



ARCH Newsflash August 2020

The weeks just seem to slip by, but at least the weather has for the most part allowed walks!

Walks

Last month I promoted some self guided walks (see list on Highland Archaeology Festival [website](#)). This now includes a number of heritage walks prepared by [NoSAS](#). Other publications and websites to check out include:

- ‘Historical Walks around Killearnan’ published by [North Kessock and District History Society](#)
- ‘Travelling through time: archaeological walks in Skye, Raasay and Lochalsh’ by archaeologists Karen Hardy and Martin Wildgoose; available from bookshops.
- [Heritage Paths](#), which has number in the Highlands

No excuse now not to explore some of the heritage on our doorsteps! Or if you prefer, you can take a digital walk: join Jacquie Aitken on a walk to [Strath-Steven Cove](#) – a film by Robert Aitken which premiered end of July focussing on a cave near Brora with a variety of marks, some against witches.

Museums

More Highland museums are opening. Museums and Heritage Highland is compiling a list on their [website](#) in their blog section. Current openings, include:

- Cromarty Courthouse Museum
- Culloden Battlefield
- Gairloch Museum
- Glencoe Museum
- Highland Folk Museum
- Historylinks, Dornoch
- Inverness Museum and Art Gallery
- Mallaig Heritage Centre
- Museum of the Isles, Armadale, Skye
- Russian Arctic Convoy Museum, Aultbea
- Tain Museum
- Tarbat Discovery Centre
- Ullapool Museum
- West Highland Museum

Many require booking, and may have special times or requirements, so check individual websites, social media etc. Some other museums are also working on reopening. The following have decided not to open this season: Invergordon Museum, Elgin Museum Laidhay Croft Museum, Nairn Museum, Strathnaver Museum, Wick Heritage Museum, but many have activities you can participate in.

Talks

- The History Live series organised by UHI Centre for History has Professor David Worthington talking about 'Sugar, Slave0owning and the Scottish Highlands before 1707' on 27th August, 1-2pm. Details on how to join are on their [website](#)
- The National Library of Scotland have produced some local history [blogs](#), and have put a number of talks they have given onto their [Youtube channel](#). And of course there are the wonderful maps to explore which I keep promoting. As usual some [new maps](#) have recently been added.

Check out online

- [NOSAS blogs](#). There have been some new ones recently on diverse topics, including a cruck-framed building in Beaully and memories of Raigmore hospital.
- Inverness Local History Forum now has a [website](#). It's great to see some of the work from previous years brought together and promoted. Previous newsletters can also be downloaded.
- Volunteers at HistoryLinks Museum in Dornoch have overhauled the Historylinks Image Library during lockdown. Their new website, [The Historylinks Archive](#), allows better searching, larger pdf files, as well as access to film archives. Historylinks is one of the few museums in the Highlands to have an online catalogue, so if you can't get there (though they are open!), do browse their large collection.
- Basiliscoe Mercury. For those interested in arms, armour, weapons, conflict etc, this very useful fortnightly newsletter provides links to stories in the news, covering wide geographical and chronological focus. The latest issue ranges from Palaeolithic stone tools to ancient olive presses – as well as cannons, swords, battlefields, exhibitions and museum news. Available from [International Council of Museums website](#).

While the Highland Archaeology Festival this year will not have an events programme or a physical conference, there are plans underfoot to have a festival of online talks between 25th September and 12th October. More details in an ARCH newsletter to be sent out in September once the programme is fixed.

Keep safe!

Best wishes,

Susan