



Archaeology for Communities  
in the Highlands

There's so much happening this Autumn, we thought we'd keep you up-to-date with our **events calendar**

## Highland Archaeology Festival

The Highland Archaeology Festival is full of walks, talks, workshops and other activities from 29<sup>th</sup> September to 14<sup>th</sup> October - and a few before and after. The programme is available on the Highland Council website and paper copies are available from libraries, museums etc.

### ARCH at the Festival

ARCH is running a wide variety of activities, and will have displays and books for sale at the Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Research seminar at Eden Court 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October.

Sunday 30 September 2.00 - 3.30pm: **A tour of the recently-excavated mound and other archaeological sites in the vicinity of Foulis, near Evanton.** Find out what our excavation revealed about this site and its use in the past. Meet at Foulis Burn bridge layby on the Old Evanton Road (NH 593 637). Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian. Wear stout shoes & bring waterproofs.

Monday 1 October 10.30 - 12.00: **A guided tour of the medieval remains of Beaulieu Priory** by Susan Kruse and John Finlay. Part of a Priory Trail accessible by public transport. Wear stout shoes and wet

weather gear. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian.

Wednesday 3 October 10.30am - 12.00: **A guided tour of the medieval remains of Fortrose Cathedral** by Lachlan McKeeggie of ARCH and John Finlay. Part of a Priory Trail accessible by public transport. Wear stout shoes and wet weather gear. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian.

Thursday 4 October 2.00 - 3.30pm: **A guided tour of the medieval remains of Fearn Abbey** by Susan Kruse and John Finlay. Part of a Priory Trail accessible by public transport. Wear stout shoes and wet weather gear. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian.

Saturday 6 October: **Build an Iron-Age hillfort: Strathpeffer Community Centre.** Join Lynne McKeeggie to find out what it takes to build an Iron Age hillfort and then do it (in miniature). A family

event (or for unaccompanied adults) taking place in the shadow of Knockfarrel hillfort. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian. £2/person

Tuesday 9 October 2.00 - 4.00pm: Join Lachlan McKeeggie for a **guided walk around the Iron Age/Pictish hillfort of Craig Phadrig** on the outskirts of Inverness. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian. Wear stout shoes and bring waterproofs.

Thursday 11 October 2.00 - 4.00pm: **Textile workshop: Black Isle Leisure Centre, Fortrose.** Join Lynne McKeeggie at a workshop exploring various textile technologies and methods used in the past. Children welcome if accompanied by parent/guardian. £2/person

Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 October - ARCH displays and bookstall at the **Highland Archaeology Festival Seminar in Eden Court**

### Also at the Festival . . .

**Caledonian Canal workshop:** 29 September 10.00 - 4.00 Susan Kruse of ARCH will be running a workshop on Heritage of the Caledonian Canal, which will focus on the Caledonian Canal and will include classroom learning, practical outdoor sessions and group project work. Find out more and book a place from Stephen Wiseman, Caledonian Canal Heritage Officer. email [stephen.wiseman@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk](mailto:stephen.wiseman@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk) or phone 01463 725561

Saturday 6th October 2012: **Behind the scenes at the museum** - delve into the archaeology stores at IMAG. Explore behind the scenes in our stores and discover the objects that reveal ancient maths, prehistoric bling and medieval money! Tours start at 11am and 2pm. Both last for around 2 hours. The tours are free, but places are limited, so booking is essential.

**Remembering Hidden Tain** Monday - Saturday during Highland Archaeology Fortnight, 11am-4pm, Tain and District Museum. Another chance to see the display resulting from an exciting oral history project run by ARCH on behalf of Tain & Easter Ross Civic Trust

Historic Assynt Fire and Water Project

**Burnt Mound Excavation and associated test pits, auguring and experiments** Stronchrubie NC 249 186 just off A 837 south of Inchnadamph. Parking at Stronchrubie Lodge 400m north of site to the west of the road. Visitors welcome at any time 3 - 6 and 8 - 10 October 9am - 4pm. Volunteers to help with excavation and associated fieldwork very welcome. Please email Gordon Sleight [gsassynt@gmail.com](mailto:gsassynt@gmail.com) with copy to Mandy Haggith [hag@worldforests.org](mailto:hag@worldforests.org) The Project is running alongside the Assynt Festival, full details of which are on [www.assyntfestival.org.uk](http://www.assyntfestival.org.uk)

#### HAF EVENT CANCELLED

**Nigg Old Trust** has asked us to let ARCH supporters know that their Highland Archaeology Festival event on 12<sup>th</sup> October has unfortunately been cancelled, because the Nigg cross-slab is still being conserved.

## ARCH lecture programme

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September: **A Tale of Eight Communities**, Illustrated talk by Susan Kruse featuring the 8 communities who took part in the Community Timelines programme. They provide a good overview of similarities and differences within the Highlands over 9,000 years or so.

29th October  
**'Museum Without Walls: Scotland's Clearances Trail App'**  
Jacquie Aitken presents a beginner's guide to digital app technology and its uses as a heritage resource for a worldwide audience. Come along and hear about Timespan's digital journey beginning with an idea to the launch of the new app and what was learnt along the way.

26th November  
**'Adopt-a-Monument - working with local communities to conserve and promote their local heritage'** Cara Jones discusses the new phase of Archaeology Scotland's Adopt-a-Monument project, a five year scheme which helps support and train local groups who wish to take a leading role in preserving their local heritage. Some recent Highland projects will be featured.

*All lectures take place in Dingwall Community Centre at 7.30pm. Suggested donation of £3*

## Highland Finds

Often the only evidence of heritage in an area are the finds, but it can be difficult to finding out about local finds, or understanding what they can tell us about people in the past can be difficult to discover.

ARCH is running two events in conjunction with the Lorna Cruickshank, Highland Council's Independent Museum Officer. Places are limited so **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL** to Lorna Cruickshank on [lorna.cruickshank@highland.gov.uk](mailto:lorna.cruickshank@highland.gov.uk) or 01349 868206

### Focus on Finds

26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September, 10-3:30, Timespan Museum, Helmsdale  
This two-day workshop will provide a chronological overview of heritage in the Highlands from

earliest settlers to recent times, with the emphasis on typical finds through to the Medieval period, followed by a practical session on using the HER and other major sources of information on the web. For the second day, participants will be asked to bring an object or picture of a find from their collection dating up to the Medieval period if possible. We will research the object, create a short description which could be used for a label, photograph the object, and then submit an entry to the HER. No previous experience necessary. Although aimed at museum staff and volunteers, others interested in finds are also welcome.

Free, with tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided, though participants should bring their own packed lunch.

## Highland Finds in Context

12<sup>th</sup> October, 10-4pm, Inverness Museum and Art Gallery

A day workshop exploring Highland finds in their context. Aimed at museum staff, volunteers and anyone interested in Highland finds, this day will include an overview of Highland finds by Susan Kruse of ARCH, Cait McCullagh and Jeanette Pearson of Inverness Museum speaking about dealing with finds from initial registration to care, Trevor Cowie (National Museums of Scotland) on Bronze Age metalwork and pottery, and Stuart Campbell of Treasure Trove Scotland on Medieval and later finds. Lunch is not provided, but the museum has a cafe. This event is also supported by High Life Highland.

## Recording the Caledonian Canal

Scottish Canals is actively seeking volunteers to be part of an exciting new 12-month pilot project working in partnership with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and the North of Scotland Archaeology Society (NoSAS).

By volunteering you'll get specific training on fieldwork, building recording and documentary research; access to canal buildings, documents and artefacts; the chance to work with experienced archaeological recorders and practical experience in using and contributing to the RCAHMS's national monuments record.

If you think this is something you might be interested in and are able to promise your time contact Stephen Wiseman on 01463 725561 or email [stephen@waterwaystrust.org.uk](mailto:stephen@waterwaystrust.org.uk) before Tuesday 2 October.

## Historical Walks around Killearnan

North Kessock and District Local History Society have just published their booklet describing walks in Killearnan on the Black Isle. Some of the research emerged from ARCH's Black Isle Heritage Memories project, which was then expanded into a longer project resulting in a comprehensive and impressive display. The booklet will be available for £5 from Tore farm shop, Tore Art Gallery, local post offices and the history society website [www.northkessockhistory.com](http://www.northkessockhistory.com)

### Find ARCH at :

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take a look at our website  
[www.archhighland.org.uk](http://www.archhighland.org.uk)  
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[www.facebook.com/ARCHhighland](https://www.facebook.com/ARCHhighland)