



Archaeology for Communities  
in the Highlands

**A big welcome to all the new ARCH supporters who have joined us since the last newsletter.** Many of you said that you'd like to hear more about what we're up to when you came along to the Taking Part in the Past festival. Following us on facebook or joining the email subscribers via the website are all proving popular ways to keep up with ARCH activities. We've now got a new way you can support us too - by signing up to become a Friend. Find out more about it below.

## A Friend indeed

***ARCH is looking for some new friends!***

*ARCH has a fantastic 800-plus supporters and now we're offering the chance to build closer links with the organisation by becoming an ARCH Friend.*

Your support will help us to keep working with communities throughout the Highlands, enabling people of all ages and abilities to become more actively involved with their local heritage.

The ARCH Stop, Look and Listen project, which has been generously funded by The Heritage Lottery Fund, European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme and support from The Highland Council and Scotrail, draws to a close in January 2013. We're actively seeking funding support to continue our work, but we also want to increase our resilience and independence by having our own fundraising programme.

ARCH keeps running costs to a minimum, and we have the generous support of The Highland Council in the form of office space in the Dingwall Education Centre, but there are still the basics that are needed to keep us afloat - essentials such as insurance, archaeological equipment, IT service provision and finance monitoring. To help us meet these costs we ask for a £10.00 donation (£5.00 for unwaged) to become a Friend of ARCH, and everything that we



raise above this will be used to continue to provide ARCH activities across the Highlands.

But it's not all about money - ARCH Friends are invaluable for their practical help, such as helping to organise fund-raising activities, helping at ARCH events (e.g. stewarding, setting-up) and contributing to fund-raising activities (e.g. baking, hosting, providing a talk or presentation)

We really appreciate your contribution to supporting our work to enable people to become involved in preserving and celebrating their heritage, and to show our thanks ARCH Friends will be invited to join us for an annual Friends' Day. This event will include a presentation of new findings from our projects and a visit to some of the sites and features that make up our rich archaeological heritage.

***To become a friend now, complete the form on the back page of the newsletter.***

## A big thanks to Cathy

ARCH project officer Cathy MacIver is leaving ARCH to explore some new avenues - or should that be trenches? As all of you who have met or corresponded with Cathy will know, ARCH has been tremendously lucky to have had the benefit of Cathy's knowledge and energy over the past two years; so we are very sorry to see her leave ARCH, but also wish her well with her new endeavours.

Cathy is similarly enthusiastic about her time with ARCH commenting, "It has been great meeting so many interesting people, and a privilege to be able to share my love of archaeology with them. I know that some people who've been on my courses have moved on to get more closely involved with research, but I hope that everyone who came along felt that they gained something from the classes, and were proud of the fantastic final displays that each course produced."



***Cathy's classes are always relaxed, wherever they are held !***

## A big welcome to . . .



*Lynne and Lachlan McKeggie who will be taking on the role of project officer, and offering their own take on the ARCH excavation this summer.*

Lachlan and Lynne both have a passion for archaeology, and for sharing this with others. As Lynne commented, “I love how there are so many questions yet to answer in the subject, and you can really connect with objects people have created and used in the past.”

They both studied archaeology at university and have since worked for both Historic Scotland and Archaeology Scotland. Since coming to the Highlands to work - returning home in Lachlan’s case - they have got immersed in Highland community archaeology projects, including working at Merkinch, running two lively workshops at the ARCH ‘Taking Part in the Past’ festival (more on p3) and sharing the role of Community Heritage Workers for the Alness Heritage Centre - you can find out more about this in Lachlan’s article on p4.

## Delving Deeper more Foulis revelations likely this summer

*Delve into the Past 2 is coming to Foulis, near to Evanton this summer. This year the pre-excavation work and dig will be led by archaeologists Lynne and Lachlan McKeggie who are looking forward to sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm with this year’s ARCH delvers.*



Last year not even the best attempts of a Scottish summer could dampen the spirits of the excavators, and by the end of the dig they had found that the Foulis Mound is probably a constructed feature, possibly a mounding over a pre-dating structure, which suggests that previous interpretations of the site as a motte, may well be right.

The finds recovered both through a pre-excavation metal detecting survey and during the excavation, showed that the site was a hive of activity in modernity too. The recovery of a gorgeous 18th century copper shoe buckle, a soldier’s lead stylus and a variety of musket balls may well be remainders from the period of the Jacobite rebellions, when the Munros will have mustered and coordinated training and billeting for troops on the Government side. More digging will be needed to find out if last year’s interpretation holds true, and to see what other clues to the past may lie in finds

from the site.

*Last year’s leaders Cathy MacIver and Cait McCullagh both agree that the ARCH archaeological digs are something special.*

As Cait commented, “Uniquely ARCH digs offer an incredible opportunity to get your hands on the past, literally. The step-by-step tuition process gives everyone the chance to try out all the basic tasks of excavation from assessing a site for likely archaeological features, to planning the site, trowelling a feature and recording the uncovered archaeology by photography and scaled drawing.

“There’s also the chance to analyse and interpret findings and results in post-excavation processes including cleaning finds, evaluating environmental samples and producing reports.”

Cathy agreed, adding, “Last year’s dig was great fun and everyone felt that the pre-excavation classes really added to their experience

and understanding of the dig. Everyone, regardless of age or experience, is made welcome and invited to develop their particular interests in the exciting process of revealing the past.

“We’re lucky to have Lachlan and Lynne leading the dig this year, they’ve lots of energy and experience and I’m sure that everyone who comes along will enjoy it as much as we did last summer.”

**The Delve dates are :**

**Pre- excavation classes :**  
Thursdays on 28 June, 5 and 12 July - 18.30 - 21.00 at the Alness Heritage Centre, and a site visit on Sunday 8 July from 13.00 - 16.00 (tbc)  
**Cost for all sessions £12 or free to low income**

**Dig : 14 - 29 July from 09.30 - 16.30 - with days off on 19 and 24 June and an open day on 26 July from 11.30 to 15.30.**  
**FREE childcare (must be booked) and transport from Dingwall can be provided.**

Parking at Foulis Castle will be signposted. It is a short walk and rough terrain underfoot.

**To book your place or find out more, contact the ARCH office - details on the back page.**

# Taking Part in the Past

## a gallery of the spring ARCH family festival

With thanks to Alasdair Cameron and Bernadette George for their photographs



There was historical advice ...



Dingwall Academy was packed with heritage and craft stalls, lectures and activities



... and funding advice

The tastes of the past proved popular . . . as did the tastes of today!



A chance to try some craft skills . . .



*What a day !*



. . . and to build your own home

## Following the Kyle line



The members of the Kyle line course have been showing their creative abilities with the production of a leaflet, mp3 description - and a display about Dingwall station, which is commemorating its 150th anniversary - all in the space of a couple of months of meeting and working together. If you'd like to see the Dingwall station display it is on show in Dingwall Library until the end of June and in Dingwall Museum during July.

The leaflet has been produced in conjunction with designer Iain Sarjeant, whose photo of Knockfarrel is below, and describes the archaeological and heritage features that you can see while travelling the Dingwall to Kyle line.

All the team should be proud of their production, it is fantastically professional and a fascinating read.

If you'd like your own copy of the leaflet, just send us a A5 SAE and we'll pop you a copy in the post. The leaflet will also be available at Dingwall Station and at the museum on Kyle Station.



## Join ARCH Friends

Name :

Address :

Email :

Phone :

**Gift aid :** Please tick if you are a UK tax payer and are happy for your details to be used to allow ARCH to reclaim gift aid

I would also be happy to help ARCH by :

- Offering practical help at ARCH events (e.g. stewarding, setting-up, etc.)
- Helping to organise fund-raising activities
- Contributing to fund-raising activities (e.g. baking, hosting, providing a talk or presentation, etc.)

Please tell us how you would like to help:

.....

Offering skills (e.g. crafts, admin, design, etc.)

Please specify .....

Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'

## Alness Heritage Centre



Anyone who has visited Alness Heritage Centre will tell you that it sits at the centre of a hive of community activity. People in and out, meetings, projects and even wedding celebrations take place in the centre. The centre hosts ARCH events, runs a shop and on top of all this it has become a hugely

important hub for local historical knowledge.

Thousands of old photos, hundreds of artefacts (from old tools to gas masks) cover a huge cross section of highland life. It also holds unique archives on the WWII Sunderland and Catalina base at Alness. In April the team used Leader funding to appoint Lynne and I as Community Heritage Workers. Over the next year we'll be organising and recording this fantastic collection for the future. We'll also be running community events and training, working with local schools and setting up exhibitions.

There's a lot to do and we're keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved and help. The work will mainly focus on using museum cataloguing software to record the collection. This will give volunteers the opportunity to look at some fascinating pieces, learn about the area's past and get involved in setting up exhibitions and preserving objects. If you are interested in what's going on at the centre (although we don't keep up with everything!) or would like to see the kinds of objects we are looking at why not join our Facebook group: Alness Heritage or follow us on twitter: @AlnessHeritage.

If you would like to volunteer email [alnessheritage@alness.com](mailto:alnessheritage@alness.com) or phone 01349 883005  
**Lachlan McKeggie**



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or find us on facebook at

[www.facebook.com/ARCHhighland](http://www.facebook.com/ARCHhighland)

