

Welcome to the ARCH spring newsletter. We have information about the Highland Family Heritage Festival happening at the end of April, details on new courses, reports on projects and much more!

Highland Family Heritage Festival

Saturday 26th April, Dingwall Academy, 10am-4pm

Two years ago, ARCH held a free family festival in Dingwall, inviting museums, local societies and national and regional heritage groups to show their work. Alongside this were workshops, talks and a heritage marketplace.

Many people asked for this to become a regular event—and we are pleased to announce the next festival! We've taken on board your suggestions for more workshops and demonstrations which are repeated, more children's activities, and more publicity.



The final programme will be subject to change, but already many events are timetabled (see below).

Any workshops marked with an asterisk need booking: contact events@archhighland.org.uk or 01349 868230

Funding for the festival is from the Highland Council Culture Fund, Awards for All, The Co-operative Membership Fund and the Robert Kiln Charitable Trust.

10:30-11:30

* Do you have what it takes to be a Viking?

Join with Thorstein the Red and his wife Thurid on a Viking adventure: long-ship race, weapon training, name calling, rune writing, spinning, stories & more – maybe even a raid! Ages 7 to 11. Costumes provided (and weapons for the brave!). Booking essential.

Rubbish Game

We all know what sort of items become rubbish today—but what do they tell us about how we live? And how might we use the same methods to understand the past? For all ages.

11:30-12:30

* Picturing the Picts

Explore what we can learn about the Picts from their sculpture. All ages, booking essential.

Roots and Flutes

The sounds and stories of the world's earliest musical instruments - including stones, shells, horns, panpipes and flutes. Bob Pegg plays these instruments, and many more. Be prepared to be surprised! For all ages.

12:30-1:30

* Eric the Dead

Join Lynne & Lachlan McKeggie looking at Viking burials. What was important to the Vikings? How might we recognise a Viking burial? Ages 6-11 (children must be accompanied). Booking needed.

Suffrage in the Highlands

Did you know that over 300 people attended a suffrage rally in Dingwall in Oct. 1913, lobbying for the vote for women? Find out more!



More workshops at the Highland Family Heritage Festival! (continued from page 1)



1:30-2:30

The Magic Monster Bear- stories, music and song inspired by prehistoric times

How did our ancestors entertain themselves round the fire, after a meal of roast boar or venison? Bob Pegg thinks he may have the answer, with tales and songs of wolves, selkies and hunters, together with the sounds of bull roarers, the deer bone flute, and clay pot drum. And - of course - the story of the Magic Monster Bear! For all ages.

*** Pictish Art workshop**

Join Lizzie McDougall to make a wee wall hanging inspired by Ross-shire's beautiful Pictish Stones. For all ages, but under 7s must be accompanied. Booking essential.

Tour of the local history and archaeology collection in Dingwall Library, with Susan Kruse

2:30-3:30

*** Eric the Dead**

Repeat of 12:30 workshop.

*** Pictish Art Workshop**

Repeat of 1:30 workshop.



Throughout the day there will also be Building a Bender outside with George Grant of the Young Archaeologists Club, pot making, basket making, and textile workshops. Craft demonstrations to watch include weaving and spinning, masonry, and creating lead seals. And look out for re-enactors.

Stalls!

Many local museums and heritage organisations will also have stalls, telling you about their activities and projects. National and regional organisations have committed to stalls or are hoping to come, including Forestry Commission, Historic Scotland, the Dig It! Project, UHI, Aberdeen University and many more.

Heritage Marketplace!

Browse and buy at craft, book and food stalls, all with a heritage slant. Stallholders will be happy to discuss the heritage background.

And much more!...

More workshops and activities will be available—see the website www.archhighland.org.uk which will list them as they are confirmed, or pick up a programme on the day. If you have questions, contact events@archhighland.org.uk or 01349 868230 (leave message if no one is there).

ARCH Lectures

The ARCH lectures for April and May will be at different times from our normal slot, though as usual will take place at Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30 pm (doors open 7pm), with a suggested donation of £3.

Thursday, 17th April

Discovering the Northern Picts: Excavations at Rhynie and Beyond

Dr Gordon Noble will outline the U. of Aberdeen Department of Archaeology's work at Rhynie, an undocumented Pictish power centre, and wider work on the Picts of northern Scotland.

Thursday, 15th May

Telford and Road Making in Sutherland

A illustrated talk by Dr Malcolm Bangor-Jones on Telford's road making activities in Sutherland.



NEW COURSES beginning after Easter Telford at the Kyle of Sutherland

A variety of free courses and workshops focussing on heritage in the Kyle of Sutherland, and in particular that of Thomas Telford, will start after Easter and continue into the autumn. The first sessions have been arranged. Transport is available if needed – contact the ARCH office at info@archhighland.org.uk or 01349 868230.



An Open Meeting inviting people to come share knowledge of local heritage and help shape the project will take place **8th May**, Kincardine Old Church, 7-9pm.

Remembering the Kyle of Sutherland

29th May and 5th June, Kincardine Old Church, 7-9pm. Share and listen to stories, memories and knowledge about buildings and sites in the area.

Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland

12th June, Kincardine Old Church, 7-9pm
Dr Malcolm Bangor-Jones will provide an overview of Telford's activities in this area.

Researching Local History I: Heritage databases

19th June, Bonar Bridge Community Hall, 7-9:30
This workshop will introduce the Highland HER and Canmore databases of all known heritage. No previous experience needed.

Researching Local History II: Old Maps

26th June, Bonar Bridge Community Hall, 7-9:30
This workshop will explore old maps, both before and after Telford's activities in the area, using primarily maps available on the Internet.

Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland is funded from the E.ON Rosehall Community Fund supported by Foundation Scotland, and by the Robertson Trust.

Ledmore and Migdale Memories

Susan Kruse of ARCH will lead free workshops for the Woodland Trust

'People and Trees' Project,

inviting people to share memories and stories, or to learn about the heritage in and around Ledmore and Migdale Forest. Tuesdays, 29th April, 6th and 13th May, 2-4pm at Dornoch Social Club or 7-9 at Bonar Bridge Community Hall. Refreshments and transport available.



HistoryLinks Archive

Coming Soon: Knockbain Heritage

The area of Knockbain on the Black Isle is often overlooked, but has a rich prehistoric and later heritage.



Knockbain Community Council, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Highland Council, has asked ARCH to provide sessions on sharing memories, an overview of the heritage, and opportunities to research areas of interest. Timings are still being finalised – but if you are interested in being kept informed of activities contact the ARCH office.

Ardersier Heritage Walk

Last year a group met at Ardersier to explore local heritage. There was keen



interest in the group to update a walks leaflet. In a short course organised by the Workers' Educational Association, and again funded by High Life Highland, Susan Kruse returned to the group and helped them complete the leaflet. In an easy walk, it tells the story of this interesting village. The leaflet is available from the library and shops in Ardersier. The group now has bigger plans!

Winter Reports

Ancient Crafts: Tain

Lynne McKeggie, course tutor, reports on this High Life Highland funded course.

'I definitely want to come back to Tain! Four weeks of enthusiastic participants, all eager to throw themselves into trying out some new (old) crafts. First we tackled Fingerloop braiding, which is a bit of a finger muddle. Next it was Weaving, and some truly inspirational items were made on the day. Even more lovely woven bags were made over the coming weeks and brought in to show to the admiring group! Then tablet weaving. Despite feeling as though this was clearly the most sophisticated craft activity humanity has ever developed, the exclamations of astonishment when participants found that they actually had made a beautifully patterned woven strap was most gratifying. And lastly came Naal Binding - or Viking knitting as I billed it. Our room was soon infested with rather adorable woolen mice.



These may now be coming to a fundraising event near you to raise money for a local cause.

And as if this wasn't enough, add stimulating discussions about Iron Age structures, Pictish stones, Vikings (and chocolate cake!) - what a great way to spend four Saturdays. A big thank you to all the participants at the Tain Ancient Craft workshops for making it so much fun!

BA Metalwork from the Moray Firth Area

The North Kessock Feats of Clay project has been mentioned in several previous newsletters. One of the outputs from the project will be a book written by Trevor Cowie pulling together Bronze Age metalworking from the Moray Firth Area. A class funded by High Life Highland is contributing to the book. Participants



compiled a list of all known Bronze Age objects from Auldearn to Glenurquhart and Aviemore to the Dornoch Firth. The group has also been photographing objects for the book, from museums in Inverness, Elgin and Edinburgh. In the end over 150 objects were recorded, spanning the full Bronze Age.

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 – by assisting at events, by offering specific skills or just by donating a small financial contribution to sustain ARCH's work. Friends of ARCH are requested to give an annual donation of £10 (or more if you wish). There is an annual Friends' invitational event, a presentation or a visit. To become a Friend—or to renew -contact the ARCH office or fill in the form below.

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| <i>Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'</i> | |

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