

Issue 3
September 2009



Archaeology for Communities
in the Highlands

Welcome to the 3rd ARCH newsletter! It has been a busy summer, as we beavered away at a number of fundraising applications. We are starting to see the results of the hard work at last.

Black Isle Heritage Memories

Thanks to funding from Awards for All Scotland and the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 programme, this project will now start in October. ARCH will organise oral history sessions where members of Black Isle communities can gather together to remember buildings, sites and other aspects of their heritage, using old maps and photographs as inspiration. There has been a great deal of work on oral history as a way to record social history, but very little work focussing on heritage. Given the rapid changes in this area as a result of factors such as building development and climate change this needs to be done soon. The initial focus will be on the western area of the Black Isle.

In addition to collecting memories of sites and buildings, the project will also allow the start of an ARCH website, where we hope to include information on projects, events and groups, an on-line forum and links to other sites. This was asked for in our open advisory group meetings. The project will also run some 'Silver Surfer sessions' on using the internet, especially to access heritage sites.

Further details will be circulated in our next ARCH newsletter, or contact us for further information or for a course leaflet once they have been prepared.

Stop, Look and Listen

Much of the summer has been spent doing funding

applications for this project. We were successful in getting through to the second round of the Heritage Lottery Fund, and we will shortly be submitting our final application for match funding to LEADER. Results are expected in November, and if successful, we hope to recruit two project officers in December who will then begin to roll out the six programmes: Community Timelines, Pathways into the Past, Display the Past, Living in the Past, Heritage along the Kyle Line and Delve into the Past.



Insight – On site

In June we ran a series of site tours and a mini-series on the Vikings, as fundraisers to pay for our insurance. The events proved popular, and we will continue to offer similar events – starting with 5 events on offer in September and October as part of Scottish Archaeology Month and the Highland Archaeology Festival:

Walk to Caird's Cave

26th September, 10-12. Meet at Rosemarkie Beach Car Park. People have used caves from the earliest prehistoric period in Scotland. We will walk along the to look at

Caird's Cave, one of the many caves along the Moray Firth shore. Find out more about people's occupation of caves, and in particular, Caird's Cave with its evidence of Iron Age bone-working and much later use by the Travelling Folk.

High Spy Archaeology at Carn Liath Broch, Golspie.

3 October, 2-4pm.

A guided tour of the well preserved broch at Carn Liath – and a chance to use High Spy techniques for aerial photography.

Recent archaeological investigations on the Tarbat Peninsula:

6 October, 7:30-9pm.

An evening talk at Tarbat Discovery Centre jointly organised by ARCH and the Tarbat Discovery Centre Trust, looking at findings from recent archaeological investigations on the Tarbat peninsula including the recently recovered 14th century carved stone capital, currently on display at the Tarbat Discovery Centre.

High Spy Archaeology at Conon Bridge Henge

13 October, 2-4pm

A guided tour of the small henge in Conon Bridge – and a chance to use High Spy techniques for aerial photography.

Bronze Age Burials from Seafield to Raigmore

15 October 2-4pm, Raigmore Community Centre

An illustrated talk about the important Bronze Age burials found under the present Inverness Retail Park and the A9 near Raigmore, followed by a walk to the relocated Raigmore cairn.

No need to book on any events. We will request donations to help with ongoing costs.

Other Events / Opportunities

The **Scottish Archaeology Month** (SAM) programme is now out, and features walks and exhibitions at Strathconon by NOSAS, various Forestry Commission events, walks in Caithness by Caithness Field Club, Dunbeath Preservation Trust and Caithness Archaeological Trust, and a chance to participate in an SRP day with Historic Assynt. Programmes are in many libraries or available at www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk.

Highland Archaeology Festival

The HAF programme for this packed fortnight will be out soon. It should have interesting events from all over the Highlands, and culminates in a stimulating What's New in Highland Archaeology two-day conference on 17th & 18th October at the Spectrum Centre in Inverness. Contact the Highland Council Archaeology Unit or archaeology@highland.gov.uk for a programme.

Applecross Broch Excavations

This year's community excavation at Applecross Broch has started, and will continue until the 20th of Sept. Visitors very welcome. See www.applecross-archaeology.com for more information.

Birnie Open Day

Sunday 13th September. Adult tours 10, 12, 2pm and 4pm; Kid's tours at 11, 1pm and 3pm. Find out about the latest finds at this interesting Iron Age site. Includes hands-on activities.

We welcome your comments and suggestions! Contact ARCH by e-mail on ARCHhighland@googlemail.com or phone Susan Kruse on 01997 421171. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive information about ARCH activities, contact us.