

ARCHAEOLOGY SCOTLAND

Out and About: Summer 2021

It's been a while since we updated you on what we have been up to at Archaeology Scotland, but it's worth the wait as we have so much to tell you about all of our projects and events happening now and over the next 2 months.

In this newsletter, you will hear about our preparations for Scottish Archaeology Month (SAM) in September, the launch of our new Real Wild West Adopt-a-Monument Project at Ardnamurchan, our work with New Audiences at our excavations at the site of the First Hampden Park, and the innovative way that our Learning Team have continued and continue to work with young and old alike to support them in using archaeology to learn new skills and gain new experiences.

We have also been working in partnership with Historic Environment Scotland, The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Northlight Heritage, the Scottish Community Heritage Alliance and the Scottish Council on Archives, to deliver the monthly online Scotland's Community Heritage Conversations and you can read more about this below.

The next CHC event takes place on Wednesday 8th September 2021 from 10am -12.30pm and will focus on Developing Skills in Heritage. If you are part of a community heritage group or have an interest in this area book your place [here](#)

To top this off we have also recently published and launched Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES) 2020 at the Archaeological Research in Progress Conference 2021. You can watch the video of the launch here:

[DES 2020 Launch Video](#)

If you are not already a member then now is your opportunity to support the work we do with communities and groups all over Scotland from as little as £1.50 per month [Join Us](#)

Benefits include our journal DES, as above, our magazine three times per year full of topical articles, this e-newsletter, invitation to our Members' Day, discount on our Summer School, Time Tours and conferences and a lovely badge. We look forward to welcoming you. Thank you!

Also watch this space for our brand new look website



As September approaches, we are preparing for the year's biggest celebration of heritage, history and archaeology in Scotland:

Scottish Archaeology Month (SAM)

This year will see a hybrid festival with a mix of in-person and online events as we draw on experiences from the past year's digital evolution. At the same time, we're also excited to be out and about again! As always, there will be something for everyone: digs, guided walks, exhibitions and open doors, online talks, digital engagement activities and resources to play with at home.

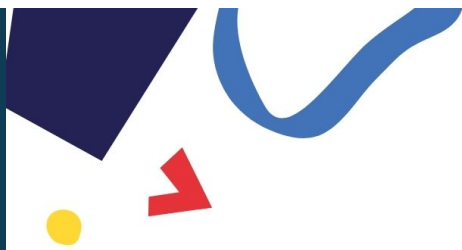
We are working together with Doors Open Days as Scotland's contribution to the European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. The theme in 2021 is 'Heritage: All-Inclusive', which we will highlight during September through digital engagement activities for various audiences and events.

These include a football-themed Open Day at our dig at Hampden in Glasgow, spotlighting our New Audiences project and an online gathering for the Young Archaeologists' Clubs to broaden access to archaeology for children and young people in Scotland.

Furthermore, organisations across Scotland are busy planning their events for SAM 2021. SAM will feature a month-long [Big Dig in Falkirk](#) at which we will be running events, lots of events along the Antonine Wall, coracles, maps and skeletons on display in Dumfries and Galloway, outdoor events in Stirlingshire and the established local heritage and archaeology festivals in East Lothian and Badenoch and SAM neatly flow in to the exciting Highland Archaeology Fortnight in October 2021.

Keep an eye on our [SAM Map](#) as events are continuously added.

If you are planning an event, you can add it via this [form](#). If you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact us at m.gundestrup@archaeologyscotland.org.uk



SAM

SCOTTISH
ARCHAEOLOGY
MONTH

CALL FOR ENTRIES: JOIN US IN OUR CELEBRATION OF SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE AND ARCHAEOLOGY



Send your

- Events: online & in-person
- Digital content; videos, audios, blog posts & other resources

To
m.gundestrup@archaeologyscotland.org.uk



Archaeology Scotland goes Real Wild West!



Adopt-a-Monument on Ardnamurchan 2021 - 2023

Archaeology Scotland have been awarded a grant to carry out a two-year programme of work on Ardnamurchan, incorporating part of our Adopt-a-Monument programme and extending it to include archaeological field work, excavations, experimental archaeology and innovative interpretation, focusing various aspects of the historical environment of the peninsula. We will be working in partnership Ardnamurchan History and Heritage Association and various land owners and crofters to deliver this unique heritage project from 2021 until 2023.

The Adopt-a-Monument on Ardnamurchan programme is part of a new £9 million Scottish programme of projects to invest in the Highlands and Islands to provide more and better-quality opportunities for visitors and local people to enjoy natural and cultural heritage assets. The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund is administered by NatureScot and is part funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The programme was launched at Fascaidale Ice House on the Early May Bank Holiday weekend when a large number of local people attended to share and celebrate the start of what will be an exciting project.

There will be lots of opportunities for people who live and visit Ardnamurchan to get involved. In the September 2021, and

again in 2022, there will archaeological excavations taking place around Camas Nan Geall. We will be attempting to rebuild or refurbish a Blackhouse in 2022. We will be exploring some of the designated archaeological sites on the peninsula and making records of them and we will be enhancing ten archaeology sites by installing new access and signage. Each of the events and activities will be advertised locally and we hope as many people as possible can get involved.

Each participant will learn new skills, from archaeological excavation to drystone walling and from report writing to photography, while another element of the project will be to provide training in heritage focused business and tourism development. Dates are still to be confirmed but we will make sure advanced notice of all activities and events are widely circulated.

Due to the complex nature of the European fund and issues surrounding COVID-19 there have been lots of delays in getting all the contracts signed, and we had hoped to have been up and running before now, but we hope that 2021, 2022 and 2023 will be full of archaeological opportunities and fun!

You can watch the launch video for The Real Wild West Project here:

[The Real Wild West Launch Video](#)

If you have any questions about the project or would like to take part please contact Dr Paul Murtagh at Archaeology Scotland p.murtagh@archaeologyscotland.org.uk

The First Hampden Park Project



Archaeology Scotland in partnership with the Hampden Bowling Club and Rose Geophysics have been carrying out an archaeological dig at the site of First Hampden Park (1873-1884), the world's first purpose built international football stadium. It was at this ground that the 'Scotch Professors' of Queens Park and Scotland pioneered the passing and running style of football we know and love today. It was the footballing home of Andrew Watson, the world's first black international footballer, a true pioneer and 'Scotch Professor'.

In June 2021, we opened three trenches (see below) in Kingsley Gardens and uncovered some 'made ground' or a levelled surface, made by arranging broken bricks in a fairly neatly packed layout. In one trench this covered a ditch which may well be the foundation cut for the enclosure of the stadium. First Hampden was also the first stadium to make use of turnstiles so finding anything relating to them would be a huge bonus!

We have been working with a fantastic group of volunteers through our New Audiences project which has brought together New Scots and people from many different backgrounds to celebrate our shared heritage. The group have created a brilliant atmosphere on site which has been particularly enjoyable after recent lockdowns and long periods of stress and isolation for many.

We are going to return to the site in September to follow up on our findings from June and hopefully reveal more of the First Hampden story.



Watch our Dr Paul Murtagh's interview with Chick Young on BBC Sport Scotland about the First Hampden excavations earlier this year.

[First Hampden BBC Sport Scotland Interview](#)



Update from The Archaeology Scotland Learning Team

Covid restrictions have made it impossible for us to work in schools but it's still been a very busy year so far for the Archaeology Scotland Learning Team and we have done our best to support educators and learners throughout the pandemic. Our Artefact Investigation Kits, which are free for schools to borrow, have proved very popular and educators have made good use of the 120 resources now available on the online Heritage Resources Portal (see below).

The Heritage Hero Awards continue to go from strength to strength with 13,740 certificates having been awarded to date. 98 teachers, youth group leaders and museum education staff attended our training webinar in April - Archaeology in Schools: an interdisciplinary approach. You can watch the webinar video on our Archaeology Scotland You Tube channel.

[Archaeology in Schools Webinar](#)

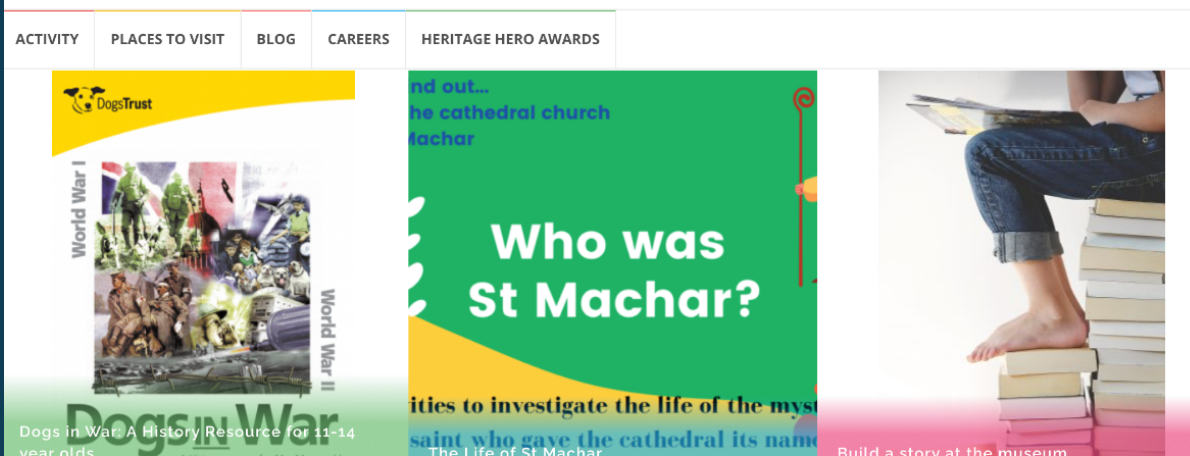
The webinar was so successful we plan to run another training webinar for educators later in the year.

Lifelong learning is an important part of our work and over the past few months we have been delivering online, multi-sensory archaeology workshops for people living with dementia. Packs are posted out to participants before each workshop to make it a more exciting and engaging experience. Objects in the packs are linked to the place or artefacts being explored during the session and have included everything from smelly raw sheep's wool to wonderfully tactile polished pebbles.

Looking forward, we have lots of exciting new projects starting soon. We're working alongside Edinburgh World Heritage to deliver the learning elements of their 'Making Lasting Impressions' project in Greyfriars Kirkyard and we'll also be encouraging young people in Leith to explore their local heritage over the summer as part of a Year of Coasts and Waters 2021 project.

Our Learning Team will also be running some workshops at Canal Encounters - Scottish Canals Festival on Friday 13th August 2021. Booking is essential as groups are very small. To book a place click [here](#)

**Heritage
Resources Portal**
resources on Scotland's past



The Heritage Resources Portal is a one-stop shop for learning resources on Scotland's past, with over 100 resources for all ages. Check out our newest resources for adult learners and community groups [here](#)

An Archaeology Scotland initiative, it is funded by Historic Environment Scotland towards realising Scotland's Archaeology Strategy.

Scotland's Community Heritage Conversations



Scotland's Community Heritage Conversations is an online monthly event series bringing together volunteers, community groups and heritage professionals. Launched in November 2020 as a digital re-imagining of Scotland's Community Heritage Conference, it is growing rapidly in popularity and attracting over 100 participants each month.

The aim is to provide an engaging and approachable forum for sharing experiences and opportunities, discussing emerging policy and practice, and supporting one another through new and innovative solutions as we move through the present emergency towards recovery and renewal. So far, the Conversations have celebrated resilience within community groups, looked at adapting through digital, discussed exciting new ideas in youth empowerment and examined the connections between heritage and wellbeing.

The conversations are delivered through a partnership of Historic Environment Scotland, Archaeology Scotland, The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Northlight Heritage, the Scottish Community Heritage Alliance and the Scottish Council on Archives, who together are coordinating a wide range of contributors from public bodies, third sector organisations and community groups. The next CHC event will focus on Developing Skills in Heritage and will take place on Wednesday 8th September 2021 from 10am-12.30pm. To book your place click [here](#)

Is your group looking to fundraise for some work you want to do? Check here <https://www.gcvts.org.uk/support-for-organisations/funding-and-fundraising/> for some fundraising quick guide videos from Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector.

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archaeologists'
club**

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- Launch your own YAC branch

YAC is the only UK-wide club for young people interested in archaeology. It comprises a network of local branches where 8-16 year olds can get hands-on with archaeology.

 Find out more by emailing
yac@yac-uk.org or visit www.yac-uk.org



Council for
British Archaeology

new.archaeologyuk.org

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If you have something to share please get in touch with us at Archaeology Scotland

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