

Welcome to our 40th newsletter and the first for 2018. There are lots of dates for your diary: the Experimental Archaeology monthly workshops, the ARCH lecture series and the Groam House Museum WWI project sessions. Plenty to get involved in in 2018!

Experimental Archaeology: Learning about technologies in the past

After a great start with our first three workshops (see p. 3), we now look forward to some exciting events this year. The monthly workshops will feature a different craft, and span from Mesolithic to modern times. The aim is consider all aspects of craft production—from raw materials to practical manufacturing constraints. This combination of archaeological insight and craftspeople's skills has led to some interesting and illuminating insights into early skills.

All workshops are free and family friendly, at venues accessible by public transport. Most have opportunities to have a go. No need to book.

Flint Knapping. 20 January, Inverness Library, 10-4:30. Join James Dilley from University of Southampton to see how prehistoric tools and weapons were made.



Lead seals and ropemaking. 17 February, Dingwall Library, 11-3.

Lead seals found in Cromarty are evidence of 18th/19th century Baltic trade in textiles. Engraver Ian Hammond will show how lead cloth seals (as found at Cromarty) and rope were made.

Bone working. 17 March, Dingwall Library, 11-3. Jim Glazzard will show how various Iron Age bone objects were made, including pins, toggles and combs.

Carved Stone Balls. 21 April, Black Isle Showground, Muir of Ord, 11-3. Chris Gee will show how these enigmatic Neolithic stone objects were made.



Pictish Carved stones. 19 May, Black Isle Showground, Muir of Ord, 11-3. Barry Grove will demonstrate Pictish carving, with opportunities to have a go.

Bronze Age Metalworking. 23 June, Black Isle Show-ground, Muir of Ord, 11-3. In a summer solstice workshop, Neil Burrige from Cornwall will demonstrate the magic of bronze casting.



Telford Technology. 21 July, Inverness Library, 11-3. Thomas Telford revolutionised the Highlands in the early 1800s. John Fulton & Beth Kendell will explore some of his bridges and the technology behind them. Be prepared to experiment.

Viking Ring Money. 25 August, Black Isle Showground, Muir of Ord, 11-3. Jim Glazzard will show us how Viking silver armrings ('ring money') were made and discuss other Viking metalworking practices.

Medieval coinage. 15 September, Inverness Library, 11-3. Stuart Strong will demonstrate how medieval coins were made, with a chance for people to have a try and stamping a replica of a coin issued from the short-lived mint in Inverness.

Crafting Day. 6 October, Black Isle Showground, 11-3. As part of Highland Archaeology Festival we'll have a range of crafts on offer as a finale to the project.

Experimental Archaeology: learning about Technologies in the Past has been funded by:



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ARCH Lecture Series

The ARCH lecture series remains the last Wednesday of the month but is moving venue. All talks will be held in **Dingwall Lower Town Hall**. Entrance is via the side of the Town Hall (on Church Street), with closest parking at the Cromartie Car Park or off Mart road. Talks start at 7:30pm; suggested donation £3.



31 Jan 'Tarradale Through Time: exciting discoveries from the Black Isle'

Eric Grant will report on exciting results from recent excavations which have uncovered rich remains of the earliest settlers in the Black Isle seven to eight thousand years ago as well as evidence of continued occupation right through prehistory.

28 Feb 'Land Legacies: the enduring impact of the First World War on Highland land issues'

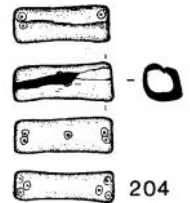
Iain Robertson of UHI Centre for History will explore the impact of WWI on land issues in the Highlands. It will demonstrate that one of the most significant positive legacies of WW1, one that endures to the present day, are the crofting townships reinvigorated and rebuilt as a direct consequence of the immediate post-war land disturbances.

28 Mar 'An Archaeology of Coastal Salmon Fishing in Easter Ross'

Alistair Stenhouse, U. of Aberdeen, will review the fishing methods used initially in rivers, then in the estuaries and finally in the deeper coastal deep waters. Secondly he will explore some of the history and social context associated with the 19th century displacement of salmon fishing from the rivers into the estuaries and ultimately into deeper coastal waters. Finally he will examine some of the 43 sites which were surveyed in Easter Ross including examples of site erosion, accretion and vandalism.

25 Apr 'Bringing a legacy project to publication - the Neolithic and Bronze Age Udal, North Uist'
Beverley Ballin Smith from Glasgow has been part of a team of specialists working to analyse and publish important excavations undertaken by Iain Crawford in North Uist in the 1960s. This talk will focus on the late Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation at this site.

30 May: 'Playtime in Pictland'
Join Mark Hall (Perth Museum) as he leads us on a playful journey of roads less travelled by to unravel the story of board games in early medieval Scotland.



27 June 'The Achavanich Beaker Burial project: latest developments and discoveries'

Over the last three years Maya Hoole has been researching the early Bronze Age burial of a young female from Caithness. With all of the results now in, she will pull together the findings including: osteology, histology, ancient DNA, stable isotope analysis, facial reconstruction, pollen analysis, radiocarbon dating, archaeozoology, and pottery analysis.



Rosemarkie, Fortrose & Avoch in WWI

The Groam House Museum project continues in 2018, first with research and then pulling together the material into a display. Tues, 16th Jan, 10:30-1, Inverness Library meeting with Inverness Local History Forum to hear about their research into the Northern Barrage. From Wednesday, 24th January we will be back to Gordon Memorial Hall, Rosemarkie, 10:30-1, though with some extra trips planned too. All welcome, whether you have come before or not. A creative writing course based on the material will start in February as well.

Project Reports

Experimental Archaeology Workshops

The first three Experimental Archaeology workshops took place at the end of 2017, part of a series funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Focussing on green woodworking (led by Lachlan McKeggie), Bronze Age pottery (Pat Gulliver) and textiles through the ages (Lynne McKeggie), all three showed just how much information and insight can be obtained by combining knowledge of archaeological finds with an understanding of craft practices. The workshops are drop-in, but in many cases people have arrived at the beginning and stayed for hours. Ages have ranged from 3 to over 80s. In all cases people have commented on how much more interesting it was to have practical and talk, with the chance to try something providing a greater understanding.



If you missed any of these sessions check out the [Experimental Archaeology blog](#) on the ARCH website! If you have any comments, links or thoughts for the blog, please contribute.

Rosemarkie, Fortrose and Avoch in World War I

Susan Kruse of ARCH has been running sessions for Groam House Museum as part of their Heritage Lottery funded project exploring the impact of World War I in this area of the Black Isle. The intent was to discover what happened in the area during the war using memories, newspapers and other resources, as well as any information about men and women who served.

We have had visits to Highland Archive Centre in Inverness and the Highlanders Museum at Fort George to investigate sources held in their collections. We have also visited Cromarty Courthouse Museum where Paul Monk showed us objects and recordings in their collection, as well as their special WWI exhibition material. We also visited Petty and Ardersier Community Heritage group who are also investigating World

War I. Although it now takes quite some time to get there, during WWI our communities were linked by the ferry.

The newspapers and Burgh minutes have proven to be full of detail, and volunteers are working their way through the relevant issues. But so far we have few people whose family were in the area during WWI – and we are appealing for anyone who had family in the area to get in touch! There has even been some fieldwork, trying to match locations of searchlights and gun emplacements on Chanonry Point with wartime photos.

Was your family in Avoch/Fortrose/Rosemarkie during World War I? Do you have any stories, photographs or objects you can share? The Groam House Museum project investigating WWI in the area would love to hear from you! Please contact Susan Kruse on 077888 35466 or Barbara Cohen on Barbara.cohen@groamhousemuseum.org



HAF 2017

October is an exhausting but exhilarating month! ARCH once again organised the Highland Archaeology Festival on behalf of Highland Council. This year 123 events were offered by organisations, museums and individuals, with 22 special exhibitions and 16 museums offering a HAF 2017 object. Around 10,000 people took part with numbers ranging from 2 to over 1000 per event. New this year was a photographic competition (all entries on the [HAF website](#), with the shortlisted entries currently touring) and a popular geocache trail. The annual conference was the fullest yet. Please send any feedback to help plan next year's event if you haven't already.

ARCH offered its now usual variety of events including the pub quiz, talks and walks. We hosted Mylinda Jarrett's Scottish book launch which was attended by over 140 people! And a first for HAF: participants on our walk in Ardrross were able to leave with fresh-picked grapes.

MBE for Susan Kruse of ARCH

We're delighted to announce that Susan Kruse of ARCH was awarded an MBE in the Honours List for service to community archaeology in the Highlands. She notes: 'I'm

flattered to have been nominated for this award, and delighted that community archaeology has been recognised in this way. I've always interpreted archaeology in its broadest sense, from earliest settlers to the present, with above and below ground remains.



I've been passionate about community participation in local heritage, and know there are many people who are similarly interested, although they might not consider themselves interested in heritage at first. There is so much around us in the Highlands, and so much to explore, record and understand. I enjoy working with local communities, with the freedom to investigate anything from prehistory to wartime remains – sometimes at the same time. In each course I always find that the local knowledge is immense, and I am just a facilitator, gathering them together and keeping everyone on the right track. I see this award as recognising the importance of community archaeology!

Susan was a co-founder of ARCH in 2009, and since then has helped guide it to an organisation now with national recognition.

Highland Archaeology Photographic Competition

The shortlisted entries from the HAF competition are currently touring. In January they will be at Aviemore Library, and then moving on to Fortrose Library. Once the full tour is confirmed, it will be posted on the [HAF website](#). Contact individual libraries for details.



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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 :

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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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