



UNIVERSITY OF  
LEICESTER



## The Mosaic: *August 2024*

### [In This Issue](#)

Welcome to the second issue of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History's newsletter '**The Mosaic**'!

This electronic newsletter is published quarterly for staff, students, alumni and the public alike to engage with what news, events and updates from across the School of Archaeology and Ancient History (SAAH) community.



*Navigate to the different sections below by clicking on the icon in the bottom right, or by scrolling down.*

- **Head of School News**
- **Graduation 2024**
- **Research News**
- **Teaching News**
- **Our Campus-based Learners**
- **Our Distance Learners**
- **Postgraduate Research**
- **Professional Services**
- **Our Alumni - Where are they now?**
- **Our Community**



---

Next issue: October 2024

---

## Head of School Changes

As of 1st August, our Head of School has changed from Prof Huw Barton to Prof Ruth Young.

## Outgoing Head of School Report (So long and thanks for all the fish!)

"After five years at the helm, it was time to pass on the baton to Prof. Ruth Young at the end of July. While it was a date in the diary for a long time, it was still something of a shock to stop work as Head of School mid-week and then to wake up the next morning without an entire department to worry about. It still feels incredibly odd writing this to be an ex-Head of School, and hard to recall what it felt like to be a new one, way back in the ancient times of 2019. It has been a great pleasure to do this job, it really has. I look back fondly at the times when I offered up coffee and cake meetings on a Friday morning to try and get to know everyone as a Head and listen to you as I found my way forward in the role. No matter what was going on around us or in the School, I always felt supported by the staff, and there was always a willingness to help achieve or be constructive in deconstructing the various challenges that were inevitably sent our way. It was great to be able to see in DL Transformation and secure the new laboratories in the Michael Atiyah Building. But most memorable of all for me, is in having been able to help staff develop their own careers, whether through internal support for resource (though there was precious little of it in my time unfortunately) or helping with promotion cases, study leave applications, job hires, or in other ways where I could be useful. It has also been fabulous to see staff take on new challenges and flourish. It was always a fantastic feeling to be able to say 'yes' to staff initiative – I really wish I had been in a position to do it more often. It was incredibly satisfying to represent the School as Head when attending meetings on Council, Senate, Senior Leadership Team, and College Leadership Team where we were often praised via a good news story or seen in a positive light as an academic community. I know you don't all get to see that part, but there is a lot of love for this School in the University, and I hope that you do get a sense of that at times. Despite the current challenges (and whatever else is down the road) I am confident that the integration of SAAH and Museum Studies will be an exciting opportunity to build an amazing new research and teaching community at Leicester. Now I have to make a new adjustment in returning to the 'coal face' as some like to call it here and find my feet, or my pick and shovel, and re-join the digging! "

Yours,

**-Prof Huw Barton**

## Interim Head of School (2024-25) Welcome Message

"Hello Everyone who is part of the School of Archaeology and Ancient History,

What a terrific School this is, with so many teaching and research strengths and of course great students and colleagues (which includes all PST and our technicians too of course, as well as our close connection with the excellent ULAS), and I am very excited about being the next (interim Head of School ) for the 12 months from 1 August 2024 – 31 July 2025. Please come and talk to me at any time through the coming year. My office is room 1.30 of the Kathleen Kenyon (Archaeology and Ancient History) Building and if my door is open then I am happy to talk about pretty much anything. Or email me on [rly3@le.ac.uk](mailto:rly3@le.ac.uk) – remember I am

not psychic, so if you don't tell me about a problem or about a great achievement, then I won't know and won't be able to try and help, or to celebrate.

We have a lot to be proud of, and I am very proud to be a part of this. "

Best wishes

**-Prof Ruth Young**

## Graduation 2024



"On a summery Tuesday afternoon, we had one of the larger cohorts graduate that I can recall. As a presenter for the afternoon session, I was pleased to be able to read out the names of 47 students from the School. This included 8 PhDs and one Master of Philosophy, 4 MA students, 34 BA students and one Certificate in HE. While all PhDs should be duly celebrated, it was a great reward to be able to read out the title and name of one, Dr Nicholas Cooper, crossing the stage to receive his doctorate by publication on the portable material culture of the Roman capital of Leicester. Congratulations to everyone that graduated via CB and DL routes this summer. It definitely felt that the School is going strong and that we continue to have plenty to celebrate! "

**-Prof Huw Barton**

## Student Experiences

### **Molly Mather - Ancient History BA**

"I graduated with my undergraduate degree in Ancient History this July. It was such an exciting day. All the decorations and festivities around campus, there was something going on everywhere that gave the day a sort of carnival feel to it.

But the very best part of the day was getting the opportunity to celebrate mine and my best friends' achievements with all our favourite people around us.

Thanks to everyone at SAAH for a brilliant 3 years!"



*1 - L-R: Molly Mather, Jessica Paes, Bradley Sambrook and Caroline Cichock outside the SAAH building, in our gap and gowns.*

### **Jéssica Paes - Ancient History and Archaeology BA**

"The day arrived and it was unbelievable. On the 16th of July of 2024, graduation took place and it was the best experience ever, I can't believe I am officially a graduate of Ancient History and Archaeology of Leicester. Studying this course at Leicester was the best decision I could have made and I would do it again. Congratulations archaeologists and ancient historians!"



*2 - Jessica celebrating her success as a new graduate*



*3 - Jessica walking across the stage at De Montfort Hall*

## Research News

---

### ***Research, Enterprise and Impact Committee Dates***

---

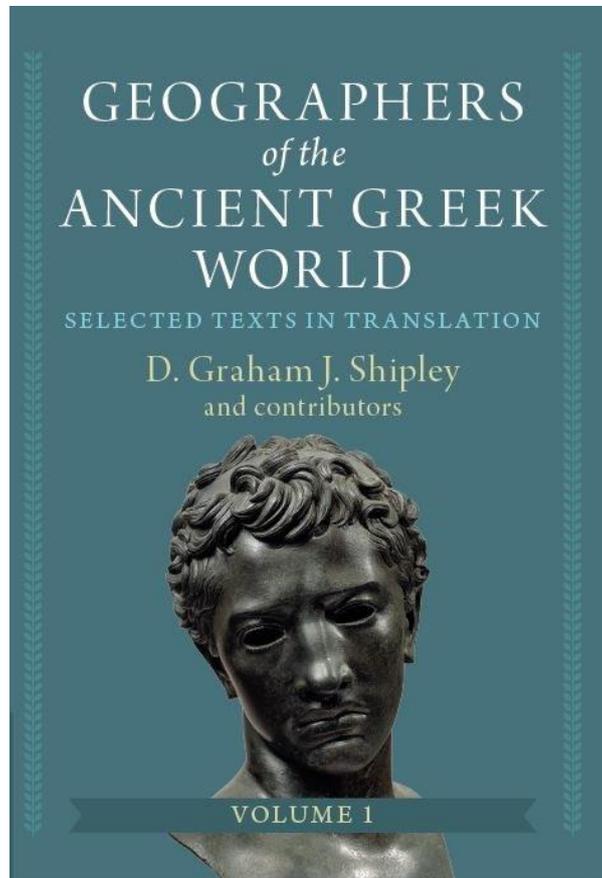
- *October 9th*
- *November 27th*
- *March 5th*

• May 28th

---

## New Publications

### ***Geographers of the Ancient Greek World* - Prof Graham Shipley**



This new two-volume work [\*Geographers of the Ancient Greek World\*](#), was published in March 2024. The volumes provide translations and explanatory notes by a cast of international experts on ancient geographical texts from the Archaic period to the Late Antique period. They also present 28 newly drawn maps and a state-of-the-art survey of the field of ancient Greek and Roman geography.

The volumes should be available via the library catalogue soon, but for now, you can freely [download the chapters on Aristeas of Prokonnesos and Juba II of Mauretania here \(link\)](#).

Meet our new Archivist

**Dr Anne Marie Williamson**

Archivist – [British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies](#) (BILNAS) Archive

18th Floor, Attenborough Tower



"As a Belfast native, I grew up surrounded by the North's rich storytelling traditions, its myths and legends, and its great appreciation for poetry. My love for the spoken word and its impact on my understanding of the world led me to study Irish Literature at Queen's University, Belfast. Later, I pursued a PhD focused on female authored dramatic writing. Driven by a desire to further explore how storytelling can challenge or support mainstream narratives, I developed an interest in Archives as 'memory stores'. I subsequently worked with [Cotesbach Educational Trust](#), while undertaking a PGDip in Archives and Records Management. I also worked with The National Archives as a Regional Investigator for the Midlands, [mapping inclusive practices](#) in the archive sector. I am excited to join the team at BILNAS and look forward to sharing stories from its archive"

#### [Michael Atiyah Lab Equipment \(Mab Labs\)](#)

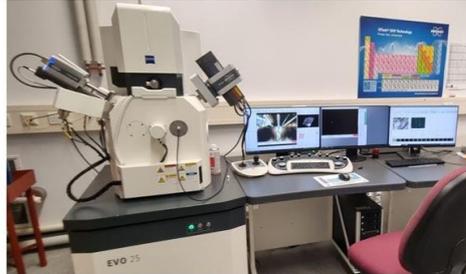
In [our last edition \(April 2024\)](#) we announced the opening of our new research laboratories and equipment. The below information gives even more information about what equipment is housed in the labs and it's capabilities. This equipment is available for use by staff and postgraduate research students. We may also be able to facilitate use of the equipment for external persons who have an interest, for all enquires, contact [arch-techs@le.ac.uk](mailto:arch-techs@le.ac.uk).

[Visit our School laboratories webpages](#) for even more information about the equipment and how it can be used!



### Advanced Microanalysis

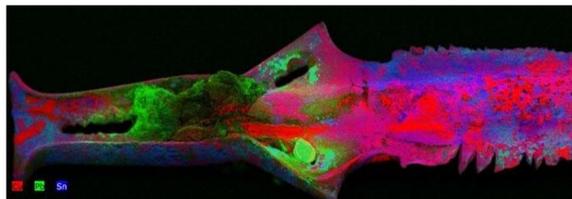
- Zeiss EVO25 VP-SEM
    - (Bruker  $\mu$ XRF & EDS)
  - Bruker Tornado M4  $\mu$ XRF
  - Zeiss AxioScan Slide Scanner
  - Olympus Handheld pXRF
  - Raman Spectroscopy
- 
- Carl Zeiss EVO 25 SEM
    - Large Chamber Size
    - Variable Pressure and High Vacuum Modes
    - Equipped with Bruker  $\mu$ XRF and EDS
    - Qualitative and Quantitative Data
    - Applications for research and teaching in Archaeology and Ancient history, History, Politics and International Relations, Museum Studies and Criminology



Advanced Microanalysis

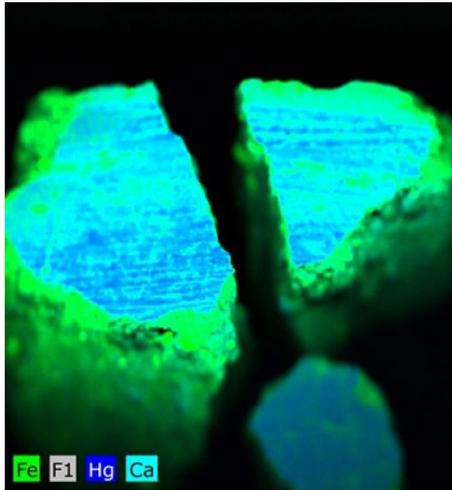


- Bruker M4 Tornado+  $\mu$ XRF
  - Large Chamber Size
  - Qualitative and Quantitative Data
  - Low Vacuum
  - Applications for research and teaching in Archaeology and Ancient history, History, Politics and International Relations, Museum Studies and Criminology

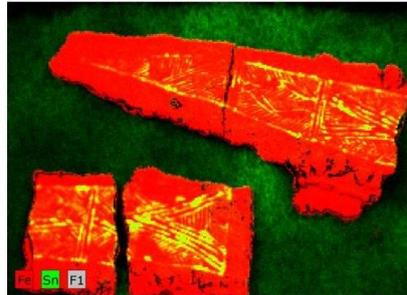


XRF Elemental Map – Sword from Bradley Fen

Advanced Microanalysis



XRF Elemental Map – Roman wall plaster



XRF Elemental Map – Roman dagger

Advanced Microanalysis

### Computational Analysis

The School has two dedicated high powered desktop PC's (Andromache and Hector) for data processing and computational analysis. The PCs are networked and are managed by Digital Services. A wide range of software is installed on them for Geoinformatics and Microscopical analysis. For a full list of software and if you wish to discuss any requirements, please contact the Technicians.



### 3D Scanning of Objects

- Leica BLK2GO
- Artec Space Spiders
- Formlabs 3L 3D resin printer



3D scans of a dagger (courtesy of Dr Dawid Sych)

Computational Analysis and 3D Scanning of Objects



### Light Microscopy

- Zeiss Stemi 508
- Zeiss Axio Imager Vario
- Zeiss AxioScope 5
- Zeiss Stereo Discovery v8 Pol
- Zeiss Stereo v20



Light Microscopy

## Teaching News

Fieldschool 2023/24 : Catsick Hill, Barrow-upon-Soar





4 - A student with a pottery fragment



5 - A student with a pottery fragment





*6 - A student onsite at Catsick fieldschool digging*



*7 - Onsite at fieldschool planning out the dig*



*8 - Students reviewing their trenches after a lot of digging!*



*9 - A student onsite at Catsick fieldschool carefully excavating*



*10 - A student enthusiastically 'in the trenches' digging at Catsick fieldschool*







11 - We found something!





12 - A student onsite, photographing archaeological features during dig



*13 - A student onsite digging at Catsick fieldschool*



*14 - Onsite at Catsick fieldschool, a student displaying a pottery fragment*



*15 - Dr Jeremy Taylor (right) discussing plans with the team at Catsick fieldschool*



Over the past couple of months, Dr Philippa Walton has been working with Time Team to create films which document our 1st year fieldschool. Throughout the excavation in May, students and staff hard at work were filmed and interviewed and give an insight into what happens on a University of Leicester fieldschool dig which you can watch in below video from 7:30 to 10:48.



16 - Credit: Time Team

Our Campus-based learners

---

*Student-Staff Committee Dates*

---

- 
- *October 30th*
  - *December 4th*
  - *January 29th*
  - *March 26th*
  - *May 14th*
- 

## Our Distance Learners



17 - Image from [Pikpng](#)

### Time Travelling – Two Weeks in the Country: Jonathan Gladwin PCIfA

"I still love the reaction when I tell people that I'm an Archaeologist. I am professionally accredited with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and an active member of the Council for British Archaeology. I'm a "mature student", studying for a BA in Archaeology, and whilst sadly I don't own a bull whip, I do have a rather fetching fedora hat. This is my story.

The "17th November" is a special date for me. Those that know me well, know the date is tattooed on my left arm, just below the words "Operation Iraqi Freedom". Several years ago, in the not-too-distant past, I was assigned to a unit of the US Department of Defence, protecting members of the Government working in post war Iraq. One morning whilst travelling in a convoy, my armoured "Humvee" was attacked in a complex ambush and my vehicle was blown up by a roadside bomb (IED). I survived of course and following a breakdown, I was referred to Operation Courage as part of the army's mental health support services.

---

*One morning whilst travelling in a convoy, my armoured “Humvee” was attacked in a complex ambush and my vehicle was blown up by a roadside bomb (IED).*

---



I was then invited by Breaking Ground Heritage, a charitable organisation for serving military personnel and veterans, to support an archaeological excavation in Northumbria of two circular features near Hadrian’s Wall, that were initially discovered by analysis of high-resolution Lidar.

The sites are close to a large prehistoric settlement at Todlaw Pike (Scheduled Monument Number 1015531). The features having been interpreted as probable funerary or ceremonial monuments of Bronze Age date or earlier.

The dig was part of “Operation Nightingale”, a military initiative developed to use archaeology as a means of aiding the recovery of service personnel injured in recent conflicts, particularly in Iraq and Afghanistan. The project was supported by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation and Wessex Archaeology.

Over a period of 10 days, myself and a team of military veterans and other archaeologists, set to work excavating the site, mainly using shovels, mattocks and trowels. This was back breaking work and I remember commenting that this activity was never featured on Time Team or any of the Indiana Jones movies.

We didn’t find any gold coins, crystal skulls or a temple of doom, but I was instantly bitten by the archaeology bug. I am proud to say we identified two previously unknown Neolithic sites, including a stone burial Cairn and a ritual enclosure (archaeological slang for “we don’t really know what it is”) and some possible evidence of Late Iron Age / Romano British agriculture.

---

*I remember commenting that this activity was never featured on Time Team or any of the Indiana Jones movies.*

---



18 - 'Operation Nightingale' Dig



19 - The skeletal analysis lecture was carried out by Dr Diana Swales, Dundee University as stated, however, it was carried out at the Operation Nightingale Field HQ, Otterburn Camp rather than at Dundee Uni campus.

It wasn't all hard work. I studied skeletal analysis with Dr Diana Swales, MSc Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology and lecturer in Forensic Archaeology at Dundee University and worked alongside students from Cambridge and Oxford Universities.

They say "that the battlefield is full of silent prayers". My prayers were certainly answered that day, and out of a terrifying experience came my love of archaeology and a new career. I became an accredited Practitioner with CfA in December 2022, and I am the Director of Heritage and Cultural Property Crime for a large UK based company.

If anyone is interested in learning more about Operation Nightingale or alternative routes into Archaeology, please come and chat... Fedora hat optional."

The title of the piece is a reference to the film "A month in the country", based on the JL Carr novel of the same name. The book and the film were the inspiration for the Operation Nightingale project.

[BA in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History student Vanessa Walker, shares their story...](#)

"I did my first dig this summer through the excellent Mercian Archaeological Services, who are researching the deserted medieval village of Welby in northern Leicestershire. We opened a trench on the likely site of some peasant houses, and I had such fun learning about dig etiquette and coming to terms with the difficult clay conditions in the area. Amongst all the chunks of ironstone masquerading as something more exciting, we found many sherds of Stamford ware, quite a lot of splashed ware, and bits and pieces of fired clay and flint. I enjoyed the camaraderie of sifting through the spoil heap, learning how to use a mattock and trowel, and even filling in the context sheet! I am studying my BA through the DL option so it was wonderful to see all the theory from my online lectures and readings brought to life around a trench!"

**-Vanessa Walker**

*Teacher at an international school in Switzerland, one year into a DL BA in Classical Archaeology and Ancient History*



*20 - Curious visitors to the site!*



21 - Cleaning finds



22 - Learning how to mattock



*23 - A Sifting through buckets of clay*



*24 - Learning how to fill in a context sheet*

[BA Archaeology student, Gina Hall writes about their time at the British School at Athens](#)

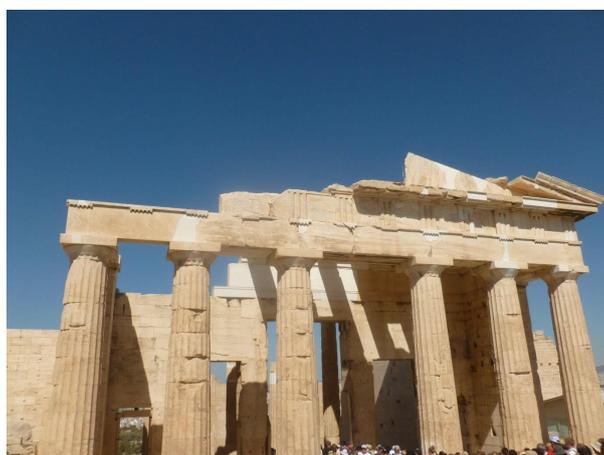
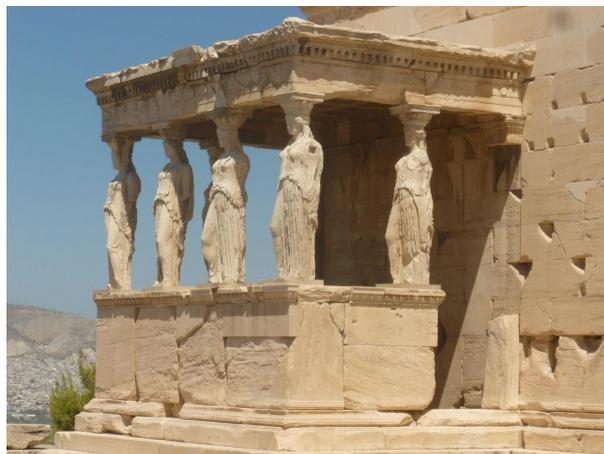
"Distance learning generally equates to solitary home studying with occasional online interaction. For one week in June, it meant flying to Athens and losing my head in the mists of classical Greece! I applied and won a place for the bursary assisted course, 'The Ancient City of Athens' offered by the British School at Athens (BSA).

The BSA was founded in the 1880s to facilitate study and excavation in and around Athens. Students stay at the hostel, built as part of that foundation. It is comfortable (air-conditioned!) with a world class library, redolent of books and learning. There were sixteen students on the course, all twenty-something classicists (some doing archaeology as well) attending top universities ... and me.

The days were mostly spent walking all over Athens, with lectures at the monuments – the Agora, Temple of Hephaestus, cemetery, Acropolis, museums, the Library of Hadrian, Temple of Olympic Zeus. Longer trips were by bus to Eleusis, Marathon, Brauron and Sounion - the utterly spell-binding Temple of Poseidon. There are also lectures in the BSA, including a pottery handling session and archive studies.

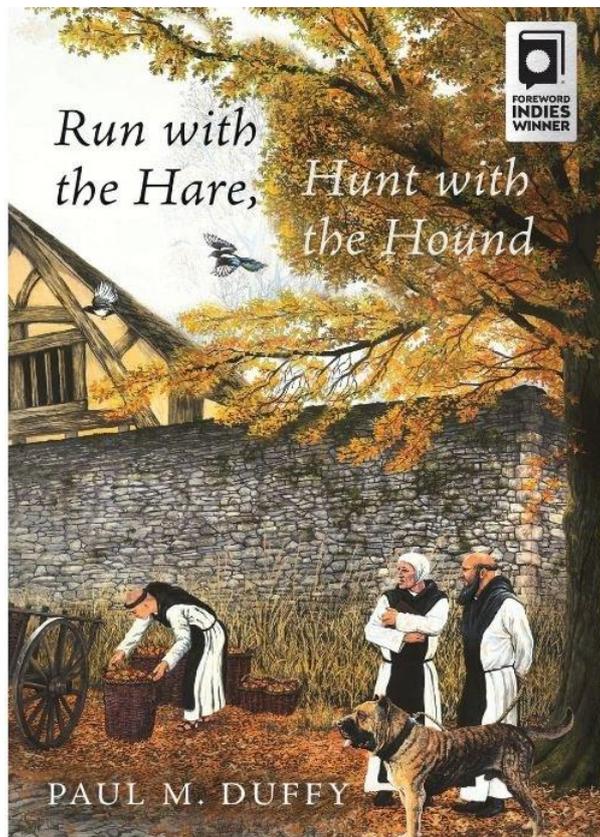
**Are you thinking this might be for you?** My thoughts – it was thirty-five degrees and a lot of walking and standing. There aren't any other real options so if mobility is a problem, it might not suit you. It also helps if you are google-maps and public transport savvy ... I am not! Otherwise, it's great- the facilities are good, lectures are interesting, staff are engaging and helpful, and good food is available everywhere. Top tips – loads of water, P20 sunscreen, and don't be daunted by younger students from prestigious universities! The monuments designed to provide facilities for the city and honour the capricious whims of the gods remain utterly awe-inspiring. "

Images of the Acropolis of Athens



## Postgraduate Student News

Paul Duffy's novel now available on Audible



25 - Book cover; design by Matthew Ryan <http://matthewryanhistoricalillustrator.com/index.html>

Paul Duffy is one of Ireland's leading medieval archaeologists and a current PhD candidate at the School of Archaeology and Ancient History at Leicester. He is the author of *Run with the Hare, Hunt with the Hound* - an immersive, fast paced and sensory novel of twelfth century Ireland that comes from the wellspring of a life spent writing, touching and imagining the medieval. This project seeks to immerse the reader in the nature, environment and turmoil of twelfth century Ireland and has received praise from Booker Prize winner Paul Lynch and renowned author of medieval historical fiction Elizabeth Chadwick.

Listen via [Audible with a 30-day free trial \(link\)](#) and is also available via Spotify and Amazon.

## Professional Services Updates

---

### *School Meeting (all staff) Dates*

---

- *September 18th*
-

- *December 12th*
  - *March 19th*
  - *June 6th*
- 

### Reception and Office Move

The Professional Services team (PST) is relocating to the 7th floor of the Attenborough Tower, room 707, where they will now share office space with the School of History, Politics, and International Relations PST. As a result, there will no longer be a reception in the main School building. However, staff and students are encouraged to visit the 7th-floor office with any queries as usual.

This move is necessary due to limited space, and the former PST office will be repurposed into shared office space for academic and research staff. Additionally, this change will reduce instances of lone working and ensure sufficient office coverage.

**Please also note that the Archaeology and Ancient History building now requires swipe card access. Staff and students must use their swipe cards to enter through the front door.** Staff expecting visitors should keep in mind that there will no longer be a reception in the building to assist with access.

### Our Alumni - Where are they now?

#### 50 years in Archaeology: Dr Kevin Leahy

"I was, in 1977, one of the first three Leicester students to graduate in single-subject Archaeology. Previously, Archaeology had only been available as part of Combined Studies, I started as CS, with Geology and Chemistry as my supplementary subjects but, when offered Archaeology, went for it. I was a mature student having previously trained as a foundry engineer and metallurgist, (a back-ground I've never regretted). The University was a revelation to me: I was at Beaumont Hall under the wise guidance of Dr Campbell King. I remember the first evening at Beaumont where we had sherry in the Wedgwood Room, I'd attended anything like this and thought that I might get to like it. Beaumont was set within the University's Botanic Gardens and I knew where I was well off staying for four years. In my last year I was a sub-warden and learned to be a gentleman (or at least pass myself off as one).

I remember the first lecture; it was Geology, not Archaeology – Professor Sylvester Bradley on 'Scientific Scepticism' – there are no truths in science only models that seem to explain things; these models must be constantly challenged and tested. This was heady stuff and I was blown-away. It was the best lecture I was to hear in three years!

The Archaeology Department in the Attenborough Building was small and welcoming, Vincent Megaw was Professor, Derek Simpson did earlier prehistory, Stanley Thomas, later prehistory, John Wachter the Romans and Ann Dornier post Roman. Graham Morgan was the conservator. While I was there the department excavated, with Cardiff University, the Giants' Hill II Neolithic long-barrow at Skendleby, Lincolnshire. I supervised the west end of the mound in what was one of the hottest summers on record. We fried.

---

*I supervised the west end of the mound in what was one of the hottest summers on record.  
We fried.*

---

I never escaped Lincolnshire, after doing the Leicester Museum Studies course I got the job of archaeologist at Scunthorpe Museum. I intended to use my metallurgical background to devote myself to the Bronze Age but this was not to be the case. On my desk, when I arrived, was a bag of sherds from the Cleatham Anglo-Saxon cemetery which I ended up excavating with local volunteers. The Museum let me excavate some big sites but I was still a generalist as at Scunthorpe I had to cover everything. I specialised a bit with a PhD on the Cleatham cemetery and I taught for the University of Hull and in Adult Education for many years. I became involved with the recording of metal detector finds which were being found on ploughed-out sites across Lincolnshire. This led to my current job covering Early Medieval finds for the British Museum's Portable Antiquities Scheme. Assisted by my wife, Dianne, we made the first record of the great Staffordshire Hoard of Anglo-Saxon treasure.

Has my 50 years in Archaeology 'changed history'? Probably not but I might have added a few footnotes in obscure journals and my former students, volunteers and museum visitors seem to have got something out of my efforts which is all that matters.

(I am also an Honorary Visiting Fellow, School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester which shows that they have either forgiven or forgotten!)"

**Dr Kevin Leahy, FSA, MCIfA.**

**National Adviser, The Portable Antiquities Scheme,**

**British Museum**



26 - Dig at Skendleby - 1970s



27 - Skendleby Hogsthrope Camp - 1970s

## Our Community

### 2023-24 Prize Winners

Click through this stack to see who has been awarded prizes at our recent board of examiners - very well deserved, congratulations to all!

First Year Archaeology Prize

#### **Nicole Eaton**

*Awarded to the single or joint honours campus-based student with the highest average mark in Archaeology modules at level 1*

Level 1 Prize in Archaeology (DL)

#### **Heather Wain**

*Awarded to the DL student with the highest credit-weighted average of relevant modules*

Second Year Archaeology Prize

#### **David Bindis**

*Awarded to the single or joint honours campus-based student with the highest average mark in Archaeology modules at level 2*

Level 2 Prize in Archaeology (DL)

**Isabel Hollstein**

*Awarded to the DL student with the highest credit-weighted average of relevant modules*

Dame Rosemary Cramp Dissertation Prize

**Molly Mather**

*Awarded for the best first-class dissertation in Archaeology by a campus-based undergraduate*

Alan McWhirr Dissertation Prize

**Lucy Stanton-Greenwood**

*Awarded annually to the undergraduate student who achieves the highest dissertation mark in Archaeology by distance learning.*

Samuel and Rachel May Prize in Archaeology

**Elizabeth Ann Buckingham**

*Awarded for outstanding performance in final-year Archaeology*

Level 3 Prize in Archaeology (DL)

**Mediya Morton**

*Awarded to the DL student with the highest credit-weighted average of relevant modules*

First Year Ancient History Prize

**Jackson Brandon**

*Awarded to the single or joint honours campus-based student with the highest average mark in Ancient History modules at level 1*

Level 1 Prize in Ancient History (DL)

**Martina Dinkel**

*Awarded to the DL student with the highest credit-weighted average of relevant modules*

Second Year Ancient History Prize

**Maximilian Buckland**

*Awarded to the single or joint honours campus-based student with the highest average mark in Ancient History modules at level 2*

Level 2 Prize in Ancient History (DL)

**Elizabeth Buss**

*Awarded to the DL student with the highest credit-weighted average of relevant modules*

Level 3 Prize in Ancient History (DL)

**Mauro Mattiuzzo**

*Awarded to the DL student with the highest credit-weighted average of relevant modules*

Arnold Wycombe Gomme Prize

**William Martin**

*Awarded for outstanding performance in final-year Ancient History by a campus-based student*

Dorothy Buchan Ancient History Dissertation Prize

**Caroline Cichock**

*Awarded for the best first-class dissertation in Ancient History by a campus-based undergraduate*

John Wachter Dissertation Prize in Roman Studies

**William Martin**

*Awarded for the best first-class dissertation on Roman Archaeology or Ancient History by a campus-based or distance learning undergraduate student*

Ancient History DL Dissertation Prize (Joint winners)

**Eleanor Bairstow & Kirsty Gudgeon**

*Awarded annually to the undergraduate student achieving the highest dissertation mark in Ancient History by distance-learning*

Mark Pluciennik MA Dissertation Prize in Archaeology and Ancient History (Distance Learning)

**Alexandra Sills**

*Awarded to the DL student with the highest Distinction-class dissertation mark in any MA programme*

Dame Kathleen Kenyon Prize

## **Ann Marie Schembri**

*Awarded to the DL student with a distinction and the highest overall average on any MA programme*

Vaughan Prize for Community Engagement

## **Emma Stockley**

*Awarded to the student who shows outstanding commitment to the SAAH outreach programme*

## [Leicester Archaeology Monographs](#)

Did you know monographs written by SAAH and ULAS staff are available to purchase through the online University shop? These would make great gifts for lovers of archaeology or ancient history and there are several that focus on local discoveries such as *Life in Roman and Medieval Leicester: Excavations in the town's north-east quarter*, *Roman Leicester and Richard III - the King under the Car Park*.

[Browse and our monographs here! \(link\)](#)

## [The Unending Conversation: On History and Ancient History, \(and the bits in between\)](#)

### **Prof Andy Merrills talks about his inaugural lecture**

"At the end of May 2024, I delivered my inaugural lecture, (somewhat portentously titled 'The Unending Conversation: On History and Ancient History, (and the bits in between)'). Inaugural lectures are a strange institution in which newly-promoted professors are allowed to wax lyrical about their subject for about an hour, before everyone decamps for wine and nibbles, and says how pleased they are that the speaker didn't go on too long.

There isn't really a set template for how you're meant to deliver an inaugural lecture. Of course, Neil Christie has gone down in legend for doing his entirely in verse, and Ollie Harris used his to re-invent the discipline of archaeology, but most professors are content to make some wider observations about the field in which they work, scatter some thanks around to selected colleagues and then repair for wine.

My own lecture was concerned primarily with the collaborative nature of all historical research – thinking especially about the 'conversations' that we have through our books and articles, and how our goal should not be to prove others wrong, or seek to have 'the last word' on a particular topic, but rather to move our collective 'conversation' along for others to develop further in the future. It was a genuine privilege to be able to speak on the topic before so many friends and colleagues, and lovely to see so many people there. The lecture

was dedicated to my Dad who died in 2018. He was a Professor himself (albeit in a different discipline), and I hope he would have supported the sentiments I presented"

### Student's Union Superstar Awards

The Superstar Awards are run by the SU's Student Voice Team to celebrate exceptional staff members at the University. These awards exist to recognise members of staff who have gone above and beyond in their role, or who have made a significant contribution to a student, department or school. Students also received awards to recognise their hard work and contributions.

School representatives, Molly Mather and Natalie Hayward won the "Coordinator's Choice Special Recognition Award" for their joint work over the last academic year. This has included attending groups, holding drop-in sessions both in person and online, providing a voice for students at school meetings and being approachable for both students and staff.

Molly Mather also individually won "College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities Academic Rep of the Year" for her excellent work over the last academic year. This includes, but isn't limited to, creating and holding sessions to promote and provide academic representation, liaising with other schools, attending numerous groups and committees, and being a reliable point of contact for all students in the school.

Kai Francis, current PhD student, also won the PGR Teaching Excellence Award in recognition of his work in teaching seminars for first years. Students said that "*Kai always manages to make his seminars a fun and inclusive environment, giving everyone the space to contribute as much as they want to, and is always willing to offer a helping hand to anyone who needs it.*"

In total, our amazing staff received 12 nominations across 5 categories. Congratulations to the winners! [Read more about the awards here \(link\)](#)



28 - Right: Natalie Hayward, Left: Molly Mather



29 - Right: Kai Francis, Left: Molly Mather,

Click through this stack to view all of our nominated staff!

### **Best Lecturer Nominations**

- Dr Jo Appleby
- Dr Laura Basell
- Dr Rachel Crellin
- Prof Ruth Young

### **Best Supervisor Nominations**

- Dr Brian Costello
- Dr Janie Masségli
- Prof Sarah Scott
- Dr Dan Stewart
- Dr Selena Wisnom

### **Best Personal Tutor Nominations**

- Prof Neil Christie
- Dr Janie Masségli
- Prof Graham Shipley
- Dr Dan Stewart

### **Best Implementer of Student Feedback Nomination**

- Dr Alice Samson

### **Best Supporting Staff**

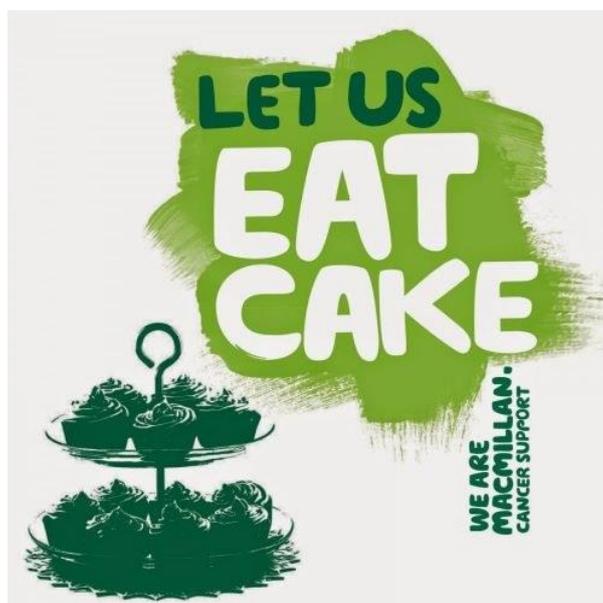
- Ingrid Dyson

## Archaeological survey in the Western Desert of Iraq

Honorary Fellow of the School, Dr Ella Egberts, participated in fieldwork in the Western Desert of Iraq in March 2024 and focused on studying the landscape. Circumstances permitting, Ella is due to return in December to investigate the geomorphologic history and Palaeolithic archaeology of the desert, which is part of Ella's British Institute for Study of Iraq (BISI) funded Pilot Project. This is a second, separate project but studying the same region which is pretty much uncharted territory due to the inaccessibility of the Western Desert. Read more about the findings of the remote sensing and field survey program here <https://www.asor.org/news/2024/04/mesopotamian-fellowship-report-iotheri>

## Events and Important Dates

- **September 2nd - 6th, Freshers week for distance learning students.** This includes series of short welcome videos such as 'meet the tutors' and 'get involved with the Students Union' as well as social activities such as virtual coffee in the DL Virtual Common Room, for all new and returning students to get to know each other and the staff.
- **September 23rd - 27th, Induction Week for campus based students**
- **Macmillan Coffee and Cake Morning 2024**



We're hosting a Coffee Morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support on 27th September.

Last year we managed to raise **over £150** for Macmillan Cancer Support, and we hope we can beat this amount this year! Any keen bakers are encouraged to bake a treat to bring along, but if you're not convinced of your skills then shop-brought treats are just as welcome!

Donations can be made in cash on the day, online on our [dedicated Macmillan page \(link\)](#) or by scanning the QR code available on the day.

**When:** Friday 27th September, 10:00-13:00

**Where:** Archaeology and Ancient History Seminar Room 0.02

Macmillan offer support and information about cancer to people living with cancer and their loved ones. The Macmillan Support Line offers free, confidential support and their website offers lots of free resources to help those affected. Visit their website for more information <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>

- **Distance Learning 101**

A short session which covers all aspects of distance learning. Topics to be covered include - explanations of commonly used terms, grading, contact points and available support. This session is for new and continuing distance learners, both undergraduate and postgraduate.

**When:** Friday 11th October, 13:00-14:00 (BST)

**Where:** Microsoft Teams

More information, and the join link, will be available via the ["What's On" section of the Leicester Students' Union website.](#)

- **Introduction to the Students' Union**

How much do you know about your Students' Union? Come and learn about what the Students' Union does for students, and how you can be a part of it. The session will cover the basic structure, the types of activities and support on offer and how academic representation works. This session is for any student who wants to know more about their Students' Union.

**When:** Friday 18th October, 14:00 - 15:00 (BST)

**Where:** Microsoft Teams

More information, and the join link, will be available via the ["What's On" section of the Leicester Students' Union website.](#)

- **Open Days: [Book Now via this link](#)**

- Saturday, 14th September
- Saturday, 5th October
- Saturday, 9th November

The University has teamed up with National Express to offer 30% off coach travel on your journey to one of our Open Days. [Learn how to claim your travel discount.](#)

- **Bank holidays**

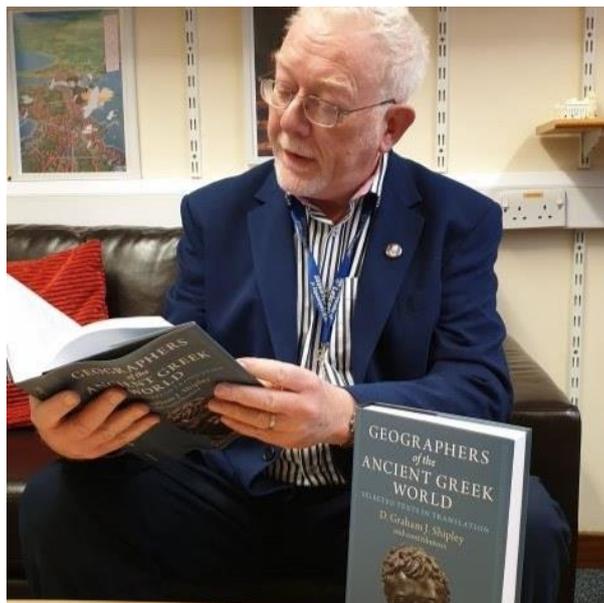
– Monday, 26th August

## ULAS

We work closely with the University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) team across a variety of projects and they are crucial in helping to deliver our student fieldschools. If you would like to find out more about ULAS you can read their newsletter below, or [visit this link to view it in a separate window.](#)

## Our Community Photos

Click on the symbol in the top left corner of each image to read the caption.



30 - Prof Shipley reading his new volumes



*31 - Tree in the gardens of the Rijksmuseum, taken by Ingrid Dyson on a recent trip*



*32 - Just finished my PhD in April, graduating July 16. Excavating recently in Malta at Melite Civitas Romana with fellow recent Leicester PhD grad David Cardona.*

*-Matthew Selheimer*



*33 - Here's one more with me and David together. David is the excavation director for Heritage Malta.*

*-Matthew Selheimer*



*34 - On her recent trip to the Isle of Man, Sarah Tarlow was very excited to visit the site of Balladoole, a famous multi-period site in the south of the island. These stones are modern, but mark the position of a famous and controversial Norse boat burial*

*-Sarah Tarlow*



*35 - Puffin photo courtesy of Rachel Armitage from a recent trip to Iceland*



*36 - Iceberg photo courtesy of Rachel Armitage from a recent trip to Iceland*



*37 - Landscape photo courtesy of Rachel Armitage from a recent trip to Iceland*



*38 - Waterfall with a rainbow: photo courtesy of Rachel Armitage from a recent trip to Iceland*



*39 - Waterfall photo courtesy of Rachel Armitage from a recent trip to Iceland*



*40 - Puppy Obie at 3 months - Adam Thuraisingam Robbins*



*41 - Puppy Obie at 1 year! - Adam Thuraisingam Robbins*