

# Community Archaeology SIG Newsletter | Spring 2025

## Welcome!

Welcome to the first Community Archaeology SIG Newsletter of 2025!

We're here to connect, update you on what's happening in the Community Archaeology committee and to celebrate the fantastic work of the wider SIG membership.

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## Meet Your Committee

**Chair:** Jessica Lowther

**Secretary:** Nina O'Hare

**Treasurer:** Frank Giecco

**Committee members:** Dickie Bennett, Sarah-Jane Farr, Perry Gardner, Emily Johnston, Richard McConnell, Mike Nevell (advisor)

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## Our Aims

The Community Archaeology SIG is here to support those involved in delivering community archaeology and promote their work. Our key aims include

- promoting community engagement as a vital part of professional archaeology
- providing guidance and a strong voice within CIfA
- advocating for best practice standards across the sector
- collaborating with partners to ensure all voices and experiences are represented

Curious about the full details?

 [Explore Our Aims & Priorities](#)

Want to know more about our plans for the next 3 years? Take a look at our 3-year plan to see how we're tackling each of our aims.

 [Read Our 3 Year Plan](#)

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## Specialist Competency Matrix

We're currently reviewing the Community Archaeology [Specialist Competency Matrix](#) to better reflect the diverse skills involved in community archaeology. Thank you to everyone who's contributed so far!

Our goal is to make it a helpful tool for CIfA accreditation applicants at all levels and ensure it represents the wide scope of community archaeology practices.

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## Toolkit for Public Engagement – Launched!

At the 2024 CIfA Conference the new Public Engagement Toolkit was launched. It is great to see the SIG's project proposal come to life thanks to funding from Historic England and development by DigVentures.

This toolkit is a guide for planning, commissioning and delivering public engagement in archaeology projects. We hope that it will become a key resource for embedding proportionate public engagement in all projects. Do take a look.

 [Access the Toolkit](#)

 [Watch the How-To Video](#)

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## Upcoming Tea Break Sessions

Grab a cuppa and join us for informal chats on all things community archaeology!

Our first session of 2025 will focus on

**Theme:** Community Engagement & Proportionality (TBC)

**Date/time:** Thursday 22 May 2025 (TBC)

Once the session is confirmed, members of the Community Archaeology Group will receive an invitation to register to attend, and full details will be available to view on the [Group webpage](#) and [CIfA's events calendar](#).

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## Member News Spotlight

### Excavations at Carlisle

Led by our Treasurer Frank Giecco, excavations at the Roman bathhouse site in Carlisle are providing training opportunities for the long-term unemployed, equipping them with transferable skills and opening new doors.

The project has recently been featured by the BBC!

 [Read the Article](#)

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### Share Your News!

Got a project update, exciting discovery or success story to share? We'd love to feature it!

Email us at: [groups@archaeologists.net](mailto:groups@archaeologists.net) with the subject **Member News**.