



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER



The Mosaic: *October 2024*

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Welcome to the third 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.



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: December 2024

Research News

Meet our new Research Associate

Dr Joe Chick

Research Associate - Urban Life in Time of Crisis: Enduring Urban Lifeways in Later Medieval England (ENDURE) project

"Having loved history from a young age, I became particularly interested in the medieval era as an undergraduate. Studying a world that, in many ways, seems alien but which, in reality, is not so distant in time has always fascinated me. My PhD looked at relations between the inhabitants of medieval Reading and the abbey which was lord of the town. It explored the impact of the Dissolution, which was not just a religious event for the town's inhabitants but also a political one that saw the disappearance of an exceptionally powerful lord that had resisted relinquishing any of its powers. I particularly enjoyed how this project allowed me to explore the lives of those outside of the elite of medieval society. Joining Leicester's ENDURE project has given me the opportunity to pursue further research into this theme of lived experience through major upheaval. The project examines resilience and endurance in late medieval small towns during times of crisis. Collaborating with researchers looking at archaeological and scientific evidence, I will investigate the records of the 'escheator', an office created in the thirteenth century with responsibility for overseeing the forfeiture of the lands and goods of felons. These records sometimes contain inventories of household goods, which offer a fascinating glimpse into the everyday lives of the lower-status people in medieval England." - **Dr Joe Chick**



['Tell' Me More - Excavations in Çan Hasan, Turkey](#)

Prof Richard Thomas 'tells' us about new excavations they have been involved with in Turkey.

Çan Hasan, is a series of three höyüks, or tells, on the Konya Plain in central Türkiye. The sites were excavated in the early 1950s by a team led by David French, British Institute at Ankara, and were important to the development of archaeological practice through systematic recording and the collection of environmental remains (including pioneering flotation of plant remains and sieving experiments for animal bones). The three tells are located on higher ground next to what was an ancient lakebed. As the lake levels changed, the tell had to move, preserving settlement evidence from the Pre-Pottery Neolithic to the Byzantine Period.

New excavations of one of the tells - Çan Hasan III - are currently being led by Professor Adnan Baysal, University of Ankara, to ask new questions and apply new techniques, particularly in light of new environmental realities (a significant drop in the water table, that now makes excavation possible). Çan Hasan III is important because it dates to the pre-pottery Neolithic (c. 8500BCE) and may even stretch back to the Epi-Palaeolithic. The Early Neolithic in this region is early in the transition between hunting and gathering and settled farming (largely sheep and goats and some crops). Villages were in use all year round, but people may have still been mobile. Importantly, the site is within the same region (90km away) as the internationally famous site of Çatalhöyük, but appears to date earlier. The site is also much smaller, with a systematic arrangement of space (e.g. hearths and food storage), and paint on the walls and floors. This is only the second year of excavation, but so far there is no evidence of the decorated wall plaster and bull cult practices, observed at Çatalhöyük.

Richard Thomas is involved as project zooarchaeologist – undertaking excavation and analysis of the animal bones from the site, but also supporting the training of Turkish students in zooarchaeological methods. Bone finds so far include a surprisingly large number of tortoises, hares, hedgehogs and extinct horses. Richard will head back next summer to discover more.



1 - Çan Hasan excavation

[The BILNAS Archive is going digital!](#)

The BILNAS Archive is going digital!

We are delighted to announce that the first collection from the British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies Archive has been fully digitised and is now available online as open access via the Archaeology Data Service.

The inaugural collection features the Kathleen Kenyon and John Ward-Perkins papers, offering more than 3000 documents, including photographs, correspondence, field notes, drawings, and reports related to excavations at Sabratha, Libya, between 1948 and 1951.

Check out the gallery below for a sneak peek into this fascinating collection. *Click on the grey box in the top left corner of the slideshow for information captions.*

[Access and explore the full digitised collection here \(link\).](#)

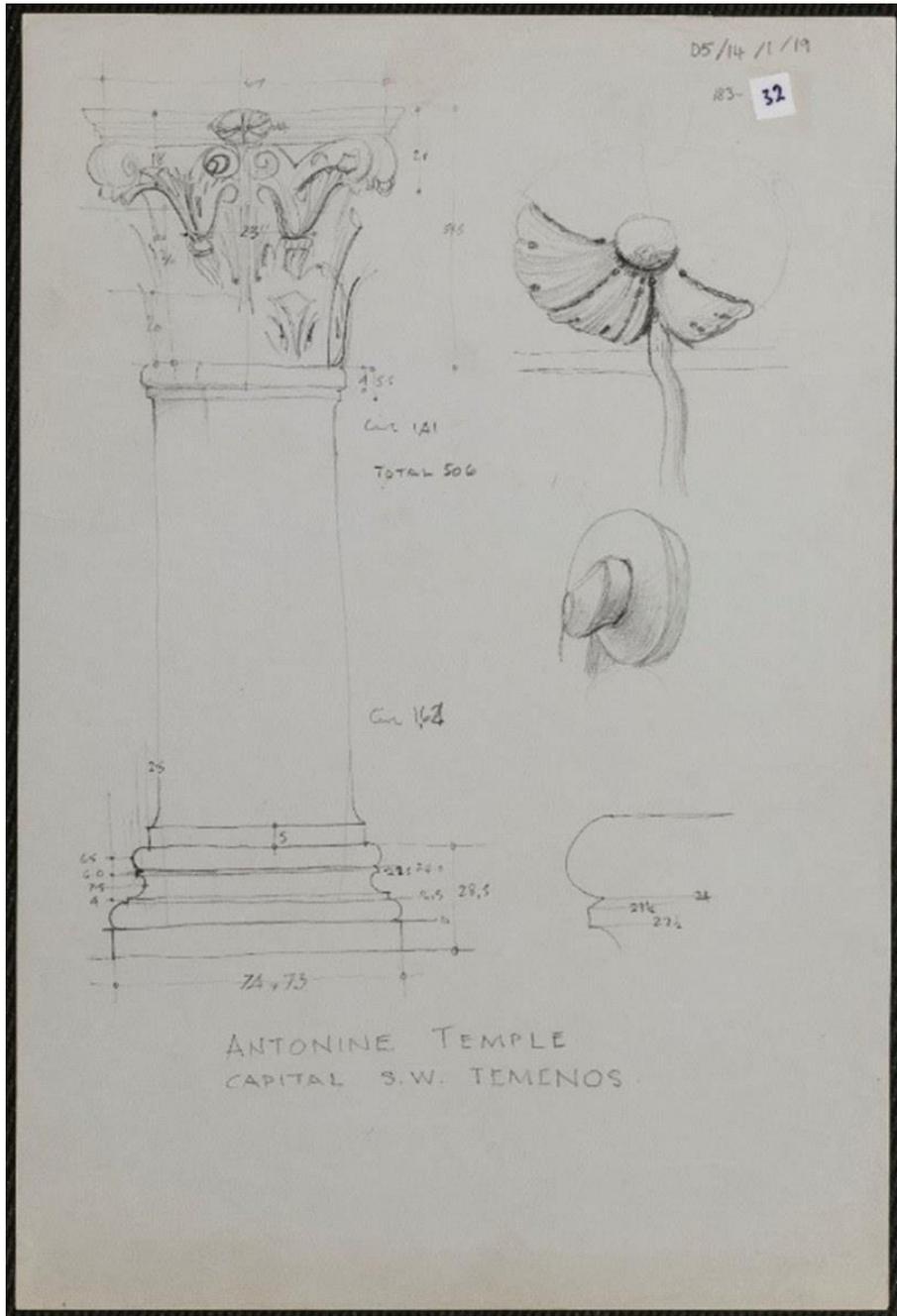
We're also in the process of digitising our next collection, featuring material from David J. Smith and Olwen Brogan's work at Ghirza – stay tuned for updates as the BILNAS digital archive continues to grow!



2 - D5/12/7/8, Kathleen Kenyon and unidentified man in the basilica, Sabratha (c.1949-1951).

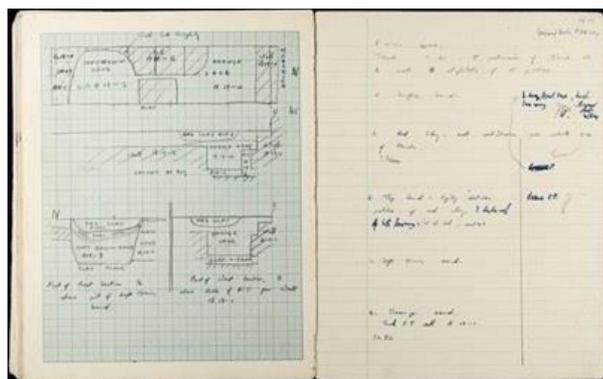


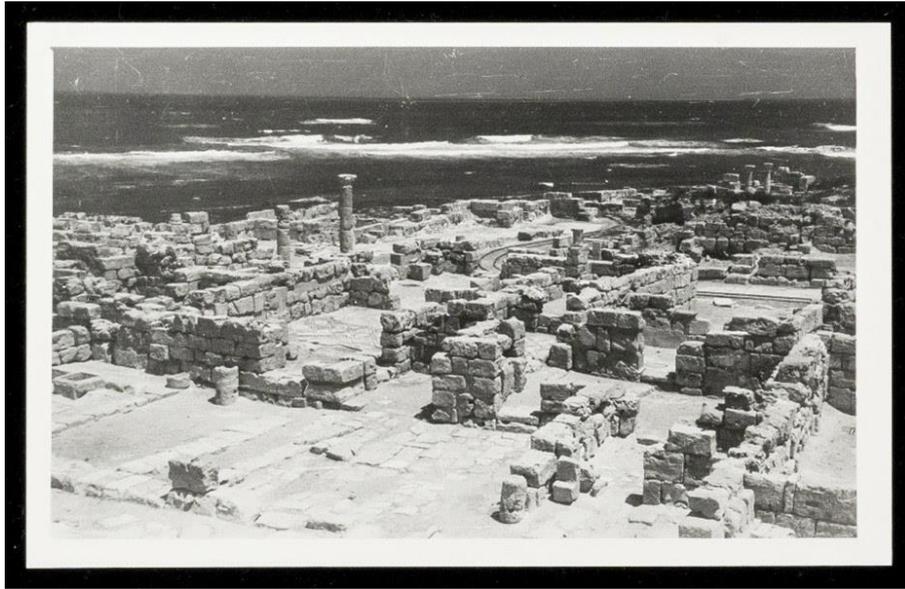
3 - D5/12/1/1/3/4, Cellar room with amphora, House G, Insula 10, Regio II, Sabratha



4-

1. Drawing of capital from south-west temenos of Antonine Temple, Sabratha





6 - D5_12_1_1_1_1 General view of Insula 10_Regio II_ Sabratha

The BILNAS Archive is Now Searchable via Archives Hub

We're thrilled to announce the BILNAS Archive descriptions are now fully searchable on Archives Hub, making it easier than ever to explore our unique collections!

Archives Hub is a powerful discovery platform, that lets you search through descriptions of archive material from over 320 institutions across the United Kingdom. This enhanced access provides new ways to uncover connections and deepens insights into the archaeology and history of Libya and the wider Northern African Region.

[Explore the BILNAS collections here \(link\).](#)

The archive is located in Rooms 1813 and 1813a of the Attenborough Building. To consult the archive, please contact the BILNAS Archivist, Anne Marie Williamson, at amw67@leicester.ac.uk.

Cut Hill Cist

Dr Laura Basell was delighted to have been involved in the wider landscape survey and excavation of the Bronze Age burial site at Cut Hill on Dartmoor. [Detailed coverage here \(link\)](#). [BBC coverage here \(link\)](#).



Point cloud data of the cist before the capstones and sidestones were removed, coloured with scanner imagery. Blue dotted lines indicate common points between images. Anything visible in the 2D representation of this 3D model could be measured since it is fully georeferenced to British National Grid co-ordinates. Image and model created by L. Basell. Reproduced from report with permission from DNPA.

There will be much more to follow over the coming months/year as the cist was block lifted for laboratory excavation and will feature in the next series of Digging for Britain. The team are looking forward to a forthcoming visit to the conservation laboratory where excavations are currently in progress. Getting to site was epic involving a 1½ hour journey in special caterpillar machines used in peat restoration projects. Laura reports that although this was an incredibly beautiful location when the weather was fair, it was one of the most technically and logistically challenging surveys she's ever completed, even beating a survey she once did in Libya, in an uncleared minefield from the WW2 Western Desert Campaign! Laura will be presenting an installation focussed on the unanticipated results of this and many other laser scan survey projects she's conducted over the last 17 years in the [Narrating the Past session \(link\)](#) she's running with CBA's Neil Redfern and Bournemouth University's Fiona Coward at TAG later in December.



7 - Left: One of the Softrax All Terrain Vehicles in action. For those who have a penchant for heavy machinery, these exert less pressure (PSI) than a human footprint - ideal for traversing peat bogs, which might look flat but certainly aren't. Right: Laura in action on site. Photo credit: L. Bray (DNPA).

Research, Enterprise and Impact Committee Dates

- *November 20th*
 - *March 5th*
 - *May 28th*
-

Teaching News

[Meet our new Teaching Fellow](#)

Dr Carmen Martín Ramos

Teaching Fellow in Early Prehistory and Human Evolution

"My name is Carmen. I am a Palaeolithic archaeologist and Africanist, specialising in Human Evolution, Palaeoanthropology, lithic technology and Geoarchaeology. Before joining the University of Leicester, I was a postdoctoral researcher at the McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research (University of Cambridge) and completed a PhD at the Institute of Archaeology (University College London) and the Earth Sciences Department of the London Natural History Museum.

As a Palaeolithic archaeologist, my research has primarily focused on Oldowan, Acheulean, and Middle Stone Age lithics from East and South Africa. My research is dedicated to understanding human behavioural evolution through the excavation and analysis of lithic assemblages. I often employ a technological approach to assess changes in hominin behaviour and cognitive abilities, with a special interest in field excavation techniques, geoarchaeology, and landscape use.

I have spent the last 14 years researching stone tools and participating in several fieldwork projects in Tanzania, Ethiopia, South Africa, Spain and the UK, including two ERC-funded projects. I have also worked as a field archaeologist and surveyor in Commercial Archaeology in the UK, at sites that range from the Lower Palaeolithic up to the post-Medieval periods.

Aside from my professional experience in Palaeolithic archaeology, I am also a big advocate for mental health and well-being in Academia and like to explore how Prehistory and archaeologists are portrayed in comics, board games and other examples of popular culture." - **Dr Carmen Martin Ramos**



School Education Committee Dates

- *November 27th*
 - *January 22nd*
 - *February 26th*
 - *April 9th*
 - *May 21st*
-

Our Campus-based learners

Your Academic Reps

Who are they?

School reps:

- Molly Mather mgm16@student.le.ac.uk, Classical Mediterranean MA (Distance Learning)

- Isabel Higham, ih152@student.le.ac.uk, Ancient History and Archaeology BA (Campus Based)

Course reps:

- Nico Cunningham, ec438@student.le.ac.uk, Campus Based year 1, Ancient History and Archaeology BA
- Lizzie West, ejpw1@student.le.ac.uk, Campus Based year 1, Ancient History and Archaeology BA
- Isabel Higham, ih152@student.le.ac.uk, Campus Based year 2, Ancient History and Archaeology BA
- Dan Austin, da302@student.le.ac.uk, Campus Based year 3, Ancient History and Archaeology BA
- Natalie Hayward, nkeh1@student.le.ac.uk, Distance Learning level 3, Ancient History and Classical Archaeology BA
- Andy Coupe, arc40@student.le.ac.uk, Archaeology and Heritage MA (Distance Learning)

What do they do?

Course Reps: represent each course and year group to make sure your voices are being heard. They attend regular meetings, called Student Staff Committees, to make sure that your feedback, both negative and positive, is being heard and acted upon.

School Reps: represent every student in the school and raise issues that affect everyone. As well as attending the Student Staff Committees, they also attend the School Education Committees, working with both students and staff to enact school-wide change. School reps also collect content for the Mosaic newsletter, so if you wish to include anything in future newsletters, contact your School Reps!

[Headspace Mental Health Clinic](#)

The Headspace Mental Health clinic is run by trained practitioners, who provide a confidential space for you to get support with any mental health issues you may be experiencing. Ideal for short-term support.

Mondays and Wednesdays during term time.

Drop-in from 11am-1pm, or email advice@le.ac.uk to book an appointment between 1pm-3pm.

Located in the Students' Union Building (Percy Gee), Advice Service, 3rd Floor

Enter the Percy Gee (Students' Union) Building using the entrance opposite Centenary Square/Attenborough Building. Enter through the revolving doors, as you enter the building look to the right and you will see the lift and the stairwell which will take you up to the Student Services Desk on the 3rd floor.

Student-Staff Committee Dates

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

Our Distance Learners

[Recovering the unrecoverable: Operation Aphrodite](#)

MA Archaeology and Heritage student, Mark Orridge, shares details of a top-secret WW2 mission, and how archaeology helped to uncover significant finds

"As an army veteran of Northern Ireland and the first Gulf War, I am a member of Operation Nightingale which is a charity that uses archaeology to assist physically and mentally injured service personnel and veterans.

We, Cotswold Archaeology and serving US and British forces were tasked by the US government to locate the remains of Lt. John Wesley Fisher, a bomber pilot of a top-secret WW2 mission called Operation Aphrodite.

The mission involved flying a "baby" an old B17 bomber packed with explosives by rudimentary remote control from a "mother" plane to crash it into the mouth of the German V1 and V2 rocket sites that were terrorising London.

Fisher along with a crew member on the "baby" were to attain the correct altitude, engage the autopilot, arm the explosives and safely bale out over England. A malfunction caused the plane to suddenly climb. Fisher ordered his colleague to bale out, but his parachute got stuck in the exit door and he was dragged beneath the plane, Fisher then kicked his

colleague free, saving his life. The plane pitched to the left and stalled, spiralling down to earth where it exploded in a huge explosion.



8 - Lt. John Wesley Fisher

We, Cotswold Archaeology and serving US and British forces were tasked by the US government to locate the remains of Lt. John Wesley Fisher, a bomber pilot of a top-secret WW2 mission called Operation Aphrodite.

The explosion left a large water filled crater. Sam Wilson, lead archaeologist of Cotswold Archaeology said, " this is an almost impossible task but despite that, we must try". We made significant finds including a touching named personal item and 5000 pieces of aircraft. My role was to learn surveying and then use my valuable new skills to extend the site grid and pinpoint finds using total station and a GPS Rover. Despite the sombre mission, we had a great time with cultural visits and meals out.

Hopefully, Operation Nightingale and Cotswold Archaeology are getting a reputation for recovering the unrecoverable!" - **Mark Orrdige**

Click on the grey box in the top left corner of the slideshow for information captions.



9 - Impact Crater



10 - Sieving all excavated soil for tiny artefacts



11 - The barrier tape marks the 10 x 10m site grid which was reduced to 2 x 2m around the impact crater. The flags mark detector hits. The coppiced tree is one of many that could have regrown after being flattened by the explosion.



12 - L to R, Mark Orridge (Operation Nightingale), Sam Waters, Rachael Westerbrook (Cotswold Archaeology)

[Under the floorboards: MA Archaeology and Heritage student, Kate Simpson, shares their research...](#)

"My current research centres around Sutton House, a sixteenth-century brick house in Hackney, East London, which was built as a modest country escape for one of Henry the VIII's advisors and which is now owned and operated as a heritage site by the National Trust. The main structure of Sutton House was constructed in or around 1535 and is believed to be 'the oldest surviving domestic residence in the East End of London'. A lengthy programme of restoration works was undertaken in the late 1980s and early 1990s. During this time, Ken Jacobs, a local postman and historian, was sifting through the dust excavated from accumulations within the structure of the building. The fruits of his labour consisted of over 650 items dating from the seventeenth- to twentieth-centuries which have become known as Sutton House's 'floorboard find' collection. The term 'floorboard find' is a slight misnomer, as dust had accumulated not only under the floors but also behind wooden panelling and under staircases. These finds went undocumented for 30 years and can now be assessed for significance having recently been inventoried. The collection, which represents a large breadth of material culture, reflects the changing history of not only the house but Hackney society as a whole. Within one particular deposit were eight small pieces of paper which are extremely rare remnants of a seventeenth-century domestic art. These are tiny artefacts from Sarah Freeman's school, which was held in Sutton House from 1657 to 1700. Hackney was the most famous area for girls' schooling in seventeenth-century England, known as 'the ladies university' at the time. This discovery was featured on the

front cover of the latest edition of Current Archaeology with an accompanying article which can be [accessed online here \(link\)](#). There is also a free display running at Sutton House until June 2025." - **Kate Simpson**

Use the slider to compare the artefacts



13 - All eight of the paper artefacts found at Sutton House and which likely date to the time of Sarah Freeman's girls' school in the seventeenth-century.

Image Credit: National Trust Images/James Dobson.



14 - Close-up of the bathing figure with human hand to demonstrate scale.

Image Credit: National Trust Images/James Dobson.

The SolZag Project

Harvey Doolan, MA Archaeology and Heritage student, gives us an insight into Ethiopian cave dwellings.

"During May 2024, the SolZag Project undertook a programme of recording and excavation at Bezawit Maryam cave church and the associated cave dwellings, which are nestled at the head of a gorge on the outskirts of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This site was selected to further the project's goal of developing a better archaeological understanding of the encounters between Agäw and Amharic speaking populations, that occurred in the 13th century CE, during the transfer power between the Zagwe and Solomonic dynasties.



15 - Contemporary exterior of Bezawit Maryam erected to protect the medieval cave church

According to local informants, the cave church was rediscovered in 2019 in an area of dense vegetation growth and was abandoned at some point in the past. The church was then subjected to clearance without archaeological oversight. Furthermore, the rediscovery of the church prompted the establishment of a community of Orthodox Ethiopians to relocate to the gorge and settle within medieval dwelling caves, some of which have been substantially enlarged, and excavate new dwellings within the rock faces of the gorge.



16 - Enlargement of the north-west end of the gorge to create new accommodation for the priests



17 - The apsidal shaped Maqdas with a domed roof



18 - Excavations within former dwelling and storage caves of suspected medieval date

Working with a small team of archaeologists from the Ethiopian Heritage Authority, with community consent, we successfully completed the first measured survey of the church and the excavation of three medieval dwellings. The church was found to contain seven grain silo pits, five rock cut graves and one small pit of an indeterminate function, within a tripartite series of connected chambers. The southeastern-most chamber was identified as the *Maqdas*, a screened area where the *Tabot* (a replica of the Ark of the Covenant) was held, due to the presence of an apsidal shaped section of the eastern wall a carved domed roof. The excavations revealed two grain-silo pits, one of which contained charcoal and pottery fragments, samples of which have been taken for radiocarbon dating. To find out more about project and access prior fieldwork reports, please visit: <https://www.solzagproject.org/> " -Harvey Doolan

Postgraduate Student News

Wednesday Research Seminar Series 2024-25

Our regular research seminar series is underway this semester; join us for hot drinks and cake in the foyer of the Archaeology and Ancient History 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 A

30-Oct

Andrea Hadley-Johnson, University of Leicester | Self-Led Creativity and Wellbeing Behind the Closed Cell Door

06-Nov

Annual Buchan Lecture in Ancient History (more details in 'Our Community')

13-Nov

Dr Richard Madgwick, Cardiff University | Feeding the Roman Army in Britain: Animal Supply on the Northern Frontier

20-Nov

Dr Timothy Penn, University of Reading | The Archaeology of Roman Board Games

27-Nov

Dr Dawid Sych, University of Leicester | The New Dimension of Archaeology: Application of 3D Scanning and Printing Education, Science and Museology

4-Dec

Dr Alexander Wilson, University of Leicester | Marks of non-personhood: violence against unfree bodies in the Viking world

11-Dec

ULAS, University of Leicester | ULAS Discoveries 2024

Microsoft Teams meeting :-

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 341 162 484 530

Passcode: 8oWd4W

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

>>>> [Funded PhD Available](#) <<<<<

Dr Laura Basell (SAAH), Dr Andrew Miles (Geography, Geology and the Environment) and Dr Lee Bray (Dartmoor National Park Authority) have been awarded full funding via AHRC for a collaborative doctoral award with Dartmoor National Park for the geoarchaeological project **“Set in Stone: Understanding Ancient Farming Communities through Dartmoor’s Prehistoric Monuments”**.

We'd be really grateful if *Mosaic* readers could highlight this opportunity to anyone with the relevant interests/skills who may be interested in pursuing a PhD or distribute this to relevant networks. [Project details and how to apply can be found here \(link\).](#)



>>Funded PhD Opportunity Midlands-4-Cities Open Competition <<

The **latest (and final) M4C competition round** is now open. There are two routes: the open competition and Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) competition A total of 110 awards will be made for the open competition, and 23 CDAs available. The deadline for applications to both competitions is noon (UK time) **13 January 2025**.

[Find out more and apply by following this link!](#)

[Emma Stockley's CDA Placement Citizen Science Lithics Event](#)

During her recent placement as part of her AHRC Collaborative Doctoral Award, PhD student Emma Stockley delivered a Citizen Science event at a Dartmoor National Park visitor centre with National Park archaeologist Dr Lee Bray. The purpose was to document lithics found by members of the public on the moor. 108 artefacts from 39 locations were recorded, significantly increasing the National Park Authority's knowledge of this type of archaeology.



19 - Emma (right) with a member of the public. Photo credit: Dr Lee Bray

[Andrew Thompson on Arsenic and Fish Weirs on the Edge of Dartmoor](#)

Distance Learning PGR and independent heritage consultant, Andrew Thompson, participated in a recent episode of BBC Radio 4's Ramblings with Clare Balding. The broadcast featured a walk with Andrew and friends who regularly walk together and discuss

issues relating to landscape, geographer and writer Dr Sharon Gedye and archaeologist Dr Chris Smart of Exeter University. In the programme, 'Arsenic and Fish Weirs on the Edge of Dartmoor', they explored the piscatorial and metal mining landscapes at the confluence of the rivers Tavy and Walkham. Andrew spoke about the industrial archaeology of 19th century copper mining and how the area became the world's largest arsenic producer. Part of the walk was in the area he is researching for his PhD, 'Experiencing Improvement: the duke of Bedford's Tavistock estate 1802-71.

[Listen to *Ramblings* now on BBC sounds \(link\)](#)



20 - Andrew showing Clare Balding mineral samples. Photo credit: Karen Gregor/BBC



21 - L-R: Sharon Gedye, Clare Balding, Chris Smart, Andrew Thompson. Photo credit: Karen Gregor/BBC

Outreach

University of Leicester Heritage Hub Creative Roman Day

Watch this short film to see how the [Heritage Hub \(link\)](#) collaborated with Leicester businesses to host engaging outreach events for children and families with Prof Sarah Scott, Professor of Archaeology and Heritage Hub Director.



Irchester Fieldschool 2023

The Irchester Field School is a long-term collaborative project that supports local community and school involvement in archaeological research. The collaboration is enhancing our understanding of this archaeologically rich landscape, and is helping to make archaeological research and archives accessible and engaging. The fieldschool brings together UoL students, volunteers and for the first time in 2023 it ran a school engagement programme which saw 2000+ school-aged children visiting the site to learn about archaeological excavations.



Emma Stockley's YAC Outreach in Cornwall

SAAH PhD student Emma Stockley led an archaeological test-pit excavation day for 15 young people and their parents/carers, as part of the Cornwall Young Archaeologist's Club programme of events. The dig took place at Maker Heights in southeast Cornwall on 7 September and finds included lithics, fragments of clay pipe, 19th century ceramics, glassware and a tiddlywink. Emma's research incorporates community archaeology and test pit methodology and she has been the Cornwall YAC's Assistant Leader since 2023.



22 - Test pit excavations underway at Maker Heights (Emma is standing wearing a turquoise t shirt and hat). Photo credit: Cornwall National Landscape

Creative Research Day on Dartmoor – with puppets!

Earlier this year Laura Basell and Emma Stockley delivered a Prehistoric Dartmoor Creative Research Day. The event, funded by the Heritage Fund, was in collaboration with MED

Theatre. The day involved a presentation, artefact handling sessions and a guided walk to archaeological sites for 40 members of the public. Scenes illustrating aspects of prehistoric life, and landscape change written by MED Theatre's young company (ages 13 – 19), were brought to life through live performance and puppetry. Thanks are due to UoL's Dr Richard Jones for helping us out with the etymology of "Krap's" or "Crapp's" ring for the presentation.



23 - Emma Stockley and Laura Basell presenting at the Creative Research Day. Photo credit: MED Theatre 2024



24 - The MED Theatre team used puppetry during the walk to bring the Mesolithic to life. Photo credit: MED Theatre 2024



25 - Laura Basell explaining aspects of Dartmoor's Neolithic and Bronze Age archaeology. Photo credit: MED Theatre 2024

Professional Services Updates

Meet our new Programme Administrator

Chigoziri "Chichi" Ahamzie

"I've been working in Human Resources for over a decade, with most of my experience gained across various Francophone African countries. In 2022, I relocated to the UK to complete an MSc in Human Resources Management and Training here at the University of Leicester, which marked a big shift for me both professionally and personally. During my academic pursuit, I was elected as our Course Representative, which gave me the chance to support and represent my fellow students. I was also honoured with a Celebration Day award as the student most likely to become an influencer—though that particular career path hasn't quite taken off yet 😊!

One of my highlights was being invited back to the University as a guest speaker where I spoke to new MSc HRM students about my experiences while studying here at the University. I also [worked as a Research Assistant on a project \(link\)](#) that investigated the working lives of trainee doctors in the NHS. It was eye-opening to learn about the challenges they face and helped me deepen my understanding of workplace cultures in healthcare. Alongside this, I volunteer with the Learning and Development team at Bridges of Enterprise, where I help with initiatives that support volunteer learning and development. Being bilingual (fluent in French), I find that language plays an important role in connecting with diverse teams and individuals.

On a personal level, I'm a mum to two wonderful girls, and our weekends often involve trying out new recipes from Jamie Oliver's cookbook – it's a fun way for us to bond. I also enjoy unwinding by watching movies, listening to music, or listening to a book on Audible or Blinkist, depending on my mood. I've been getting to know Leicester better since moving here, and it's been a joy to meet new people and hear the unique stories they have to share.

In the future, I'd love to pursue a PhD, as continuous learning is something I truly value. For now, I'm excited about this new role and the opportunities it will bring." - **Chichi Ahamzie**



[University Citizens' Awards 2024](#)

Our fantastic Technical Services Manager, Dr Rachel Armitage, has been announced as a finalist for the University's Citizens' Awards in the Technician Award Category.

The Citizens' Awards are the University's prestigious annual awards, where people from across the University nominate their colleagues to show their appreciation. Making the final means not only was Rachel nominated, but a panel of judges selected her to be a finalist against what would have been a very competitive field! The awards night will be hosted by the President and Vice-Chancellor, Professor Nishan Canagarajah, and held on Thursday 28 November 2024.

[Read more about the awards and nomination criteria here \(log-in required\)](#)



[East Midlands PA Awards](#)

The East Midlands PA Awards ceremony was hosted on the evening of Thursday 12 September at Athena in Leicester. There were over 250 people in attendance from across the East Midland region. Congratulations to Ingrid Michéle Dyson, SAAH School Administrator, won Administrative Professional of the year. Ingrid said:-

"Winning this award is beyond wonderful! I am truly elated to be recognised for my work. I am lucky to have such enormously supportive and fantastic colleagues in the School of Archaeology & Ancient History, and across the Operation Administration Network that inspire me to grow, and who celebrate with me. Thank you to everyone who has supported my career; I will continue to strive for excellence!"

[Read more about the awards and how to make a nomination for 2025 here \(log-in required\)](#)



School Meeting (all staff) Dates

- *December 11th*
 - *March 19th*
 - *June 4th*
-

Our Alumni - Where are they now?

[Katerina Panagi: My Journey Since Graduation](#)

"Since graduating from the School of Arts and the School of Archaeology and Ancient History, my journey has taken me on a diverse and enriching path, driven by a passion for uncovering the stories of the past and advocating for their preservation and interpretation.

Currently, I serve as a Project Manager and Researcher, where I oversee and contribute to Erasmus+ projects aimed that focus on education as a major driver in shaping a better world.

We design, develop, and implement innovative, evidence-based approaches and resources to build up the competencies of individuals and communities to help alleviate social challenges. This role allows me to apply the skills acquired during my academic years, while also fostering collaboration and innovation within the field.

In addition to my research responsibilities, I have embraced the realm of journalism as the first Cypriot correspondent for YourCommonwealth.org. Through writing, I have the privilege of sharing stories that resonate with global audiences, shedding light on issues ranging from cultural heritage to socio-economic development in Cyprus. This role has not only sharpened my communication skills but also deepened my understanding of the interconnectedness of cultures and societies across the globe.



I have the privilege of sharing stories that resonate with global audiences, shedding light on issues ranging from cultural heritage to socio-economic development in Cyprus

Furthermore, I am actively engaged as a researcher and journalist for SASA (Save Ancient Studies Alliance), advocating for the preservation and promotion of ancient studies in academic and public spheres.

In each of these roles, whether as a project manager, journalist, or advocate, I am guided by a commitment to fostering dialogue, promoting understanding, and effecting positive change through the lens of education and ancient civilizations. My journey since graduation has been characterized by a relentless pursuit of knowledge and a profound appreciation for the transformative potential of the ancient world in our rapidly evolving world.

In conclusion, as I continue to navigate the ever-expanding horizons of ancient history, research and education, I remain deeply indebted to the School of Archaeology and Ancient History for equipping me with the tools and inspiration to embark on this enriching journey. My experiences since graduation have not only shaped my professional trajectory but have also enriched my perspective on human history and culture." - **Katerina Panagi**

Roman Garba: Inspiration from a Distance Learning Alums

"Thanks to the distance learning programme offered by the School of Archaeology at the University of Leicester, I was able to gain the necessary knowledge and experience in the field of archaeology while still working in business. The initial passion and curiosity turned into regular archaeological fieldwork in Oman thanks to the late Professor Maurizio Tosi. After completing a BA and MA in Leicester, I continued with a PhD at L'Orientale Naples in Italy and became the director of archaeological expeditions in Oman. I gave up my job in business and moved fully into the field of archaeology and scientific research within the Czech Academy of Sciences (Institute of Archaeology and Nuclear Physics Institute). In the never-ending quest for continuous learning, I extended my specialisation in Arab archaeology to the field of radiometric dating methods with a focus on cosmogenic nuclide dating of early hominin sites and the study of the timing of human dispersal out of Africa. Research projects expanded beyond Arabia, resulting in a publication in Nature on the first colonisation of Europe 1.4 million years ago, and an ERC grant application." -**Roman Garba**

None of this would have been possible without the DL programme at Leicester, which was the initial catalyst for the inception of a world-class researcher.

Earlier this year, Roman led the research and was the first author for a study about the first arrival of people into Europe. Get inspired by the article ***East-to-west human dispersal into Europe 1.4 million years ago*** [available on nature.com \(link\)](#). University of Leicester staff and students have full access to this article, photos are in a slideshow below from the research study.

Captions can be read by clicking the icon at the top left of the slide show.



26 - Korolevo I: view of the loess-paleosol sequence at Gostry Verkh from Beyvar Hill (2007)

Source: Vitalii Usyk



27 - Korolevo I: view of the Gostry Verkh from Beyvar Hill (Aug 2023)

Source: Roman Garba



28 - Panoramic view of archaeological site Korolevo I./Gostry Verkh with Tysa river (left) in August 2023

Credit: Roman Garba



29 - Panoramic view from Gostry Verkh of Korolevo quarry with Korolevo II site (behind water body). August 2021.

Credit: Roman Garba



30 - Loess-palaeosol sequence between Gostry Verkh and Beyvar hills at archaeological site Korolevo I.

Credit: Roman Garba





31 - Heavily weathered artifact (flake) at the Korolevo I. site. Photo August 2023.

Credit: Roman Garba



32 - A notched stone tool made on local volcanic raw material (glassy dacite) at the Korolevo I. site. Photo August 2023.

Credit: Roman Garba



33 - Heavily weathered artifact (flake) at the Korolevo I. site. Photo August 2023.

Credit: Roman Garba



34 - Lead author of the study Roman Garba at Korolevo I. site (Aug 2023).

Source: Roman Garba



35 - Archive photo from the 1984-1985 Transcarpathian Palaeolithic Expedition.

Source: Institute of Archaeology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.



36 - Archive photo from the 1984-1985 Transcarpathian Palaeolithic Expedition.

Source: Institute of Archaeology of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

[Ian Mumford Prize of the British Cartography Society](#)

Congratulations to Jordan Cole (MA Archaeology & Heritage with Distinction, Nov. 2023), who was awarded the Ian Mumford Prize of the British Cartography Society for his dissertation on 'Under the map: a geophysical analysis of historic maps in Halifax, North Carolina'.

'I'm going to get this done if it is the last thing I do', declared **Peter Spackman**

Peter Spackman's experience as a distance learning student for BA (Hons) Archaeology and History as an elderly student is enriching, fascinating and full of sentiment. Having just had his third book published, Peter writes, "I left school back in 1962 and struggled with dyslexia, as I still do today, spelling and word blindness being more than a nuisance but at the age of 61 years and with a lifelong interest in history and archaeology I 'found' the Leicester DL site. I believe that I was the first ever student to enrol on each of the Distant Learning courses i.e.. the 'Certificate', the Diploma and then the Bachelor of Arts. [The] University of Leicester gave me the confidence to tackle my disability and the use of computers saved the day with *spell-check* but during my last year of the BA course I suffered my first major heart attack and had the challenging experience of quickly finishing my dissertation, on what I thought was my death bed, hence my lower 2nd. But a BA (Hons) for me. Leicester did offer to postpone the deadline for presentation but my thought was to complete what I could, just in

case of an early case of the inevitable. I still remember trying desperately to deliver my dissertation with the thought of 'I'm going to get this done if it is the last thing I do' and my dear wife Carol was under instruction to send it even if it was unfinished and all of it was penned on a hospital bed miles away from my notes, my library or the comforts of the 'outside world'.



37 - My 'laboratory' preparing a selection of Roman period ceramics for identification tuition for community archaeologists and historians.



38 - Gratifying work in the self-prepared exhibition of excavated artefacts covering Iron Age and Roman periods.

[The] University of Leicester gave me the confidence to tackle my disability

At 77 years of age and after another heart attack, prostate cancer, arthritis and a stroke thrown in for good measure I have stored my trowel and hung up my metal detector but have enjoyed writing and have a few more books to pen. The second publication I enjoyed the best as the stories are all set in different historical periods and gave me scope to encourage my imagination and include a couple of my best poems, the thought of gaining a few more letters after my name taking another degree in literature are now alas, a dream, as I'm on somewhat, borrowed time.

I now have a clear understanding that life is a permanent learning curve and every second in time is a space to, not only learn but also an obligation to teach and pass on knowledge

gained. My wife Carol from the USA I married in 1977 and who has been at my side for 48 years is now, after 42 years in the nursing profession disabled and I gladly spend my time, willingly, as her fulltime carer and an expert in the art of steering wheelchairs. I can only thank the staff of Leicester DL for their assistance, encouragement, and understanding which enabled me to achieve 'knowledge gained' and enjoy the personal pleasure of passing on that experience. " - Peter Spackman

Peter's books, detailed below, should hopefully be made available on the new Alumni Bookshelf in the Library when this launches.

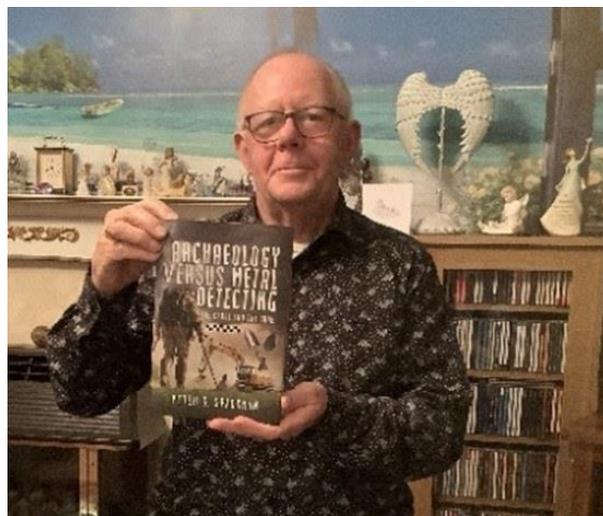
Spackman, P. G. (2016). *An A-Z of 1001 Fieldnames and Their Interpretation (Etymologically Referenced)* Witham: Greenlight Publishing. (still going strong)

Spackman, P. G. (2019). *The Adventures of Jonathan, Tales of Life, Love and Morality*. London: Austin Macauley Publishers Ltd (now under my management and looking for a new publisher, great Film and small screen potential)

Spackman, P. G. (2024). *Archaeology Versus Metal Detecting, The Cause, and the Cure*. Barnsley: Pen and Sword Publishing.

(launched in September and already turning heads and raising eyebrows, [find out more by following this link](#))"

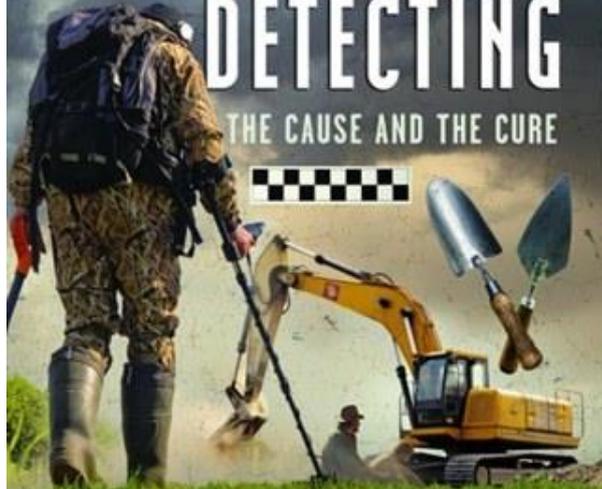
- **Peter Spackman**



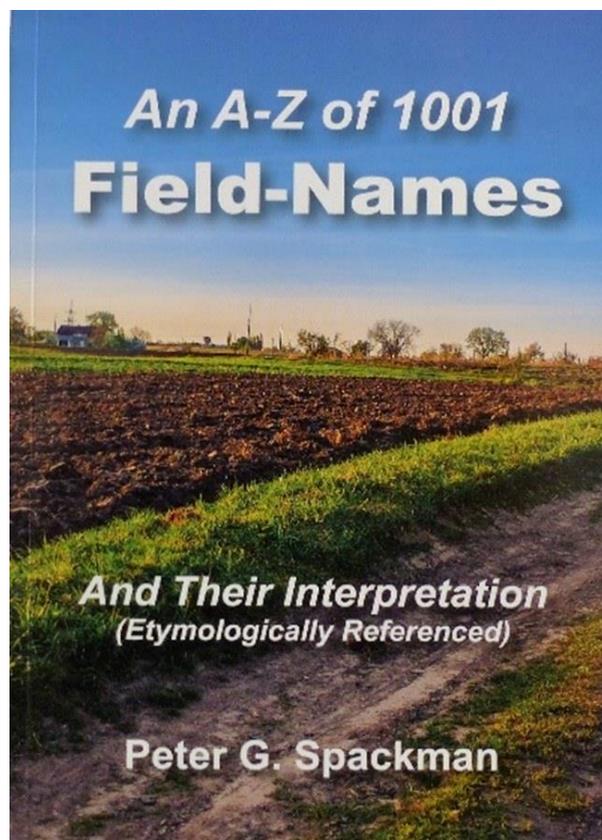
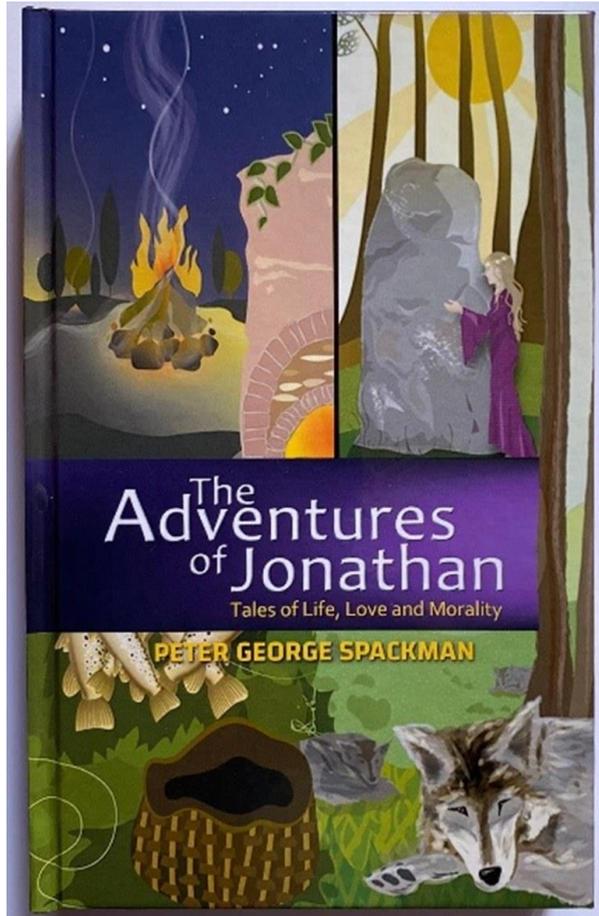
39 - *Myself with a copy of the latest publication.*

ARCHAEOLOGY VERSUS METAL DETECTING

THE CAUSE AND THE CURE



PETER G. SPACKMAN



Our Community

Welcome to Museum Studies!

A warm welcome to our Museum Studies colleagues who have recently moved into the Archaeology and Ancient History building! We are looking forward to working more closely with our Museum Studies colleagues to share new ideas, collaborate and strengthen both School's stellar research reputations.

Leicester Archaeology Monographs

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

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

Events and Important Dates

- **24th Annual Dorothy and Alan Buchan Lecture: 'What more can you say about the Parthenon Sculptures?'**

Alumni, students, staff and guests are warmly invited to this year's Buchan Memorial Lecture, to be given by our esteemed guest speaker, **Professor Tom Harrison, Keeper of Greece and Rome at the British Museum**. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception and a chance to meet the speaker.

Tom writes: 'Museums, in the phrase of Wayne Modest, are places to 'imagine better futures'. This lecture will try to look beyond the elephant in the room (i.e. the physical location of the sculptures) to ask what a better future might look like for the Parthenon sculptures. What stories might we tell about the Parthenon's ancient context, if it were not for that that single dominating issue? What might we say about its complex 2500-year history and the sculptures' transport to London? And how might museum displays, in London or Athens (or online), better serve the legacy of ancient Athens?'

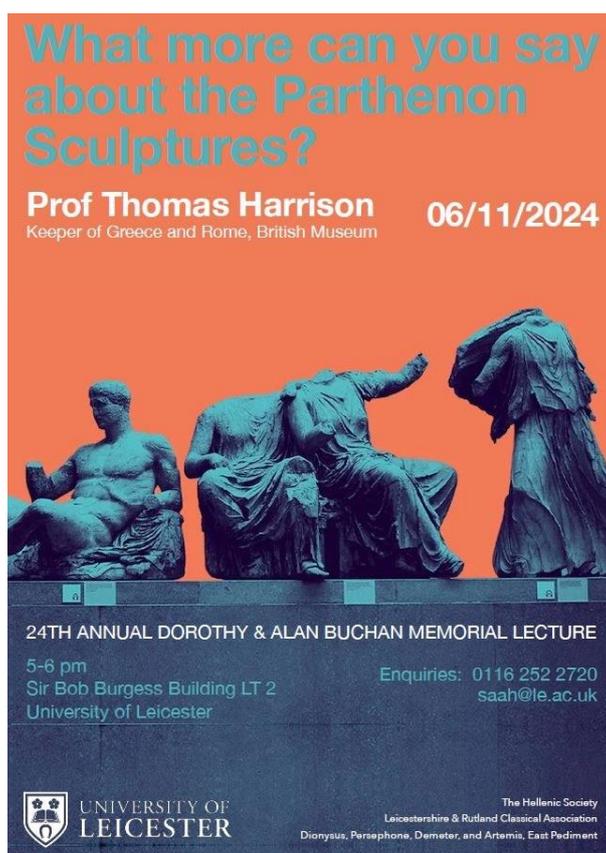
The event is **free of charge**, but you are strongly encouraged to [register here \(link\)](#) to ensure your seat in the auditorium and place at the reception.

Online attendance will be possible and a Teams link made available on [this page \(link\)](#) closer to the event. You do *not* need to apply for a ticket if you wish to attend online.

When: 6th November 2024, 5pm

Where: Sir Bob Burgess Building Lecture Theatre 2, University of Leicester, Leicester LE2 6BF. Parking is available in the nearby Freeman's Common Multi-Storey Car Park, 11 Putney Rd, Leicester LE2 7TF.

Enquiries: saah@le.ac.uk



What more can you say about the Parthenon Sculptures?

Prof Thomas Harrison
Keeper of Greece and Rome, British Museum

06/11/2024

24TH ANNUAL DOROTHY & ALAN BUCHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

5-6 pm
Sir Bob Burgess Building LT 2
University of Leicester

Enquiries: 0116 252 2720
saah@le.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

The Hellenic Society
Leicestershire & Rutland Classical Association
Dionysus, Persephone, Demeter, and Artemis, East Pediment

-
- *Distance Learners' Day!*
-

The Students' Union are excited to announce the re-launch of this campus event for SAAH distance students. We're inviting DL students to campus to tour the facilities, learn about the resources available to them and meet some of the staff involved.

The event will take place on **Friday 4th April 2025, 10am-4pm**.

You must register for the event if you wish to attend, and all the information you need [can be found here \(link, log-in required\)](#)

Any additional questions can be sent to the Distance Learning Officer, Natalie, at su-dlofficer@leicester.ac.uk

- **Open Days:** [Book Now via this link](#)
 - Saturday, 9th November
- **University Closure Dates**

- Christmas Period | Monday 23rd December 2024 - January 1st 2025.
Reopens Thursday, 2nd January 2025.

Macmillan Coffee Morning Success

Thank you to everyone who came to participate in the Macmillan Coffee morning, hosted on the 27th September by Ingrid Dyson. Through generous donations, and between slices of homemade cake and cups of tea, we comfortably beat our £200 target.



£289.25 raised !

It was great to meet some of our new students, as well as returning students and colleagues from across the University. You can see our dedicated Macmillan page here: [SAAH Macmillan Coffee Morning](#). This will go towards supporting those affected with Cancer, for more information visit <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>

Run Leicester Half Marathon

Congratulations to colleague who completed the Run Leicester Half Marathon! There were 2,856 participants in the race, and all proceeds from the event were donated to the official charity partner [LOROS Hospice](#).

Joe Bartholomew (ULAS) came 28th in 1:18:38

Gavin Speed (ULAS) came 305th in 1:35:54

Ollie Harris (SAAH) came 474th in 1:40:51

ULAS

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

Next Edition: December 2024

