

Welcome to ARCH's first newsletter for 2024, with information on lots of activities on offer in the next few months.

## Internet Maps and Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) Workshops

Following on from ARCH's very successful Highland Heritage Course delivered in Tain in November and December 2023, we are very pleased to be able to offer two further workshops aimed at providing opportunities to get hands-on skills to help research the heritage of people's own local area.



Workshop 1 will take place on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February** 10:30-12:30 at the Duthac Centre Tain, and will focus on the use of historic maps to identify sites of interest and changes in individual features and the landscape of an area over time. Attendees will explore maps dating back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century to present times hosted on the National Library of Scotland website. You will learn useful skills to pinpoint features on these maps and compare the information contained on them.

Workshop 2 will take place on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February** 10:30-12:30 and will focus on how to use the Highland Historic Environment Record (HER) to discover archaeological sites, buildings and finds from all time periods in your local area. Attendees will learn about what the HER is for and how to search the HER using a map, keyword or advanced search, and how to update details of entries.

Both workshops will be led by Tessa Till, ARCH's Development Officer and will last 2 hours with a tea/coffee break. Come to one or both. No experience necessary. A £5 donation for each is suggested to help cover venue hire costs.

For more information and to book a place please email [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk) or call Tessa on 077888 35466.

## Exploring Dornoch's Heritage

Join us to share memories or learn about sites, finds and heritage of the local area! We will explore what remains, what has changed and what has disappeared, then start digging deeper to research any topics of interest. Later sessions will allow us to pull all the information together into a community display. Informal and lively, this course assumes no previous knowledge. Donations please to cover venue hire. All welcome – free coffees and teas!

**Thursdays, 10:30am-1pm beginning 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**February, Dornoch Social Club**

Please book on 077888 35466 or email [archhighland@googlemail.com](mailto:archhighland@googlemail.com), so we have contacts in case of bad weather.

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ARCH provides a range of opportunities for people interested in learning about and helping to preserve their heritage. See our website [www.archhighland.org.uk](http://www.archhighland.org.uk) for more information, or contact us on 077888 35466

An charity for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), No. SC040624

## Learn how to facilitate Community Heritage Courses

ARCH will be offering a free training programme for people wishing to learn how to facilitate community heritage courses, using the Dornoch course as an opportunity to have practical experience. It will focus on three main modules: oral history, research and creating displays. There will be three half day training sessions on

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February, 14<sup>th</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> April before each module starts. Trainees will be expected to attend these sessions and at least the first session of each module, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 21<sup>st</sup> March and 18<sup>th</sup> April 10:30-12:30. They are also encouraged to attend subsequent sessions where there will be opportunities to lead a session for those who wish. All sessions will take place in person at Dornoch. Thanks to the generosity of Prof Janet Nelson, we are also able to offer **two bursaries** of £500 for students who wish to take part, with preference given to those studying history.

The training will be useful to museum staff and volunteers, heritage groups who want guidance on running projects, teachers or students. Further details about the training can be found on the ARCH website or contact Susan Kruse on [archhighland@googlemail.com](mailto:archhighland@googlemail.com). Deadline to apply is 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024

## Celebrating ARCH

We can't believe that ARCH is 15 years old this year! It was set up in January 2009 to provide a range of exciting and innovative community archaeology projects. Since then ARCH has organized a number of opportunities to encourage people with diverse interests and abilities in the Highlands, to learn about, record and participate in celebrating and increasing knowledge of their local heritage.

To celebrate these achievements, ARCH will have several events in Spring/Summer where you can hear about some of the projects that ARCH has been involved with over the years, meet some of ARCH's Board members and fellow participants, hear about our exciting future plans and contribute ideas on future projects. Refreshments available!

The first event will take place **Saturday 13 April 11am-1pm** at the Goods Shed, Strathpeffer station. Future newsletters will give information on later venues.

## Highland Heritage Day 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 Dingwall

One of the high points of 2023 was the Highland Heritage Day held in March where over 120 people from over 60 organisations and projects



came together to showcase their organisations and projects, discuss common concerns and solutions, and explore ways to collaborate in the future. There was a universal request to meet again, and the steering group is presently planning another day in March, again at Dingwall Academy. We hope to continue the networking and discussion, so inspiring last year, but also focus on one of the key issues of concerns to Highland heritage groups, museums and projects: volunteering. Most Highland museums rely on volunteers but are finding it harder after Covid to recruit. Most organisations are finding it difficult to attract volunteer board members and supporters, leading in some cases to concerns of sustainability of the organisations. There will be workshops showing some solutions and resources available, including focussing on some Highland groups which have stories to share. We have over 100 heritage organisations and 70 museums and archives in the Highlands – and we want as many of you to come as possible. Further information will be sent round in February – or do contact ARCH to express interest on [archhighland@googlemail.com](mailto:archhighland@googlemail.com)

## Directory of Highland heritage organisations, museums and projects now available!

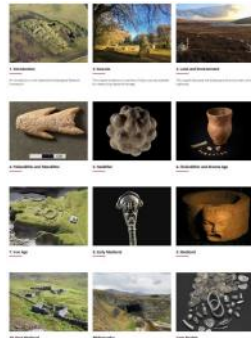
At the Highland Heritage Day in 2023, there was a clear interest in having a directory of the many heritage organisations, museums, archives and projects in the Highlands. ARCH has pulled this information together, though omitting any personal contacts due to GDPR issues. What an impressive list! The directory can be found on the ARCH website in the Document Library. If you know of other groups or projects we have missed, or details that need amending, please contact Tessa at [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk) or 077888 35466.

## ARCH Project Reports

### Highland Heritage: From Flint Scatters to Farmsteads

During November and December over 20 people met in Tain to learn about Highland heritage from earliest activity in the Palaeolithic through to modern times. Now that the [Highland Regional ScARF](#) is

available, there is at last up to date information to create a picture of what we know about Highland heritage and where the gaps exist. The six past-paced sessions led by Susan Kruse provided entertaining and fun sessions, using local examples where possible. They will be followed up with workshops on using internet maps and the HER described elsewhere in this newsletter (see page 1).



### ARCH HAF 2023 Events

ARCH offered eight events during the Highland Archaeology Festival in September and October, often in challenging weather. There were walks to Backies Broch and five chambered cairns on the Black Isle, talks on Telford's work on Skye and the campaign for women's suffrage in the Highlands, and children's activities at Dunrobin Castle Museum. We also helped organise the Highland Family Heritage Day in Dingwall. For the 8th year running ARCH compiled the events listing and organized the annual conference on behalf of Highland Council's Historic Environment Team. Susan Kruse gave a talk there on investigations at Dunballoch WWII ammunition magazines at the conference, a site which featured in the ARCH Kirkhill Community Timeline course.



## Projects in development

### Golspie Fishertown Project Spring 2024

ARCH is currently fundraising for a project focusing on the local heritage of Golspie Fishertown, a community which was the basis for the origin of the modern layout of Golspie village and the home of an industry which was pivotal to the village for over 100 years.

The project will last for 15 weeks and will be split into various modules: a hands-on research phase, creative workshops to look at some of the skills needed by the fisherfolk and celebrating their culture, and an opportunity to allow participants to put together their own display to record their research. There will also be an Open Day for visitors and the local community to showcase the findings.

The project will be free to take part in, open to all. Funding applications are in and if successful this project will start in mid-March 2024 so watch this space or contact Tessa on 07888 35466 if you don't use the internet.



### Norwegians in the Highlands during World War II

After the invasion of Norway in WWII by the Germans, the Norwegian government was in exile in the UK, and Norwegian military personnel were stationed in various places including the Highlands. The story of the Shetland bus is well known, but less so are the other activities. Previously ARCH projects have encountered stories of Norwegians soldiers stationed in the Highlands during WWII. Our interest was rekindled by several Norwegians researching the topic from their end. We are hoping to organize sessions after the summer when we can explore wartime archive material, canvas for local stories, and see where this takes us. If you know of any stories we'd love to hear from you as we plan this exciting project.



## What do you value about ARCH?

ARCH wants to know what you think about what we offer and what directions we should focus on in the future. For those of you on email, we will be sending round a survey or link to online survey soon and would very much appreciate you taking the time to send us your views. For those who do not use email, we have included a form for filling out and posting back to us. Thanks!



## ARCH is now a SCIO

ARCH is now a SCIO (Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation). This simplifies administrative issues for us, but has no impact on you. We are still a charity (same number), with limited liability for the Board.

## Heritage Events

The [ARCH website](http://www.archhighland.org.uk) 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 newsletters.

## ARCH Friends

If you've thought about becoming a Friend of ARCH please fill in the form to the right and send it to us. 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

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](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.archhighland.org.uk).

Name:

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Phone:

How to donate:

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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

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