

Welcome to the our autumn newsletter. It contains reports about our projects in Invergordon and Strathpeffer, ARCH events at Highland Archaeology Festival and our autumn lecture series.

ARCH at Highland Archaeology Festival

ARCH will offer a range of activities during HAF:

Sat 3rd Oct: Display at Black Isle Gathering, Fortrose Academy

Sun 4th Oct: Prehistoric Remains at the Heights of Brae. Launch of Adopt-a-Monument signboard, and walk to the chambered cairn, 2-4pm. Meet at Neil Gunn Monument NH 5191 6103.

Tues 6th Oct: Guided walk to Canadian Forestry Camp, Loch Migdale, 3-4:30pm (joint event with NoSAS). Meet at Woodland Trust Torroy car park NH 667 907.

Thurs 8th Oct: Recording walk in Jamestown, 11:30-1. Meet at old church NH 4775 5656.

Thurs 8th Oct: Recording walk in Strathpeffer, 2-4pm. Meet at Victorian Station NH 485 583.

Sun 11th Oct: Lecture by Dr Alison Sheridan on 'Life and Death in North-East Scotland, 4000-2000 BC,' 7:30pm at Highland Council Chambers in Inverness (joint event with NoSAS and NK&DLHS)

Mon 12th Oct: Guided walk to Kilcoy prehistoric cairns and launch of Carn Glas Adopt-A-Monument signboard, 2-4:30pm. Meet at Redcastle old station NH 582 511.

Sat 17th Oct: Invergordon wartime remains: display (10-1:30), leaflet launch (10:30) and walk (2-4pm) at Invergordon Museum.

ARCH will also have a display at the Seminar on the 10th & 11th October at Highland Council Chambers, featuring previous projects – and with second hand heritage books for sale. Further information is in the HAF booklet (available from libraries and museums or [online](#), or on the [ARCH website](#)).



ARCH Lecture Series

The ARCH lecture series is still being finalised, but as usual will be on the last Wednesday of the month, 7:30 at Dingwall Community Centre (suggested donation £3).

30th September: 'Planned Estate Villages in the Highlands, 1730 to 1830'

Chris Rendell looks at the changes to the human landscape locally that came about in response to post 1745 politics, the Enlightenment and the revolution in industry and agriculture.

28th October: 'Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland' Susan Kruse reports on the exciting findings of a community project looking at the impact of Thomas Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland.



25th November: 'British ceramics from prehistory to the present with special reference to Scottish pottery history'

Eric Grant provides an illustrated overview of ceramics in use in Scotland .

Heritage Events

There is a lot going on in the Highlands, even outside of Highland Archaeology Festival. The [ARCH website](#) posts any we know about—and already the next few months are getting full. If you are member of a local heritage society, or know of something interesting, forward the details to ARCH, and we'll post them on the website. Details to contact us are on page 4.

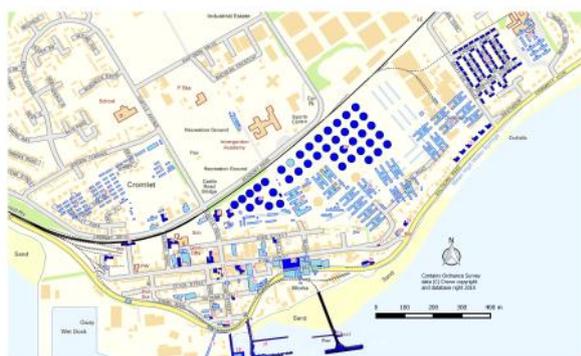
Invergordon in World War I

Over the summer a large group has been meeting to explore World War I Invergordon in a project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund First World War Then and Now programme. Using naval plans from the period, combined with the map evidence of the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey, a large number of old photographs, documentary sources and detailed aerial photographs from World War I and 1930, we have been able to chart some of the changes which occurred during the period.



The group is producing a trail leaflet which will be launched on the Open Day on **Saturday 17th October at Invergordon Museum**, with a display 10-1:30 (and leaflet launch 10:30), followed by a guided walk 2-4pm.

As the navy increasingly used the harbour, oil tanks were built, 10 just before the war and a further 31 during World War I. With its good harbour and rail connections Invergordon had ideal facilities to become a major naval port.



Socially and physically Invergordon was transformed by the war. There was an army camp holding at least 2000 men (Cameron Highlanders 3rd Reserve Battalion) to the north above Cromlet Drive, providing training for soldiers. Over 4,000 dockyard workers fixed the naval ships which

used the port – most ships had a 10 day turnaround. Estimates suggest the population swelled from around 1100 before the war to around 20,000. Russian migrants came through the town, and towards the end of the war Americans were in the area, based at Dalmore where they assembled mines and then shipped them from Invergordon.

Many of the buildings in Invergordon were taken over by the military, as offices, stores or large workshops, and even the bakery and post office. But many other new buildings were constructed, including accommodation for dockyard workers and army personnel, two hospitals, three police stations for the Metropolitan police securing the dockyard, generating plants to cope with energy demands, YMCAs, new churches and entertainment venues such as cinemas and theatres. There was even a new pier – the Admiralty pier, now used for cruise liners – and much of the area near the shore was reclaimed. A surprising number of these WWI buildings still survive.



Such a massive expansion required other works, including numerous railway sidings throughout the town, paved roads and pavements, sewage works, pipelines for the oil, and a network of power lines. Drydocks were installed to allow ships to be repaired and fitted, with railways lines on the piers linking the large workshops on shore.

After the war the fortunes of Invergordon declined. But the fleet still visited, and in the 1930s more oil tanks were built. The town again expanded during WWII, but on a

smaller scale, with the navy refuelling ships and the RAF supporting seaplanes. But that is another story, for another project!

Remembering the Strathpeffer Area

People in the Strathpeffer area have been meeting to remember the built heritage of the area, in a project organised by the Strathpeffer Community Centre and ARCH, and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Mackenzie New York Villa Trust. The format is now a well-honed ARCH technique, getting people together using maps and photographs to spark memories, while volunteers write down what is being said. In this project we are focussing on the spa village of Strathpeffer, the nearby hamlet of Jamestown which was a planned 19th century village, and the crofting landscape of the Heights on the high ground between Dingwall and Strathpeffer.



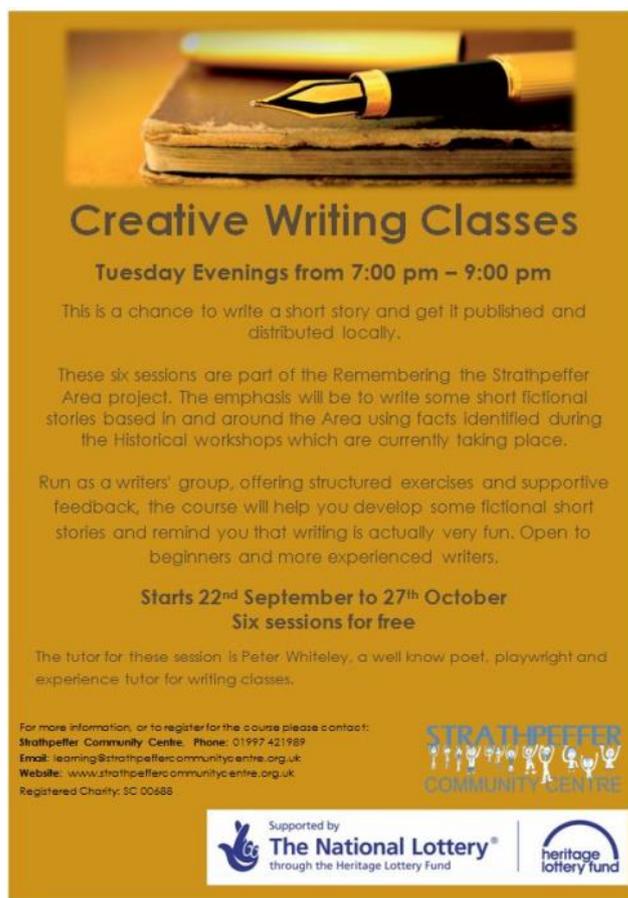
There has been great interest and lots of information collected already, and we will have a large number of entries to submit to the heritage databases, the Highland HER and Canmore. We have had sessions indoors and then walks to explore our findings, trying to determine what still remains, what has changed, and what has gone. For the rest of September we will be meeting in Strathpeffer Community Centre on Mondays, 10:30-1, and there are several walks scheduled as well, including three during Highland Archaeology Festival (see p. 1). On Monday 21st September we will be focussing on wartime activity in the area. On Wednesday 23rd September we will have a session in the Highland Archive Centre in Inverness looking at some of the relevant archive material.

In October we will be pulling this information together to produce a walk leaflet for Strathpeffer. In addition, starting Tuesday evenings from 22nd

September to 27th October, there will be a free creative writing course, where participants can use information and stories gathered in the project to create historical fiction short stories. The leaflet and short stories will be launched at the Strathpeffer Christmas Fair on **Saturday, 28th November**, where there will also be a display of findings.



Everyone is welcome to attend sessions, whether to contribute or learn – all are free. Further details are on the ARCH website on the [course page](#) or contact Susan at info@archhighland.org.uk or 077888 35466 if you would like to be added to the mailing list.



Creative Writing Classes

Tuesday Evenings from 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

This is a chance to write a short story and get it published and distributed locally.

These six sessions are part of the Remembering the Strathpeffer Area project. The emphasis will be to write some short fictional stories based in and around the Area using facts identified during the Historical workshops which are currently taking place.

Run as a writers' group, offering structured exercises and supportive feedback, the course will help you develop some fictional short stories and remind you that writing is actually very fun. Open to beginners and more experienced writers.

Starts 22nd September to 27th October
Six sessions for free

The tutor for these sessions is Peter Whiteley, a well known poet, playwright and experience tutor for writing classes.

For more information, or to register for the course please contact:
Strathpeffer Community Centre. Phone: 01997 421989
Email: learning@strathpeffercommunitycentre.org.uk
Website: www.strathpeffercommunitycentre.org.uk
Registered Charity: SC 00688

Supported by **The National Lottery** through the Heritage Lottery Fund

STRATHPEFFER COMMUNITY CENTRE

heritage lottery fund

ARCH Friends Visit to Ardross

In July the annual ARCH Friends visit went to Ardross. With only the odd shower to dodge we explored the Ardross Castle gardens, looked at the church, and explored the reconstructed round house, learning about prehistory of the area. ARCH would like to thank all Friends who have helped contribute to the organisation. The donations help pay for overheads, HAF walks and the other mundane but important matters which allow us to continue. We value your help and support!



ARCH at the Black Isle Show

As mentioned in the previous newsletter ARCH is hoping to set up a project to investigate and record querns in the Highlands. To gauge demand we had a stall at the Black Isle Show. It proved very popular, and a number of people told us about querns they knew about, some in rockeries, some built in the walls, and others in stone heaps. We are still interested in finding out about any more, and will be trying to organise a project to investigate these underappreciated objects!



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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 :

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

Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'

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