

## **NOSAS Website**

It is all happening! After several years of discussion, your committee is pleased to announce that TSC Solutions Ltd of Roshven, Lochailort, have been commissioned to design a NOSAS website, and that this project is being fully funded by a top-up grant from "Awards for All". Assistance with the design brief came through Ross and Cromarty Enterprise.

The website will be launched at our stand on Saturday October 16th, during the Highland Archaeology Week conference in Inverness. The initial meeting between a representative team of committee members and Ken Bowker of TSC Solutions has taken place, and work on the website is to begin immediately.

The website will have lots of features, including a projects and publications "page". The committee feels that more discussion is required on what published material should be available free via the website, and what might be charged for. NOSAS as a group and as individual members have undertaken projects, some ongoing and some completed, some written up and some not. One of the main purposes of the website is to publicise the work of NOSAS and its members. The committee feels that all members should have the opportunity to contribute work to the new website from the outset, although the website will develop and expand in the future.

If you would like to submit a brief paper on a project for inclusion at the launch then now is the time to do so. The deadline for submission of material to TSC Solutions is the 12th of September. Submissions should be made most preferably via Email in "rich text format" with a maximum of 1,500 words and 3 photographs. Print photos can be scanned, but the quality will not be so good. Slides are also acceptable, as they can be scanned to a good quality. Papers can contain sketches and plans. Papers can mention published material on the basis that the format and cost of reports etc has yet to be decided.

Please send papers for submission to Meryl Marshall or John Wombell. John W 27.08.04.

## **Notice of AGM**

The NOSAS AGM is to take place on Saturday 16th October 2004 at 5pm (or thereabouts), following the Saturday session of the HAW seminar at the Highland Hotel (formerly Station Hotel), Station Square, Inverness. The agenda is enclosed with this newflash. This year Paul Humphreys is not continuing as President and Emma is leaving the area - this means that there will be at least two vacancies on the committee. We are eager to encourage new faces onto the committee, if you feel you can make a contribution to our work please let us know. MM.

## **Birnie dig - an email from Annette**

The dig at Birnie started on the 22nd Aug and finishes on 17th Sept, if anyone would like to take part please phone Fraser Hunter his mobile number is 07787 104952 the working day is from 9 - 5.30 each day with 4 days off Aug 27, Sept 2, 7 and 13. He would like any volunteers to work at least three days. It is an Iron Age settlement with some Iron Age, Roman and medieval finds. The site lies approx 3 miles south of Elgin, GR NJ213 483 (approx) , go past the golf course, pass the turn off for Birnie (just keep to the road you are on) and turn first right, directly opposite a house, you will see the site before you come to the turn off, go up the hill and through the gate into the field. Diggers should provide - Sturdy boots, Full waterproofs (jacket and leggings), Sunscreen (for optimists (we needed it yesterday)), Trowel ( 42 WHS forged tanged pointing trowel is the preferred option), Packed lunch. This is a lovely site to work at, sandy and very kind to old knees!

## **Glen Feshie update**

Arrangements for the excavation from 16th to 19th September and the SAM walk on the 19th Sept are progressing nicely. The project design for the excavation has been produced and is in process of being distributed to the 10 members who have shown interest in joining the excavation. Some are coming for the whole time and some for just one or two days. There is still time to register if you are interested. See the last newsletter (July) for details. MM.

## **November Weekend**

The annual Autumn weekend is to take place from 19th to 21st November. This year the Spean Bridge area is to receive our "attention", with High Bridge, on the old Military Road and its environs being singled out for more detailed recording work. A walk along the old road back towards Fort William (or Maryburgh as it was then known) is also on the agenda.

The base for the weekend will be the Spean Bridge Hotel (01397 712250, for those who wish to get in an early booking, mention that you are part of the NOSAS group). There are plenty of other B&Bs in the area. We will be arranging a sit down dinner on the Sat evening. More information in next newsletter.

## **Change of email address -**

As from 31st Aug, Pam and Laurie Draper will be at [draperculbokie@onetel.com](mailto:draperculbokie@onetel.com) .

## **Equipment inventory**

We will be doing an inventory of NOSAS equipment in late September. Would members please return all loaned equipment to me asap.

## **Next newsletter**

Probably early October. Please send any notices to me by end Sept. Meryl Marshall.

