

Happy New Year to everyone. A mixture of in person and online events coming up in the next months—hope to see you at some of them!

Kirkhill Heritage Course

This spring the focus of the FACET project (see page 3) will switch to Kirkhill, beginning **Tuesday 1st March**. The Kirkhill area has a rich heritage, both prehistoric and modern.

We'll begin by sharing memories of the Kirkhill area for five weeks, meeting 7-9:30 at Kirkhill Community

Centre. 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 finding out more about 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 five trainee facilitators who will be learning how to roll out community projects and will take the lead in some sessions. They come from a variety of backgrounds, bringing different perspectives and interests.

We have introduced a number of safeguards for our in person courses. All staff will take a flow test before each session. Face coverings will be needed, and we will supply shields to any participants who wish them. We will socially distance as much as possible, and keep windows open – so dress warmly.

Please book by emailing Susan at kirkhillheritage@gmail.com or phoning 077888 35466, so we have an idea of numbers and handouts needed. If you have any other concerns or questions, please contact Susan.



Ardross Heritage Open Day

Saturday, 26th Feb, 11-3. Come see the results of a project investigating heritage in the Ardross area. Display, resources, old photos, memories, refreshments. If you have any old photos, do bring them too, and we can scan them. Free. All welcome.



Finds Hub Workshop

As part of the Boundary Objects Project (see report p. 3), a pilot Finds Hub has been created: <https://finds-hub.org> It allows information about finds to be linked to the sites they were discovered at. People are invited to see how it works, and to learn how they can contribute to linking information, at an online workshop on **Wednesday 9th February, 7-8:30pm**. Some familiarity with the Highland HER or Canmore would be useful. For further information and to book, contact Anwen Cooper on ajc1011@cam.ac.uk.

Fieldwalking in February/March

ARCH will organise fieldwalking near Foulis Castle in the next months, in an enigmatic field which may include the remains of a medieval chapel or perhaps a prehistoric monument. If you are interested, please contact Susan at info@archhighland.org.uk or 077888 35466 and we will arrange a time when weather and field conditions suit.



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA



Hugh Fraser
Foundation

ARCH Lecture Series

The ARCH lecture series will be a mixture (we hope) of online and in person talks. For the first half of 2022 we will focus on recent or forthcoming publications. Our in person talks will be Thursday evenings, 7:30pm, at Dingwall Community Centre. Suggested donation: £3. If closer to the time Covid concerns arise, please email or phone ARCH.

24 Feb. Online talk, 7:30pm.

Prof. Duncan Garrow will discuss **Grave Goods**.

Objects and Death in Later Prehistoric Britain, looking at the insights finds provide into personal identity and prehistoric life. Bookings via [Eventbrite](#).



24 March, 7:30pm. Dingwall Community Centre.

Rev. James Fraser, the Highlands and Europe in the Century Before Culloden

- Prof. David Worthington.

What are the pros and cons of using autobiographical sources towards understanding the past? How interconnected and entangled with the outside world was the Highlands before Culloden? This talk will present some of the work that has gone into his forthcoming Edinburgh University Press book on Rev. James Fraser (1634-1709), a minister in Kirkhill, scholar, traveller and prolific writer.

28 April, 7:30pm. Dingwall Community Centre.

Resisting Slavery — struggles of enslaved Africans against their Highland enslavers in 19th-century Guyana

- David Alston

David Alston discusses Highland links to slavery, and his new research into those in Guyana who resisted. Books will be available for purchase.

26 May, 7:30pm. Dingwall Community Centre.

Strathpeffer 1770-1900 – From a valley of farms to a village of villas

- Arthur Scott

Arthur will present aspects of his book relating to the development of Strathpeffer as a 19th century spa resort. Books will be available for purchase.

Selected Other Events in 2022

See also the ARCH website for further details and other events.

27 Jan, Online talk, 7pm

The Pre-Reformation Church in the Dioceses of Caithness, Ross and Moray

Talk by Prof. Richard Oram organised by Scottish Society for Northern Studies. Further details and bookings from their [website](#).

5th & 6th March, online conference

Common Ground: A conference in honour of Anna Ritchie

Organised by Scottish Society for Northern Studies and Pictish Art Society. Cost £10 (students £5). Further details and registration from SSNS [website](#)

14 March, online talk

Place-names of the Aird and Strathglass

Talk by Ronald Maclean organised by Fortrose & Rosemarkie Local History Group. Talks are for members only, with membership £5/year. For details on joining, see their [website](#).

Unwrapping the Galloway Hoard

A number of free online talks about the hoard, organised by Kirkcudbright Galleries. Bookings on [Eventbrite](#).



Calling All Map Geeks

The National Library of Scotland is looking for volunteers to help transcribe features and texts from maps, including Roy's Military survey, historic footpaths on 6" maps and text from the 25" to a mile mapping of Edinburgh. For further information and to register an interest go to <https://maps.transcription.nls.mailchimpsites.com/>

Project Reports

Ardross Heritage

Between September and December 2021, over 40 people shared memories, researched various aspects of the local heritage, and created a display and binders of resources. We met in person, with a number of safety measures in place – and it was so nice to meet up and chat about local heritage. We had four trainees on the course, learning how to facilitate community heritage courses.

Ardross has a rich heritage, with important prehistoric finds and interesting modern remains. Bill Simpson brought in this beautiful Bronze Age arrowhead (now in Treasure Trove) found by his mother. Did you know that the first fox farm in Britain was based in Ardross in the early 1920s and 1930s, supplying not only the fashionable pelts for women but also breeding pairs throughout the UK and abroad? Profits from opium, condiments, tobacco, bread and cloth have enabled estate owners, particularly Ardross estate, to undertake large and small scale projects. The hydro-electric plant built by Charles Dyson Perrins in 1900 is a case in point. It was groundbreaking at the time,



supplying electricity for Ardross Castle lighting and heating, with excess power and heating used in the church and for running farm machinery at Tolly home farm. There was even an electric car and player piano. The Ross-shire Journal article makes for fascinating and challenging reading!

The memories shared and research collected in lively sessions are now available on the Ardross Community Council [website](#). The display and resources created by participants will be launched on Saturday 26th February 11am-3pm (see page 1).

Ardross Heritage is part of the FACET project, funded by Historic Environment Scotland, ARCH and Ardross Community Council (Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm benefit fund).

Boundaries Object Project

ARCH's involvement in the Boundaries Object Project (BOP) was mentioned in our last newsletter. The project is run by staff from the Universities of Reading and Manchester, in partnership with National Museums of Scotland and HES.

Participants have met online at a monthly Death Café to explore burial finds and how we can interpret and relate to them. A number of people are now researching discoveries, in some cases working on how to make these better known to people locally. As it turns out most of the case studies are in the Highlands, from Neolithic to medieval times including Mr & Mrs Culduthel, Dalmore Bronze Age cemetery, Bronze Age burials in Drumnadrochit, the Spinningdale cist burial, Loch Borrallie Iron Age burials, the Tarbat 6-headed burial,



From Journal of Archaeology (19) (inches high)

and a focus on little known excavator Mrs Duff Dunbar. Each researcher has taken a slightly different slant. The stories will appear as long reads on Canmore as part of their Archaeology InSite series, beginning in April. If you would like to get involved there is still time, and plenty more interesting topics to delve into. The next Death Café is **Wednesday 2nd February, 7pm**. Email Anwen Cooper for a link on ajc1011@cam.ac.uk.

As part of the project, a pilot scheme to link finds information with burials is being set up. The National Museums of Scotland are allowing access to their data, and volunteers are now needed to help link the information about finds to the site records in Canmore and the HER. If you would like to help, a workshop will take place on **9th February, 7pm** (see page 1). Again email Anwen for a link or further information.

Highland Reginal ScARF

HighARF launched during HAF on 29th September, providing for the first time an overview of Highland archaeology and heritage. There are 80 case studies, 32 datasheets on various topics, and detailed chapters. The project was shortlisted for two categories in 2021's Archaeology Achievement Awards which covered projects from all of the UK, as well as Republic of Ireland, a clear indication of its importance. If you haven't had a look, check out the ScARF [website](#). Still to come will be PDF versions of the chapters for printing out. The project invites comments and indeed new information. Already more case studies are planned.



Heritage Events

The [ARCH website](#) posts any events we know about. 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 newflashes.

Others Way to Support 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!

Limited edition re-usable fabric masks made by Susan Kruse are available for sale at Highland Wholefoods in Inverness, all profits to ARCH.

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](#).

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

How to donate:

- BACS payments to
Sort code: 80-05-61
Account Number: 06001571
Account: Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands
- Cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'
- Gift Aid:
Please tick if you are eligible and happy for ARCH to reclaim Gift Aid on your donation.

THANK YOU!

ARCH

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