

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2020—a new decade with new opportunities and challenges for community heritage.

## ARCH Lectures

Last Tuesday of the month at Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30pm.

Suggested donation £3

Tues 28<sup>th</sup> January

### The Conan Pictish Cross Slab

Anne MacInnes describes the exciting find of a new Pictish Cross Slab from near Conon Bridge, and Susan Kruse discusses its context in Easter Ross.



Tues 25<sup>th</sup> February

### Insurrection: Scotland's Famine Winter

James Hunter, Emeritus Professor of History at UHI, talks about his new book which tells the story of the crisis arising from the loss to blight of Scotland's 1846 potato crop. In the Hebrides there was starvation and death. And all around the Moray Firth from Aberdeenshire to Caithness – not least in Inverness, Beaulieu, Avoch, Dingwall, Evanton and Invergordon – people rose up in often violent protest at the soaring cost of the oatmeal that now replaced potatoes as their basic foodstuff.



Tues 31<sup>st</sup> March

### Metal Detecting Finds from the Beaulieu Area

Detectorist Eric Soane will describe some interesting recent finds from the Beaulieu area, and will bring some examples to show.



Tues 28<sup>th</sup> April

### Exploring Evanton's Heritage

Malcolm Bangor-Jones will focus on the heritage of Kiltarn Parish in Evanton, looking at the planned village and the interesting heritage around, including up the glens.



Tues 26<sup>th</sup> May

### Silence of the Whisky Stills: Monuments to Agency in the Highlands of Scotland

Darroch Bratt will scrutinise the role of whisky distilling in the post-medieval Highlands of Scotland. In particular the importance of distilling



as a response to, and object of, schemes of Improvement in the 19th century will be discussed. Drawing on individual stories and records he will ask what the archaeological remains of distilling sites can tell us about how communities reacted to enormous changes in Highland life from the late 17th to late 19th century.

Tues 30<sup>th</sup> June

### Island Homecomings: Community heritage & diaspora tourism

Joanna Rodgers will explore community heritage and its links to diaspora tourism, with a special focus on Tiree.

### Help Catalogue Finds at IMAG

Over the past year volunteers have met to help catalogue finds at Inverness Museum, adding or updating over 4000 records. We are working on a wide range of objects, including some from excavation assemblages. This is a great opportunity to handle and photograph objects, and learn how to use AdLib, a popular museum cataloguing program. Dates for the first half of 2020 are: 10 & 17 Feb, 2 & 9 March, 20 & 27 April, 18 & 25 May, 8 & 15 June. There will also be a week devoted to coins on 27–31 January. Come for half day or full day, for all sessions or just selected ones. It's very informal, and fun! Contact Kari Moodie at IMAG if you are interested on 01349 781730 or [Kari.Moodie@highlifehighland.com](mailto:Kari.Moodie@highlifehighland.com)

## Object Workshops

As part of the ScARF project, two more hands-on workshops have been arranged at Inverness Museum. These are aimed at professional archaeologists, museum staff and volunteers, fieldwalkers or any interested people. Free, but limited places. Bookings to IMAG on 01349 781730 or [inverness.museum@highlifehighland.com](mailto:inverness.museum@highlifehighland.com)

Saturday 25th January, 10-4

### Introduction to Zooarchaeology and Osteoarchaeology

A practical session in the morning with Karen Kennedy on identification of animal bones, followed by an afternoon session looking at issues of human bone with Orshi Czere and Cat Irving including potential for scientific analysis.

Friday 21st February, 10:30-4

### Identifying Prehistoric Pottery

A repeat of October's workshop due to popular demand. Beverley Ballin Smith provides a practical, hands-on session on identifying prehistoric pottery.

These workshops are free, thanks to funding from ScARF and support from High Life Highland. Lunch not provided.



## ARCH Site and Find of the Month

Over a number of years, an interesting find and site have been profiled on the ARCH website each month. This is an interesting resource to browse, providing snapshots of both ordinary and spectacular remains from the Highlands. Links to the monthly offerings can be found from the Home page of the ARCH website and there is a useful index at

[www.archhighland.org.uk/find-and-site-of-month-index.asp](http://www.archhighland.org.uk/find-and-site-of-month-index.asp)

## Does your community want a heritage course?

As part of a new project under development, ARCH is looking for two communities in the Highlands who would like courses to explore, research and display their multi-period local heritage. If this is of interest, please email Susan describing your community and why it would benefit from a [Community Timelines](#) type of course.

## Project Updates

### Highland Regional ScARF

A great deal of work continues behind the scenes on work to create an overview of Highland heritage from earliest settlers to modern times. Susan visited a number of museums in 2019, gathering a great deal of data which Grace is currently inputting into the Highland HER. Practical workshops have been well received, and thanks to funding from ScARF we will be offering more this year—see left for the first two offerings. Grace has been highlighting interesting finds and sites for the ARCH website (see below, left) which will form case studies for the final publication. Susan has also been offering talks and workshops to various organisations as part of the project.

Susan will start to pull this material together for a first draft in the coming months. If you would like to comment on drafts, please get in touch.

Funding for the project is from Historic Environment Scotland through the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. The Pilgrim Trust is funding work to get information about Highland finds into the HER.



### Northern Barrage in the Highlands

ARCH is also participating in the Northern Barrage project coordinated by the Inverness Local History Forum, with contributions from various community projects which have researched the presence of the U.S. Navy in WWI in the Highlands as they assembled and deployed mines for the Northern Barrage between Orkney and Norway. A successful conference with a range of talks and displays was held in October where different groups presented their findings. A book describing the topic is now in preparation.

## Experimental Archaeology: Learning about Craft and Technology in the Past



Over the past two years, ARCH led an innovative project focussing on experimental archaeology exploring production of various objects from Mesolithic through to modern times. Between October 2017 and 2018 monthly workshops focussed on a different craft. Videos were made, and edited versions along with blogs can be found on the [ARCH website](http://www.archhighland.org.uk).

Workshop leaders generously donated at least one object. We expected to make one loans box from the donations, but in fact were able to make four. One focuses on early prehistory, one on later prehistory, one on the historic period and one on Thomas Telford.



Over the past year teacher Dave Peers and archaeologists Lachlan & Lynne McKeggie worked on producing learning materials to go with the boxes, which were then edited by Susan Kruse. This was a useful collaboration, with each providing different insights.



We're very proud of the final results. Dave produced ten crafting lessons, each written at five levels, individual object lessons for primary and secondary age groups, and an adult self-led lesson. Lachlan and Lynne wrote a number of one-page information sheets focussing on chronological periods, craft technologies and the individual objects. These are referenced in the

lessons, but also are useful for other purposes, for example for museum volunteers.

All of the lessons and information sheets are available from the ARCH website. In addition, top copies for photocopying are available in binders within the boxes.

The boxes and the resources can be used by a range of people, including schools, adult education or community groups. Boxes are free to borrow. Contact Susan at the ARCH office if you are interested. For further information and links to the resources see [www.archhighland.org.uk/exp-menu.asp](http://www.archhighland.org.uk/exp-menu.asp) An official launch event will take place later this year. If you are interested in attending, and only get postal newsletters, let us know so you will receive notice.

The project was funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund (now National Lottery Heritage Fund).

### Highland Archaeology Festival 2019

ARCH organised a number of events for the HAF festival this year, as well as presenting a paper on the Experimental Archaeology project, a poster session on the ScARF project, and a display at the conference. The guided visit to Dunrobin Castle Museum was particularly popular and was repeated due to demand. ARCH again organised the conference and programme on behalf of Highland Council Historic Environment Team.



*On Allan Kilpatrick's tour of wartime remains on the North Souter, organised by ARCH, the arrival of the latest aircraft carrier into the Cromarty Firth proved a distraction!*

### 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.

### Electronic publications

A range of archaeological publications are increasingly available for free download from the internet. Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports (SAIR) and Archaeological Reports Online (ARO) both provide monographs on various topics, including reports on Highland sites. The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is now releasing some out of print monographs, including the excellent recent publication of excavations at Portmahomack. The EXARC Digest has papers relating to experimental archaeology.

[archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/sair/](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/sair/)  
[www.archaeologyreportsonline.com/](http://www.archaeologyreportsonline.com/books.socantscot.org/digital-books)  
[books.socantscot.org/digital-books](http://books.socantscot.org/digital-books)  
[exarc.net/journal](http://exarc.net/journal)

The Archaeological Data Service is well worth exploring too. It has most of the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (PSAS) and Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES) volumes available, as well as a number of theses and publications.



[archaeologydataservice.ac.uk](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk)

Many out of print books have also been scanned and made available by various organisations, including [internet.org](http://internet.org)

Even some fairly new books are now being released for free download. It's worth searching online when researching a topic!

### ARCH

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

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:  
 .....

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

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

**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.**