

NOSAS News

..www.nosas.co.ukNovember 2006

There has been a real "flurry" of activity recently. Several members helped with the excavations at



Learnie Caves, Cromarty and the Applecross broch in October and I understand that the latter proved a much bigger task than was anticipated so that there are plans to continue for a further season next year. Many may have seen our appearance on the TV programme "Landward" last Sunday. 5 members visited 2 deserted township sites in Strathconon along with the SRP team. We outlined our plans to survey and record the archaeological remains in the glen and it seemed to go down very well. There is lots of enthusiasm for the project. If you wish to be involved please see below and let me know. Meryl Marshall, 10 Riverford Crescent, Conon Bridge, Ross-shire, IV7 8HL, tel 01349 861824 or email Meryl.Marshall@tesco.net

Welcome to new members:-

Lynn Fraser, Ryefield, Tore, Ross-shire, IV6 7SB
Email - lynn@blackisleberries.co.uk Phone - 01463 811310

Lori Williams, 33 Charleston View, Inverness IV3 8SX
Email - lori@charleston.nildram.co.uk Phone 01463 226343

Change of email address for Anna Welti - annawelti@btinternet.com

The **NOSAS AGM** was held in Inverness on Sat 14th Oct. Kate Sanderson resigned from the committee and was thanked for her input. All other members were re-elected, along with new member Susan Kruse

Strathconon - Scotlands Rural Past Project

Plans are seriously underway now and 10 people have shown interest, all very enthusiastic and encouraging. We have made contact with the landowners and were able to meet some of the local people on our outing up the glen with the SRP team. Much of the background research has been done and its now a case of getting down to the fieldwork. A day is planned for Wednesday 29th Nov - meet 10am at the FC car park at the west end of Loch Achilty. Bring a picnic and suitable clothing for rough walking in all weathers!! Please let me know if you intend to come so that I can plan the tasks ahead. After this we will probably set a couple of days a month, say for example, the first and third Thurs in each month, with the target for the next few months being to cover the Scatwell Estate. It is mostly wooded but already we know where many of the archaeological remains are to be found.

I am not quite at the stage of producing a project design yet, that will come over the next few months - everything seems to have happened so quickly!! Please contact me if you have any queries.

MM

(7 NOSAS members attended the surveying and recording training weekend run by the Historic Rural Settlement Group at Glen Banchor, Newtonmore on 7th - 8th October. All agreed that not only had they derived a great deal of expertise from it, but also that it had enhanced their confidence)

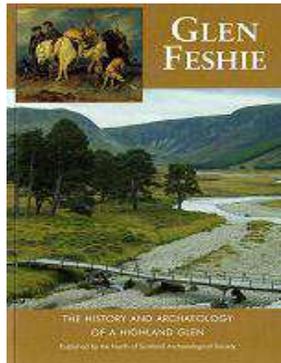
A NOSAS "**Christmas Dinner and Do**" has been arranged for Saturday 9th December at the Mansfield Hotel, Tain (signposted from the main A9). Cost £20. Meet 7pm for 7.30 The get-together will take the form of a 3 course meal followed by activities of a festive and archaeological nature!! And of course a showing of the Strathconon/Landward DVD. Guests will be very welcome as will contributions towards the raffle.

Accommodation, although expensive, has been arranged at a special rate - mention NOSAS if booking. Anne Coombs is arranging the evening so please contact her if interested in coming by Dec 4th if possible. Mobile 07767343233 or email - Anne.Coombs@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Inverness Field Club lecture on 13 Dec - "Queen Victoria's artists of the Highlands" - by Susan Owens, Assistant Curator, Windsor Castle to be held in Millburn Academy, at 7.30pm. Admission for non members £2.50,

Glen Feshie Book

The book continues to have a good reception and is selling well. It is available from me at a cost of £8, cheques payable to NOSAS Publications or from local outlets. MM



For the future:

A long Spring weekend - Fri. evening to Mon - 11th, 12th & 13th March 2007 as guests of **Moidart History Group** is planned. 10 places, with some being "doubles", are available staying with MHG members (possibly more if needed). They have a rough programme lined up for us which involves deserted settlements, recessed platforms & resting cairns. In particular they have one settlement plus the conveniently-close remains of a dun with which they would like help - lots of help! in surveying (*It sounds as if it will be very appropriate for an SRP project and perhaps we could make it such - MM*) There will be a meal at the ?Salen Hotel on the Saturday evening (*the location of the first NOSAS weekend in 1998 - apparently much altered since our visit!!*)

On the Sunday evening at 8.00 pm we will give a presentations on NOSAS activities - with particular reference to SRP, this, I think Jean said, would be in Glenuig Hall and open to the general public.

The surveying project of the settlement at **North Kinrara**, near Aviemore is almost complete. Just one more day is needed to tidy some things up and then the report can be finished.



Anne C being interviewed in Strathconon for the Landward programme!

"Exploring Your Past is a two year project which will allow people to learn about and celebrate their archaeological heritage in the Highlands. With funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Highland 2007 and Moray Firth Partnership, the project will enable local people to gain an understanding about their past, and then to use this knowledge to make a contribution to their local community by:

- 1 researching and contributing to the archaeological record in the Highlands (the HER, the new Historic Environment Record which will replace the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)),
- 2 publicising the knowledge in whatever way is considered to be most appropriate.

On offer will be affordable background courses on Highland archaeology. The courses are non-vocational, but an SQA in Local Investigations would be available to people who wished it for the Community Project. Courses will include:

- *Finding out about your Local Heritage.* This course provides the background and tools for anyone wanting to find out more.
- *Digging Deeper into Highland Archaeology.* A more detailed exploration of the rich archaeological heritage in the Highlands.
- *Local Investigations Community Project.* An opportunity to research and then publicise local archaeological heritage in whatever way the group decides.

Fieldtrips to Highland sites and museums will also be arranged. These allow local people and tourists, and especially those without transport or on limited means, to visit local sites and collections with a guide.

There will be opportunities to research and contribute to the HER (the replacement Sites and Monuments Record in the Highlands).

At the end of the project, there will be a book which will gather together the results from the above actions, and act as a celebration of the work and inspiration for others to do the same.

For more details of courses and events, or to request a course in your community, contact Susan Kruse on s.kruse@weascotland.org.uk or the WEA office on 01463 710577.

Susan has an SRP project in the pipeline. It is to be centred on the Heights between Dingwall and Strathpeffer (where many folk from Strathconon settled following their removal from the glen) so ideally complements the NOSAS one

The next **Heritage Lottery Fund grant** application is to be made soon and is to include a digital SLR camera and tripod, a digital projector, pdf writer, 2-way radios and CAD software