

Council for British Archaeology

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOMINATIONS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TRUSTEE NOMINATIONS 21st February 2026

CBA Trustee

Nominee Name: Gemma Regniez

Personal Statement:

(Up to 200 words setting out who you are what skills and knowledge you will bring to the CBA)

I am a communications all-rounder with over 20 years of experience leading award-winning global campaigns delivering communications strategies using the full communications mix.

I am currently working as Director of External Affairs for the Energy Institute (EI), a membership-led charity, forming part of the EI leadership team working with our CEO, our board, our members, and other partners around the world to leverage our resources and networks to deliver the energy transition.

Prior to joining the EI, I led communications and advocacy for the International Hydropower Association, another membership-led body, forming part of the Global Renewables Alliance team that delivered the triple up campaign to triple global renewable capacity by 2030.

I have extensive experience developing and bringing on teams to develop and deliver realistic, creative communications and engagement strategies with SMART objectives aligned with organisational business goals.

In 2023 I launched the hydropower sector's first mascot: 'Frankie' inspired by the Francis Turbine, who proved so popular at the World Hydropower Congress even the President of Indonesia wanted a photograph with him. I also instigated and launched the IHA's partnership with NGO Student Energy to further promote renewables as a viable career choice for young people.

Election Statement:

(Up to 500 words on how you will help the CBA deliver on its, Vision, Mission and Values and how you will help us fill our identified skills gaps around Safeguarding and/or Communications and Marketing)

I could use my experience as a strategic external affairs leader for membership funded charities to advise on CBA's approach to comms and marketing, reviewing any strategies you already have in place, the objectives within those strategies and the resourcing you have available to deliver them.



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I would begin by focusing on your vision and mission and how communications and marketing currently delivers against those. This would aim at better supporting the CBA team to develop a strategy that delivers on your priorities and drives the connections between people and places that is embedded within your mission.

Once the strategy is clear, I could offer up aspects of practical engagement and storytelling that have worked in the past for me. I would make use some of the lessons learned within my current organization working with our Young Peoples Network, our annual energy week event and our membership engagement activity to inform my advice in relation to your festival and youth engagement activities.

I could also review your use of social media to better understand your online community engagement and your content strategy to reach your audiences. If not already in use I would introduce the use of tools such as Canva for engaging design and Asana for campaign and channel management.

CBA Trustees

Nominee Name: Lesley McFadyen

Personal Statement:

(Up to 200 words setting out who you are what skills and knowledge you will bring to the CBA)

I am a Reader in Archaeology at Birkbeck, University of London. I specialise in prehistory, archaeology and architecture, and contemporary archaeology and heritage ecologies. I play an active role in the shaping and governing of institutions, and in the support they provide to students and vulnerable adults. I am the Programme Director of the BA in Archaeology and the BA in Ancient History and Archaeology, and Deputy Director of the Carena Institute of Sustainable Archaeologies. Other duties have included BA Exams Officer where I tightened our work on progression, and extended support for struggling students; and Assistant Dean of Equalities and a key member at Birkbeck for Athena Swan and Race and Equalities; involved in writing applications to renew or join these external charters. I directly worked with the Assistant Dean of Education to help reduce the awarding gap at Birkbeck. In these positions I have championed access through implementing policy changes. I have experience of commercial archaeology and worked as a Project Officer for the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. For many years, I was a member of the collective that ran the Cambridge Women and Homelessness Group and supported their key workers and the women in their care.



Election statement:

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- *Creative and communicative* - The CBA is key in championing and promoting participation in archaeology and I have played a part in that, working with Claire Corkhill and Joanne Kirton, *setting up a monthly publication* addressed to those considering a career in archaeology through the fictional figure of the 'young archaeologist', and which had a huge take up online - 'Letters to a Young Archaeologist' (2022 and 2023). This project was about increasing public understanding of archaeology and about widening participation in the discipline. As a trustee I am keen to design and support further creative projects.
- *Inspiring people to explore and engage with their environment* – I run a fieldwalking project with islanders from the Isle of Arran to mark the presence and character of prehistoric and historic lives across the island through time. Enabling groups to materially connect to place makes archaeology matter and creates an enduring sense of belonging. Local partners on this project include farmers, landowners, Arran Heritage Museum, along with groups such as Arran Wild Walks and Wild Food Arran.
- *Championing fresh perspectives* – At the CBA, I would work to reinforce archaeology's vital role in nature recovery. On Arran, I work at [Drumadoon](#) with archaeologists from Archaeology Scotland and the universities of Glasgow, Bournemouth, Birmingham and Coventry. My work focusses on everyday material culture and practices, to give context to prehistoric monuments, and to materially account for historical presence. Another important aspect of my work is the creation of a Community Rainforest Nursey, which is based at Drumadoon. In this role, archaeology is community-focussed and future-looking. Across the sea, at Ardeer, I work on the archaeology and heritage ecologies of the Alfred Nobel/ICI dynamite factory. This work brings to the fore the vibrant and material presence of factory lives (human and more-than-human), through an archaeology of photography and ecological archives. It is work which remarks on the absences of institutional archives and asks us to hold onto an overlooked west coast of Scotland industrialised landscape that is under threat.
- *Connecting commercial, academic and community groups* – With National Lottery Heritage funding, and with archaeologists from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit and women from the Cambridge Women and Homelessness Group, we excavated an Iron Age roundhouse in the grounds of Fulbourn Hospital. This hospital is a mental health facility that homeless women have connections with, and as well as the benefits of teamwork and practical and thoughtful labour, it is empowering to tell a story of a time before the



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hospital. At the CBA, I would work further on extending these connections to demonstrate the social impact of archaeology.

- *Safeguarding* – I convene archaeology fieldtrips and the field school at Birkbeck, I am the BA Programme Director, and as BA Exams Officer and Assistant Dean of Equalities worked on equalities, diversity and inclusion. I therefore bring with me experience in implementing appropriate policies, procedures, and training in the care of staff and students. I had practical experience of safeguarding whilst a member of the Cambridge Women and Homelessness Group.

CBA Trustee

Nominee Name: Mike Young

Personal Statement:

(Up to 200 words setting out who you are what skills and knowledge you will bring to the CBA)

Most of my adult life was spent in Bradford, a young, vibrant, multi-cultural, ethnically diverse city. For 12 years I served as an elected councillor there, holding several senior positions of responsibility. I sought to champion difference, whilst embroiling myself in the district's challenging diversity. Periodically, I would represent the Council on television, radio and in the press.

For 35 years I was a professional social worker and manager in statutory services in West Yorkshire, latterly specialising in mental health. After my first retirement, I worked for the Court of Protection assessing the needs of people with dementia or other forms of brain damage.

During my retirement, I obtained a doctorate in the mental health of the British in colonial India. This involved visits to hospitals and archives on the sub-continent, together with much negotiation, patience and stomach upset.

I have been a trustee with several charities and a director of three NHS Trusts. Currently, I am a board member of the UK Social Workers' Benevolent Trust (SWBT). I am married with two daughters who have both presented us with grandchildren in the last 2 years giving me a new outlook on life. For the past nine months I have been an active 'shadow' trustee of CBA.

Election statement:

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As a senior manager in statutory services, a councillor and a trustee I contributed actively to the development, implementation and review of the strategic vision of a variety of organisations. I have led on monitoring business plans and on the delivery of new ways of working. I was always keenly aware of statutory and financial obligations and the deadlines to which we were committed. This often required making difficult decisions, sometimes in the public glare, and justifying them in various and occasionally hostile environments. I would be able to bring this practical experience of governance to CBA if elected.

Throughout my professional career, I was actively engaged with individuals and communities in ways to help them improve their social and psychological situation by encouraging them to take greater control of their lives. My most difficult task came when I chaired a mental health charity. My time there involved balancing the wellbeing of its individual members with their participation in its activities. The charity was able to support many of its members in managing their health successfully whilst achieving their personal goals. The board included service users who were sometimes unwell and could, if not advised diplomatically, make irrational decisions which might have a negative, long-term impact on the organisation. In addition, it was clear to me that the chief executive was unable to manage the complexities of the agency, and I oversaw the delicate legal process leading to her dismissal.

I live in York and have had some involvement with the Archaeology on Prescription project. On one visit I met someone there who was delighted to have excavated a soft drink can from the 1980s of a brand with which he had been familiar many years before. The scheme had given him greater confidence and self-respect. Archaeology had enabled him to talk positively about his youth, and it will interest him for years to come. As a trustee, I would relish the opportunity to promote this type of community activity. I have seen how it can facilitate social value whilst increasing environmental awareness and personal growth. It works.

In my trustee role with SWBT I joined the income generation and the communication sub-groups. We have had some success in fundraising and publicising its work. We have strengthened the voice of the SWBT within the British social worker profession. As an active trustee, I have gained a working knowledge of charity law. I will be able to use my practical skills in, and knowledge of, Safeguarding to the benefit of the CBA Board.

I have had a lifelong interest in archaeology and history and as a 'shadow' trustee with CBA attended several events. This has given me much understanding of its workings which I would consolidate should I be elected to a full trustee position. I come from a profession outside archaeology, but I believe the skills, experience, insight and enthusiasm I have developed are transferrable and can be an asset to CBA.



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CBA Trustees for Re-election

Nominee Name: Mike D'Aprix

Personal Statement:

I have been working for the last 3 years as a Trustee of the CBA and would like to continue working with my fellow Trustees to support the CBA, its Staff, and its mission. There are a number of areas including fundraising, long-term financial sustainability, and social media where I'd like to contribute more deeply to. I believe I have sufficient experience having been a Trustee for the past 3 years and contributing to the Governance Committee and regular meetings.

Election statement:

I have had the privilege of serving as a Trustee of the Council for British Archaeology over the past three years and would be honoured to continue contributing to its mission and the important work of its staff. During my time on the Board, I have participated actively in governance discussions and committee work, supporting strategic decision-making and the organisation's wider objectives.

Looking ahead, I am particularly interested in helping the CBA strengthen its long-term financial sustainability and fundraising capacity. I believe there is significant potential to diversify income streams, develop new partnerships, and enhance engagement with supporters through effective digital and social media outreach. These are areas where I would like to play a more active role, building on the CBA's recent progress and the dedication of its team.

As both a committed advocate for archaeology and an experienced Trustee familiar with the organisation's operations and governance, I am well positioned to continue providing constructive input and continuity on the Board. I would welcome the opportunity to keep supporting the CBA's vision of making archaeology accessible and relevant to all, and to work collaboratively with colleagues to help secure its future.

