



UNIVERSITY OF
LEICESTER



The Mosaic: *October 2025*

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!

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Next issue: December 2025

Our new School of Heritage and Culture



On 1st August 2025 we became the School of Heritage and Culture (SHAC) thanks to the merger of our two former Schools – Museum Studies, and Archaeology and Ancient History. This is a fantastic opportunity in both teaching and research, and many of us are already finding common links in exploring ideas and data around gender and the body, colonialism and decolonisation, conflict and post-conflict situations, and rural places and representations. We share many themes and theoretical approaches, and in some instances

have overlap in the geographical areas where we carry out research. We also recognise that some colleagues have distinct areas of research and teaching which also add to the richness and variety of the subjects covered in this new School.

Our students are already seeing benefits from the merger, with teaching sessions for Archaeology and Ancient History undergraduates now including sessions on the nature of museums and museology, museums careers, and new case studies in conflict and post conflict heritage work. Museum Studies students are also taking advantage of Archaeology and Ancient History Research Centres for placements, and as we work even more closely together such opportunities will increase.

This is a fantastic opportunity in both teaching and research, and many of us are already finding common links in exploring ideas and data

Work continues on aligning key systems and processes around teaching and research where sensible and possible, and many colleagues have worked hard to make progress in these areas throughout the summer and early part of the new academic year. This work will continue over the next few years as we consider where we gain value from having processes that are the same and where difference is needed.

Collaboration and transparency are two very important concepts in our new School, and both will help us work through the initial transition period and into our new future. We are stronger together.

Hooray SHAC!

Ruth Young

Professor of Archaeology & Head of School

School of Heritage and Culture

Graduation 2025



On the 16th January and 17th July 2025 we celebrated the graduation of many students from across Archaeology and Ancient History and Museum Studies. This year, the weather was typically British with a mix of sunshine and light rain, but spirits remained high as after all their hard-work, students graduated in a ceremony at De Montfort Hall.

Natalie Hayward - July Graduation Student Speaker

Distance Learning student representative, Natalie Hayward, gave a speech at the summer graduation ceremony. For anyone who was unable to attend or those wanting to read Natalie's speech, please find this below:-

Hello everyone, huge congratulations to all who've graduated this morning.

My name is Natalie and I've been selected as the student speaker for the School of Archaeology and Ancient History and the School of Museum Studies. However, I also feel that I represent distance learning students across the University of Leicester. Distance learning is something which often goes under the radar but has been offered for over two decades and reaches around 3,000 students each academic year.

I began my undergraduate degree a few months after my 30th birthday, having left mainstream school at the age of 13 and passing my GCSEs by teaching myself from textbooks. Attending university had always felt like an unachievable goal - until I found the Archaeology and Ancient History programme here at Leicester. Over the last 3 and a half years the programme hasn't just developed my academic skills - it has fundamentally changed my outlook on life and my hopes for the future.

Distance learning is often the only option for those who choose it, whether it be due to busy family lives, care responsibilities, disabilities or balancing work with study. I've seen students of all ages fall in love with their studies and share in the struggles of academia that will be all too familiar to you all. It serves as a frequent reminder that it's never too late to fully embrace something that you're passionate about or to pursue the dreams that you once thought were impossible.

Whether you choose to continue to postgraduate study, take on a graduate role, or are studying simply for the love of it - I wish you all the best of luck for the future, thank you.

-Natalie Hayward



1 - Natalie Hayward giving her graduation speech

Gina Hall - Graduated January 2025

'Don't miss your graduation ceremony!'

That is my advice to all students - I knew I wouldn't be missing mine! Which I did indeed attend in January, the culmination of six years of part-time distance study. Twenty years ago, I graduated with a degree in Theology, also part-time, by distance. I didn't go to my graduation - we had just come home from China with our newly adopted youngest daughter, Sylvia, and it just didn't feel the right thing to do.

I have loved studying archaeology. I still love it, which is good, as I am in the early stages of my Master's degree in Archaeology and Heritage, also with Leicester (Also P.T, D.L).

I have attended all three of my daughters' graduations, including Sylvia's (First class hon, Ballet Theatre). My graduation was very special for me (First Class hon, Archaeology), and

Leicester do a great day. I have no regrets about missing the first one, but I was going to have everything this time! For once in my life, this was all about ME! It was my work, my achievement and my celebration, and I revelled in it - photos, teddy bear, family, dinner, tears, the works!

-Gina Hall, BA Archaeology



2 - Gina Hall

Andrew Williams - Graduated July 2025

I have waited 40 years for this day, but it has been worth the wait. If you had asked me in 1984 when I would graduate with distinction in a MA in ancient history and archaeology, I would have confidently replied '1989, and definitely no later than 1990!'

But life has other plans for us and we have to hope that we will be given sufficient time to one day pursue our dreams.

Whilst I was a medical student and medical practitioner life was an unremitting slog. In contrast, I have had the best 700 days of my life studying for this MA through the University of Leicester. I awoke every morning with joy, purpose and deeply enthusiastic as to what I would learn that day.

I would like to thank all of my University of Leicester tutors, most especially my dissertation supervisor Dr Dan Stewart BA MA PhD FBA, for his guidance. Thank you.

-Andrew Williams, MA Ancient History and Archaeology



3 - Andrew Williams



4 - Andrew Williams

Research News

[Meet our new Research Associate](#)

Dr Michael Hawkes

Research Associate - Oasis Civilisations Project

I am Mike Hawkes, and I will be in and around the Department for a short time as a Research Associate on the *Oasis Civilisations Project* working with Professor David Mattingly and his team.

From an early age I remember being interested in old things, such as prehistoric tombs and landscapes particularly in Cornwall on family holidays, as well as in history at school (also courtesy of Ladybird books and Asterix!). In spite of that, my first degree was in Estate Management from Leicester Polytechnic, many years ago, which was followed by a lacklustre time trying to be a property professional.

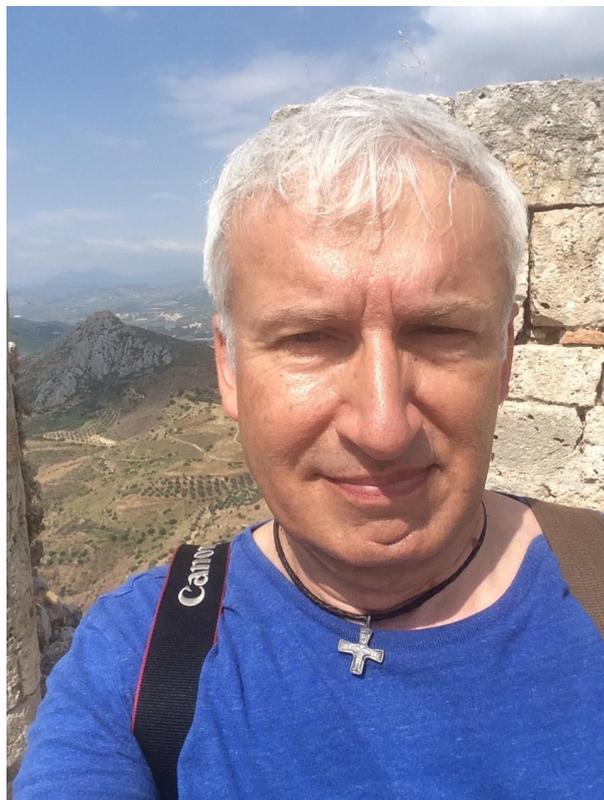
In 1994 I started the Certificate in Archaeology at Vaughan College in Leicester, a course that I still look back on with great affection, while also volunteering at Jewry Wall Museum. As a

result of that, since 1996, I have been hanging around the Archaeology Department here at Leicester as an Undergraduate student, then as a Postgrad, subsequently completing my PhD in 2007.

In the course of my time as an Undergrad we had the opportunity to do some 'taster sessions' studying artefacts and involving archaeological illustration which was a great hands-on experience; I was able to expand on this as a major part of my Postgrad studies. Alongside my research, and subsequently, I have worked as an illustrator on a variety of projects, including the Leicester-based Libyan focussed *Fazzān Project* and the *Trans-Sahara Project* and, further afield in Greece. I have also illustrated a wide range of more locally sourced material with ULAS.

The main focus of my work here in the department will be the preparation of illustrations for the *Oasis Civilisations Project (Morocco)* which is looking at the emergence of complex societies in the western Sahara along with the development of regional trading networks. Specifically, I will be working on the pottery, tombs, and wall paintings and engravings of the region.

Since 2001 I have also acted as Archaeological Advisor for the Diocese of Leicester, and I have held the same role for the Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham since 2005. I am also currently a researcher and illustrator on a project looking at the development of Christianity in Midland Britain in the early Medieval period.



5 - Dr Mike Hawkes

Article Publication: 'Gymnasion Users and Group Identities: The Social Dynamics of an Institution on Late Hellenistic Delos'

We waved 'goodbye and good luck' to Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, **Dr Matt Evans**, at the end of August 2025, who has taken up the position of Ad Astra Fellow Assistant Professorship in Digital Technologies, Art & Material Culture of Antiquity, at University College Dublin. In June, Matt had a paper published in *Hesperia: The Journal of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens*.

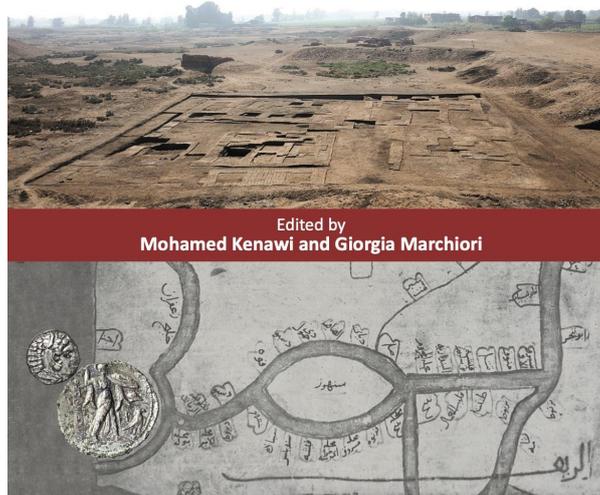
This article examines the importance of group membership in the lives and identities of those who attended and administered the gymnasion of Delos in the Late Hellenistic period, when Athens controlled the island and many foreigners resided there. The evidence of inscriptions suggests that formal and informal groups offered a means of transcending geographical and cultural differences in a way that brought civic relevance and socioeconomic exclusivity to gymnasion users, and a degree of political control to the institution's Athenian officials. The analysis, conducted from both a bottom-up and a top-down perspective, reveals the gymnasion's locally specific social dynamics as well as its role in the cultural and political life of the island during a period of considerable change.

Purchase the digital article online via [Project Muse](#).

Book Publication: Kom al-Ahmer—Kom Wasit III , The Archaeology of Two Ptolemaic Districts in the Western Nile Delta, Egypt

Kom al-Ahmer – Kom Wasit III

The Archaeology of Two Ptolemaic Districts
in the Western Nile Delta, Egypt



Edited by Dr Mohamed Kenawi (Endangered Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa Project) and Dr Giorgia Marchiori (Oasis Civilisations Project)

Archaeopress Archaeology

In press and will be available in October 2025

Kom al-Ahmer—Kom Wasit III presents the results of our investigations of the Hellenistic phases at the two sites. The survey and excavations occurred between 2017 and 2020 and focused on the residential districts, individual houses, and a public *tholoi* bathhouse. The volume also includes specialist contributions on the material culture, including Greek pottery and numismatic finds. The Western Nile Delta (the chora of Alexandria) enjoyed a very active life of commerce and trade with the Mediterranean ports. The imports found at Kom al-Ahmer and Kom Wasit emphasise the region's strong connection with the Aegean Sea, Gaza, and the Cilician region. In addition, an account on the situation of the Western Delta in the Early Arab period presents a fresh overview of the current debate on Egypt beyond AD 641.

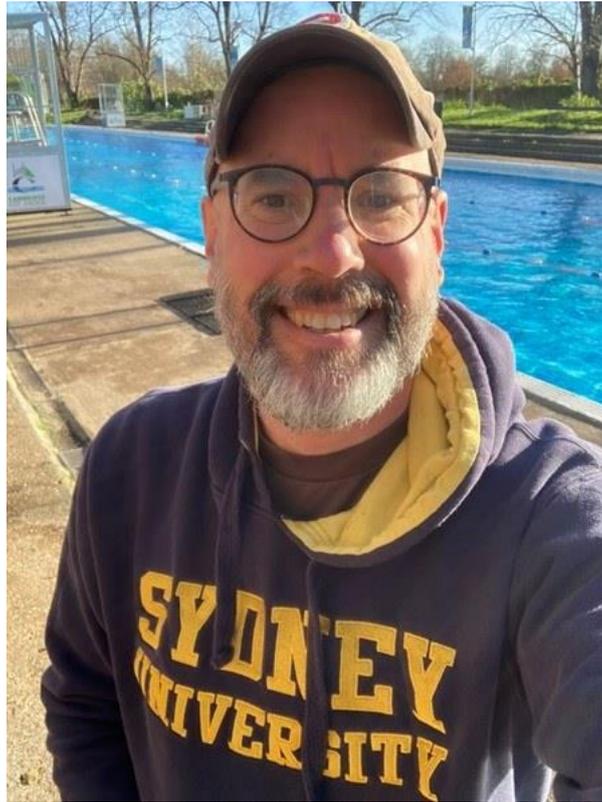
[Chapter Publication: "Trouble in our fields": reflections of space and place in ancient Messenia'](#)

We're pleased to announce that **Prof Graham Shipley's** chapter in the volume below has been published and received a PDF offprint.

Shipley, D. G. J. (2025), "'Trouble in our fields": reflections of space and place in ancient Messenia', in A. P. Matthaiou (ed.), *Περιηγητής: πελοποννησιακές μελέτες εις μνήμην Γιάννη Αντ. Πίκουλα* (Athens: Elliniki Epigraphiki Etaireia), 209–55.

Graham writes, in this paper, I aim to give voice to the unheard populations of Messenia—the Lakedaimonian perioikoi and, especially, the helots—through a consideration of Messenian landscapes in Classical and early Hellenistic times that attempts to avoid oversimplification. It would be easy to paint a binary picture, implicitly juxtaposing (for the era of Spartan rule) an undifferentiated, even denatured, slave-farmed area with a surrounding, Spartan-controlled zone of homogeneous Lakedaimonian perioikic poleis; followed by (in the post-'liberation' period) a 'free', uniform landscape whose internal differences are elided. Instead, I aim at a holistic portrayal, examining regional structure, territorial subdivisions, and settlement distribution and reconstructing the probably variegated character of perioikic and helot habitation. In particular, I consider helots as a community occupying a landscape to which they gave historical depth and lived meaning, and I suggest that we can see traces in the surviving evidence which, by inference, we can extend across the helot-farmed districts as a whole. The implications for the character of post-liberation Messenia are considered. Finally, I introduce notions of routes, space, place, and attachment as explored by the geographer Yi-Fu Tuan and others. With what kinds of meanings should we expect different social groups, both during and after Spartan domination, to have endowed places and the spaces between them?

Research Fellowship: 'Centre and Periphery in Aksumite Ethiopia'



6 - Andy proudly displaying his institutional affiliations (?) at the Jesus Green Lido (water temperature approximately 6° C on that morning)

In September, Andy Merrills returned to the School following a year spent as a visiting Research Fellow at Gonville and Caius College Cambridge. The Cook-Crone Bye-Fellowship was established by generous bequests of Stanley Arthur Cook and Patricia Crone to support work on the history, literature and religion of Western Asia and the Middle East. The position provides fellows with the opportunity to work in the many libraries of Cambridge, to engage with scholars in a range of different research seminars, and to eat far too many excellent puddings over the course of the year.

Andy's current research project 'Centre and Periphery in Aksumite Ethiopia' explores the political development of the Northern Horn of Africa in the middle of the first millennium (c.200 – c.600 CE), through the analysis of archaeological, epigraphic, numismatic and textual sources. This forms part of his wider project 'Africa and the Birth of the Medieval World' which will draw connections between Aksum, Nubia, Egypt and the Maghreb in a period of dramatic social and political change. The history of late antique Africa has been comparatively neglected, even as interest in 'the decline and fall of the Roman Empire' in other parts of the world has expanded dramatically. This project is intended to redress that imbalance somewhat and draw connections between different regions (and different scholarly specialisms) that have often developed in isolation.

As part of the fellowship, Andy undertook a research trip to Ethiopia to visit sites in Aksum and to talk to scholars at universities there. He also presented his research to seminars at

Cambridge and Vienna, all of which will feed in to several articles on this topic, as well as a short book on Aksum in the 'Cambridge Elements' series. Perhaps most importantly, he also made excellent use of the (unheated) Jesus Green Lido throughout the year, swimming a total of around 120 miles in a desperate attempt to offset all of those puddings. He didn't quite succeed, but he can still just about squeeze into his wetsuit.



7 - The Main Stelae Field in Aksum (showing the 'Fallen Stela'). The standing stone in the middle was previously erected in Rome following the Italian occupation of the region in the 1930s.

Body-Politics Update

In the past few months, the Body-Politics and Oddkin teams have been busy with events, publications, and research trips. In July, Brad Marshall and Alex Wilson presented their research on intersections of slavery and outlawry in medieval Iceland at a collaborative workshop with the [DoSSE project](#) in Leicester. In August, Alex attended the [International Saga Conference at the University of Katowice](#) to present this research to an audience of Old Norse scholars.



8 - Alex Wilson, ready to present their research with Brad Marshall on intersections of slavery and outlawry in medieval Iceland



9 - L-R: Alex Wilson and Brad Marshall presenting their research on intersections of slavery and outlawry in medieval Iceland

One of our PhD students, Emma Thompson, has been on placement with Moesgaard Museum in Denmark since August. Emma is collaborating on a publication of the Viking Age settlement of Randlev, as well as the associated Hesselbjerg cemetery. She will also be assisting with a pop-up exhibition about the site at the nearby Odder Museum, and has gone on several trips to Viking Age sites of note – such as Sebbesund, Lindholm Høje, and Fyrkat – with more to come.



10 - Sebbersund



11 - Sebbesund



12 - Frykat



13 - Lindholm Høje

September has been particularly busy, with several conference talks. At the start of the month, Marianne Hem Eriksen, Kevin Kay, and Renate Larssen participated in the [EAA conference](#), held virtually in Belgrade. Marianne and Kevin presented two papers, “Between family trees and fuzzy rhizomes” and “Ancestors, accidents, or oddkin: Who can settlement remains be, and what can they do?” Kevin was also a discussant in the session “Human remains in settlements: burials, non-burials and ... what else?” and Renate participated as discussant in the session “Networks of Care and Neglect in the Archaeological Record”, highlighting the need for a holistic approach to 'care' in the past and the need for multispecies archaeologies of care that also take animals into consideration. In mid-September, Alex attended the Kaleidoscopic Narration workshop at Universität Tübingen where he presented the paper “Time and the kaleidoscope: network, hierarchy, ontology”.



14 - "Bone lives: Interpreting human remains through osteobiographies" at BBAO conference

At the same time, our team members were involved in the [BBAO 2025 conference](#) in Leicester as volunteers, workshop organisers, or to present research. Our PI Marianne Hem Eriksen co-organised the workshop "Bone lives: Interpreting human remains through osteobiographies" with John Robb, PI of the Cambridge-based ERC-funded project [Ancestors](#). At the conference, Veronica Tamorri presented a poster discussing preliminary results of her previous Marie Skłodowska-Curie project WOMen-PRO.

For public outreach, Emma and Brad appeared on the [Nordic Mythology](#) podcast to discuss Scandinavian burials and to highlight the contextual factors behind treatment of the dead in the Viking Age (and disappoint the hopeful host by explaining it's not that simple!).



15 - Emma and Brad with the hosts of the Nordic Mythology podcast

We are also excited to announce three imminent new project publications (all in press/2025):

- B Marshall, A Wilson, EL Thompson and MH Eriksen: 'Unbounded bodies: the multiplicity of bodies and beings in Iron Age Scandinavia', *Open Arts Journal*.
- MH Eriksen, E Mol and Þ Pétursdóttir: 'Found in translation: towards a richer archaeological language', *Cambridge Archaeological Journal*.

- MH Eriksen, C Tsoraki, B Marshall and E Aslesen: 'Viking body-making: New evidence for intra-action with iconic Viking anthropomorphic 'art', *Antiquity*.

Check out our [website](#) and [Instagram](#) for regular updates on the project's research findings!

From Drawers to Digital: Unlocking the BILNAS Archive

Great news! The British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies (BILNAS) has been awarded a £3,000 Archives Revealed Scoping Grant from The National Archives. This grant will be used to enhance access to the institute's incredible collection of maps and plans.

The BILNAS archive documents over 70 years of British archaeological work in Libya, offering a unique window into the region's rich history. Among its most valuable holdings is a significant collection of maps and plans. These unique visual records offer valuable insights into how Libya's landscapes have been shaped and inhabited over millennia. However, the collection's current condition, storage, and limited metadata make it difficult to discover and access. This grant will fund a scoping report, which will provide an expert assessment of the collection's condition, cataloguing gaps, and preservation risks.

This essential first step will enable BILNAS to make informed decisions about how to best preserve, digitise, and provide wider access to the collection for future generations. As Professor Anna Leone, Director of BILNAS, stated: "the opportunity to organise and assess the condition of this archive is a crucial step toward ensuring the long-term preservation of its contents, extending well beyond the scope of digitisation".



16 - The British Institute for Libyan and Northern African Studies [BILNAS] Archive, University of Leicester



17 - Ahmed Buzaian and Felicity Crowe reviewing maps



18 - Rolled surveys, maps and plans of Lepcis Magna

Connecting People, Connecting Archives: BILNAS takes the Stage

This summer, BILNAS Archivist, Anne Marie Williamson has been a busy ambassador for the Archive, presenting at conferences across the UK. She's been sharing insights into the 'Connecting People, Connecting Archives' project, an initiative that uses Linked Open Data (LOD) to identify and connect individuals across different archives.

Her presentations at both the Archives and Records Association Annual Conference in Bristol and the CIFA Archaeology Archive Conference in Northampton highlighted the innovative ways BILNAS is making its collections more accessible and interconnected.

On November 4th, Anne Marie will be collaborating with Dr Andrew Goudie for a special presentation in partnership with the Egyptian Exploration Society. This new talk, titled 'Women Explorers in North Africa', will shed light on the contributions of women antiquarians, archaeologist and travel writers to our understanding of North Africa.

To book your place [visit this website](#).



Archives & Records Association CONFERENCE



Olive Brittan – Beekeeper to the King of Libya by Xuejiao Huang

Museum Studies placement student, Xuejiao Huang (Neva), has spent the summer doing some incredible work at the BILNAG Archive, creating person records for the amazing people who've contributed to our collections. Her recent article shines a light on one of those fascinating individuals: Olive Brittan, Beekeeper to the King of Libya. You can [read Neva's article on our website to learn all about Olive Brittan's story](#).



19 - Xuejiao Huang, researching the amazing people who've contributed to our collections





21 - Xuejiao Huang and Anne Marie

Kom al-Ahmer—Kom Wasit in Context: Exploring the Dynamics of Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt

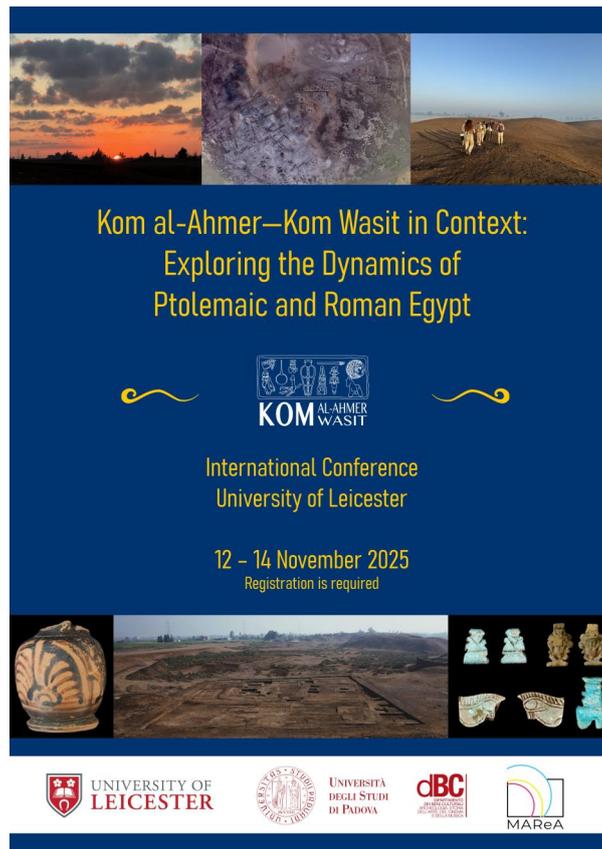
International Conference, University of Leicester, 12 – 14 November 2025

This conference brings together a diverse group of specialists working on Egyptian Archaeology and related disciplines. Participants include archaeologists, historians, ceramicists, Coptic period experts, and Egyptologists. We are also pleased to welcome archivists and scholars of North African archaeology, whose perspective will contribute to a broader understanding of regional dynamics and cross-cultural interactions.

The main focus of the conference will be the Ptolemaic Kingdom, and Egypt as a Roman Province, including its role within the Eastern Roman Empire. Central to our discussions will be the case study of Kom al-Ahmer and Kom Wasit, located in the Western Nile Delta. This event marks the culmination of thirteen years of fieldwork and the publication of the third volume in the *Kom al-Ahmer and Kom Wasit* series.

[Sign-up for the conference via Ticket Tailor here!](#)

For further information, please contact conference organisers Mohamed Kenawi (email mekkm1@leicester.ac.uk) or Anne Marie Williamson (email amw67@leicester.ac.uk).



New Fieldwork Project in Tunisia

In June, Nichole Sheldrick co-directed the first season of the **Acholla Archaeological Project** in Tunisia. Over the next three years, in collaboration with the Institut National du Patrimoine (Tunisia), Dickinson College (USA), the University of Oklahoma (USA), and the EAMENA project, the Acholla Archaeological Project will investigate the Roman port city of Acholla, using modern survey and excavation techniques. The 2025 season focussed on three main tasks: fieldwalking, topographic survey, and architectural documentation. Over a period of two and a half weeks, an area of over 25 ha was surveyed by the fieldwalking team and nearly 40,000 artefacts were collected for study and analysis. A report on the first season of fieldwork will be published next month in the journal *Libyan Studies*.



22 - Nichole Sheldrick during the fieldwalking campaign at Acholla, with an amphora rim and fragment of a marble inscription found during the survey (Images: Acholla Archaeological Project).

Research, Enterprise and Impact Committee Dates

- *October 22nd, 2025*
 - *December 10th, 2025*
 - *February 11th, 2026*
 - *April 8th, 2026*
 - *June 10th, 2026*
-

Teaching News

[Chartered Institute for Archaeologists \(CifA\) degree accreditation](#)

Professional accreditation for all single honours Archaeology degrees

All our single honours archaeology degrees have received professional accreditation by the [Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, CifA](#), the professional body that represents archaeologists working in the UK and overseas. This means that students who started the BA Archaeology by distance learning or on campus this September, and all those on our BSc Archaeology programme regardless of when you started, will graduate with the CifA accreditation.

Why is accreditation good for me? Student membership of CifA comes with all sorts of benefits, such as free subscription to *The Archaeologist* magazine, access to online training, membership of interest groups from heritage crime to marine archaeology, and perhaps most importantly you'll be part of an active community of peers and professionals enabling you to tap into networks and support career aspirations. Accredited degree students can sign up [via this webpage](#).

If you are a joint honours student or you started studying before September 2025 you can still enjoy many CifA benefits, there are plenty of resources available to all, such as [CifA's careers kit](#) and [events and training](#) calendar.



Thank you to our students!

Our students were really important in helping us achieve accreditation, showing the Cifa panel the ways we support students through our fieldschools, internships, integration of ULAS and professionals throughout the degree, and the critical thinking encouraged in our modules. This is also the first time a DL Archaeology degree has been accredited. We would not have received professional recognition were it not for your input!

More about Cifa [on this website](#)

School Education Committee Dates

- *September 10th, 2025*
- *October 29th, 2025*
- *November 26th, 2025*
- *January 21st, 2026*
- *March 4th, 2026*
- *April 15th, 2026*

- *May 20th, 2026*
-

Our Campus-based learners

Ancient History and Archaeology Society (AHAS)

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

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

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

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

WhatsApp - [join here](#)

Facebook: - [visit us here](#)

Instagram: [visit us here](#)

Hope to see you this year!

AHAS Committee

→Your News Here ←

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

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

How can you get involved? Simple! Reach out to Isabel Higham (email) , your dedicated campus-based learning representative.

Student-Staff Committee (AAH CB UG) Dates

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- *November 5th, 2025 (TBC)*
 - *December 3rd, 2025*
 - *January 28th, 2026*
 - *March 25th, 2026*
 - *May 6th, 2026*
-

Student-Staff Committee (MS CB PGT) Dates

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- *October 23rd, 2025*
 - *November 13th, 2025*
 - *December 4th, 2026*
 - *January 22nd, 2026*
 - *February 19th, 2026*
 - *March 19th, 2026*
 - *May 7th, 2026*
-

Our Distance Learners

Student Presentations at Cifa's Innovation Festival!



Article by Molly Mather, Lee Fisher and Anna Fisher.

On the 8th of October, Cifa held their Early Careers Session as part of their annual Innovation Festival. This session was basically to showcase some of the innovative research being carried out by archaeologists from across the country, still at the beginning of their careers. Three students from the School of Heritage and Culture took part: Anna Fisher, Lee Fisher and Molly Mather.

Anna Fisher talked about her undergraduate dissertation on the idea of personhood and reshaping how we think about personhood, both in ourselves and then how we reflect that back onto archaeology.

Lee Fisher also talked about his undergraduate dissertation, in which he has been assessing how the hunting lands of 3 medieval castles can be used to understand the political climate they existed in.

Molly Mather spoke about her MA dissertation, using scientific techniques to reassess the strength of odour and its impact on the layout of Pompeii's laundries.

Cifa's Early Careers special interest group are very understanding and encouraging of students.

Because the three of us are still at the beginning of our academic journey, presenting like this was a little nerve-wracking. But Cifa's Early Careers special interest group are very understanding and encouraging of students. They are neurodiversity affirming and supportive if you struggle with public speaking. Getting used to public speaking really helps to improve your confidence in yourself. Cifa's Early Careers events are a great way to practise presenting your work in a conference setting, and it gives you the chance to network with other professionals interested in your work too!

The three of us all had a wonderful time presenting and answering questions about our work, particularly in such a welcoming environment. If you get the chance, we recommend it!

[→Your News Here ←](#)

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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 Natalie Hayward (email nkeh1@student.le.ac.uk), your dedicated distance learning representative.

Postgraduate Student News

Viva Successes 

Gordon MacDonald

Congratulations to Gordon MacDonald for successfully defending his thesis *Impacts of global climate change on polar heritage: assessment of imperilled polar heritage sites*. This is a huge achievement, well done from everyone in the School!

[MESO25 – The Eleventh International Conference on the Mesolithic in Europe](#)

PhD student Emma Stockley and Dr Laura Basell attended MESO25, the Eleventh International Conference on the Mesolithic in Europe, held in Ferrara, Italy, from 15–19 September 2025.

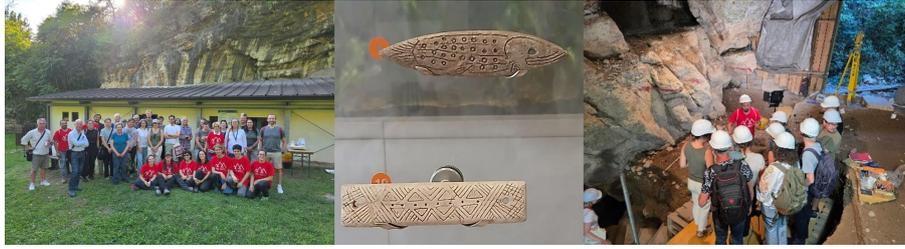


23 - Emma (left) and Laura at the MESO25 conference

Emma delivered a paper, 'Predicting and protecting lithic landscapes – understanding the distribution of lithic scatters on Dartmoor' in the 'people and places' session to an audience of 150 conference participants. This was well-received and generated significant discussion.

As part of the conference excursions, Laura joined a visit to Trento and the Adige Valley, where the history of Mesolithic discoveries in northern Italy is particularly rich. Sites such as Romagnano Loc III, Pradestel, Vatte di Zambana, and Riparo Gaban have yielded large quantities of lithic and bone tools, portable art and burials, helping to define one of the best-known Mesolithic territories in Europe. The excursion included the MUSE – Trento Science Museum, and a guided tour of the Gaban Rockshelter, which preserves an exceptional stratigraphic sequence recording the Mesolithic–Neolithic transition.

Of particular relevance to her research on Dartmoor, Emma joined the fieldtrip to Selva di Cadore, visiting the Vittorino Cazzetta Museum to see the famous Mondeval de Sora Mesolithic burial. The remains of a 35–40-year-old male interred with rich grave goods, offer unique insights into Alpine hunter-gatherer life. The excursion also explored the Passo Giau mountain area and high-altitude Pra' Comun 1 rockshelter, currently under excavation by the University of Ferrara, where early Holocene occupation is being investigated.



24 - L-R: Conference participants and current excavation team outside Riparo Gaban; Neolithic decorated bone objects in the MUSE museum from the same site; excavations in progress (University of Ferrara).

Outside the academic programme, Laura and Emma enjoyed Ferrara's wealth of historic sites, including the moated Castello Estense, Ferrara Cathedral and the Palazzo dei Diamanti art gallery. The entire historic centre is UNESCO-listed for its pioneering Renaissance urban planning.

Emma's attendance at MESO25 was generously supported by funding from M4C.



25 - Emma close to the Pra' Comun 1 rockshelter, 2300 metres asl



26 - View from the Passo Giau mountain pass across to the Marmolada Glacier (visible on the left in the distance)

[PGR Lightning Talks](#)

Article by Naomi Allman, Molly Pye, and Joel Santos

On Friday 13th June 2025, the School of Archaeology and Ancient History's (now part of the School of Heritage and Culture) PGR Reps hosted a hybrid Lightning Talks event for PGRs in Ancient History, Archaeology and Museum Studies.

The event consisted of 21 three-minute talks from PGRs about their PhD projects as a networking event to allow PGRs from the two schools to get to know each other and their research prior to the formal merger to become SHAC. There were seven sessions in total and speakers were accompanied with slides (which were in poster form, informal presentations, and even one in gif-form!).

Across the day, we had a total attendance number of 52. This event had great feedback and the reps are looking at having this as a regular event in the academic year!





27 - participant asking a question via microphone















16th Celtic Conference in Classics

Article by Naomi Allman

From 15th – 18th July 2025, the University of Coimbra hosted the 16th Celtic Conference in Classics (CCC). There were 39 panels, and 602 speakers. I was predominantly part of Panel 30: Putting Gods with Objects: Divine Attributes and Materiality in Ancient Mediterranean Religion and Mythology organised by Ellie Mackin Roberts and Laurialan Reitzammer. While I had not initially signed on as a speaker, I was encouraged by my fellow panellists to introduce myself and my PhD project due to its connection with the theme of the panel. I

had a lovely reception to my project and this was an excellent opportunity to network with fellow classicists looking at Ancient Greek religion.

During my time in Coimbra, I was able to explore the historic city and university. The statues of philosophers outside the Faculdade de Letras were an inspiring sight each day. The Old and New Cathedrals of Coimbra stand out in a beautiful city, marking it as a centre for religious and cultural movements in Portugal. On the second day, we had a Welcome Sunset on the atrium of the Chemistry department overlooking the Mondego River, where we had a chance to see the splendour of Coimbra.

As part of the social programme, I joined other attendees on a trip to the Aliança Underground Museum followed by a traditional Portuguese meal at Quinta do Encontro. After the meal, we were serenaded by some students from the university in Fado de Coimbra, traditional Portuguese music, which was an incredible ending to a wonderful event.

I hope to have the chance to attend the 17th CCC, due to be held at Maynooth University, as this was an incredible experience. I definitely recommend any ancient historians and classical archaeologists to attend.











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

Our regular research seminar series starts again for 2025-26; join us for hot drinks and cake in the foyer of the Kathleen Kenyon building from 16:00 before each seminar, which start at 16:30 and are hybrid. Join remotely using the MS teams link below.

Where: George Porter Lecture Theatre A

Oct 22nd

Current research in School of Heritage & Culture | School of Heritage & Culture Staff

Oct 29th

Approaching a museum's archive of donor correspondence as a method for tracing object biographies/social histories of D-Day | Caitlin Bains

Nov 12th (Location: Ken Edwards LT 3)

Intangible cultural heritage, diaspora and migration | Dr Mariana pinto Leitão Pereira

Nov 19th

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

Nov 26th

The Cenomani in Northern Italy: from Celtic invaders to Roman citizens (second half of the first millennium BC) | Dr Fabio Saccoccio

Dec 3rd

Preliminary Insights from Interdisciplinary Research on Greek Inscriptions | Dr Matthew Evans

Dec 10th (Location and time TBC)

Projects from 2025 | ULAS

[Wednesday Seminar | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)

Microsoft Teams

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 350 539 397 989 6

Passcode: pk2Am3cY

Professional Services Updates

School Meeting Dates

- *November 19th 2025*
 - *February 4th 2026*
 - *May 13th 2026*
-

Which Mailbox Should You Use?

The School of Heritage and Culture have 5 dedicated mailboxes for different types of queries. Here's a quick guide to help you choose the right one:

shacstudent@le.ac.uk – **For Student Programme Queries**

This mailbox is for all student-related programme administration:

- General student queries – campus based and distance learning
- Assessments and marking
- Suspensions and withdrawals
- Engagement and progression
- Awards and mitigating circumstances

- Module selection
- Curriculum changes

shac@le.ac.uk – For School Operations

Use this email for anything related to the day-to-day running of the School, including:

- Research project admin
- Events and travel
- Fieldwork and trips
- Finance (purchasing, invoices, expenses, journals, PGR finance)
- Meetings
- HR and recruitment (School and research projects)
- Transparency reviews
- Website and TV signage updates
- Estates issues (maintenance, parking, etc.)

shac-techs@le.ac.uk – For School Technicians

Use this email to contact the School Technicians about queries and issues including:

- Equipment usage and borrowing
- Technical Support for teaching and fieldwork
- Lab Support
- Health and Safety in labs and fieldwork
- Archive and reference collections
- Purchasing technical items and lab consumables

shachos@le.ac.uk – For Head of School Attention

msplacements@le.ac.uk – For Museum Studies Placement Queries

Meet Your PST

As the newly merged School of Heritage and Culture we have the fantastic opportunity to re-introduce the School's Professional Services Team to staff, students and alumni. Read about who everyone is and how they support the School in their individual profiles below!

Kate West – *Administrative Assistant*

What I do: I provide operational and programme administrative support across a wide range of areas, including staff onboarding, travel arrangements, purchasing, and managing inbox queries. I also support fieldschool administration by coordinating risk assessments, student paperwork, travel plans, and maintaining Blackboard sites.

In addition, I help manage assessments by setting up submission portals, releasing marks, and updating records in MyStudentRecord. I handle student communications, mailing lists, absence and driving permit requests, and act as secretary for SSC meetings. I also maintain PST sections of Blackboard sites.

Fun fact: I recently conquered Snowdon!

Muzammil Khomusi - *Learning Technologist*

What I do: I currently provide end-to-end technical support to Museum Studies academics in the delivery of various distance learning (DL) programmes. This includes resolving access issues related to websites and digital reading materials, recording and post-producing videos, both taught content and instructional, beta-testing Blackboard and Panopto software and managing the setup and operation of AV equipment for key academic events, such as the annual Museum Studies Work Placement Marketplace and Summer School.

Fun Fact: I successfully did a bat hang off of a boulder in the Peak District!

Tim Edwards - *Distance Learning Support Officer*

What I do: I provide support and advice to Distance Learning students regarding non-academic elements of study such as Mitigation, suspensions, and accessing specialist support. I also ensure student's records reflect their student journey, ensure marking is available to tutors and returned promptly and prepare record for progression and award.

Fun Fact: I've been published in 2 medical journals, unfortunately neither as an author!



28 - Tim Edwards

Dr Danielle De Carle - Departmental Technician

What I do: With a background as an Archaeologist (plus ex- museums front of house) based in the Kathlyn Kenyon building I support teaching, and research projects particular related to fieldwork/field schools, post-excavation and archaeology sciences/practical skills. I help Rachel A. manage the lab spaces:- access, equipment maintenance, training, health and safety as well as the departments archives and reference collections. I particularly enjoy teaching classes around archaeobotany the study of past plant people relationships and get roped in every so often to id charcoal/burnt bits for Radiocarbon dating for the department and ULAS.

Fun Fact: I still have a favourite charred wheat grain (it was a compact form breadwheat that I identified from an Iron Age penannular house ditch in Somerset), nothing special it was just sooooo cute its stuck in my brain even today.



29 - Dr Danielle De Carle

Charlotte Higgins - Business Administration Manager (Operations)

What I do: Along with Rachael Eames I manage the professional services team for the school. I focus on operational processes including finance, HR, health & safety, travel, research grant support. Essentially if it's not programme or student related it's probably in my remit!

Fun Fact: I love watching (and very occasionally doing) motor racing!



30 - Charlotte Higgins

Rachel Armitage - *Technical Services Manager*

What I do: I look after and manage the lab spaces in both Kathleen Kenyon and the Michael Atiyah building, supporting teaching and research and act as health and safety lead for the labs. I am an analytical chemist (please don't hold it against me) with a passion for microscopy, supporting research and training staff and students on the lab equipment we have in MAB.

Fun Fact: I once raced against Kelly Holmes in the Inter-counties Cross-Country race, I don't think I actually saw her again after she raced away from the start!

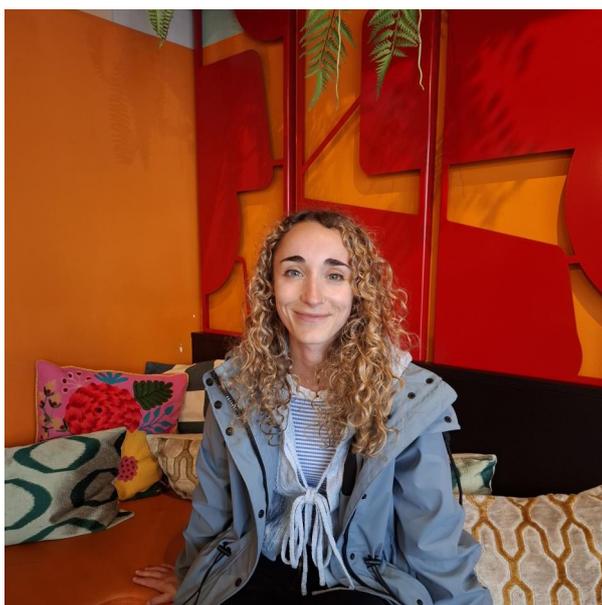


31 - Rachel Armitage

Ingrid Michéle Dyson - School Administrator

What I do: I provide operational administrative support covering a wide variety of areas that are generally not student-facing; this includes finance, post award grant administration, workload modelling, HR, running *The Mosaic* newsletter, event support and travel bookings and Head of School support.

Fun Fact: My name was almost Boudicca or Eusébio. I'm therefore happy with the name I have!



32 - Ingrid Michéle Dyson

Look out for further PST people profiles in the next edition of *The Mosaic*!

ULAS

Recent Fieldwork

Over the summer, recent fieldwork has seen the completion of our large excavations at Wanlip, Cossington, and Cawston, along with the student training excavations at Irchester & Loddington, and several other projects!

Two large excavations close together just to the north of Leicester (Wanlip and Cossington) have recently completed. Our team on the Wanlip site uncovered a wealth of archaeology, of particular note is rarely seen organic remains dating to the Anglo-Saxon period. These waterlogged features include wattle-lined wells and pits containing remarkable wooden and leather artefacts such as a shovel fragment, a wooden bowl, and a leather shoe. Specialist analysis will further clarify the function of several intriguing wooden finds. Excavations also revealed enclosures, ditches, and a unique wood-lined pit resembling a hollowed-out tree. The team's dedication has ensured that even the most complex and delicate features have been expertly excavated, providing valuable insights into the site's long and varied history.

features include wattle-lined wells and pits containing remarkable wooden and leather artefacts such as a shovel fragment, a wooden bowl, and a leather shoe. Specialist analysis will further clarify the function of several intriguing wooden finds.



33 - An Anglo-Saxon wattle lined well (excavated by Harriet)

Just up the road at Cossington, again a site with fantastic survival of organic features and artefacts - this time mainly from the Roman period was revealed. The dig finished earlier in the summer, and some initial assessment of the data is revealing some interesting and new information about this fascinating multi-period landscape. The Middle Iron Age activity, including an east-west pit alignment, has produced assemblages of grain, rarely found from pit alignments. A small pen or enclosure to the south suggested open ground use. Later, the pit alignment was replaced by a single ditch on the same alignment. Roman activity shifted

focus to the southern end of the site, where nine interconnecting ditched enclosures—likely livestock pens—clustered around a central square enclosure with a distinctive hornwork entrance. At its heart was a natural pond or wet area, probably used as a livestock watering point, as indicated by a rough metalled surface. This pond area is surrounded by dense and complex archaeology—including a small burnt mound, a possible cremation, and a post-built structure—a focal point for livestock management, water provision, and possibly symbolic practices.

In Warwickshire, at Cawston our team was tasked with excavating an area of the large site for the developer. This revealed a complex multi-phased settlement site, consisting of deep Roman enclosure ditches, five Anglo-Saxon sunken-featured buildings, and a dense sequence of medieval features including pits with pottery and possible corn drier waste. The project wrapped up in early August, with thanks to the whole team for their dedication across all areas, from detailed surveys to full excavations, revealing the rich multi-period history of the site.



34 - A Roman water pit with wood lining (excavated by James E)

ULAS and Student Training Fieldschools

ULAS have continued their long established and strong bond of helping to run the SHAC student training excavations, this year at Loddington, Irchester, and Ardnamurchan.

This summer saw a new student dig begin in the village of **Loddington** (Leicestershire). This excavation project gave 35 first- and second- year students the opportunity to explore the origins and development of the village. Over the course of a fortnight they uncovered evidence of medieval and post-medieval settlement including a substantial stone building along with pits and ditches. Alongside the excavation, the students also enjoyed a range of practical workshops delivered by staff and postgraduates from the School on topics as diverse as 3D scanning and careers in archaeology. An open day attracted hundreds of people to tour the trenches, see some of the finds, and talk with the students.

The **Irchester Field School** returned this summer, continuing its tradition of high-quality archaeological research and public engagement. This year's focus continued on the 'upper

orchard' area, adjacent to the Roman small town of Irchester. The team explored areas to the north of the substantial roman cemetery, building on earlier discoveries. The excavation revealed a rich sequence of Roman-period activity. Findings this year included more early Roman property boundaries, gravelled streets, and stone and timber structures. These discoveries have provided significant insights into extra-mural activity and the population of Roman Irchester, with implications at both regional and national levels. **The project also saw a wealth of public outreach events, including many school visits, and a public event attracting around 5,000 visitors. Plans are underway for a return in 2026.**

An open day attracted hundreds of people to tour the trenches, see some of the finds, and talk with the students.



35 - Irchester Fieldschool



36 - Loddington Fieldschool

This summer, four of our team members volunteered as supervisors and archaeologists at the **Ardnamurchan Transitions Project** Field School in the Scottish Highlands, a collaborative training initiative led by the Universities of Leicester and Manchester. Working alongside students, staff, and alumni, they helped excavate a newly identified multi-phased building near Swordle Bay, using both traditional and cutting-edge recording techniques like drone photography and LiDAR. The project not only offered hands-on archaeological experience

and stunning scenery but also fostered strong connections between students, academics, and commercial archaeologists—so much so that several students expressed interest in future volunteering and internships with ULAS.

Lab News

This summer has been exceptionally busy in the lab, with our team managing around 300 pieces of waterlogged wood recovered from the Anglo-Saxon excavations at Wanlip. Their work has included conservation, databasing, and storage—requiring the construction of new wood tanks— and recording the finds, with results to follow soon. Alongside this, the lab has processed a variety of artefacts from ongoing excavations, including a Saxon brooch from Wanlip and a stamped clay pipe from Leicester Market, and has made progress on environmental samples from Cossington, with highlights such as a worked flint arrowhead.

The team has also been busy with post-excavation projects, from recording animal bone and pottery to preparing reports and selecting material for radiocarbon dating. **Six work experience students joined the lab this summer, gaining hands-on training, and staff have delivered outreach at several public events.** As the new academic year approaches, the lab looks forward to welcoming students for internships, and we're delighted to congratulate Will on starting his PhD on the role of horses in the medieval agricultural economy, which he'll undertake alongside his work at ULAS.

ULAS Outreach

Over the summer ULAS staff have given talks to local groups and other members of the public, including helping with the *Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology*, around 8,000 people took part.

Within Leicester, the *Jewry Wall Museum* has re-opened to the public in July 2025 with more than 100 Roman artefacts – all discovered in Leicester and Leicestershire (many by ULAS!). ULAS have been involved with the regeneration from the outset, carrying out a programme of archaeological work within and around the museum building and providing expertise as consultants on the development of the content. ULAS work and staff, past and present, are well represented throughout the new displays and many staff involved with the project were able to preview the new museum during its grand reopening. In August the HRH The Duke of Edinburgh toured the new Jewry Wall Museum, unveiling a commemorative plaque to mark the museum's reopening. He also visited the *Leicester Cathedral Heritage and Learning Centre* (that opened in June 2025). Following the ULAS excavation at Leicester Cathedral – the Heritage and Learning Centre has been built within part of the churchyard. The new building features an immersive exhibition space, with curated collections that celebrate Leicester's history, along with an educational space to welcome schools and community groups.



37 - The Duke of Edinburgh has a tour the new Jewry Wall Museum with ULAS staff

To discover more on the work of ULAS, please visit the Autumn 2025 edition of [ULAS News](#)

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

The Artificial Intelligence Energy Debate

There is no getting away from the rapid rise of AI use across higher-education and society at large. Champions of the AI movement point to the potential for AI use in problem solving

and automation of menial tasks, whereas it's detractors cite the high energy consumption and threats to creative industry. It is considering both sides of the debate about AI energy usage and considering your AI use and it's impact on the climate.

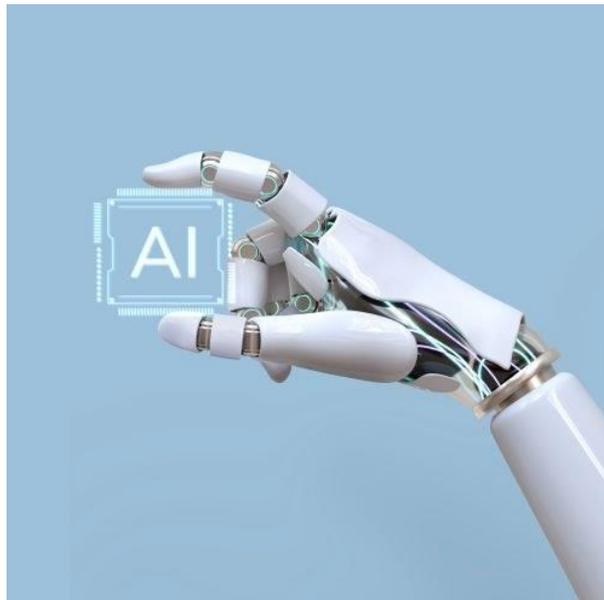
AI's water footprint is significant, as AI datacentres rely on water to cool usage that is the huge number of servers required for AI processing. It is claimed that "[The International Energy Agency](#) reported in April 2025 that datacentres now consume more than 560 billion litres of water annually, possibly rising to 1,200 billion litres a year by 2030". (Reference: [EXPERT COMMENT: AI is gobbling up water it cannot replace- I'm working on a solution](#))

Meanwhile, others stress that there is a need to put AI water usage into perspective, arguing that "animal agriculture is a major driver of global water consumption and environmental degradation" (Reference: [A Drop in the Bucket: Comparing the Water Footprint of AI and the Cattle Industry](#))

The University has guidance around using AI for both staff and students. Take the time to learn more about AI impact, and how it can be used in a higher-education setting.

[AI guidance for students](#)

[AI Essentials training for staff](#)



38 - www.freepik.com

Our Alumni - Where are they now?

The Magic of it All - The Story of Strawbs

Attenborough Arts Centre will host, for a one-night-only, a screening of The Magic of It All – The Story of Strawbs, a powerful new documentary celebrating the life and legacy of Dave

Cousins (General Science BSc 1962, Doctor of Music 2023)— founder of the iconic folk-rock band The Strawbs and a proud University of Leicester alumnus.

Date: Wednesday, 29 October 2025

Time: 17:30 – 21:00 (with interval)

Venue: Main Hall, Attenborough Arts Centre

Tickets: Free / Pay What You Can

For more information and tickets visit this webpage: [‘The Magic Of It All – The Story of Strawbs’ Documentary Screening](#)



39 - David Cousins

Share Your Journey, Shape Their Future

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

Here are some impactful ways you can contribute:

1. 🗣️ Inspirational Career Talks (ICT)

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

2. 💡 'In Residence' Sessions

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

3. 📷 Share a Profile or Video

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

4. 🧑🏫🧑🎓 **Become a Mentor**

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

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

Our Community

2024-2025 Prize Winners

*Click through this stack to see who in Archaeology and Ancient History have been awarded prizes at the summer board of examiners - very well deserved, **congratulations to all!** ✨*

Samuel and Rachel May Prize in Archaeology

David Bindis

Awarded for outstanding performance in final-year Archaeology

Dorothy Buchan Ancient History Dissertation Prize

Maximilian Buckland

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

Dame Rosemary Cramp Dissertation Prize

June Little

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

Alan McWhirr Dissertation Prize

Ryan White

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

John Wachter Dissertation Prize in Roman Studies

Courtney Lovell

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

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

Lea Kindler

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

Level 3 Prize in Ancient History (DL)

Ryan White

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

Level 3 Prize in Archaeology (DL)

Iveta Uzunova

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

Level 2 Prize in Ancient History (DL)

Annabelle Smith

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

Level 2 Prize in Archaeology (DL)

Robert Pettitt

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

Level 1 Prize in Ancient History (DL)

Christos Katsantonis

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

Level 1 Prize in Archaeology (DL)

Vanessa Walker

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

Vaughan Prize for Community Engagement

Nate Richardson, Wenxuan Zhang and Katarina Kompauerova

Awarded to the student(s) who shows outstanding commitment to the AAH outreach programme

Arnold Wycombe Gomme Prize

Kira Jamieson

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

First Year Ancient History Prize

Mahreen Nadeem

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

First Year Archaeology Prize

William O'Grady

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

Second Year Archaeology Prize

Alyssa Marinelli

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

Ancient History DL Dissertation Prize

Elizabeth Buss

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

[MJ Award Win](#)

The MJ Awards are the UK's most prestigious awards celebrating excellence in local government.

Our partnership with North Northamptonshire Council was recently recognised with an MJ Award for **Innovation in Public Private Partnership** at an awards ceremony in London. Comments from the judging panel were that this project has really stood out for the way it deepens public connection with place, making history and archaeology relevant for all sections of the community. It is a project that develops year on year, and is showing

impressive results, not only in engagement, but also in non-educational outcomes such as public health and wellbeing.

Watch Prof Sarah Scott below share what winning means to everyone involved in the **North Northamptonshire and Irchester Field School partnership**.

Read more about the award and the Irchester Field School partnership here on [BBC News](#) and [MJ Awards website](#)



Macmillan Coffee Morning 2025 Success

On Friday 26th September we hosted a Macmillan Coffee Morning where students, staff and colleagues from across the University met and mingled to raise money for the Macmillan Cancer Support charity.

*This year we raised **£437.18** ! 🌟🍰*

A **huge thank you** to everyone who baked and provided treats and to everyone who donated. Our dedicated online donation page is still live and open for donations, for anyone wishing to make a late contribution see [our page here](#).



[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

🦋 Bluesky: @archanchistleic.bsky.social

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

[Museum Studies Marketplace](#)

The Museum Studies Marketplace event will take place in early February 2026. This event involves museum, gallery and heritage representatives who come in to promote placement opportunities.

To find out more about this event, if you're interested in becoming a placement host, contact us at msplacements@leicester.ac.uk

25th Annual Dorothy and Alan Buchan Lecture

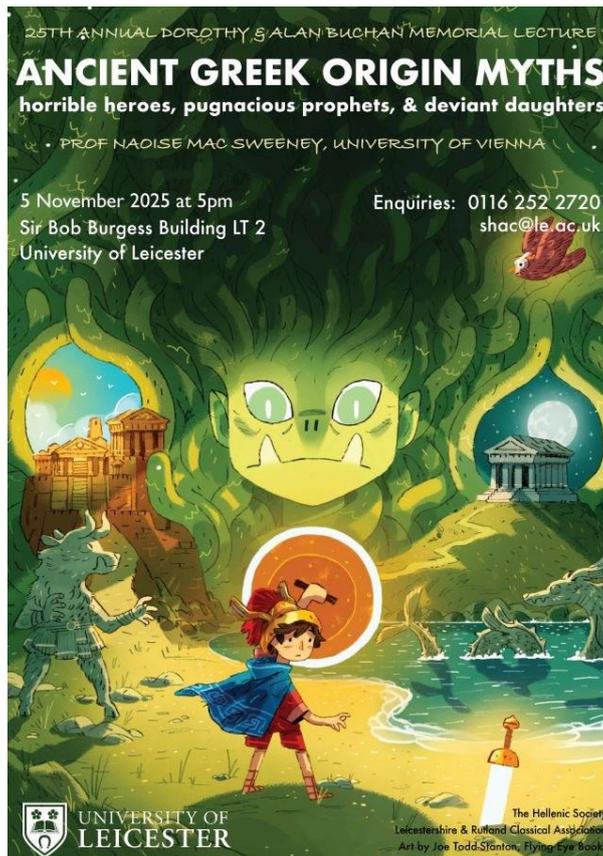
Wednesday 5th November

17:00 - 18:00

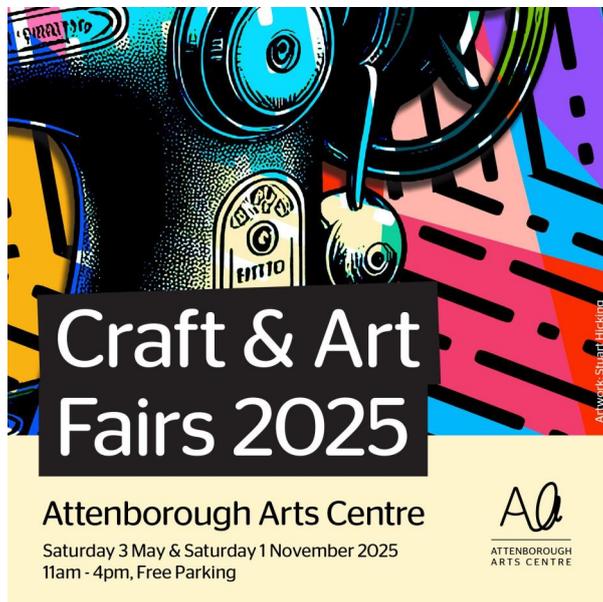
Sir Bob Burgess Building Lecture Theatre 2, LE2 6BF

To celebrate the quarter-century of our keynote event, alumni, students, staff and guests are warmly invited to this year's Buchan Memorial Lecture, delivered by Naoise Mac Sweeney, Professor of Classical Archaeology at the Institute of Classical Archaeology in Vienna, and former Leicester colleague. The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception and a chance to meet the speaker.

Naoise writes: 'The origin myths of ancient Greek cities are colourful, rich, and diverse. Wandering heroes, grumpy prophets, Amazonian warriors, and half-human snake-men are just some of the civic founders claimed by different Greek cities at different points in time. The sheer variety of these stories (while very exciting!) can make it hard for us to interpret them, and to understand the role they played in ancient Greek society. Why did some Greek cities embrace monstrous or semi-human founders? Why did some prefer to celebrate a female 'founding mother' rather than conforming to the norm of a male 'founding father'? Did cities in some parts of the Greek world favour certain types of origin myths, while cities in other places preferred others? In this lecture, I shall present some of the results of a five-year European project to collect Ancient Greek origin myths, identifying some of the patterns and trends that are beginning to emerge for this data.' The event is free of charge, but those attending in person are strongly encouraged to [apply for a ticket here](#) to ensure a seat in the auditorium and place at the reception. Online attendance is also possible and a Teams link can be found on [the event page](#).



Craft & Art Fair



The popular Craft & Art Fair returns to Attenborough Arts Centre on Saturday 1st November to showcase the work of some of the best local and regional craft makers and artists. A perfect place to start your Christmas shopping!

Book your free tickets and find out more on the [Attenborough Arts website](#).

Events and Important Dates

- The Magic of it All, The Story of the Strawbs Documentary Premiere Screening, Wednesday 29th October
- Craft & Art Fair (Attenborough Art Centre), Saturday 1st November
- 25th Annual Dorothy and Alan Buchan Lecture, Wednesday 5th November
- Kom al-Ahmer-Kom Wasit in Context: Exploring the Dynamics of Ptolemaic and Roman Egypt Conference, 12th- 14th November
- **Open Days:** [Book your visit now!](#)
 - November 8th
- **University Closure Days:**
 - Christmas period (24th December - 4th January)

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](#)

What's In the Box?



Our Distance Learning Student Support Officer, Tim Edwards, invites you to guess!

Our house is slowly turning in a museum of curiosities with an eclectic mix of medical equipment and illustrations, taxidermy, nick-nacks, horror memorabilia and art. Recently we spotted something while visiting Whitby and just had to have it. It has no purpose apart from existing, involves 2 very different periods of history but is not an historical artifact, and the most common response by friends we have shown is “why”?

If anyone (staff or students) manages to guess what’s in the box before the next edition of *The Mosaic* then you will be handsomely rewarded with as selection box of your choice. Send your answers to the email te87@le.ac.uk before 31st October!

-Tim Edwards

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