

*The strange events of 2020 have meant that our lecture series and other face-to-face activities have been cancelled. Unfortunately this situation looks set to continue for a while. In the meantime, for those who receive the newsletter by email, a monthly newsflash has been sent, with ideas of things to do and resources of interest to explore at your fingertips. These newsflashes are available from the Document Library of the ARCH website, providing useful resources even when we are post-Covid.*

*Meanwhile ARCH will continue to try and hold an online talk every month from November (September and October are covered by the Highland Archaeology Festival of Talks – see below). We are working on developing new projects, and are asking for your help for our FACET project (see p. 3). The Highland Regional ScARF project will have draft chapters available for open consultation from the end of this month, providing an opportunity to feed into this important document (see p. 2).*

## Highland Archaeology Festival of Talks

Although the weekend conference will not take place, the Highland Council Historic Environment Team is organising a Festival of Talks focussing on recent research and discoveries, every weekday evening from 25<sup>th</sup> September to 12<sup>th</sup> October.



### Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept

***Megalithic overkill? Rethinking the multiple stone rows of Caithness and Sutherland*** – Dr Kenny Brophy (University of Glasgow)

### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Sept

***New evidence for the earliest inhabitants of the Isle of Skye*** – Dr Karen Hardy (Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA), Barcelona)

### Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept

***Global access to cultural heritage: 3D modelling of monuments and artefacts*** – Dr Hugo Anderson-Whymark (National Museums Scotland)

### Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept Double bill:

- 1) ***Fairburn Tower – recent analysis and investigation*** – Tom Addyman (Addyman Archaeology)
- 2) ***LiDAR survey in the Highlands: future prospects for 3D mapping and landscape archaeology*** – Dr Graeme Cavers (AOC)



### Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Oct

***Tracking our information: from project start to archiving: a panel and discussion***

The outsider's perspective – Susan Kruse (ARCH)

The Local Authority perspective – Kirsty Cameron (Highland Council)

The archaeological contractor's perspective – Lynne McKeggie (Highland Archaeological Services)

The allocation of finds- Emily Freeman (Treasure Trove Scotland)



### Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct

***The Viking Age on Skye: artifacts, place-names, and landscape*** – Joseph Thomas Ryder (University of Bergen)

### Monday 5<sup>th</sup> Oct

***Inverness West Link Road Phase 2***—AOC Inverness staff

### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Oct

***Recent Palaeoarchaeology Work in the Highlands*** – Dr Scott Timpany (UHI Archaeology Institute, Orkney)

### Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Oct

**Digital Heritage, Archaeological Reconstructions and the Curatorial Field** – Jacquie Aitkin (Timespan Museum) and Alan Miller (U. of St Andrews)

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> Oct**      **Current Student Research**  
***The archaeology of whisky smuggling: searching for things that weren't meant to be found!*** –

Darroch Bratt (UHI)

Others speakers to be confirmed



**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Oct**      Double Bill

1) ***Multi-period remains at Ashaig on Skye*** – John MacLeod

2) ***What do we need to know?: contributing to the Highland Regional ScARF*** – Susan Kruse (ARCH)

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Oct**

***A Northern Pictish Powerhouse: Excavations at Burghead 2015-20*** – Professor Gordon Noble (University of Aberdeen)

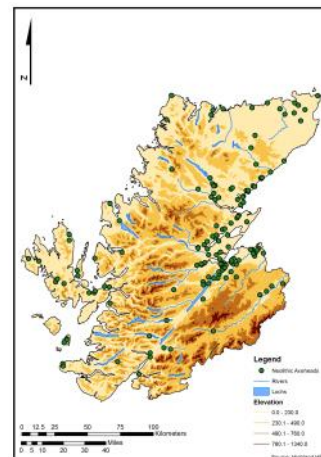
All talks will be held online at 7:30pm using Microsoft Teams, with booking through EventBrite. Numbers are capped at 250. You don't have to have Teams installed on your computer, but it may make things easier. Details of each talk, with booking information, can be found at [www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org](http://www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org), with direct links from each event in the Events Calendar. If you are new to Teams, or would like to try it beforehand, practice sessions are being arranged; again details from the Highland Archaeology Festival website or contact ARCH at [info@archhighland.org.uk](mailto:info@archhighland.org.uk) or 077888 35466.

### ARCH Monthly Lectures

ARCH lectures will be online for the foreseeable future. Our first will be **17th November, 7:30pm**, when Emily Freeman (Treasure Trove) and Matt Knight (NMS) will speak about **Only Swords and Horses: A recent Late Bronze Age Hoard from Peebles (the story so far!)**. Details for joining will be on the ARCH website and in a newsflash closer to the time.

### ScARF Consultation

Lockdown has made little difference to Susan and Grace, who have been beavering away at writing draft chapters and creating maps from the data gathered over the last two years. The drafts will be posted on the ARCH website from the end of this month, for wider consultation.



The Highland Regional ScARF looks at Highland heritage from earliest settlers to modern times. It focusses on what is the same as the National ScARF (available on [www.scarf.scot](http://www.scarf.scot)), what is different, and what research questions need to be addressed, particularly in the Highlands.

We would welcome comments on the drafts: pointing out mistakes, suggesting other examples, links to radiocarbon dates we don't know about, and above all, what research questions you think need to be addressed. Details on how to respond will be on the ARCH website.

### Goodbye Grace

Hard as it is to believe, Grace Woolmer has now been working on the ScARF project for over 2 years. In the past year half of her time was spent adding information about Highland Finds onto the Highland HER thanks to funding from the Pilgrim Trust. Her hard work on the ScARF project has been much appreciated, and her legacy can be seen in a number of HER entries!



Grace is now moving to Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust where she will be a Historic Environment Officer on a one year post. Coincidentally the Trust is currently working on its own regional ScARF project, so Grace has plenty to contribute. We wish Grace all the best in her new post.

## A New ARCH Project – Can You Help?

For the last 11 years ARCH has been pioneering innovative community heritage projects in Highland communities. Our special feature has been getting local people involved so it is you who make decisions and implement the programme of activities. Leading such projects requires very different skills from simply standing up and lecturing.



With this in mind two years ago the ARCH board devised an exciting project to train facilitators with the skills needed to devise and lead community heritage projects. We are calling it FACET (Facilitated Community Engagement Training). Five trainee facilitators will learn by doing, participating on courses in two communities which feature the ARCH Community Timeline modules of oral history, research and creating displays. We have already had positive feedback from several interested communities who want to have the courses.

Historic Environment Scotland thought the project innovative, and supported it with a grant of £18,000 out of the projected £24,600 budget. We had hoped to raise £6,000 from the National Heritage Lottery Fund (NHLF) but our application was thrown out in March (along with all others, due to all funding being directed to their existing projects with Covid-related shortfalls in revenues).

It is not clear when NHLF or other funders will start to accept applications again for community heritage projects. We are very keen to progress this project and have been given permission by HES to delay our start until spring 2021 while we search for match funding.

We are therefore launching the **ARCH FACET Appeal** to see if we can raise the remainder, with a combination of funding applications, your help and our reserves. Any donation is appreciated, and will be ring-fenced to apply to the FACET project. Ways to donate are on page 4. And please let us know if you are eligible for Gift Aid, as this allows us to claim 25% more at no cost to you.

## Potential New Project – Mapping Monuments

ARCH is excited to be working with Keith Lilley, Queens University, Belfast and Iain Robertson of UHI



Centre of History in a pilot for a project to research and record monuments associated with the Ordnance Survey's mapping of Great Britain and Ireland which is nearing its bicentenary. Remains include the sites of Colby Camps, trig stations and benchmarks. It's a project which involves indoor research and outdoor survey, with remains scattered throughout the Highlands. As the first steps the project hopes to organise some targeted research by volunteers, mainly on the National Library of Scotland website. This will be followed by workshops in late spring, pulling together this work and exploring how to survey and record. If you are interested in being on the mailing list for this project, please contact Susan at ARCH.

## Northern Barrage

A year ago ARCH helped organise and participated in a one day conference showcasing the U.S. Navy presence in the Highlands at the end of World War I, to build and deploy mines for the Northern Barrage. These papers are currently being edited, and a book to be published by Inverness Local History Forum will be available later this year. Details will be posted on the new Inverness Local History Forum [website](#) later this year, as well as in ARCH newflashes.

## Highland Museums

The pandemic has undoubtedly hit museums hard. In one of the last physical meetings before lockdown, ARCH helped organise a museums day, where volunteers and staff from Highland museums met to share issues.



Susan reported on her road trip to various museums (mentioned in previous ARCH newsletters), and issues of on-line catalogues and volunteer support were discussed. Added to the agenda was a discussion of what Covid-19 might mean to museums. Few of us I think really foresaw just how challenging it would be.

Museums and Heritage Highland (MHH), a new organisation emerging from the old Highland Museums Forum, has been providing information and support since then. Their [website](http://museumsandheritagehighland.org.uk) museumsandheritagehighland.org.uk has useful information and links. Susan at ARCH has been involved with the Scottish Community Heritage Alliance (SCHA) which has not only signposted museums to emergency funding programmes, but also helped groups to complete them. It is clear that news ways of working and engaging with people are going to be needed in this post-covid world. Information about SCHA and signing up for their email bulletin can be found on the [SCHA website](https://scottishcommunityheritage.org) <https://scottishcommunityheritage.org>

Meanwhile, now is the time to support your local museum! Some Highland ones are open, but often with booking systems and restricted numbers; the [MHH blog](#) has information about many of the museums. Others have decided not to open this year, but often have information or even exhibitions on their websites. Contact the museum before setting out.

### Do you get a postal version of this newsletter?

Please consider switching to email if you use it. It saves us money—and means you will also get email newsflashes. **And let us know if you would like to taken off the mailing list.**

## 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. ARCH relies on Friends' and lecture donations to help pay for office space, insurance, postage on newsletters, HAF walks, and the other mundane but important matters which allow us to continue. We value your help and support! Friends of ARCH are requested to give an annual donation of £10 (or more if you wish). There is an annual Friends' invitational event. To become a Friend — or to renew — contact ARCH or fill in the form below. If you are contributing to the FACET appeal, please note this in your BACS reference or on this form with your cheque.

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

How to donate:

BACS payments to  
Sort code: 80-05-61  
Account Number: 06001571  
Account: Archaeology for Communities  
in the Highlands  
Please reference Friends or FACET

Cheques payable to 'Archaeology for  
Communities in the Highlands'

Gift Aid:  
Please tick if you are eligible and happy  
for ARCH to reclaim Gift Aid on your  
donation.

THANK YOU!

ARCH

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