

Welcome to our spring newsletter. There are lots of dates for your diary and information about our new Highland Regional ScARF project including an invitation to an exciting conference!

## Highland Regional ScARF

ARCH is pleased to announce we've received funding from Historic Environment Scotland and support from Highland Council for an exciting new three year project to create a Highland Regional ScARF. The national Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) was published in 2012 by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland on [www.scottishheritagehub.com](http://www.scottishheritagehub.com). Panels of experts provided a summary of what was known about each period of Scottish archaeology from earliest settlers to modern times, and identified gaps for future research to tackle.

The Scottish Archaeology Strategy in 2015 recognised that there were regional differences, and recommended that regional ScARFs be developed. ARCH will be leading the one for Highland (defined as the Highland Council area), and hopes to involve academics, students, museums, community groups, educational groups, commercial units and individual researchers.

If you have information or questions to contribute, we want to hear from you! Perhaps your local group is thinking about investigating local sites, or your museum wants to highlight some key artefacts. There are opportunities for dissertation topics, or individual research projects. Or perhaps you want to draw our attention to previous projects you feel should be better known.

At the end of three years we will have an up-to-date summary of Highland archaeology, available on the internet, with topics identified for future research and investigation.

## Conference

To kickstart the project, there will be a Symposium on **Highland Archaeology: Past, Present and Future** to be held on 2nd and 3rd of June at Highland Council headquarters in Inverness. The event is for everyone who is interested, with

ARCH | HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ÀRAINNEACHD EACHDRAIDHEIL ALBA | The Highland Council Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

**Highland Archaeology: Past, Present and Future**



A symposium to explore Highland Archaeology from the Mesolithic to 20th century: what we know, how does the picture compare to national trends, where are the gaps and key areas for future work.

**When:** 2nd & 3rd June 2018

**Where:** Highland Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness

**Who is this for?** Everyone who is interested - academics, students, museums, community groups, educational groups, commercial units and individuals. Come to learn, contribute and discuss!

Free! Soup & sandwich lunches can be booked for £5.25.

plenty of opportunities to learn, contribute and discuss. Speakers include Caroline Wickham-Jones (Mesolithic and earlier Highland), Alison Sheridan (Neolithic Highland), Trevor Cowie (Bronze Age), Andy Heald (Iron Age), Gordon Noble (Picts), Cecily Spall (Medieval), Malcolm Bangor-Jones (post-Medieval vernacular architecture and settlement), Allan Kilpatrick (wartime remains), and Scott Timpany (environmental evidence for the Highlands). Thanks to funding from HES the event is free; lunches may be booked for £5.25 for each day. A booking form can be found on the ARCH website in the Highland Regional ScARF folder within the Library or contact ARCH on 077888 35466.



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## Experimental Archaeology

The monthly Experimental Archaeology workshops are going from strength to strength, gathering more participants with each one. Since our last newsletter we've had sessions on flint knapping, lead seals and ropemaking, and Iron Age bone working, each with opportunities for people to have a go. There have also been special youth sessions with Marybank Scouts (flint knapping) and Dingwall Primary P4 (Viking bone working). Check out the blogs on the ARCH website for reflections on these sessions.



The forthcoming events are:

21 April 2018. Neolithic Carved Stone Balls. Black Isle Showground

19 May 2018. Carving Pictish Stones. Black Isle Showground

23 June 2018. Bronze Age Metalworking. Black Isle Showground. A summer solstice special!

21 July 2018. Telford Technology. Inverness Library

25 August 2018. Viking Age ring-money and silver working. Black Isle Showground

15 Sept. 2018. Medieval Coinage. Inverness Library

6 October 2018. Crafting Day finale. Black Isle Showground.

All events are free, drop-in between 11 & 3, with no booking required. Children are welcome with adults. Events at the Black Isle Showground will be outdoors if weather permits, or under cover if not. The project has been funded by Historic Environment Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund.



## ARCH Lecture Series

The ARCH lecture series remains the last Wednesday of the month but has moved venue.

All talks are in **Dingwall Lower Town Hall**.

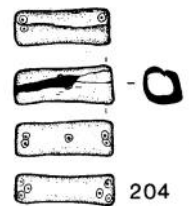
Entrance is via the side of the Town Hall (on Church Street), with closest parking at the Cromartie Car Park or off Mart road. Talks start at 7:30pm; suggested donation £3.

### 25 April 'Bringing a legacy project to publication - the Neolithic and Bronze Age Udal, North Uist'

Beverley Ballin Smith from Glasgow has been part of a team of specialists working to analyse and publish important excavations undertaken by Iain Crawford in North Uist in the 1960s. This talk will focus on the late Neolithic and Bronze Age occupation at this site.

### 30 May: 'Playtime in Pictland'

Join Mark Hall (Perth Museum) as he leads us on a playful journey of roads less travelled by to unravel the story of board games in early medieval Scotland.



### 27 June 'The Achavanich Beaker Burial project: latest developments and discoveries'

Over the last three years Maya Hoole has been researching the early Bronze Age burial of a young female from Caithness. With all of the results now in, she will pull together the findings including: osteology, histology, ancient DNA, stable isotope analysis, facial reconstruction, pollen analysis, radiocarbon dating, archaeozoology, and pottery analysis.



We will also be rescheduling Iain Robertson's talk on 'Land Legacies: the enduring impact of the First World War on the Highlands and islands' which unfortunately was cancelled due to the weather in February.



## Rosemarkie, Fortrose and Avoch in World War I

Over the last few months this Groam House Museum project with sessions led by Susan Kruse of ARCH has been researching this area of the Black Isle during WWI and information about those who served abroad. We've met with Inverness Local History Forum, searched for gun and searchlight emplacements, trawled through newspapers, burgh minutes and other archives and undertaken family history searches. We've had some notable results, discovering that the little-known Highland Cyclist Battalion was at Fortrose the whole war and that there was a short-lived boom across the firth between Fort George and Rosemarkie in 1918, to control shipping and protect the U.S. Navy mine assembling base in Inverness.



The group has written and designed an exhibition which opens 18 May at Groam House Museum and will be there for the summer. After that it will travel to various other local venues.



## Highland Archaeology Festival 2018

This is the 25th year of HAF! The festival will take place 29th September to 19th October, with the Recent Archaeological Discoveries and Research conference in

Inverness on the 13th & 14th October. As for the last two years, ARCH will be organising the festival on behalf of Highland Council.

As ever, the success of the festival depends on groups, museums and individuals contributing events and exhibitions. Some are special, but it may just be the case of advertising an already programmed event like a lecture. The deadline for offering events is **1st June**. As events are confirmed, they will be posted on the HAF website [www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org](http://www.highlandarchaeologyfestival.org).

## HAF Photographic Competition Exhibition

The shortlist of the adult and children entries from the HAF 2017 photographic competition is touring:



Broadford Library: 13th Mar - 10 April

Wick Library: 17 April - 15 May

Brora Library: 23 May - 20 June

Tain Library: 27 June - 25 July

Dingwall Library: to be confirmed

The pictures are stunning! Contact the local library if you are travelling any distance to ensure that there are no changes to the timetable.

## Community Excavations and Survey

The Tarradale through Time project will have two opportunities to participate this year. From 7th April volunteers are needed to help record post-medieval settlement. In September, there will opportunities to dig. Further details on the Tarradale Through Time [website](#).

Historic Assynt continues its excavation and consolidation of Clachtoll Broch the first two weeks of July. See their website [clachtoll.aocarchaeology.com/](http://clachtoll.aocarchaeology.com/) for contact details.



## Conferences

The conference season has already started in earnest. ARCH's symposium on **Highland Archaeology: Past Present and Future** has been mentioned on page 1. Others include the Scottish Society for Northern Studies in Caithness for 11-14 April, Archaeology Scotland summer school in the Borders on 18-21 May, Industrial Archaeology Conference in Caithness 22-27 June, and the Panel for Historical Engineering Works Summer Tour will visit the Caledonian Canal, the Ullapool road, and Upper Moray Firth, 29 June to 1 July 2018. Further details on the ARCH website.

## ARCH 2018 Friends Day

This year's special outing for ARCH Friends will be on 16th June on the Black Isle and include a visit into the Fortrose Cathedral Chapter House with its wonderful graffiti, as well as looking at a few other sites in the area. These outings are ARCH's way of saying thank you to our Friends for their support. Information on becoming a Friend of ARCH is to the right. Details and itinerary will be sent to all Friends.



## ARCH Celebration

Join us at Strathpeffer Old Station on 14th June, 7-9pm for an open evening to celebrate Susan's MBE for services to community archaeology and the past work of ARCH. Susan will receive her MBE from the Lord-Lieutenant, Mrs. Janet Bowen, and there will be refreshments and ARCH displays to browse. All welcome. RSVP helpful to ensure adequate refreshments.

## Community Heritage Scotland – Going Forward

The snows cancelled the first event—but a larger venue has now been booked for this discussion day. What is happening in community heritage? What are the activities and needs of groups and individuals? Everyone involved with heritage in their communities is invited on Saturday 21st April, Birnham Arts Centre in Perthshire. Contribute your views at this free event. Please book your place from the [EventBrite website](http://EventBrite.com).

## 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 – by assisting at events, by offering specific skills or just by donating a small financial contribution to sustain ARCH's work. Friends of ARCH are requested to give an annual donation of £10 (or more if you wish). There is an annual Friends' invitational event, a presentation or a visit. To become a Friend—or to renew—contact the ARCH office or fill in the form below.

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| Name :   |  |
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| Phone :  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Gift aid : Please tick if you are happy for your details to be used to allow ARCH to reclaim gift aid  |
| I would also be happy to help ARCH by :  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Offering practical help at ARCH events (e.g. stewarding, setting-up, etc.)                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Helping to organise fund-raising activities  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>   | Contributing to fund-raising activities (e.g. baking, hosting, providing a talk or presentation, etc.) |
| Please tell us how you would like to help:   |  |
| .....  |  |
| Offering skills (e.g. crafts, admin, design, etc.)                                   |  |
| Please specify .....   |  |
| <i>Please make cheques payable to 'Archaeology for Communities in the Highlands'</i> |  |

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