



Archaeology for Communities  
in the Highlands

# Annual Report

## 2017-2018



Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) is a registered Scottish Charity, No. SC040624, and a Company Limited by Guarantee, Company No. 353054

## 1. About ARCH

Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands (ARCH) was set up in January 2009 to provide a range of exciting and innovative community archaeology projects. It provides 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. ARCH does this in a number of ways including classroom learning, practical outdoor sessions, community group project work and via a virtual community.

The charitable purposes of ARCH are to advance education, community developments, heritage and culture by working with individuals, local groups and agencies in the Highlands of Scotland, and encouraging people to learn about, record and become involved with their heritage. This report highlights the projects and activities which took place from April 2017 to end of March 2018.

### Trustees

The Board of Trustees were appointed on the establishment of the organisation. Appointments and replacements are made in accordance with the Articles and Memorandum which require a minimum of three trustees and a maximum of 7 trustees. The trustees for 2017-2018 were:

Malcolm Bangor-Jones (appointed Chair 21-7-2016)

Alasdair Cameron (Company Secretary)

Simon Berry

Dr Graham Clark

Sue Mitchell (resigned 22/6/2017)

Carolyn Samsin

Roland Spencer-Jones

Lorna Cruickshank (adviser)

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## 2. ARCH Activities 2017-2018

ARCH had another busy year. The work for Invergordon Museum on Invergordon in World War II and an investigation of Kiltearn Old Kirk for Evanton Community Trust both finished this year. We started a new project focussing on experimental archaeology. Another successful Highland Archaeology Festival was organised for Highland Council. Sessions were delivered by Susan Kruse unless otherwise noted. Details are below: further information on these projects can be found on the ARCH website [www.archhighland.org.uk](http://www.archhighland.org.uk).

### 2.1 Invergordon in World War II

ARCH has been rolling out provision for this project since 2016 for Invergordon Museum. A huge amount of information was discovered and this year Susan Kruse with two of the course attendees pulled it all together into a book which is available from the museum. She also ensured that all the information was submitted to the Highland Historic Environment Record and Canmore – over 700 records including over 100 photographs.



### 2.2 Kiltearn Old Kirk

ARCH has also provided sessions since 2016 for Evanton Community Trust on their project focussing on Kiltearn Old Kirk. In this year we held walks, recorded the gravestones in the old kirkyard, did a standing building survey and created a display which launched during Highland Archaeology Festival. The gravestone record has already proven popular with visitors and local people. A complete archive has been left at the Cornerstone Café in Evanton.



### 2.3 Highland Archaeology Festival (HAF)

ARCH again organised the two week festival in October for Highland Council. Susan Kruse and Monika Malezska-Ritchie organised an exciting programme and two-day conference, with a number of new innovations including a geocache trail and a photographic competition, as well as building on the workshops, self-guided trails and other features. Over 10,000 people attended HAF events this past year.





#### **2.4 Experimental Archaeology: Learning about Technologies in the Past**

This project launched in October 2017 with the first of 13 monthly workshops led by craftspeople exploring craft and technology through the ages. The sessions are proving exciting and informative. Each are being filmed, and blogs are available on the ARCH website. Next year there will be workshops until October, followed by work by teachers and archaeologists to create loan boxes and learning materials. Funding was provided by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

#### **2.5 Rosemarkie, Fortrose and Avoch in WWI**

ARCH organised sessions for Groam House Museum for their project investigating WWI activity at home and abroad in this area of the Black Isle. The group investigated map and archive sources relating to the area, including U.S. Navy presence in the firth, finding evidence of a boom that was built between Fort George and Rosemarkie. Using web and newspaper sources, lists of people involved in the war effort were compiled. The group prepared a display for the 2017 season at Groam House Museum.



#### **2.6 Historic Maps Workshops**

The online historic maps workshops held last year were so popular that further workshops were held at Lybster, Dingwall Library and Fort William, funded by Historic Environment Scotland and High Life Highland.

#### **2.7 Community Engagement Activities**

ARCH also organised a number of activities open to all, bringing informal learning opportunities to a number of places in the Highlands. As part of the Highland Archaeology Festival in October, ARCH offered nine activities: a pub quiz, an exploration of archaeological books at Dingwall library, a talk about Kiltearn old kirk, a guided walk at Ardross, visits to Northfield and Kirkhill WWII ammunition depots, workshops on internet maps (by Susan Kruse) and GPS survey (by board member Roland Spencer-Jones) and hosted a talk by Melynda Jarratt on Canadian lumberjacks in Kiltarlity – an event

attended by over 140 people. And there have been few HAF events where participants leave with freshly picked grapes as we did at Ardross.



At the HAF conference, Susan Kruse provided a poster talk on the Kiltearn Old Kirk project. Susan also gave talks at Clyne Heritage, Golspie Heritage Society, Dingwall History Society, Inverness and Black Isle U3A, Workers' Educational Association, the NoSAS conference and two talks at the Scottish Community Heritage Conference in Glasgow. We also ran a well-attended lecture programme, with eight talks on a variety of themes, attracting people from all over the Highlands. ARCH also had displays at HAF, Kingussie Heritage Day, the Black Isle Gathering and the Community Heritage Conference in Glasgow. Susan also provided an historic map workshop during Adult Learning Day in Inverness.

Altogether, over 2705 people participated in ARCH events and courses, although there were many more unregistered as visitors to some of the more informal events. We issued three newsletters and a number of heritage newsflashes over the year. Our mailing list is currently over 1000, with just over 200 receiving the copy by post.

## **2.8 Consultation Events**

Susan Kruse continued to represent the interests of Community Archaeology at the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Group run by Historic Environment Scotland, including participation on the Learning subgroup. She is also on the steering group of Scotland Community Heritage, helping to scope out community heritage activity in Scotland and plan consultation events. She represented the interested of adult learning at an Archaeological Skills and Training day workshop in Edinburgh.

## **2.9 Other Awards**

Susan Kruse was awarded an MBE for Services to Community Archaeology in the Highlands in the New Year's Honours list.

## **2.10 Future Planning**

While all these activities are happening, ARCH is always looking to the future, either developing projects on our own, or responding to requests from other organisations. For 2018-2019 we look forward to leading on a three year project to create a Highland Regional ScARF.

## **3. Friends of ARCH**

Our Friends scheme continues to provide much needed unrestricted donations. This year we had 38 people providing financial or other contributions. We were also very grateful to receive a legacy. The annual Friends outing in May, organised by Roland Spencer-Jones, was to Kirkhill, with visits to the Wardlaw Mausoleum, an old cruck cottage, a WWII ammunition depot and an Iron Age dun.

## **4. Financial Report**

ARCH's activities continue to be project-funded, and therefore most income is restricted for specific activities and projects. However, ARCH continues to generate unrestricted funds via donations from our lectures, book donations, our Friends and other events. These are used to provide cash flow where funders pay in arrears, and will increasingly be needed for overheads. A copy of the annual accounts is available separately to anyone who wishes to see them.