

Welcome to the September issue of the ARCH newsletter containing information about ARCH offerings at the Highland Archaeology Festival, news about ARCH's new project, lecture information and project reports.

Experimental Archaeology: Learning about technologies in the past

We are delighted to announce that ARCH has received funding from Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund for this new project. It has been several years in the planning. In 2013 ARCH was involved in North Kessock & District Local History Society's Feats of Clay project, where the experimental bronze casting was informative and exciting to watch.



We thought that other crafts from the past would also be of great interest. The methods and logistics for creating artefacts and larger structures in prehistoric and later times is a key part of understanding our past. Too often there is little discussion of all the factors which were involved in the process, such as obtaining raw materials, gaining necessary skills and how craftsmen achieved results without power tools or measuring monitors. Answers to some of these questions in turn lead to insights into the social and economic basis of society.

The project in the first year will organise 13 workshops or demonstrations, focussing on production of artefacts and structures from the Mesolithic period to modern times. We hope to explore flint knapping, Bronze Age metalworking and pottery, Pictish carving, Iron Age bone working, making Viking ring money and medieval coinage, green wood working, textiles through the

ages, and much more. Where possible workshops will be hands-on, and we hope to attract craftspeople who are both skilled and able to explain their craft. All events will be filmed, with videos posted on YouTube.

Of course craft demonstrations result in objects – and we'll be using these to create a loans box. This will be freely available to schools, groups and museums. But loans boxes are only as good as the material which accompanies it. In the second year of the project, an archaeologist and a teacher or someone with an educational background will work together to create learning materials to accompany the box, so that it works for both curriculum for excellence and lifelong learning.

The first workshop will take place **Saturday 28th October at Dingwall Community Centre, 11am-3pm**. Lachlan McKeggie will explore green wood working through the ages, using flint and metal tools. There will be opportunities to try your hand at making some objects. Free and no booking necessary—just drop in. There is good public transport by train or bus to Dingwall and plenty of parking.



If you would like to be kept informed of future workshops, contact the ARCH office by phone or email (see p. 4 for details).



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HAF 2017

Highland Archaeology Festival is almost here!

This year there are around 100 events, over 20 special exhibitions, and another exciting conference on the last weekend. Sixteen museums are participating in the HAF2017 object trail, many offering reduced or free entry to HAF passport holders. There are two exciting public lectures, one by Cecily Spall to launch the festival on 29th September on medieval Portmahomack and Eilean Donan Castle, the other by Alison Sheridan of the NMS speaking on prehistoric DNA findings. New this year was a photographic competition, with the winners to be announced during the conference, and a geocache trail. Information on all these and more is in the HAF programme available from libraries, service points, museums and other public venues and on the website www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org.

ARCH will again offer a number of events, all free (though donations are welcome!):

Archaeology Pub Quiz (Sunday, 1st October, 7:30-9pm, Lovat Arms Hotel, Beaulieu)

Back by popular demand! Lachlan McKeggie is quizmaster again, for a fun-filled evening. Come as a team or we will join you with others at the door. £10/team, £2.50 per person. Raffle & prizes.

Discover Highland Heritage at Dingwall Library
Monday, 2nd October, 2-3:30pm, Dingwall Library
Join Susan Kruse for a trawl through the collections!

Kiltearn Old Kirk (Monday, 2nd October, 7:30-9pm, Cornerstone Café, Evanton)

Hear about the results of the Kiltearn Old Kirk project, and see the launch of the exhibition created by participants.

Ardross through the Ages (Friday, 6th October, 10:30-4:30). Guided walk to a number of prehistoric and later sites and buildings in Ardross. See the brochure or website for details of meeting places.



Northfield WWII Ammunition Depot (Thursday, 12th October, 10-11:30). One of two tours of wartime ammunition sites surviving around the Cromarty and Beaulieu firths. Meet at Tomich Restaurant off the A9. Some participants intend then to attend Allan Kilpatrick's recording visit to Loth Radar station in the afternoon.



Canadian Lumberjacks in Kiltarlity (Thursday, 12th October, 7:30-9pm, Phipps Hall, Beaulieu)
Melynda Jarratt makes a welcome return to our area, this time launching her new book about Canadian lumberjacks around Beaulieu in WWII.

Kirkhill WWII Ammunition Store (Friday, 13th October, 10-11:30). The second of the tours looking at wartime ammunition sites. See the brochure/website for meeting place.

Workshop afternoon at Highland Council
Susan Kruse will present a workshop on internet maps, and Roland Spencer-Jones will guide people on using GPS for survey & mapping. Other workshops on offer include using the HER, photography, photogrammetry, aerial photography, and SUP's building detectives looking at recording standing building remains.

In addition:

- Susan Kruse will give a talk about Prehistoric Inverness at Culloden Library on 3rd October 2pm
- Susan Kruse and Graham Clark will talk about the Feats of Clay project at North Kessock & District Local History Society's Bronze Age KnowWOW! event on Wednesday 4th October at North Kessock Hall, 7:30pm
- ARCH will have a stall at the Black Isle Gathering on Saturday 7th October at Fortrose Academy.
- ARCH will have a stall and a poster session about the Kiltearn project during the HAF conference.

Project Reports

Invergordon World War II

The well-illustrated booklet *Wartime Invergordon: a town transformed* written by Susan Kruse, Una McIntosh and Catherine Gaston was launched in July with over 100 people present. The exhibition created during the project will be open Sunday 1st to Wednesday 4th October during HAF, 10am-3pm. It also features one of the HAF2017 objects!



The project was very successful, resulting in over 700 records to the Historic Environment Record, and a keen interest to continue. The group is now looking at researching the WWI US Navy activity at Dalmore. If you are interested, please get in touch!

Kiltearn Old Kirk

The progress of Evanton Community Trust's Kiltearn Old Kirk project has been reported in previous newsletters. This exciting project is coming to an end. Over the summer gravestone recording took place. In all 378 memorial stones, 72 lair markers and 48 stones which were either lair markers or headstones were recorded, ranging in date from 1670 to 2014. Over 50 stones dating before 1800 were recorded, generally slabs on the ground, some just under the turf. These are characterised by symbols of mortality and immortality, sometimes with heraldic symbols and inscriptions running around the edge. Most of these do not have names, but rather initials.



Eleven were decorated with 'red eagles', the Munro of Foulis crest. The three binders of grave-stones will be kept at the Cornerstone

Café in Evanton as well as on a pen drive at the Highland Archive Centre. A database of names is also available for those doing family history.

Over the summer a group grappled with the challenge to condense all the material discovered so far into a display, and then to further hone it for texts for a signboard. The display will be launched during the Highland Archaeology Festival on Monday, 2nd October, 7:30-9pm, Cornerstone Café, Evanton where Susan Kruse will give a talk about the project and there will be a chance to browse the display.

Feats of Clay

The booklet from North Kessock & District Local History Society's *Feats of Clay* has now been published. Written by Graham Clark, Trevor Cowie and Susan Kruse, it contains a full catalogue of Bronze Age metalwork from the Moray Firth area. Available at the NK&DLHS HAF event (see p. 2) or via their website.



Tarradale Through Time

The North of Scotland Archaeological Society's Tarradale Through Time project has just launched. Fieldwalking over the past years have shown that this area near Muir of Ord was important from earliest times onwards. Over the next months there will opportunities to volunteer in community excavations or post excavation work. To find out more, or to volunteer, see their newly set up website <http://www.tarradalethroughtime.co.uk>



You never know what is going to happen in an old kirkyard! The Kiltearn Old Kirk team trying to decipher a particularly worn inscription...

ARCH Lecture Series

ARCH lectures will begin again at the end of October, taking place on the last Wednesday of the month (excepting December) at Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30pm (suggested donation £3). The first two lectures are timetabled, and information about those in 2018 will be on the website and in the next newsletter.



Wed. October 25th: The Story behind the Stones: Gravestones in the Highlands

Jim MacKay will talk about Highland gravestones, using examples from Kirkmichael and elsewhere.

Wed. November 29th: Prehistoric Inverness

The expansion of Inverness has resulted in a number of excavations and watching briefs. Susan Kruse will pull together reports to show what this is telling us about early Inverness.



Online Hillforts Atlas resource launched

Over the last four years 4,147 confirmed and possible hillforts have been recorded in Britain and Ireland by a project team from Oxford and Edinburgh. Details are now available on a website that uses the latest mapping technology and is freely accessible to the public online (<https://hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk>).

The online resource will also soon be accessible through Wikipedia where images of hillforts can be uploaded. The atlas database is accessible on mobile devices and as such can be used while visiting a hillfort. A paper atlas is also in development, to be delivered to the publisher in summer 2018.

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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>Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'</i>	

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