

Welcome to the ARCH autumn newsletter with information on courses, talks and of course the ARCH walks for Highland Archaeology Festival. There's something for everyone!

## Courses and Activities



### Researching Knockbain Heritage

Mondays, 1st Sept for 6 weeks, 7-9:30pm  
Allangrange Arms, Munlochry (function room)  
An opportunity to research sites and buildings of interest in Knockbain Parish on the Black Isle, share memories and create a display or leaflet. All welcome, whether you have come to previous sessions or not. Free.  
Part of Knockbain Heritage Project, organised by Knockbain Community Council and funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and Highland Council.



### Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland

There are lots of opportunities to get involved. All events are free and open to all.

#### 1) Researching Telford's works in the area

Tuesdays, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept for 4 weeks, 7-9:30  
Bonar Bridge Community Hall  
Learn about and research Telford's roads, bridges and churches in the Kyle of Sutherland. All welcome, whether you have come to previous sessions or not.

#### 2) Creating a Display

Thursdays 2<sup>nd</sup> October for 5 weeks, 7-9:30pm  
Bonar Bridge Community Hall

Final research and then we'll create a display describing Telford's impact in the area. All welcome, whether you have come to previous sessions or not.

#### 3) Creating a Leaflet describing Telford's impact in the area

Thursdays 6<sup>th</sup> November for 4 weeks  
Bonar Bridge Community Hall, 7-9:30pm  
Pulling together all the work from the year, we'll create a leaflet showcasing Telford's work in the area.

#### 4) Surveying Telford's Bridges

Saturday & Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> September, 10-4  
This is an opportunity to learn how to record standing buildings of all sorts, led by Janet Hooper. The Saturday and Sunday morning will involve observing, sketching, photographing, and detailed accurate recording of an unrecorded Telford bridge. On Sunday afternoon we'll take a tour of Telford and contemporary bridges. No previous experience needed. Free, but **booking is essential**. If you need transport, let us know and we will arrange car share.  
ARCH will also be at the Invercharron Games on 20th September. Come and find out more about the project.

Part of the Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland project funded from the E.ON Rosehall Community Fund managed by Foundation Scotland, and by the Robertson Trust.

### ARCH IS MOVING!

With the closure of the Education Centre in Dingwall, ARCH will soon be moving. New contact details from the end of September are on the back page. We would like to thank Highland Council for supporting ARCH with an office during its early years.

## More Courses and Workshops from ARCH

### Exploring Telford's Archives

Tuesdays 21<sup>st</sup> October for four weeks, 1-4pm  
Highland Archive Centre, Bught Road, Inverness,  
IV3 5SS

Learn how to use the Highland Archives, and explore documents relating to the work of Thomas Telford in the Highlands.

Funded by Historic Scotland.

### Open Source GIS Workshops

Tuesdays, 11<sup>th</sup> Nov for 5 weeks, 7-9:30pm.

Alness Heritage Centre (Wallace Room)

Malcolm Standing will provide hands-on instruction on using Open Source GIS software, allowing you to geo-reference maps and combine map information with a database. Basic computing knowledge needed, but the course assumes no previous knowledge of GIS systems. Bring your own laptop, or there will be some extra for using on the course.

Limited places, so booking essential. Cost: £10 for the course.

Funded by Historic Scotland



### Telford on the Sleaf Peninsula

Friday/Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Oct, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Oct,  
31<sup>st</sup> Oct and 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 10-4

Venue still to be confirmed on Sleaf (probably at the Museum of the Isles, Armadale)—contact us for further details.

Three two-day workshops exploring Telford's work on the Sleaf peninsula on Skye, with a mixture of research, archive work and outdoor exploration.

Funded by Historic Scotland

## Ancient Craft Courses coming soon!

We have just heard that the successful Ancient Craft courses have received another round of funding from High Life Highland and will be taking place in Nairn and Tain. During the 4 day course Lynne McKeggie will teach 4 different ancient crafts and explore the archaeological evidence for each one: including braiding, tablet weaving, and naal binding (a kind of Viking knitting).

If you would be interested in taking part please get in touch: email [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk) or leave a message on 077888 35466.



## Highland Archaeology Festival

ARCH will provide another handful of outings over the course of the festival. This year we will run a number of Recording Walks – where we invite people to share memories of the sites we will be visiting. For all walks, wear stout shoes and bring waterproofs.

### Telford's Bridges in the Kyle of Sutherland

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept, 2-4pm

A visit to some of Telford's bridges in the Kyle of Sutherland. Meet at Bonar Bridge public parking and toilets (NH 608 914). We will then share cars to explore some of the bridges in the area.

### A walk around Ardersier

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 10-12:30

An easy walk sharing information and memories of the village of Ardersier, based on the recently-produced walk leaflet. Start at Ardersier Community Garden near the shore, where there is public parking (NH781 555). A joint event with Ardersier Local History Group.

## Gateway to Inverness: Telford and WWII

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2-3

A walk looking at a forgotten gateway to Inverness at Stoneyfield, with wartime barriers and a Thomas Telford-era tollhouse. Take the A96 east from Inverness. Just after the second roundabout, turn left (signpost Milton of Culloden) and go under the railway bridge to the T-junction for roadside parking (NH 7056 4670).



## Wartime Invergordon

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 1:30-4:30

Join Allan Kilpatrick of RCAHMS and Susan Kruse of ARCH to explore wartime remains from WWI and WWII in Invergordon. Part of ARCH's Recording Walks series. Meet outside Invergordon Parish Church ( NH 7075 6875).

## A Walk Around Spinningdale

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2-3:30

Susan Kruse will lead this walk for the Woodland Trust, exploring remains from the industrial age and other sites linked with the heritage around Ledmore and Midgale Woods. Come to learn and share information. Meet at junction A949 and Migdale road. There is very limited parking on the lane across from the Migdale road junction towards the Firth. Please carshare if possible.

## Recording walk: Munloch

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2-3:30pm

An easy walk sharing memories and information about the village of Munloch. Part of ARCH's Recording Walks series. Much of the walk is suitable for wheelchairs. Meet at Munloch Village car park.



## Project Activities

### Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland

The project continued over the summer with a series of well-attended walks and fieldtrips. A small group also investigated milestones on Telford roads.

In July a large group met at the Mound near Golspie where Bruce Field provided background and fascinating insights into the repairs and workings of these innovative sluice gates which Telford built. The following week, we explored Croick Church and manse, one of Telford's parliamentary churches in the Highlands and Islands.

The project will now begin to research Telford's remains in earnest, working towards preparing a display and leaflet. Details of courses and survey days can be found elsewhere in the newsletter and on the ARCH website.

### Knockbain Heritage

The Knockbain Heritage project has recorded information about over 80 sites, many of them previously unrecorded. Over the summer there were two walks. At Munloch a large group ambled along the road, sharing memories and stories about houses and structures. A large group also visited Kilmuir, looking at finds from the Middle Ages to World War II. John McDonald brought a display formerly produced for a North Kessock & District Local History Society exhibition, which was reassembled in a steading, showing how much can change in even a short time.

The Knockbain Heritage project will reconvene in September, where participants will have a chance to research areas of interest, share more memories, and to help produce either a leaflet or display. All are welcome, whether they have been involved before. Details in the newsletter or on the ARCH website.

### Feats of Clay Finale

Previous newsletter articles have highlighted the exciting Feats of Clay project, organised by the North Kessock and District Local History Society, with input on courses from ARCH. The results of the project exploring Bronze Age metalworking in the Moray Firth will be showcased at the Society's free one-day exhibition at North Kessock Village Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September, 10:30-4:30. There will be displays, workshops including pottery and woodworking, children's crafts and metal detecting, and much more.

## ARCH Friends

ARCH invites all supporters to become Friends and help the organisation. This is needed more than ever, as we no longer have premises supplied by Highland Council.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Friends of ARCH visited the Highland Archives. Staff in the Archives and Family History Centre provided guided tours, including into the stacks and conservation laboratory. There were also a range of archives and resources brought out to show Friends. Altogether an enjoyable afternoon!



## ARCH Lecture Series

The ARCH lecture series will start a bit later this year, and has moved to Wednesdays. All talks at Dingwall Community Centre. Doors open at 7pm. Suggested donation £3.

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October 7:30.

### 'Surveying the Neolithic chambered tombs of Arran: developing methods and practice'.

Matt Ritchie of the Forestry Commission will describe recent work recording a Neolithic cairn by various means, including photogrammetry.

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 7:30

### 'High Pasture Cave, Skye: Final Thoughts and Interpretations'

Steven Birch will provide new insights on High Pasture Cave, now that the specialist reports and dating have become available.

Details on the spring lectures in the next newsletter.

#### **NEW ADDRESS & PHONE**

**ARCH**

**The Goods Shed, The Old Station, Strathpeffer  
IV14 9DH**

**077888 35466**

**info@archhighland.org.uk**

**www.archhighland.org.uk**

## 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 :
Email :
Phone :
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Offering practical help at ARCH events (e.g. stewarding, setting-up, etc.)</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Helping to organise fund-raising activities</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Contributing to fund-raising activities (e.g. baking, hosting, providing a talk or presentation, etc.)</li> </ul>
Please tell us how you would like to help: .....
Offering skills (e.g. crafts, admin, design, etc.) Please specify .....
<i>Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'</i>

#### **Do you get a postal version of this newsletter?**

Please consider switching to email if you use it. It saves us money—and means you will also get email updates.