

Lots to report in this newsletter: Highland Archaeology Festival offerings, project reports and details of the ARCH Friends Trip.

Highland Archaeology Festival

The main event for Highland heritage is back again this year, with a filled programme of activities 24th Sept – 14th October. Over 100 events and exhibitions are listed on the HAF website www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org. A printed list is also available for those who do not use the internet, by phoning 077888 35466.



The conference this year will be one day (on 8th October) at Council HQ, but the Historic Environment Team has also organised a number of online talks, including about the BOP project (see p. 3). ARCH will be offering 6 events (see this page). In addition, Susan will be giving a talk about Highland Regional ScARF to Nairn Literary Institute on 30th Sept, and a talk about the FACET project at the conference. ARCH will also have a stall at the conference.

ScARF has organised two workshops, on basic finds conservation (29th Sept) and small finds illustration (30th Sept). There is the final Tarradale Through Time celebration (24th Sept), the ever-popular tours of the Inverness bunker at various times, lots of walks, talks and children's activities, and even two digs to participate in (at Brodie in September and Gairloch in October).

Further details, with booking information where required, can be found on the HAF website or the printed listing.

HAF offerings from ARCH

ARCH will be offering six events in this year's HAF:

Tue 27/9 1-4pm **Object Handling Workshop at Dingwall Library**. A chance to handle real and replica objects created as part of the ARCH Experimental Archaeology Project.



Wed 28/9 11am-1pm. **Exploring Dingwall Library Local History Collection**. Dingwall Library has growing resources: a good local history collection, the NoSAS library, the Valerie Reid Memorial Collection to name a few. Join Susan for a customised tour.

Sat 1/10 10am-4pm. Two events in Kirkhill, benefitting from the recent course. In the morning 10am-12pm there will be a

guided walk in Reelig Glen, looking at remains of the designed landscape (with Upper Reelig Community Group). Then in the afternoon, 1:30-4pm there will be visits to the rare **cruck-framed cottage and to Wardlaw Mausoleum** (with the Wardlaw Mausoleum Trust).



Thu 6/10 12-4pm. **Dunrobin Castle Museum Trails**. Explore the collections of Dunrobin Castle Museum using recently launched trails and case sheets. There will be timed slots, as some of the collections have limited access. Specify on booking preferences for 12, 1, 2 or 3pm.

Mon 10/10 **Ardross Heritage @ Ardross Arc**. Drop in event at the old church, now Ardross Arc, to explore the display and resources created in 2021 in an ARCH community project, and a chance to explore the interesting church.



Project Reports

Kirkhill Heritage

The display for the Exploring Kirkhill project was launched June 18th and 19th, with over 160 people attending. As with the Ardross course in 2021, and previous ARCH Community Timeline courses, there was a wealth of material researched and assembled in very little time. See the May newsletter for some of the highlights. The final project reporting is underway, and shortly over 80 new and 60 updated records, and over 170 photos and documents will be submitted to the HER. See p. 1 for walks during HAF at Kirkhill.

The display and binder will be at the Kirkhill Gala on 27 August at Kirkhill Community Centre, and thereafter at Wardlaw Mausoleum. They will also be available to view at the ARCH stall at the Highland Archaeology Festival conference. Copies of the binder have also been deposited in Inverness and Beaulieu libraries.

Many of the course participants are meeting to establish a heritage group, which will be part of the Aird Community Trust. The Trust will host some of the outputs on their website. It is also working on a digital version of the display for their website.

This course was part of the FACET project where 5 trainees learned how to facilitate community heritage courses, involved in all aspects of organising and delivering sessions. It was funded by Historic Environment Scotland, ARCH, Hugh Fraser Foundation and many donations.



Ardross Heritage



The display and binders from the ARCH Exploring Ardross project have been travelling non-stop since their launch in January. They are currently at Ardross Community Hall, and will be at the HAF conference on 8th October in Inverness, and then the special event at Ardross Arc on 10th October (see p. 1) The Ardross Community Council is working on a digital version of the display, and creating permanent outdoor display panels.



FACET training materials

The FACET programme trained 5 people (four pictured above) in how to facilitate community heritage courses, and in particular for three modules: oral history, research and outputs. The training materials including guidance sheets and handouts used in the project have been posted on the ARCH website, and submitted to the Heritage Resources Portal. See the folders 'ARCH Course Handouts and Forms' and 'Heritage Courses Guidance' in the [ARCH website Library](#).



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Project Fundraising Workshop

As part of the FACET project, Susan ran a project funding workshop on 20th and 21st June in Inverness, attended by the FACET trainees, and representatives from some Highland museums and community trusts. It was a stimulating networking event, with everyone sharing ideas and experience, and supporting each other on potential project ideas. The training materials are available on the ARCH website, in the [Library](#), in the 'Project Funding Workshop' folder within the 'ARCH Course Handouts and Forms' folder.



Boundaries Object Project



As noted in the May newsletter, Dunrobin Castle Museum in the grounds of the castle 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. The trails mentioned in the May newsletter launched at Dunrobin Castle Museum on 13th August, joined by members of Historylinks Museum Young Curators, Inverness YAC, and Golspie Heritage Society. The trails allow visitors to explore a number of themes. There are also now case sheets for most of the archaeology finds, with QR codes linking to further information. A chance to explore the collection for free using the trails is on 6th October (see page 1).



PKARF launching 5th Sept

Last September the Highland Regional ScARF, led by ARCH, officially launched, and has been very well received. This year it is the turn of the neighbouring Perth and Kinross Research Framework. It will be available on the ScARF website <https://scarf.scot/> from 1pm on 5th September.

Wych Elm Tree at Beaulieu Priory

The ancient Wych Elm tree at Beaulieu Priory is nearly 800 years old and believed to be the oldest Wych Elm in



Europe. Sadly, the tree is dying of Dutch Elm Disease with less than 5% of it still living. The tree had its last buds in 2021 and will decline over the next 5-10 years. A new project invites people to submit their stories, artwork, photography etc in response. What has this tree witnessed in its time? See the [website](#) for a call for stories and [Isabel McLeish's website](#) for further information, including the HES 3D model. New deadline for contributions is 30 September 2022.

Highland Folk Museum 3D model

Another 3D model to explore has been made by High Life Highland and AOC Archaeology, of the tacksman's house at Baile Gean, the reconstructed township at the Highland Folk Museum in Newtonmore. Check it out on the [sketchfab website](#).

Doors Open Day

The [Doors Open Day website](#) is now live, with details of various buildings throughout the Highlands which are open for visitors in September. There are lots on offer especially on 17th & 18th September for Caithness visitors.

Friends Trip to Golspie

After extensive correspondence, it did not prove possible to find a date for an ARCH Friends Trip to Balnagown.



Instead, this year's Friends trip will be to the Golspie area on Tuesday 13th September, 10am-4pm. We'll visit Carn Liath broch, try out the new trails at Dunrobin Castle Museum, look around the exterior of Golspie Mill, visit the Golspie Heritage Centre, and have an optional extension to the important Littleferry links site. Open to all Friends of ARCH – do let Susan know if you want to come. You can bring your own lunch or we will arrange a soup and sandwich venue.

Digs

In the last ARCH newsflash, Susan noted that no community digs in the Highlands were currently publicised. A lot can change in a month! The Swartigill dig (UHI and Yarrows Trust) is underway in Caithness during August and early September, the Brodie dig (NTS) takes place 19th – 25th Sept, and a final season at an Iron Age roundhouse near Gairloch Museum takes place 11th - 16th Oct. See the ARCH website for further information.



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!

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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