

As lockdown eases, we can start looking forward to meeting up, exploring Highland heritage, and even some new projects!

ARCH Launches FACET project

ARCH is delighted to announce the launch of our FACET (Facilitated Community Engagement Training) project, thanks to funding from Historic Environment Scotland, the Hugh Fraser Foundation, and a large number of personal donations.

The project is unusual and wide-ranging, building on ARCH's work and philosophy in the past and looking towards the future. There are three main strands:

1) We will recruit 5 trainees who will be mentored to organise and facilitate two community heritage courses, to be held in Ardrross (August – December 2021) and Kirkhill (February – June 2022). As ARCH's work has shown, facilitating successful community heritage projects requires different skills and approaches than traditional academic courses, actively involving participants with different skills and backgrounds.

2) The trainees will learn on the job, as ARCH rolls out the two [Community-Timeline](#) type courses in Ardrross and Kirkhill. Each course will gather memories of local heritage, actively research the community and then present the findings in a community display, online and physical. Further details about the courses and how to participate will be included in later newsletters and on the ARCH website

3) The importance of fundraising for projects will be covered in a two-day workshop, for trainees and others who are interested. This will cover how to shape a project, cost individual elements, how to apply for grants, and how to monitor once a project is up and running.

More information about the project can be found on the ARCH website in the FACET folder within the [Library](#).



Hugh Fraser Foundation



Recruiting our trainees

Applications are currently invited from people who are interested in becoming a trainee. We are looking for people who are passionate about local heritage, sensitive to working with people of diverse backgrounds, able to motivate others, and will commit the time needed. If our trainees are also working at other jobs, courses and contact hours will be arranged for evenings or weekends. A small stipend and travel expenses are available. Full details are available on the ARCH website in the ARCH Jobs folder within the [Library](#). Closing date for applications is 15 June 2021.

Huge thanks to Highland Wholefoods, 13 Harbour Road, Inverness who have been selling fabric masks on ARCH's behalf to raise funds for the FACET project. They passed on 100% of the purchase price – a very generous arrangement. Do support them when you are in Inverness. Masks are still available there, and any sales will help fund our FACET shortfall.

Thanks also to One Planet in Strathpeffer who also sold masks for the project.



Project Reports



After 3 years, the Highland Regional SCARF project is in the final months. Almost all chapters have been posted for consultation – thank you to all who responded. The Neolithic is our last one to come and hopefully will be up by the end of the month. In the meantime, images are being sourced. Case studies, chapters and datasheets have been passed to the ScARF staff in the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland who are converting them to the new [ScARF website](#) structure, creating hot links and starting the proofing.

A lot has been accomplished over the course of the project. We began with a symposium in June 2018 (all talks are available on the [Highland ScARF YouTube channel](#)). A number of datasheets were compiled, including a list of all known radiocarbon dates. Museums were visited, and information



about diagnostic finds was added to the Highland HER. Skills workshops were held on several topics before Covid restrictions. Volunteers helped catalogue at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. All this work helps underpin the chapters.

The final version will be ready later this year – watch for updates in ARCH newsletters and newsflashes. Like National ScARF, it will be primarily a website document, with hot links to heritage records, websites and many bibliographic entries. PDF versions of the chapters will also be available for downloading.

Forming an invaluable summary of Highland heritage from earliest settlers to modern times, the Highland Regional ScARF is still very much the first step for researching our interesting area. As noted in previous newsletter articles, the texts were all written without library access. The data is inevitably incomplete, especially for recent surveys and excavations. As a result there will be continued opportunity to contribute – and indeed to take up the challenge to investigate some of the many research questions and recommendations which appear in the final report.

Mapping Monuments

An online group has been exploring the work of the Ordnance Survey in the Highlands, in a series of workshops and research led by Professor Keith Lilley of Queens University Belfast and Susan Kruse of ARCH. It is hoped this work will inform a larger project in the Highlands, and provide useful insights for rolling it out further in Scotland and indeed elsewhere.

The group first looked at documentary and map evidence of the initial triangulation stations in the Highlands. The first were established over 200 years ago, finishing in the 1840s. We all gained enormous respect for these surveyors, hauling heavy theodolites and other equipment up to some of the high, remote peaks in the Highlands, at a time when transport was difficult in many areas of the Highlands.

The initial triangulation stations required detailed measurements over some days, and as a result camps were established in many locations (known often as Colby camps).



Remains of Colby Camp on Ben Hutig © Meryl Marshall

While some camps are known in the Highlands, the group was able to identify other possible remains of these camps by using maps and aerial photographs. These now need to be groundtruthed, and ideally surveyed. In addition to the camps, triangulation pillars also survive, most from later re-triangulations.

The group then turned to bench marks which can be found on rocks, bridges, buildings and other structures. Like the triangulation exercises, there were different surveys undertaken over the years, resulting in some bench marks becoming obsolete. For anyone interested in benchmarks, check out bench-marks.org.uk for details – and opportunities to submit pictures and updates.

A number of useful insights were gained from the work, and there is plenty to build on for a more comprehensive project investigating the remains of the OS work. In the meantime a number of resources can be found in the OS Mapping Monument Project folder in the ARCH website [Library](#).

ARCH Lectures

ARCH online lectures have been very popular this year, with most on waiting lists. Many were recorded and can be found on the [ARCH Highland YouTube channel](#). We hope to resume talks in person in the autumn, but will continue to offer some online talks as well. The last two online talks before the summer will be:



Tuesday 25 May, 7:30pm

Exploring funerary architecture and symbolism in the Scottish Highlands

Talk by Lorraine Evans

Tuesday 29th June, 7:30pm

Geoarchaeology and Geoparks

Talk by Dr Laura Hamlet, Geoarchaeologist at North West

Highlands Geopark exploring links



between geologists and archaeologists.

Further information and booking links to EventBrite can be found on the ARCH website in the [Events calendar](#). **PLEASE cancel if you decide not to attend**, so that the space can be allocated to those on the waiting list.

Directory of Highland Organisations

The Highlands have around 100 heritage groups and 50 museums/archives, but many people do not know how to contact groups or what the focus of each is. As part of the ScARF project, ARCH has asked each to provide information on activities, publications and contact details, so that an online directory can be made available. If your group or museum has not responded, please send an email to archhighland@googlemail.com

Other Online Talks

The number of online talks and recordings available continues to grow! Many are recorded. In addition to the ARCH YouTube channel mentioned to the left, NoSAS also posts most of its excellent MAD talks on its [YouTube channel](#). Upcoming talks include:

- The next Groam House Museum talk will be the George Bain Memorial lecture, delivered by Lucy Hague on Translating Patterns into Cable Knitting. 6th May, 2021. Links to booking from Groam House Museum's [website](#).
- This year's Archaeological Research in Progress conference, organised by Archaeology Scotland and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, will take place on 29th May, but talks will be pre-recorded and also available afterwards. The programme has yet to be publicised.

Check out [DigIt! Events](#) calendar as well.

Highland Archaeology Festival

The hope is that it will be business as usual in late September/October for



the Highland Archaeology Festival (25th September to 15th October). We are all eager to get out again and explore local heritage! The first call has gone out to organisations, museums and individuals to offer events – a talk, walk, workshop or other activity, either physical or online.

Plans are underway for the traditional conference to be held 9th/10th October in Inverness, though if it turns out not to be possible to have a physical meeting, there will be a series of online talks which worked so well last year. As requested then, there will also be online talks, so that the festival can continue to reach this wider audience.

This may well be the last year of the paper brochure due to funding cutbacks, though there is still discussion on perhaps replacing with a smaller flyer. However, all events will be listed on the HAF website www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org/

Exhibitions

Many Highland Museums are now open, though often requiring booking, and others intend to open in June. Check their websites or contact directly for details. The [Museums and Heritage Highland website](#) also has details of the 13 Highland museums taking part in MYseum campaign, which offers free or reduced price entry to local residents to museums in May. In addition there are a number of online exhibitions including:

- **Old Ways New Roads: Travels in Scotland 1720 -1832.** Exhibition from the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow due to launch in May 2021, which includes in part a Highland focus. It is linked to a new book, and a series of talks, many available online, including by Hugh Cheape on the 'Ethnology of the 'Old Ways' in Gaelic Scotland', and Christopher Dingwall on 'Roads, Bridges and Designed Landscapes on the Highland Circuit'. See the Hunterian [website](#) for details and links.



- [Highland Threads](#) is a collaboration of 14 Highland museums each showcasing a textile in their collection, ranging from dresses to knitted swimwear and ganseys.
- **Book of Kells. Some Mysteries Revealed** Groam House Museum [online](#) and in museum exhibition, exploring how the Book of Kells has inspired craftspeople including George Bain and Thomas Keyes.



Postal copies of this newsletter

IMPORTANT: As part of GDPR regulations we need to ask people regularly on our mailing list if they wish their details to be stored. As a result, any of you who receive a postal copy of this newsletter will need to get in touch with ARCH to say that you wish to remain on the mailing list. You can do this by email to info@archhighland.org.uk, writing to us at the address to the right, or by phoning 077888 35466 and leaving a message. If we don't hear from you, this will be your last newsletter!

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 prefer, you can pay by [Paypal from our website](#).

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in the Highlands

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THANK YOU!

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