

First sessions—in person—for our FACET project are organised, plus opportunities to explore grave goods and the stories they tell. And a preview of ARCH HAF offerings.

FACET—New course in Ardross

We are delighted to announce that the FACET trainees have been selected, and the details of the first community course in Ardross have been timetabled. The



uncertainty over Covid has meant that planning is extraordinarily difficult, but we have made the decision to start in September. On booking we'll discuss the situation and how we can ensure the sessions are as safe as possible. If you have concerns, do get in touch.

The Ardross area has a rich multi-period history, with some important prehistoric remains and later settlement evidence. We'll begin by sharing memories of the Ardross area on **Thursday 2nd September, 7-9:30pm** for 5 weeks at Ardross Village Hall. All welcome – whether you have memories to share or you just want to learn more about the area.

Following our memories sessions, we'll then turn to researching the local heritage from a variety of sources. Come to all sessions or just those you are able to make.

On the course we will have four trainee facilitators who will be learning how to roll out community projects. Our trainees Kerry Kendall, Lorna Morrison, Doug Redwood and Cara Schroter come from a variety of backgrounds, each bringing different perspectives. It should be an exciting project!

Please book by emailing info@archhighland.org.uk or phoning 077888 35466.



Highland Archaeology Festival 2021

The Highland Archaeology Festival runs from 25th Sept to 15th Oct. Although this year it has not been possible to have an in person conference, there is a wealth of walks, talks, workshops and other activities offered by many organisations, museums and the Highland Council Historic Environment Team (HET).



The printed brochure will be distributed in the second half of August (to those who have confirmed they still want to be on the mailing list) and to libraries, service points, museums and other venues. If you are having problems getting a brochure contact Susan at ARCH, and we'll send one out. Events have already started to be input on the [HAF website](https://www.haf.org.uk). ARCH will be offering a number of events this year:

- **Experimental Archaeology Day** at Black Isle Show Ground (26th Sept 11am-1pm or 1:30-3:30pm). A chance to see traditional blacksmithing craft, together with the opportunity to browse the ARCH Experimental Archaeology loans boxes and learning materials. 
- **Nairn Museum Treasure Trove Finds** (28th Sept 12:30-1:30). Informal talk by Susan Kruse on recent TT finds at Nairn Museum. 
- **Launch of Highland Regional ScARF** (29th Sept, 1-2pm). Online event organised by HET, where Susan Kruse will provide an overview, profile some of the exciting sites and finds, and explore the potential for future research and learning which resulted from the 3 years project. 

- **Guided Visit to Dunrobin Castle Museum** (4th Oct, 11am-12pm or 12:30-1:30pm). Guided tour of some of the highlights of this wonderful museum. Limited numbers.



- **A Walk Around Loch Kinellan** (5th Oct, 12-1pm). A leisurely walk around Loch Kinellan, Strathpeffer focussing on the crannog, prehistoric finds and the development of the spa. Joint event with NoSAS.



- **Benchmark Recording Day** (8th Oct, 10am-2pm). A day to learn about OS benchmarks and record some in Nairn.

- **Exploring Ardross** (9th Oct 1-4pm). A walk to explore prehistoric to modern sites researched during the ARCH community course.



- **Broadford Marble Quarry** (11th Oct, 11am-1pm). Walk led by Susan Kruse and John MacLeod exploring the remains of a marble quarry outside Broadford on Skye.

- **An Archaeology Trip Adviser?** (12th Oct, 7:30-9pm). A brainstorming session to explore the idea of developing a platform for recommending Highland sites. Joint event with NoSAS. See p. 4 for further details.

Further details of these and other events are on the [HAF website](#) or in the brochure; note that most require booking.

ScARF workshops

After the success of previous workshops on lithic, pottery and bone identification, ScARF is offering two free workshops during HAF: one on Basic Finds Conservation (27th Sept) and one on Small Finds Illustration (28th Sept), both aimed at professionals and interested individuals. Details and booking information are on the HAF [website](#). Limited numbers.



Project Reports

ScARF

After three years in preparation, the Highland Regional ScARF is nearing completion, with text being migrated to the website. Thanks to many contributors the result provides a comprehensive picture of Highland heritage from earliest visitors in the Late Upper Palaeolithic through to modern times. It provides an overview together with thoughts on future research, aimed at academic and general readers.

The project has been challenging without any library access! However, this was always going to be an ongoing story, and further feedback and insights will be welcomed after the publication.

The online launch takes place **Wednesday 29th September, 1-2pm** where project co-ordinator Susan Kruse will highlight some of the exciting findings and the potential for future research. Bookings via [Eventbrite](#).



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Mapping Monuments

The project investigating the material remains of the Ordnance Survey in the Highlands (see our last newsletter) is currently on hold. Initial feelers to the National Lottery

Heritage Fund to expand the project were unsuccessful. We will now focus on writing up the interesting results from our lockdown work, and assess ways forward. In the meantime there is a benchmark recording day planned during HAF (see left). All welcome whether you attended the previous sessions or not.



Can you help research and tell the story behind burials in the Highlands?

ARCH is working with the Boundary Objects Project (BOP) to research and then tell the stories about graves and grave goods in the Highlands. BOP is a collaboration between Universities of Reading and Manchester in partnership with National Museum of Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland, building on the Prehistoric Grave Goods Project which ran from 2016-2020. The Highlands will form one of BOP's case study areas.

There are many fascinating stories to tell, such as the Neolithic individual buried in a Caithness chambered cairn with an arrowhead embedded in a vertebra (murder or accident?); a wealth of Bronze Age examples including male archery burials, the individuals buried in a ritual landscape at Armadale, Skye or the large and small beakers from Balblair (for adult and child?); the Iron Age man buried sitting up at Crosskirk broch; the brutally killed man buried in a cave near Rosemarkie; the Balnakeil Viking burial (boy or man); and the strange Medieval burial at Portmahomack where a man was buried with 4 extra skulls. These and others all deserve more attention!

The stories can focus on the gravegoods themselves, the burial practices with them, the discoveries in their context and/or burials which have a resonance with practices today. Maya Hoole's work on Ava, a young woman buried in the Early Bronze Age in a rock cut cist at Achavanich, Caithness shows the potential – and great interest in this subject.

Volunteers will research the graves, grave goods, discoveries, post-discovery analyses and the cultural context, writing a short account. These stories will then feature as 'long reads' on



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Canmore, and in national and regional pop-up exhibitions. Although the burials with rich grave goods have attracted the most attention, many of the simpler assemblages can also tell a story.

The Highland Regional ScARF project has provided good data on known burials, especially for the prehistoric period, together with information on where grave goods now survive.

BOP will be creating a finds hub to help link information about grave goods and sites, with the NMS and some other local museums participating. They will also hold a monthly online 'Ancient Death Café' to share and develop mutual ideas about grave goods research. The first one, on **1st Sept 7-8pm**, will be for people interested in researching Highland graves. Register your interest and receive a Team invite by emailing Dr Anwen Cooper at ajc1011@can.ac.uk

Research can be done using online resources, but ARCH will also help guide people to burials and information which can be done with printed resources. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Susan at ARCH on info@archhighland.org.uk or 077888 35466. More about BOP can be found at <https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/grave-goods/boundary-objects-project/>



The Bronze Age burial from Langwell had exceptional preservation, where a woman was wrapped in a cattle skin.
Photo © John White



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Towards an Archaeology Trip Advisor?

ARCH and NoSAS are hosting an online event on **12th October, 7:30-9pm** during HAF to explore the idea of an 'Archaeology Trip Advisor' – personal recommendations of local heritage to visit should you be in the area. If you put a pin on a map and drew a 5 mile radius around it, what are the 5 must-see heritage sites you would recommend to a friend visiting from afar? Imagine if we all did this! The map of the Highlands would fill up with interesting places to visit for those who like heritage and archaeology. This session will share some key sites, and explore a wish list for how such a website might work. Bookings via [Eventbrite](#) (link also from HAF [website](#)). If you can't attend, email thoughts to susan@archhighland.org.uk or Roland Spencer-Jones roland.spencerjones@gmail.com.



Support Your Local Museum

Many Highland museums are now open and need your support. Check their websites for opening times and details. Many would very much welcome new volunteers to allow opening times to be extended.

Another Way to Help ARCH

If you use Amazon, you can have a small percentage donated to ARCH on any product whose description says 'Eligible for Amazon Smile.' Simply connect via smile.amazon.co.uk and select Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands from the eligible charities. The website looks identical, and there is no additional cost to you. Note that each time you will need to connect to smile.amazon.co.uk – save this in your bookmarks!

Postal copies of this newsletter

IMPORTANT: As part of GDPR regulations we need to ask people regularly on our mailing list if they wish their details to be stored. If you notified us last time by writing to our old address (mistakenly included on the complement slip), rather than the one to the right, please contact us using the details on the right to ensure you stay on the mailing list. Apologies for the confusion!

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. ARCH relies on Friends' and lecture donations to help pay for office space, insurance, postage on newsletters, HAF walks, and the other mundane but important matters which allow us to continue. We value your help and support! 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. If you prefer, you can pay by [Paypal from our website](#).

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THANK YOU!

ARCH

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