

Summer Events

Although most lecture series, including ARCH's, wind down over the summer, the [Groam House Museum](#) series fills the gap. [Elgin Museum](#) has also arranged a full and exciting programme for the year with activities for adults and children. [Inverness Museum and Art Gallery](#) has a number of children and adult activities themed around their Valhalla exhibition, and a conference on the 25th of August. For children thinking of entering the HAF Photographic Competition (see below), there will be a photography workshop at [Highland Museum of Childhood](#) in Strathpeffer on 1st August. Fort George is holding a special event – [Amazing Ages](#) - on 12th & 13th August where there will be music, crafts, encampments, re-enactments and archaeologists. There are also community excavations if you would like to try your hand at digging at Clachtoll Broch, Assynt from July through September, and the final season at Dun Deardail near Fort William in August. And there are opportunities to help record gravestones in Evanton (see page 3). Information on these and other events can be found on the [ARCH website](#)

ARCH Friends Trip 8th July 2017

The annual ARCH Friends Day will take place on Saturday 8th July. ARCH does not have an annual membership fee, but invites people to donate or offer time and expertise. This is invaluable to us, allowing us 'unrestricted funding' – funds which are not tied to a specific purpose as part of a grant application. As a way of saying thank you, once a year we offer a trip to various places.



This year we will be visiting the Kirkhill area, looking at a rare survival of a cruck-framed house, the Wardlaw Mausoleum, WWII remains, limekilns, drainage schemes and an optional walk to an Iron Age dun. If you would like to become a Friend of ARCH, details and forms are on the website, or see the back of the newsletter.

Highland Archaeology Festival | Fèis Arc-eòlais na Gàidhealtachd



Photographic Competition 2017

Closing date:
15th August 2017

Theme:
Highland Archaeology:
celebrating archaeology,
history and heritage

Capture a moment of Highland archaeology history or heritage in the HAF 2017 photographic competition!

Your picture can be a site, building, museum object or people enjoying our rich heritage - there's so much to choose from. Shortlisted entries will be exhibited during HAF, with the winners announced at the Highland Archaeology Festival conference.

- Two categories: under 16 or over 16.
- Maximum two digital images per person to be sent to: highlandarchaeologyfestival@gmail.com by 15th August
- Copyright will remain with the photographer, but Highland Archaeology Festival will have the right to use them with proper credits, including on future brochures, websites, and for the HER.
- Shortlisted entries will be exhibited during HAF, with the winners announced at the Highland Archaeology Festival conference 14th & 15th October in Inverness.

Children's Prizes: First 50 entries get a special prize, short listed entries get Digital 2017 T-shirts and Lego broch kit

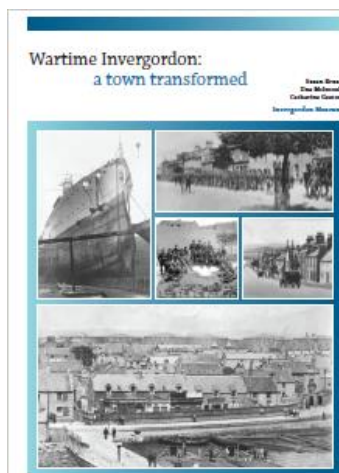
Adult Prizes: NTS year's membership and Historic Environment Scotland family membership, free entry to Highland Archaeology Festival conference



For an entry form, visit www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org

Invergordon WWII Book Launch

Over the past few years, ARCH has been involved in projects investigating wartime activity in Invergordon, reported in previous newsletters. The results have been pulled together into a well-illustrated booklet which includes research by participants on both courses. All are invited to the launch at Invergordon Museum, **Saturday 15th July, 2-5pm**. Free admission, refreshments available too.



HAF 2017

ARCH is organising the Highland Archaeology



Festival again on behalf of Highland Council. Already it's shaping up to be a full and varied programme, thanks to the many organisations, museums and individuals who are offering events. The festival will showcase events from earliest settlers to recent times, focussing on Highland archaeology, history and heritage.

The brochure will be distributed at the end of August, but you can see what events are already planned by looking at that the HAF website – www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org. The website will also list events which were offered too late for the printed brochure or changes to the programme.

Photographic Competition

New this year is a HAF photographic competition – a chance to submit up to two photos which celebrate Highland archaeology, history and heritage. There are good prizes on offer for adults or children (the first 50 children's entries will receive a chocolate broch!). Deadline is **15th August**, so think about snapping a picture over the summer. Details and forms are on the HAF website or contact ARCH on 077888 35466.



Conference

The conference held at the end of HAF, this year on 14th & 15th October, in Inverness has another exciting lineup covering recent research and investigation of Highland heritage by community organisations, archaeologists and individuals. We are trying to encourage as many local groups as possible to have a table at the conference where they can promote their organisation and any

projects they have been involved in. And this year you can purchase pre-booked sandwiches at the conference. Details are already on the website, and will be in the printed brochure.

Trails

The festival will feature three trails this year: self-guided trails you can explore at any time during the year, a HAF geocache trail which will also then continue throughout the year and a museum trail where you can explore featured objects in participating museums, collecting stamps on the HAF passport. Again, details on the website or in the brochure.



Workshops

We're offering another workshop afternoon, on Friday 13th October, with hands-on workshops including photography (from basics to specialised techniques), using aerial photos, internet maps, gps mapping, using the HER, and unravelling building features. It's a chance to learn something new or hone your skills.

ARCH will be offering as usual a range of walks and talks – and again by popular demand, an archaeological pub quiz (on Sunday 1st October in Beaulay). More details will be highlighted in the September newsletter.



Kiltearn Old Kirk

ARCH continues to provide a number of activities for the Evanton Community Trust's Kiltearn Old Kirk project. In our April 2017 newsletter we noted the historical research which has proved so fruitful. Volunteers have been looking at various historical works, Kirk Session Records and archives from Foulis Castle held at Highland Archives and also at the Castle.

Meanwhile work is underway recording gravestones in the cemetery. A surprising number of early gravestones have been found dating to the 17th and 18th centuries, many very worn so it is critical to record them now. Some lovely examples with symbols of mortality survive (see page 4 of the newsletter).



In April we had a well-attended walk, looking at the church and at the enigmatic fishing station on the firth. We were fortunate that architect Andrew Wright was able to come and share his expertise – and his puzzlement over the bothy!

In May Anne Fraser of the Highland Archive Centre ran excellent sessions on how to do family history research, and volunteers are now compiling lists of names from the historical research and the gravestone recording to investigate.

In June Lynne McKeeggie of Highland Archaeology Services, and longtime instructor with ARCH, taught volunteers how to do a simple standing building survey, creating an accurate plan of the church and elevation drawing of the east end which shows a blocked medieval window. We also did a detailed photographic survey of the interior and exterior, an exercise which made us look in detail at the church.

What comes next? We continue to record gravestones, and if you are interested in getting

involved, do get in touch. In July we will start pulling this information together for a display to launch during Highland Archaeology Festival, and for a signboard. These sessions will be held at Cornerstone Café in Evanton on Monday evenings, **17th July – 28th August, 7-9:30pm**. All welcome, even if you haven't been able to attend previous sessions or can't attend all the sessions. Free!

Future projects

Highland Querns

After much hard work and consultation, we were very disappointed to be unsuccessful in our application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a project investigating Highland querns. We will be considering alternative funding possibilities, but this is likely to mean a further delay until 2018. In the meantime, if you come across any hand querns in your travels, let us know!

Experimental Archaeology

A project to provide experimental archaeology workshops, and then create loan boxes and learning materials was mentioned in our January 2017 newsletter. We have received partial funding for the project, and have submitted an application for its match. If successful, we will be reporting on this in September.

Regional ScARF

ARCH is very excited to be involved in a project to create a summary of archaeology in the Highlands, identifying gaps in knowledge and regional trends. This will complement the national ScARF (mentioned in our January 2014 newsletter) which is a very useful resource hosted by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and available on www.scottishheritagehub.com. We would hope to involve academics, students, units, local groups, U3A groups, the council, museums and anyone else interested in Highland Archaeology. There is plenty of scope for dissertation topics here!

Wartime projects

ARCH's work on WWI and WWII wartime remains in Invergordon, Evanton, Spinningdale, and various individual sites continues to attract interest. Several groups have been in touch with us asking about helping with projects in their areas. The WWII projects in particular are a matter of urgency: we are nearing our last chances to speak with people who remember!



ARCH Website and Facebook

The ARCH [website](#) continues to grow! There you can find reports about projects and courses and an events listing which includes any heritage related events which we are notified about. The Document Library contains a number of publications produced in projects, forms, annual reports as well as back issues of all of our newsletters.

We would welcome any volunteers who would like to help with the website, checking out and suggesting links or helping to compile events. Similarly we would like to expand our Facebook postings. If you have a picture to share, maybe of an enigmatic object or site, please send it to us (ensure it is your copyright please), and we'll post it.



Is it a bird or a plane? Or... where has the red laser dot from the distance metre gone? Standing building survey at Kiltearn Old Kirk.

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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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