

**Welcome** to the sixth ARCH newsletter! We hope you have all had a happy Easter holiday and been able to get out and about, exploring your own local heritage. This newsletter contains updates on ARCH's activities over the last two months and - most importantly! - dates for the courses and events taking place through the spring.

### Display the Past: Behind the Scenes at the Museum



Lizzie and Stuart with the Meikle Ussie Cup, a decorated soapstone vessel dated to the Iron Age, which is one of the most significant finds in the collection ©Janey Clarke

The group is well underway with designing and installing an exciting new exhibition at Groam House Museum (GHM), Rosemarkie. The exhibition focuses on the Highlands' very own enigmatic antiquarian collector and excavator, Dr. William MacLean. His fabulous collection is usually housed in the stores of the National Museum in Edinburgh, but is being loaned for 11 months to GHM. Having spent a day with the collection's curator, Trevor Cowie, in Edinburgh, the whole group are working happily towards the exhibition opening on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May. For further information on GHM, please visit the museum's website [www.groamhouse.org.uk](http://www.groamhouse.org.uk).

### ARCH Open Meeting

Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin, Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 7:30-9pm

Come and tell us about the sites and buildings in your area, and ways you would like ARCH to help you learn about and explore your heritage.

### Community Timelines: Exploring Your Local Heritage

Lively groups in Evanton and Golspie have been discovering the last 10,000 years of their heritage in the first part of the Community Timelines course. This will be followed in April with Focus on Your Past, providing opportunities to research interesting sites and buildings. Please turn over to find out more!

### Black Isle Heritage Memories

Our transcriber, Anne, is working avidly to complete the written transcriptions of the information recorded at the 'Remembering your Community' Sessions held in Avoch, Culbokie and Tore earlier this year. We have collected new and additional information for 167 Black Isle sites and features! All this will be compiled into a report to be circulated to all the participating communities, local libraries and the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record. Anne is also transcribing the audio interviews conducted throughout the project, in preparation for submission to the Am Baile archive. Cait and some of the project participants will be visiting local schools this April and each of the communities are looking at how they can continue the project.



The former Killearnan Post Office at Redcastle, just prior to its demolition. This is a good example of a building now gone which had not been recorded previously ©Alistair Mackay

**Focus on Your Past**

A chance to research sites or buildings in your area, contributing to the creation of a Community Timeline display. Find out where to look for information about your heritage, and learn or hone your research skills.

- \* Evanton, Cornerstone Cafe, Wednesdays, 21<sup>st</sup> April-26<sup>th</sup> May, 7-9pm
- \* Golspie, Youth Centre, Thursdays, 22<sup>nd</sup> April-27<sup>th</sup> May, 10am-12pm

Each session £2, senior £1, free to those on benefits.

**Pathways into the Past**

Learn how to conduct an archaeological desk-based assessment in preparation for outdoor surveying and recording. Taking the fragmentary remains of ancient routeways as a theme, these sessions offer an introduction to landscape archaeology skills for all those who want to research and record their local archaeology.

- \* Muir Of Ord, Muir of Ord Hall, Tuesdays, 11<sup>th</sup> May-22<sup>nd</sup> June, 10am-12.30pm
- \* Maryburgh Amenities Centre, Thursdays, 13<sup>th</sup> May-24<sup>th</sup> June, 7.00-9.30pm

Following the indoor sessions, there will be a 2 day practical workshop in survey and recording techniques. This joint workshop will focus on features located along the River Conon and in the Brahan Woodlands.

- \* 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June, 9:30am-5:00pm

A limited number of places are available for the Practical Workshop, booking is essential; priority will be given to those participating in the earlier sessions. Each session £2.50, senior £1.25. Practical Workshop £5 / £2.50 per day. All free to those on benefits.

**Heritage along the Kyle Line**

Research sites and buildings along the western part of the Kyle of Lochalsh to Dingwall railway, creating a travelling display. This is the first part of a project where three communities along the line will research parts of the line, and later join them together to produce a leaflet and audio commentary.

- \* Lochcarron Library, The Howard Doris Centre, Lochcarron, Tuesdays, 4<sup>th</sup> May-22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1-3pm.

Each session £2, senior £1, free to those on benefits. Bring your lunch!

**All are welcome on any course - no previous experience necessary! Help with childcare may be available.**  
**To find out more or to book a place, please get in touch with us at [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk) or 01349 868 230**

**Insight-On Site Guided Tours**

Free; donations requested.

Bring full waterproofs and stout shoes - or perhaps hats and sunscreen if we are really lucky!

Children welcome if accompanied by a parent/guardian.

**The Mound, near Golspie  
 Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 1-2pm**

Come and marvel at the engineering vision of Thomas Telford - and explore the less well known terminus of the Dornoch Light Railway.

Ⓧ Meet at the car park (NH 7749 9819).

**Red Smiddy, Poolewe  
 Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 1:30-2:30pm**

Discover this well preserved 17<sup>th</sup> century iron works and enjoy a walk along the river.

Ⓧ Meet at the car park on the east side of River Ewe, below the bridge in Poolewe on the A832 (NG 8581 8080).

**Findon Mill Sites, Culbokie  
 Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2-4pm**

Explore the Findon Mills and associated features, including the remains of the Findon Dun.

Ⓧ Meet at Findon Mills, Culbokie (NH 6090 6022).

**Fodderty–Dochmoluag Tower  
 Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2-4pm**

Step into the past on this walking tour from Fodderty Cemetery along an historic route to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Tower House at Dochmoluag.

Ⓧ Meet at the car park of Fodderty Cemetery on the A834 (NH 5119 5936).

**Aviemore Cairn  
 Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 1-2pm**

Visit an easily accessible early Bronze Age Clava type cairn.

Meet at the cairn (NH 8970 1347), which is on Muirton Road, signposted from Grampian Road.

**Allangrange  
 Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2-4pm**

Come and discover the remains of the medieval chapel of St. John and nearby buildings.

Ⓧ Meet at Grewars potato store, Taeblair Farm (NH 6315 5136).

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