

Welcome to the fifth - and definitely most exciting - ARCH newsletter so far! This newsletter contains an update on Stop, Look and Listen, a report on the Black Isle Heritage Memories project, details of forthcoming courses, information about our website and a short questionnaire we would be very grateful if you would respond to.

Stop, Look and Listen!

We are pleased to announce that three part-time project officers and a administrator have been recruited. The three project officers are Janet Hooper, Susan Kruse and Cait McCullagh, who will bring their collective experience as archaeologists and community education tutors to the project. Our new Dingwall office will be staffed by Fiona Williamson in the office.

“The Highlands has a rich and diverse archaeological and built heritage, that ranges from the scatters of stone tools left by the first settlers to the places, buildings and objects that have been created during more recent events in the lives of Highlanders. These include the numerous prehistoric burials, chapels, farmsteads and World War II heritage sites that dot our landscape to name but a few,” says Hilary Lawson, Chair of the ARCH Board of Directors. “We are thrilled that our funders and supporters have acknowledged the importance of supporting people to learn more about their local heritage. We look forward working together with local communities to help them share their knowledge and discoveries and record these for the benefit of both the local population and of visitors to the area; now and long into the future”.

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme, with additional support from Highland Council and ScotRail, the project officers are already starting to put the **Stop, Look and Listen** project into action.

ARCH Online!

The ARCH website is now **live!** The address is: www.archhighland.org.uk

The website includes information on ARCH projects, events and an online forum, as well as features such as ‘Site of the Month’ and ‘Find of the Month’. The website is not there just to promote ARCH activities, but we hope it will also become an online community for people interested in all aspects of Highland heritage.

If you would like to add the details of your group or event to the website, please contact us at the address below:

**ARCH
Education Centre
Castle Street
Dingwall
IV15 9HU**

**Tel: 01349 868230
e-mail: info@archhighland.org.uk
www.archhighland.org.uk**



Stop, Look and Listen!

Stop, Look and Listen will provide a variety of opportunities to learn about your local heritage over the next 3 years. We know that not everyone is the same - some like to study inside, others to record standing remains, some want to work with archives or in museums. The six programmes which make up SLL will allow something for everyone, and provide a chance to try your hand at different activities.

Community Timelines

If you are interested in the past, but confused about what happened when, this course will provide a good introduction to your community and its heritage. There will then be a chance to explore several sites or buildings in depth. Finally, all the information will be put together into a Timeline display which will tour your local area. We are currently taking bookings for sessions in Golspie and Evanton (see back page of the newsletter), and will roll this out to 6 other communities over the next 3 years. Let us know if you would like this to happen in your community!

Display the Past

Here is the opportunity to work with a museum to create a professional exhibition. Learn museum skills, research objects, create labels, and help with publicity. The first museum we will work with is Groam House Museum in Rosemarkie, which will install a temporary exhibition of the finds from a local collector, Dr Maclean. Book soon, since there are limited places for this 8 session course (see back page for details). There will be opportunities to work with a second museum later in the year.

Pathways into the Past

The road networks linking the Highlands are a relatively late and obscure topic. This course will trace a series of roads from Beaulay to Tain. Learn how to do a 'desk-based' assessment, look at various maps, and survey features on the ground. The first sessions, at Muir of Ord and Canon Bridge, will take place in May, and sessions in other communities along the way will be rolled out after the summer.



Heritage Along the Kyle Line

This is a chance to research the heritage of the area along the railway from Dingwall to Kyle, looking at three communities along the line. The results will then be put together into a local exhibition and onto MP3 downloads, so that visitors (and locals) can learn about the places they are travelling through. The first sessions will be held later in the spring.

Living in the Past

This is a chance for young people and teachers to get involved, learning how to 'read' the remains of an old crofting site, and then to interpret their results in whatever way they wish. We will work with the Scotland's Rural Past project, probably in October of this year to coincide with Highland Archaeology Fort-night.

Delve into the Past

Many people think archaeology means excavation - and we will provide two opportunities in summer 2011 and 2012. We are looking for sites which are interesting and close to public transport so that people of all ages and mobility can participate. There will also be childcare provided for participants.

Further information about all these programmes is available on the website, or contact us for details.

Black Isle Heritage Memories

The 'Remembering your Community' sessions, which have been taking place in Culbokie, Tore and Avoch, have just drawn to a close.

In each community, participants gathered around copies of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition map for their areas and considered what had changed, disappeared and been built since the maps were surveyed in 1872. Each site, feature and historic building we discussed was given a unique number and a numbered sticker put on the map. The locally known names, the condition of the building/place today and peoples' knowledge and recollections - both their own and those passed on through family and friends - were noted down.

Each of these entries will be added to the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (HER), a database of all the archaeology and historic buildings known throughout the Highlands. On the HER, information, images, and maps are stored and can be accessed by members of the public. To visit the HER and to make your own contributions to that record visit:

<http://her.highland.gov.uk/>

Funded by Awards for All Scotland and the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 programme, this pilot project has been extremely popular and people want more! The community sessions and the individually recorded interviews have inspired all who took part to value and share what they know about their heritage and to find out more.



As part of the next stage of this project ARCH is offering sessions for people new to using the internet, or who want the chance to explore the Historic Environment Record. 'Remembering your Community' has resulted in over 100 entries that will be added to the HER, and we hope this is only the beginning - so the more people who can do this the better! Please look at the back page for details.

We have now started work on bringing the information gathered in each of the three communities and through the interviews together for release via the HER, the Am Baile website (**www.ambaile.org.uk**) and into a publication, due out in June. A full archive will be made available in each of the communities.

We have also been asking how those involved would like to take the experience of this pilot project forward. If you would like to find out more and if you would like a similar project to run in your area please do get in touch, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Newsflash!

As a result of this project, ARCH now has a digital audio recorder - available free of charge to community groups on the Black Isle!

Course Details and Bookings

Internet First Steps

Not quite grasped how to use the internet? Not sure what there is available? Come to a **free** 2 hour session and find out how easy and exciting using the worldwide web can be!

- **Open Learning Centre, Fortrose Library**
- **Tuesday 16th February, 10-12am or 2-4pm**

Historic Environment Record

Come to a free 2 hour session introducing the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record. See the wealth of material it holds and learn how you can contribute.

- **Open Learning Centre, Fortrose Library**
- **Wednesday 17th February, 10-12am**

Community Timelines: Exploring Your Local Heritage

Interested in your past but confused about what happened when? Find out about the archaeology of your area, from the earliest settlers to recent remains. A series of 6 sessions will provide an introduction to the archaeology of your area:

- **Golspie Youth Centre**
- **Thursdays 11th March-15th April 10-12am or:**
- **Cornerstone Cafe, Evanton**
- **Wednesdays 10th March-14th April 7-9pm**

Display the Past

ARCH launches an exciting new museum skills course next month. If you have ever wondered what goes on 'behind the scenes' at the museum, then Display the Past is for you!

- **Groam House Museum and Black Isle Leisure Centre, Fortrose**
- **Tuesdays 2nd March-27th April (holiday on 6th April),**
- **10am-12:30pm**

What do you want?

What do you think ARCH should do? We need to know to the answer so we can target the projects and activities we are planning throughout the Highlands.

We would really welcome your ideas, comments and views on how ARCH can help you and your community:

- Gain a better understanding of your local heritage
- Learn new skills
- Enjoy archaeology and be inspired
- Create a lasting contribution for your community
- Foster community identity and sense of belonging

Any other comments?

Please send your responses to the office or email: **info@archhighland.org.uk**

Open Meetings

ARCH will hold two open meetings in March. As well as providing an opportunity to tell you about ARCH, we hope you will tell us what you would like to happen in your community. Please come and join us at:

Community Centre, Golspie
Monday 1st March, 7:30-9pm

The second open meeting will be in Kyle of Lochalsh or Plockton: details to be announced soon!

Booking Details

- Everyone is welcome at all our events
- Informal and lively, these sessions assume no previous knowledge!
- All sessions cost £2, £1 for seniors, and are free for those receiving benefits
- Please book ahead to ensure adequate space
- Telephone: **01349 868230** or e-mail: **info@archhighland.org.uk**
- Help with childcare may be available—please contact us.