

Member news

John Richardson PCIfA (11982)

I wanted to be an archaeologist from a very early age. I started out at the age of ten with 'Magpies' – the Bristol City Museum's Young Archaeologists Club. From there I volunteered and later worked on sites run by the Museum and Bristol University.

I had a place at St David's, Lampeter University, to study archaeology, but ultimately was unable to take it up owing to personal injury and family circumstances. Needing to earn a living, archaeology took a back seat until a couple of years ago. I was volunteering at a Meneage Archaeological Group site in Cornwall and while there I was encouraged by James Gossip, Site Director and Senior Archaeologist for the Cornwall Archaeological Unit, to work towards my Practitioner accreditation. He also offered me a place on his team at Pydar Street, Truro, and my work for the Unit rolled on from there, allowing me to consolidate what I already knew, learn new skills and update my knowledge.

The PCIfA route was perfect for me as it is hands on, job oriented and allowed me to become professional far faster than a degree would have, especially as I would have to study part time. I have also begun studying for a degree with UHI.



John Richardson. Photo: contributor's own



Toby Kendall MCIfA (13464)

Toby Kendall.

Photo: contributor's own

I started out in fieldwork in 1999 after enjoying my science-based undergraduate and master's degrees at the University of Bradford. Over the next 20 years I did the typical stint of a bit of the circuit, and then worked my way up within a unit to a senior position. Although, like most of my colleagues, I completed a number of significant excavations, I was also responsible for setting up and running a field school, accredited adult education courses, community projects, and a full range of other things beyond standard fieldwork.

In 2020 there were significant changes with work and home/family circumstances, and of course the impacts of Covid. I was looking at taking a career break but was rapidly contacted by Tetra Tech to join their archaeology team – and they were lovely!

Working with Tetra Tech was the first time I was settled in an organisation which actively promoted training, CPD and appraisals. I was given the appropriate resources and support to apply for MCIfA, and it was clear that the application would be beneficial to me and not just my employers.