacks crossed the oceans to harvest the Scottish trees and meet the Scottish Lassies.



## What's Happening in September

There are a lot of events—talks, workshops and digs—happening in September! Doors Open Day has events each weekend. Badenoch and Strathspey are full of opportunities, thanks to the Badenoch Festival and the Fiddler of Strathspey Festival (where the carnyx will make an appearance). Community excavations are at Swartigill in Caithness and Tarradale on the Black Isle. Many local societies have also announced their lecture programmes. See the ARCH website, Events section, for information and links of events we know about.

### 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 and include them in our periodic newsflashes.

## SCHA roadshow

More opportunities to feedback ideas on problems and opportunities for community heritage in Scotland. In the spring there were meetings at Strathpeffer and Helmsdale. Now it's the turn of the west, with meetings at Kyle of Lochalsh (18<sup>th</sup> Sept.) and Fort William (19<sup>th</sup> Sept.).

The days will be informal, and follow a simple format with an opening speaker followed by lively discussion workshops. We will be talking about networks, sharing ideas about how a new national network might look, and what it could do for community heritage.

The discussion days are free to attend (although the organisers ask people to bring their own lunch or pre-book a packed lunch). Booking is [now open](#) and you can find out more about the tour [here](#). For further information contact Catherine Gillies on 07833 133928 or at [scottishcommunityheritage@gmail.com](mailto:scottishcommunityheritage@gmail.com)



## Project Reports

### Highland Regional ScARF

Grace has been busy over the summer continuing to input and revise data in the Highland Historic Environment Record. Thanks to a grant from the Pilgrim Trust, she is now adding information about Highland finds, gathering information from museum catalogues and collections, Treasure Trove information, and other sources. The ScARF project is funded by Historic Environment Scotland via Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

### Experimental Archaeology

We are on the homeward stretch of this project now, with teacher Dave Peers and archaeologists Lachlan & Lynne McKeggie working together to produce learning materials to accompany the loan boxes. Thanks to the generosity of workshop leaders, the project has produced 4 loan boxes. These will be ready by end of October to be borrowed by schools, community groups, libraries or other interested people. The project is funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund.



### Dalmore Wartime Remains

The Dalmore Wartime Remains project had a very successful launch to its display on 18th June, with over 100 people attending. Information about the project can be found on the ARCH website. The group will also present its results at the Northern Barrage conference during HAF. The project was funded by the Port of Cromarty Firth and Orion Group, with additional support from ARCH, Invergordon Museum and Alness Heritage Centre.

## Friends Trip June 2019

As thanks to ARCH Friends, we arrange a special trip each year. This year we visited Ardersier. We first stopped at Fort George, where we were guided around the Highlanders' Museum, and saw dolphins from the ramparts. Then we had lunch at the PACE café and heritage centre, looking at their displays and resources. Our walk around Ardersier using a guide prepared by the local heritage group, was rather wet, but suggested a return later. Thanks again to all Friends who have supported us.



## Help Catalogue at IMAG

As part of the ScARF project, ARCH is encouraging people to help catalogue objects at Inverness Museum. This is a great opportunity to see and handle a range of objects. We meet selected Mondays when the museum is closed. Dates this autumn are: 16th, 23rd, 30th Sept, then 18th & 25th Nov and 2nd Dec; you can come full or half days. Contact Susan at ARCH if you are interested.

## Case Studies Wanted

Work on ScARF has shown—if one needed it—just how rich and important is our Highland material remains from earliest settlers to modern times. Over the years we have been profiling some on the ARCH website in the Site and Find of the Month sections. September features caves in the far northwest and the Dingwall Mercat cross. These snapshots make very interesting reading—and will be the basis for case studies in the final ScARF publication. If you know of other sites or finds which merit more attention, or would like to contribute a case study, we want to hear from you!

**ARCH**  
**The Goods Shed, The Old Station, Strathpeffer**  
**IV14 9DH**  
**077888 35466**  
**info@archhighland.org.uk**  
**www.archhighland.org.uk**

## 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. To become a Friend—or to renew -contact ARCH or fill in the form below.

Name :
Address :
Email :
Phone :
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Offering practical help at ARCH events (e.g. stewarding, setting-up, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Helping to organise fund-raising activities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contributing to fund-raising activities (e.g. baking, hosting, providing a talk or presentation, etc.)</li> </ul>
Please tell us how you would like to help: .....
Offering skills (e.g. crafts, admin, design, etc.) Please specify .....
<i>Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'</i>

**Do you get a postal version of this newsletter?** Please consider switching to email if you use it. It saves us money—and means you will also get email updates. **And let us know if you would like to be taken off the mailing list.**