

A NEW FOCUS for your professional Institute

Nathan Baker, Chief Executive, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Archaeology is a vibrant, exciting and energising discipline which, for anyone who has an interest in history, place and community, provides a great opportunity to shape the future by learning from the past. Every day the stories archaeologists tell – through the discovery of artefacts, structures and settlements – inspire people to look at the world around them in a different way and to craft their own story of how their local community has evolved. Whether it be in the local news, on national television or international media, the influence of archaeology on society is seen and felt by millions of people. That reach and the positive impact it has is something the sector should be rightly proud of and one which, at ClfA, we will celebrate and build upon.

On getting involved with archaeology, a newcomer sees a sector that has many facets, all focused on protecting heritage for the good of society. This common purpose – of delivering societal value by promoting the ‘art and science’ of archaeology – is a strong one, and one that resonates with the other industries and sectors archaeologists of all types work with. As one of those newcomers I have been impressed with the passion people have. It is refreshing to see so many loving the career they have chosen. It is why the public are drawn to what you all do – you bring the past to life in exciting ways and make the lessons identified relevant to today.

As your professional home, ClfA will be reflecting on our contribution to the common purpose, supporting your passion and how it links to the objectives of the Institute’s Charter. I am keen that our focus as an Institute becomes one around learning; a place where those who have enthusiasm for archaeology come together, share their knowledge and expertise, help each other to continually improve, inspire the next generation to join the sector and encourage policy and decision makers to keep archaeology at



the heart of community development. By focusing on being relevant and delivering impact, we will place you, the members, at the heart of your Institute.

The opportunities for archaeology are vast. By exploiting technology and building on our skills to understand the sites we work on better, we connect our modern communities with the communities of the past and tell rich stories about human progress. Aligning our work to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

(UNSDG) will demonstrate clearly to all the value archaeology delivers.

As we look to the future, ClfA has a central role to play in championing the value the sector brings to society. We will seek, at every opportunity, to demonstrate that archaeology and archaeologists are highly relevant in the modern world and deliver positive impact for society. Through you, the membership, archaeology connects the past to the future. By telling inspiring stories of how our ancestors lived and thrived collectively, we are able to provide context to the way we live today and give insight into how we might effectively live tomorrow.

The Institute is here to help you fulfil your passion. We will refresh the membership offer to make it clear what value members get from being part of a professional community, distinct from those who are not part of the membership. We will take the opportunity to provide strong recognition for individuals, organisations and the sector as a whole. We will refresh whole-life learning, bringing together early-, mid- and late-career experience and learning into career and learning pathways to help members demonstrate the value



they bring through their work. Our learning will be flexible, yet structured to support the development of members' careers, and set within a simple, effective and authoritative standards framework. As a member-led, professional community, we will build on the strong relationship we have with other organisations within the sectors to ensure the voice of archaeology is heard by decision and policy makers and we will actively support

others to keep the profile of archaeology and the value it delivers high with the public.

We are clear that the Institute is a success because of the impact you all have through your work, every day. By supporting your learning, enabling impactful networks and mobilising relationships, our sector will be strong, resilient and sustainable into the future.

UN sustainable development goals – for guidance on use see Communications materials – United Nations Sustainable Development

Nathan Baker joins the sector having had a portfolio career, working across public, private, not-for-profit and commercial sectors. He is motivated by helping others to deliver value, both personally and for society. He has worked as a Council

member, staff and Board member in several professional bodies and brings a different perspective on the opportunities open to ClfA and its members. He also has an interest in vintage vehicles and plays Seniors County cricket.

