

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2019. There are lots of dates for your diary with opportunities to get involved throughout the Highlands.

## Highland Regional ScARF

The Highland Regional ScARF project continues with a lot of work behind the scenes. This 3 year project, funded by Historic Environment Scotland with support from Highland Council, kicked off with a symposium in June. It will create an overview of Highland heritage from earliest times to 21<sup>st</sup> century, looking at what is the same as the national picture, what is different and what are the research questions which need investigating (see ARCH website for more details).

This first year is devoted to sourcing information and getting our data as up-to-date and accurate as possible. Grace Woolmer has been working away at the Council, helping update HER records, process downloads from Canmore, and adding new sites. Susan Kruse has written to all museums asking them for details about key objects, and setting up visits and workshops (see below).

### Can you help?

HighARF is hoping to involve a wide range of people. Is there a topic, site or find which holds special interest to you or a group you are part of? Case studies, research and photographs all welcome. Contribution forms and examples are on the ARCH website in the Library, or email Susan or Grace if you want to discuss.

### Museum Collections – help catalogue and get information into the HER

The HER and Canmore provide a very good record of sites and buildings (though there are still many to be recorded). However, the online databases have limited information about finds. Yet often the finds are the only evidence of earlier activity.



ARCH is always looking for projects which cover a wide area of the Highlands. As part of the ScARF project, we are currently trying to assess what key objects are in Highland and other museums, and have sent a detailed questionnaire to all museums in the Highlands. Many museums do not have the staff to respond to such queries, and would welcome help. If you have some time to spare and would welcome looking at museum objects and collections, please let us know, and we can see if there are opportunities locally. This is a great opportunity to help behind the scenes at local museums.

The following dates are set:

**Inverness Museum and Art Gallery** are getting their large collection onto an on-line catalogue. Work includes looking at objects in store, but also assessing some of the excavation assemblages. This is a big task, so the museum has broken this down into 3-week blocks meeting **on Mondays: 14, 21 and 28 Jan; 11, 18 and 25 Feb; 25 Mar, 1 and 8 Apr; 13, 20 and 27 May; 17 and 24 June, 1 July.**

Volunteers are asked to commit to a block, either half or full day, though you can sign up for as many blocks as you would like. Please book to Susan Kruse at ARCH in the first instance, and we will get back to you.



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## West Highland Museum, Fort William

The museum has a large and varied collection, and volunteers will be needed to look at the catalogue to help answer the questionnaire. Our first meeting is **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 10-1**. Contact Susan if you are interested.



## Dunrobin Castle Museum

Dunrobin has a fantastic collection in its museum which deserves to be better known. Much of the collection dates to 19<sup>th</sup> century donations. We will have an initial meeting on **Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February** at the castle. Booking essential to Susan at ARCH.

## HER workshops

We've mentioned it before – but the Highland HER, Highland Council's database of all known heritage, is a fantastic resource on the internet. The new version makes it easier than ever to add information about local sites and finds already on the database. If you would like some help in learning how to use the HER and adding information, or just a chance to see what's new, come to one of the free workshops on offer. The workshops are aimed at museum volunteers or anyone interested in local heritage. Booking necessary – if only to know who to contact if the weather turns bad!

**Wed. 23 Jan.** 2-4pm The Goods Shed, The Old Station, Strathpeffer

**Wed. 30<sup>th</sup> Jan.** 2-4pm Fortrose Library

**Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> Feb.** 2-4pm Dornoch Social Club

**Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Feb.** 2-4pm West Highland College, Fort William

**Thurs. 7<sup>th</sup> Mar.** 2-4pm Brora Learning Centre

**Tues. 12<sup>th</sup> Mar.** 2-4pm Clan Donald Library, Armadale Castle

**Wed. 13<sup>th</sup> Mar.** 2-4pm Skye & Lochalsh Archive Centre, Portree

**Wed. 20<sup>th</sup> Mar.** 2-4pm Castlehill Heritage Centre, Castletown

**Fri. 5<sup>th</sup> Apr.** 2-4pm Inverness Museum and Art Gallery

**Wed. 24<sup>th</sup> Apr.** 2-4pm Macphail Centre, Ullapool

## ARCH Lecture Series

Last Tuesday of the month at Dingwall Community Centre, 7:30pm. Suggested donation £3

### Tues 29 Jan. 'Maps, Map-makers and Map-making – the stories from the Lovat Estate Map Archive'

Roland Spencer-Jones will describe the NoSAS project which digitised the maps of the Lovat Estates, showing a number of examples. He will explore the world of pre-OS map-making, focussing on the stories that the Lovat Estate maps tell us.

### Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. **Developing Digital Models of the Past**

Jacque Aitken of Timespan Museum will talk about the processes and methods for developing digital research models of the past, depicting sites and landscape reconstructs, as well as 3D object use.

### Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Mar. **10,000 Plus Years of Highland Heritage**

Susan Kruse will provide an overview of what we know about Highland heritage (in an hour!) – and the opportunities the Highland Regional ScARF project provides to contribute to this picture.

### Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Apr. **Scotland, Industrialisation and Empire: Two island fishing stations in Loch Broom**

Cathy Dagg tells the story of 30 years of change, 1770-1800, which left a lasting impact socially, materially and environmentally on a remote, isolated and backward part of the Highlands and how Loch Broom played its own small but significant role in the development of the British Empire.

### Tues 28<sup>th</sup> May. **Corrugated Iron Vernacular Buildings of the Highlands**

The processes of corrugating and galvanising wrought iron sheets into strong, durable, lightweight and readily transportable building materials were developed in 1829-37. Nowadays, the visible legacy is fast-disappearing or dilapidating but, as illustrated in this talk by Graham Clark, a surprising variety of fine corrugated iron buildings are still standing throughout the Highlands.

### Tues 25<sup>th</sup> June. **The Coastal Heritage of the Highland Region: reflections from SCAPE.**

SCAPE has been working with the public documenting and investigating the coastal archaeological heritage of Scotland for 20 years. During that time we have learnt an enormous amount about the archaeology; about how coasts change and the drivers of change; and about working with people in projects that make the most of our eroding heritage. Joanna Hambley will reflect upon what we have learned about coastal heritage and coastal change in the Highland region, and consider what lies ahead.

## ARCH lectures coming near you!

Susan Kruse will talk about 10,000 years of Highland heritage, focussing on the local area. Entrance by donation to cover venue hire expenses.

**Tues 12 Mar**, 7:30 West Highland College, Portree

**Wed 20 Mar**, 7pm Thurso Library

A more focussed look at 2000 years of recent heritage organised by UHI Centre for History takes place on **27th Feb**. 5:30pm at Burgfield House, Dornoch. Videoconferencing options available.

If your group would like a talk on Highland heritage, let us know!



Wayne Abbott collection, courtesy Invergordon Museum

## New Project: Wartime Dalmore

ARCH leads a project to investigate wartime Dalmore near Alness. During WWI the distillery was requisitioned by the U.S. Navy as one of three Scottish centres to assemble and deploy mines from Orkney to Norway. It is the best preserved of the three, with one surviving building and foundations of others. In WWII the distillery was again taken over, this time by the RAF which had outgrown facilities in Invergordon.

Join us to research this interesting history, using maps, plans, first hand accounts, a photograph album recently donated to Invergordon Museum, and other sources. We are particularly interested in any memories people have of the site. We will meet on Thursdays, beginning **7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February** at Invergordon Museum, 7-9pm. If you can't make these sessions but would like to be involved, please contact Susan on 077888 35466 or [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk). A grant of £300 towards the cost of the project was generously donated by Orion Group, and other funding is being sought.

## Project Reports

### *Experimental Archaeology*

The Experimental Archaeology workshops finished in October 2018 with a crafting day featuring four crafts: green woodworking, flint knapping, basket making and producing lead seals. Blogs for all the workshops, and videos made at each, are available on the ARCH website <http://www.archhighland.org.uk/experimental-archaeology.asp>. Check them out – they provide a rich resource covering Highland crafts from earliest to recent times .

Workshop leaders were very generous with objects, and instead of one loans box, it now looks like we will have three! Teacher Dave Peers and archaeologists Lachlan and Lynne McKeggie are currently working together to produce learning materials which will accompany the boxes. The project is funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund.



### Highland Archaeology Festival

ARCH ran 7 well-attended events, as well as providing displays and two poster sessions at the annual conference. The tour of Dalmore had over 70 people alone! Our tour of the Tomatin ROC post was the last before it is demolished by the dualling of the A9. With the landlord's permission, the contents have been donated to the Cabrach Trust who will use them in their ROC post whose contents had been previously stripped.

On behalf of Highland Council ARCH again organised the festival and conference which saw record numbers. Work has already started for next year – more in the next newsletter.

## ARCH Board

ARCH is looking for new Board Members to provide direction and support in the coming years. Directors are volunteers, who have a strong commitment to community archaeology, providing opportunities open to all. We are particularly keen to welcome individuals with experience in Highland archaeology, financial management, fundraising or governance issues. The Board meets around every 2 months. Further information about ARCH can be found at [www.archhighland.org.uk](http://www.archhighland.org.uk). Anyone interested in being considered please contact Malcolm Bangor-Jones, chair of ARCH, at [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk)



## Adopt an HER Record

If there is a site or object important to you, the HER team invites you to Adopt an HER record. This could be contributing your pictures (old or current), adding sources to the bibliography, providing an account of the current condition, or pointing out any errors. Your input will be credited on the record! ARCH is organising workshops on using the HER (see p. 2). Ian Scrivener-Lindley, the Highland Council HER officer, is also happy to arrange a workshop for groups. Contact him on [ian.scrivener-lindley@highland.gov.uk](mailto:ian.scrivener-lindley@highland.gov.uk)

## ARCH Website

The ARCH website has information about ARCH projects, including ScARF. There are also blogs, a popular events listing of all heritage events reported to us, and a number of links. Back again are the Find and Site of the Month, showcasing data revisited for the ScARF project. Check it out!

### ARCH

The Goods Shed, The Old Station, Strathpeffer  
IV14 9DH  
077888 35466  
[info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk)  
[www.archhighland.org.uk](http://www.archhighland.org.uk)

## 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:

.....

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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