

Welcome to ARCH's September newsletter. It's a busy season now with Doors Open Day and the Highland Archaeology Festival. HAF launches with a Family Heritage Festival which should be a fun day for all.

Family Heritage Day

In March ARCH was involved in organising a Highland Heritage Day, where many local organisations and museums had stalls promoting their activities. It was an exciting day, with lots of networking and discussions of common concerns and opportunities. There was also a request to have a similar day open to the public, so that people of all ages could see the range of

museums, heritage groups, and local heritage projects in the



Highlands.

ARCH is organising the Family Heritage Day at Dingwall Academy and Dingwall Library on Saturday **23rd September, 10 to 4pm**, with help from a steering group from NoSAS, Museums and Heritage Highland, Highland Archaeology Services and Wardlaw Mausoleum. This is a drop in event, which will have a range of activities on offer including children's activities, craft stalls, guided walks and talks on a variety of topics. The day is free and no booking necessary. Plenty to do!

This will launch the Highland Archaeology Festival for this year. The programme of activities for the day will be posted on the [HAF website](#) when all details are finalised, or will be available on the day, in case you want to plan your visit around certain activities.

If you are involved with a group, museum or project, and would like to have a stand, there is still time! It's a good way to promote your work. Contact Tessa on archhighland@googlemail.com. Forms to book a stall are available on the ARCH website in the Library in the Highland Family Heritage Day folder.

The Family Heritage Day is sponsored by Glen Wyvis Goodwill Fund, Highland Council Historic Environment Team and ARCH.

Highland Archaeology Festival 2023

The Highland Archaeology Festival starts on 23rd September and runs until 13th October. ARCH is coordinating the events programme and organising the conference again this year on behalf of Highland Council Historic Environment Team. Events are listed on the HAF [website](#), with more still to be confirmed, so check it regularly. For environmental and cost reasons, there will be no printed brochure or listing this year. If you know of anyone who is interested in the festival but does not use the internet, phone 077888 35466 and we will see what we can do.



The conference this year returns to a two day event on 7th and 8th October at the Council Chambers in Inverness. The programme is almost finalised, and bookings will be via Eventbrite again this year. There will be links from the HAF website as well. If you are a member of a museum or heritage group, or have a heritage project to promote, and would like to have a stall at the conference, contact Tessa on 077888 35466 or

highlandarchaeologyfestival@gmail.com

Doors Open Day

Doors Open Day returns with various buildings open on September weekends. There are some old favourites, but also a number of sites offered for the first time. Some museums which normally charge entry are free on the day, and offer special activities. The weekend of 16th and 17th September in particular is packed with a range of sites in Caithness and Sutherland – worth planning a trip around there! Further details can be found on the [Doors Open Day website](#).

ARCH HAF Events

ARCH as usual will be involved in a number of events throughout the festival, with talks and several walks including to chambered cairns on the Black Isle. Further details on all events can be found on the [HAF website](#).



Saturday 23rd September: **Highland Family Heritage Day** at Dingwall Academy, 10 to 4pm. This large drop in event will kick off HAF. Further details on page 1. ARCH is organising this, and will have a stall.

Tuesday 26th September 11:30am-1:00pm
Chambered Cairns of the Black Isle: The Temple, near Tore

Learn about chambered cairns in the Highlands as we explore this much-disturbed large cairn.

Tuesday 26th September 2-3:30pm **Chambered Cairns of the Black Isle: Mulchaidh, near Alcaig**
Explore the cairn, cup-marked stone, and the nearby pre-improved settlement which may be the remains of an early distillery.

Wednesday 27th September 2-4pm. **Chambered Cairns of the Black Isle: Kilcoy**
Three chambered cairns and several probable Bronze Age cairns in one visit! Organised with North Kessock and District Local History Society and NoSAS.

Thursday 28th
September 10am-12:30
Backies Broch Guided Walk

Guided walk to this well-preserved Iron Age broch at Backies, Golspie by Tessa Till, ARCH Development Officer



Wednesday 4th October, 7-8pm
The Campaign for Women's Suffrage in the Highlands
Talk by Susan Kruse at Dingwall Community Centre, focussing on new research



Monday 9th October, 7:30pm **Telford's Work on Skye**

Talk by Susan Kruse for Portree History Society.
Venue: Portree Community Centre

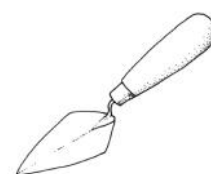


Tuesday 19th October, 11am-1pm TBC
Children's Activities at Dunrobin Castle Museum

Activities organised by Tessa Till. Bookings essential to 077888 354666 or archhighland@googlemail.com as date and times to be confirmed.

Digs

Still some community excavations you can volunteer on. No experience necessary.



Hilton of Cadboll, Seaboard peninsula, 11th – 23rd September. Excavation organised by HES and Hilton Historic Trust. If you are interested in taking part, contact Richard Strachan of HES: richard.strachan@hes.scot

Brodie Castle 21st – 26th September, 10am-4pm. Excavation organised by NTS. No experience necessary, and all equipment provided. Children welcome if accompanied by an adult. No need to book. .

Culloden 8th-14th October. Excavation organised by NTS. To express an interest in participating, please email archaeology@nts.org.uk stating dates you would like to come.

North Talisker: A Land Fit for Heroes

Exhibition at Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre until end of September, to mark and celebrate the centenary of the repopling of North Talisker. Families from Harris, Lewis, and some areas of Skye began arriving as part of the planned repopulation, taking possession of crofting tenancies on 68 new holdings created through the Land Resettlement Act 1919. The exhibition features archives and contributions from local community projects such as unseen archival footage and new oral histories.

ARCH Projects

ARCH is at a crossroads, planning future projects and directions. We are working on progressing two large projects at the moment, with some ideas of smaller ones. You can keep abreast of projects via our monthly newsflashes, or if you do not use the internet, contact Tessa on 077888 35466 to be kept informed.

Norwegians in the Highlands in World War II

After Norway was occupied in WWII, the government was in exile in Britain, and Norwegian troops were billeted and trained



throughout the Highlands. In other ARCH projects we have encountered snippets of information. Clearly there is a story to be told, and one of our Board members, Carolyn Samsin, has been in contact with some Norwegians researching the story from their end. There is plenty of opportunity for international collaboration and investigation of Highland archives and sites. If you have any information or contacts, or would like to be involved, we'd love to hear from you.

The Impact of Fishing around Golspie.

The heritage of the fishing communities in the Highlands is a multi-period topic, combining strands of oral history, physical remains and historical

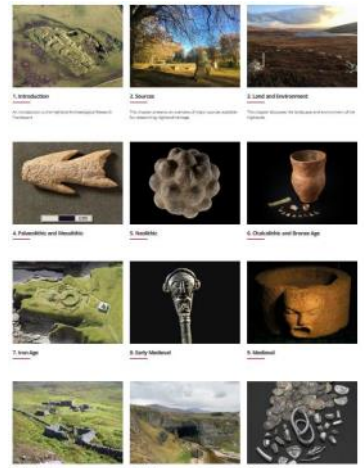


sources. This project will be a pilot focussing on the Golspie area, collaborating with the Golspie Heritage Society. Lessons learned will then help us see about rolling this out to other communities in the Highlands.

ARCH aims to respond to interest and to fill perceived gaps. If you have an idea of a heritage project in the Highlands, large or small, do get in touch. We are very happy to work with other organisations and museums, so if you are involved in a group and have some ideas of potential collaboration, do contact us.

New ARCH Course: Highland Heritage— From Flint Scatters to Farmsteads

With the publication of the Highland Regional ScARF in 2022, an up-to-date overview of Highland heritage from the Palaeolithic to modern times at last is available. Susan Kruse will provide a summary of this research in a series of 6 talks to be held 10:30-12:30 at



Duthac Centre, Tain on **Wednesday mornings between 1st November and 6th December**. If you've ever wanted to discover what happened where and when, with local case studies, this informal course is for you! Cost is £25 for the series to cover venue hire, and includes teas and coffees. No previous knowledge assumed. Bookings please to Tessa Till on 077888 35466 or archhighland@googlemail.com

Lectures by ARCH Board Members

ARCH Board members Alasdair Cameron, Susan Kruse and Roland Spencer-Jones will be offering the following talks for North Kessock and District Local History Society, all at the North Kessock Bowling Club, 7:30pm

6 September 2023. **Visiting Lumberjacks in Wartime Scotland** – Alasdair Cameron

1 November 2023. **Feats of Clay: Archaeological Discoveries at Bellfield, North Kessock** – Susan Kruse

6 December 2023. **Surveying and Map-making, with reference to the Lovat Estate Archive** – Roland Spencer-Jones

Check out the ARCH Events calendar for other heritage events – and if you know of any others not there, please email archhighland@googlemail.com with details so we can include them in the calendar.

Friends Day in Inverness

ARCH Friends visited Inverness this July. Helen Smith led us around Ness Islands – clearly



the underappreciated Jewel in Inverness's Crown, with a rich history. Malcolm Bangor-Jones then provided a guided tour and history of Tomnahurick Cemetery. In the afternoon Alison Parfitt of Inverness Museum brought out a number of recent Treasure Trove finds for us to handle. Altogether another interesting day!

Update from Tessa

For those who missed Tessa Till's account in the August newsflash, here is an expanded update, with information on some forthcoming activities.



I can't believe it is nearly 4 months since I joined ARCH as Development Officer. I've been spending some of my time getting to know the ARCH Board and making connections with local museums, heritage societies and community groups. On top of that I have been planning the Family Heritage Day and organising HAF for Highland Council HET team.

There has also been a lot of brainstorming about future projects (see page 3). I have also been working on ideas for smaller local projects and there will be more news on these soon.

I am also in discussions with Timespan in Helmsdale about delivering courses on mapping skills, and will be giving a talks to the Golspie WRI and Golspie Heritage Society. Details will be posted on the ARCH website events calendar when confirmed.

I am trying to revitalise ARCH's social media profile of ARCH. If you follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Threads you should see an increase in activity in the coming weeks. If you don't, please follow us!

As ever, if you have any questions or ideas for ARCH, or if your group would like to arrange a meeting, please do get in touch with me.

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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THANK YOU!

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