

Welcome to the first issue of 2014. ARCH is now 5 years old this month! We have a variety of activities on offer or in the planning stages, including two courses starting next month

February Courses

Bronze Age Metalwork from the Moray Firth Area

Mondays 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th
February, 10-1

Reading Room, Inverness Library, Farraline Park
Have you ever wondered how you find out about finds from an area?

The North Kessock and History Local History Society's ongoing project Feats of Clay is investigating the context for clay moulds found in recent excavations at Bellfield, North Kessock (see last ARCH newsletter). The moulds were used to make clay sickles in the late Bronze Age (c. 950-800), and are rare evidence of metalworking from this period.



This ARCH course, funded by High Life Highland, will complement the project, showing how to find out about known Bronze Age metalwork from the Moray Firth area. We will compile a gazetteer of known metalwork from the area, and where possible obtain photographs, including taking pictures of objects in local collections and Edinburgh. The results will be used by Trevor Cowie who is writing a book for the Feats of Clay project. No experience necessary, and free. Contact the ARCH office to book or for more information.

Ancient Crafts at Tain

Saturdays 8th Feb, 15th Feb, 22nd Feb & 1st March
at Tain Parish Church Hall, 10:30am until 3:30pm
with one hour lunch break

The next instalment of the successful crafting workshop comes to Tain! Over the course of four all-day workshops we will be exploring the archaeology of various ancient crafts including



braiding, weaving, tablet weaving and naal binding (or Viking one-needle-knitting) before having a go ourselves! Every participant will make an item each week to take home, and I'll even give

you some instructions so you can keep up your new skills at home.

These workshops are FREE, funded by High Life Highland.

Teas and coffees provided, please feel free to bring a packed lunch.

If you are interested or have any questions contact Lynne McKeeggie on l.mckeeggie@archhighland.org.uk



Investigating Carn Glas Chambered Cairn, Kilcoy

ARCH together with North Kessock & District Local History Society led a guided walk to the interesting cluster of cairns at Kilcoy on the Black Isle as part of Highland Archaeology Festival. We were all struck by how overgrown and neglected Carn Glas, an impressive Neolithic chambered cairn, had become. A joint project, with NOSAS as well, is seeking to clean up, investigate and then adopt the cairn as part of the Adopt-A-Monument scheme.

The first two meetings are on Saturday 15th Feb and Wednesday 19th Feb, where there will be gorse cutting and other cleaning tasks. If you are interested, please contact the ARCH office for times, meeting places and other details.



Researching Local History

Susan Kruse of ARCH will offer four workshops at Dingwall Library in March as part of the High Life Highland You Time sessions, Tuesdays, 10-11am. Topics covered will be:

4th March: On-line heritage databases

11th March Old maps, especially those available on the Internet

18th March Statistical Accounts and other printed sources

25th March Newspapers, photograph archives and other sources

These sessions are free to High Life Highland members. Charges for others are: standard: £4.60 per session; over 60s: £2.30 per session; budget (income support): 50p per session. Bookings to Dingwall Leisure Centre or Dingwall Library.

Online Maps

Invergordon Library, **11 Feb, 2014, 10-11am**
Scotland has a rich history of mapping, going back to the 16th century. Many of these are now available to us on the internet. This session led by Susan Kruse of ARCH will allow you to explore maps from the 16th century to the present - and even overlay maps of different dates on top of one another. No experience needed.

Organised by High Life Highland as part of their You Time Programme, with charges as above (free to High Life Highland members). Bookings to Invergordon Leisure Centre, Academy Road, Invergordon, IV18 0LB. Tel: 01349 853689

HER Workshop

Wed. 29th Jan, 7:30 Dingwall Community Centre
Sarah Salem of the Highland Council Historic Environment Team is offering a free workshop on the Highland Council's HER, the database of all known heritage in the Highlands. This is an invaluable resource, and the HER Team welcome public contributions. Come and find out more and to ask any questions you might have. Laptops provided or bring your own.

Watch this Space...

We are awaiting final details for courses in the Bonar Bridge / Ardgay area and the Black Isle. We also hope to offer another Family Festival in April this year if funding applications are successful.



ARCH Lecture Series

The ARCH lecture series resumes on Monday 27th January, 7:30 at Dingwall Community Centre (doors open at 7pm). Suggested donation £3.

Mon. 27th Jan: *Ledmore & Migdale—Post Glacial to post industrial—the story of the woods at Spinningdale*

Eleanor Garty of the Woodland Trust will lead an 'armchair tour' of this rich and ancient habitat on the Dornoch Firth, highlighting key stages in its development, and man's interaction with the landscape over thousands of years.

Mon. 24th Feb: *Migration of some Border shepherds to Caithness and Sutherland in late 18th/ 19th c.*

In a talk linking clearances and Thomas Telford, Jenny Bruce will describe the introduction of sheep and the families who came to oversee this process.

Mon 31st March: *Excavations at Cromarty*

Steven Birch and Mary Peteranna will describe results from the first season of community excavations at Cromarty which produced copious evidence of Medieval and later settlement.

Lectures for April and May will be publicised in the next ARCH newsletter and on the website.

Evanton Wartime Remains on the HER

The full archive from the very successful Evanton Wartime Remains project is now on the HER—309 records, most new! This shows the substantial contribution a community project can make in a very short time! Have a browse at her.highland.gov.uk. Binders of resources are at Dingwall and Alness libraries, Cornerstone Cafe, Evanton and Alness Heritage Centre. There are also books and leaflets

available from the ARCH office. The leaflet and sites and features listing can also be downloaded from the ARCH website.



Autumn Reports

Hilton Heritage

In autumn 2013 a group met to discover more about the heritage around Hilton in Inverness in a course funded by High Life Highland. The first part of the course was an overview from the earliest Mesolithic evidence through to modern times. In particular, the group focussed on the exciting information emerging from recent excavations along the Southern Distributor Road, showing how important this area was in prehistoric times. Information is much leaner from the medieval period onwards, as the focus shifted to the burgh of Inverness, with the Hilton area only becoming more developed from the late 19th century onwards.



In the second part of the course, participants looked at how to research and find out more about the local heritage, looking at heritage databases, old maps, archival materials, oral history sources, and other internet and published resources. A visit to Inverness Museum allowed us to look at finds not on display, including some recent excavation and stray finds (see Find of the Month, January 2014 on the ARCH website). At a visit to the Highland Archives we were able to look at archival material about topics of interest, including mills, the Highland orphanage and the Inverness poorhouse (pictured above; see also Site of the Month, January 2014 on the ARCH website). A binder of resources is at Inshes Library.

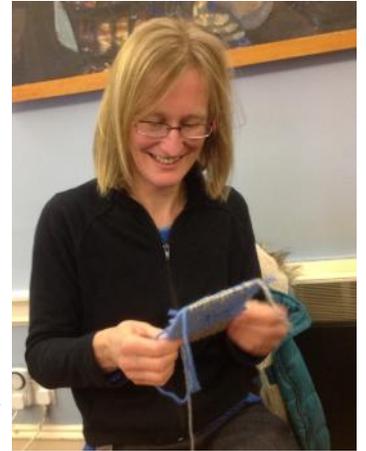
Nifty Nairn Textiles

The people of Nairn have been developing their craft skills this November at a series of Ancient Craft workshops delivered by Lynne McKeggie of ARCH. Funded by High Life Highland's adult Learning programme, the workshops aimed to bring back some of the forgotten crafts of Britain's past and provide a platform for the residents of Nairn to develop new skills.

Crafts covered in the course included Finger-loop Braiding, Tablet Weaving and Naal Binding.

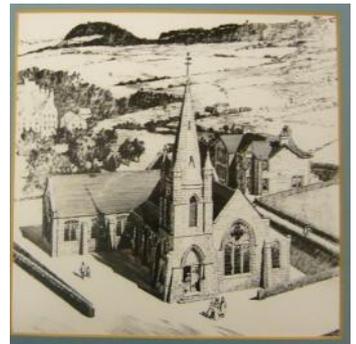
Participants learnt about the archaeological evidence relating to each craft before trying the craft for themselves, and making an item to take home with them. There was a great response to the workshops with 20 participants taking part and lots of positive feedback received. Items made included bags, bookmarks and woollen mice!

"I have loved the course - a great mix of Archaeology and ancient crafts. It is essential to keep these crafts alive." "Very relaxing, good company and tutoring."



Remembering Strathpeffer 2

In October and November a growing group met to share memories of sites and buildings in the village, in a short course funded by the Strathpeffer Community Centre with funding from High Life Highland. Building on a first series held in 2011, participants contributed more information about many of these sites, but in addition added information about a number of new sites. The local primary school also came to one of the sessions, to ask about wartime remains in the area. Highlights included details about an unusual building near the Pavilion (above). Using memories, aerial photos and a sketch, it was shown to be adapted from the old United Free Church—explaining the unusual architectural features still surviving. Five sessions were not enough—and the group wants to continue.





ScotlandsPeople at the Highland Archives and Family History Centre

Anyone doing family history research or tracing the history of buildings will know the value of census records, births, marriages and deaths registers and wills. These are usefully on the ScotlandsPeople website, but even a limited search can quickly end up costing a lot.

There are now four computers in the Highland Archives / Family History Centre, Inverness, dedicated to ScotlandsPeople, and special rates have been negotiated for £15 per day (or part of a day) for unlimited searching—a good deal. Stations must be booked in advance. See www.highlandarchives.org.uk or phone 01463 256433.

SCARF

The amount of fieldwork and research relating to Scotland’s heritage is healthy and exciting. Many of the results take a long time to be published, as does a synthesis of their importance. The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) project funded by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland with Historic Scotland, is helping to keep us up to date. Panels of experts have summarised the state of knowledge, identifying current research strengths and future research themes. This synthesis has been published on a website which invites contributions and discussion. There is an enormous amount of information, and it’s easy to get lost navigating through it. Nevertheless, it is a marvellous resource and well worth browsing.

www.scottishheritagehub.com

Can ARCH help your organisation?

Do you have a good idea for a project, but need help with planning or delivery? ARCH can provide courses, walks, skills training or even provide advice on how to apply for funding. If you have an idea you want to explore, contact the ARCH office

ARCH

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Friends of ARCH

If you enjoy what ARCH provides, please consider becoming a ‘Friend of ARCH’. The Friends are a group of supporters who help ARCH in many diverse ways – by assisting at events, by offering specific skills or just by donating a small financial contribution to sustain ARCH’s work. Friends of ARCH are requested to give an annual donation of £10 (or more if you wish). There is an annual Friends’ invitational event, a presentation or a visit. To become a Friend—or to renew -contact the ARCH office or fill in the form below.

Name :

Address :

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Gift aid : Please tick if you 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:

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

Please specify

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