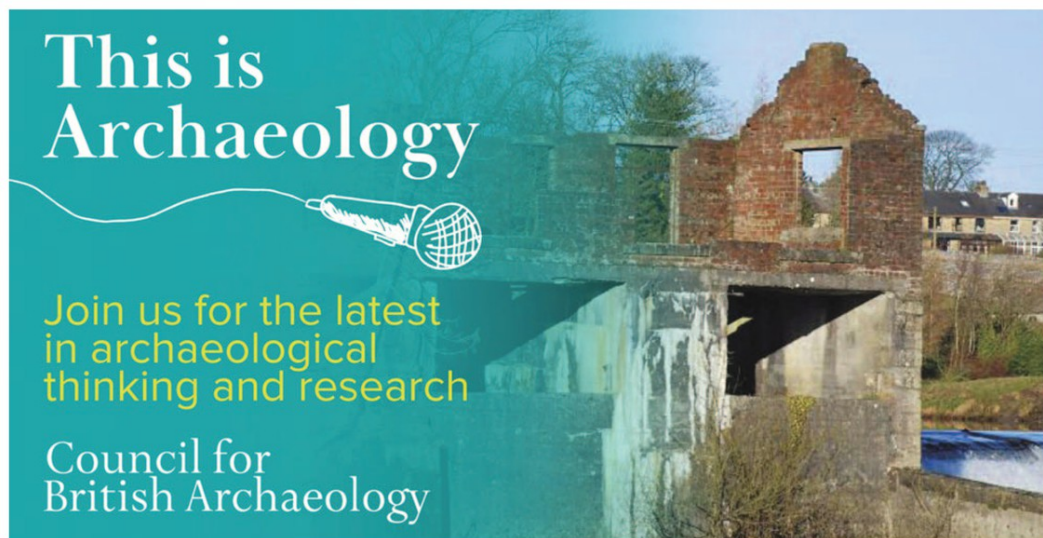


Claire Corkill, development manager at the Council for British Archaeology, lifts the lid on CBA activities to champion archaeology and public participation

This is Archaeology – a new lecture series



In April the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) launched an exciting new monthly lecture series called **This is Archaeology**, which brings together speakers from across archaeology and heritage. They will draw on their own experiences, a range of sites, excavations, techniques, scientific approaches and museum practices, to bring you the latest in archaeological thinking and research.

Collectively the lecture series will sit alongside existing CBA activity such as the **CBA Festival of Archaeology**, the **Young Archaeologists' Club** and the **Archaeological Achievement Awards**, and contribute to a wider debate on the very nature of archaeology and how we can draw in new audiences and perceptions.

Why "This is Archaeology"? We hope the lecture series will form part of a wider conversation the CBA is beginning to have, aimed at challenging our perceptions of what archaeology is and how it's relevant to our lives. As Neil Redfern, CBA director, explains:

"The CBA wants to challenge people to tell us about their perceptions of archaeology: we want to host a 'big conversation' around the statement, 'This is archaeology'. As we gather responses, we hope these will start discussions and debates that will illustrate a broad concept of

archaeology – one that directly helps people think about and explore questions about their own identity, the places where they live, work, go to school in and play; in essence, their own lived experiences. This is the real, untapped power of archaeology, which is fundamentally a process shaped around questions: it's not about answers, but about the questions we choose to ask. This is Archaeology is about helping everyone understand that they can shape these questions – and that they have a right to ask them as citizens."

Melanie Giles of the University of

Manchester kicked off the series with a fascinating insight into the latest research on the bog bodies of northern Europe based on her recent book *Bog Bodies: Face to Face with the Past* (Manchester University Press at <https://tinyurl.com/5byncfax>, see feature Nov/Dec 2021/181). Melanie took us on a journey through the bogs, mires and mosses where the bodies were found, and helped us reimagine what those landscapes meant to prehistoric communities.

In May we were joined by Alison Sheridan, research associate with National Museums Scotland, whose talk, "Journeys – of people, objects, ideas & the dead, in Britain & Ireland, 4300–1500BC", shared how research such as the French-led *Projet JADE* looking at "jade" axeheads has revealed the incredible distances travelled by some artefacts many millennia ago. From here, Alison went on to explore the movement of people, ideas and even dead people's souls around Britain and Ireland, revealing a dynamic, interconnected society.

CBA trustee and historical geographer Keith Lilley, of Queen's University Belfast, will be our next speaker. His lecture, "Excavating the map? Landscape archaeologies of the Ordnance Survey", will look at landscapes and field monuments that



Keith Lilley



Alison Sheridan

reveal the stories of the surveyors who mapped town and country to create the Ordnance Survey maps of Britain and Ireland. Keith will be sharing exciting new research and community projects which help us to “excavate the map”. This event will take place on Thursday



Rachael Kiddey

June 16, and tickets are available from the CBA website (see endnote).

Festival talks

During the Festival of Archaeology we have two fantastic talks lined up that speak directly to this year's Festival theme of **Journeys**. On Tuesday July 19 Mike Pitts, *British Archaeology* editor, archaeologist and journalist, will be looking at the emotive subject of “What drives national identity?” New sciences, notably isotope and ancient DNA studies, are revealing unimagined

ancient journeys made by individuals and groups of people, as free travel, migration and refuge-seeking have become highly contentious issues in modern Britain. What happened in the past? And how does that affect our concepts of national identity?

Rachael Kiddey, British Academy postdoctoral fellow, University of Oxford, and members of the Made in Migration Collective will join us on Tuesday July 26 to share their work on the archaeology of contemporary forced displacement in Europe. The collective is a fluid group of displaced and non-displaced individuals originally from eight different countries, who use a wide range of tools including film, ethnographic interviews, drawing and creative writing to record and reflect upon material and visual culture. During their talk they will be sharing their collaborative work processes and some of their favourite artefacts, to offer a clear example of the important role that cultural heritage can play in disrupting powerful racist narratives, and to provide joyful possibilities for the future.

Speakers for later in the year include Simon Elliott, Roman archaeologist and CBA trustee, and Barney Devine from the Cuilcagh to Cleenish project, who won the Outstanding Achievement Award at the 2021 Archaeological Achievement Awards (feature Mar/Apr 2022/183, <https://tinyurl.com/5n7ud37r>). Each event lasts approximately an hour, with a 45-minute talk followed by audience questions. Tickets need to be booked in advance; for CBA members these lectures are free, with a small charge of £5 per lecture for non-members. Talks held during the Festival of Archaeology will be free to all.

Diverse & dynamic

On Friday June 17 at 7pm join CBA and Archaeology Scotland as we co-host an event for this year's **European Archaeology Days**. **Celebrating participatory archaeology across the UK** will bring together four speakers, to share their experiences delivering a



ROSE FERRABY

Rose Ferraby's depiction of a bog body – Tollund Man

range of diverse and dynamic projects and activities all designed to help more people take part in archaeology. Following the presentations, we will have time for questions and will share some top tips on how to find opportunities to participate in archaeology in your local area.

For full details of the *This is Archaeology* lecture series, including booking information, see the CBA website at <https://tinyurl.com/4bxf7nbw>. This year's Festival of Archaeology takes place between July 16 and 31: there is a full event listing at <https://tinyurl.com/bdct8au2>. The Celebrating participatory archaeology web page is at <https://tinyurl.com/y9yptu9r>. Find out more about European Archaeology Days at <https://tinyurl.com/mrgwjah8> ■

