



## November newsletter 2020

Dear Scottish Group members,

Welcome to the Scottish Group Winter newsletter!

I hope everyone is doing well as we head into the colder months of the year, especially those still pressing on outside in all weather!

As another lockdown starts, now is a good time to catch up on all that is going on in Scottish archaeology! We have a selection of articles from across the country, including many of the ways that people have been engaging in archaeology via the internet and through the use of digital tools over the recent months.

The Scottish Group committee has undergone a significant change in personnel over the last year, so thank you to all the committee members that are stepping down from their positions, and good luck to all those just joining us!

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If you have any comments or queries about the Scottish Group, feel free to get in touch with us through our email, [secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com), or on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). We also have information on the group's [ClfA webpage](#).

Keep safe!

Josh Gaunt BA MCIfA

And the rest of the Scottish Group committee

## A message from the Scottish Group committee Chair

It is with great pleasure that I find myself as a Chair of the ClfA Scottish Group, and I would like to begin my tenure with deepest thanks to the outgoing chair, Sam Fox and fellow committee members for their hard work and devotion to the group. This has positioned it in a very promising place to implement and expand the three-year plan which has been developed to support the wider strategic objectives of the Chartered Institute.

Building on these firm foundations and following onto my term in office, I am more than hopeful that we can achieve all the goals, and more, as the BAJR follows the Fox (pardon the pun). Yes we face some tough challenges, including Covid-19 restrictions, Brexit uncertainty, pressures on the Scottish job market, and, dare I say, the possibility of a second Scottish Independence Referendum. We, as archaeologists in Scotland, have to be able to meet these head on, and pre-emptively by showing flexibility, readiness for change and above all with an effective and clear leadership. Drawing on my not insubstantial experience with the archaeological employment market within the UK, and my proven track record with skills and training, it is my sincere belief that these and other challenges can be met by diversifying the workforce and opening up a larger entry pathway into the profession, with the result that we have a stronger and more inclusive profession, with skilled practitioners that meet the needs of our own market as well as beyond.

Despite the above pun, my own ambition for the group is to provide measured guidance and support for the committee and group, in order to make the ClfA Scottish Group efficient, resilient and open. Cooperation with partners across the board, whether it be universities, commercial companies, national organisations, council archaeologists or community groups is key to achieving this goal by connecting professionals and amateurs alike. By continuing and developing the active part we play in helping ClfA to lead the way in training, professional development and advocacy, we can promote the Chartered Institute as an organisation people actively want to join, and in turn increase membership within the Scottish Group. The Group already has a strong online presence, that I will be delighted to visibly promote, to ensure that our activities are seen and heard, and provides the opportunity for wider participation regarding key issues of the profession, where it affects us in Scotland.

The coming years will reshape our profession for better I believe, and I am sincere in my desire to see the ClfA Scottish Group being integral in this process. Those **of you who know me will not be surprised, and those who don't will soon discover**, that I have no intention in taking a back seat and letting others do all the hard work and you can be assured that I will endeavour to be a credit to the group and its hard working members, according to my own deeply held principles.

## Committee news

The recent Scottish Group AGM on 13 October was undertaken online this year and had a great turnout! In addition to agreeing a three-year plan, four new members were elected to the committee, with an additional four co-opted members officially joining the committee.

Below are your new committee members!

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David I. Connolly, MCIfA;  
FSAScot; Director of BAJR;  
Member of Historic Environment  
Forum; Member of Federation of  
Archaeological Employers –  
Committee Chair

David has a long-standing career in the profession, having worked in archaeology since 1981, initially as a field archaeologist first in York and then the rest of the UK and later as a draughtsman and surveyor. David is one of the small group of pioneers of buildings archaeology and a champion of the beneficial possibilities of co-operation between detectorists and archaeologists. Following two decades in the field, David joined East Lothian council as planning archaeologist for Midlothian and also a Project Manager and a Consultant. Within the commercial archaeology circles, he is well regarded as a passionate advocate for **archaeologists' rights, and he is also** a trustee of several charitable schemes, such as Enabled Group and Breaking Ground Heritage. He co-founded the RESPECT campaign and is currently aiding the creation of an Association for Black and Asian Archaeologists.

David is perhaps best known as the founder of BAJR (in 1999) however

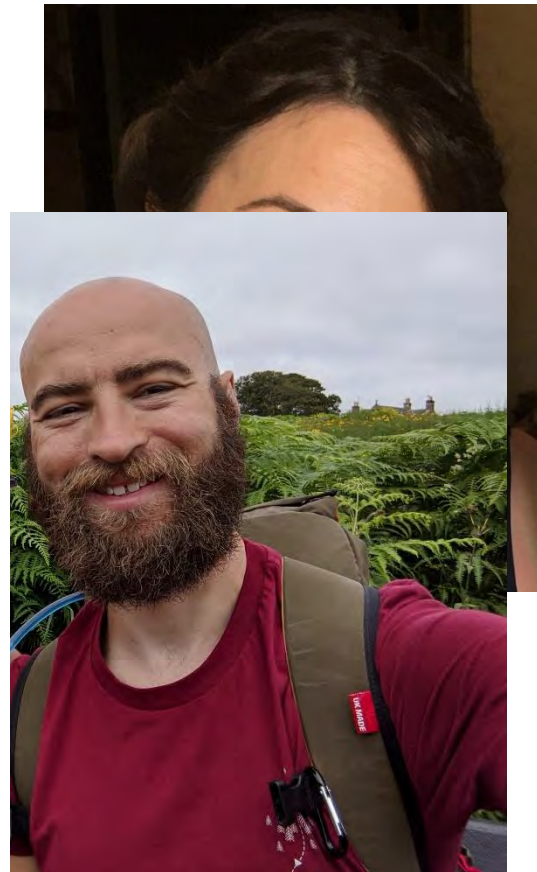


he also maintains a fieldwork arm, CHC Heritage, participating in a variety of UK and world-wide commercial and non-commercial projects. He is also the creator of the Archaeology Skills Passport and a co-director of Rampart Scotland fieldschool project and he regularly lectures on archaeology skills and employment at British Universities. He is a frequent contributor and presenter on BBC Radio and acts as a consultant for archaeology articles. In his precious spare time he likes to walk a bit and to fix things around the house and garden – well, we all need a hobby 😊.

Stef Sagrott, MA (Hons), MSc, ACIfA, FSA Scot - Treasurer

After graduating from Edinburgh University, Stef worked as a field archaeologist in the commercial sector before moving to the National Trust for Scotland where he developed their internal HER and undertook field survey and excavation. Since October 2016 he has worked in the Cultural Resources Team at Historic Environment Scotland where he provides archaeological advice and management for, and undertakes research on, their Properties in Care portfolio.

Originally a prehistorian, Stef finds himself working on historical sites and monuments, and is still confused by people associated with them having



names. Stef has a keen interest in digital techniques for archaeological research and management, especially airborne-laser scanning and photogrammetry. Stef is a rep for Prospect Union and a committee member for the First Millennia Studies Group.

over 20 years of both public and private sector heritage work. Currently, Heather works primarily within the renewable energy sector where she leads the heritage team at Arcus Consultancy Services, but she has experience dealing with a range of other sensitive issues including facilitating community involvement, indigenous archaeological rights, and the legacy of colonialism and archaeology.

Heather Kwiatkowski, BA (Hons), MA (Hons) MCIfA - Committee Member

Heather has a diverse background in archaeological planning and development, having worked throughout Scotland as well as the rest of the UK, Ireland, USA, Mexico and Caribbean. Her experience spans

Linda Marie Bjerketvedt, MA  
(Hons) MSc - Committee Member

Linda is a Norwegian-Polish landscape archaeologist currently working as a Data Analyst for Historic Environment Scotland within Scotland's Rock Art Project. She has an undergraduate degree in archaeology from the University of Edinburgh (2013-2017) and recently obtained an MSc in Landscape Archaeology at the Freie Universität Berlin (2017-2020). Previously, Linda has worked as a public sector archaeologist in Norway and on different research excavations across Europe including in Germany, Netherlands, Moldova, Greece, Cyprus, and Croatia. Her primary **interest is in people's relationship** with landscape(s) from past to

present in North-Western Europe. Having worked as an archaeological guide in Lofoten (Norway), she is also

passionate about disseminating research in a way that is engaging and accessible.



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### Upcoming meetings

As a member of the ClfA Scottish Group, you may take up our invitation to sit in a committee meeting. Committee meetings are held each quarter. Members can attend in person or remotely with an internet connection via our videoconferencing facilities.

The next meeting is Tuesday 1 December 2020.

If you would like to attend, please send an email to [secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com).



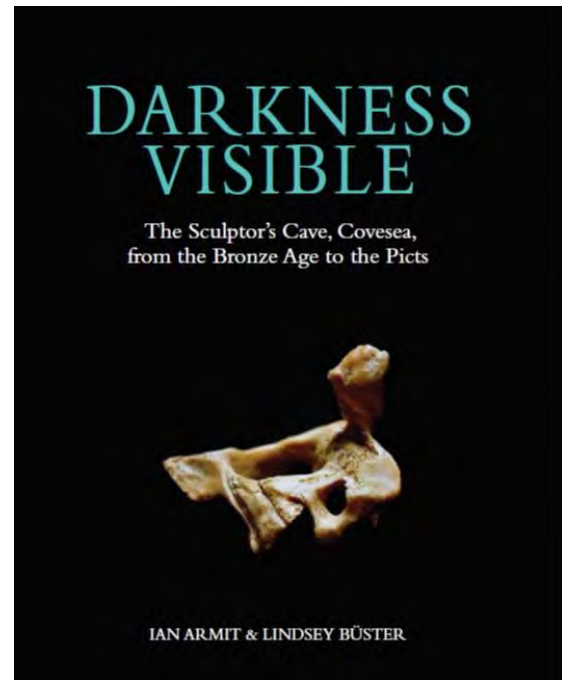
## Recent publications

### [Darkness Visible: Later Prehistoric Funerary Rites Revealed](#)

**Ian Armit and Lindsey Büster**

The **Sculptor's Cave**, which takes its name from Pictish symbols carved around its distinctive twin entrance passages, lies on the south coast of the Moray Firth. Excavated in the late 1920s by Sylvia Benton and in the 1970s by Ian and Alexandra (Lekky) Shepherd, new post-excavation analysis of this enigmatic site by Ian Armit and Scottish SIG member Lindsey Büster (University of York) have revealed later prehistoric funerary activity and votive deposition over nearly 1500 years, including the decapitation of a group of individuals within the cave in the third century AD.

The monograph, **Darkness Visible: The Sculptor's Cave, Covesea, from the Bronze Age to the Picts**, is currently available for purchase on the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland website, and the accompanying



Society [lecture](#), which summarises the publication's major findings, can be viewed for free online.

### [Guidance for Investigating and Managing Lithic Scatter Sites in Scotland](#)

**CR Wickham-Jones**



Lithic scatter sites are a common feature of Scottish archaeology, but they represent an oft neglected resource. To date the only scatter to have been scheduled in its own right is the site at Kinloch Farm, Rum, where underlying features, excavated in the 1980s, allow the designation of 'activity areas, shelters, or lightly-

**built houses**<sup>1</sup>. While other countries have long-standing policies to guide the investigation and management of lithic scatters (Historic England are working on an update to their original document), Scotland has lacked a comprehensive strategy.

A new document, recently released on the ALGAO Scotland website, and free to download, seeks to remedy this by

providing information relating to the nature of lithic scatter sites together with advice regarding their investigation and management. Funded by Historic Environment Scotland and Aberdeenshire Council, the document is intended as an easy-to-read introduction that will, hopefully, encourage us to make the most of the resource and ensure its wellbeing.

### [Roundup of HES Survey and Recording activities in 2019-20](#)



The Covid-19 lockdown has curtailed fieldwork for Historic Environment Scotland's **Survey & Recording team** for much of this calendar year, but **there's now a great chance to see** what this group of archaeologists, architectural historians, surveyors and photographers did in 2019-20, with the online publication of the roundup of achievements.

The staff were out and about all over Scotland, documenting everything from landscapes to buildings at risk, from abandoned farmsteads to architecture designed after 1975, all using a combination of traditional and modern drawing skills, photography and remote-sensing data. There was even a chance to document **Ayr United Football Club while the 'Honest Men' were in action**. The findings from all this activity are available to access for free in the National Record of the Historic Environment, via [canmore.org.uk](http://canmore.org.uk).

In the 2019-20 roundup you can also read about communities who have worked alongside the Survey & Recording team to record the places that matter to them; a poet who joined the archaeologists in the field; and recent thinking on contemporary archaeology explored through a series of innovative workshops. There are also articles on the Rapid Archaeological Mapping Programme, ongoing research on how to use digital data and a whole lot more

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<http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/SM6326>

# East Lothian online heritage festival

Stephanie Leith - East Lothian Council

East Lothian Archaeology & Local History Fortnight is organised annually by East Lothian Council Archaeology Service. It takes place in the first half of September, **and is part of Archaeology Scotland's** Scottish Archaeology Month.

Due to Covid-19, this year we decided to hold an online heritage festival in place of the traditional Archaeology & Local History Fortnight. This received an enthusiastic response from local heritage groups and others who offered to embrace the challenge to provide digital events for the programme.

This year we had 16 local heritage groups involved. Several national organisations also provided events for the Fortnight, including the Scottish Battlefields Trust and the European Ethnological Research Centre at the University of Edinburgh.

This year the programme was bigger than ever, with over 60 events (up from 50 last year), hosted on the John Gray Centre website. The digital format allowed us to include a wider range of events, from virtual guided tours, presentations and films to workshops, poetry, and music, as well as some live events. Most of the presentations, films and articles are still available on the John Gray Centre website, see: <https://www.johngraycentre.org/about/archaeology/archaeology-events/east-lothian-online-heritage-festival/>

Not surprisingly, the digital format provided some challenges, not just for the festival organisers but also for the people providing events. There was a steep learning curve for everyone involved, but it was gratifying to see how individuals learned new digital skills, especially those in the 65+ age group.

The online heritage festival exceeded our expectations with 22,556 participants (this includes the number of event attendees or views of videos, or where this was not available, number of unique page views) measured up till the end of September. In comparison, last year we had 5371 participants, giving us a 319% increase in participant numbers.

One of the benefits of the online format meant that people were able to attend events from anywhere on the globe. The majority of participants came from East Lothian and Edinburgh, but they also came from other parts of Scotland, including Glasgow, Fife, Midlothian, West Lothian, Stirling, Falkirk, Dundee and Aberdeen. Participants also came from other parts of the UK, as well as from overseas, primarily from the USA and Canada, but also Australia, Italy, Czechia, Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands and Singapore.





Overall the online heritage festival has been a great success, and it is likely that even in a post-coronavirus time we would look to combine online events with the more traditional guided walks and presentations.



## HES - Scotland's Archaeology Strategy 2020

Five years ago, Fiona Hyslop MSP, the Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for **Culture**, launched **Scotland's Archaeology Strategy** to over 2,000 archaeologists from all over the world who had gathered at the European Association of Archaeologists annual conference in Glasgow. This year, five years in, the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee (SSAC) welcomed a new chair, Andy Heald, and although a new operational delivery plan was created, the focus has understandably been dominated by the Covid-19 Pandemic so the Strategy has been evolving to reflect this and other challenges.

As we all know, the Covid-19 Pandemic has fundamentally changed almost every area of work. Our vision for Archaeology in Scotland, to make it available to everyone, now requires new approaches. More information is available digitally, to try and provide resources and information in an era when people are confined to homes and their immediate local area. We are all having to consider social distancing and new health and safety regulations in our daily work. The environment in which archaeological work gets undertaken will continue to alter rapidly, and adaptability and innovation remain at the forefront of activity.

In June, the Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) set up a national Covid Historic Environment Resilience Forum (CHERF) to look at the contribution **heritage can make to the country's recovery, and the changing threats to heritage**. Five workshops took place in June and July, at which archaeology and the Archaeology Strategy were well represented, with the report of the initial workshops published in August. Three key themes have emerged from this work: relevance; exclusivity / inclusivity; and localism. Archaeology is well equipped to contribute to these, and the SSAC and its partners are working with the wider sector consider how they can be addressed through our work in future.

However, despite these challenges, we are continuing to progress the aims of the Strategy in many areas. The best way to stay up to date with progress is in our annual magazine '**Celebrating Archaeology in Scotland in 2020**', which launched on the Archaeology Strategy Website and social media at the end of October. We are pleased to say that despite trying circumstances we received an overwhelming number of articles from across the sector resulting in our largest issue yet and numbers of downloads have broken previous records.

Early in the new year we will be releasing our five-year review, setting out what



has been delivered so far. There have been many changes in the sector over the past five years driven by the Strategy– one of the most important elements has been opening up new places for dialogue and communication, and we are very grateful to everyone who has taken part in our first five years. In addition, several important practical outcomes have already been delivered.

HES has aligned its grant funding streams to the strategy, grant-aiding millions to projects which deliver on the aims of the Strategy and show best-practice in the sector. Significant progress has been made in publishing older and incomplete projects. Under the leadership of the ScARF team, Regional Research Frameworks are being developed in many parts of Scotland and dozens of publications have been made Open Access – online and free - to make them more widely available. A new Museums Working Group has been formed, led by ALGAO and MGS (Museums and Galleries Scotland) and is tackling long-standing issues about the collection, care, and management of archaeological collections in museums. A wide range of projects are bringing archaeology to new audiences and the Archaeology and Learning Working Group are delivering a variety of initiatives, including the Heritage Resources Portal, particularly invaluable to those home-schooling. **Archaeology Scotland's Heritage Hero Awards** are going from strength to strength. ClfA and partners including educational institutions, through the Archaeology Skills Working Group, are looking at developing new qualifications and routes into archaeology.

Look out for our five-year review in the new year where you will be able to read more about what has been delivered and our plans for the future. We are very grateful to the many people across the sector who have contributed to the strategy, and in particular have responded to the many consultations, workshops, and surveys – your voice is crucial and continues to shape the strategy and its future direction. You can find out more on the Archaeology Strategy website ( <http://archaeologystrategy.scot/> ), follow us on twitter @ScotArchStrat , or e-mail us at [archaeologystrategy@hes.scot](mailto:archaeologystrategy@hes.scot)

*Andy Heald, Chair, Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee*

*Kevin Grant, Archaeology & World Heritage Team, Historic Environment Scotland*





# Pioneering spirit: archaeology and the illicit whisky trade

Dr Daniel Rhodes (National Trust for Scotland)

In 1824 Samuel Morewood wrote *An Essay on the Inventions and Customs in the Use of Inebriating Liquors*. In it he described the discovery of an illicit whisky still:

'Perceiving, however, some brambles loosely scattered about the place, he proceeded, to examine more minutely, and on their removal, discovered some loose sods, under which was found a trap door leading to a small cavern, at the bottom of which was a complete distillery at full work, supplied by a subterranean stream, and the smoke conveyed from it through the windings of a tube that was made to communicate with the funnel of the chimney of the distillers' dwelling-house, situated at a considerable distance.'

The first law pertaining to the production of whisky in Scotland was the Excise Act of 1644, which meant tax had to be paid on any whisky put up for sale. However, private production not destined for sale was legal and it was estimated that by the 1760s private distillers were producing around 500,000 gallons a year – about 10 times the amount of taxed production. In 1781 distilling for private consumption was banned.

Nonetheless, approximately 300,000 gallons were smuggled across the border into England in 1787 alone. By 1815 the law had made it illegal to produce whisky in stills of less than 500 gallons in the Highlands. In 1823 a new Excise Act was passed, which sanctioned the distilling of whisky in return for a licence fee of just £10, and a set payment per gallon of proof spirit. This made the production of whisky a potentially profitable activity and many previously illegal distillers turned legal. This included the first licensed distillery under the new act, The Glenlivet.

Fast-forward 200 years and the NTS Archaeology Team have combined their love of heritage and a wee dram! In a partnership with The Glenlivet owners Chivas Brothers, the Trust's *Pioneering Spirit* project will investigate the history and archaeology of illicit whisky making at different locations around Scotland. There are about 30 sites of former stills on Trust land, from Torridon and Kintail in the Highlands to Arran and as far south as Grey Mare's Tail in the Scottish Borders. With the support of Chivas Brothers and The Glenlivet whisky the research hopes to identify material culture associated with distilling activities such as the remains of barrels for holding water, cooling worm and the remains of bottle or stoneware vessels used for storing the finished product. The project will also examine the potential for site identification through topographic modelling using drone survey and analyse soil micromorphology to identify fuel and grain sources.

Work has already begun surveying and modelling known still sites on the Mar Lodge Estate in the Cairngorms with excavations planned at Mar Lodge and Torridon in spring 2021.

Once current restrictions are lifted, members of the public will be invited to participate in fieldwork, but in the meantime a series of online archaeology and whisky tasting events are currently in development so people will have opportunities to learn more about both the project and the making of Scotland's most famous export.





*Trust Archaeologists Dr Daniel Rhodes and The Glenlivet Master Blender Alan Winchester surveying one of the eight known still sites on Mar Lodge Estate.*



*Like this site at Mar Lodge Estate Illicit stills were often placed by water and hidden within gullies in order to avoid detection from the Excise Inspector*





## ScARF Regional Research Framework round-up

Autumn is upon us and we have missed seeing faces, old and new, at conferences and events across the country. Many readers will know that the current focus of the ScARF project is to develop new regional research frameworks to enhance and update the original national framework created in 2012. By investigating each geographical area, the aim is to highlight key regional differences to provide new sets of research questions and inform future research priorities for all parts of the sector.

There are four regional research frameworks currently in production which will be available on the ScARF website upon completion. The on-going regional research framework projects for the Highlands ([HighARF](#)), Perth and Kinross ([PKARF](#)), and **Scotland's Islands** ([SIRFA](#)) are still very busy in the background continuing to collate the data and produce draft period chapters, maps, and sets of research questions. THANK YOU to everyone who has been involved so far – and we'd like to urge our key contributors to keep on going! Your input during the later stages of refining the chronological summaries and research questions is crucial and very much appreciated!

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 our plans for final consultation events for the South East Framework ([SESARF](#)) have been temporarily put on hold. If you would like to be involved in the final shaping of any of the on-going regional frameworks, please contact us directly or look out for final consultation events and opportunities advertised across our social media platforms.

Draft chapters for HighARF - now online!!

We are excited to announce the first draft period chapters (Palaeo/Mesolithic & Medieval), case studies and maps for the Highland Archaeological Research Framework are now available online for consultation. You are invited to read and comment on these documents - are there key examples missing? Can you spot research gaps? Initial chapters are ready to view, but please do check in every now and then as more chapters will be added in the coming weeks following detailed comments from key contributors. Draft HighARF chapters can be accessed [here](#) on the ARCH website.



*A variety of fieldtrips were organised around Shetland as part of the SIRFA symposium in 2019 (@ScARF)*

## New and Improved ScARF website

Have you checked out the new ScARF website yet? After many months of behind the scenes work, earlier this year we were very pleased to reveal our fantastic new website! It provides the perfect platform for displaying information in a more eye-catching and user-friendly way. In the future, ScARF will be linked to DES and OASIS, providing greater searchability across all the frameworks and research questions.

In July, we were delighted to launch the [Scottish Network for Nineteenth-Century European Cultures](#) (SNNEC) created as a series of workshops, funded by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, which focused on exploring the inter-connectivity of people and culture in Scotland and Europe during the long nineteenth century.

**ScARF fits into the wider vision of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy with particular responsibility for Aim 2: Enhancing Understanding.** We hope to use the ScARF website for showcasing archaeological research in Scotland and we will be regularly updating it with news and new case studies – like this fabulous new



addition from [Scotland's Rock Art Project](#). Don't forget to check in every now and then to see what's new at [www.scarf.scot](http://www.scarf.scot) and follow us on social media to be kept informed of the latest ScARF news!



*ScRAP's Strachur Rock Art Team recording a cupmarked stone in Glenadrueil, Cowal (©ScRAP/HES)*

Calling all archaeological scientists!

**We'd** like to share some exciting news! Over the next 18 months we have plans to work on updating the ScARF Archaeological Science Research Framework. It is now eight years since the original Science framework was launched and with many new and improved scientific techniques being used, a wider range of multidisciplinary approaches and ethical implications to consider, we want to revise our research questions and priorities for archaeological science in Scotland. This updated Science framework will be designed to complement our regional research framework projects, which will naturally update the overall chronological picture across Scotland.

We will be getting in touch with people who have been involved in the Science Panel previously or that we know are currently working on Archaeological Science **projects in Scotland, but please get in touch with us directly if you haven't heard** from us yet and would like to be involved in our ScARF Science update project.

As always – if you have any comments or would like to contribute to our frameworks please get in touch [scarf@socantscot.org](mailto:scarf@socantscot.org).

Helen and Leanne



## Membership

Membership of the Scottish Group is free for CIfA members, and is £10 per year for non-CIfA members. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter and we would ask you to encourage your friends/colleagues to join the Group.

For more information, [see here](#).

**Keep in touch with us via the Scottish Group's Facebook page, where information about events and the work of the Group will be publicised.**

Newsletters are published three to four times a year and contributions from members are welcome.

Our next issues will be released in February 2021

To make a contribution to forthcoming editions of the newsletter please email [josh.gaunt@headlandarchaeology.com](mailto:josh.gaunt@headlandarchaeology.com) or [secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.cifa.sg@gmail.com)