



IFA Workplace Learning Bursaries Case Studies – Museum Education



- (1) Name? Elvie Thompson
- (2) Placement? Museum Education with the Sussex Archaeological Society, Lewes
- (3) Education/ previous roles? I've got a degree in Combined Arts. I worked in museums in the North East of England for three years on sites on Hadrian's Wall and local history museums, and my last job was devising and delivering archaeology workshops to primary schools.
- (4) Hobbies? Film, reading, food, exploring Brighton pubs, getting to know Sussex.
- (5) Favourite archaeological person, book, site or object? I love any site that is presented in such a way that you can feel close to the people who lived there; same applies to objects, some things allow you to make a sensory connection with the people they once belonged to.
- (6) Where did you see the placement advertised and what inspired you to apply? I saw the placement advertised on the website of Leicester University; I decided to apply because of the opportunity to discover a new part of the country, a period of history I was less familiar with, and to work at three such beautiful places: Lewes Castle, Anne of Cleves House and Michelham Priory.
- (7) How did you feel when you were offered the post? Surprised! I thought the interview had gone very badly.
- (8) Best/worst thing about the placement? The best thing has been the new places and people I've got to know. The worst thing is the rising spectre of the end coming into sight.
- (9) Biggest achievement/biggest challenge? I feel equally pleased about all my achievements so far, but together I feel confident that by the end of the placement I'll have made a significant and lasting contribution to the Education Service here. The biggest challenge so far was finding the right language to communicate effectively with secondary schools, that said they were very helpful with this so it wasn't that bad.
- (10) What have you learnt so far? Too much to write on this page!
I've learnt loads about the history of South England; I've discovered that Lewes is full of talented and dedicated people; learnt about the inner workings of the National Curriculum for Key Stage 3; know that I definitely want to continue working in museum education; and that I am adaptable and resilient.
- (11) Future plans/future ambitions? I'm about to start an MA in Interpretive Studies. I hope to find a full time job at the end of the placement but have a number of part time projects to continue working on if not: a reminiscence project with World War 2 veterans, a programme for more able pupils in Lewes, workshop teaching. I hope to be able to stay in Sussex.
- (12) What advice would you give to other people wanting to apply for a training placement? Go into it with confidence; I've found that I am very much the focus of the placement and have been able to shape it to suit myself and develop areas I have identified as being useful for me and the sites I work at.