

NOSAS News

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January 2007

Thanks Anne for arranging it all.

The Strathconon/SRP project is well underway with 3 "formal" field days having taken place, as well as several forays into the field and documentary research by individuals. One of the "spin-offs" is that we have located the splendid, previously unrecorded, cup-marked rock shown below. John W has taken on the task of drawing it!



There is lots of enthusiasm for the project and we now have 17 members "on board". 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:-

Alex Guest, Crimond, Station Rd, Avoch, IV9 8RW.
Email - lisa.guest@btinternet.com Phone - 01381 620320

Chris and Dave Rendell, 22 Beinn View, Conon Bridge, IV7 8DG. Email - dacamacsys@btinternet.com Phone - 01349 867006

Change of email address for Sandra Evans - Sandra.evans@oneuk.com

And for Ann Wilson - annwilson@bofg.orangehome.co.uk

The NOSAS "Christmas Dinner and Do" was held on Saturday 9th December at the Mansfield Hotel, Tain and attended by 19 members and guests. We all enjoyed a first rate meal and a photographic quiz set by Anne Coombs (with the help of HS!), which tested the most enthusiastic and well travelled of us.

Early Spring Visit to Moidart as guests of the Local History Group - Fri. evening 9th March to Mon, 12th March 2007

Members of the Local History Group have offered to accommodate us for this weekend, and show us some of the archaeological sites in this beautiful, historic part of Scotland. MLHG, many of whom are also members of NOSAS, have a rough programme lined up for us which involves visits to 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 in surveying, so we will be taking the plane-tables etc along.

There will be a meal at the Salen Hotel on the Saturday evening. This was the location of the first NOSAS weekend 9 years ago - I understand that it has changed hands and things have moved on considerably!!

On the Sunday evening, 8.00 pm, we will give a presentation on NOSAS activities. This will be in Glenuig Hall and open to the general public.

Sandra Evans can be contacted on email Sandra.evans@oneuk.com for more info if needed.

Jean Lawson is unfortunately not on email at the moment, so if you are interested in coming to this weekend, please let me know. There may be opportunities to combine transport. MM

The Vital Spark , Aviemore, 30th Sept - 3rd

October 2007 is a major international event looking at interpretation – the art of communicating with visitors at places such as museums, nature reserves, historic buildings and national parks. The conference offers a chance to share experience and best practice, and to debate current issues in this vital area of heritage management, all within the inspiring setting of the Scottish Highlands.

International keynote speakers, and a full programme of pre and post-conference tours, are already organised.

If you would like to attend or make a proposal for a presentation or a workshop, visit the conference website <http://www.thevitalspark2007.org.uk/>

The closing date for proposals is Friday 2nd March 2007

Ewan MacRae - *Heritage North Web Administrator*

Strathconon - Scotlands Rural Past Project

We are making good progress on the first phase of the project which involves the lower glen, around Scatwell. It is well forested, much of it having been planted since WW2. The 1950 aerial photographs have therefore proved very useful in giving an idea of landuse before the planting. We decided to leave Glen Marksie until February when the bracken will hopefully be down - on the initial visit it was obvious that some remains were obscured by the bracken which was still pretty rampant. We spent the last field day exploring Little Scatwell itself and the adjacent mica mines. So far the "going" has been quite tough but the rewards worthwhile - to my mind anyway! Besides the cup marked rock above, we have recorded a substantial mill laide and dam, an early hydro scheme (predating the present Luichart one of 1957), the mica mines, an extensive field system and 4 deserted settlements or farmsteads.

The next objective is on the south side of the river. We will be **prospecting, recording and surveying the area to the south of Scatwell House** including the settlement that we visited with the SRP team last November, **on Sat 3rd Feb and Mon the 5th Feb**. Approach from Marybank and meet at the bridge at NH 410555, about 1km east of Scatwell House at 9.30am. There will be some bracken clearing so bring some tough gloves (I will have a supply of NOSAS ones). There is a bit of uphill walking and the area is quite rough so come suitably shod and be prepared for all weathers, also bring a thermos, picnic etc.

Please let me know if you intend to come so that I can plan the tasks ahead and contact me if you have any queries.

MM

Glen Feshie Book

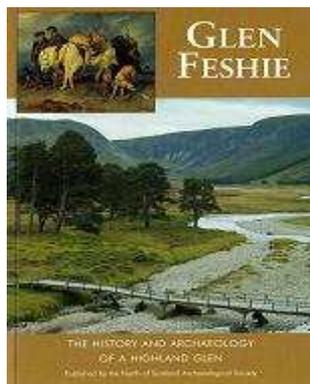
The book is available from me at a cost of £8, cheques payable to NOSAS Publications please. Also available from local outlets.

MM

For the future:

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, but this is on hold at the moment. We hope to set a date in the Spring.

Susan Kruse sends the following information on:



WEA Exploring Your Past Archaeology Courses January –June 2007

"Finding Out about Local Heritage"

Short, 4-session introductions (including an internet session), exploring how to find out about local heritage in your area.

- Muir of Ord Hall: 4 weeks, starting 30 Jan, 10-12
- Dingwall Community Centre: 3 weeks starting 21 February, 1-3pm
- Aviemore Alt na Craig Hotel: 19 and 26 Mar, 10-2 (bring packed lunch)
- Nairn Community Centre: 4 weeks starting 17 Apr, 10-12
- Tain Duthac Centre: 4 weeks starting 18 Apr, 10-12
- Strathcarron Learning Centre: 14 & 21 May, 11-4 (bring packed lunch)

"Digging Deeper"

6-session course plus internet session looking at Highland Archaeology:

- Muir of Ord Hall: 7 weeks, starting 27 February, 10-12
- Nairn Community Centre: 7 weeks starting 15 May, 10-12.
- Tain Duthac Centre: 7 weeks starting 16 May, 10-12

"Local Investigation Community Projects"

Each group will research the archaeological heritage of their area, and then publicise their results.

- Inverness (Spectrum Centre). Initial 4 weeks starting 8 March, 10-12
- Fortrose (Black Isle Leisure Centre). Initial 4 weeks starting 9 March, 10-12
- Dingwall (focus on archives). Community Center, 4 weeks starting 21 March, 1-3pm

More courses, fieldtrips and events on offer after the summer. **If you would like a course in your community, please contact us!**

All courses are £2 with optional senior discount; free to all on benefits (four hour courses are double). Childcare may be available—please contact us if needed.

Bookings to WEA office:

David Whyte House, 57 Church Street
Inverness IV1 1DR Tel - 01463 710577;
inverness@weascotland.org.uk

For questions about course content and arrangements, contact Susan Kruse on s.kruse@weascotland.org.uk or leave message to ring back on 01463 710577. Supported by the National Lottery through the HLF, Highland 2007; and Moray Firth Partnership.

1st Feb 2007 "Interpretation" with James Carter 0930-1630 hrs, Strathpeffer Pavilion

Interpretation is the art of engaging people - with a place, a collection, or an activity. This course introduces key principles that will help you plan lively, interesting interpretation. We will look at how to develop displays that do more than present dry information or facts, and at how to make objects, images and text work together. The course takes a practical, hands-on approach and will include time to discuss your own project. To book go online:

<http://www.heritage-skills.co.uk/details.php?id=183>