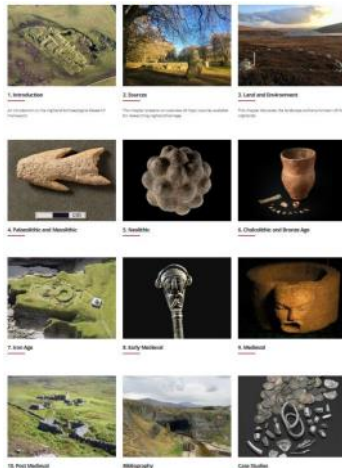


Welcome to the August ARCH newsletter. Two new ARCH courses for the autumn, plus information on other events, and a report on the successful Golspie Fishertown Project.

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. Tessa Till of ARCH will provide a summary of this research in a series of six



talks to be held 10:30-12:30 at Lairg Learning Centre on Wednesday mornings between 21st August to 25th September. If you've ever wanted to discover what happened where and when, with local case studies, this course is for you! Cost is £25 for the series to and includes teas and coffees. No previous knowledge assumed. Bookings via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com), or contact Tessa Till on 077888 35466. Organised with Lairg & District Learning Centre.



Norwegians in Contin in World War II

ARCH is excited to launch a new project focussing on the presence of Norwegians in the Highlands in World War II. Over the years, sessions in many of our projects have mentioned the presence of Norwegians in the Highlands during the war years, and we know there is interest in finding out more about them and their local presence. It's also a timely project, as we have made contact with a group of Norwegians who are investigating the project from their end.

The first stage of this project will focus on the area of Contin, meeting Monday evenings 7-9:30pm at Contin Hall. Some sessions will be hybrid with zoom connections to include people who can't make it to Contin.

The Norwegians had their local headquarters nearby in Brahan Castle, and officers and men were stationed at Coul House. The course will share memories and stories, then research archive military material to discover the Norwegian activities in the area. The group will also create a display of the findings to inform the general public about this fascinating time in the history of the Highlands.

Free, with tea/coffees, thanks to SSE Renewables Fairburn Community Fund. If you are interested or have information to share, contact Tessa Till on 077888 35466 or archhighland@googlemail.com.

Jacobite Scotland Festival

Events and displays 16th-25th August across Scotland focussing on the Jacobite period.

These include in the Highlands:

- 16th-25th August: The Museum of the Isles in Armadale has a display on **Jacobite Propaganda & Literature**
- 17th-25th August: **Living History performances** at Urquhart Castle
- 19th August: **Jacobite storytelling** for children at West Highland Museum
- 19th August **The Story of Lord Lovat and Duncan Forbes**. Online talk by Anne Faser and Lorna Steel of Highland Archive Centre.
- 20th August: **Jacobite Collections Day** at Inverness Museum and Art Gallery
- 21st August: **Jacobite Document Exhibition** at Inverness and Lochaber Archive Centres
- 21st August: Online talk on **The Clothes of the Jacobites, 1689-1746** by Jenn Scott

See the [festival website](https://www.jacobitescotlandfestival.com) for details or contact organisers.

Dornoch Heritage Open Day

The ARCH course exploring Dornoch Heritage will have an open day at Historylinks Museum on Saturday 12th October, 11-4, with a chance to browse the display and binders of information.



Doors Open Day

Doors Open Day is a Scotland-wide programme allowing free access to a number of buildings. Events are usefully timetabled by region, so you can plan a trip and visit a number in the same area. In the Highlands, Inverness, Black Isle, Easter Ross and Ross & Cromarty are on the 7/8th of September, Skye and Lochaber on the 14th/15th, Caithness and Sutherland on the 21st/22nd, and Badenoch and Strathspey on the last weekend. See Doors Open Day [website](#) for details.

Highland Archaeology Festival

The annual Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Research conference organised by Highland Council Historic Environment Team will be a one day event, on Saturday 5th October 2024, at Council Headquarters Inverness. As usual there will be a range of talks (soon to be posted on the [HAF website](#)), and the opportunity for local groups, museums and projects to have a display showcasing their work. Bookings via [Eventbrite](#), cost £25 or £15 for students. If you would like a display, phone 07888 35466 or email highlandarchaeologfestival@gmail.com. There will not be a full programme of events offered by heritage groups this year. If you were hoping to plan events or activities in September, they can be included in [Scottish Archaeology Month](#).

Other Selected Events

Below is a selection of events coming up in the next month. See the [ARCH website events page](#) for others we have heard about. There is something on virtually every day until the end of August! For details contact the organisers.

- Wednesday 21st Aug. 2-3:30pm: **Brora Heritage Walk**. Meet at Brora Bridge
- Thursday 22nd Aug. – Tues. 27th Aug, except Sunday, 10am-2pm: **Open Day and Heritage display at Ardross Ark** (formerly Ardross Church) celebrating its 125th year.
- Friday 23rd Aug. 7:30pm: **Picts, Vikings and Silver: in conversation with Doug Scott**. Tarbat Discovery Centre, Portmahomack. Book tickets from their [website](#).
- Friday 23rd Aug. – Monday 26th Aug: **Excavation at Tarradale**, Muir of Ord. NoSAS continues its excavation of 18th century farm remains. All are welcome to volunteer, regardless of experience. Details on [NoSAS website](#).
- Wednesday 28th Aug. 2-3:30pm: **Brora Heritage Walk**. Meet at Brora Station Square
- Thursday 29th August: Guided walk to Clachtoll Broch and coast by HLH Countryside rangers. Cost £10. Bookings via [Eventbrite](#)
- Saturday 31st August 11am: **Art in the Ancient Landscape**. Landscape drawing at an ancient site with Amy Holden organised by [Grantown Museum](#).
- Wednesday 4th September 7:30pm: **The Bronze Age in North Kessock**. Talk by Susan Kruse for North Kessock & District Local History Society. For details see ARCH website events page.
- Saturday 7th September, 7:30pm: **Finding a Home for the Book of Kells**. Talk by Dr Victoria Whitworth Thompson organised by Tarbat Discovery Centre. Venue: Carnegie Hall, Portmahomack. For tickets see the [museum website](#).

SCHA Local Heritage Roadshow

The Scottish Community Heritage Alliance supports both individuals and organisations involved in community heritage throughout Scotland. SCHA strives to represent these grassroots voices at a national level, while providing advocacy, networking, support and research opportunities. Their Grassroots Heritage in Scotland project, funded by NLHF and HES, will hold in person roadshows in 12 areas of Scotland, modelled on the very successful Highland Heritage Days. For more details of the organisation and workshops, see their [website](#).

Project Report: Golspie Fishertown Project

In March 2024, ARCH launched The Golspie Fishertown Project, a community heritage project focussing on the history of the fishing community in Golspie.

The project started with a very interesting and well attended talk at the YMCA building in Golspie, by historian and ARCH Trustee, Malcolm Bangor-Jones which set the scene in terms of the history and origins of Fishertown.

Thereafter the weekly sessions began at the YMCA Building in Golspie, starting with capturing memories and stories of Fishertown. We had a core attendance of 19 people every week at these sessions, and we are very lucky to have two ladies in their 90s who grew up in Fishertown in the 1930s/40s which proved invaluable. One of the core memories we focussed on, and which evoked many emotions, was the demolition of the majority of the houses on Shore Street in the late 1970s. Shore Street had been the core of the Fishertown community. The houses had been built by the fishing families in the early 1840s and the majority of the families who lived there were related. Other memories focussed on everyday life of the fishing families and how they were somewhat separate from the rest of Golspie, having their own customs, language and traditions.

To try to bring some of these customs and traditions to life, two workshops were also arranged: one on the Gaelic Songs and Stories with Aileen Ogilvie bringing back to life some of the songs and stories that would have been part of everyday life in Fishertown; and one on basketmaking with master basket maker, Tim Palmer exploring the different types of baskets that would have been made and their uses.

Capturing the memories of Fishertown was only the first part of the project. We then looked at using historical sources such as newspaper archives, archives held at the Golspie Heritage Society and other online resources to expand on the memories collected. For this part of the project we relocated to the Golspie Heritage Society building, which has a large amount of information and photographs in relation to Fishertown. The building was also the original Fishermen's Welcome building set up by Duchess

Millicent in the late 1800s as a meeting place for the fishermen before and after they went to sea.



The last part of the project involved taking all that had been recorded and discovered about Fishertown and putting this into a display, created and designed by the participants in the project. This display focussed on topics such as the Golspie Gasworks, the Golspie Pier and its grand opening in 1895, and customs around births, death and marriages in Fishertown and in particular the history of the Golspie funeral trolley which was gifted to the community by Duchess Millicent and used in all Fishertown funerals. This display was accompanied by a ring binder full of additional information for people to read to expand the information shown in the display. The display was then delivered to the Golspie Heritage Society and placed on display as part of Golspie Gala Week. The display will now travel to various places in Golspie to share the story of Fishertown.

Although the delivery sessions of the project are complete, the project itself has more to offer. There is still a fieldtrip to Timespan in Helmsdale and an Open Day which will take place in a few weeks' time to coincide with the schools going back so the children can come and learn about this part of their town's heritage. Work is ongoing on an online display to provide people further afield with information about Fishertown, especially descendants of those who emigrated away from the area. An external information board is also being designed and will be sited at Golspie Pier and this will help locals and tourists alike to learn about this important part of Golspie's past.

We were also very lucky to have local artist, Helen Joy as part of the group and she produced some wonderful sketches of the local people involved in the project. These were displayed with the project display at the Golspie Heritage Society as part of Golspie Gala Week.

ARCH Friends Day to Cromarty

As a thank you to supporters who help ARCH, each year we arrange a special trip to a Highland area. In June we had a very interesting trip to Cromarty. First Allan Kilpatrick of Historic Environment Scotland took us on a guided walk at the South Sutor, telling us about the large scale fortifications from WWI and WWII, many of which survive. The logistics alone of hauling building materials up to the site and constructing the buildings was staggering.



Local historian David Alston then met us at Cromarty East Church and gave a fascinating talk about the structure, and also about the changes in how the space in the church would have used both before and after the Reformation. The furnishings are well preserved, and reused painted panels show hints of early decoration. Well worth a visit, with a good booklet available at the church and information online.



After a picnic lunch in the sunshine at Cromarty Courthouse Museum courtyard, we explored some of the finds from the Cromarty Medieval Burgh project, one of the most important medieval burgh excavations in Scotland, and looked around the museum displays.

Finally, for those still with energy, we explored Cromarty's slavery trail (available to download from [David Alston's website](#)).

ARCH greatly appreciates all who have supported us in the past. If you enjoy what we offer, please join us. See right for how you can help.

ARCH Celebration Days



It's always nice to pull out the old displays and binders of resources from previous projects and marvel what we've accomplished over the past 15 years!

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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