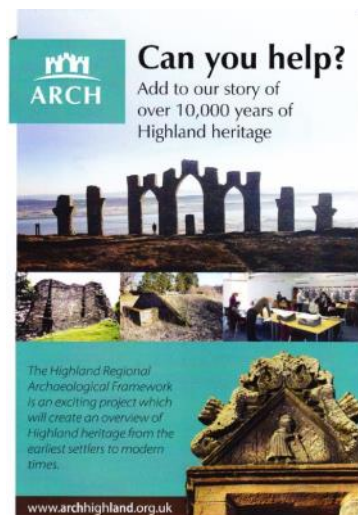


Happy New Year to all! It's been a strange and unforgettable 2020 and likely to remain so for the next months. While Covid meant we have discovered new ways to connect electronically, we are very conscious that for those of you who do not use computers this has been an isolating time. But there is light at the end of this tunnel, and we hope to have more opportunities for everyone in the New Year.

ScARF Consultation

While it may seem that little has been happening with ARCH over the past months, work has been progressing on the ScARF project, with now five chapters up for consultation and another two to appear in the next weeks. There are 68 case studies posted for consultation and several more in preparation. A variety of maps and datasheets, including the first draft of the radiocarbon listing, are also available to review. These are all available to download from the [ARCH website](http://www.archhighland.org.uk/scarf-consultation.asp) See <http://www.archhighland.org.uk/scarf-consultation.asp>



- This is shaping up to be a comprehensive overview – but its value will depend on input from all of you! Work thus far has been done without library access, so corrections (factual or even typos) and/or suggestions for further key sources would be useful. **We want the**

Highland Regional ScARF to be useful for everyone, so please read and comment, whether you are an expert or just an interested reader.

ARCH Lecture Series

For the first half of 2021 all ARCH talks will be online, usually, but not always, on the last Tuesday of the month, 7:30, using Zoom. This has allowed us to attract speakers from further afield. We need to cap at 100, so book early, and please cancel if you can't make it. Bookings are via EventBrite, with links from the ARCH Events calendar. If you would like advice about using Zoom, please get in touch.

Tuesday 26th Jan, 7:30pm

'Exploring Funerary Architecture and Symbolism in the Scottish Highlands'

Talk by Lorraine Evans, looking at these fascinating monuments. Bookings via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com)



Thursday, 11 Feb 7:30pm

'Turf Worlds - the use of turf as a building material in later prehistory, from the Highlands to the Nether-Lands'



Tanja Romankiewicz (U. of Edinburgh) has been researching the use of turf as a building material in the Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman period across northwest Europe. Often hard to detect because turf is cut from the same soil as a building stands on, she has worked with soil specialists and engineers to disentangle the world of ancient turf building and will present case studies from different regions and time periods to highlight the variety and versatility of this environmentally friendly material. She is also interested in hearing about experience or work undertaken in the Highlands on later turf buildings, and any expertise and information people would like to share - also on modern building with turf.

Bookings via [EventBrite](https://www.eventbrite.com). Joint talk with NoSAS

Tuesday 23 Feb 7:30pm

'Load of old cobblers – how the Sutors fight back!'

Allan Kilpatrick (HES) will take a look at the history and archaeology of the WWI and WWII remains at the North and South Sutors at the entrance to the



Cromarty Firth, in light of recent research and fieldwork. Bookings via [EventBrite](#)

Tuesday 30th March 7:30pm

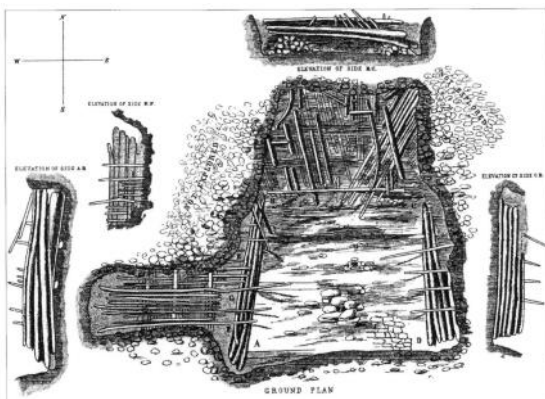
'Following Blundell's Bubbles: the crannogs of Highland Scotland'

Michael Stratigos (U. of York) will discuss Highland crannogs - artificial island dwellings which are some of the richest archaeological sites in Scotland with



immense potential due to their exceptional preservation conditions in submerged and waterlogged environments. In Highland Scotland, some of the earliest underwater archaeology anywhere in the world took place on crannogs led by Rev. Odo Blundell. However since Blundell's pioneering work, major programmes of crannog research have tended to be conducted elsewhere in Scotland. This talk will review what we know about crannogs in Highland Scotland, from their earliest origins 5000 years ago in the Neolithic to the very recent past. With reference to the latest crannog research from around Scotland, he will set out some pressing questions about crannogs and how they can be the key to answer much broader questions about the past.

Bookings via [EventBrite](#). Joint talk with NoSAS



Other Online Talks

There are so many online talks and recordings available these days, that it is hard to keep track of them! Here is a selection, and our monthly newsflashes will continue to highlight others.

Wed 13th Jan, 7:30pm

'Roman camps in Scotland'

Talk by Rebecca Jones for Callander's Landscape. Booking information from [their website](#)

Wed 20th Jan, 4:00pm

'The Form And Fabric of Early Medieval Britain IV: Hillforts and People'

Talks by Gordon Noble on Clatchard Craig and Cathy MacIver on King's Seat near Dunkeld Organised by U. of Glasgow. [Booking details](#)

Thurs 21st Jan, 5:30pm

'The Place-names of Assynt'

Talk by Gemma Smith for UHI Centre for History. [Further details and bookings](#)

Monday 25th Jan, 5:30pm

'The Origins of Achnabreck: Revealing Rock Art In Kilmartin Glen'

Talk by Dr Aaron Watson organised by SCRAP [Booking details](#)

Thurs 28th Jan, 7:30pm

The Battle of Nechtansmere, 684AD

Talk by Eve Boyle for Linlithgow Museum, cost £3. [Booking details](#)

Northern Barrage Book now available

The Northern Barrage. The Fence Across the Sea, published by Inverness Local History Forum is now available. It

features contributions from community projects investigating the US Navy presence in the



Highlands during WWI. Copies can be obtained for £9.99 once shops open again from the following outlets:

- Alness: Alness Heritage Centre, High Street; Yvonne's Little Shop, Ardross Road
- Ardersier: PACE Café, Old School
- Dingwall: Picaresque Books, High Street
- Dornoch: Dornoch Bookshop, High Street
- Invergordon: Invergordon Museum (once it opens)
- Inverness: WH Smith, High Street; Sweets for My Sweet, Victorian Market

For those who can't wait or access outlets, copies can be ordered for £12.50 (UK) or £19 (abroad) including P&P by emailing invernesslocalhistoryforum@gmail.com

Mapping Monuments

ARCH is progressing a project with Professor Keith Lilley of Queens University Belfast to record material remains associated with the early Ordnance Survey almost two hundred years ago. Keith gave an excellent talk to ARCH in December, providing background to the work of the OS and the potential remains which may survive. This talk can be heard again from the [ARCH Highland YouTube channel](#).

Ideally Keith would like to roll out a large project to investigate remains in England, Wales and Scotland, building on his work in Ireland. To this end, he has approached ARCH to help with a pilot, focussing on the Highland evidence. The work will involve both indoor and outdoor investigation. Indoor map work to identify sites, combined with checking a variety of documentary sources (mentioned in his lecture) is the first step. This can be followed later when we are able to get out and about again to groundtruth the results.

For those keen to have a taster and get started before the pilot project, Keith and Susan from ARCH will run two online linked workshops on **Monday 25th January and Monday 22nd February, 7-8:30pm**. The focus will be on Highland sites. In the first map work and sources will be introduced, and in the second we will all feedback on the results obtained over the month. Bookings are via [EventBrite](#), and will be for both sessions. Note these are workshops, not talks, and have limited numbers.

If you are keen to get started after listening to the talk and can't wait for the workshops, a recording form is already available for downloading from the ARCH website (in the Library), together with a short guide on using the georeferencing facility on the National Library of Scotland Maps website..

FACET update

In our last newsletter we provided background on the ARCH FACET project, (Facilitated Community Engagement Training), an exciting new project to train community heritage



facilitators while working on community heritage courses in two communities. We launched an appeal to help fundraise for the funding shortfall. Thank you to everyone who has contributed! We have raised over £3000 with a combination of donations and sales of handmade fabric masks (over £700 at last count!). There's still time to contribute – see details on page 4 – and we have some funding applications on the go. However, the project will go ahead, with ARCH making up any shortfall from our reserves.

We hope to start in April, with selection of two communities to host community heritage courses, and recruitment of the 5 trainees. Actual face to face sessions would start after August, when hopefully the vaccine rollout will be well advanced. Further details will appear in our next newsletter.

Many thanks to Highland Wholefoods in Inverness who have sold masks for no profit, and to Small Planet in Strathpeffer who have heavily subsidised costs. Highland Wholefoods in Inverness still has masks in stock, or you can receive two masks for every contribution of £10 or more (see <http://www.archhighland.org.uk/facet-appeal.asp> or contact Susan directly).



Conan Cross Slab at Dingwall Museum

When the rare Pictish cross slab was discovered in 2019, a number of organisations and people worked together to fundraise to conserve it and then install the stone in Dingwall Museum. One side can now be seen from the window, and once the museum reopens it will be possible to see the remarkable other side. A model community project!



Highland Archive Centre Catalogue

As reported in the December 2020 ARCH newsflash, the long awaited Highland Archive Service has launched its [online catalogue](#). We may not be able to get into the archives at the moment, but at least you can explore what is on offer. ARCH has often run workshops at the archive, highlighting some of the many useful resources for exploring Highland archaeology and heritage.

Another Way to Help ARCH

If you use Amazon, you can have a small percentage donated to ARCH on any product whose description says 'Eligible for Amazon Smile.' Simply connect via smile.amazon.co.uk and select Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands from the eligible charities. The website looks identical, and there is no additional cost to you. Note that each time you will need to connect to smile.amazon.co.uk – save this in your bookmarks!

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.

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donation.

THANK YOU!

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