

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

Get active, get out there



As covid-19 restrictions lift across the UK, we know people are keen to once again get out and about and explore their local archaeology. This year's **Festival of Archaeology** is a great opportunity to do just that, and we are really pleased once again to be able to deliver and promote a range of on-the-ground, online and self-led activities for you to get involved in.

From Saturday July 17 to Sunday August 1 organisers from museums, archaeological units, universities and community groups and societies will be holding events to help you discover and participate in archaeology. The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) will also be hosting a number of events ourselves. You can find all the details of these and more on the Festival website, at <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/find>.

All-year Festival

This year we have introduced a new activities and resources section to the Festival of Archaeology website (<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/resources>) that will help people get involved with archaeology any time. It sits alongside the events listings, and includes a range of happenings that can be accessed on demand including talks and videos, self-guided walks and craft activities. There are already over a hundred such resources online for you to explore and we will be adding more over the coming weeks. The most exciting thing about this new area is that it is available all year round, enabling you to enjoy some of the best Festival offerings whenever you want.

Ahead of this year's Festival here are some of our favourite activities to get you started:

Alex Langlands: Digitally reconstructing excavations at Old Sarum

Join Alex (below) to find out how he has used field diaries, site plans, old photos and finds catalogues to digitally recreate the early 20th-century excavations at Old Sarum in Salisbury. <https://bit.ly/3vXmXr8>.



Witley Camp in the First World War: self-guided audio tour

Download the audio guide to your phone and be transported back to when Witley and Milford Common was a military camp, home to 20,000 British and Canadian troops. <https://bit.ly/3fdMRzW>.

Bronze Age bling

Andy Bailey from Dartmoor National Park will lead you step by step through the process of making your own salt-dough beads and recreate a necklace found in Whitehorse Hill Cist. <https://bit.ly/3oaZ8sZ>.

Isn't archaeology rubbish?

Is our rubbish really waste or could the next sweet wrapper we throw away be a clue for archaeologists of the future? Join Wessex Archaeology for a light-hearted look at the role of rubbish in the past and the future. <https://bit.ly/3uJYqp7>.





Self-guided village walk in Whissendine, Rutland

Download this guide from Rutland Local History & Record Society and discover the buildings and stories around the village including the Whissendine Windmill (above). <https://bit.ly/3feDgJ7>.

Bamburgh Castle: digs, dirt & discoveries!

Members of the Bamburgh Research Project introduce some of the discoveries made at the castle and its environs over the last 20 years, including the Bowl Hole Cemetery and their top 10 finds from the excavations (right). <https://bit.ly/3o7Doyk>

2021 & beyond

This year our Festival theme is **Exploring Local Places**. We are encouraging everyone to celebrate local sites and stories, and the people who lived and shaped our neighbourhoods. Archaeology is a great tool to help you do this and to find out more about how places changed through time. The guided walks available in the website's resources section are a great place to start. Or why not use our Local Explorers Challenge (<https://bit.ly/2SL98h7>) and seek out

some archaeology near you? During the Festival in July there will be hundreds of live events to help you discover the archaeology of where you live, or perhaps somewhere further afield.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to be able to announce that we have now confirmed the themes for the Festival of Archaeology for the next two years. In 2022 we will be exploring **Archaeological Journeys**, looking at experiences through time relating to travel and movement across towns, countries and continents. We will also be looking at how archaeological techniques have changed through the years enabling us to continue to reimagine stories of the past. And we will be sharing the journeys archaeologists take through their careers and voluntary experiences.

For 2023 our theme will be **Creative Archaeology**. We will be looking at a whole range of imaginative ways people can participate in archaeology, as well as the opportunities it brings to recognise and create public value. Experimental archaeology, re-enactments and the creative arts offer plenty of inspiration to help us tell the stories of artefacts and sites in new and exciting ways – expect lots of opportunities to get hands-on and try something new.

Social dining

In autumn 2020 the CBA offered a series of lunchtime meetings designed to provide support and networking opportunities for voluntary and community archaeology groups. These sessions were designed to develop skills and enable groups to become more resilient during the pandemic and beyond. They also provided valuable opportunities for networking with participants sharing their experiences, challenges and successes with one another.

Building on the success of these meetings we have now started a second round of **Lunchtime Conversations**, covering a wide range of subjects including creative delivery in archaeology, engaging younger audiences, a Welsh focus session and a beginner's guide to

social media. Although hosted by CBA staff, we aim to create an environment where everyone has the chance to contribute, and the focus is very much on developing a conversation led by participants.

The sessions are a great way to find out about and get inspired by the work of community groups across the UK, think about different approaches to participating in archaeology and get some practical advice and guidance to help your group feel more confident about returning to activity post-covid-19.

The Lunchtime Conversations will be running each month until the end of August. You can find full details of what's on and how to register here <https://new.archaeologyuk.org/networking-and-skills-development>. All sessions are free to attend. If there is a subject you would like us to cover in a future Lunchtime Conversation please let us know by emailing info@archaeologyuk.org. ■



Below: Excavating at Bamburgh Castle



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