

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2017 with our usual roundup of new courses, lectures and project reports!

Winter Courses and Lectures

Kiltearn Old Kirk



ARCH will be running a number of courses for the Evanton Community Trust's project to research Kiltearn Old Kirk.

Surprisingly little is known about the striking ruin on the shore, yet for centuries this was the parish church for Kiltearn.

Over the next year there will be a number of activities, including researching old documents, conducting a graveyard survey (which has not been done before), learning how to do family history searches, and then researching various people associated with the kirk and parish, conducting a standing building survey, and pulling it all together for a signboard to be erected on the site.

The first activities during these cold months will be exploring documents relating to the kirk and parish. Some are in books, some on the internet, and some in private archives and in the Highland Archive Centre in Inverness. The first four meetings will be on Mondays, 23rd January – 13th February, 7-9:30pm at Cornerstone Café in Evanton. At these sessions we'll then set times to explore other archives. All welcome – events are free. For further information, or to be put on the mailing list, contact Susan on info@archhighland.org.uk or 077888 35466.



ARCH Lecture Series

All talks take place at Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30pm (doors open 7pm). Suggested donation £3.

25th Jan: '**A summer on Hirta - working as the St Kilda Archaeologist**'

Jonathan Wordsworth of the NTS describes his work on St Kilda.

22nd Feb: '**Rosemarkie Caves, some finds and a puzzle**'

Simon Gunn provides an account of 10 years of archaeology in coastal caves near Rosemarkie, including the latest in September 2016.

29th Mar: '**The Prehistory of Skye: An overview including the results of recent archaeological discoveries**'

Steven Birch summarises recent work including some important landscape surveys, evaluations and excavations over the past couple of decades.

26th Apr: '**Highland Vernacular Buildings**'

Malcolm Bangor-Jones provides an introduction to vernacular buildings as they developed with changes in economy and society and with new construction techniques and materials.



31st May: '**Excavations at Dun Deardail: the analysis of a north-western vitrified fort**'

Martin Cook describes the first two seasons of excavation at the spectacular vitrified hill fort of Dun Deardail in Lochaber.

28th June: '**Discoveries at Tornagrain**'

Lachlan McKeggie will cover the main findings excavations at this prehistoric site near Inverness, including post-excavation results.

More Courses...

Telford in Badenoch and Strathspey

Join us to research Telford's impact, explore some of the surviving remains, and create a display.

Thursday, 19th Jan, **Inverness Library** 1-4pm.
We'll look at Commissioner's Reports, Telford's autobiography and wonderful atlas, Southey's account of travels and much more.

Thursdays, 26th Jan – 9th March, **Grantown Museum**, 1:10-3:40. We'll continue our research, look at remains on the ground, and pull everything together for a display.

Free – all welcome. No experience necessary – just an interest. Funded by Historic Environment Scotland.



Historic Maps Workshops

Old maps are fascinating! ARCH will be running three workshops providing an opportunity to explore old maps from the 16th century onwards on the National Library of Scotland [website](http://maps.nls.uk) maps.nls.uk. Hands-on if you want (computers supplied or bring a laptop), or you can just observe the screen. Warning: this website can then become addictive!

Fri 17th Feb 10-1, The Hub, **Fort William**

Wed 1st Mar 10-1, Seaview House, **Lybster**

Fri 3rd Mar, 1-4, **Dingwall** Community Centre

Free – all welcome. Please book on 077888 35466 or info@archhighland.org.uk to ensure adequate computers and in case of bad weather.

Funded by Historic Environment Scotland.



Hopefully on the Horizon

Highland Querns of the Moray Firth



ARCH has moved forward on the querns project, and has submitted several funding applications. We expect to hear end of March. Thanks to everyone who has supplied information! We had a great day at the Strathnairn Vintage Agricultural Rally at the beginning of October, with a number of people providing information about Highland querns. One man recalled that his father had used a hand quern on Skye! If the applications are successful, our next newsletter will have further details.

Experimental Archaeology



We are also working on a project to provide experimental archaeology workshops and demonstrations. The bronze casting workshop ARCH was involved in for the North Kessock & District Local History Society's Feats of Clay project showed just how much we can learn by re-creating objects using old craftsmanship. If you are interested, please get in touch!

Project Updates

Highland Archaeology Festival

ARCH organised HAF this year for the first time on behalf of Highland Council. There were a number of new initiatives, including keynote talks, workshops, a museum trail, a dedicated website and online booking for the conference. All were well-received with the exception of the museum trail. Lessons were learned, and good feedback received – but if you have any other thoughts about next year’s festival, email/write us as planning starts next month!

ARCH also offered its usual variety of events of walks, talks, displays and even a pub quiz this year.



Invergordon in World War II

A dedicated group has been meeting in Invergordon since June, remembering and researching remains of Invergordon from World War II in sessions run by ARCH on behalf of Invergordon Museum. In September participants pulled together information to create a display which was launched during the HAF festival. Over a hundred people came to the launch and for a walk around the town. The information is now being assembled for submitting to the HER and Canmore (over 900 sites!) and for a booklet. The sessions were so popular that an informal local heritage group has been formed, meeting on the first Thursday of every month, 7-9pm at Invergordon Museum (2nd Thursday in January) – all welcome!



Courses relating to Telford in the Highlands

Unfortunately ARCH was unable to get match funding for its Highland-wide Telford project. As a result, we have broken it down into smaller segments. Previous courses looked at Telford in the Kyle of Sutherland (funded by E.ON Rosehall Community Fund and The Robertson Trust) and Telford on the Sleat Peninsula (funded by Historic Scotland).



A session on using Telford Archives was run in 2014, also funded by Historic Scotland. This proved so popular and essential for any work on Telford, that it was repeated in November/December 2016. Thirteen people met to explore various archives relating to Telford – and managed to get sidetracked looking at other areas as well. The Highland Archive Centre was very accommodating to a group working together – and we found this an exciting and fruitful way to explore archives, as participants all helped fellow researchers whenever they discovered something of interest.

At the same time, a course devoted to exploring Telford’s impact in Badenoch and Strathspey, funded by Historic Environment Scotland, began meeting in November in Grantown Museum, looking at various sources available. The sessions continue until March – all welcome (see page 2).

Strathpeffer Station

ARCH ran a number of sessions for Highland Museum of Childhood researching the old station. The panels which participants helped write have now been installed. The work of the group was showcased at a HAF event run by ARCH, with a walk down some of the old railway line followed by looking at the work assembled by participants, and watching the film commissioned by Alister Brebner when the building was a cinema. Final sessions at the end of 2016 included a workshop on how to edit websites and blogs, and a celebration of the results.



2017—Scottish Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology



Look out for a number of events, courses and activities organised for 2017. The ARCH website will include as many in the Highlands (and a few further afield) that we hear about. The [DigIt!2017 website](#) and the [Visit Scotland website](#) will be publicising other events throughout Scotland. Two events to look out for include:

- Community Excavation and seminar at Inverewe Garden organised by the NTS on 22nd-29th April. Further details will be posted on the NTS [website](#).
- Martin Carver returns to give a talk on Portmahomack on 11 April, 7pm at Inverness Town House in a Society of Antiquaries of Scotland lecture. Booking to Inverness Museum is essential.

Heritage Events

The [ARCH website](#) posts any events we know about—and already the next few months are filling up. 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.

Historic Environment Scotland want to hear about the places and buildings which are important to you. They have launched a [five minute survey](#), and will use the results to gain an insight into how the people of Scotland see their heritage and the role of Historic Environment Scotland. As incentive, anyone completing the survey is entered into a draw for a Historic Scotland year's membership.



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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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