Candidate Statements
For the position of Ordinary Committee Member x2
on CIfa Voluntary and Community Special Interest Group (VCSIG) Committee (2020 Ballot)

Sarah-Jane Farr MCIfA

Currently an Archaeology and Heritage specialist with HS2 Ltd, I’ve held posts in Merseyside, Greater Manchester, York and Buckinghamshire and practiced as a self-employed heritage consultant.

My background is in providing archaeological planning and wider historic environment advisory services to local government (based in a national museum for 19 years). Experienced in public engagement and advocacy, I enjoy adapting and communication my professional knowledge to help people engage through variety of medium: experience includes working with volunteers i.e. on archaeological sites; taking the local HER ‘on the road’. Much experience has been gained in my voluntary work as a Council member of my local civic society; I understand the challenging dynamics of groups and individual interests along with the challenges of attracting additional volunteers to start, and complete, activities. Within HS2 Ltd, our heritage strategy requires delivery of historic environment community engagement, innovation, skills training and education commitments. I do hope that my work on this, allied to previous experience, can contribute to VCSIG.

Michael Nevell MCIfA

I have extensive experience of community and voluntary archaeology having run many such projects from the Tameside Archaeological Survey to Dig Greater Manchester over more than 20 years. I have been a unit director, a university lecturer, and am currently the Industrial Heritage Support Officer for England, based at Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. I am also Chair of the Association for Industrial Archaeology. I have researched and written about community engagement and access to archaeology over many years. My particular interests include widening access to archaeology and improving the way we collect data about engagement.

James Brown PCIfA

I am putting myself forward for a further term on the VCSIG committee as I want to maintain continue the work that we have put into the group over the last few years to re grow the SIG and demonstrate its value and place within CIfa. This will see the delivery of the competency matrix, resource catalogues and much more with partners across the sector. In the current climate when very little practical archaeology is being done the value of community archaeology and volunteering has really been demonstrated. This is in the form of webinars, training, citizen science from home and other projects. Whatever the new normal may look like, it is important that the SIG use this opportunity to ensure best practice and high standards across the industry for such projects. I have recently left my archaeology role with the National Park to work as an archaeologist with the National Trust. Working for the Trust gives me a very good platform to engage with colleagues, volunteers and partners across the country to help deliver the SIG activities.