



More chance for chat

We so enjoy meeting you all at classes and lectures that we've created more opportunities for social interaction outwith these events.

We've recently set up a *facebook page* for ARCH as an organisation, but there are also facebook pages for two earlier ARCH projects - *Black Isle Heritage Memories* and for *Display the Past* in Groam House Museum.

'Liking' these sites is a great way for you to keep up-to-date with all that ARCH is doing, and facebook is a very straight forward way of sharing your thoughts and comments with like-minded people. The simplest way to find the sites is to click on the facebook box at the bottom of our website homepage - www.archhighland.org.uk

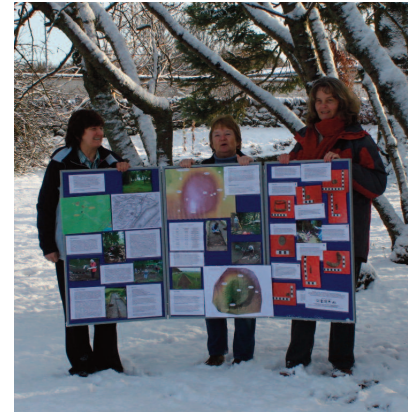
You can also add comments to our *website blog*. Your privacy will be retained as personal details aren't published. We'd love to hear from you if you've any historical or archaeological thoughts or finds that you'd like to share - or mystery items our readers can help to identify.

Don't forget our website *events* section too - we're keen to promote events as much as possible - and it is an excellent way to find out what is happening around the Highlands over the coming months.

But if none of this seems like quite the way you'd like to keep in touch, you can contact us by post, phone or email and we'll do our very best to answer your questions.

A Happy New Year and welcome to the first ARCH newsletter of 2012. We hope you find something to tempt you amongst the courses and lectures on offer.

We've also got displays from several previous courses - such as the one from our summer dig (right) - on show at the moment - well worth a look!



Displays on tour

We've some superb displays on show at the moment. There's the results of our summer excavation at Foulis (above) on display in Evanton, Milton's 'Pathways into the Past' display (top right) and Boat of Garten's Community timeline (centre). Over on Skye they were so dedicated to producing their Community Timeline display (lower right) that they travelled through storms and gales to complete it.

The venues and dates for the displays are:

Evanton - Cornerstone Cafe until 6 February

Milton - Mercat Centre until 30 January

Skye - Portree Library until 18 February

Raasay Community Centre : 20 Feb - 3 March (TBC)

Sleat Community Trust : 5th March - 31 March (TBC)

Clan Donald Library, Museum of the Isles - April.

Upper Strathspey - Boat of Garten Community Hall until 14 February (it will be manned by group members on Tuesdays 11.00 - 2.00).

Aviemore Library : 15 February - 2 March

Awaiting confirmation of later venues in Nethy Bridge and Carrbridge.



ARCH Courses

All courses are low cost (£2.50 per session) and free to anyone on low income. Everyone is welcome on any course - no previous experience necessary. Refreshments are provided.

Help with childcare is available. To find out more or to book a place, please get in touch with us - see contacts below.



Pathways into the Past

We're continuing our series of courses that look at ancient routeways and their influence on landscape and archaeological features. The classes give particular attention to a possible ancient routeway from Tarradale on the Black Isle to Tain in Easter Ross, and ARCH project officer, Cathy MacIver, will be completing the look at this route with the next two courses, which will be held in Strathpeffer and Tain.

During the classes participants will use maps, aerial photos and other sources to discover more about the area's past for the first six weeks, followed by a section on practical surveying, which will include several days of fieldwork. For the final part of the course the class will put together a display of their discoveries to show to the community.

All the courses are designed so that you can drop in for a session or come to the lot. Once you've had a taster we're sure you'll want more!

Come and join us on the journey!

Course details are:

Strathpeffer Community Centre :

Tuesdays, 18.30 - 21.00

Stepping into History : 31 January to 6 March

Surveying your Heritage : 13 - 27 March

Reporting on Your Past : 17 April - 15 May

Tain : TRACC - Room 22 :

Thursdays, 18.30 - 21.00

Stepping into History : 23 February - 29 March

Surveying your Heritage : 19 April - 3 May

Reporting on Your Past : 10 May - 7 June

Outdoor survey days for both courses will be on Saturdays - 10 & 24 March and 28 April from 10.00 - 4.00



Heritage along the Kyle Line



MP3 files a bit of a mystery to you? well they won't be after this course!

The final Heritage along the Kyle Line will start on Wednesday 7 March, running for 8 weeks with a break over the Easter holidays.

Participants will pull together work from the 3 previous courses, and create a leaflet and MP3 commentaries. Some days we'll have our course on the train, and on others we'll be at various locations along the route depending on participants. There will even be a trip to Edinburgh to look at archives and museums.

There is no need to have been on previous courses to come to this one - newcomers are welcome.

Our first meeting will be held on 7 March at 2:30-5pm in Dingwall Community Centre, timed to allow people to take the train to Dingwall. At the first class we will plan future sessions. The following week (14 March) will be an all day trip on the train, with time to look at all the previous displays at their new home at the Friends of the Kyle Line museum on Kyle Station.

Booking is essential for this course, so that we can arrange free passes on the train.



★ Stop Press ★

WW2 constructed Inchindown oil storage tanks, near Invergordon, are to feature on the BBC's **One Show at 7pm on 17 January**. Built into the hillside and situated on private land these amazing tunnels, some of which are an incredible 13.5m high, are normally only accessible through arranged tours - so this is the perfect opportunity to find out more about a special Highland site.

Taking Part in the Past

ARCH is celebrating Highland community archaeology this spring with a family festival in Dingwall Academy on 21 April.

Running from 10.00 - 4.00, the day will have a varied mix of talks, storytelling, archaeological and craft workshops. We're also inviting Highland heritage groups and museums to bring along display stands to showcase their work.

Highland craft workers are also invited to take a stand. We're keeping costs to a minimum (£10.00 a stand), but we do want crafts to relate to the theme of the day - Highland heritage - and to be made in the Highlands.

We're delighted that we'll be hearing from Anne and Dorothy of Gairloch about their exciting project linking archive work and outdoor surveys in the area, and that Sandra and Alasdair will be sharing their experience of running a community oral history project for Killearnan on the Black Isle and putting together a display to share the group's discoveries.

Susan and Cathy will be talking about ARCH projects and how people can get involved, and they will be busy with some of the workshops too. Cathy will be treating us to an insight into studying archaeology from the air through aerial photos and GIS, and Susan and the Young Archaeologist Club will be bringing some interactive games.

The day will close with a panel discussion on the future of Highland community archaeology - a chance for everyone to get involved in helping to shape future activity.

We've lots more planned for the day, details about which will be in the next ARCH newsletter - so all you need to do at the moment is mark the date in your diary!



New Year, New Lectures

We're back in Dingwall Community Centre with a fantastic new lecture series.

All lectures are on Mondays. They start at 7:30pm (doors open at 7.00) and will be followed by coffees and teas. Suggested donation of £3 per lecture.

Monday 30 January

Culbin Sands From Prehistory to Present

Cathy MacIver of ARCH presents an overview of some of the finds from the high status site of Culbin Sands researched in the ARCH *Display the Past Project* at Nairn Museum in 2011.

Monday 27 February

Monumental Stories

Adrian Clark, former Highland Council Cultural Officer and recent UHI graduate in Cultural Studies, gives an illustrated talk about local monuments, including the Fyrish Monument and the Cambrai Cross, looking at how stories develop, are sometimes distorted and how new significance is added over time.

Monday 26 March

Buildings at risk : a burden or an asset?

Kerry Bennett, Conservation Officer with Highland Council, provides a brief look at historic buildings at risk in Highland, their value and the fundamental issues surrounding their conservation and future re-use.

Monday 30 April

Carn Liath Broch : what do the artefacts tell us?

Local archaeologist Lynn Fraser looks at the insights the artefact assemblage from Carn Liath broch at Golspie can reveal about daily life, ritual, and specialised craftwork. Lynn explores cultural contacts within Atlantic Scotland and beyond and the social status of the inhabitants.

Monday 28 May

Strathcarnaig (Sutherland) : before and after Clearance

Local historian David Alston describes the well preserved remains of settlements in Strathcarnaig on the road from Strath Fleet to Bonar Bridge, linking them to the detailed surveys of the 1770s before the area was cleared.

Find ARCH at :

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The ARCH website has a full list of courses and events, by ARCH and others, information about programmes and much, much more!

