

This newsletter is circulated mainly to "flag up" the Glen Feshie excavation and the SAM walk. It comes quickly after the previous one, because Jim and I are on holiday from 28th July to the 15th August - Meryl Marshall, email Meryl.Marshall@tesco.net

NOSAS Excavation - Glen Feshie - Thurs. 16th Sept to Sun 19th Sept 2004

This will be our first excavation and therefore fairly small scale. The aim is to excavate a clearance cairn in Glen Feshie, Inverness-shire, GR NN 85125 96683. The cairn is one of two which are thought to be former shielings. Early documents refer to Glen Feshie as "the shielings of Dalnavert" and there are shielings in the upper glen. The early shieling grounds, however, were probably in the lower glen and were possibly settled on a more permanent basis in the 18th century, with new shielings being established in the upper glen. Our site, which is located in an extensive area of improved land is close to the remains of a settlement of 6 buildings, a corn-drying kiln and a large enclosure.

The excavation will run from 9.30am on Thurs 16th to Sat 18th Sept, with the option of Sunday when the SAM walk also takes place and when it might provide a "stopping point" on the walk.

6 to 8 people will be needed, indeed the site is not big enough to "accommodate" more. Members will be welcome to come for several days or just one.

The accommodation (and base for the 4 days) will be a self-catering cottage (Milehouse), next to Loch Insh Water Sports. It is fairly basic, (not quite as up-market as KLH) with dormitories and "communal living", but it provides beds (bring your own sleeping bag), a shower and drying facilities. The cost is expected to be about £5 per person per night. Some participants may wish to arrange their own accommodation.

Contact Meryl Marshall for the registration form, if interested in joining the excavation or if requiring further information.

Scottish Archaeology Month - A walk in Glen Feshie will be the NOSAS contribution to SAM this year. The walk will follow on from the excavation when, hopefully, we will be able to demonstrate what we have achieved:

Glen Feshie - The Archaeology of a Highland glen - Sun 19th Sept 2004 - 10.30am to 3.30pm

The walk will visit the beautiful and remote upper part of Glen Feshie, which has archaeological remains going back several hundreds of years. See the sequence of landuse in the glen, from the shielings of medieval times to the sporting estate of today. The glen was one of the earliest to be developed for the sport of shooting. It was much frequented by Sir Edwin Landseer and a favourite place of Georgina, Duchess of Bedford. Visit the places where the aristocracy of the time besported themselves and from which Landseer drew inspiration for some of his paintings.

The walk of about 8 kms, is open to the general public. It is advertised locally and nationally through the CSA. Help will be needed from members to act as guides and hosts. Wear suitable footwear for rough country walking. Bring a packed lunch, waterproofs and warm clothing

Meet - 10.30am at Tolvah, NN842997, on the west bank of the river 8kms south of Kincaig. Cars will be re-arranged to drive a further 6kms up the private estate road. Please contact Meryl if you are coming or for more information.

NOSAS AGM - Saturday 16th October 2004 - will follow the Saturday session of the HAW seminar as usual. More information in next newsletter.

Highland Archaeology Week Sat 9th - Sun 17th Oct - This is the 11th Annual Archaeology Week and Hazel Anderson of Rowan Tree Consulting, is looking for ideas, suggestions and offers to put on events during the week. If you are interested in taking part or if you have any queries or even if you wish to be informed of what is going on, contact her on 01463 718505 or email haw@rowan-tree-scotland.co.uk.

Highland Museum Services Ltd - Offer help with all aspects of museum work - funding and finance, development and policy, exhibitions, collection management, retail and research. They are also able to supply conservation and display materials at competitive prices - Contact them for further details at Forsyth House, Cromarty, Ross-shire, IV11 8UZ - Tel 07789 781483 Email highmus@hotmail.com