

Open Days, our last lecture before the summer, fundraising workshop, project reports, a Friends trip, some forthcoming talks and dig in the area, and the first call for Highland Archaeology Festival



Kirkhill Heritage Open Days

18th and 19th June, 1-4pm, Kirkhill Community Centre

Drop in to see the results of the Kirkhill heritage course which has been meeting since March exploring the rich heritage of the parish from Bunchrew to Kirkhill. Display, binders of resources, photo slideshow, refreshments. We'll have a number of photos which need identification – and do bring any you have for sharing and scanning. All welcome!



ARCH Lecture

The final ARCH lecture before the summer will take place on Thurs. 26th May, 7:30pm at Dingwall Community Centre. Suggested donation £3

Strathpeffer 1770-1900—From a Valley of Farms to a Village of Villas

Arthur Scott will present aspects of his book relating to the development of Strathpeffer as a 19th century spa resort. Books will be available for purchase. Please note we encourage people to wear face coverings unless exempt. To ensure adequate social distancing, once seats are taken, no further people will be admitted. Come early to ensure a seat!



Fundraising Workshop

ARCH will be running a fundraising workshop on 20th & 21st June 10am-4pm at the Spectrum Centre in Inverness. It is aimed at small museums and local heritage organisations. Cost: £30 for both days (does not include lunch).



Finding funding for heritage projects only gets more difficult. While there are a number of guides directing people to funding resources (and we will look at some of these), many groups and museums find that they often miss out fundamental steps such as How do I cost the project? What should I include? How can I rework my ideas for funder priorities? and How do I monitor and report on the project if successful?

This practical two-day workshop run by Susan Kruse of ARCH will cover these and other aspects of designing projects, costing them, finding funding sources and then creating systems to allow for monitoring. Day 1 will look at designing and costing your project. Day 2 will involve matching these ideas to funding sources and monitoring and reporting. There will be practical examples to work through, but feel free to bring your ideas and use these sessions as a way to start working on your own project.

If you have any questions or bookings, contact Susan on 0777888 35466 or archhighland@googlemail.com. These sessions are supported by a grant from Historic Environment Scotland as part of the FACET project.

Project Reports

Kirkhill Heritage

Beginning in March 2022, over 30 people have been meeting in Kirkhill to explore the rich heritage of the parish. We began sharing memories, then turned to researching many of the sites, artefacts and stories which emerged. Now the group is creating a display and binder of resources to be launched at the Open Days on Saturday and Sunday 18 & 19th June, 1-4pm at Kirkhill Community Centre.

The prehistoric past of the area has in many places been obliterated by agricultural improvements and forestry, but some key finds bear witness to occupation from the Neolithic times onwards.



Before Culloden much of the parish near the coast was marshy, but extraordinary drainage works took place in the later 1700s and first half of the 1800s. There are even sea flaps at some reclaimed land.

Many of the lairds were keen planters, and some special trees survive in a number of sites. The walks at Reelig Glen were laid out in the late 1700s and first half of the 1800s, with many of the bridges and grotto still visible. An elaborate lade was introduced in the 1800s, tapping the burn in one place, crossing over on a wooden aqueduct, and then leading to Reelig mill – with remnants of lade and aqueduct supports still to be seen.



The Lovat estates were taken over by the government after Culloden. New ventures were introduced to improve profitability, including three short-lived limekilns, two of which still survive. A later venture near Reelig was on a larger scale, involving a tramway to bring the

limestone from the quarry to the three large kilns.

In Kirkhill itself the Wardlaw Mausoleum is well known. But less well known is Groam Cottage, an extremely rare example of an unmodernised 18th century cruck-framed dwelling. It went from unlisted to Grade A protection in record time!



The project was able to build on the work of the Kilmorack Heritage Association which undertook historical research in the early 2000s. In addition we were able to use the fantastic Lovat Estate maps, now available on the National Library of Scotland [website](#). A rich collection of old photographs collected by Charlie Gair provided a wide-ranging archive of information spanning the 20th century.

Results will be submitted to the Highland Historic Environment Record over the summer, with the transcript featuring around 200 sites available from several websites – more details in later newflashes.

This course was part of the FACET project where 5 trainees are learning how to facilitate community heritage courses. It was funded by Historic Environment Scotland, ARCH and the Hugh Fraser Foundation.



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA



Hugh Fraser
Foundation

Boundaries Object Project

ARCH has continued to work on the Boundaries Object Project (BOP), a collaboration between the Universities of Reading and Manchester in partnership with National Museums Scotland and HES. Volunteers have continued to meet at the monthly Ancient Death Café, researching burials from various periods. These will begin to appear on the Canmore website as 'Canmore in Context' this month.

In another strand, we have continued to help with the Finds Hub, a pilot scheme to link information of finds with information about their findspots. Volunteers are still welcome to help create links between museum records and Canmore / HER datasets.

A group of volunteers has also been working at Dunrobin Castle Museum. The museum is a hidden gem in the Highlands, with a rich collection displayed in a way which is itself a product of its time, with floor to ceiling displays showing virtually the complete collection. Volunteers have created some trails on a variety of themes: Grave goods, Life in the Age of Skara Brae, Stone Axeheads, Life in Iron Age Brochs, Finds from the Castle Grounds, Littleferry, and Curiosities. These are linked in places with QR codes to further information. The trails will launch over the summer – further details in future newsletters.



Community Dig: Strath Brora

Clyne Heritage has organised a community dig investigating a longhouse at Greenan in Strath Brora, to take place June 13th to 19th. All are welcome including children. No previous experience is necessary—come for a few hours or all seven days, or just to have a guided tour. Contact info@clyneheritage or see 'Greenan Community Excavation, Strath Brora' Facebook page for details. For those not on computer, contact Brora Heritage Centre on 01408 622024

Ardross Heritage Display

The Ardross display continues on its travels. Until the end of May it is in Alness Heritage Centre, moving in June to Invergordon Library. The display was created by an ARCH course in 2021, telling the multi-period story of Ardross Heritage. Binders of resources are at Alness Library and Alness Heritage Centre. The display will soon be available on Ardross Community Council website – see future newsflashes for details.

Selected Other Events in May/June

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

28 May, 11-12pm Inverness Library

Meet the Books: 1874 Electioneering with Fraser-Macintosh. Booking via [Eventbrite](#)

9 June, 3-5pm UHI Centre for History

Roundtable Discussion on Tourism in the Highlands

Online, with limited in person tickets at UHI Centre for History, Dornoch. Free. Bookings from [Eventbrite](#)

10-12th June, online and in person in Edinburgh.

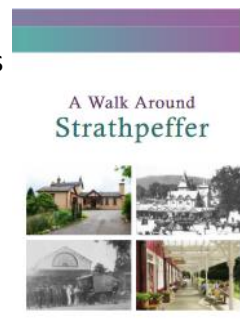
Rhind Lectures 2022: **Unearthing the African Diaspora.** Free. Details and bookings via [Soc. of Antiquaries of Scotland](#)

Self-Guided Tours

Looking for something to do this summer?

There are a number of self-guided tours available for the

Highlands, including trails from ARCH projects, sites associated with slavery, the new Pictish Trail, the NoSAS Historical Routes, and a range of local walks. See the [list with links](#) on the HAF website.



First HAF call

The Highland Archaeology Festival is the largest heritage festival in the country. This year it will take place 24th September to 14th October, with the last week overlapping the school holidays. Put these dates in your diary! The first call to museums, organisations and individuals to offer walks, talks, exhibitions, workshops or other activities has gone out. The Highland Council Historic Environment Team hope to have an in person conference on the weekend of 8th/9th October, but exact details are still to be confirmed. If you are involved with a group, do think about offering an event, either in person or online.
www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org



ARCH Friends Day

ARCH Friends provide much-needed support for us! In return we organise a yearly trip, which unfortunately was not possible in the past two years. This year we are planning a Friends Trip to Balnagown estate, Easter Ross. Details will be sent to all Friends when available. Information about becoming a Friend is available to the right.



Our last Friends Trip to Fort George in 2019

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 still 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