

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2016, with an exciting lecture series, new courses and project reports.

New Courses and Workshops for 2016

Investigating Strathpeffer Railway Station

As the canopy gets repaired, join us to research the history of the station, set up and maintain a blog and website pages, and create panels for the station. No experience necessary, just an interest! Free. Wednesdays, starting 17th Feb for 6 weeks, 10:30-1, at The Goods Shed, The Old Station, Strathpeffer Course run on behalf of Highland Museum of Childhood.



Heritage on the Internet

This course funded by High Life Highland provides a chance to gain or expand your computing skills while exploring heritage websites. No experience necessary! Two venues on offer – please book if you want to come, so that we can ensure enough computers are available, or bring your own. If transport is an issue, get in touch. Free. **Ardersier**, for 5 weeks beginning Monday 1st Feb, 2:15-4:45. Ardersier Heritage Café (old school house, where the library is located) **Invergordon**, for 4 weeks beginning Tuesday 2nd Feb, 7-9:30. Invergordon Museum. We'll also schedule a daytime walk and open day.



Home Front Legacy: Recording WWI Remains

Sat & Sunday 6th & 7th Feb. Learn how to record World War I remains as part of a UK-wide project. ARCH's Invergordon in WWI project will also be showcased. Saturday 10:30-5, Sunday 10-2 (field trip). Invergordon Museum. Free. Joint event of ARCH, CBA, Archaeology Scotland and Historic Environment Scotland. Bookings to Archaeology Scotland: info@archaeologyscotland.org.uk or 0300 012 9878. An evening meal is also being arranged (c. £15 each) - let Archaeology Scotland know if you are interested when booking.

ARCH Lecture Series

ARCH's monthly lectures meet on the last Wednesday of the month, 7:30 at Dingwall Community Centre (suggested donation £3).

Wed. 27th January. **Shielings: their place in highland agriculture.** Anne Coombs will explore the importance, history, structure and position of shielings in highland agriculture.

Wed. 24th Feb. **On the March: Roman Camps in Scotland.** The Roman army in Britain left a rich archaeological legacy including forts, fortlets and frontiers. A lesser known area is that of temporary camps, of which Scotland contains some of the best examples in the Roman World. This presentation by Dr Rebecca Jones will introduce the subject and discuss their significance.

Wed. 30th March. **Axemen in the Scottish Woods.** Alasdair Cameron describes Canadians and Newfoundlanders who came to the Highlands to cut wood during wartime.

Wed. 27th April. **Carn Glas: the adoption of a Neolithic Monument.** Dr Graham Clark describes the joint community project to research and restore a well-preserved Neolithic burial cairn at Kilcoy.



Wed. 25th May. **The Northern Picts: Survey and Excavation at Pictish Power Centres Across Northern Scotland.** Dr Gordon Noble will outline the latest progress of the Northern Picts project which has been running since 2012 and has made a number of important discoveries including high-status settlements at Rhynie, a fortified promontory fort at Dunnicaer and a major silver hoard at Gaulcross.

Wed. 29th June. **Bronze Age burials in Drumnadrochit: Understanding the specialist work.** Mary Peteranna of AOC Archaeology describes exciting results from recent excavations in Drumnadrochit.

More Courses ...

Focus on Finds

One day sessions aimed at museum volunteers or others who are interested in Highland finds.

Sessions will be on Thursday 18th Feb at Dunbeath Heritage Centre and Friday 11th March at Nairn Museum. Free. Booking essential to ARCH.



Wartime Remains in the Kyle of Sutherland

We will shortly be hearing if we have obtained funding for a series of sessions gathering memories



and looking for remains. If you receive a postal version of the newsletter and are interested in the course please let us know!

New On-line Genealogy course

Family history research is increasingly popular and part of many local investigations. A new MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) has been developed by the University of Strathclyde on *Genealogy: Researching your Family Tree*.

MOOCs on a wide range of subjects are available online, some self-paced, but others with set times to enable staff response. And they are free! This course starts on 17th March. Further information and sign up is available on the [Future Learn website](#).

And a chance to link creative writing with heritage research in a course offered by High Life Highland and Culloden Battlefield Centre...

Our Stories from the Battlefield - 'Flash Fiction' writing

6 week course, starting Wed. 3rd February at Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre.

No previous writing experience necessary, and all sessions will be supported. Free. Lunch provided. Bookings essential to Roisin Irvine roisin.irvine@highlifehighland.com or 01463 710013

Consultations ...Your views welcome

HES consultation

In October 2015 Historic Scotland and the RCAHMS merged to form a new organisation, Historic Environment Scotland (or HES for short). Although outwardly much remains the same, the new organisation is now a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) and a charity, and its employees are no longer civil servants. The first corporate plan is out for consultation now. This will determine priorities and guide activities in the next years. The consultation is running until **8 February**.

Details and response forms are available on the [website](#) or by contacting Historic Environment Scotland at Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH.

Report on SHED strategy

All ARCH projects ensure that the results are distributed in a number of ways, so that the information will be available after the project finishes. In particular, we submit information to the local Historic Environment Record (the Highland HER) and Scotland-wide Canmore databases, and encourage individuals to do so as well. This is important because information on the HER informs planning applications.

Over the past years the HER and Canmore have increasingly diverged, so that one needs to input separately to both, and needs to consult both when researching. During the consultation for Scotland's Archaeology Strategy, this was raised at several Highland meetings as an issue people would like changed. The SHED Project (Scotland's Historic Environmental Data Strategy) is looking at these issues and others, on ways to share and link digital records.

Susan Kruse represented community archaeology issues at a recent meeting. A report can be found on the [NoSAS Blog](#). Further information about the SHED Strategy can be found on the [SMR Forum](#) website.

Project Repots

Invergordon in World War I

This project exceeded all expectations in its results. From June to October, participants met to research and record World War I remains in Invergordon. Since the last ARCH newsletter participants produced a walk leaflet, a geocache was placed on the route, primary school sessions researched and explored remains, and a successful Open Day presented the results and launched the leaflet. 587 records (over 300 relating to WWI) were submitted to the the [Highland HER](#) and [Canmore](#). A selected list can also be found on the ARCH website, in the [Library](#) section. The leaflet is available locally (and a web version again on the ARCH website [Library](#)). Binders with further information have been deposited in Invergordon Museum, Invergordon Library and with both primary schools. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



Remembering the Strathpeffer Area

Like the Invergordon in World War I, this project has had a large response, with over 60 people sharing their memories about Jamestown, Strathpeffer, the Heights, Acterneed and Blairninich. The P7 primary school was also involved, as part of their World War II project.

Members of the Walking Group also joined us on some of our 11 walks. The group produced a walk leaflet for Strathpeffer which was launched at the



Christmas Fair at the end of November. A web version is now available on the ARCH website, and paper copies from the Community Centre and other local venues. The next months will see this material



submitted to the HER and Canmore (over 400 records), listings of sites for website and paper created and resources distributed locally. *Remembering the Strathpeffer Area* is a joint project with Strathpeffer Community Centre, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Mackenzie New York Villa Trust.

Ardersier On-Line Heritage Explorations

In a new series of short courses funded by High Life Highland, participants learn about or expand their computing skills, focussing on heritage internet sites. The first course was held in Ardersier in November and December at the new Ardersier Heritage Café (in the Old School building). We explored a number of sites, shared expertise, and responded to a number of requests for help with computers including organising files, using the Snipping Tool, dealing with photographs and much more. The final



session, a walk around Ardersier looking at the sites we had gathered information on, had to be postponed due to the weather, but we finally managed a good day in December. If you missed the course, there is another opportunity in February! Everyone welcome.

Firths and Fjords Conference

UHI Centre for History is hosting an exciting international conference in Dornoch on Firths and Fjords from 31st March to 2nd April. There are interesting talks and displays, including from ARCH. A conference poster, programme and booking form is available from their [website](#). Bookings close soon.

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Lecture

Mr Tom Rees, Consultant Archaeologist with Rathmell Archaeology Ltd will speak on 'A Founder's workshop from the Bronze Age? Excavations in the shadow of Hunterston' at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery, 17 Feb, 7pm. The talk is free, but bookings must be made to Cait McCullagh at 01463 237 114 or email to cait.mccullagh@highlifehighland.com. Cait would also appreciate it if when booking you could let her know if you are a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Eddie Symborski

It was with real sadness that we heard Eddie had passed away at the beginning of 2016. Eddie participated on a number of ARCH courses, including Pathways into the Past, Evanton War Remains and most recently Invergordon in World War I (pictured on the left below). He was a fount of knowledge, having worked over much of the Highlands, and a generous and kind group member. He will be missed.



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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.

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I would also be happy to help ARCH by : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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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