

Welcome to the April ARCH newsletter—a few days early to give advance notice of the Golspie course starting on the 27th March. There's plenty on offer in the next few months!



### Golspie Fishertown Project

Tessa Till will lead a project in Golspie exploring the fishing community and remains in Golspie. It's a part of Golspie sometimes overlooked, but like so many of the coastal villages, an important part of the history of the place. Do you or friends or family have memories or stories about the Golspie Fishertown? Or would you simply like to find out more about the history of Golspie?

We'll meet Wednesdays starting **27<sup>th</sup> March 10:30-12:30** at the YMCA in Golspie. There will be a chance to share memories, research the past, learn new skills and crafts, and explore on foot. No prior knowledge necessary. Free – all welcome!

For more information and to book a place please email [archhighland@googlemail.com](mailto:archhighland@googlemail.com) or phone 077888 35466. ARCH is grateful to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for funding this project.

### Talk: The Golspie Fishing Industry

To launch the Golspie Fishertown Project, noted historian Malcolm Bangor-Jones will give a talk on 'The Golspie Fishing Industry', on the 27th March, 10:30am at the YMCA in Golspie (rear entrance) and repeated in the evening at 7:30pm at Golspie Heritage Centre, The Welcome, Station Road. Free, with refreshments served.



### Exploring Dornoch Heritage

This course continues on Thursday mornings at the Social Club in Dornoch, 10:30-1pm. Our first four sessions were devoted to sharing memories and stories about sites, finds, and buildings in the area, from diving boards to World War I German guns. Our discussions led to a number of questions, which we are exploring in our current sessions, and we will arrange some extra fieldtrips and walks. Our last four sessions 11<sup>th</sup> April to 9<sup>th</sup> May will take all the information and pull it together into a portable display. Do join us if you are interested, even if you didn't attend the earlier sessions. It's a fun, lively and friendly group! If you can't make Thursday mornings, do join us for a walk around Dornoch on Saturday 6th April 10am (meet outside the Library) - bring a packed lunch, and stay for the whole or half day.

### ARCH Celebration Days

ARCH is now 15 years old! We're having a series of Celebration Days in 2024, with a chance to hear about old projects, meet Board members and former participants, hear about future plans, and browse displays and publications. Susan Kruse, co-founder 15 years ago will provide highlights from the past years. And of course there will be refreshments.

The first day will be **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April** at the Goods Shed in Strathpeffer, 11am-1pm. No booking needed—just drop in. We are currently planning a day in May or June in Inverness. If you are not on the internet and would like to be kept informed of the date, please contact us.



## ARCH Survey Results

Many thanks to everyone who filled in our short survey last month. Responses were mainly from Easter Ross (40%) and Inverness-shire (36%) with single responses from Wester Ross, Sutherland and Caithness. In addition there was 1 response from Orkney, 1 from the Central Belt, and one from England. Three quarters of you were over 65, and the rest 30-65.

What attracted you to ARCH? Interest in archaeology and learning about the area, a desire to support ARCH, the events listing, and just general interest. You liked:

- Well-presented, accessible information for all, providing a broad sweep of information about historical and archaeological activity in the Highlands.
- The range of projects and the reports showing the local investigations. When participating on a project, the resulting sense of belonging and understanding of the area.
- The events listings (many people cited this).
- ARCH's mission to coordinate aspects of Highland heritage throughout the regions.
- The links to national and local activities and courses.
- ARCH's involvement in the Highland Archaeology Festival.
- ARCH's energy. It is active, lively, innovative and community-oriented.
- Opportunities to be hands-on.
- Everything. It's all embracing.

What is ARCH currently not doing that you would like to see us doing?

- More workshops.
- Evening lectures again in Dingwall.
- Rotating event locations to cover all urban areas.
- Have information stands at other local events such as the Black Isle Show to raise awareness of archaeological issues.
- Have a regular column in the local papers.
- Better publicity of ARCH's work.
- More youth engagement and work with children, perhaps with more school visits.
- General updates on any digs and/or research projects.

We also asked how you would like to see ARCH develop in the next 5-10 years:

- More work with young people (recommended by a number of people).
- Keep doing what you do and attract attention.
- Keep thinking up new local projects in different areas of the Highlands. Continue to grow and develop.
- Adjust to societal changes, particularly new residents from diverse backgrounds in order to create cohesive communities. Link to other cultural and religious organisations.
- Become financially secure. Investigate sponsorship. With better funding engage with more diverse communities, including schools.
- More local historical walks.
- More of the same!

We welcome feedback at any time. If you missed the survey, just email/send us your thoughts. We will use all this when planning future activities.



## Project Update: Workshops on Internet Maps and Using the HER

Tessa Till ran two well-attended workshops in February in Tain, following on from the Highland Heritage Course held there in November and December last year. Both were hands-on and practical sessions. In the first participants explored the range of historic maps on the National Library of Scotland website ([maps.nls.uk](http://maps.nls.uk)), a wonderful free resource. The second workshop explored the Historic Environment Record (HER), Highland Council's database of all known heritage. Both are invaluable to anyone researching local heritage. Tessa hopes to roll out more in the future, so if you would like a workshop in your area do contact ARCH. (See p. 4 for details on forthcoming map workshop in Lairg).

## Highland Heritage Day 2024



Over 80 people from around 40 organisations attended the Highland Heritage Day on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Dingwall Academy. This followed on from the very successful gathering a year ago. As one of the co-hosts Roland Spencer-Jones said, it now felt like a meeting of family and friends. There was ample opportunity for networking and to browse stands and displays brought by groups from as far away as Caithness, Grantown, Fort William and Skye.

Short talks and small group discussions focussed on two of the main topics raised at last year's event which are of concern to both organisations and museums: Community Engagement and Volunteering. The discussions allowed people to share successes, failures and potential ways forward, providing inspiration and cautionary messages. How can we engage with more people? How can we attract younger volunteers? The notes from these sessions are being written up and will be posted on the ARCH website in the Document Library.



There was clear consensus at the end that it would be good to meet again in a year's time. Thanks to the steering group of ARCH, NoSAS, Museums and Heritage Highland, Highland Archaeology Services and Wardlaw Mausoleum Trust, and the many groups who helped fund the day, along with the JTH Charitable Trust.

## Treasure Trove Consultation

The public consultation on the review of the Scottish Treasure Trove system is now live! Under Scottish law, all portable antiquities of archaeological, historical or cultural significance are subject to claim by the Crown through the Treasure Trove system and must be reported. Unlike England, this means all objects, not just precious metal. It also involves old objects, for example ones found by family members generations ago. The Treasure Trove Unit, based in the National Museums of Scotland in Edinburgh, deals with these objects on behalf of the King's and Lord Treasurers Remembrancer (KLTR).

Once an object is reported to the Treasure Trove Unit, they assess if it is of national importance and should be claimed by the Crown. If not, it is recorded, then returned to the finder. If it is claimed, it is valued, the finder/landlord rewarded, and the object advertised to accredited museums who have the right to bid for it. Excavation and fieldwalking assemblages are also covered by this, but are free. An independent panel, the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel, assesses the value proposed by the Treasure Trove Unit, and decides which museum should get the find from the bids submitted.

The process ensures that archaeological finds are recorded, even if the objects are not claimed. This important consultation allows you to give your feedback on the system. Is it fit for purpose? What needs changing? How can more people be encouraged to report finds? The KLTR wants to hear your views by the end of **13 May 2024**. Please respond to the consultation by following [this link](#), or if you do not use computers, contact ARCH and we will ensure you get a paper form. The survey is quite long and detailed – but it is important to forward your views!

This lovely Bronze Age arrowhead was brought into an ARCH course at Ardrross. One participant asked if this old find his mother had found years ago was of interest! It is currently going through the Treasure Trove system, and we hope, if claimed, it will go on display in a local museum.





## ARCH Friends Day

The Friends of ARCH are a group of supporters who help ARCH in many diverse ways (see right). In return ARCH organises a special day just for our Friends. Plans are well advanced for this year's event which will be based in Cromarty, probably in June or early July. We will explore some of the finds from the excavations of the medieval burgh and hope to have a guided tour of wartime remains on the South Sutor by Allan Kilpatrick. To become a Friend — or to renew — contact ARCH on [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk) or by post. You can pay by cheque, bank transfer or [Paypal from our website](#). All Friends will be sent details of the day once they are finalised.



## Historic Map workshop

Tessa Till will lead this workshop organised by ARCH and Lairg District Learning Centre. Venue: Lairg Community Centre, with suggested donation of £5 to cover venue hire. Limited numbers so book via [Eventbrite](#), phone 077888 35466 or email [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk)

The workshop 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. You will work from maps dating back to present times, hosted on the National Library of Scotland website.

## 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 newsflashes.

## 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:

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How to donate:

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

THANK YOU!

**ARCH**

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