



UNIVERSITY OF  
LEICESTER



## ***The Mosaic: March 2026***

### In This Issue

Welcome to this edition of the **School of Heritage and Culture'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 Heritage and Culture community.

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

---

Navigate quickly to the different sections below by clicking on the icon in the bottom right.

To read through in full simply scroll down!

---

In this issue

- **Research News**
- **Teaching**
- **Our Campus-based Learners**
- **Our Distance Learners**
- **Postgraduate Research**
- **Professional Services**
- **ULAS - University of Leicester Archaeological Services**
- **Sustainability**
- **Our Alumni - Where are they now?**
- **Our Community**

---

Next issue: TBA

---

## Research News

### [Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference](#)

#### **Article by Dr Rachel Crellin, Associate Professor of Archaeology**

On the 15th, 16th and 17th December staff and students from the School attended the Theoretical Archaeology Group (TAG) conference in York. Our staff and students ran 5 sessions and gave 20 papers! They received lots of great feedback and demonstrated what an amazing place Leicester is for archaeological theory. Thanks to our friends in the archaeology department at York for hosting such a wonderful event. We will see you all in Exeter next year!

*View image captions by clicking dark grey box at the top of each image.*

#### **Article by Brodhie Molloy, Aidan Phillips, Debbie Frearson and Ben Donnelly-Symes**

We had a great representation from the SHAC cohort at TAG 25 in York. One of the sessions, *"In theory it was a great idea": The Challenges of Practical Archaeological Action in the Real World*, provided an opportunity for presenters to highlight challenges and barriers in community-based practice that aren't often discussed in academia. In the session SHAC students Aidan Phillips, Debbie Frearson and Ben Donnelly-Symes each showcased the amazing work they are doing engaging different community groups/ the public in archaeology, whilst also sharing the difficulties that come with such success!

**Aidan** presented on the founding of Operation Phoenix and the "trip hazards, snags and blockers" he experiences through dealing with institutional and psychological restraints to engagement. This broadly applies to anything labelled "In Support of Mental Health" in an underfunded and testosterone-fuelled organisation. He sought to discuss and explain these issues in an attempt to unlock and understand how these matters are presently addressed and ways in which they could be improved in the future.

**Debbie Frearson's** talk "my needs were not met" looked at the evaluation process as an over estimated agency. If evaluation is not dynamic, key information can be missed and your team lose their voice, but with positive support and teamwork ethos we can address challenges and celebrate praise through varied techniques. This gives a realistic retrospect rather than just the opinion of those who filled an online questionnaire.

*View image captions by clicking dark grey box at the top of each image.*

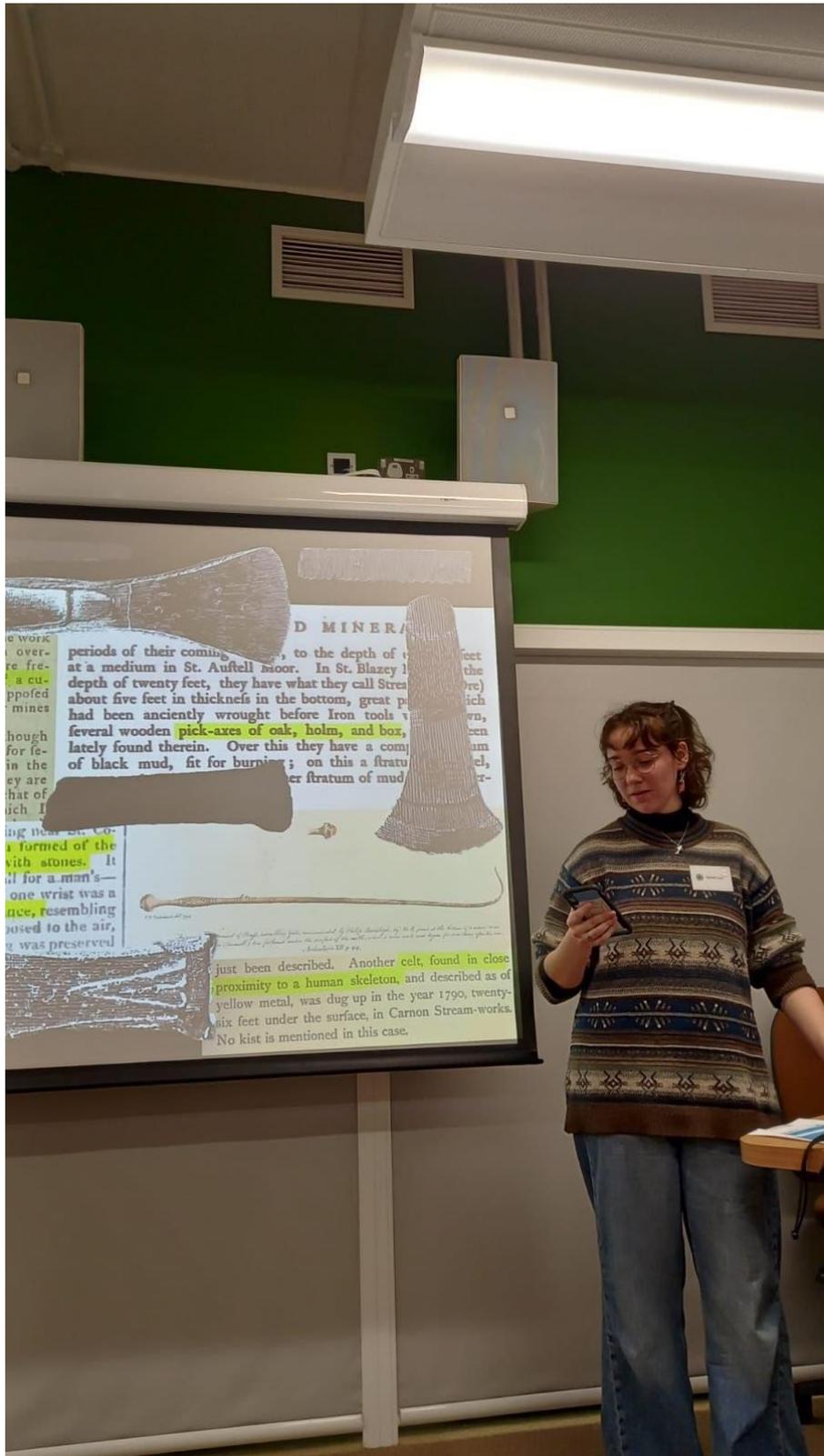
---

*the session was a safe space for practitioners to share their ways of coping with the "mess" of community work as well as forging partnerships for future collaboration*

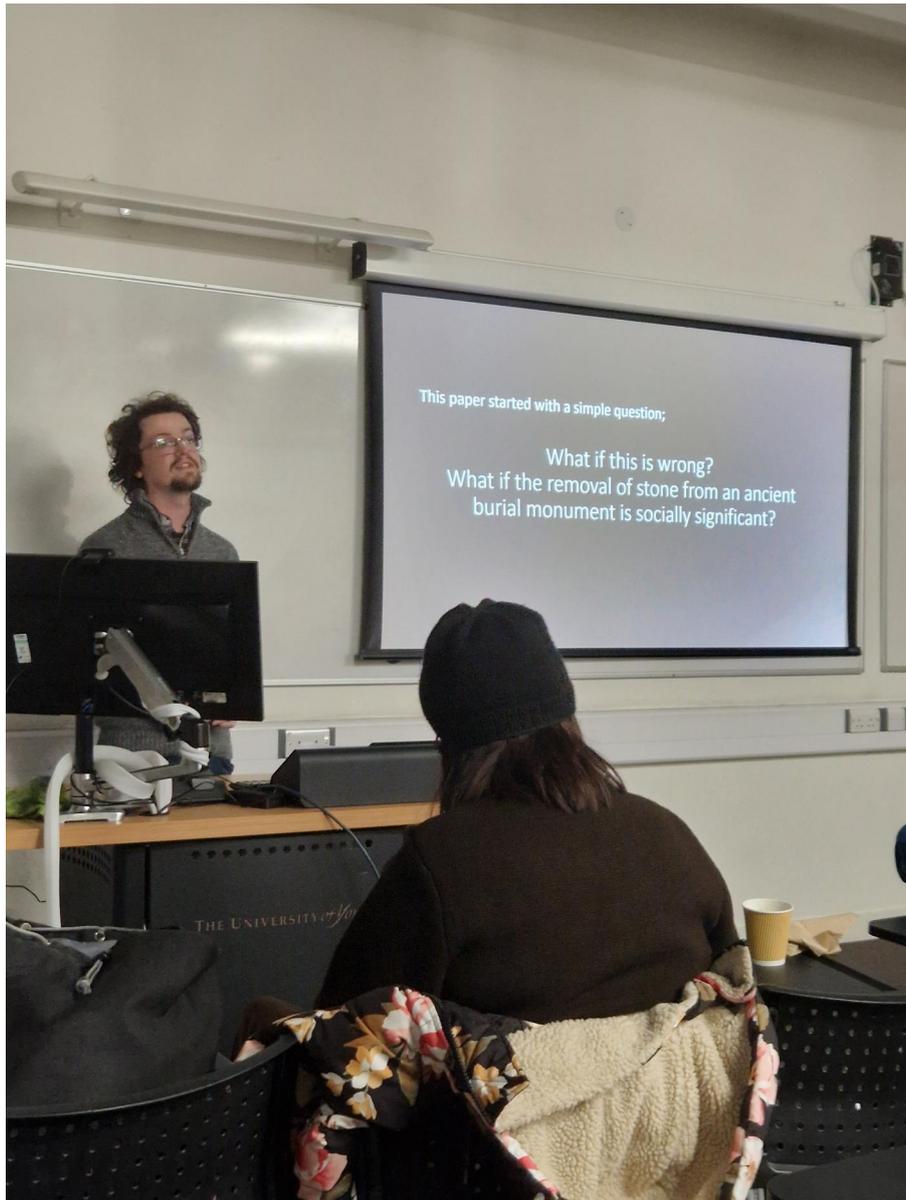
---

**Ben** presented 'Professionally(?) Winging It at the Northamptonshire ARC' and true to form finished writing the paper an hour before presenting. The focus of the paper was to discuss how some archaeological engagement that is done at the ARC is off the cuff with limited prior planning and adapting to the circumstances of the day. It touched on two case studies of how the volunteering programme at the ARC developed through trial and error and how the sites largest heritage event of the year, Roman Fest, had its origins on some hastily made notes by Prof. Sarah Scott on a train and evolved from there. The key take away was around giving things a go and not being afraid to fail.

Overall, the session was a safe space for practitioners to share their ways of coping with the "mess" of community work as well as forging partnerships for future collaboration. Session organisers Brodhie (SHAC) and Tânia were super grateful for such an informative and compassionate session and look forward to continuing the conversations within SHAC and further afield.



1 - Hannah Curry (PGR student)



2 - Jacob Metson (PGR student)



3 - L-R: Innes Almendra Castro and Joel Dos Santos (PGR students)



4 - Kyra Leigh Wright (PGR Student)



5 - Dr Matthew Hitchcock



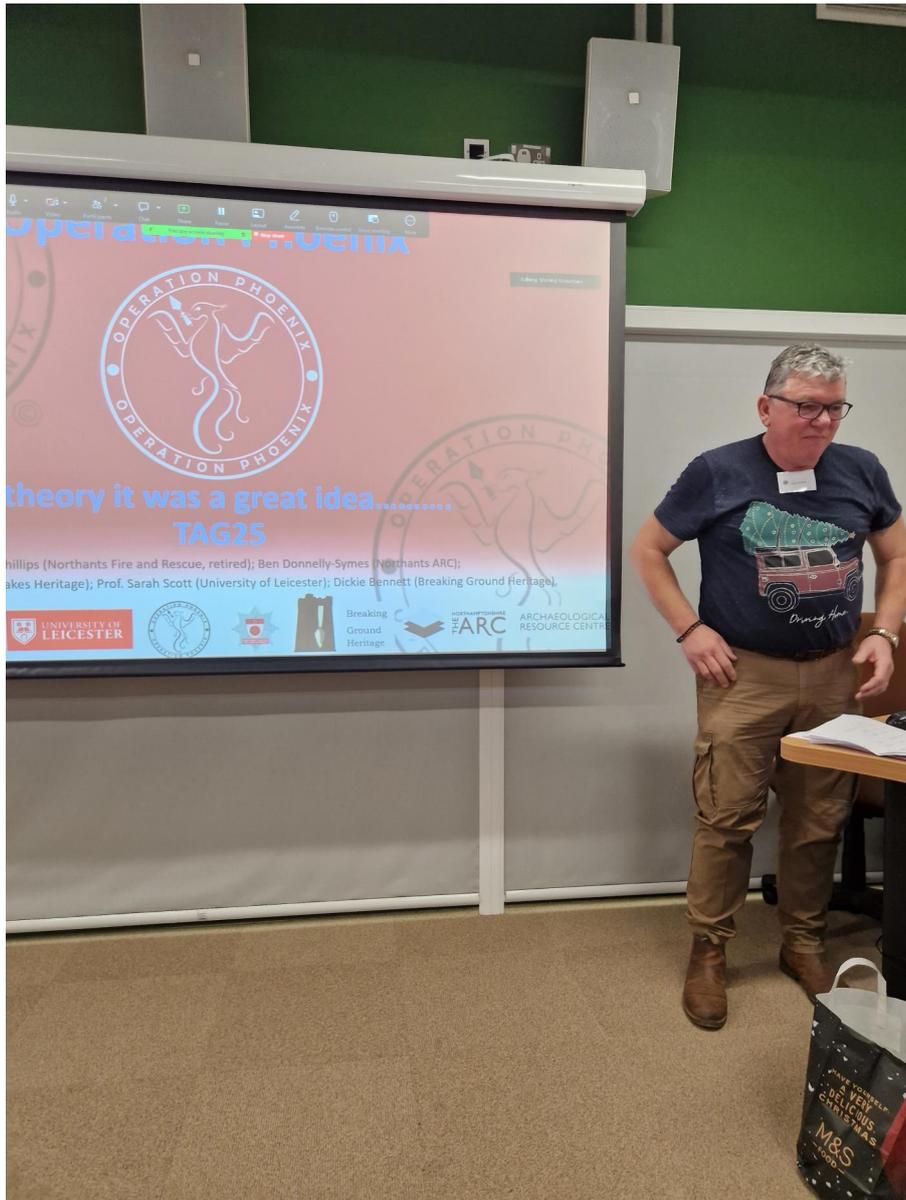
6 - Ben Donnelly-Symes (PGR student)



7 - Ben Donnelly-Symes (PGR student)



8 - L-R: Emma Thompson and Brad Marshall (PGR students)



9 - Aidan Phillips (Northants Fire and Rescue, retired)



10 - Aidan Phillips (Northants Fire and Rescue, retired)

## Selena Wisnom's Radio Insights and Upcoming Hay Festival Event

### Article by Dr Selena Wisnom, Lecturer in the Heritage of the Middle East

Selena Wisnom was on In Our Time on Thursday 12th Feb talking about Hammurabi, the king who turned Babylon from a backwater into a superpower. He's famous for his laws, inscribed on a beautiful stele now in the Louvre. But what were the laws for and were they ever actually used? What do we know about Hammurabi as a person? And what happened to people accused of witchcraft in ancient Babylon? [Tune in on BBC sounds to find out!](#)

Selena will also be speaking at the **Hay Festival** this year, booking links and information can be found below:-

**Talk: *The Library of Ancient Wisdom: Mesopotamia and the Making of History***

[Wednesday 27 May 2026, 5.30pm – Meadow Stage](#)

**Workshop: *Learn to Write in Cuneiform, the World's First Writing System***

[Thursday 28 May 2026, 4pm – Creative Hub](#)

Body-Politics Project Update

**Article by Dr Alexander Wilson and Dr Veronica Tamorri, Research Associates**

Body-Politics is now approaching its final months, which obviously means it's time to hire new people – so a big welcome to our new student assistant Elisabeth Amstrup! Elisabeth is studying for a BA in Prehistoric Archaeology, and will be working with PI Marianne Hem Eriksen at the National Museum of Denmark to help wrap up the project.

In the meantime, our team has been busy presenting research. At last year's TAG conference (University of York), Kevin Kay spoke on 'Three lives in Iron Age Scandinavia', focusing on osteobiographies of individuals studied in the project; Brad Marshall and Emma Louise Thompson presented 'Unbounded', exploring the ontologies of Viking bodies and beings; and Emma also presented 'The soft powers of stones' on mortuary connotations of stone in Viking Age burials. This year, Emma delivered a guest lecture at the Institute for Historical Research, where she spoke about using burial evidence in England and Denmark to assess mobility in the Viking world, and organised a workshop for the SHAC PGR conference on archaeopoetics, using objects under study in the department as prompts for creative writing.



11 - (L-R) Emma Thompson and Brad Marshall presenting at TAG



12 - Dr Kevin Kay presenting at TAG



13 - Emma Thompson delivering a guest lecture at the Institute for Historical Research

Our newest publication ([‘Unbounded: the multiplicity of bodies and beings in Viking worlds’](#), by Brad Marshall, Emma Louise Thompson, Alexander Wilson, and Marianne Hem Eriksen) is also now available Open Access in the *Open Arts Journal*. It explores body modification, portrayals of differently-abled bodies, and multitemporal burial practices to show how Viking bodies encompassed unique ontologies quite different from modern perspectives.

And finally, our postdoc Brian Costello visited Everard’s brewery (for work, we promise!) with colleagues from ULAS and the Chemistry department, to start a research and heritage collaboration to recreate ancient beers. The team is planning to brew Iron Age inspired beer, with a Viking Age Scandinavian-style beer also on the to-do list. For science!

*Click through the stack of images below to view Brian's brewing experience!*







[Laura Basell: British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship & University of Sapienza Visiting Professorship](#)

**Article by Dr Laura Basell, Associate Professor of Archaeology**

Following a British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship 2024-2025, I spent semester one of 2025-2026 on an invited Visiting Professorship at the University of Sapienza in Rome, during which I resumed UoL teaching, returning to Leicester for on-campus teaching during semester 2. During the British Academy Fellowship, I travelled extensively across southern Uganda, northern Tanzania and Kenya, in some pretty challenging circumstances visiting long-term fieldwork sites and reconnecting with African collaborators, as well as working with new students. In Kenya I ran a multi-national workshop at the British Institute in Eastern Africa focussed on Reimagining Origins: Storytelling, Indigenous Knowledge, and the Future of Human Evolution Narratives. This built on a 2024 TAG Conference session, (being published as a series in British Archaeology from April). I also began work on capacity

building events which will continue this year. These trips allowed footage to be recorded for podcasts to accompany forthcoming publications, and opened doors to new collaborations and inspiring academic communities, particularly in ge archaeology and geomatics in Uganda. I also managed to squeeze in a visit to one of UoL's Institute of Environmental Futures Advisory Group Members, Rosemary Okello.



*14 - Laura in the field with long term collaborator Dr. Charles Kinyera-Okeny*



*15 - Larua with geomatics specialist Dr. Antony Gidudu*



16 - Laura with IEF Advisory Board Member, Rosemary Okello-Orlale



17 - Laura with some of the fabulous workshop participants at the British Institute in Eastern Africa, Kenya



*18 - At the Human Origins Museum in the University of Sapienza with Prof. Enza Spinapolice*

My time in Rome was extremely hard work and thwarted somewhat by the complexities of the Italian tax system, but was intellectually stimulating in many unexpected ways. It was my first visit to this remarkable city, and I found my stay enriched by the generosity of Prof. Elizabeth Fentress and Dr. James Fentress. I feel so fortunate to have met James who sadly passed away just before Christmas. I benefitted from vibrant conversations with many scholars from around the world including Prof. Caroline Goodson, Prof. Chris Wickham and Prof. Irad Malkin, while working closely with my long-standing collaborator Dr Enza Spinapolice. We look forward to sharing the paper we wrote (currently under review), a conference session on the landscape archaeology of deep time and an associated upcoming edited volume in *World Archaeology*.

---

*Congratulations to Dr Laura Basell, who has been elected on to Council for the British Institute in Eastern Africa!*

---

Leicester's Contribution to *How Did We Get Here? Journeys from Tibet to Kedleston*  
**Article by Dr Yunci Cai, Associate Professor of Museum and Heritage Studies and Dr Rachel Armitage, SEM Technician and Technical Services Manager**

Scientific laboratories in the School of Heritage and Culture (SHAC) at the University of Leicester have played a key role in uncovering the history of a Tibetan sword now featured in

the exhibition *How Did We Get Here? Journeys from Tibet to Kedleston*, on display at Kedleston Hall from 14 February to 27 September 2026. The exhibition is free to visit with admission to Kedleston Hall.

Dr Rachel Armitage, SEM Technician and Technical Services Manager at SHAC, carried out scientific analysis of the Tibetan sword in collaboration with Melangell Penrhys, Katherine Harris and Morgan Feely, staff members at Kedleston Hall. The sword was originally collected by the then Viceroy of India, George Nathaniel Curzon.

X-ray scans conducted by the SHAC laboratories revealed deliberate notches along the blade. The analysis also showed that the blade had been forcefully fixed into its sheath, preventing it from being drawn or used. Consultation with Kedleston Hall's Tibetan cultural advisors suggested that the notches indicate the sword had previously been used, while the immobilisation of the blade may represent a form of ritual decommissioning.



19 - Tibetan Sword. Photo credit: Yuncai Cai, with permission from Kedleston Hall.



20 - Front cover of *How Did We Get Here? Journeys from Tibet to Kedleston*. Photo credit: Yuncai Cai, with permission from Kedleston Hall.

This scientific analysis was supported by a British Museum/Leverhulme Trust Small Research Grant, *Decolonising the Sacred: Towards Respectful Curation of Sacred Chinese Objects in British Museums*, held by Yunci Cai, Associate Professor of Museum and Heritage Studies at SHAC.

Building on this collaboration, Rachel and Yunci are now working with Melangell Penrhys, Katherine Harris and Morgan Feely at Kedleston Hall on a further project to re-examine, reinterpret and redisplay a Tibetan *thangka* (religious painting). This initiative forms part of ongoing work at Kedleston Hall to address the complex histories associated with the collection. By integrating scientific heritage analysis with collaboration with members of the British-Tibetan community, the project aims to foster a more ethical, culturally sensitive and inclusive interpretation, foregrounding multiple voices, shared authority and richer historical context.



21 - Tibetan thangka. Photo credit: Yuncai Cai, with permission from Kedleston Hall.

## Publication News

### Dr Laura Basell New Publication

Basell, L.S. and Posnansky, M. (2025) 'Excavations at the Stone Age Site of Nyabusora in the western Lake Victoria-Nyanza Basin, Tanzania', *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 91, pp. 1–24.

This paper presents the results of excavations in the '50s and '60s of a remarkable site on the Kagera River in Tanzania with a dense concentration of stone tools. My co-author, Merrick passed away last year. He was a remarkable man and it was a privilege to work with him. His first publication was in PPS so it was great to be able to fulfil his wish that his last paper would be in PPS too. The site has significant opportunities for multi-

proxy palaeoenvironmental reconstruction using modern techniques, not to mention some amazing lithic and faunal remains which are rare for sites of this probable antiquity.

[Read article through Open Access here](#)

**Dr Selena Wisnom's 'The Library of Ancient Wisdom: Mesopotamia and the Making of History' is now out in paperback**

[It is also available in hardback, Ebook or audiobook via Penguin.](#) It was selected as one of the greatest books of 2025 by The Telegraph, and was recently picked as a Daily Mail book of the week.



*22 - Laura and Merrick in Los Angeles in 2014*

---

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

---

- *April 29th, 2026*
  - *June 10th, 2026*
- 

## Teaching News

Flint Tools, Bone Awls and thankfully, no clothing lice!

**Article By Dr Laura Basell, Associate Professor of Archaeology**

Archaeology of human evolution (AR3093) students in Laura Basell's module enjoyed learning about Palaeolithic clothing in February. The practical class involved leather working with flint tools and bone awls with guidance from expert leather craftsman and former ULAS and SHAC member Ian Reeds. Stacy Boldrick who was observing the class also got involved and like all the students produced a lovely draw string leather pouch.

---

You can get involved with hands-on leatherwork with Ian, visit [Watermead Leather](#) for more information!



23 - Photo credits: Laura Basell



24 - Photo credit: Laura Basell

## Museum Studies Work Placement Marketplace

**Article by Sarah Allard, Museum Liaison & Employability Officer and AccessAbility Tutor**

During the 15 years of its existence, the Museum Studies Work Placement Marketplace has become a much-anticipated event in our annual calendar. Each February, we bring together aspiring museum professionals on the MA/MSc Museum Studies programme, SHAC teaching and research staff, and regular placement hosts in museums, galleries, arts and heritage

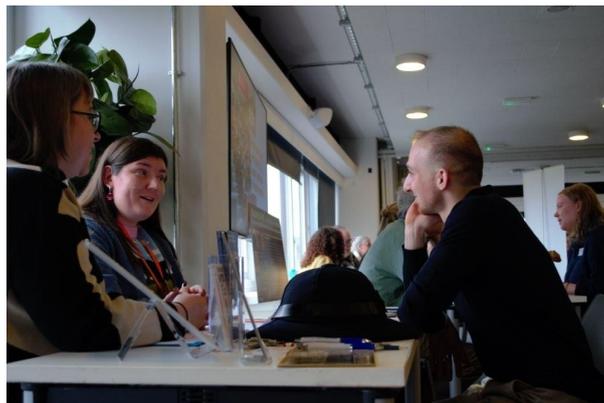
organisations from across the UK. The primary objective is for our students to find out more about some of the placements on offer to them (more than 85 different projects this year!) however, year on year, the event has grown to offer and embody so much more.

Every year, we welcome approximately 30 organisations to our campus, where they are offered a stand (a table and two chairs!) to adorn as they wish. This year these included York Minster, the British Museum, the British Transport Museum, Edinburgh Arts Festival as well as local organisations including Soft Touch Arts, Attenborough Art Centre and Haley Sharpe design consultancy. Many guests bring banners, leaflets, and items from their museum collections to enliven their tables and spark conversations. Our students book appointments in advance, but there are also opportunities for ad-hoc drop ins. The keenest students this year managed eight or nine conversations across the entire three-hour event!

---

*For all - students, staff and placement hosts, it was a precious opportunity to network, share current practice and generate new ideas and enthusiasm for the work they care about.*

---



25 - A student meets staff from the Metropolitan Police Museum and Bow Street Museum of Crime and Justice. Photo Credit: Muzammil Khomusi



26 - A busy Work Placement Marketplace day. Photo credit: Muzammil Khomusi

As in previous years, the students impressed our visitors with their thorough preparation. Many enjoyed the opportunity to find out more about innovative work at smaller

organisations they hadn't come across before, while others relished the experience of meeting staff from the nation's biggest museums. For some it was their first experience of speaking to museum professionals in English. For all - students, staff and placement hosts, it was a precious opportunity to network, share current practice and generate new ideas and enthusiasm for the work they care about.

Every year, our visitors include many alumni who benefitted from our placements as students and now enjoy the opportunity to sit on the other side of the tables. This annual circularity of practice is a huge encouragement to all of us and bears witness to the power of our community!

If you are interested in hosting a placement student you can find out more on our [Work Placement webpages](#).

---

### *School Education Committee Dates*

---

- *April 15th, 2026*
  - *May 20th, 2026*
- 

## Our Campus-based learners

Chedworth Roman Villa: A Victorian Discovery Revisited

**Article by Jeanette Kirkpatrick**

For several years I have volunteered with the National Trust at Chedworth Roman Villa in Gloucestershire. The site has inspired my undergraduate dissertation and offered an opportunity to explore a question that had long intrigued me: when the villa was discovered in 1864, why did Victorian archaeologists build protective structures over the mosaics and reconstruct sections of the walls?



27 - Chedworth Roman Villa. Photo credit: Jeanette Kirkpatrick

Evidence of those early decisions is still visible today. A Victorian lodge and a small museum remain at the centre of the site, reminders of how the discovery was first presented to visitors. The original cover buildings have since been replaced by a modern structure that protects the mosaics while allowing visitors closer access to them.

The discovery of the villa attracted considerable attention in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Archaeological societies visited the site regularly between 1864 and 1924, and reports of their excursions appeared in the journals of organisations such as the British Archaeological Association and the Royal Institute of Archaeology. At the same time, newly formed local societies were producing journals of their own, reflecting the growing popularity of archaeology.

Research in these journals, together with material from the British Newspaper Archive, has shed new light on the discovery of the villa and how it was interpreted. The research also revealed the earliest known ground plan of the villa, dated to 1866, as well as a first-hand account of its excavation by James Farrar, who led the original investigations in 1864. A letter published in a local newspaper has even provided a tantalising clue to the existence of early sketches or watercolours made during the excavation, which are now lost.

Have I discovered why time and resources were invested in cover buildings and reconstructed walls? The answer is a qualified yes—but the research has also raised new questions about the Victorian reception of the villa. The newly discovered 1866 ground plan includes a group of rooms that were believed to have been first excavated in the 1950s. The ground plans produced between 1868 and 1919 show the area gradually disappearing until it was eventually marked as ‘unexplored’. The walls across the site were extensively rebuilt by the Victorian estate workers which makes it difficult to understand why any structures in

this area were not built up in the same way. Any early drawings made of the site might provide clues, but we first have to find the sketches!

### [Student Activities at the Celebration of Heritage](#)

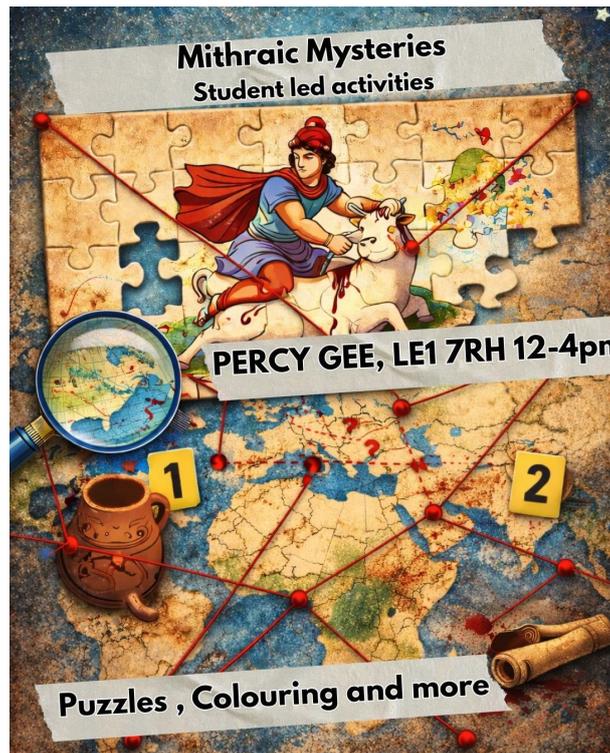
**Article by AR3070 students, Isabel, Leo, Will, Oliver, Hannah and Abigail.**

As a class for AR3070, we have been tasked with creating an interactive, engaging experience that showcases the rich history of Roman Leicester. Our class has split into two groups. The first one will highlight Roman amulets through hands-on activities that encourage exploration and learning. The second group, meanwhile, have an engaging showcase of how religion spread throughout the Roman world. This event is family-focused and blends heritage and archaeology.

We are holding our activities as part of the Heritage Hub's Celebration of Heritage on the 21st of March, between 12-4, at the Percy Gee building in the SU. There will be a wide array of other organisations at the event offering different educational opportunities.

The creation of the event has been a very fun and rewarding experience for all six students on the module, and we wish to share it with as many of the SHAC department as possible. We hope you will be there to share in our hard work.





---

*Read more about the Heritage Hub's Celebration of Heritage event in the 'Community' section, further below.*

---

→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 (email [ih152@student.le.ac.uk](mailto:ih152@student.le.ac.uk)), your dedicated campus-based learning representative.

---

***Student-Staff Committee (AAH CB UG) Dates***

---

- *March 25th, 2026*
  - *May 6th, 2026*
-

---

## *Student-Staff Committee (MS CB PGT) Dates*

---

- *May 7th, 2026*
- 

### Our Distance Learners

#### Meet Your New Distance Learning Rep

#### **Article by Emma Ellis**

Some of you might already know me as a previous Course Representative for levels one and two of the BA AH&CA (DL) course, or from our DL community discord server -- but, for those of you who don't: My name is Emma Ellis, I'm twenty-one years old and I am local to Derbyshire, England. I am currently in my second year of studying Ancient History & Classical Archaeology; however, before this, I have studied art & design, as well as completing a foundation year in physics at the University of York. In my free time, I really enjoy playing videogames, reading, crocheting, or knitting. :)

We all choose distance-learning for a reason -- for me, it was the best choice to accommodate my disabilities. The flexibility of our course is something that makes it so accessible to so many students, regardless of background. We have such a diverse range of students within the School of Heritage and Culture, and I am looking forward to representing your views.

As always, I am contactable at [ele10@student.le.ac.uk](mailto:ele10@student.le.ac.uk)



## Exploring the Working Life of Gabriel Jones

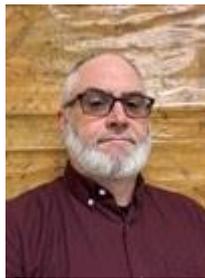
### Article by Gabriel Jones, MA Archaeology and Heritage

*MA Archaeology and Heritage candidate, Gabriel Jones works alongside Black Loyalist descendants on discovering their historic landscapes.*

As a career [heritage professional](#), distance learning gives me the opportunity to study while working. Since 2025, I have been working with member historians of the [Black Legacy Collective](#) on a long term Black heritage mapping project, entitled [Voices from the Past, Echoes of the Future](#), which has us working alongside various descendent communities to assemble historic source material towards identifying, designating and connecting Black historic narratives and landscapes across Canada, and internationally.

This necessarily requires travelling to descendant communities to consult and survey records and undertake interviews.

One such community was in Birchtown, Nova Scotia, founded in 1783 as a promised settlement for Black Loyalists by British forces during the American War of Independence. During this time it was the largest free settlement of ethnic Africans in North America.

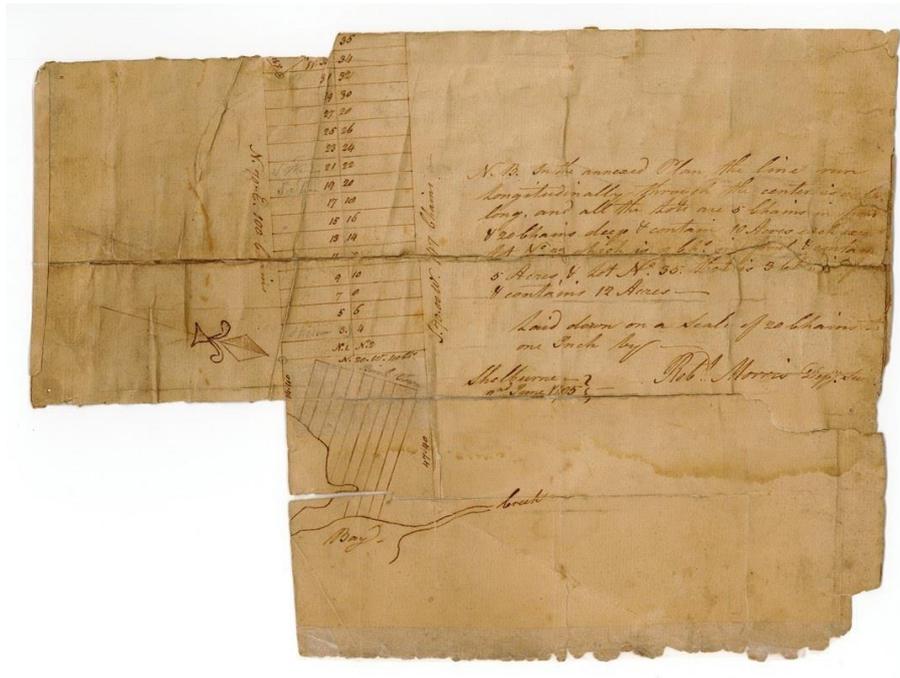


29 - Gabriel Jones



30 - Trace map database currently under development

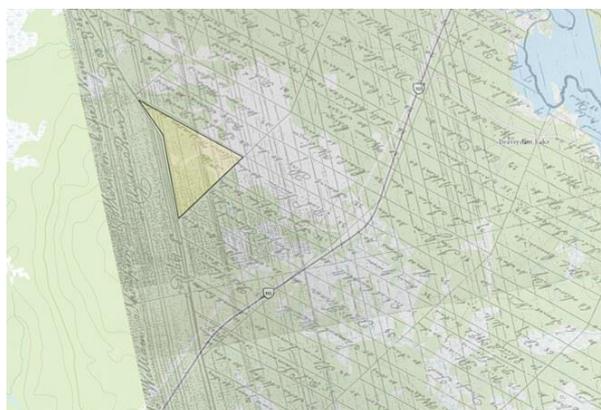




32 - 1785 manuscript showing the Birchtown settlement. Image courtesy Shelburne Museums.

With the help of the descendant community and staff at the Black Loyalist Heritage Center, we were able to develop a spatial arrangement of surveys demonstrating Black and White Loyalist land allotments between 1783-1787, which can inform future archaeological investigations regionally. This data was later applied to a UNESCO Memory of the World designation by the community.

Following this work, Gabriel was awarded a 2026 Fellowship by the [International Center for Jefferson Scholarship](#) to connect British North American sites to pre-evacuation plantation sites in America through a partnership with Monticello archaeologists, through their [Digital Archeological Archives of Comparative Slavery](#). The project goal is to assemble and link sources, histories and sites across the transatlantic within a web portal currently in development by Digital Museums Canada. Interested parties can contact me at [gabriel@windhillheritage.com](mailto:gabriel@windhillheritage.com).



→Your News Here ←

### **Are you a distance 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 Emma Ellis ([ele10@student.le.ac.uk](mailto:ele10@student.le.ac.uk)), your dedicated Distance Learning representative.

## Postgraduate Student News

### Ussher Society Conference

#### **Article by Beth Frangleton, M4C PGR**

Dr Laura Basell, Dr Emma Stockley and Beth Frangleton attended the Ussher Society Conference in Exeter in January, a friendly and varied event focused on geoscience in the South West. Laura co-presented research on Dartmoor's tor enclosures with Dr Lee Bray (Archaeologist, Dartmoor National Park Authority), and also shared research results on her team's work at the multi-period site of Ash Hole Cavern, Torbay.

Emma presented her PhD research on Dartmoor's lithic scatter distribution, while Beth (supervised by Dr Laura Basell, Dr Andrew Miles and Dr Lee Bray) presented a poster summarising her PhD research. Beth also attended the post-conference field excursion on the geology of Exeter. Highlights included exploring the geology of Exeter Cathedral where she particularly enjoyed seeing the polished granite floor in the medieval Quire, visiting the 'Exeter book' (the oldest book of English literature in the world) and seeing the prison cells beneath Exeter Guildhall.



34 - L-R: Beth, Lee and Emma at the Ussher Society conference in Exeter. Photo credit: Laura Basell



35 - L-R: Beth Frangleton with her poster, Pictures from inside Exeter Guildhall. Photo credits: Laura Basell and Beth Frangleton

## Celebrating Publication of Article, 'British Red Squirrels (*S. vulgaris*) With Leprosy Develop Skeletal Lesions'

### Article by Elliot Elliott, Future 100 PGR

I would like to announce the publication of the open access article, 'British Red Squirrels (*S. vulgaris*) With Leprosy Develop Skeletal Lesions', in the journal of *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Infectious Diseases*. This could not have been possible without my supervisors, Dr Sarah Inskip, Prof Richard Thomas and Prof Andrea Cooper; and co-authors, Dr Andrew Kitchener, Katie M. Beckmann and Prof Anna Meredith. This article is one part of

the culmination of three years of work investigating the health and disease patterns of British red squirrels and their exploitation in the medieval period and how it relates to the spread of leprosy in modern and historical red squirrel populations. The article presents the first evidence of skeletal lesions associated with leprosy in three red squirrels, proving that the disease develops in markedly similar ways in squirrels as it does in humans despite their shorter lifespan and faster metabolism. This lesion pattern can therefore be used to look at and interpret disease patterns in archaeological red squirrel remains in combination with ancient DNA analyses. [You can read the article here.](#)



36 - Photo credit: Tim Meakin

### [Mops, Knots and the Details of Care in Data-Gathering Workshops](#)

**Article by Angela Hadley-Johnson, M4C PGR**

Sharing research in progress requires a particular kind of courage, yet doing so offers a vital opportunity to make sense of emerging ideas. Presenting a glimpse of my PhD fieldwork at the M4C (Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership) *'Festival of Research'* on February 10th was both a pleasure and a valuable moment to reflect.

My practice informed study blends Participatory Arts-Based Research (PABR) with Autoethnographic reflexivity, to investigate the wellbeing impacts of self-led creativity behind closed prison cell doors. For context, prisons in the UK are chronically under resourced and overcrowded. Many of the men I researched with are confined to their cells for 22 hours a day, and the lack of stimuli and boredom of this experience contributes to poor mental health and rising levels of self-harm.



37 - Angela presenting with slide of wonky eye portraits drawn by participants at the starts of each data gathering encounter. Photo credit: Faye Claridge

During the presentation I focused on insights from recently completed fieldwork with seventy six men living in four UK prisons. I highlighted a series of relational and material ‘fragments’ from workshops, drawing attention to the significance of agency, care, touch, joy, and playful exploration. The curated material kit that was central to my methods, including an abundant array of bespoke tools and historic museum objects, enabled people to respond accessibly and imaginatively to the research questions. For participants, the workshops pierced the monotony of days, and by experiencing the novel materials, colours and scents that are often absent from a carceral environment I observed initial trepidation recede as curiosity rose. By attending to the detail within a compassionate creative approach, the data-gathering process nurtured trust and rapport, to surface experiences that might otherwise have remained invisible.



38 - The wonky eye portraits. Photo credit: Angela hadley-Johnson

---

*I observed initial trepidation recede as curiosity rose ... the data-gathering process nurtured trust and rapport*

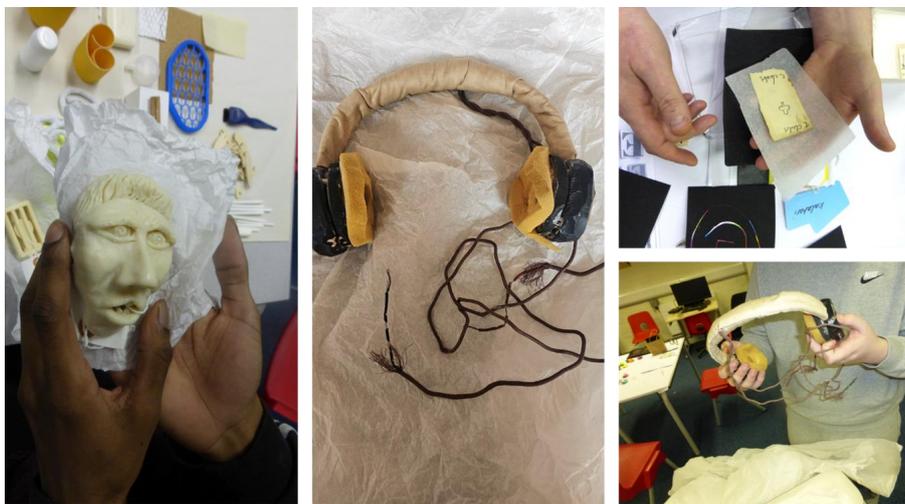
---

To offer conference attendees a tangible connection to the fieldwork, I passed each person a single cotton strand from a prison mop. This rudimentary material, safe and versatile, was a

key material component in the research workshops. The cotton strands were knotted, threaded, frayed, and transformed into a multitude of crafted artefacts. They also provided a soothing tactile comfort for some participants who stroked the strands across their skin or twirled it between their fingers, gestures mirrored by conference attendees throughout the presentation.

Thank you to M4C for creating the right conditions that made sharing this research in progress feel supported. The time, interest, and engagement that people offered on the day remains a powerful driver to stand up and do it all again.

*Andrea is an artist, exhibition producer and researcher, specialising in coproduction and community engaged practice. Her supervision team are Nuala Morse, Matt Tonkin, and Nick Mai from the schools of Museum Studies and Criminology.*



39 - Participants exploring museum objects that were crafted historically in prison settings. Photo credit: Angela Hadley-Johnson



40 - Example of material responses that emerged whilst participants considered the research questions. Photo credit: Angela Hadley-Johnson

Viva Successes 

**Betsy Inlow**

Congratulations to Betsy Inlow for successfully defending their thesis entitled *Use of Holocaust Graphic Narratives within Museums*. Well done from everyone in the School!

#### **Aisha Al Muftah**

Congratulations to Aisha Al Muftah for successfully defending their thesis entitled *Expanding the Frame: The Role of Artists and Private Collectors in Qatar's Art*. Examiners were impressed with the depth and rigour of Aisha's excellent thesis on the development of Qatar's modern and contemporary museums and art galleries. Well done from everyone in the School!

#### **Abigail Ford**

Congratulations to Abigail Ford for successfully defending their thesis (minor corrections only) entitled *Experiencing Magic in Early Modern Scotland: Materiality, Practice and Belief*. Well done from everyone in the School!

#### **Kristin Barrus**

Congratulations to Kristin Barrus for successfully defending their thesis entitled *Her + Products: American Generation X Women Entrepreneurs as Innovators, Change Makers, and Cultural Producers in the Twenty-First Century Quilt World*. Well done from everyone in the School!

#### **Danielle Megaffin**

Congratulations to Danielle Megaffin for successfully defending their thesis entitled *Aspirational Ethics and Museological Praxis: Exhibiting Settler Colonial Genocide in Canadian Museums*. The external examiner commended the thesis for being 'highly original, well-researched, beautifully-written, and internationally significant'. Well done from everyone in the School!

#### [Wednesday Research Seminars Series 2025-26](#)

Our regular research seminar series will continue in the Spring semester; join us for hot drinks and cake in the foyer of the Kathleen Kenyon building from 16:30 before each seminar, which start at 17:00 and are hybrid. Join remotely using the MS teams link below.

#### **Where: George Porter Lecture Theatre B**

#### **March 18th**

Professor Helen Frowe and Professor Derek Matravers | Killing for Culture: Protecting Tangible Heritage in War

#### **March 25th**

Professor Rob Collins | The Phallus and the Frontier: The Form and Function of Phallic Carvings from Hadrian's Wall

**Microsoft Teams meeting :-**

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 360 499 175 136

Passcode: oU725Uo7

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Professional Services Updates

---

*School Meeting Dates*

---

- *May 13th 2026*
- 

Meet our new Programme Administrator



*41 - Kate Hutchinson*

**Kate Hutchinson**

*Programme Administrator*

Hello! My name is Kate Hutchinson, and I'm excited to be joining the university as a Programme Administrator later this month.

Since graduating, I've worked at four different universities (including previously at the University of Leicester!), gaining experience across the student lifecycle - from student recruitment and outreach to working on graduation ceremonies, and more recently in both undergraduate and postgraduate programme administration roles. I'm really pleased to be returning to Leicester and joining the team.

Outside of work, I enjoy going to the theatre, baking, and running. I also have a newfound love of country music after honeymooning in Canada last year! I'm looking forward to meeting and working with colleagues and students across the School in the coming months.

### Team Changes and Updates

---

#### *Off to Sunnier Shores: Kate West*

---

It was bittersweet saying 'goodbye and good luck' to our fantastic Administrative Assistant, Kate West, at the end of January. Kate has taken the exciting opportunity to participate in a working holiday in Australia for 6 months! Kate has been with the School for around 4 years and has been a terrific colleague and a superstar within our Professional Services, developing and growing into a colleague who was well-liked and humbly stepped up in times of need to support the team. The School was sad to see Kate leave but wish her best of luck for all the adventures ahead!

---

#### *Moving On: Ingrid Dyson*

---

Ingrid Dyson has accepted a new role outside the University as a Counter Fraud Intelligence Officer, her last working day will be April 16th.

*Ingrid writes, "It was not an easy decision to leave SHaC, I have been within the School in different roles since 2018 and have always felt welcome and accepted by all staff in the School and ULAS. The next step will be a change but offers me the progression in my career I have sought for a number of years. I feel very lucky to have been part of such an amazing group of colleagues. Thank you to everyone for all of the support and guidance over the years; I have made some (hopefully!) life-long friends and have grown as a person from knowing so many interesting people. I will miss everyone!"*

---

#### *Chigoziri "Chichi" Ahamzie*

---

It's with great sadness that we announce the passing of our programme administrator, Chichi Ahamzie, after an illness.

Chichi was an excellent colleague, full of kindness and generosity and we all enjoyed working with her before she had to take a break from work due to her illness.

Chichi enjoyed travelling, making friends, trying out new cuisines and had a keen interest in fashion. She was ambitious and passionate about what she wanted to achieve. She was a loving mother to two young daughters and she will be greatly missed by everyone in the team.



*42 - Chichi Ahamzie*

ULAS

Heritage Hub and ULAS Partnership

**Article by Dr Gavin Speed, Project Manager**

The Heritage Hub and University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) have agreed a new partnership that brings our teams closer together in delivering archaeological projects, field schools, and public engagement. The aim is to make our work more accessible and inclusive, helping a wider range of communities connect with local heritage. By working collaboratively on events, training, and research, we hope to support diverse audiences, strengthen community links and share the stories that matter to people across the region. Both teams are committed to maintaining high professional standards and sustainable practice, while also creating more opportunities for students, volunteers, and local partners to get involved.



43 - ULAS and Heritage Hub at the Irchester Roman Festival in 2025 (L-R: Andrew Hyam, Sarah Scott, Will Johnson-Moss, Isobel Johnson-Moss) Photo Credit: Isobel Johnson-Moss



## Recent Fieldwork Summary

### Article by Dr Gavin Speed, Project Manager

University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS) team have been busy on various sites across the region, the following three are the recent highlights.

ULAS have largely completed the archaeological excavation of Leicester's market place, in advance of a new Council-driven project to redevelop the space. This was one of the most significant excavations ever undertaken in Leicester's historic core, a rare opportunity to investigate a historic market place. Key findings include Neolithic flint tools, Roman buildings (including a coin hoard), medieval remains such as hundreds of postholes, rich artefact layers, and major structures like the Gainsborough Chamber and the Shambles (a late medieval market hall). A watching brief will be maintained during the initial groundworks.



44 - ULAS archaeologist investigating medieval post holes at Market Place, Leicester



45 - ULAS archaeologists investigating post medieval building foundations in Chesterfield

In central Chesterfield our ULAS team have completed investigations at Rykneld Square revealing well preserved archaeology—including, parts of a former church burial ground, and earlier medieval and Roman layers. ULAS completed detailed cleaning, mapping, and excavation across the site, clarifying complex post medieval deposits and the survival of

deeper remains. The project is now finished, and has provided a refined understanding of the site's stratigraphy and its significant post-Medieval and earlier archaeology.

The ULAS team returned to Goose Gate, Nottingham in early 2026 to complete excavation of the pre-conquest ditch previously identified on site. Despite challenging working conditions beneath the new building frame, three targeted slots were excavated, revealing a substantial U-shaped ditch up to 4.7 m deep with multiple re-cuts indicating long-term maintenance. Although artefacts were absent, environmental remains including animal bone and charred plant material were recovered, and specialist sampling was undertaken for OSL dating and potential tephra analysis. Together, these results promise the most secure chronology yet for the early defensive ditch and will contribute valuable insights into Nottingham's pre-Conquest development.



46 - ULAS archaeologists in a late Saxon ditch in Nottingham

## 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.](#)

### One Action



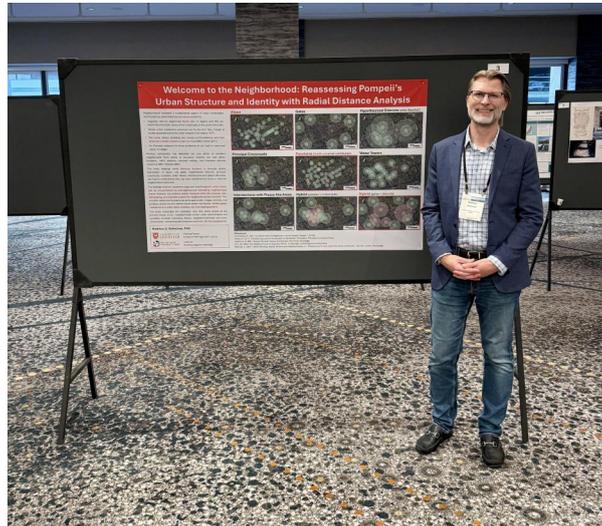
47 - Photo by [Firstname Lastname](#) on [Unsplash](#)

As we approach the end of Winter, now is an ideal time to implement **sustainable gardening practices**. If you're lucky enough to have access to a garden, The Royal Horticultural Society list [10 ways you can be more sustainable in your garden](#). It's well known that trees absorb carbon dioxide, removing and 'capturing' these one of the most prominent greenhouse gases, sometimes for centuries! If you have the space, think about planting a tree (for compact spaces, see [trees for containers](#)). Even without access to a garden, you can implement sustainable practices such as growing your own herbs in a window box or

hanging basket. Not only can you guarantee the produce is pesticide free, reducing chemical pollution, you have access to them whenever a recipe dictates!

## Our Alumni - Where are they now?

### Archaeological Institute of America's Annual Meeting



#### Article by Dr Matthew Selheimer, Honorary Visiting Fellow

I recently gave a poster [also showcasing his affiliation with Leicester], at the Archaeological Institute of America's annual meeting. It was partially inspired by my PhD thesis work at Leicester on the analysis of spatial use at Roman street intersections but extending to the concept of "neighborhoodliness" in Pompeii.

In brief, my poster/research employed radial distance analysis to evaluate spatial distribution of altars[,] city gates, hypothesized districts, principal crossroads, fountains, water towers, intersections with piazza-like areas, and hybrid combinations that may have functioned as formal or informal neighborhood indicators.

---

*The study challenges the traditional view that altars served as the primary marker of vici/neighborhoods in both urban administration and quotidian contexts*

---

The findings build on Ray Laurence's argument that Pompeii's urban fabric can be characterized by overlapping and competing neighborhood forms. However, the analysis reveals fountains offer the clearest, non-overlapping, and citywide pattern for neighborhood demarcation. This is further evidenced by distinctive anthropomorphic images, animals, and symbols carved into the vertical backs above their basins. Hybrid (gates + districts) is an alternative citywide, low-overlapping pattern identified.

The study challenges the traditional view that altars served as the primary marker of vici/neighborhoods in both urban administration and quotidian contexts. Ultimately, Roman 'neighborhoodliness' was multi-dimensional, intersecting administrative practices with lived geographies.

[Don't Dismiss that 7-minute Lightning Round Opportunity!](#)

### **Article by Dr Cristina Hernandez, Honorary Visiting Fellow**

Back in 2023, [School of Archaeology and Ancient History] alumna (PhD 2022; MA 2016) and Honorary Fellow, Cristina Hernandez, submitted an abstract to participate in a multi-day conference, *Roman Baths and Agency Conference at the Academia Belgica, Rome (October 18–20, 2023, Rome, Italy)*. While initially disappointed to have been relegated to the Lightning Round — a mere 7 minutes on the last day of the conference — numerous colleagues encouraged her to make the journey to Rome from California..., and how it paid off!

In addition to meeting fellow-alum, Giacomo Savani, Cristina had the opportunity to present her research to a veritable who's-who group of Roman baths and bathing scholars. After listening to the 7-minute paper, conference organizers invited Cristina to contribute to the proceedings. This forthcoming article — anticipated in 2026 — will be published by Peeters Babesch Suppl. 51: Hernández, C.M. (forthcoming 2026). "Ut Gratiam Praestet: Building Pompeian Domestic Baths for Seasonal Pleasure and Bodily Delight," *Proceedings from the Roman Baths and Agency Conference at the Academia Belgica, Rome (October 18–20, 2023, Rome, Italy)*. BABESCH Supplements, vol. 51. Maréchal, S. and Beaufay, K., eds. Leuven, Belgium: Peeters Publishers.

---

*After listening to the 7-minute paper, conference organizers invited Cristina to contribute to the proceedings*

---

After the Lightning Round presentation, Cristina also connected with esteemed colleague and independent scholar, Gemma Jansen, known for her work on Roman water supply and latrines. Gemma put Cristina in touch with archaeologists at the *Parco Archeologico del Colosseo*, who had just uncovered the remains of a Late Republican-Early Imperial villa bath (*balneum*) during the Metro C excavations. Archaeologist, Elisa Cella, and digital creator, Sergio Fontana, consulted with Cristina to interpret the archaeological remains and provide comparanda from domestic baths of the Vesuvian Region for their digital reconstructions and exhibition texts.

Although the Parco Archeologico didn't include university affiliations in the public acknowledgments, they graciously recognized the contributions of various scholars in the newly-installed Metro C–Colosseum station exhibits. The photos here show the

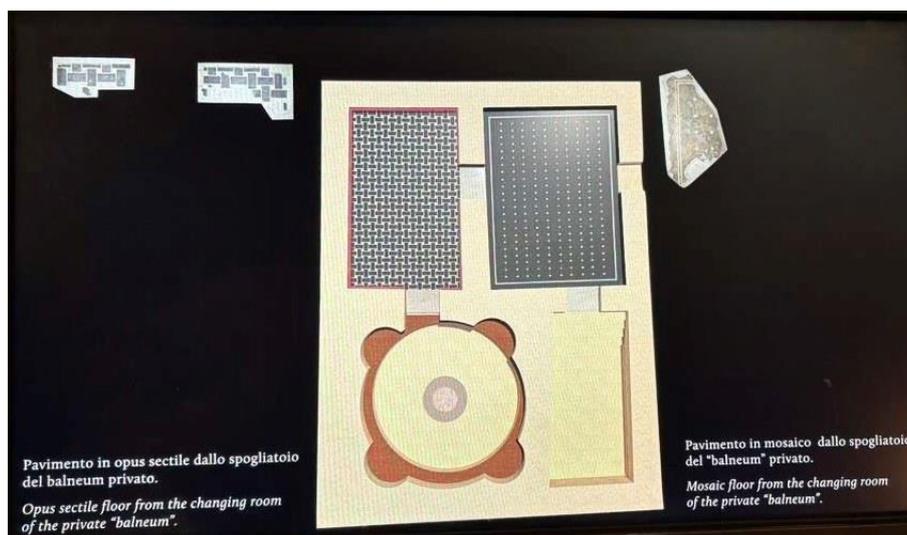
*laconicum* (sauna) with masonry brazier, and *piscina* (plunge-pool) with in situ drainpipe. Not obviously apparent in the installation were the remains of carbonized material in the masonry brazier that once heated the *laconicum*.

Moral of the story: Don't pass up the chance to present your research and University of Leicester excellence! A mere 7 minutes may open doors to further scholarly opportunities.

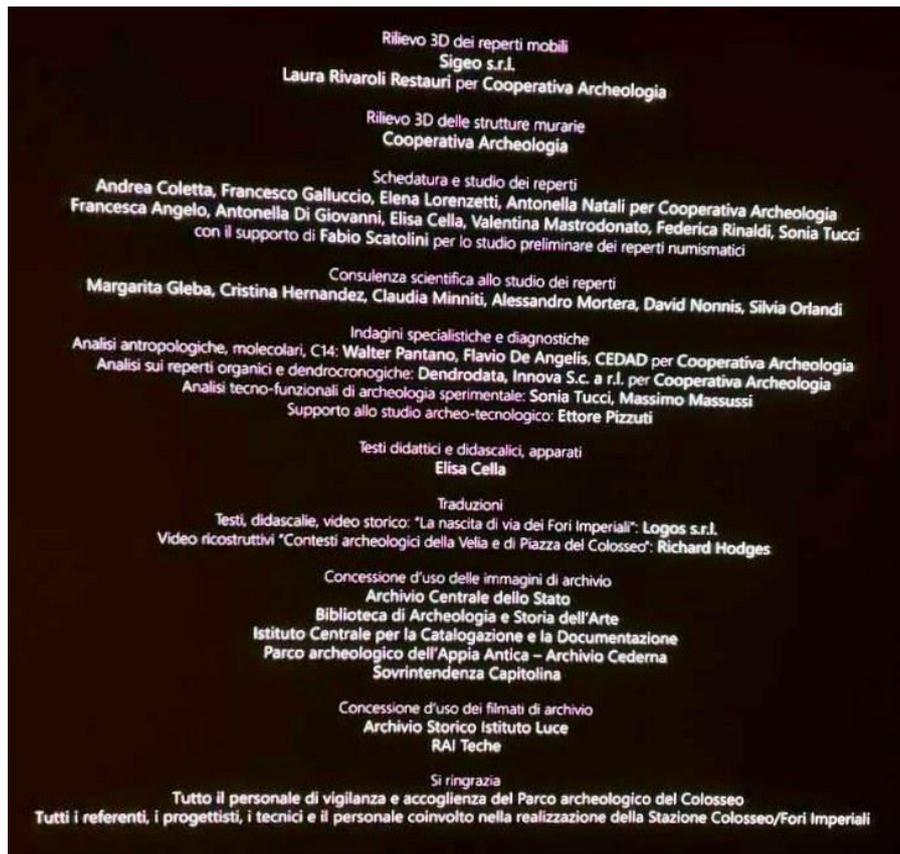
*Photo credits: Courtesy of Dr. Claire Weiss (University of Virginia)*



48 - *Laconicum (left) and piscina (right).*



49 - Photo 2: Reconstruction of the villa bath floor plan



50 - Photo 3: Acknowledgements published at the Metro C Colosseo station

**Cristina has also recently contributed to the new Leicester Archaeology Monograph featured in the [December 2025 edition of \*The Mosaic\*](#)**

Hernández, C.M. 2025. “(Non) In Intima Parte Domus: Resident and non-resident engagement with domestic baths in the Pompeian housescape.” Szafara, V. and Van Helden, D. eds. *Investigating Consumption: The Archaeology of Social Practice. Papers in honour of Penelope Allison on the occasion of her retirement*. Oxford: BAR.

### 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 Paul Fitzgerald [pjf15@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:pjf15@leicester.ac.uk)

## Our Community

MAGS mag: UoL Museum and Art Galleries Society Magazine

### Article by MAGS

Late September 2025, the start of the academic year and for the around 60 of us fresh-faced MA/MSc Museum Studies students, the start of our journey into the inner workings of the museum. Eager to get into our first module, we sit patiently through another introduction when our charismatic instructor, Dave, catches us with something unexpected: "- and - you have your own Society." University societies are a familiar concept to many of us, of course, but we've only just got here. How can we already have a society of our own? Dave goes on to explain: MAGS stands for the Museums and Galleries Society, a society inherited by each successive cohort of in-person Museum Studies students with free reign to make of it what we like, whether it's talks with guest speakers, trips to museums and galleries or (perhaps broadly) museum-centred movie nights (and yes, Night at the Museum is always the first suggestion, although I've heard the sequel is better...). Plus, there's MAGS Mag; a publication in some form where we can share the things we're passionate about. It all sounds pretty good, right?

Within a week those of us who were interested in leading this project had met and formed a committee. Since then, we've organised a visit by a local legend who helped get the Jewry Wall Museum up and running again, a workshop celebrating the Chinese New Year and Chinese heritage, and a number of casual socials. Engagement is strong, feedback is great

and we have a few plans in the works for the next few months - I won't spoil the surprise, but it's looking like a good time. Our online magazine is going strong too, with regular contributions from our peers - just search "MAGS Mag UoL" to check it out for yourself, or click the link below!

The transient nature of the society (owing to the brevity of the Master's programme) has presented some challenges, but we're all the kind to rise to it. In fact, understanding that the society is effectively resurrected each year as something new has been liberating: it means this society is ours, no one else's, and we can make what we want of it with no traditions or expectations. Nevertheless, we are looking to the future with the hopes of reaching further, working with distance learners and other PGRs and potentially teaming up with other on-campus entities. We are all extremely enthusiastic about heritage, art, museums and galleries, so finding ways to share this enthusiasm with others will always be the main goal. Who knows what we might get up to next? If you would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to get in touch!

[Read MAGS Mag here](#)

[Heritage Hub's Celebration of Heritage Event](#)

**Saturday 21 March 2025 12 noon- 4pm Students' Union (Percy Gee Building), University of Leicester**

**Join us for our Heritage Hub Celebration of Heritage 2026!**

We are excited to invite you to our annual Celebration of Heritage on Saturday 21 March 2026 12 noon – 4pm, a free event open to all. You can meet our students and staff, explore our University campus, discover our remarkable collections and learn about world-leading research that shapes our understanding of the past, present and future. The event also marks the final day of Literary Leicester. This year, more than 50 organisations from across the region will join us. Come along to explore local museum collections, hear fascinating stories of the rich history and heritage of our city and region and find out what's happening at upcoming festivals and heritage events. With hands-on activities ranging from leathercraft and weaving to Morris dancing and our archaeological dig pit, there is something for everyone. Our friendly Heritage Hub Ambassadors will be on hand throughout the day to help you make the most of your visit.

**We are also introducing an exciting new feature for 2026: The University Heritage Discovery Zone.** Journey from the origins of life on Earth to cutting-edge space research, explore ancient diet and medicine and try your hand at life-saving skills. Join us for an amazing day of discovery and connection across generations and cultures.

The Heritage Hub is inspired by the founding vision of the University of Leicester as a living memorial created by the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland at the end of the First World War. Today, we continue that legacy by working creatively with our communities

across the region and beyond to improve lives, now and for future generations “so that they may have life.” Please check the Heritage Hub webpage for more detailed information which is to follow. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please email us at [heritageuol@le.ac.uk](mailto:heritageuol@le.ac.uk). Agreeing to sign up to the mailing list, you will receive the HH newsletter and emailed news/updates/opportunities. We do not share your details with any other organisations and you can unsubscribe at any time by emailing [heritageuol@le.ac.uk](mailto:heritageuol@le.ac.uk). To find out more information about how the University uses your personal data, please see our privacy notices



UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER  
le.ac.uk/heritagehub

HERITAGE HUB  
**Save the date  
to celebrate  
heritage**

12 noon - 4pm  
Saturday 21 March 2026

Students' Union, Percy Gee Building,  
University of Leicester main campus

For more information contact:  
e: [heritageuol@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:heritageuol@leicester.ac.uk)  
w: [www.le.ac.uk/heritagehub](http://www.le.ac.uk/heritagehub)

### [Leicester Archaeology Monographs](#)

Did you know monographs written by AAH 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](#)

**How to propose a volume**

*Information provided by Prof Graham Shipley*

We welcome proposals from PGR students who have passed the viva.

Proposals will be peer-reviewed anonymously, both by the SHAC Research Committee and independently by the publisher, BAR. If the proposal concerns a completed thesis, referees will be asked what changes are needed to make the strongest possible volume. If the proposal is accepted, the author(s) or editor(s) will have a contract with BAR. They are usually very accommodating about the use of colour illustrations, though above a certain number they may charge modest fees.

You must agree to be responsible for raising money to pay for copy-editing, something BAR do not provide but which we, and they, agreed was indispensable to keep the quality of the series as high as possible. But don't worry, this is usually a relatively modest sum—in the most recent cases, of the order of £500 to £750. You may be able to apply for a contribution from the CSSAH college PGR funds, and the series editors will be happy to advise on other potential sources.

If interested, please contact me, Graham Shipley [graham.shipley@leicester.ac.uk](mailto:graham.shipley@leicester.ac.uk), in the first instance.

### [Follow our Social Media!](#)

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

 Instagram: [ArchAncHistLeic](#)

 Instagram: [uolmuseumstudies](#)

 LinkedIn: [Museum Studies at Leicester](#)

 Bluesky: [@archanchistleic.bsky.social](#)

 Facebook: [School of Archaeology and Ancient History, University of Leicester](#)

### [John Ellis Jones Obituary](#)

**Written by Prof Graham Shipley**

**Mr John Ellis Jones**

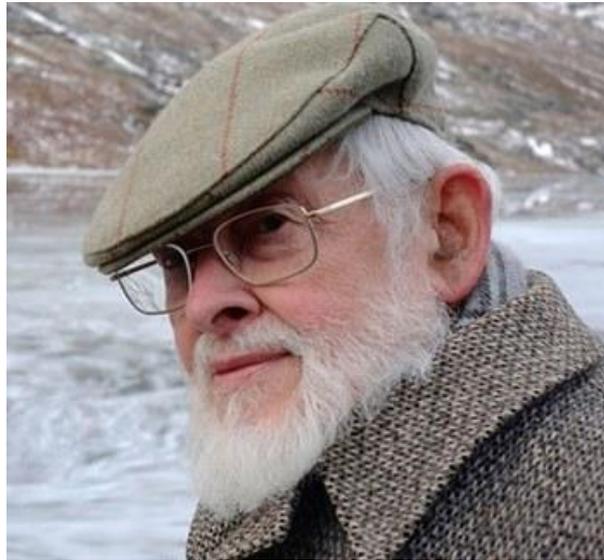
B. 1929 -D. 2023

John taught at Leicester in the University's first year post-Charter, 1957–8, before returning permanently to a post in his home University at Bangor, North Wales; but he made many friends here, especially Mr Duncan Cloud (later the last head of the Department of Classics, up to 1990, and then a member of the School of Archaeological Studies) and visited Leicester many times.

He was a distinguished Greek historian and archaeologist, particularly known for his excavations at the Athenian silver-mines. Earlier he co-published the renowned excavation of a Classical farmhouse at Vari in rural Attica.

[Read further about John Jones in this article published on SharePoint](#)

[Access a memoir of John Ellis Jones, co-authored by Prof Graham Shipley](#)



51 - Image Credit: Angharad Ellis

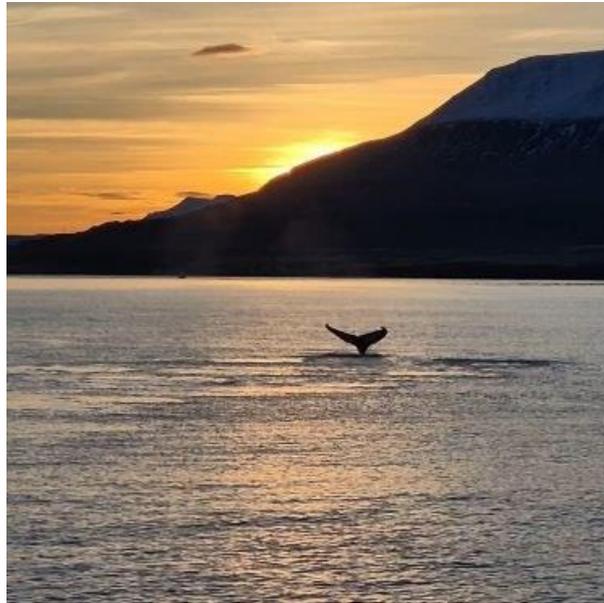
### Events and Important Dates

- Celebration of Heritage, University of Leicester, March 21st
- Old Town Festival, Leicester, April 25th
- Hay Festival, May 21st- 31st
- Riverside Festival, Leicester, June 6th-7th
- Irchester Field School and 'Roman Fest' (June-July)
- [University Open Days:](#)
  - July 4th
  - September 12th
  - October 3rd
  - November 7th
- **University Closure Days:**
  - Easter Break (April 2nd-7th)
  - May Day (May 4th)
  - Spring Bank Holiday (May 25th)
  - Summer Bank Holiday (August 31st)

- Christmas Closure (December 24th 2026 - January 3rd 2027)

### Community Photos

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



52 - Credit: Rachel Armitage



53 - Credit: Rachel Armitage



*54 - Credit: Rachel Armitage*



*55 - Credit: Rachel Armitage*



56 - Credit: Rachel Armitage



57 - Credit: Rachel Armitage



58 - Credit: Rachel Armitage



59 - Credit: Rachel Armitage



60 - Credit: Rachel Armitage



61 - Meet 'Ollie', PhD student Emma Thompson's occasional guest (it's her mums dog!) Credit: Emma Thompson



62 - Handmade quilt by Ingrid Dyson, for her sister's first baby boy. (half hand-sewn, half machine-sewn...don't look too closely at the stitches!) Materials used were squares taken from her Nannie's dresses. Photo credit: Ingrid Dyson



63 - PhD student, Naomi Allman's 6-month old kitten, Perseus 'Percy'. Photo credit: Naomi Allamn



64 - Jules (left) and Dotty (right), Percy's older sisters. Photo credit: Naomi Allman



65 - Lucifer doesn't live here, but he's made himself pretty comfortable! Photo Credit: Natalie Hayward



*66 - Raven is the best essay helper*

Next Edition: TBA

