

Welcome to ARCH newsletter number 8! It contains details of all the courses on offer until mid October, as well as a full programme of events for the Highland Archaeology Festival. As courses finish, the results are becoming available in books, reports, on websites and as displays you can go and enjoy—details are given below.

Black Isle Heritage Memories

The booklet celebrating this successful project has now been published! It contains an account of the project—and advice on how to deliver a similar oral history project, capturing peoples' memories of the changing historic landscape. Details of all the discoveries have also been sent to the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record (<http://her.highland.gov.uk>). Copies of the booklet can be obtained from the ARCH office—we ask for donations to cover costs.

Can you help us?

ARCH has a number of running costs including the boring, but essential, insurance and financial fees (more than you think!). Additionally, we are constantly trying to develop new and interesting opportunities for which we have no dedicated funding. We don't ask for a yearly subscription and don't intend to do so, in order that everyone can participate in our activities. So, alongside the Insight-On Site tours running through September and October, we will be organising other fundraising activities over the coming months:

- Our first is on Saturday **28th August** at the North Kessock Village Market, 10-12 where ARCH will be doing the teas and coffees. If you can help out either with baking beforehand or serving on the day, please contact the office. The market is lively and great fun!
- At the Highland Archaeology Festival seminar on the **16th/17th October**, we will have a display stall and will be selling archaeology books which have been donated to ARCH. Please bring and buy!
- After the October break we will be organising an archaeology film series in Strathpeffer Community Centre. Full programme in next newsletter and on the website!

Display the Past

The interpretation materials researched and put together by the participants in ARCH's first Display the Past: Behind the Scenes at the Museum programme - in partnership with Groam House, Rosemarkie and the National Museum of Scotland - can now be viewed on the Highland Council's Historic Environment Record Website, under 'Community Projects' (link in New Additions).

We hope that this will whet your appetite for the exhibition itself. Do show your support for a very wonderful Highland Museum by visiting and letting the museum team know what you think by penning a few words in the exhibition comments book. Admission to Groam House is free.



Boblainy Forest Community Archaeology Project

ARCH will be offering a series of courses as part of this project run by Kiltarlity Community Council. These will be aimed at helping local people to discover more about their local heritage, before going out to explore and record the archaeology of the forest itself. The first sessions will begin after the summer holidays and details are on the last page.

Highland Archaeology Festival

This year is shaping up to be another fantastic fortnight! ARCH will be offering a number of talks and walks—see the back sheet for details. The full HAF programme will be coming soon to the Highland Council website, or you can request a paper copy by contacting the Archaeology Unit (01463 702250). We hope to see many of you at the seminar on 16th/17th October.



Insight—On Site tour at St John's chapel, Allangrange

ARCH Website Forum

Have you ever wondered how archaeologists date artefacts and features? Wanted to discuss what makes a good archaeological read? Or simply wanted to share a photograph of a curious feature or object that you have discovered, in order to ask others 'What do you think this is'?

Then the ARCH Forum is for you! Simply visit the Forum pages on our website and share your thoughts, ideas and queries with other interested people. Pass on news and tips and find out more about that hidden gem of a site that is well worth a visit!

First time using a forum? Contact the office and we'll help. We really look forward to hearing from you!

If you are not on our mailing list and would like to receive information about ARCH activities, please contact us.

We always welcome your comments and suggestions!

ARCH Touring Displays

The results of 3 ARCH courses are currently touring in the Highlands:

- Evanton Community Timeline
 - ◇ Cornerstone Cafe in Evanton
- Golspie Community Timeline
 - ◇ Currently at Dunrobin Castle
 - ◇ September: Golspie Library
 - ◇ October: Golspie Heritage Centre
- Heritage Along the Kyle Line—Kyle to Strathcarron
 - ◇ Currently at Friends of the Kyle Line Museum on Kyle station
 - ◇ 23th Aug-10th Sept: Kyle Library
 - ◇ 13th Sept-1st Oct: Plockton Library
 - ◇ 4th Oct-22nd Oct: Lochcarron Library

And of course don't forget to visit the display at Groam House Museum created by the Display the Past participants.

Advance Planning

ARCH is already planning a number of other courses and events. Look out for:

- The next sessions for the Heritage Along the Kyle Line, starting in late October.
- The next Display the Past course, starting in the New Year at Nairn Museum.
- The next Pathways into the Past courses following the line of old routeways through Ross-shire. The Dingwall and Alness courses will begin in the New Year.
- ARCH has received funding from Moray Firth Partnership and Highland Council for a small project, Picture the Past, which will focus on the coastal archaeology between Dornoch and Tain. It will begin after the October break.
- Taster sessions (in September) and courses (October and the New Year) in Inverness, run in collaboration with the Workers' Educational Association (WEA).

If there is a course you want in your area, let us know!

**ARCH:
Education Centre
Castle Street
Dingwall
IV15 9HU
01349 868230
www.archhighland.org.uk**

Community Timelines:**Exploring Your Local Heritage**

Interested in your past but confused about what happened when? A series of 6 sessions will provide an introduction to the archaeology of your area from earliest settlers to recent remains.

Strathdearn Hall, Tomatin

Wednesdays, 1st Sept - 6th Oct, 7-9pm

or:

Dunbar Memorial Hall, Auldearn

Thursdays 2nd Sept - 7th Oct, 10:30am-12:30pm

Pathways into the Past: Reporting on the Past

Previous *Pathways into the Past* courses looked at how to research and record historic routeways, both indoors and in the field. Working with others, the next step is to learn how to pull it all together into a display and a report. New members welcome!

Muir Matters, Muir of Ord Library,

Tuesdays, 31st Aug - 5th Oct, 10am-12.30pm

or:

Maryburgh Amenities Centre,

Thursdays, 2nd Sept - 7th Oct, 7-9.30pm

Pathways into the Past: Stepping into History

Taking ancient routeways as a theme, these sessions will offer an introduction to landscape archaeology for all those who want to research and record their local archaeology.

Cornerstone Cafe, Evanton

Tuesdays, 31st Aug - 5th October, 7-9.30pm

Following the indoor sessions, there will be an opportunity to follow part of the routeway on the ground, identifying features along the way. Though preference will be given to course members, all are welcome! Details to follow.

Kiltarlity Community Council: Boblainy Forest Archaeology Project 'Boblainy Heritage Overview'

Learn about the heritage of Boblainy and the surrounding area, placed in its regional and national context.

Kiltarlity Village Hall,

Mondays, 30th August - 4th October, 7-9pm

All are welcome on any course - no previous experience necessary! Help with childcare may be available. To find out more or to book a place, please get in touch with us at 01349 868 230 or info@archhighland.org.uk

Insight-On Site Guided Tours & Talks

Free; donations requested.

Bring full waterproofs and stout shoes - or perhaps hats and sunscreen if we are really lucky! Children welcome if accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Tollie-Fodderty

Sunday, 5th September, 9.30am-4pm

Step into the past on this 4-5km long walk along an historic route from Tollie, across the shoulder of Knockfarrel, to Fodderty cemetery.

Ⓧ Meet at Maryburgh Amenities Centre, IV7 8DP. Booking essential to enable car sharing to start point at the beginning and end of the day.

Knockfarrel Vitrified Fort

Sunday 19th September, 2-4pm

Guided tour of Knockfarrel, a well preserved Iron Age hillfort.

Ⓧ Meet at 2pm at the hillfort or meet at Strathpeffer (car park on road up to Ardival) at 1pm for a guided walk up to the fort. Contact the ARCH office for details.

Carn Irenan Chambered Cairn

Monday 4th October, 2-3.30pm

Guided tour of Carn Irenan, one of a cluster of Neolithic burial cairns on the Black Isle.

Ⓧ For parking arrangements, contact the ARCH office.

Stepping into the Past in Dingwall

Thursday 7th October, 2-4pm

Come and explore part of an old routeway and possible chapel site.

Ⓧ Tulloch Castle Hotel Car Park

From Priests to Provosts

Monday 11th October, 10.30am-12pm

Come and explore the historic graveyards of Inverness.

Meet at the Old High Church, Inverness.

Illustrated talk: Prehistoric Inverness

Tuesday 12th October, 2-3pm

Past finds and recent excavations have shown the importance of Inverness in prehistoric times. Hilton Community Centre, Oldtown Road, Inverness, IV2 4HT. Bus stop nearby.

A Walk on the Dark Side - in Black Rock Gorge, Evanton

Thursday 14th October, 1-4pm

Join Bob Pegg from *Walking the Stories* and Susan Kruse for a walk exploring the legends and heritage of the area. We will return to the Cornerstone Cafe for refreshments and a look at the heritage displays.

Ⓧ Meet at Cornerstone Cafe in Evanton. Public parking across the street. Bus stop nearby.