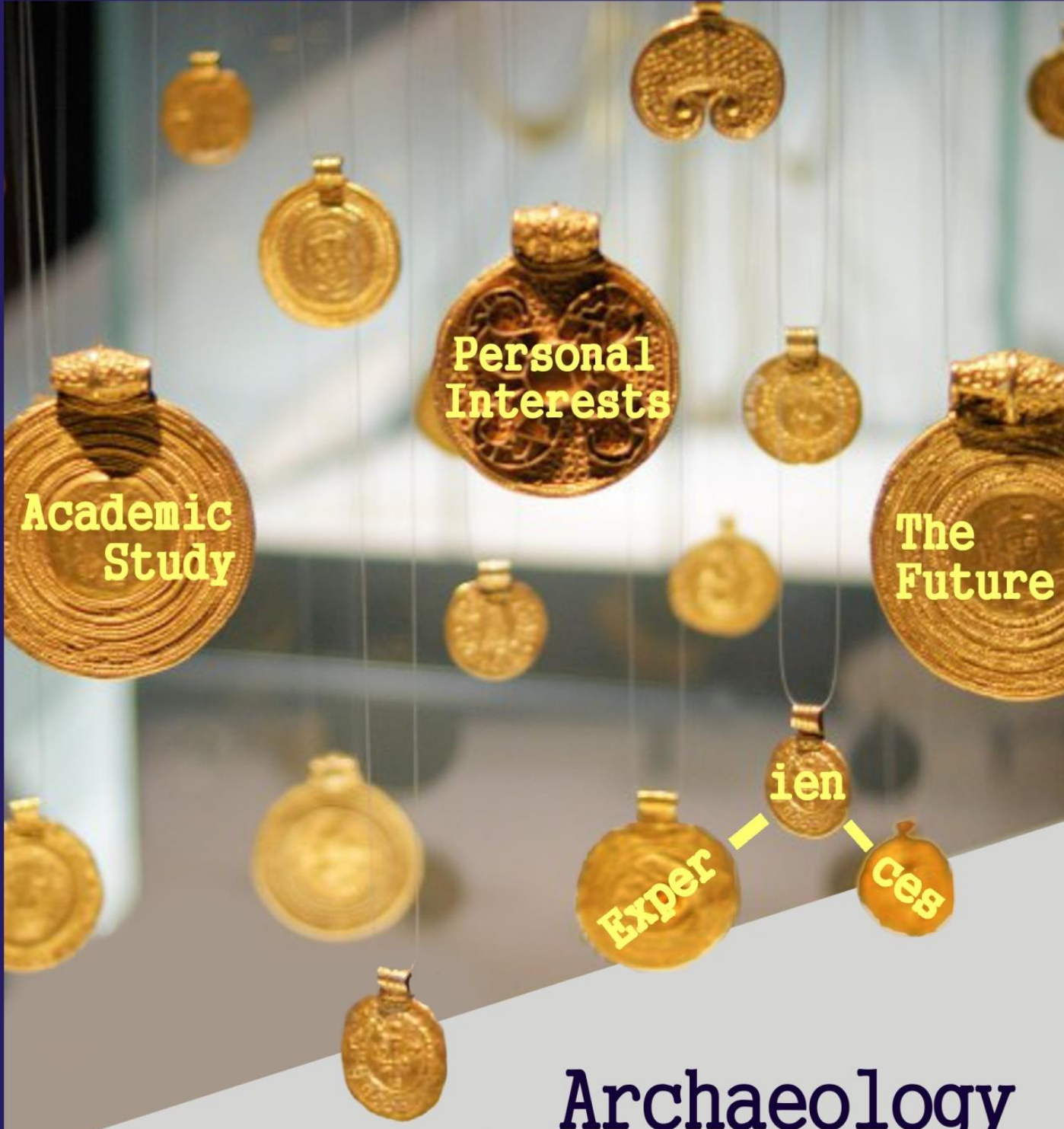




# The Post Hole

The student-run archaeology journal



Academic Study

Personal Interests

The Future

Exper ien ces

## Archaeology Graduate Perspectives

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*The Post Hole* is also grateful to Heritage Technology for professionally redeveloping its website in 2012, and continuing to provide technical support since then.



Finally, *The Post Hole* wishes to thank University of York student Kerrie Hoffman for her superb design of this front cover.

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# Contents of Issue 39

<i>Editorial: One year on...</i> , <b>Emily Taylor</b> .....	4
British Archaeological Awards, <b>Emily Taylor</b> .....	6
BA Archaeology at the University of York, <b>Taryn Bell</b> .....	9
Egyptology and Assyriology at the University of Cambridge, <b>Alex Loktionov</b> .....	11
Archaeology at the University of Reading, <b>Katie Townsend</b> .....	13
BA Historical Archaeology at the University of York, <b>Faye Morrissey</b> .....	15
Archaeology, <i>The Post Hole</i> and participation, <b>Lucy Wheeler</b> .....	17
BA Ancient History and Egyptology at University College London, <b>James Perkins</b> .....	19
Archaeology, Shipwrecks and Commercial Salvage, <b>Charlotte Argue</b> .....	21
Discovering Art in Archaeology at the University of York, <b>Kerrie Hoffman</b> .....	22
<i>Submissions information</i> .....	25

## Editorial: One year on...

As I sit to construct this final editorial, I find myself looking back on the past 12 months as Editor-in-Chief of *The Post Hole*. As Henry Ward Beecher states, 'We should not judge people by the peak of their excellence, but by the distance they have travelled from the point where they started.' Although this statement is debatable, I believe it relates to *The Post Hole*. It is a tremendous achievement to have been shortlisted for the British Archaeological Awards, *The Post Hole's* journey is still ongoing and we expect to see great things from future teams. To commend this achievement, issue 39 opens with an account of the British Archaeological Awards 2014. The awards were held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July and a detailed account of the ceremony and individual awards is documented within this issue.

If we think about the journey, not only taken by *The Post Hole* but the associated team over the past academic year, the journal has provided new and exciting issues alongside an exclusive image competition and the successful 'Digging through the Profession' interview series. The image competition attracted 46 entries in total, and the winner chosen featured on the front of February Issue 35. The interview series, constructed by Managing Editor Rianca Vogels, created a unique and diverse element alongside the journal. The interviews provide an exclusive insight into professions associated with archaeology and helpful hints for those wishing to pursue a hobby or career within this sector (please visit <http://www.theposthole.org/read/interviews>). The team are gratefully appreciative to everyone who contributed; if you are still interested in participating over the summer please do still email [editor@theposthole.org](mailto:editor@theposthole.org).

I planned, in September, to focus on publicity. The previous year saw the redevelopment of *The Post Hole's* website and we were in a position to expand appreciation and understanding of the journal further across the globe. This year, we had five successful PR coordinators at other universities; Cambridge, Durham, Reading, Southampton and UCL. We expanded our Facebook numbers (759) and Twitter to over 1, 218 followers. Our largest readership is still sourced from within the UK, however we have growing readership in the USA, Australia and Canada. Appreciation for *The Post Hole* is vital; we rely on your submissions to produce issues and your collaboration within interviews, polls and upon our social media pages. Over the summer please continue to send your submissions to [submissions@theposthole.org](mailto:submissions@theposthole.org) or email [editor@theposthole.org](mailto:editor@theposthole.org).

Finally this year saw the redevelopment of *The Post Hole's* promotional material and issue front cover. A big mention must go to Kerrie Hoffman, the Creative Designs Editor for all her hard work and

her Creative Design Assistant Phoebe Haigh. (The promotional material can be viewed at <http://www.theposthole.org/flyers>). Whilst on the topic of acknowledgements, two people must be mentioned. Pat Gibbs of Heritage Technology, our York-based I.T. consultant and web designer, has and always will be an irreplaceable addition to the team, and the Head of Department Dr John Schofield, for his continuing support.

Within David Altoft's final editorial in September 2013, he discussed the passing of responsibility between the current and future Editor-in-Chief. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Editor-in-Chief and it gives me great pleasure to introduce Ellie Green, my successor for 2014 – 2015. Ellie, a BSc Bioarchaeologist progressing into her third and final year at York University, previously worked as our Social Media Editor. Through this academic year Ellie has proven to be a great asset to not only the team but *The Post Hole* and therefore, with the full support of the current and future team, it is fantastic to be able to formally introduce your new Editor-in-Chief. Ellie plans to make some exciting improvements to the website, advancing the journal further. I have every confidence that *The Post Hole* will grow from strength to strength. Don't forget to keep updated via **Facebook** and **Twitter** for more information.

Following on from June Issue 38, the current team collectively decided to change the format and publish a selection of short articles from some of the team, creating a special touch to this issue. Still focussing upon archaeology, the team reflect upon their academic studies alongside personal interests and experiences. The issue works perfectly at drawing to a close an enjoyable year for the team and myself. We thank you for your continuing support and submissions, and we wish the succeeding team all the best for the coming year. I would like to thank my team for their support and commitment during my time as Editor-in-Chief.

Best wishes and I hope you all have a lovely summer,

Emily Taylor

(Editor-in-Chief of *The Post Hole* - [editor@theposthole.org](mailto:editor@theposthole.org))

# British Archaeological Awards 2014

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On the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014, the bi-annual British Archaeological Awards UK was held at the British Museum. The event began at 2.30pm with a large number of different archaeological representatives present. The BA Awards were founded in 1977, with the aim of raising public awareness of archaeology and the influence it has upon our understanding of the past, whilst celebrating the creativity in archaeological practice. The awards are sponsored by various different archaeological institutes, for example English Heritage, the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), The Robert Kiln Charitable Trust and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) to name a few.

It would be worth firstly explaining how we came to attend this awards ceremony. During his final months as Editor-in-Chief (2012 - 2013), David Altoft approached me with the idea of applying. Although previously met with some hesitation, 'was *The Post Hole* suitable for these awards,' we decided to apply and in November, *The Post Hole's* Managing Editor Rianca Vogels, David and I put together an application form for the 'Best Public Presentation of Archaeology 2014'. It was an exceptionally nervous wait till the nominations closed in February and the shortlist of entries were announced on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June on the British Archaeological Award website. Once the shortlist was released, the team published the news excitedly all over our social media pages alongside the creation of a special **Facebook** and **Twitter** banner to commemorate this fantastic news.



**Figure 1.** *The British Archaeology Awards drinks reception at the British Museum (Image Copyright: D. Altoft).*

Upon receipt of the invitations, the anticipation and excitement of the team grew further. It must be remembered; *The Post Hole* was formed in 2008 and has only been ongoing for a relatively short few years compared to other publications and societies. However despite all this, we were shortlisted and invited to travel to London alongside our competitors; 'New Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors', Lion Television and MediaLab for Channel 4 and 'Wemyss Caves 4D', Save the Wemyss Ancient Caves Society, The SCAPE Trust and The Yorkshire Archaeological Trust.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July, representatives from *The Post Hole*; David Altoft (Editor-in-Chief 2012 - 2013), Rianca Vogels (Managing Editor 2013-2014), Katie Marsden (Editor-in-Chief, 2008 - 2009) and myself headed to the British Museum to hear the outcome. The ceremony began with an introduction from the Chair of the BA Awards, Deborah Williams, followed by the compère for the ceremony, the charismatic Lloyd Grossman. The presentation of awards was conducted over a two hour period with each award introduced by Loyd Grossman and a short video reflecting the achievement of each project shortlisted. The winners were presented with awards and all shortlisted received certificates. Dan Snow, the TV presenter and President of the Council of British Archaeology, was also present and handed out a discretionary award to celebrated archaeologist, Beatrice de Cardi, who aside from recently celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday was the first secretary for the Council of British Archaeology and worked under Sir Mortimer Wheeler and his wife Tessa in the 1930s. In 2014 Beatrice was awarded the Gold Medal of the Society of Antiquaries for distinguished services to archaeology. I think we would all agree, she is an inspirational woman to all. The results were as follows:

- Best Archaeological Book Award – 'Interpreting the English Village, landscape and community at Shapwick, Somerset'. Mick Aston and Chris Gerrard.
- Best Community Engagement Archaeology Project – 'Scotland's Coastal Heritage at Risk Project (SCHARP)'. The SCAPE Trust.
- Best Archaeological Innovation – 'ShoreUPDATE: Sites at Risk Map web portal and app'. The SCAPE Trust.
- Best Public Presentation of Archaeology – 'New Secrets of the Terracotta Warriors'. Lion Television and MediaLab for Channel 4.
- Best Archaeological Project – 'Bloomberg London'. Museum of London Archaeology.
- Outstanding Achievement Award – Beatrice De Carbi.

The awards were judged by a panel of experts and the ceremony marks the beginning of the CBA Festival of Archaeology, which is responsible for over 1000 events across UK from the 12 - 27 July. For more information on the ceremony, or to view photographs from the day, please visit <http://www.archaeologicalawards.com/2014/07/15/british-archaeological-awards-2014-winners-announced/>.





**Figure 2.** Representatives from *The Post Hole* and the Head of the Department of Archaeology at The University of York Dr John Schofield collecting their BAA 2014 certificate (L - R: Rianca Vogels, Emily Taylor, Katie Marsden and David Altoft) (Image Copyright: British Archaeological Awards 2014).

To conclude, the event was a marvellous success and *The Post Hole* would like to congratulate all those shortlisted and the winners of each category. Congratulations to Channel 4 and Lion Television, it was an honour to be considered alongside yourselves and the Saves the Wemyss Ancient Caves Society. As we mentioned on our social media pages, we were delighted to be the first student project to have been shortlisted and we hope this inspires our readers in the future. We thank you for your continued support and constant submissions that have resulted in *The Post Hole* being such a success.

*A copy of the British Archaeological Awards 2014 certificate will be made available online for viewing and within Kings Manor, York. The certificates were presented to 'The Post Hole', this covers all past and present members of the team commending them for their hard work.*

# Taryn Bell: BA Archaeology at the University of York

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The last three years have passed by so quickly, and I cannot believe I am writing a piece reflecting on my university experience. I can honestly say without a doubt, that these three years have been the best three years of my life so far. I have made lifelong friends and gained so much more than just a degree.

I came into university as a BA Historical Archaeology student, and will leave as a BA Archaeology graduate with plans to study for an MSc in Early Prehistory – talk about a change in interests! I have been extremely lucky, luckier than most, in that I have loved every minute of my degree. Yes, it has been stressful at times, but it has all been worth it. I have learnt so much from some really excellent lecturers and have gained not just knowledge about archaeology, but an increased passion for the study of the past.

As for the nitty-gritty of the degree itself, I have happened to choose very varied modules, so have learnt about heritage, mummification, historical archaeology, Neanderthals, ancient DNA and more. While some might disapprove of this 'jack of all trades' approach to studying, I feel that it has given me a good basic understanding of a wide range of archaeological areas. Furthermore, studying such a variety of topics has made me more assured of what I want to do after my undergraduate degree is finished.

The most stressful part of my degree – my dissertation – has also taught me a lot too. My dissertation was on the subject of Egyptian heritage, and created object biographies which studied the meanings given to three very important Ancient Egyptian artefacts: the Rosetta Stone, the Nefertiti Bust and the funerary mask of Tutankhamun. It then looked at the heritage themes linking all three artefacts. More than anything, my dissertation really taught me about the fascinating ways in which we can analyse artefacts to tell us more about the people of the past, as well as the different meanings that come to be given to artefacts over time and the lives they 'live'.

I have also taken on a few extra-curricular activities over the past three years – I was a social rep for the Archaeology Society, I have worked in a couple of schools, taken a job in my holidays, volunteered at a local museum and, obviously, worked for *The Post Hole*! York is such an amazing city with a variety of opportunities, and I am glad to say I have taken advantage of many of them! I will be genuinely sad to leave the city.

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Now that I have finished my BA (well, almost – at the time of writing this I have one more piece of work to finish!), I plan on taking a year out of university to earn money for my Masters degree. In this time, I hope to gain more volunteering experience, get a job as a teaching assistant and keep learning about archaeology! I absolutely love archaeology so, as I have already said, I am applying to study for an MSc in Early Prehistory to further my love of the subject of prehistory and in particular, Neanderthals.

To anyone reading this who is considering an archaeology degree – do it! It is so much fun and archaeology really gives students the transferable skills that teachers, lecturers and employers are always going on about. I have had an amazing three years and I cannot wait to see what lies ahead.

Obviously, that does not mean I will not miss being Submissions Editor for *The Post Hole*, but I know we are leaving it in very capable hands. Good luck to next year's team!

# Alex Loktionov: Egyptology and Assyriology at the University of Cambridge

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This year, my principal area of research has been my undergraduate dissertation, which looks at transfer of literary motifs from Late Period Egypt to the royal court of the Neo-Assyrian Empire in the early 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE. In particular, I am interested in how Egyptian textual images of the Underworld were modified and developed for an Assyrian audience, and who was responsible for this. Subsidiary questions include the movement of Egyptians themselves into the Assyrian heartland, and the accompanying exodus of certain aspects of Egyptian material culture associated with this. I believe that this would have had a significant impact on the everyday living environment of elite Assyrians, which was then reflected in the textual record and the creative word. This research project has required considerable linguistic preparation, drawing on sources written in Egyptian, Akkadian, Sumerian, and occasionally Latin and Greek.

Beyond my dissertation research, I am also co-directing a Cambridge University project entitled *Materialities of Extispicy: De-livering Fortunes*. This aims to reconstruct ancient Assyrian methods of divination based on the observation of freshly-removed sheep livers. There are two parts to the project: one involves analysis of the relevant cuneiform texts which describe the process and give an indication of what sort of omens were looked for, and the other involves a week-long period of fieldwork with a community of shepherds in rural Armenia. These people slaughter sheep on a daily basis as part of their livelihood, and the sheep are morphologically very similar to those used in ancient times. The project uses the livers from the dead sheep for research purposes, and pays the shepherds a fair price per sheep. I am very proud of this study, as no animals are killed apart from those being slaughtered for food, and we are also injecting much-needed funds into a rural Armenian community. This should help them develop more sustainable farming methods in the longer term.

Next year, I intend to stay on in Cambridge, in the rebranded Division of Archaeology within the Faculty of Human, Social and Political Sciences. While I inevitably retain my reservations about the recent decision to downgrade Archaeology from Department to Division status here in Cambridge, I also believe that the University has a lot to offer and I am very grateful to them for offering me an academically comprehensive and well-funded MPhil package for next year. Once again, my focus is going to be on Egypt in the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BCE and its wider relations with foreign powers, and I am very much looking forward to studying the later phases of the Egyptian language: Demotic, Ptolemaic

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and Coptic. If I succeed in meeting my research objectives next year, I should find myself in a strong position to begin a PhD in this area, and that is my aim.

Beyond pure academia, I have served a third and final term as President of the *Cambridge University Ancient Literature Society*, and I now look forward to the tenure of my successor. I have very much enjoyed the experience and have learned a great deal in the process, but it will also be nice to have a little more time to concentrate on other projects in the future. Likewise, I have remained actively involved with the National Committee of the *Annual Student Archaeology conference* and I have stayed on as an Outreach Co-ordinator for *The Post Hole*. The exact nature of my future involvement with both organisations coming into next year is yet to be finalised, but I very much hope that I shall still be able to make useful contributions.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to all the wonderful people I have had the chance to work with over the past year: that includes all my lecturers, supervisors and advisers at Cambridge, who have put in so many hours to help me with my dissertation, examined papers and other research. My thanks are also due to the Committees of the *Ancient Literature Society* and the *Annual Student Archaeology Conference*, which are both filled with exceptionally talented, committed and friendly people. Finally, I must thank all the staff of *The Post Hole* with whom I have had the pleasure of working over the past two years: it is a very special journal, and I am proud to have been a part of it.

# Katie Townsend: Archaeology at the University of Reading

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As a final year undergraduate student in Archaeology at the University of Reading, I have not long completed my dissertation on the prevalence rates of non-specific infections and specific infectious diseases in the later medieval adult population of St Oswald's Priory in Gloucester. The prevalence rates gathered from the analysis of the skeletal remains was contextualised, developing an understanding of the socio-economic changes and environmental factors which would have influenced the spread of diseases. Although my main focus was upon human osteology and palaeopathology, whilst researching the identification of joint disease and markers of stress, my interests have spread into the field of micromorphological and geoarchaeological analysis. Micromorphology is by no means a new field of research, but its application to burials and their grave fills is comparatively rare, if not unique, thus providing me with a brand new viewpoint to carry out my research. It has helped to supplement past studies on southern Mesopotamian burial practices and the contemporary environmental conditions and landscape. This was done using the grave cut and fill of an individual buried in a house at the site of Abu Salabikh, Iraq. Isotope analysis has also been another feature of my past research, particularly with the dietary and subsistence changes surrounding the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in Europe, as controversy has been arising as to just how uniform, wholesome and quick domestic animals and agriculture were adopted.

Away from the more scientific side of archaeology, interests of mine are largely formed around prehistory, with particular emphasis on the Middle Palaeolithic and the history of Neanderthals, as well as the origin of *Homo sapiens*. I also have a lot of interest in the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age of Britain and North-West Europe, having carried out a research project in college leading to the discovery of a previously unknown long barrow in Gloucestershire, which first fuelled my passion for the period. Moreover, I have had the chance to learn the techniques of artefact illustration which is something I thoroughly enjoyed and was given the opportunity to teach A Level students at Cirencester College on how to do this, and aid them in their independent research projects.

I hope to gain more experience over the next year or so out in the field with excavations and post-excavation processes, as well as volunteering this summer to help Professor Darvill with his current Wiggold project studying Neolithic landscapes in Gloucestershire. My next goal will be to achieve an MSc in Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology in order to expand my knowledge and skills in both

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an archaeological and modern forensic context, before considering a PhD or a career specialising in either sector.

# Faye Morrissey: BA Historical Archaeology at the University of York

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University has definitely been an amazing experience. The city, the course, the people – everything has been what I expected and more. Having applied to study a joint honours degree in History and Archaeology at every other university apart from York, I now cannot imagine having done anything other than my Historical Archaeology BA. The modules and topics have been intellectually stimulating, providing me with invaluable new skills that I do not think I would have had the opportunity to gain at other universities.

When I first arrived at York, I had already been on an open day so had got to know the basic layout and feel for the place, but it still did not prevent me from having some nerves and anxiety about meeting new people and living in an entirely different area. However, I soon realised that everyone was in the same boat, and I should make the most of it. One of the best aspects to the archaeology courses is that you all do exactly the same modules in the first year. This means you get to interact with the whole student year, and with this only being around 100 students or so, it becomes a very friendly, tight-knit group. I have especially enjoyed working with new people on presentations, reports and excavations because you develop communication skills as well as making friends.

All three years at York have been amazing, and I cannot quite believe it is all coming to an end. I know though, that the friends I have made in Archaeology will be friends for life. Third year does come with more pressure, but I have found that if you plan and prepare well, there is nothing holding you back from still partaking in the social side of university. Completing a dissertation seemed like quite an unnerving task to begin with, but actually, I found I had been so well prepared during my second year, that it was not as hard as originally perceived. My investigations looked into Carolingian metalwork distribution in England, and what modes of exchange could have brought it here. I chose this topic because I wanted to bring my passion for artefact analysis and the early medieval period together. It is also a very current line of interest, looking at the continental contact England had in the 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> centuries, other than that with Scandinavia.

Coming to the end of my undergraduate degree, it was time to start deciding what I wanted to do next. As much as I might miss academic life, I have found that I now want to pursue my career outside of this. I may return to university in the future, but at the moment, I am more than ready to face the world of work. Through my volunteering positions, within museums, the National Trust,



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Portable Antiquities, and of course *The Post Hole* work, I feel my skill set has been broadened, therefore can be used within a heritage sector post. Excitingly, I have recently been offered a position to work as a heritage assistant to help co-ordinate a year long project. I am very much looking forward to starting this new stage in my life (which will be sometime after graduation), and getting stuck into a new challenge.

Archaeology, and university as a whole, has taught me so much. The skills I have gained are invaluable, and I am so pleased that I have spent my three undergraduate years in York. If I have any piece of advice for other students, it is to do what you enjoy! Regardless of whether you are going into employment or further education, as long as you are doing what you want and love, I think there is not much more you could ask for.

# Lucy Wheeler: Archaeology, *The Post Hole* and participation

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The last three years of my degree have been so much more than learning archaeological practice for me. We all know the reference Hume made to historical archaeology simply being a 'handmaiden' to history (Hume 1964) but I believe the skills and theory grounded in all periods of archaeology are seriously underestimated, especially in an undergraduate degree. Although I don't intend to continue studying practical archaeology I have been in the fortunate position over the last three years of being able to expand my research into heritage studies, specifically museology. I hope to continue this study through a Masters degree.

My undergraduate studies, especially my dissertation, have been led by a strong belief that participation for all is essential for both archaeology and heritage generally. My dissertation focused on the participation of volunteers within a small, independent, local history museum in Castle Donington, Leicestershire. I hoped to identify a working plan for these volunteers, as well as identifying the role that local history museums are able to play within communities. In order to develop a management plan which was realistic and 'usable', an approach known as participatory action research was applied. This aims to use 'collaborative research, education and action...to gather information to use for change on social...issues. It involves people who are concerned about or affected by an issue taking a leading role in producing and using knowledge about it' (Pain et al. 2012). By exploring the social role of museums both within the community and participation within heritage, I hope that my dissertation has connected all of the beliefs and thoughts I have developed over the last three years. Although I had no experience within field archaeology before my degree, working at *The Post Hole* has not only allowed me to expand my archaeological thoughts and knowledge beyond the curriculum at university but also tied this perfectly to my views on participation within the subject area. I am passionate about the role that *The Post Hole* plays in allowing all levels of education to participate within archaeological academia and publication, and hope that this continues for many years to come. Through this, *The Post Hole* does not only play a part in allowing the participation of those who would often not be able to publish their work whilst presenting undergraduate archaeology as a hugely varied subject, capable of establishing a wide variety of skills and knowledge.

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<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/beacon/PARtoolkit.pdf> (Accessed 11th June 2014).

# James Perkins: BA Ancient History and Egyptology at University College London

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I have just completed a BA in Ancient History and Egyptology from University College London. As part of the course, I wrote an undergraduate dissertation of 10,000 words analysing the role of the "First Triumvirate" of Caesar, Pompey and Crassus in Late Roman Republican politics (60-52BC). I studied Aegean and Mesopotamian archaeology in the autumn term, but for the spring term, my studies have focused more upon ancient history. In conjunction with my dissertation, I have studied the "Fall of the Roman Republic", examining Roman political life and society from the Gracchi brothers in the late 2nd century BC to the end of the Republic to examine the legacy of Julius Caesar into the end of the 1st century BC. This involved traditional historical documents such as the works of Cicero, Plutarch, Appian and Caesar himself, amongst others, but there was also an archaeological aspect, particularly when investigating Roman demography and land use on the Italian mainland.

My studies of the Roman Republic were supplemented by a survey course of the Seleucid Empire. This was interesting and rather enlightening to a period of Near Eastern history that I was peripherally aware of but had never examined in any depth. Even those who have little or no interest in history and archaeology will have heard of Alexander the Great, but far fewer have heard of, or studied, the successor kingdoms to his empire. This course complemented the historical and archaeological studies I had undertaken as part of my degree, covering the history of the Near East from 3300BC-612BC. The evidence for the Seleucids is somewhat sparse compared to other contemporary states, but the studies included perhaps a wider variety of sources: Babylonian texts such as astronomical diaries and chronicles, epigraphical evidence from Asia Minor as well as work from Diodorus and Appian. The course also included an archaeological angle, particularly settlement archaeology for some of the main Seleucid cities such as Seleucia-on-the-Tigris, Antioch-on-the-Orontes, as well as pre-existing cities of Babylon and Susa and finally fortifications and settlements on the borders of the empire, particularly in Asia Minor.

Since completing the BA Ancient History and Egyptology, I have decided to take a break from university studies. However, in the future I am intending to do a Masters course in Ancient History, possibly with a focus on Ancient Rome with Archaeology modules to supplement. Currently I am looking at a variety of opportunities to further my interests in history and archaeology as well as in sports and current affairs, hopefully leading to a career in journalism, media or PR work.

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I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the fellow staff on *The Post Hole* for all their hard work, especially during what is for many, a crucial time in the final year of their undergraduate degree and for selecting a piece of my work to be published in the journal. I wish the new team the best of luck and congratulations upon the nomination for the British Archaeological Awards for Best Public Presentation of Archaeology; it is a fantastic achievement for a student-run journal to make the final three on the shortlist!

# Charlotte Argue: Archaeology, Shipwrecks and Commercial Salvage

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As my degree is coming to an end, I have had time to reflect on the three years spent in York. Studying archaeology has been extremely interesting, and being able to do this in a historical city such as York has been great. It is also wonderful to study at Kings Manor, which has its own history and is right in the middle of the city. A highlight of mine has been research on my dissertation on commercial salvage and UK legislation on shipwrecks. Being able to choose my own topic meant that I could study something I was truly passionate about. As a scuba diver I have been fortunate enough to dive on these wrecks and seen the amazing artefacts that lie within them. My dissertation examined how historical wrecks are commercially exploited and whether archaeology is being carried out on these. It also examined UK legislation to establish if this protects underwater cultural heritage from the threats it faces. Wrecks hold a wealth of information which I feel are undervalued in the field. Many disagree with the exploitation and selling of artefacts as it devalues archaeology. These artefacts once lifted may be sold separately meaning that their value as a collection goes and future study of them is not possible. It also means that they can end up in the hands of private collections, as opposed to in museums where the public can learn from them.

Beyond my degree, my time at university has been fantastic. Being able to be part of such a wonderful team at *The Post Hole* has been amazing and seeing the work that has been produced has been incredible. Although I will not be a part of the *The Post Hole* next year, I know the next team will be just as hard working as we are and will continue to produce interesting articles and issues.

Although my future remains uncertain in terms of what I will be doing after university, I hope to take part in an archaeological project in Zanzibar in the near future. This is in stark contrast to my first archaeological dig which I spent on top of a very windy hill in the North Yorkshire Moors! One of the appeals of an archaeological degree for me was the practical elements and throughout my time at York I have been on various research projects learning how to carry out archaeological research. I will be applying for graduate schemes next year for which archaeology has provided me with many transferable skills which I know will be useful, whatever career I end up going into. Although I probably will not be pursuing archaeology, I have loved every minute and definitely hope to be able to continue volunteering on archaeological projects.

# Kerrie Hoffman: Discovering Art in Archaeology at the University of York

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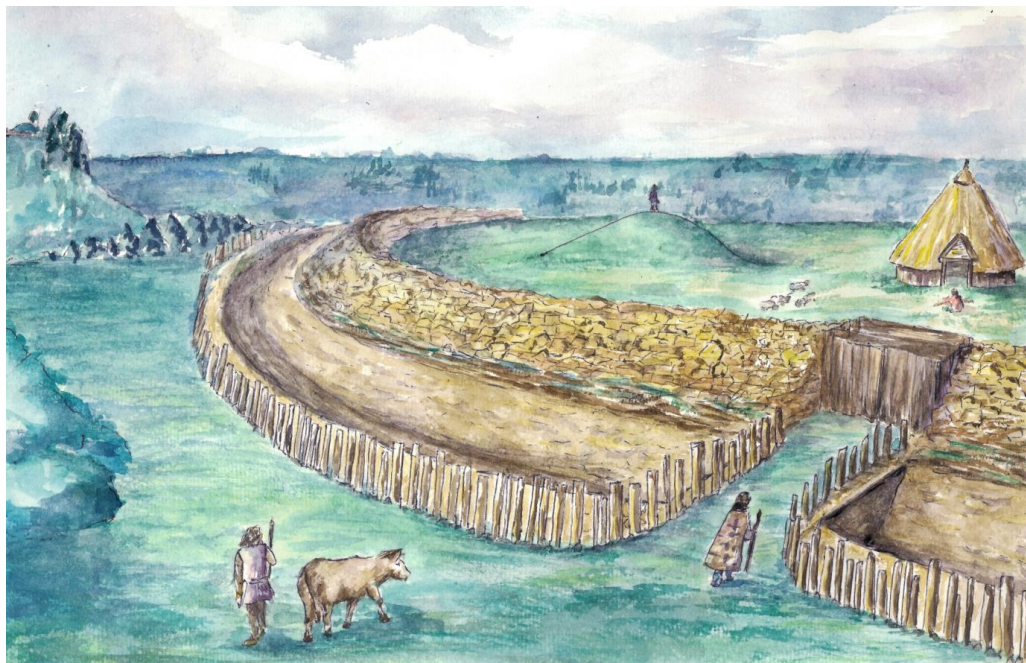
University offered the opportunity to diversify my skill set whilst combining my interests in museums, exhibitions, buildings and artefacts within a degree in archaeology. I hoped to pursue an existing passion for art and design alongside studying; however the potential for integrating artistic skills with archaeological knowledge soon presented itself.

Archaeology is the study of the human past through material culture, but how many people would describe the profession as artistic or creative? I have discovered that archaeology and art are interlinked in numerous ways; arguably the process of excavation itself is visual and creative involving self-determined investigation of colour, composition and contextual relationships. A mental image of the past is formed as a result of observation and recording, mirroring an artist's visual expression of their world and interpretations through decisions regarding content, colour and composition. There is a significant difference here in visual output: in contrast to archaeologists, artists continuously express ideas in visual form. Museums house both art and Archaeology, though I believe within a professional context there is a lack of integration between disciplines

My interest in combining art and archaeology developed within first year. After a recent field school at Boltby Scar Iron Age Hillfort, we presented heritage panels in teams; to which I contributed a site reconstruction painting (Figure 1). I received positive feedback and it prompted me to continue investigating the two disciplines. Subsequently I developed a dissertation proposal to look at site reconstructions from the artist's perspective. Partaking in the module 'Visual Media in Archaeology' highlighted the importance of not only presenting archaeology to the public through exhibition design, but also visualisation and visual media within archaeological processes (including maps, photographs, illustrations and digital technologies).

Clearly we cannot accurately depict the past; however visualisations of what may have been are an important resource. Site reconstructions are a powerful and resonant means of presenting archaeology to the public, and with heritage presentation a key area of archaeological discourse, they should be critically considered. Within my dissertation I argue that the process of creating reconstructions (specifically site reconstructions in traditional artistic media) is one that is overlooked and misunderstood. The process itself is reflexive and intellectually stimulating, it is a research

process. It involves an awareness of available evidence, collecting relevant evidence, and experimentation. Visualisations and reconstructions aid archaeological thinking, yet they are often used primarily for end stage presentation after archaeological investigation. There are many theoretical standpoints I discuss within my dissertation alongside qualitative research, and I propose that considering reconstructions from the outset of a project is crucial. I also highlight the need to overcome preconceived views that reconstructions are objective and static interpretations. I investigated the process involved and some of these theoretical issues further through three practical case studies, where I created reconstructions in traditional media and documented my thought processes. In the near future I hope to transfer my qualitative research methodology and documented reconstructive process within a visually dynamic format on my blog at <http://archaeologyofpainting.blogspot.co.uk/>.



**Figure 1.** *Reconstruction of Boltby Scar* (Image Copyright: K. Hoffman)

By highlighting the research nature of reconstructions, my conclusions suggest an ideal working method and documentation to form a reconstruction archive (in response to comments by Paul Backhouse, English Heritage). Instigating a widespread mutual understanding of the process by both artists and archaeologists could encourage the use of reconstructions as academic documents. There is also potential for future work, including experimentation of how the reconstructive process could be presented to the public, in turn enabling them to understand archaeology itself.

Without embracing my alternative interests I don't think I would have become as immersed into archaeology as I have. It is a multi-faceted discipline, and I encourage future students to try as much as they can, and use existing skills to their advantage. Through this, I have made lifelong friends and



contacts, and had the opportunity to be involved in various projects. A fellow student and I organised and managed an exhibition for the local community at Stillingfleet Church, and through continued involvement with the Teffont Archaeology Project I was asked to be trench supervisor during excavations at Crambeck.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> July I was able to take part in the Heritage Jam, a first for heritage and visualisation. This was an invaluable experience, enabling me to meet professionals and others with similar interests. It aimed to bring people together, working on the concept of burial. The result of the Jam is an online gallery of work from teams and individuals, showcasing many different perceptions of burial and archaeology; this can be accessed at <http://www.heritagejam.org/jam-gallery/>. My working group 'The Inventors' drew inspiration from York cemetery; after discussing the idea of paths through the cemetery and hidden stories, 'Voices Recognition' emerged - an app that projects simultaneously the voices of those individuals buried. Other members of the team talk about their experience and give more detail about the app in their blog for the Day of Archaeology, available via <http://www.dayofarchaeology.com/archaeology-hack-a-thon-the-heritage-jam-cemeteries-audioscapes/>. The jam not only resulted in varied and stimulating visualisations, but also promoted the importance of visualisation and art within archaeological practice and digital heritage.



**Figure 2.** Left : The Heritage Jam at York Cemetery. Right: 'The Inventors' working on the *Voices Recognition* app prototype (Image Copyright: Dr C Morgan).

As a mature student, I wasn't quite sure what university would offer, however archaeology has enabled me to find a direction. I will be travelling to Çatalhöyük as a member of the visualisation team, which will be an incredible experience. A masters is a possibility in the future and I aim to continue on the path archaeology has led me, and progress as an archaeological artist.

# Submissions information

The full information for contributors, including submission rules and copyright, is available on *The Post Hole* website <http://www.theposthole.org/authors>

## Submission deadlines

*The Post Hole* releases eight issues per academic year on a **monthly** basic between October and July. The submissions deadline for all of *The Post Hole's* monthly issues is the **20th** of every month.

## Submission length

Articles of any length **up to 2,500 words** are welcome, though keeping below 2,000 words is preferable.

## Figures

Photographs, graphs, plans and other images are also welcome as they usually help illustrate the content of submissions. All images should be submitted separately to any documents (i.e. not embedded in text, but sent to *The Post Hole* as attachments.

It is preferable that photographs are submitted in **.jpg format**, and graphs, plans and other linear images are submitted in **.png format**. Please contact the Submissions Editor if you are unsure about image formats or anything else regarding your submission.

## How to submit

All submissions should be sent to *The Post Hole's* **new Submissions Editor, Jessica Hand**, by email ([submissions@theposthole.org](mailto:submissions@theposthole.org)).

*The Post Hole* may in the near future establish an online submission system on its website. Details will be released about this should it happen. Submissions by email will continue as normal.

*The Post Hole* is an archaeology journal run by students at the University of York (UK). It publishes articles on a wide range of archaeological topics, from prehistory to the present day, giving readers the latest news, research and events in the world of archaeology.

Issues are released via our website at the start of each month and are available to anyone. If you are interested in writing for *The Post Hole*, you can read information for contributors on our website, or contact us ([submissions@theposthole.org](mailto:submissions@theposthole.org)).

*The Post Hole* was established in 2008 and since then has become the premier student-run archaeology journal in the UK. The journal has a diverse audience which continues to grow with the recent redevelopment of its website and new social media presence.

Additionally, hard copies of issues are printed for students and academics in a number of university departments across the UK. Please contact us if you are interested in receiving hard copies of issues.

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