

Issue 4
December 2009

Welcome to the 4th ARCH newsletter! It's full of good news and positive omens for the New Year!

Stop, Look and Listen!

After almost a full year of fundraising, we are very pleased to say that funding for this project has been successful!! We are currently recruiting two full time project officers and a part time administrator to roll out this exciting 3 year project.

Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 Programme, with additional support from Highland Council and ScotRail, SLL will offer 6 programmes over the next 3 years:

*** Community Timelines**

Members of 8 local communities will learn about their local heritage, and then create and exhibit multimedia timelines.

*** Pathways into the Past.**

Members of 7 communities will research, identify, and record a network of early roadways running from Beauly to Tain.

*** Display the Past**

Participants will work with 2 local museums to research and install an exhibition interpreting and celebrating aspects of Highland archaeology.

*** Heritage along the Kyle Line**

Participants in 3 communities along the Dingwall to Kyle railway line will research the heritage of the landscape through which the route travels.

*** Living in the Past**

Children (and teachers) will learn about housing in the past by recording a croft site, working with Scotland's Rural Past education officer.



Archaeology for Communities
in the Highlands

*** Delve into the Past**

Two community excavations near public transport and with childcare and children's programme will take place.

All training will be low cost or free, and will take place in local communities. In addition, the SLL staff will give talks to local groups and schools. Thanks to generous support from Highland Council, ARCH will also have an office in Dingwall. Further details in our next newsletter!

Black Isle Heritage Memories

Sandra Bain, ARCH director, asks: 'Are you curious about the ruins you see in fields or the mounds in the woods? Do you ever wonder about the people who lived here before us? You just might get some answers if you become involved in the Black Isle Heritage Memories project. There is more information available than you might think – it's a matter of knowing where to find it or who to ask. But you, too, may have more answers than you realise.

We're not just talking about what went on thousands of years ago but also about what has happened in your lifetime. Over recent decades the Black Isle landscape has changed considerably. For example, the railway and its station buildings have almost all disappeared and with the building of the A9 croft houses were demolished, a curling pond was lost and one side of a beautiful avenue of trees, marking the line of an old road, was cut down.'

These are some of the questions BIHM will address. The project started in November, with job share project officers Cait McCullagh and Susan Kruse, and transcriber Anne

Johnstone. Funded by Awards for All Scotland and the European Community Highland LEADER 2007-2013 programme, ARCH sees it as a pilot showing people how to contribute their memories of buildings and sites.

BIHM will begin with a free oral history recording and collecting training session, at Avoch Community Hall on Wednesday **9th December, from 1pm – 4pm**. Learn how to collect oral histories and to use the digital recording equipment, which will be loaned to community groups and societies throughout the Black Isle. Places are limited, so book soon.

The 'Remembering Your Community Sessions' will take in the New Year at:

Avoch, Pavilion Hall on Wednesdays from 10am – 12pm, 13th Jan - 3rd Feb.

Culbokie, Findon Community Hall on Tuesdays from 10am – 12pm, 12th Jan – 2nd Feb.

Tore, Tore (Kilearnan) Community Hall on Tuesdays from 2pm – 4pm, 12th Jan – 2nd Feb.

Everyone is welcome to attend, whether to share memories or to learn about buildings and sites in their community. Maps and photographs will be provided – or bring your own.

Silver surfer sessions, designed to show people how to use the internet, especially to contribute their memories to the HER, will also be arranged for the New Year. If you have any questions, or would like to participate in any of the activities, contact Cait McCullagh on 01349 867733 or archhighland@googlemail.com.

Website

As part of the Black Isle project, ARCH will be setting up phase one of its website. This will include details of ARCH courses and events – but we also want to include events from other

societies and organisations. We hope that the website will become an online community for people interested in Highland heritage. If you are involved with another group, and would like your events publicised, get in touch with Susan Kruse at archhighland@googlemail.com. We hope to be live in early January.

ARCH at SAM and HAF

ARCH ran some well attended sessions for both Scottish Archaeology Month and Highland Archaeology Festival this year. We had glorious weather for our walk to Caird's Cave at Rosemarkie, a joint event with the Young Archaeologist Clubs. A very different day was in store at Carn Liath Broch near Golpie, where winds forced us off the ramparts, but did not defeat our high spy pole camera. We also came to a profound appreciation of the shelter a solid broch wall can produce! Our other High Spy session at Conon Bridge henge was also well attended, and we now know thanks to Richard Bradley's talk at the HAF seminar, that it is likely to date to the Bronze Age. The talks at Tarbat Discovery Centre on recent archaeology finds on the Pictish peninsula and at Ragimore Community Centre on Bronze Age burials were both well attended – in the case of the Raigmore event we had to spill out into the corridor!

For the New Year, we hope to start a lecture series in the colder months of the year, and more Insight/On Site visits for the warmer (drier?) months. More details in our next newsletter.

We welcome your comments and suggestions! Contact ARCH by e-mail on ARCHhighland@googlemail.com or phone Susan Kruse on 01997 421171. If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive information about ARCH activities, contact us.