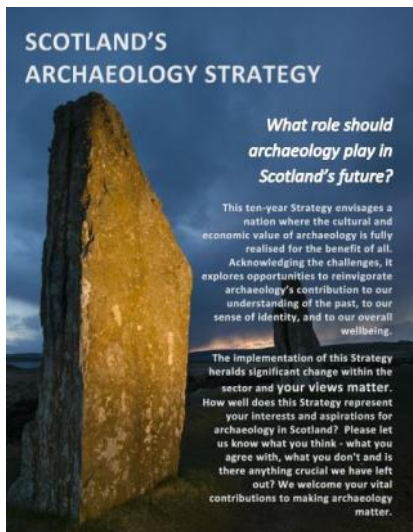


Welcome to the our second newsletter for 2015. It contains a report on our Ancient Crafts course on p. 2, notices of consultation meetings including for Scotland's Archaeology Strategy, information about ARCH lectures and other events, and much more.

## Scottish Archaeology in the next 10 years: what should we be doing?

There will be two opportunities in May to discuss your vision for Scottish archaeology when Dr Rebecca Jones and Dr Lisa Brown from Historic Scotland lead workshops relating to the just released draft of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy.



The Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee has been meeting over the last year or so, tasked by the Scottish Government and Historic Scotland to create a 10 year archaeology strategy. The committee has a broad membership representing many of the varied parties who have an interest in archaeology and heritage, including Historic Scotland, RCAHMS, Forestry Commission, local authorities, museums, archaeological contractors, education, and community participation (represented by Susan Kruse of ARCH). There has been a genuine attempt to try and have a new vision - to see what's not working, and to try and suggest ways which might improve things.

The draft strategy is now out for consultation - see <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/about/consultations/archaeology-strategy-consultation.htm>. For those without internet, paper copies can be obtained from Dr. Lisa Brown at Historic Scotland, Room G55b, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh, EH9 1SH or phone 0131 668 8752. This is very much a draft, and there is an opportunity to respond and inform the final version. ARCH is very keen that we get grassroots input into

the strategy. You may have a very jaded view of strategies - but if we don't try and feed in our concerns and our thoughts now, we can't complain as loudly over the next 10 years.

The consultation workshops will be in Inverness the evening of **Thursday 14th May** at Eden Court (MacLean Room in the Bishop's Palace), 7:30-9pm, and at Brora Community Centre on **Friday 15th May**, 10:30 – 12.

**Please come and contribute.** What's important to you and what opportunities would you like to see in the next 10 years? What is needed to get there? If possible, please have a look at the strategy first. If you can't make the meetings, you can send a response to the consultation (closing date 9<sup>th</sup> June).

## ARCH Lecture Series and Workshops

***Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances our April lecture will be different than previously advertised.***

Lectures take place on the last WEDNESDAY of the month at Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30 (doors open at 7). Suggested donation £3.

### Wed. 29th April. 'Recent excavations at Craig Phadraig'

Mary Peteranna reports on recent excavations at this important Iron Age vitrified hillfort outside of Inverness, conducted after severe storms in 2015 exposed part of the inner rampart.

### Wed. 27th May. 'A new look at the Pagan Norse graves of Northern Scotland'

Caroline Paterson will look at regional characteristics of the Viking graves in northern Scotland and what light the pagan graves shed on relations with the local population.



## PROJECT REPORT



### Ancient Crafts

Two more Ancient Craft courses have been delivered by ARCH over the winter months. The courses, funded by High Life Highland, enabled adult learners to explore and try out a variety of ancient textile crafts. The 4 week courses took place on Saturdays in Nairn and Tain.

The first craft to be explored was Fingerloop Braiding - a method of plaiting yarn to create decorative laces. These were commonly used in medieval Europe to decorate purses, hair nets and garments. The group at Tain took to this craft particularly quickly and were soon creating a variety of braids, experimenting with using different colours and combinations.

Next we explored weaving, using a very basic method of creating a seamless bag to try the different weaves and techniques. This is always a popular craft as it creates something immediately useful - like a phone or glasses case. Once again several participants used the techniques learned in the workshop to make something at home right away, and there were lots of ideas of how to use other crafts to augment their bags.



Tablet weaving was taught on week three. This craft was used from the Iron Age to make narrow woven bands which were used to decorate and reinforce clothing, such as the Orkney Hood.



In the last week we looked at Naal Binding, a precursor to knitting practiced by the Vikings. Several of the Nairn participants were particularly interested in this craft. One lady had seen it in Scandinavia and wanted to replicate it at home. Another came all the way from Skye to learn more about the craft!



In studying these crafts we were able to explore the history of textile production, and think about the lifestyles of people in the past. For many it proved a great opportunity to meet likeminded people. And we had a good time!

## Cromarty Seminar and Dig

The Cromarty Medieval Burgh Project will be holding a FREE research seminar, "What happens when the digging stops?" in the Cromarty West Church Hall on Saturday, May 9th 2015 from 10am until 4pm.



During the seminar, with the help of several experts, participants will be looking at the ways that we can utilise historical documentation to better understand the archaeological and documentary results. The seminar will be led by the project team along with special guests Professor Richard Oram, Professor of Medieval and Environmental History from Stirling University, Dr David Alston, local historian and John Barrett, archivist and historian. All are welcome, and coffee/tea and wine reception will be provided; please bring a packed lunch. Please book with Mary Peteranna on [ampeteranna@aol.com](mailto:ampeteranna@aol.com) or 01381 600726 so that they can know numbers.

The Cromarty dig season has now been announced as well. The dig will run from 29 June-4 July and 11 July-27 July.

This is an excellent community excavation, suitable for all ages and abilities. For more information, see [www.medievalcromarty.org/](http://www.medievalcromarty.org/) or contact Mary or Steven on 01381 600726.



## Scottish Heritage Angels

The Scottish Heritage Angel Awards, which acknowledge and celebrate the valuable contributions made to Scotland's historic environment by volunteers or 'Heritage Angels', are now inviting entries. Community groups and individuals, country-wide, have from now until the 30th June 2015 to enter for an Angel Award. For more details see [www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk/](http://www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk/)

## Boblainy Forest

In 2010-20112 ARCH ran a year long project for Kiltarlity Community Council focussing on the heritage in and around Boblainy Forest near Kiltarlity. A great deal of material was gathered from memories, research and survey. These have now been published in a booklet, *Boblainy Forest Through the Ages*, written by Susan Kruse with Ronald MacLean. Participants will soon receive a free copy. Others may purchase one from Kiltarlity Post Office for £5 or from Mrs Dorothy Ward, KCC Treasurer, Drummur, Kiltarlity, By BEAULY for £6.25 including postage. (Please make cheques to Kiltarlity Community Council.) The summary of memories compiled during the project is also now on the ARCH website in the Library section.



## Investigating a Canadian Forestry Camp near Spinningdale

ARCH and North of Scotland Archaeology Society (NoSAS) are organising a day on **7th May**, 10-4, to explore remains of a CFC camp at the head of Loch Migdale in the Woodland Trust's Ledmore and Migdale Forest. This builds on memories gathered during ARCH sessions in 2014, and fieldwork run by NoSAS during Highland Archaeology Festival last October. There will be opportunities to trace remains of foundations, and to excavate part of the camp midden. Meet at the Woodland Trust Torroy car park (car share if possible). Please contact Susan if you want to attend (details on p. 4). Stout footwear essential.

## Other Events April to June

There are many events organised by various organisations taking place in the next months. See the ARCH website Events section for details of the ones we know about—and if you know of others, please send details.



## Historic Scotland comes to the Highlands

The Historic Scotland scheduling team will be coming to the Highlands to assess sites which may be given legal protection by scheduling. They will also be offering public events including a talk on 30th April 7pm at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery where a member of the team will discuss the work of the team in identifying and protecting monuments. On 5th May, 7pm, Dingwall Community Centre, Kevin Munro will speak on 'The Ceaseless Vigil over the Open Sea: Military Heritage of the Cromarty Firth'.

## Future Projects

ARCH currently has a number of applications pending for future courses and projects including investigating more wartime remains, further sessions in Strathpeffer and a project to record querns in the Highlands. If successful, we will be starting in early June or July. For our Telford project we are now awaiting the opening of the LEADER funds for applications. Further details in future newsletters and email alerts.

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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 :	
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 :	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Offering practical help at ARCH events (e.g. stewarding, setting-up, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Helping to organise fund-raising activities
<input type="checkbox"/>	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 .....	
<i>Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'</i>	

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