

Digital tea breaks: my experience as an early career archaeologist

Sabrina Ki, Student (10930)

As a recent MSc graduate and museum volunteer, when lockdown began I started really missing the regular conversations about archaeology and history that I'd taken for granted before. Cue emails floating into my inbox advertising a new initiative: digital, informal tea break chats about a series of topics open to all members of CIfA.

Being fairly junior in archaeology, I was initially a little nervous to drop into my first tea break, but the atmosphere was so jovial and welcoming with several new people (not just me!) that I soon relaxed. It helped that I saw a few familiar faces from a previous workshop on PCIfA accreditation, another really useful talk that made me feel a lot more comfortable with the application process.

What I really like about these tea breaks is getting to hear about archaeology and heritage all over the UK and projects in a wide range of archaeology sub-disciplines. In addition to that, I have really appreciated meeting archaeologists at all career stages, hearing how they got there, and I have never felt like I was being left out. I know I was a bit quiet in my first few tea breaks, preferring to listen more than talk but there were definitely opportunities for me to speak if I wanted to.

More than just welcoming, I felt like these tea breaks have been actively encouraging towards early career archaeologists (like me) by including highly relevant topics like entry routes into archaeology, advice for early career archaeologists and training and development opportunities. These have all been especially beneficial for me, from learning the essentials for entering commercial archaeology (such as a CSCS card), to how non-archaeological work or volunteer experience is still valuable in an application, to demystifying professional archaeology – for example, noting that academic vs commercial archaeology isn't an either/or situation.

There are plenty of other topics 'on tap' as well that aren't specifically targeting early career archaeologists but that are great for meeting others interested in the same field, and full of opportunities to learn. For example, the 'volunteering in archaeology, outside of excavation' talk signposted some useful resources that I wasn't aware of, such as guidance from Digital Skills for Heritage about working with young people online. Another advantage of these chats is that by virtue of having a group of archaeologists present, their advice can cover a whole range of

research/career interests – all you have to do is ask!

My favourite tea break so far was about archaeology in the media, something I'm highly interested in as I really enjoy outreach and community archaeology, especially after watching the inspiring panel 'Archaeology in the Time of Black Lives Matter'. Several topics were considered, such as problems with sensationalism and the struggles of balancing public access to excavations/research with ethical treatment of human remains. We also chatted about the issue of diversity in UK archaeology, how the popular image of 'the archaeologist' remains an older white man, and concerns about handling research topics in sensitive/politicised arenas. Surprisingly, my book blogging hobby turned out useful here as we discussed how sensitivity readers (often used to review book manuscripts) could be helpful in making archaeology more inclusive and self-aware. It was great to feel like I could make a tangible contribution to the discipline!

I'm glad I started attending these tea breaks regularly. Accessible and engaging, they're a great way to stay connected with archaeology during this surreal situation.

New members



Member (MCIfA)

6643 Martin Banikov	11098 Michelle Burpoe
5578 Ross Cameron	10779 Steven Bush
11011 Catherine Coutts	8229 David Cockcroft
11014 Lauren Hardiman	5658 Jenny Durrant
11085 Aidan Harte	11073 Daniel Firth
10979 Sophie Hueglin	11012 Lorna Goring
11074 Helen Saunders	9696 Samuel Griffiths
9678 Zoe Schofield	11076 Rosemary Lansley
11134 Philip Stastney	11190 Mateusz Polakowski
6294 Adam Thompson	11132 Jonathon Smith
	10919 Catherine Whitehouse

Practitioner (PCIfA)

11075 James Alexander	8689 Georgina Barrett
8353 Frances Bradbury	11194 Shannon Birds
	11099 Michael Blake

Associate (ACIfA)

11259 Andrea Bonci
11097 Rose Britton
11261 Bronwyn Chomitz
10938 Simon Davies
9448 Jonathan Dodd
11072 Philippa Foulds
10044 Ana Foz
10088 Kody Hedder
11136 Christof Heistermann
11137 Philip Hill
11144 Adrian Jacklin
11038 Paul Keeley
11275 Barnaby King
9538 Maria Kneafsey
11193 Megan Lowrie
11143 Callee Mellen
11274 Judyta Mlynarska
11195 Erik Moreno Perez

5205 Jeff Morris
11071 Tiberiu-Gabriel Nica
11084 Sacha O'Connor
11133 Anna Rojek
9314 Yago Terroba Souto
11256 Ioannis Thanos
11192 Steve Tomlinson
8848 Jessica Waterworth
11191 Natalie Wood

Affiliate

11062 Natalie Aldrich
10805 Dominic Allen
5573 David Applegate
11092 Adrian Blake
11179 Frederick Blakey-Lodge
11264 Joseph Brooks

11267	Cullen Cockburn	11226	Cassie Bradshaw	11060	Claire Hayes	11145	Lana Powell
11108	Alexander Crossley	11044	Anastasia Brenen	11111	Hayley Jayne Hayes	11036	Tealeah Prior
11017	Chris Crump	11059	Katie Bridger	11177	Rebecca Henry-Stumpe	11050	Charlotte Procter
11222	Zinnie Denby-Mann	11240	Hannah Britton	11123	Sophie Hobday	11225	Alison Reep
10035	Peter Drummond	11205	Daniel Broadbent	11163	Sophie Honey	11039	Haley Reinhard
11234	Sophia Feist	11189	Andrew Broadley	11167	Sasha Houghton	11042	Karna Reinmoeller
11231	Rosie Fletcher	11129	Holly Brown	11201	Alasdair Howard	11202	Sophia Roy
11207	John Foley	11176	Jack Brown	11214	Thomas James	11121	Kirtana Sampath
11235	Amber Furnage	11077	Jamie Buckley	11146	Erin Jamieson	11271	Megan Schlanker
11184	Alice Golton	11109	Martha Carruthers	11048	Eleanor Jessiman	11164	Katie Seal
11248	David Griffiths	11041	Adela Cebeiro Munin	11162	Mark Johnson	11047	Brianna Senior
11093	Patricia Jaeger	11105	Anne Chapman	11081	Robyn Jolley	11148	Faye Shearman
11233	Matthew Kelly	11156	Natasha Cobden	11113	Alex Jones	11265	Hadley Sibon
11230	Jeanine Lewis	11080	Talia Cohen	11052	Darrah Jones-Reddy	11250	Joseph Sleight
11018	Martina Locatelli	11057	Lara Cook	11116	Julla Jozefowicz	11051	Phoebe Smith
11095	Harry Minogue	11056	Julia Cope	11101	James Kelsey	11066	Hannah Smith
10932	John Mitchell	11217	Will Cowap	11224	Conor Kirlough	11142	Roger Smith
11254	Patrick O'Brien	11157	Hazel Crabb	11188	Annabel Kitson	11082	Chloe South
11251	Taria Partyka	11211	Matthew Crowder	11247	Paul Klostermann	11199	Gwendolynne Spence
11228	Joseph Pole	11114	Rowena Crowther	11232	Sam Knights	11237	Joshua Stanley
11110	Benjamin Prime	11140	Gavin Cuthbertson	11055	Klaudia Kvočkova	11130	John Strachan
11124	Guy Thomas	11168	Andrew Date	11112	Tom Latham	11151	Sheridan Strang
11086	Paul Thompson	11125	Shannon Davies	11209	Nathan Lawson	11090	Sakshi Surana
11016	Roland Tillyer	11131	Elizabeth Davies	11173	Will Lewis	11216	William Syson
10588	Emma Tornblad	11223	Beatrice del Rosario	11139	Matthew Leys	11079	Klaudia Szubart
11122	Kirstie Toth	11266	Lexi Diggins	11128	Esther Lodge	11165	James Tester
11147	Craig Willey	11175	Freddie Dixon	11083	Daniela Lorente	11064	Supeshala Thilakawardana
11152	Anna Zucchelli	11058	Katrina Dodds	11089	Isobel Main	11159	Eve Thom
		11270	Elizabeth Duru	11035	Courtney Mainprize	11150	Helen Thomas
		11181	Emily Eckford	11096	Tom Marshall	11172	Jack Tobias
		11160	Toby Edwards	11246	John McColgan	11208	Joshua Toulson
		11067	Phineas Sherman Elmore	11219	Emily McGonigle	11236	Ernelinda Trinder
		11180	Matthew English	11091	Laura Mitchell	11218	María Elena Tsigka
		11238	Frank Forrester	11213	Constance Mitchell	Giannakopoulou	
		11063	Catherine Foster	11065	Salsabeel Montague	11182	Daisy Turnbull
		11221	Ryan Frederick	11053	Bethan Morgan	10406	Vicky Vizard
		11087	Hannah Genders Boyd	11141	Chiara Morgan	11043	Christopher Wakefield
		11054	Imogen Geoghegan	11120	Hannah Mould-Healy	11117	Harrysson Waldman
		11115	Jessica Gibson	11045	Kieran Nash	11078	Hannah Whitebread
		11212	Jasmine Godmon	11149	Rosie Nye	11166	Jack Wilde
		11169	William Gough	11174	Adam Orton	11127	Andrew Williams
		11249	Soren Greasley	11119	Mitchell O'Toole	11203	Madison Witcomb
		11118	Juliette Grieve	11178	Lucy Overbury	11040	Eponine Wong
		11204	Tabitha Grist Parker	11262	Shana-Leigh Pearce	11161	Benjamin Wooster
		11170	Tabitha Gulliver Lawrence	11263	Charley Porter		
		11171	William Halliday	11183	Ryan Postlethwaite		

Student

11272	Madelaine Ager
10376	Hoden Ahmed
11196	Fawwaz Alajmi
11245	Lucy Alexander
11197	Gabriella Amos
11210	Adam Appleton
11049	Olivia Arkley
11046	Olivia Rose Atkinson
11104	Amy Baker
11106	Yogita Baviskar
11037	Kincso Bedo
11206	Maria Bellissimo
11158	Chantelle Bennett
11198	Caitlin Bowles
11153	Sophie Bradley

Upgraded members

Member (MCfA)

2017	Matt Beamish
7421	Matthew Berry
6229	Patrick Daniel
9422	Amy Farrington McCabe
6032	Lilly Hodges
5781	James McNicoll-Norbury
6329	Elizabeth Stewart

Associate (AcfA)

7517	Hannah Curnow
9766	Brett Howard
9268	Marjaana Kohtamäki
8705	Neal Mason
8519	Anna Moosbauer
5712	Alexander Vellet
8649	Joshua White
7929	Lauren Wilson

Practitioner (PCfA)

9938	Lee Baylis
10379	Vanessa Oppermann
10294	Emma Smith
10017	Hazel Whitefoot