



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER



The Mosaic: *June 2025*

In This Issue

Welcome to the sixth 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 news, events and updates from across the School of Archaeology and Ancient History (SAAH) community.

Read [previous editions of *The Mosaic* here!](#)



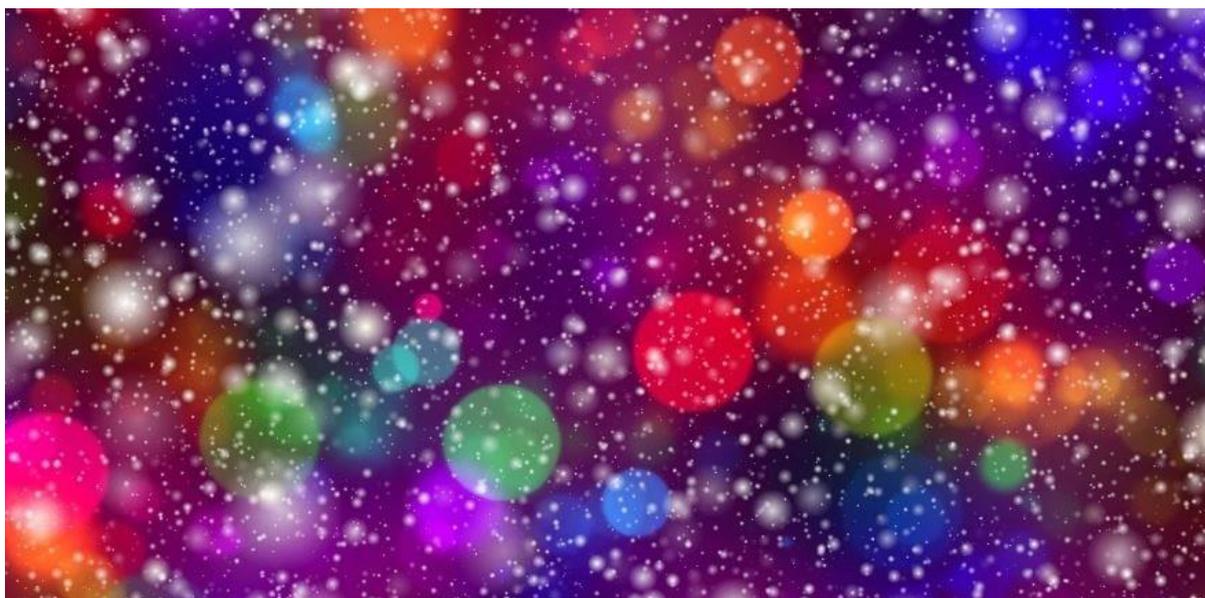
Navigate to the different sections below by clicking on the icon in the bottom right, or by scrolling down.

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Next issue: October 2025

The Mosaic's First Anniversary



The Mosaic has now been running for over a year! **Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our newsletter and to all the readers who engage with it!**

Since our first edition, we have expanded our readership, including different sections from our community and now want to hear your thoughts!

We are keen to hear your feedback about what you like, and what you think could be improved, about *The Mosaic* to help us to enrich future editions. Please use the anonymous feedback form below to submit your thoughts to help us to continue to provide news, events and stories that engages readers across a variety of demographics!

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Graduation Information

Where and When

We hold our ceremonies in De Montfort Hall, Leicester's largest music and performance venue, right next to campus.

School of Archaeology and Ancient History Graduation, 10:00am Thursday 17th July 2025

Learn more about [University of Leicester Graduations](#)

What you do

Graduation is the one time when you are required to wear the traditional 'academic dress' of a gown, hood and hat. You'll hire a gown, hood and hat for the ceremony, collecting them from the Sports Hall, Charles Wilson Building on the day. When your name is read out during the ceremony, you walk across the stage and shake hands with the ceremony's Presiding Officer.

When will I receive confirmation of the number of tickets I have been allocated?

Your guest tickets will be emailed to you at least one week before your ceremony. All students are guaranteed up to two guest tickets (provided you confirmed this during the registration process) and any extra tickets that you have requested that have been able to be allocated will be included in this email.

I can't attend my graduation ceremony, will I still receive my certificate?

If you cannot attend your graduation ceremony, or you do not wish to, you can graduate "in absentia". This means that you choose to graduate without attending a ceremony and in such cases your certificate and transcript (if applicable) will be sent by post to the address you have provided.

Student Union Superstar Awards



1 - L-R: Natalie Hayward, Annika Mazzarella, Molly Mather, Isabel Higham (back), Naomi Allman (front), Nicole Salomone (HYPIR PGR Rep)

This year's SU Awards took place in May and SAAH was extremely well represented! This year we had 2 staff members, and 3 students shortlisted for awards.

Natalie Hayward, a 3rd year distance-learning student, won the Part-time Officer of the Year award, and was shortlisted for the Most Impactful Part-time Officer Project Award, for their work on DL Day. Natalie is "a testament to what true representation looks like following their approach of listening to students and relaying this feedback in spaces where change is made".

Molly Mather, an MA distance-learning student, won the College of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities rep of the year award (for the second year in a row!), and was shortlisted for the Most Impactful Academic Rep and Community Focused Rep of the Years awards. Molly was nominated for her "enthusiasm and infectious positivity and for always approaching situations with professionalism and care".

Isabel Higham and **Molly Mather** were jointly shortlisted for the Most Impactful School Led Vision award for their work this year on improving dissertation guidance, building the DL community, investigating the lack of engagement and researching what students think about the use of AI. They have had a "tangible impact" on each area they have worked on, and their work this year has been "second to none".

Natalie and **Molly** were also recognised for their contributions to the Students' Union new Academic Council this year, where they worked on proposals and policies that addressed issues such as how mitigating circumstances are applied to neurodivergent students, and how the university issues scholarships and discounts to students from a range of backgrounds.

Dr Jo Appleby won the Superstar award for Most Inclusive Practice, with students saying that Jo is "open to all forms of feedback, brimming with ideas for improvement, and willing to take on board others' views or opinions" and that "the department couldn't wish for a better person, and how much she cares for students and their experience is evident in everything she does". Jo was also shortlisted for the Best Personal Tutor award and the Best Implementer of Feedback award.

Dr Alice Samson was shortlisted for the Superstar awards for Most Inclusive Practice and Best Implementer of Feedback, with students saying that she has been "a huge support through numerous initiatives and focus groups and a key contact for distance learners".

Dr Dan Stewart was nominated for Best Supervisor, award and both **Dr Neil Christie** and **Dr Kathryn Tempest** nominated for Best Lecturer awards. Students said that "Neil has always been accommodating towards me and other students. Always has a smile and really seems to care about all of us. He's also the most approachable lecturer I've had the pleasure of meeting at this university", whilst students described Kathryn as "Very engaging and enthusiastic lecturer, always knowledgeable. Her positive, helpful attitude helped me decide to switch to Ancient History!"

Dr Jane Masségia and **Dr Kathryn Tempest** were nominated for Best Personal Tutor Award. Students had nominated Kathryn for being "SO supportive[...] also really helped me figure out some personal stuff when I didn't know who else to talk to".

And it wasn't just SAAH that won either, fellow students from **Museum Studies**, soon to be merged with SAAH as the School of Heritage and Culture, also did well!

Jason Lok, a school representative for Museum Studies, won the Community Focused Academic Rep of the Year award, for their "great enthusiasm for their community and for their ability to lead on creating spaces for a group of students that normally struggle to find belonging at university". **Annika Mazarella**, a PhD Museum Studies student, was shortlisted for the sustainability award, for her constant and inspiring work on sustainability initiatives.

The awards event was great fun, with Syd the SU mascot greeting guests at the door. The event had a vibrant summer theme that really emphasised the joy of celebrating all the student and staff successes across the university.

Huge congratulations to all!

Research News

[An ancient observation of T Coronae Borealis?](#)

Prof Graham Shipley, having previously written a few short papers on modern literature alongside his regular Ancient History outputs, has extended his publication range with a short piece on the history of astronomy.

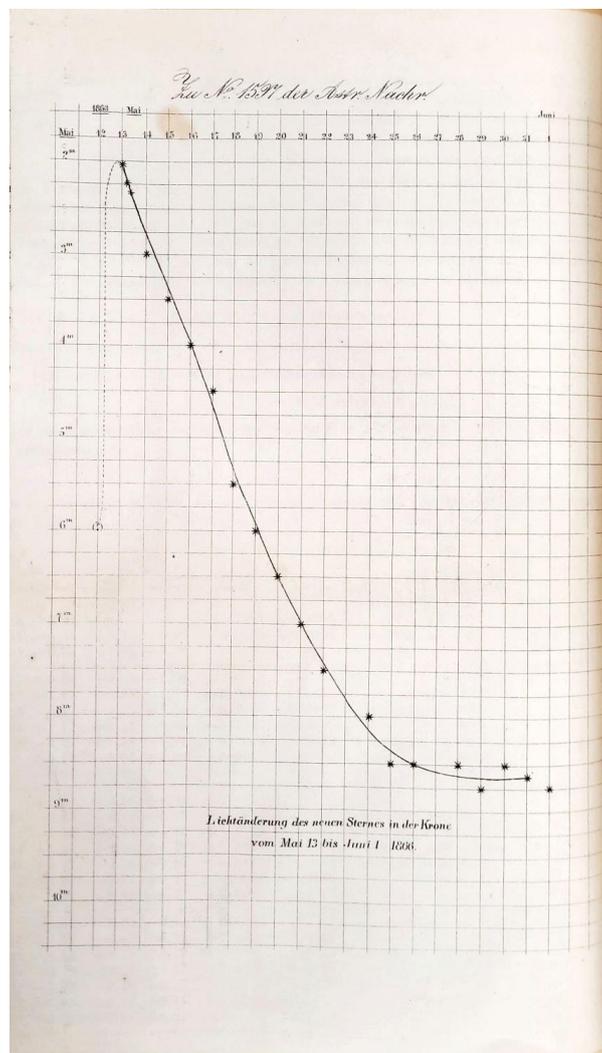
Noticing media stories last year and in January 2025 about a variable star which 'erupts' to naked-eye visibility only about once every 80 years and is expected to do so this year or next, he wondered whether it could be linked to the ancient Greek astronomer and geographer Hipparchos, whom he studied for his *Geographers* volumes (2024). The star is on the southern edge of the constellation of Corona Borealis (The Northern Crown), known in medieval and ancient times as Ariadne's Crown. The star itself, as a variable star not usually visible with the naked eye, has received the roman letter 'T' as its designation (rather than a Greek letter). Aficionados refer to it as 'T CrB' for short.

Pliny the Elder, who died in the eruption (of another but equally fiery kind) of Vesuvius in AD 79, writes that Hipparchos (who lived about 200 years before him) saw a *nova stella*, 'new star', and that this prompted him to begin work on his great catalogue of all stars visible from Rhodes or Alexandria. We know from a recently discovered palimpsest (reused medieval manuscript) that Hipparchos's other works referred specifically to the positions of the stars in Corona Borealis, though not to T as such; but this is no surprise, given that he must have observed many constellations repeatedly.

Since the period between eruptions of the T CrB is certainly not constant—it was last seen in February 1946 and May 1866, before that probably in December 1787, and seems to be mentioned in a chronicle by a German abbot in autumn 1217—it proves impossible to tie it with any confidence to Hipparchos’s working career (approximately 162 to 126 BC) at a distance of over two thousand years. So the focus of the investigation becomes, rather, one of method: how specialist historians of astronomy should, and should not, use medieval and ancient sources, and how such sources can, or cannot, be blended with the current astrophysical models of ‘binary variables’ like T—which in any case is a fast-changing field of research.

Graham has a fuller version of the study under review for an academic journal, but was invited to publish a short note quickly in case T CrB should erupt this year:

Shipley, D. G. J. (2025), ‘An ancient observation of T Coronae Borealis?’, *Journal of the British Astronomical Association* **135** 2 (Apr.): 95–6. (Read the paper via [Open Access](#))



2 - Light curve of T Coronae Borealis in May 1866, constructed by Julius Schmidt, director of the Athens Observatory. (Unnumbered leaf included with J. F. J. Schmidt, ‘Ueber den am 13. Mai in der Krone erschienenen Stern’, *Astronomische Nachrichten* 67 no. 1597 (16 July 1866), cols. 201–4. **PER 520 A8798** in UoL Library)

The Tobacco, Health & History Project | Update

The project has been busy over the past few months. Although we will be coming to a finish at the end of October, we are still working closely with collaborators to help us deliver on the aims of the project. In March we welcomed former SAAH teaching fellow Brian Costello onto the team, who will be leading on the delivery of education and outreach to school children across Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. In May, Brian trialled our specialised Tobacco, Health and History lessons on secondary school pupils as a guest speaker at the English Martyrs' School in Leicester. Here, he taught over 350 students on the project's discoveries and past and present health risks of tobacco consumption.

At the beginning of June, we are also welcoming back collaborator Valentina Perrone as an official employee on the project. Valentina has been studying the impact of tobacco on dental histological structures in collaboration with the project. On 22nd March, Valentina, Brian, and Anna presented some of this research at the Heritage Hub: Celebration of Heritage Event. It was a fantastic day, with lots of engagement and it was great to present our work alongside many other colleagues from the School.



3 - Brian and Valentina presenting research on pipe-notches and tooth histology at the Celebration of Heritage Event

Anna was invited to by Prof. Susan Flavin to present a summary of the project so far to a class of MPhil Students at Trinity College Dublin as part of their 'intoxicants of the past' module, to fantastic engagement. Sarah, Brian, and Anna also paid a visit to the University of Derby to visit with project collaborator Dr Kori Filipek, Senior Lecturer in Biomedical and Forensic Science. We have been working together to explore tobacco, health and disease in industrial period individuals from the Midlands, as well as in nineteenth century sailors!



4 - Brian, Sarah, Anna, and Kori inventorying plastic teaching skeletons at University of Derby as part of collaboration to deliver outreach and education to school students

Our many thanks also go to previous undergraduate student Michael Rowley, as well as osteoarchaeologists Taylor Peacock and Alette Blom. Michael was kind enough to volunteer his time in April/May to help us process post-medieval skeletons from the Leicester Cathedral Excavation. These skeletons are being analysed by Taylor Peacock as part of our ongoing research to learn more about the lives of Leicester's citizens during the Industrial period. Honorary Fellow, Alette has also been providing PhD training and research assistance this year on isotope preparation in the Biomolecular Lab.

The project has two recent papers in PLOS One, one that has just come out (23/05), and one just about to come out!

- Perrone, V., Inskip, S. A., Davies-Barrett, A. M., Randolph-Quinney, P., & Schwalbe, E. (2025) Preliminary investigation on the impact of smoking on dental cementum: modern and archaeological insights for cements chronology. *Plos One*, In Press.
- Davies-Barrett AM, Casna M, Inskip SA (2025) "A custome lothsome": Investigating the association between tobacco consumption and respiratory inflammation in two post-medieval English populations (c. CE 1500–1855). *PLoS One* 20(5): e0324045. [Download the PDF version](#)

CreMATE network

On May 14-16th, Jo Appleby hosted the second meeting of the AHRC-funded CreMATE network. This is a network of 29 academics, professional archaeologists, museum curators

and forensic anthropologists from around Europe who work with cremated human remains. The network is developing guidance and standards for excavation, analysis and curation of cremated human remains, alongside a research agenda to drive future work. The meeting and workshops were held over 3 days in Leicester and were very productive (and a lot of fun) and the network is now moving on to some serious work on the publications.



5 - CreMATE network group photo

Body-Politics | Update

It's been a busy few months for the Body-Politics team, who've been busy presenting research findings from the project to a variety of audiences. Earlier in May, several of our team travelled to the University of Nottingham to participate in the [Midlands Viking Symposium](#). Renate Larssen, Brad Marshall, Emma L. Thompson, and Alex Wilson discussed the diversity of bodies in Iron and Viking Age Scandinavia, while Kevin Kay debuted his new educational card game (titled "Gaards! Gaards!" for the Pratchett fans), which teaches the social diversity of the Viking Age by asking players to assemble teams of humans, animals and artefacts to survive the trials of life in ninth-century Iceland. PI Marianne Hem Eriksen also organised this year's [Material Worlds](#) Masterclass, including papers by Renate Larssen on archaeoethology and Alex Wilson and Brad Marshall on forms of unfreedom in medieval Iceland. Finally, Renate Larssen presented research on horse-human relationships at the "Equine cultures in transition" conference (Manchester Metropolitan University), arguing that horses as a species do not fit neatly into the wild-domesticated dichotomy, but occupy a liminal space where individuals may be more or less suited to life in captivity based on different capacities.



6 - A playtest of Kevin Kay's card game "Gaards! Gaards!" about to begin at the Midlands Viking Symposium, University of Nottingham (photo © Kevin Kay).



7 - Renate Larssen presenting her work on human-horse relationships at the Equine Cultures in Transition conference, Manchester Metropolitan University (photo © Heidi Rui Yang)

We're also excited to announce two new Body-Politics publications. Firstly, our PGR student Elisabeth Aslesen's first publication – the book chapter [“Body, doorway that you are’: gendering in fourth- to sixth-century AD Voss and Hardanger”](#) which challenges conventional assumptions about gendered burial practices in Iron Age Norway – came out as part of the edited volume *Gendering the Nordic Past*. Secondly, the article [“Womb-politics: the pregnant body and archaeologies of absence”](#) – by Marianne Hem Eriksen, former PDRAs Kate Olley and Emma Tollefsen, and Brad Marshall, and which investigates the ontology and politics of the pregnant body in the Viking Age – was selected as the *Cambridge Archaeological Journal's* paper of the month. In addition, Marianne's related piece for [The Conversation \(link\)](#) has proved very popular, also being translated into French and with the article's research findings being picked up by several media outlets (Follow these links for more information from [Newsweek](#), [MSN](#), [Medievalists.net](#)).

Finally, our project outreach continues with Emma Thompson recording another podcast episode ([listen here](#)) with Valhalla Conversations (hosted by Rebecca Hill) on board games in the Viking Age and depictions of the Viking Age in video games, board games, and tabletop roleplaying games. And in the near future, Emma and Brad will be recording a joint Nordic Mythology episode on the diversity of mortuary practices across Viking Age Scandinavia.



8 - Poster advertising Emma L. Thompson's recent podcast episode on Vikings and board games (photo © Valhalla Conversations).

[Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa \(EAMENA\) Project | Update](#)

Dr. Ahmed Mahmoud participated in the expert meeting on Archaeological Heritage in a Changing Climate (AHCC), held in March 2025. The event was organized by the Getty Conservation Institute in partnership with the host institution, the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, in Rome and brought together scientists and professionals from climate modelling and heritage conservation to discuss cutting-edge research, methods, and collaborative strategies for safeguarding archaeological sites.

Dr Ahmed Mahmoud and **Dr Nichole Sheldrick** organised and delivered a one-day training workshop for 25 heritage professionals on the EAMENA Machine Learning Automated Change Detection tool (MLACD) as part of the Computer Applications in Archaeology 2025 conference which took place in Athens, between 5-9 May 2025 at the University of West Attica.

Dr Nichole Sheldrick gave an invited lecture in Paris on 16 May 2025 entitled "Satellites and the Sahara: Remote Sensing methods for the documentation, research, and protection of medieval heritage in North Africa", at the "Mondes sahariens : sources, espaces, sociétés (VIIIe-XIXe siècle)" seminar at Campus Condorcet, Aubervilliers.

In February, **Dr Mohamed Kenawi** was an invited speaker at the 'Heritage of Human Adaptations in Egypt and Sudan and Climate Change' International Conference organised by UNESCO in Cairo. The International Conference on the Cultural Heritage of Human

Adaptations took place on February 16–20, 2025. Leading national and international archaeologists gathered at AUC Tahrir Campus to explore humanity’s deep-rooted responses to climate change, the significance of early archaeological sites in this endeavour, and methodologies that ensure the preservation of the earliest legacies of Egypt and Sudan. Mohamed presented his research on archaeological sites identified through remote sensing in Siwa Oasis and the surrounding minor oases.

...brought together scientists and professionals from climate modelling and heritage conservation to discuss cutting-edge research, methods, and collaborative strategies for safeguarding archaeological sites

In April, **Dr Mohamed Kenawi** also attended the American Research Center in Egypt Annual Meeting in San Francisco, where he presented his research on Endangered Christian and Islamic heritage places in Middle Egypt. The fieldwork was supported by ARCE and EAMENA. One site will be published as a booklet in summer 2025 (the monastery of al-Ganadla), this is a joint efforts of Mohamed Kenawi’s project Regions in Flux and EAMENA Project.



9 - (Photo: UNESCO office Cairo)



10 - Regions in Flux Project, The Monastery of al-Ganadla, a quarry church ceiling. Photo by Giorgia Marchiori, edited by Elena Urzì ©Regions in Flux



11 - (Photo: Daniele Molajoli, © J. Paul Getty Trust)

Centre for Endangered Archaeology and Heritage

On 27 May 2025, the Centre for Endangered Archaeology and Heritage hosted an event in honour of Prof. David Mattingly, who is retiring after more than 30 years at the University of Leicester, celebrating his many contributions in the fields of North African archaeology and heritage protection. and featured talks from many of David's current and former colleagues and PhD students, on a wide variety of subjects, including olive oil production in Roman-period Libya, underwater archaeology, the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon, the Medieval Sahara in Morocco, and much more. It was amazing to have so many of David's former students and colleagues gathered together, some seeing each other for the first time in many years, to catch up and reminisce about David's projects past and present. The all-day workshop was organised by Dr Mohamed Kenawi, Dr Nichole Sheldrick, and Prof. Ruth Young, with help from many colleagues from the Centre and SAAH PST. Thank-you to everyone who contributed and attended this fantastic day!





Teaching News

[New fieldschool at Loddington, Leicestershire](#)

It's that fieldschool time of year again and this May saw a new student dig start in Loddington, Leicestershire. In collaboration with ULAS, this excavation project gave 35 first- and second- year students the opportunity to explore the origins and development of the village. Despite some challenging weather conditions, over the course of a fortnight they uncovered evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement including rubbish pits, boundary ditches and even a substantial stone building! Alongside the excavation, the students also enjoyed a range of practical workshops delivered by staff and postgraduates from the School on topics as diverse as 3D scanning and careers in archaeology.

In the second week of the excavation, the students were able to present the results of their hard work at an Open Afternoon which was attended by more than 100 people from the village and surrounding area. They also competed to win the Best Working Shot of the Excavation prize, taking 100s of photos over the course of the fortnight. It was really difficult to pick a winner, but in the end the honour was awarded to **Alyssa Marinelli** for her image of fellow student Adam Steven cleaning a metallised surface.

they uncovered evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement including rubbish pits, boundary ditches and even a substantial stone building!



12 - Alyssa Marinelli's winning working shot



13 - Prize-winner Alyssa Marinelli showing off some post-medieval ceramics from the trench

This first season at Loddington was a tremendous success with student feedback describing it as **'memorable'**, **'rewarding'** and **'fun'**! The excavation team would like to thank everyone who contributed to its success. We are also particularly grateful to the landowner, the Allerton Project, who enthusiastically welcomed the fieldschool to the village and to the Leicestershire Fieldworkers who undertook the initial geophysical survey on the site.

-Dr Philippa Walton



14 - The students hard at work!

Micro-internship scheme: Roman coinage from cleaning to publication

Between January and April 2025, Dr Philippa Walton ran a micro-internship scheme for students and volunteers offering an opportunity to develop some key archaeological skills. Over 12 weeks, ten students and five volunteers cleaned, recorded and analysed an assemblage of 209 Roman coins found during the University of Leicester excavations at Roman Irchester. Together they produced a catalogue of all the coins complete with dates, descriptions and references which will be incorporated into the preliminary report on the site. Everyone enjoyed the practical nature of the scheme and were excited to get hands-on experience with Roman artefacts. They are very much looking forward to the next block of 'Coin Club' where the focus will be on the interpretation of the assemblage and the production of a full coin report to industry standards.

Together they produced a catalogue of all the coins complete with dates, descriptions and references

Many thanks must go to Ben Donnelly-Symes, Prof. Sarah Scott and Dr. Jeremy Taylor who facilitated the scheme offering support and key information along the way. Pieta Greaves of Drakon Heritage was also integral to the success of 'Coin Club' providing invaluable training in numismatic conservation. We were so sad to learn of her untimely death in April and extend our condolences to her family and friends. She was such an amazing person!

-Dr Philippa Walton



15 - Students cleaning the coin assemblage



16 - Magnifying a 4th century nummus during conservation



17 - The Coin Club team

Our Campus-based learners

Ancient History and Archaeology Society (AHAS)

Do you have a passion for Ancient History and Archaeology? Do you want to share your passion and learn more with like-minded people? Then come to the Ancient History and Archaeology Society!

At AHAS, we aim to create a space for all enthusiasts to share their passion, no matter their background in the field. There will be both academic and social opportunities so we can give everyone the chance to discover something new, share their interests and meet like-minded people. We try to make as many sessions available online as possible but occasionally some events will only be held on campus.

Last semester we kicked the society off with a documentary watch session, a pub quiz, and talks from two of our wonderful members of staff. Next year, we plan to do more of these sessions, some trips to museums and sites, as well as many other fun activities.

Keep an eye out for us at the Societies fair at the beginning of next year and join our socials to stay updated!

WhatsApp ([Link](#))

Facebook: ([Link](#))

Instagram: ([Link](#))

Hope to see you next year!

AHAS Committee

→ [Your News Here](#) ←

Are you a campus-based learner eager to share your journey?

We want to hear from you! Submit your experiences, photos and events to celebrate your achievements in upcoming editions of *The Mosaic*. Your experience can help inspire others and build connections with fellow distance learners and more!

How can you get involved? Simple! Reach out to Isabel Higham (ih152@student.le.ac.uk), your dedicated campus-based learning representative.

Students' Union Advice Service

Out of hours support is available via the Student's Union Advice Service. This can be accessed by [visiting their website \(log-in required\)](#).

Our Distance Learners

Distance Learners' Day | 4th April 2025

On Friday 4th April Leicester Students' Union invited a group of DL SAAH students to campus for tours, talks, coffee, and cake.

They welcomed 26 students in the morning, kicking off with a welcome from [Head of School] Ruth Young and Alice Samson and followed by talks from careers, the library, Student Support and Academic Representation. During lunch there were campus and library tours, allowing students to explore the campus and become more familiar with it. In the afternoon there were tours of the Kathleen Kenyon Building, ULAS, and the MAB labs – all led by academic, lab and ULAS staff who discussed their work, the equipment they use, why it matters, and how others can be part of it. The day finished with a Q&A with SAAH academic staff, followed by coffee and cake and more informal chats with academic staff.

Take a look through the below slideshow of photos taken throughout the day. Display the captions by clicking grey box in the top left of each image.



18 - DL students in front of the Percy Gee (Students' Union) building before the campus tour



19 - Prof Ruth Young (Head of School) speaking to students



20 - Dr Alice Samson speaking to students



21 - Left - right: Joshitha (SU President) and Reed James (Communities and Wellbeing Officer), speaking to students



22 - Left - right: Paul Fitzgerald and Rosemary Osbourne from the Careers and Employability Service, speaking to students



23 - Matt Thompson (SAAH Academic Librarian), speaking to students



24 - Emma Reed, Academic Representation Co-Ordinator, speaking to students



25 - Anya Sier (stood on raised platform) leading a campus tour during lunch



26 - Campus tour, outside David Wilson library



27 - Outside the newly renamed Kathleen Kenyon building, Alice Samson explaining the significance of Kathleen Kenyon and her legacy



28 - Dr Jo Appleby and Dr Dani De Carle discussing how objects can be identified, even though they're damaged and corroded



29 - Students discussing different pottery remains with Dr Jo Appleby



30 - Dr Jo Appleby showing students the Meroitic skull and talking about the human remains used for teaching



31 - Will Johnson and Jen Browning from ULAS discussing their post-excavation work and demonstrating the importance of soil sampling



32 - Dr Rachel Armitage and Dr Rachel Crellin telling students about 3D printing



33 - Dr Rachel Crellin discussing the different types of light microscopes



34 - Question and answer session with SAAH staff (left - right: Dr Alice Samson, Dr Jo Appleby, Prof Ruth Young, Dr Rachel Crellin, Dr Jan Haywood, Prof Sarah Scott, Dr Carmen Ting)

The day was a resounding success with both students and staff, and plans are already underway to expand and repeat the event next year. For more detailed information about what everyone got up to take at the Sway below (you can also [view the Sway here](#))

If you have any questions, or suggestions for next year, contact the Distance Learning Officer (Natalie) at – su-dlofficer@leicester.ac.uk

-Natalie Hayward

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[First Steps to Book Reviewing | Dr Iria Souto](#)

Brief background - Dr Iria Souto

PhD University of Vigo and current MA DL Classical Mediterranean student

As my PhD Dissertation was focused on the changes in religious practice in domestic contexts during the New Kingdom, my main research interests include ancient domestic religion, ethnic identity, its influence in religious practice, and social interactions in the ancient religious world. In addition, I want to explore the interconnections between the Egyptian world and different cultural groups within the Mediterranean setting.

Review on the historical, religious and iconographic dynamics in North Africa

There are several reasons why it is worth to review books such as [Dinámicas históricas, religiosas e iconográficas en el norte de África \[Historical, religious and iconographic dynamics in North Africa\] \(link\)](#). The main one is to give visibility to the impressive archaeological works that many scholars, technicians, and students carry out every day all over the world. Similarly, archaeological, epigraphic, iconographic, and geographical data are key elements to understand Ancient History and to provide an accurate approach to our past and heritage. From my view, thanks to the academic publications and archaeological reports, we can reconstruct information and combine it with primary sources. In this context, I have selected this book because of the exhaustive and comprehensive variety of its included sources and approaches. As for my background, I was particularly interested in the chapters provided by Raquel Rubio González: “El culto doméstico en el África Proconsularis: el caso de Bulla Regia” [Domestic cult in Africa Proconsularis: the case of Bulla Regia], and by Alejandra Díaz Durán: “Souchos. La concepción del dios cocodrilo en el Fayum grecorromano” [Souchos. The conception of the crocodile god in the Greco-Roman Fayum], both of them addressing domestic and temple religiosity. The whole book is the result of the efforts and research carried out by Tunisian and Spanish members of the [IPAR Project \(link\)](#) (*Identidades norteafricanas en transformación: etnias líbico-bereberes y romanitas a través del imaginario funerario [North African identities in transformation: Libyan-Berber and Roman ethnic groups through funerary imagery]*). What is more, by analysing textual and archaeological sources, the chapters of the book offer a holistic perspective of Roman Africa as well as a wide range of approaches, from GIS systems and CA (Correspondence Analysis), to iconographic studies, showing the current multidisciplinary approaches. The contributions of the volume are written in Spanish, French, and English, and I strongly recommend its reading.

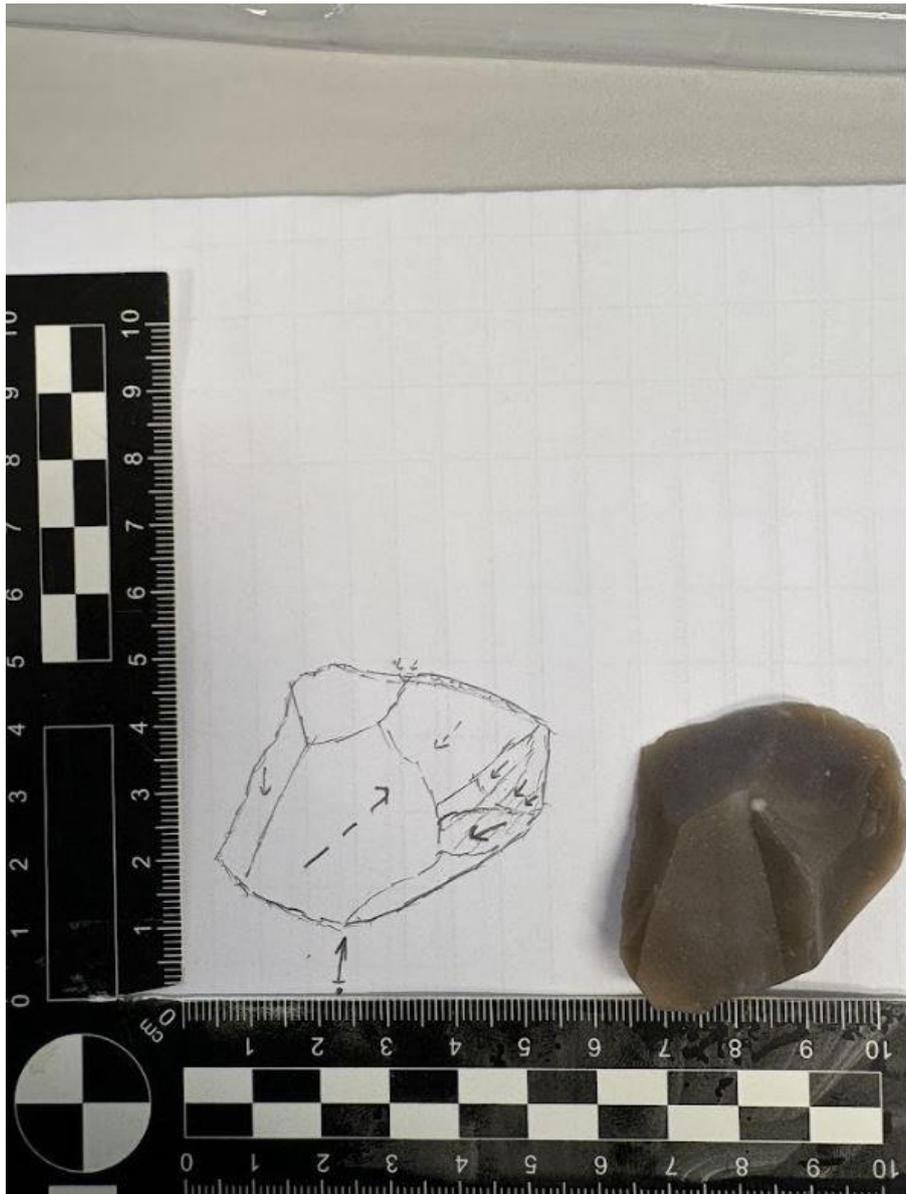
-Dr Iria Souto

Research Bootcamp

Earlier this year in February, DL students on module AR3601 came onto campus for a 'Research Bootcamp' week. Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to make use of our labs, explore the campus, as well as meet and mingle with fellow students and staff. Click through the stack of photos taken throughout the week!







35 - Drawing of flint next to actual flint, both measured against photo measure





→Your News Here ←

Are you a distance learner eager to share your journey?

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How can you get involved? Simple! Reach out to Molly Mather (mgm16@student.le.ac.uk), your dedicated distance learning representative.

Postgraduate Student News

Meet your new PGR Reps!

Molly Pye

Research

I am in my first year of my Midlands-4-Cities funded thesis which considers the role of public value in the development of archaeology and the discipline's relationship with the public in Britain from 1830 to 1880. I am particularly interested in how 'public value' was perceived, put into practice and experienced by non-specialists and peripheral individuals. Public archaeology is a real passion of mine and I am keen for my research to have relevance to the contemporary discipline.

Being a Rep

The friendly environment of SAAH is one of the reasons I chose to study at Leicester for both my undergraduate and master's degrees. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute by supporting the PGR community, including through events such as our Lightning Talks.

Outside Academia

When I am not working, I am usually dancing swing! I have travelled across the country (and sometimes beyond) to learn, teach, perform and compete at large events.



Naomi Allman

Research

I am in my first year of my PhD thesis which is researching archaeological evidence for an ancient cult of intersexuality through the Ancient Greek and Roman intersex deity Hermaphroditos. I will then consider how this cult could be better displayed in museums, as spaces for public engagement with the past. One of the things I love about archaeology is how it can help us better understand our present and I hope my project will contribute to this.

Being a Rep

I came to the University of Leicester for my PhD and the welcoming and friendly environment of the SAAH community is what encouraged me to become a PGR Rep. I love being able to represent the PGRs in my school and contribute to events which can help bring people together more.

Outside Academia

If I'm not at my laptop working or in a museum, you can probably find me with my dogs (Dotty and Juliet), or else reading or working on my latest embroidery project.



Joel Rodrigues Oliveira Dos Santos

Research

I am a PhD candidate at UoL, investigating the Archaeology of Loneliness, where I explore how different emotional experiences regarding loneliness shaped and were shaped by past societies. I have a deep passion for theoretical approaches in archaeology, although I confess (now that they are not listening) that sometimes I struggle to follow my supervisors. I am particularly interested in how the archaeological record materialises, represents, and interprets emotions.

Being a Rep

My first experience at Leicester was as a DL MA student. Due to my experience as DL, I was encouraged to be the PGR rep for the PGR DL students, which I am very proud to represent. If you need something, just let me know.

Outside Academia

I try to find some balance and inspiration in nature. I am an enthusiastic trekker, especially fond of mountainous landscapes in both summer and winter seasons. My love for trekking often merges with my passion for spontaneous travel, where I simply “go”!



Viva Successes 

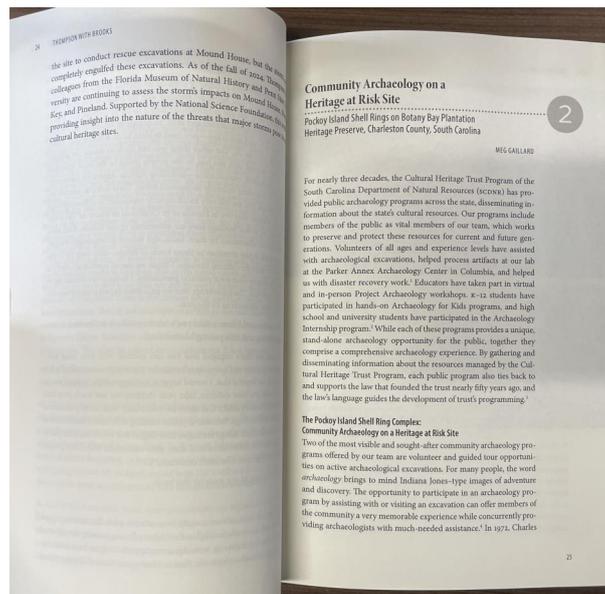
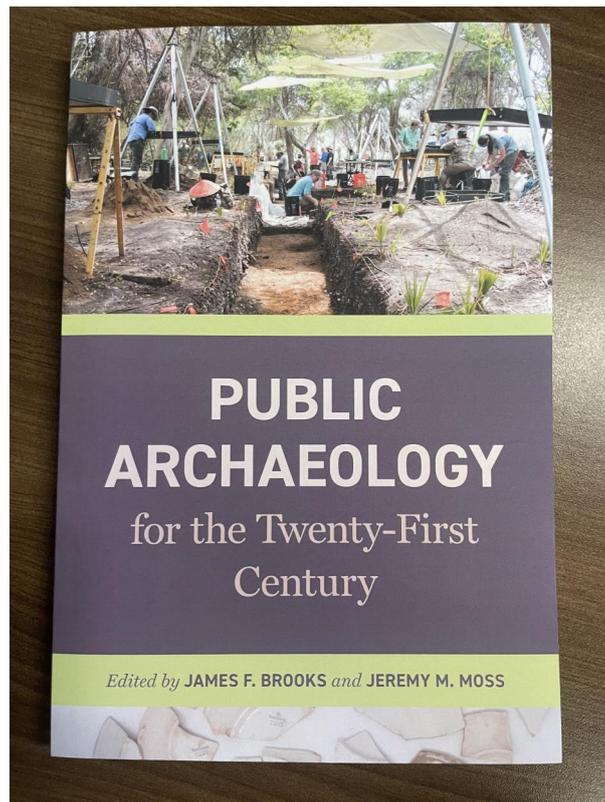
Kristy Henson

Congratulations to Kristy Henson for successfully defending her thesis *Biocultural effects on recent historic vitamin D deficiency in the United States and their role in spinal pathology*. This is a huge achievement, well done from everyone in the School!

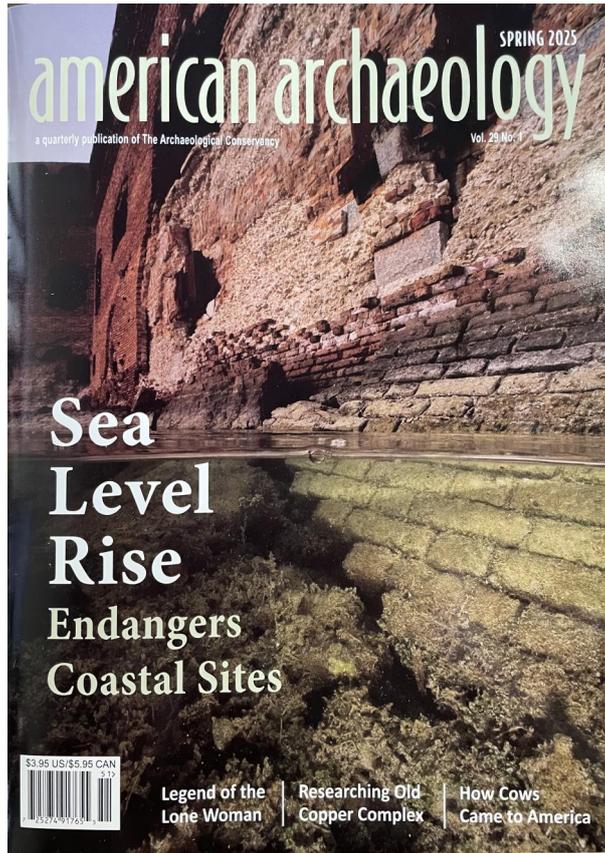
Publication News | Meg Gaillard

Current PhD DL student, Meg Gaillard, shares news of her recent publications with *The Mosaic...*

- I am a co-author of the article *North American Heritage at Risk (NAHAR) Research Pipeline and Collaborative Community*, published in *Advances in Archaeological Practice*, Volume 12, Special Issue 3: Monitoring Heritage at Risk Sites in Rapidly Changing Coastal Environments, August 2024, pp. 202 - 218. [Read this via Open Access](#)
- I authored a chapter in the new book *Public Archaeology for the Twenty-First Century* (James F. Brooks and Jeremy M. Moss, editors). The chapter "Community Archaeology on a Heritage at Risk Site: Pockoy Island Shell Rings on Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve, Charleston County, South Carolina" details the logistics of welcoming the public to the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Archaeology team's 2019 Pockoy Island field season. I continue to monitor shoreline erosion at Pockoy Island with community volunteers as part of my PhD research funded by the American Friends of the University of Leicester. Additionally, the book's cover image is a photo featuring the May 2018 field season at Pockoy Island (photo by Taylor Main, SCDNR) [Check out this website for more information and purchase options](#)



- Late last year, I was interviewed for an article featuring heritage at risk sites across North America. The article “Going, Going, Nearly Gone” by Mike Toner was published in the spring edition of *American Archaeology Magazine*. The article showcases two photos of the Pockoy Island Shell Ring Complex as one example of heritage at risk in an amazing comparison of erosion from 2018 to 2024. My SCDNR colleagues and I continue to work ahead of the eroding shoreline at Pockoy Island, and volunteers monitor the shoreline monthly as part of my PhD research funded by the American Friends of the University of Leicester. Read [the excerpt here on the American Archaeology Magazine website](#)



The Academic Mermaid Diaries: Reflections of a Distance-Learning PhD Student

Learning from a distance seems like an alien concept, but it's quite a familiar one. I've hardly ever read a book written by someone I know; the author is always at a distance in both time and space, and yet I still learn. But what about being a PhD student at a distance? Isn't it more than just learning?

What exactly is a PhD student? I wish I had the answer. There are probably a dozen books you could "distance-learn" that from, but here is my food for thought. Being a PhD student is when you get to go home and say, "Oh, look, I am now a researcher". You don't just learn, you produce knowledge, you learn to unlearn (which is harder than it looks), and you deal with real-world problems with no textbook solutions. You embrace uncertainty and incompleteness, sit with questions you can't answer, and grapple with imposter syndrome,

doubt, isolation, failure, rejection and revision. Knowledge isn't built in a vacuum, and networking is a big part of "the researcher lifestyle". One might wonder how exactly that works when you are not physically there. If you, by any chance, figure it out, please let the rest of us know, because connecting online is hard.

So, what does it feel like to be a distance-learning PhD student? For me, it's a bit like being the Little Mermaid. You're half Leicester, half your homeland. You glimpse life "up above" through ships' underbellies and lost items that fall into the sea. You get specks and fragments, e-mails and online meetings, photos and news, shapes and colours. A whole other world that happens just through those veils, somehow distorted and out of context, weirdly enticing.

what does it feel like to be a distance-learning PhD student? For me, it's a bit like being the Little Mermaid

I get to know most people through email signatures and newsletters. I know no faces or voices, I see no quirks and peculiarities, but I will crack those e-mails like Sherlock Holmes. Every time I hear about a "tea reception being held in the foyer," I make sure to have a teapot ready and am not afraid to use it. Back home, saying I'm a PhD student makes me feel like the academic version of Santa. "I will believe it when I see it" is the unspoken phrase, yet no one offers me milk and cookies, so I feel I am being wronged here. Being a distance-learning student makes my supervisors my lifeline and means I wholeheartedly appreciate every moment spent in Leicester and the friends I make and then miss.

Not everything is sunshine and rainbows under the sea (physics, my dears). It is easy to feel isolated, unproductive, and alone. Somedays it's like being trapped inside a giant snow globe that some random kid at a store cannot stop shaking up. However, you are no less of a PhD student; in fact, you get no "less" of anything. If there are things you seem to be looking at from underneath crushing waves, some others are crystal clear.

So, can you be a PhD student through distance learning? That's a question I will not answer (at least not after writing such a beautiful phrase about unanswered questions).

Nonetheless, if that doesn't work out, you could always try being a mermaid: I heard it's great!

-Inês Castro

Experimental Archaeology on Campus



39 - Examples of experimentally produced flint arrowheads using pressure flaking

On May 28th to 30th, The Research Centre for Material Worlds Past and Present hosted their annual 3-day Masterclass event. As part of this event, members participated in a day of experimental archaeology where this year's practical session was about learning how to make stone tools through a technique called pressure flaking using antler tines. Taught by PGR student Mike Moody, approximately 20 archaeologists from PGRs to Professors participated in the event, which fortuitously managed to align with the only sunny break in a string of early summer rains! Mike is a member of the New History of Bronze Project here in Leicester, and his research focusses on intermaterial relationships in craft practices during the Early Bronze Age. As such, not only was this event a great opportunity for people to learn more about lithic technologies, but will also provide meaningful data as part of the suite of experimental archaeology programmes for his research.

A special thanks for everyone involved in helping make the event a huge success, especially Rachel Crellin, without whom the event would not have been possible!

-Mike Moody

[Archaeologies of Colonialism – Past and Present](#)

Prof. David Mattingly and PhD Student Kyra Leigh flew to Madrid to represent the University of Leicester at the 17th Taller Doctoral de Arqueología Antigua: “Archaeologies of Colonialism – Past and Present”, as mentor and workshop attendee respectively.

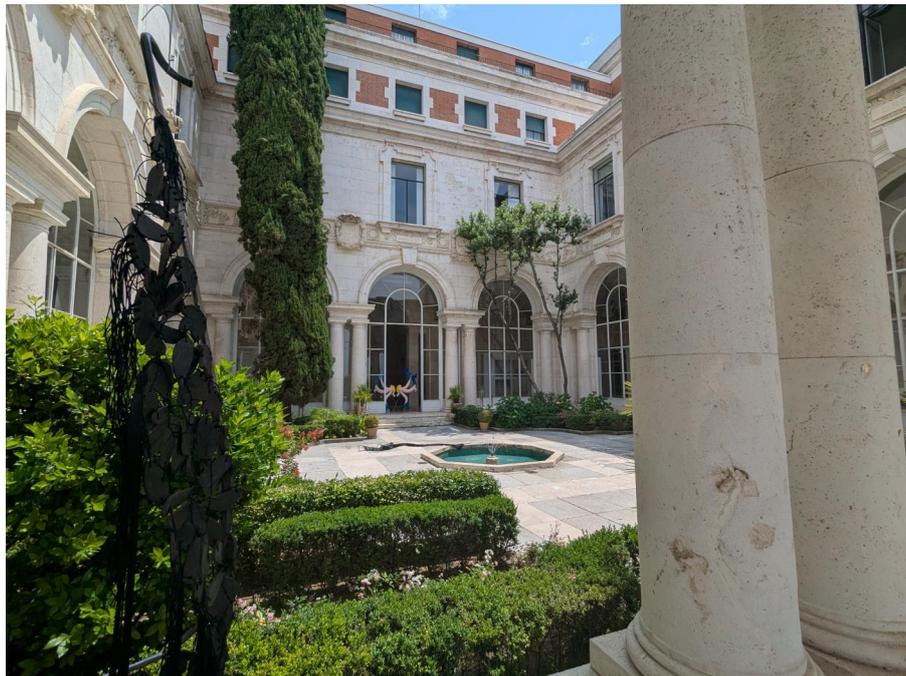
Hosted by Casa De Valezquez and the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI), this workshop seeks to bring together academics from across Europe to discuss all matters archaeology. Historically, the focus has been on Classical Archaeology, however this year, to discuss the archaeologies of post colonialism more comprehensively, they expanded the workshop remit to include modern themes outside of Western Europe.

Between 3rd to 6th June, a range of talks were delivered by the mentors and mentees, each followed by a fruitful – and sometimes intense – discussion from everything from architecture to funerary practices to writing instruments to the Falklands. Prof. Mattingly delivered a thought-provoking talk at the beginning of the first session on the issues of terminology that is endemic within academia – challenging us to a game of colonial bingo. His talk proved an excellent starter to the event, being frequently referred for the duration. Kyra’s talk centred on using coloniality as a theoretical framework for looking at Sri Lankan heritage.

The last morning was spent at the Museo de America, being guided through the collection with a focus on the early development of archaeological techniques. This was capped off with an energetic discussion on whether it is appropriate in a post-colonial context, and how we would love to see it develop in the future.

We would like to extend our huge thanks to Dr Gwladys Bernard (Casa de Valezquez) and Dr Paul Scheduling (DAI) for not only hosting a fantastic workshop, but also for ensuring that we were well fed and housed for the duration. And of course, congratulations to the attendees who all delivered fascinating talks!

-Kyra Leigh





40 - Prof Mattingly and Kyra Leigh







Classical Bingo!

How many of these terms do you see every day and what do you think would be better (and why - It's not academic without fierce debate!). What other bugbear terms can you identify?

Credit to Prof Mattingly for this exercise.

PROTO-HISTORY	ROMAN AFRICA	ROMANISATION	NATIVE
TRIBE	FRONTIER	NOMAD	SLAVE

Professional Services Updates

Simpler Recycling

As part of the new Simpler Recycling initiative, based on new government recycling legislation, our waste carrier will now be applying charges for any contamination found within different waste streams. Fines will be applied the departmental building users, so

please help us avoid a fine by using the correct bin for your recycling or rubbish! Clear signage is in place at points of disposal to make this easier. Find the [full details of the initiative can be found on SharePoint](#)

Sustainability

This is recurring section of *The Mosaic* to raise awareness of climate change, sustainability and suggest actions everyone can take towards achieving zero carbon.

Staff can make a positive impact with Carbon Literacy Training

Carbon Literacy Training, supported by the Carbon Literacy Project, provides colleagues with the motivation and knowledge to enable meaningful action on the climate crisis in their personal lives, at work and in the community. [Find out more information and book your staff training.](#)

Greenhouse Gases (GHG's) Which is the worst?

There are a number of different GHG's that contribute to climate change, and whilst nature and natural processes lead to the production of these (e.g. volcanic eruptions), human activities such as burning coal, oil and gas lead to the production of the GHG carbon dioxide; and it is the GHG's caused by human activity which scientists attribute to climate change.

Whilst sulphur hexafluoride raises the Earth's temperature the most, tonne for tonne, due to its rarity, other gases such as methane and carbon dioxide are arguably where we should concentrate our collective effort in reducing. Watch the 'Which Greenhouse Gas is Actually the WORST' video for more information.



One Action

Ever wondered about how your food choices impact the climate? [Explore data on the environmental impacts of food using the interactive chart available via Our World in Data](#)

The results may surprise you! With summer underway, you may be lucky enough to live in an area where more local produce is accessible to enjoy, so why not investigate your local farm shop and help the climate *and* a support local business!

[Browse sustainable food and drink in Leicestershire](#)

🍓 For keen gardeners, planting and picking your own produce is a fantastic way to help reduce your carbon footprint whilst knowing exactly how your food has been produced. **The Seed Library**, open to all, allows anyone to choose up to 3 packets of seeds for FREE! [Claim your free seeds!](#)

Our Alumni - Where are they now?

“Aren’t they just rocks Dad?”

Distance learning alum, Dave Adam, shares his experience of studying at Leicester and life after graduating...

Dave Adam earned his mid-life crisis degree through the UofL’s distance learning program with an M[A] in the Classical Mediterranean in 2012. His research paper melded earlier degrees in Accounting and an MBA in Finance with his career in community banking in a focus on the Roman Banking System in the 3rd and 4th Centuries.

Based in the United States with a pair of teenagers at home and a demanding job during his UofL experience, he appreciated the flexibility the curriculum offered and the helpful advice his professors provided. It took time to transition from the bullet point summaries used in his day job to the narrative flow, reference-loaded results preferred in the humanities. David Mattingly and Naoise Mac Sweeney were excellent mentors.



41 - Dave in his graduation robes



42 - Dave outside De Montfort Hall, where the graduation ceremony was held

Dave flew over to Leicester for the graduation ceremony. He was able to see the still exposed parking lot where Richard III was discovered. He got the most engagement from his two sons (who attitude on archaeology was normally “Aren’t they just rocks Dad?”) when showing them the graduation ceremony. They thought it was very Harry Potter-like and enjoyed the costumes and pageantry compared to the staid ceremonies in the States.

Following his degree, Dave joined the Archaeological Institute of America’s Board of Directors where he served for nine years, including three years as the organizations’ Treasurer from 2021-2024. He has also uncovered four Native American and one pre-Civil War (American, not English) campsites on or near properties he owns in Wisconsin. He has returned to England the last two springs to dig at Vindolanda and tramp on UK hiking trails.

My thanks to the Leicester team for helping me delve deeper into a curiosity that has now become a passion.

-Dave Adam



43 - Native Find Hafted Scraper



44 - Dave Trenching Harder Than Anyone

Share Your Journey, Shape Their Future

As alumni, your journey and expertise hold immense value for our students. You've walked the path they aspire to follow, and your insights can make a lasting difference. By volunteering with our Careers & Employability initiatives, you can empower the next generation to achieve their dreams while strengthening our alumni-student connection.

Here are some impactful ways you can contribute:

1. 🗣️ Inspirational Career Talks (ICT)

Join a panel of professionals to share your journey, answer student questions, and provide invaluable career tips. Your story could be the spark that inspires a student to take their next big step.

2. 💡 'In Residence' Sessions

Dedicate an hour or two, online or in person, to meet one-on-one with students. Share advice about your role, sector, and career insights, helping students navigate their aspirations.

3. 📷 Share a Profile or Video

Create a brief profile or video message about your career journey that can be featured on the Careers & Employability Blackboard site. It's a simple yet powerful way to reach students at their convenience.

4. 🧑🧑🎓 Become a Mentor

Guide one or more students over a set period, providing mentorship and personalized advice to help them succeed.

These are just a few of the many ways you can give back. If you have other ideas for how you'd like to support, we'd love to hear them! **Your involvement doesn't just benefit students—it enriches our community.** Together, we can create opportunities and inspire confidence in our future leaders. To learn more or express your interest, please contact School Administrator, Ingrid Dyson saah@le.ac.uk

Our Community

Kathleen Kenyon's Legacy

“I feel truly humbled, but so glad that Aunt Kathleen has been recognised by Leicester University as something of an archaeology pioneer.”



45 - Janet Heath in front of the Dame Kathleen Kenyon bio wall, inside the Kathleen Kenyon building



46 - L-R: Alice Samson, Janet Heath, Deirdre O'Sullivan, Ruth Young, in front of the Kathleen Kenyon building

Following the announcement of the Archaeology and Ancient History and Museum Studies building be re-named ([see March 2025 edition](#), and featured in the Leicester Mercury, the School was contacted by Kathleen Kenyon's niece, Janet Heath. Colleagues from the School showed her around and treated her to lunch; about her experience Janet said,

"What an exciting day I have had. I cannot thank you both [Prof Ruth Young and Dr Alice Samson], and the others, enough for making me so welcome and treating me so royally. I feel truly humbled, but so glad that Aunt Kathleen has been recognised by Leicester University as something of an archaeology pioneer. She would have been very humbled by this honour, but secretly delighted, I'm sure. So, on her behalf, please thank all

concerned very much for naming the Archaeology Department after her. I did enjoy the cartoons of her. I can picture her viewing them without comment, but I thought they were really delightful and funny! My siblings would have been amused, too!"



47 - L-R: Alice Samson, Janet Heath, Deirdre O'sullivan, Ruth Young



48 - Janet Heath reading the cartoon strip of Kathleen Kenyon

Community Archaeologist of the Year Nomination

Congratulations and good luck to **Prof Sarah Scott** who has been shortlisted for the Community Archaeologist of the Year, category of the Marsh Community Archaeology Awards. This is incredibly well deserved for all the amazing work she does engaging people with their archaeology and heritage!

The winners of the Awards will be announced as part of the CBA's Festival of Archaeology, which, you can find out more about below!

Festival of Archaeology | July 9th- August 3rd

FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY
9th July to 3 August 2025

ARCHAEOLOGY AND WELLBEING

As a member of the University Community, there are many ways you can get involved!

ORGANISE AN EVENT
Got a great idea for an engaging event, fun activity, or talk? Submit your event on our website!

SUBMIT A RESOURCE
A walk, a talk, an activity, or a day in your life - share your resource online, accessible anytime!

JOIN AN EVENT
Explore our upcoming events below and on our website, or look out for events happening near you!

25th July
#AskAnArchaeologist Day
Join us online to have your questions answered!

30th July
Submit a Day in Archaeology Blog/Vlog
Explore a day of an archaeologist or submit your own!

31st July
Early Careers Conference
Discover the research of Early Careers Archaeologists

NEW STUDENT OFFER - BECOME A MEMBER FOR JUST £5

- Digital subscription to British Archaeology & Access to Archive of All Past Editions
- This is Archaeology Lectures On-Demand & Archive of Past Lectures
- Up to 80% off Select Books in our Shop
- Monthly Personalised Member Newsletter & Events Listings
- AGM Voting Rights

@archaeologyuk archaeologyuk.org/festival #FestivalofArchaeology

This year's **Festival of Archaeology** runs between **18th July – 3rd August**, organised by the Council for British Archaeology. This year there is an Archaeology and Wellbeing theme . **Check out the Festival of Archaeology website for more details (link)**

Student and Early Careers Conference

Following the success of their 2021-2024 conferences, the ClfA Early Careers Special Interest Group (link) and the Council for British Archaeology are hosting their fifth digital Student and Early Careers Conference during the Festival of Archaeology 2025. Every year, this digital conference aims to platform students, early career archaeologists and heritage professionals, and to give them the opportunity to gain presentation experience.

Date: 30 July 2025

Time: 3 - 8pm

Guidance and support for speakers and session chairs provided as part of the [Student and Early Careers Conference 2025 Council for British Archaeology](#)

Follow our Social Media!

You can keep you to date with SAAH news and events in between editions of The Mosaic by following us on social media. Check out our handles below

 Instagram: ArchAncHistLeic

 Bluesky: @archanchisleic.bsky.social

 Facebook: School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester

Leicester Represented at ClfA Annual Conference

In April, two of our SAAH In-Practice PhD students gave presentations at the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) Annual Conference held in Birmingham.

Kayt Hawkins [SAAH SAAH In-Practice PhD student] presented on behalf of the Study Group for Roman Pottery (SGRP) in a session entitled '*Crossing the Divide: Starting a conversation to improve communication, collaboration, co-ordination and creativity between the commercial and academic sectors*', organised by Daria Dabal (Perry Gardiner Durham University and Altogether Archaeology), **Matilda Holmes** (Consultant Archaeozoologist) and Megan Schlanker (University of Lincoln). Kayt's paper, co-written with Jane Evans, entitled '*Crossing the divide: Not just empty vessels, but the glue that binds a fragmented profession?*' showcased how the SGRP communicate and collaborate in sector-wide projects, including for example, the [Toolkit for Finds: Pottery](#), and the [Kay Hartley Mortarium Archive](#) and gave suggestions for how the SGRP (and other period groups) could provide a model for improving communication, collaboration, and co-ordination, forming the connection needed between higher education and archaeological employment.

In the session entitled '*Wellbeing-focused engagement in archaeology*', organised by Kate Geary (ClfA), Héloïse Meziani (ClfA Diggers Forum), Katherine Miller (Shropshire Museums), Linda Monckton (Historic England), **Ben Donnelly-Symes** [SAAH SAAH In-Practice PhD student] was invited to present a paper titled '*Taking a holistic Look into archaeology and wellbeing in Northamptonshire*' where he discussed using archaeology as a tool for supporting wellbeing in a single. The started with the more formal projects such as Operation Phoenix with Northants Fire & Rescue and then moved on those activities that have informal wellbeing outcomes where the impact is often overlooked within discussions about wellbeing in archaeology, such as community archaeology groups and metal detecting. The paper finished on some thoughts on the impact that running these wellbeing projects can have on the facilitator's own wellbeing.

-Kayt Hawkins

Events and Important Dates

- SAAH Graduation, July 17th
- **Open Days:** [Book your visit now!](#)

-Saturday 5th July 2025

-Saturday 13th September 2025

-Saturday 4th October 2025

-Saturday 8th November 2025

- **University Closure Days:**

-Summer Bank Holiday, August 25th

[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*.

Now available via shop@le!

[Browse and purchase our publications](#)

[Santander X UK Awards 2025](#)

Applications for the Santander X UK Awards 2025 are now open!

About the Awards

The Santander X UK Awards is Santander's flagship entrepreneurship pitching competition. Launched in 2011 to support university entrepreneurs, the programme has grown to include early-stage start-ups, and, new for 2025, **Small and Medium-sized Enterprises**.

This year marks a major milestone: **15 years** of empowering UK founders. In that time, Santander has awarded more than **£1.1million** in equity-free funding and supported thousands of ambitious entrepreneurs.

2025 Categories

- **University** - for university entrepreneurs preparing to launch
- **Startup** - for early-stage UK businesses ready to grow
- **SME** - for established UK businesses looking to scale

Application deadline: 16 July 2025. 9 winners (3 per category) will win a share of **£135,000 funding** and progress to the Santander X Global Award, where they'll compete against businesses from Europe and Latin America in spring 2026. Find out [more information about the applications and awards](#).

[Archaeological Specialist Funded Qualification](#)

Apprenticeships present the opportunity for new and existing staff to expand their technical, specialist and business skills through funded, recognised qualifications. Colleagues have opportunity to engage in long-term training where they gain tailored expertise and qualifications specific to their role. Current staff looking to gain an Archaeology degree,

alongside their job, should check out [the Apprenticeships and Funded Qualifications pages \(Log-in required\)](#).

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 [view it in a separate window](#)

```
Embed://<iframe width="760px" height="500px"
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marginheight="0" marginwidth="0" max-width="100%" sandbox="allow-forms allow-modals
allow-orientation-lock allow-popups allow-same-origin allow-scripts" scrolling="no"
style="border: none; max-width: 100%; max-height: 100vh" allowfullscreen
mozallowfullscreen msallowfullscreen webkitallowfullscreen></iframe>
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Our Community Photos

To read the captions, click on the grey box, top left of each image



*49 - Honorary fellow and PhD alumni, Matthew Selheimer, finishing his second week on an excavation of a late Iron Age Ibero-Celtic site destroyed by the Romans during their pacification of the area in the 2nd or 1st century BCE (we are still working to more precisely date "the last moment"). **Castelo de Cuncos Archaeological Project***



50 - From honorary fellow and PhD alumni, Matthew Selheimer, late Iron Age Ibero-Celtic site, near Redondo, Portugal.
Castelo de Cuncos Archaeological Project



51 - Find out more about the **Castelo de Cuncos Archaeological Project** Matthew Selheimer is involved with ([Website](#))



52 - Dotty the dog, submitted by Naomi Allman



53 - Jules the dog, submitted by Naomi Allman



54 - *Is this the most Dutch photo ever? Possibly. Taken on a recent trip to the Netherlands, by Ingrid Dyson*

Next Edition: October 2025

