

Obituary

Professor Roger James Mercer

Diana Murray, MCIfA (173) and Ian Ralston, MCIfA (588)

Roger Mercer was born on 12 September 1944 in Hertfordshire and died on 3 December 2018 in Edinburgh, aged 74.

Roger Mercer studied under Stuart Piggott and Charles Thomas at Edinburgh University and after graduating he spent his early career working in England for the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments. He returned to Scotland in 1974 as a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh and in 1990 was appointed as Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, a post that he held until 2004.

His excavation career began in 1968 at Stannon Down in Cornwall and he undertook important excavations at Carn Brea near Redruth, and at Grimes Graves flint mines in Norfolk. This was followed by the excavation of the enclosed Neolithic settlement at Hambledon Hill in Dorset, which was to be central to his research for many years. In Scotland he conducted excavations at Balfarg Henge and undertook major field surveys in Caithness and the Borders. His students well remember him striding out in bonnet and army fatigues to cajole and encourage them, whatever the weather.

As Secretary of the Royal Commission, he oversaw the transformation of the organisation to be more public-facing, including the development of online access to the national inventory through Canmore. The collections were expanded to include many more architectural drawings and aerial photographs to create a national collection for the historic environment.

Roger also played a part in the development of the archaeological profession. He was a founder member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, (now the Chartered Institute



Roger Mercer pictured during his time as Secretary of RCAHMS.
Credit: Crown Copyright HES

for Archaeologists). He passionately believed in raising standards for archaeological work, and so willingly became involved in the creation of the Code of conduct, which was adopted at the first AGM in 1984. Elected to the first Council, he served in that capacity until 1986. He took part in the working party set up to establish best practice for archaeological contracts and, from 1985–9, was Chairman of the Scottish Group of the IFA, the first regional group to be established, which boasted over 50 initial members.

In 2005, he was elected as an Honorary Fellow of the IFA and he was awarded an

OBE for services to archaeology. In retirement, Roger remained active, still lecturing at his old university, where he was an honorary professorial fellow, in the months before his death.

A slightly larger-than-life character with wide interests in art, architecture, literature and music amongst other things, Roger had a rich fund of archaeological and other stories he was wont mildly to embroider. All of this made him an entertaining and informative companion. His good humour and readiness to share his wide knowledge will be much missed.

Member news

This edition's member news is from three Practitioner (PCIfA) members who actively participate in ClfA committees and here they explain why they decided to get involved with their Institute.

Cat Gibbs PCIfA (5307)

I've been part of Advisory Council since the launch of the Chartered Institute, first as Diggers' Forum (DF) rep, then as an elected member and more recently as Vice Chair. If I'm being truthful, I accidentally volunteered for the role at a DF AGM and had no idea what I was getting myself into; luckily for me it was the first meeting for everyone.

Advisory Council's role is to discuss what the Institute should be doing for its members. The topics at the first meeting I attended included ClfA's policy positions and advocacy priorities. My views and opinions were directly influencing the future work of ClfA. I often get asked 'What is ClfA doing for me?' and as a Council member I (we) have a say in that.

For the past few years we have been discussing, amongst other things, individual Chartership. For my part, both as a representative of the DF and personally as a digger, I wanted to make sure that this was something achievable for all of us.

I think there is a perception that anyone who isn't MClfA doesn't have a say in ClfA's work, but as a PCIfA member I can honestly say this is not the case. I am fortunate that my employer allows me the time to attend meetings, and other Registered Organisations should do this too. The issues that matter to me and the DF membership can be raised and discussed, and our views heard on all topics.



Cat Gibbs © Cat Gibbs

Otis Roger Gilbert BA MA PCIfA (8005)

As a professional association we rely on volunteers from our membership to help make decisions, organise events and shape the future of the profession. ClfA committees are open to all accredited professionals (PCIfA, ACIfA and MClfA), and it is vital that members are represented and involved. I am a field technician at Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, and I decided that ClfA could do with more representation from PCIfAs on committees to balance out the senior voices.

As a member of the Registration committee I have had the opportunity to understand the process our Registered Organisations go through and to provide a voice from an early career professional's perspective. This helps to remind other members about the valid views of the PCIfAs keeping projects going in the field.

I am also a committee member of New Generation Group, which represents the interests of early career professionals. Area and Special Interest Groups welcome new committee members at their annual general meetings, revitalising our professional community.

Samantha Boyle BA MSc PCIfA (7140)

I studied at Queen's University Belfast and worked in field archaeology before joining Bristol Culture. I am currently based at Bristol Archives having previously worked with the archaeology curators as a CBA Community Archaeology Trainee. I joined ClfA in 2012 to increase my knowledge of the wider profession, and to have access to the CPD opportunities and other benefits of being an accredited professional. In 2014, I joined the Diggers' Forum committee, became Treasurer and took the lead in organising their conference session at Leicester in 2016.

Opportunities to work with the University of Siena and Achill Archaeological Field School highlighted the importance of CPD, which has since become a passion – not only managing my own but helping and encouraging others as well. I joined the Validation committee in 2015 to make a tangible contribution to the profession. It also helps me to gain a better



Samantha Boyle © Samantha Boyle

understanding of the requirements of the accreditation processes and allows me to learn from more experienced members of the committee. Reading reports and articles about archaeological work taking place across the country is an added bonus.



Otis Roger Gilbert © Otis Roger Gilbert

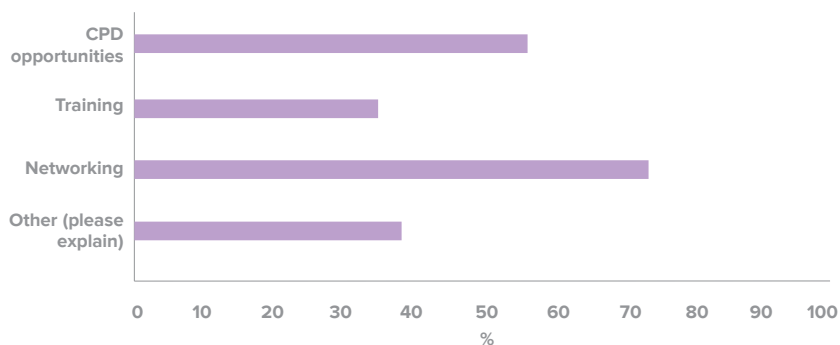
PARTICIPATION IN COMMITTEES AND GROUPS: REVIEW OF SURVEY RESPONSES

At the beginning of 2019, on behalf of Advisory Council, Kayt Hawkins issued a survey to members asking for feedback on individual experiences of being involved in ClfA committees and Groups. The survey also asked members to identify any barriers to getting involved. The result of the survey was presented to Advisory Council in February, and the meeting discussed what actions could be taken to encourage and assist more members to get involved with ClfA in future.

The highlights from the survey included

- 561 people responded to the survey, about 15 per cent of the membership
- there was positive feedback from personal experiences on committees. These included gaining a greater understanding of the sector, ability to influence change, improving standards/best practice, learning from and sharing experience and knowledge
- in addition to individual benefits, there was a strong sense of being able to contribute to the profession and to give something back
- individuals want to participate in ClfA committees but are not always supported by their employers to do so
- the top three barriers to getting involved were other commitments, loss of work time and travel costs
- there was some uncertainty around what the committees do, their relationship to ClfA, their effectiveness, and their composition
- there were calls for increasing/encouraging more participation from Affiliate and Practitioner grades
- one group of members the survey did not adequately cover was self-employed individuals and more consideration needs to be given to these circumstances

Q4: What do you consider the main advantages of participating?



Overall it is very clear that we need more communication and promotion of the benefits – to individuals, the profession and to ClfA – of being involved in committees. In addition, we need to consider the location of events and meetings to ensure that these are accessible to members throughout the UK. Advisory Council suggested various alternatives to traditional in-person meetings, such as using conference calling or online meetings for Group committees.

The survey results have been reported to Registered Organisations via their Responsible Post Holder meetings, commending them on the support they already offer staff, but also asking them to consider what more they can do to encourage staff to participate. ClfA staff have also discussed the feedback from Advisory Council and have several initial ideas to take forward.

If you'd like to know more about getting involved in ClfA committees and Groups, please contact admin@archaeologists.net



Advisory Council discussing the feedback from the committee participation survey.
Credit: Matt Parker Wooding

New members

Member (MCIfA)

10471 Kate Lamballe Armstrong
 10389 Jonathan Barkley
 10480 Craig Cessford
 10479 David Cowley
 10015 Chloe Duckworth
 10482 Adrian Hadley
 10400 Chrys Harris
 10476 Nigel Jeffries
 10477 Aisling Nash
 10526 Suzi Richer
 10360 John Thomas

Associate (ACIfA)

10481 Simon Brown
 10484 Abigail Brown
 10478 Jim Burke
 8829 Nick Crabb
 10358 Alex Davies
 10391 Richard Durkin
 10533 Delun Gibby
 10499 Gregory Griffin
 10495 Samuel Griffith
 10413 Thomas Hodgson
 10362 Arthur Hollinrake
 10556 Tomasz Moskal
 10390 Stephanie Said
 10472 Jason White

Practitioner (PCIfA)

8270 Victoria Anderton-Johnson
 10464 Sophie Bell
 10490 Konstantinos Bompotis
 10381 Sadie Brown
 6503 Matthew Charlton
 10462 Stephen Clarkson
 10496 Chris Coffey
 10560 Ileina Colaizzi
 9877 Corso Dominici
 10424 Thomas Dooley
 10425 Jenni Eaton
 10359 Cecilia Galleano
 10363 Emma Grange
 10357 Rocio Jimenez Diaz
 10423 Samara King
 10522 Bruno Lagarde
 10561 Raquel Margalef
 10385 Michael Nicholson
 9156 Irina Oliveira
 10394 Lucy Osborne
 10489 Ryan Paterson
 10528 Jasmine Porter
 10534 Arkadiusz Pruchniak
 9863 Bernadetta Rzadek
 10416 Ian Salisbury
 10383 Nicole Schoute
 10422 Roger Smith
 10393 George Stewart-Phillips
 10415 Paul Thompson
 10361 Isobelle Ward
 10562 Thomas Watson

Affiliate

6282 Jo Ahmet
 10487 Ashley Almeida
 10469 Matthew Atkinson
 9588 Monika Baczek
 10382 Nicholas Botschin
 6319 Steven Cameron-Smith
 10444 Adelaide Caprara
 10494 Panagiotis Delavinas
 10441 Francis Frassine
 10520 Janine Fries-Knoblach
 10457 Anthony Griffin
 10397 Ian Hammond
 10465 Tom Hayes
 10402 Hendrik Hofmann
 10445 Imogen Hubner
 10512 Charlotte Jordan
 10375 Megan MacLean
 10412 Clarissa Marley
 10507 Alex Marsden
 10498 Luis Manuel Martin-Villasanta
 10411 Katherine McClelland
 10378 Alistair McKeever
 10428 Raveena Meempat
 10452 Petra Meijerink
 10398 Gary Mills
 10395 Ariela Moreno Barbosa
 10379 Vanessa Oppermann
 9802 Klara Peichl
 9640 Daniel Scott
 10365 Letisha Service
 5002 Hannah Smalley
 10566 Jack Smith
 10431 Chloe Surrige
 10377 Eloise Turner
 10406 Vicky Vizard
 10553 Fiona Isobel Watson
 10373 Katie Fern Wylie

Student

10376 Hoden Ahmed
 10459 Gisem Alporslan
 10502 Leila Araar
 10555 Rebecca Avery
 10446 Lucy Bagshaw
 10430 Christopher Baker
 10518 Nina Baker
 10485 Sarah Batchelor
 10454 David Bennett-Jones
 8607 Nathaniel Bidgood-Shelley
 10552 Alejandra Borg
 10521 Robert Carchrie
 10513 Jiayi Chen
 10364 Jen Clarke
 10409 Megan Clements
 10506 Jon Cogdale
 2734 Isabel Cook
 10440 Christopher Corden
 10403 Christian Dalton
 10372 George Davies
 10451 Emily Dee
 10453 Paul Devine
 10458 Aureore Di liberto
 10396 Robert Don
 10404 Maria Durkin
 10501 David Eastham
 10548 Matthew Fleming
 10426 Joellen Fowler
 10427 Amanda Gilmore
 10503 Drury Graham
 10356 Roxanne Guildford
 10549 Andy Hazzard
 10443 Michele Holubek
 10460 Cheryl Hook
 10568 Suzanne Hyde
 10551 Jacob Stonewall Jackson
 10370 Samuel Jenkins
 8234 Iunn Jenn Ong
 10517 Istvan Keszei
 10447 Robert Larsen
 10504 Yin Pak Andrew Lau



10374 Jonathan Lester	10442 Elvina Norvaisaite	10439 Alaina Schmisser	10497 Simona Sulis
10505 Sarah Marshall	10567 Helen Ohlsson	10432 Elizabeth Severn	10515 Kexin Tan
10410 Sophie Martin	10529 Sigrid Osborne	10455 Tooba Siddiqui	10368 Daniel Tang
10508 Roland Maynard	10429 Rowan Patel	10366 Alex Slater	10510 Bangcheng Tang
10468 Adam McCann	10369 Stefanie Petrovic	10407 Claire Smith	10488 Kimberley Taylor
10456 Annette McKittrick	10448 Daisy Phipps	10530 Megan Smith	10467 Jonathan Wheeler
10500 Imogen Meade	10509 Jodie Pinnell	10531 Carolyn Smith	10380 Zoe Wiacek
10461 Luke Michno-Neville	10511 Samuel Randall	10486 Katarzyna Stasinska	10535 Ann Wilkinson
10516 Aneta Milczarska	10466 Marco Romeo Pitone	10569 Brittany Stone	10371 Nikki Zwitter

Upgraded members

Member (MCIfA)

7334 Matthew Adams
 5157 Martin Brook
 2024 David Bull
 5058 Katie Churchill
 4921 Johnny Crawford
 7816 Victoria Donnelly
 8900 Christopher Dore
 6508 Sebastian Fry
 7431 Catherine Maclver
 7088 Rafael Maya Torcelly
 5994 Paul Murtagh
 9424 Zbigniew Pozorski
 4954 Calli Rouse
 8151 Laurence Savage
 2047 Donald Wilson
 5299 Thomas Woolhouse

Associate (ACIfA)

8460 Briony Clifton
 6291 Christopher Chinnock
 8032 Joe France
 8756 Sarah Generalski-Sparling
 9029 Marta Perlinska
 7513 Nik Petek-Sargeant
 6541 Alexander Portch
 8445 Matthew Saywood

Practitioner (PCIfA)

5558 Graham Arkley
 9922 Neil Bayliss
 9630 Camila Carvalho
 10125 Emelie Fransson
 5272 Tamsin-Kate Howard
 10229 Tanja Peter
 10038 Kevin Williams

Addendum to TA member list

ACIfA Upgrade August 2018

7546 Robin Weaver