DIG DEEP FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

Council for British Archaeology
donate.archaeologyUK.org

Roman Bronze Hand recently found at Vindolanda Roman Fort. Image: The Vindolanda Trust
Dear CBA member

Dig Deep for Archaeology – we need your help!
CBA Fundraising Appeal 2018 – Target £50,000

More people are involved in archaeology across the UK than ever before, and new discoveries continue to come thick and fast – a fascinating Roman Bronze hand was found in mid-May at Vindolanda on Hadrian’s Wall (see front cover) and even sites which have been known about for centuries – like Stonehenge – continue to provoke new ideas based on the latest research.

Yet the impact on archaeology of changing Government policies and priorities, particularly in England, the possible consequences of Brexit and other UK-wide issues are giving major cause for concern.

There are worries that
- opportunities to undertake archaeological work could be far more restricted in connection with planning
- there may be too few professional archaeologists to undertake the work needed in a timely fashion in advance of major infrastructure projects
- archaeological sites could be regularly damaged and destroyed without any record being made.

The work of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) is crucial in giving a strong voice for archaeology, providing support and training for more people to get involved in archaeology, and directly engaging young people so as to provide a range of opportunities that have the potential to transform lives.

But the financial resources of the CBA are under significant pressure. Our income has dropped from £1.2m to £700k in the last five years. We know there is much to do, and as we approach our 75th anniversary year in 2019, we are reviewing our sense of purpose to support archaeology across the UK, our work for archaeology. We aim to raise £50,000 by April 2019 to ensure that we can continue our wide-ranging work. Every £1 counts, so please go to our dedicated giving page at http://donate.archaeologyuk.org and dig deep for archaeology!

Thank you for your support. This will make a major difference to our vital work for archaeology.

Ken Smith (Chair)
Mike Heyworth (Director)

The CBA was founded in 1944 to be a strong voice for archaeology in the aftermath of the Second World War, but it was also set up to be a public education body.

That broad range of activity has continued to this day with the CBA’s latest strategy which sets out three areas for our work:

- Participation: increasing the range and diversity of public participation in archaeology
- Discovery: increasing public awareness and knowledge of the UK’s archaeological heritage
- Advocacy: enhancing protection and stewardship

This has to be delivered in a sustainable way, whilst building the resilience of the CBA and the archaeological sector.

Our resources have been cut back in recent years, but currently we still deliver a wide range of activities and resources which support archaeology in the UK:

- Our magazine British Archaeology and our publications continue to receive praise and acclamation – and they are accessible to far more people via digital technology.
- Our award-winning Young Archaeologists’ Club continues to expand and more local branches run by enthusiastic volunteers give inspiring life-changing hands-on opportunities for young people across the UK.
- Our wide-ranging projects, like the Home Front Legacy programme to record the physical remains of the First World War, or our ongoing project to support community archaeology.
- Our campaigns and engagement with politicians and decision makers to explain why archaeology matters and how we can deliver increased public benefits with the right legislation and policies in place to avoid damage to our archaeological heritage.
- All these areas of work make an important contribution to archaeology in the UK. Yet it is increasingly difficult to find public funding to underpin these activities. We are ever more dependent on our keen and enthusiastic members to help sustain our activities. So if you can help us in any way then please do get in touch.

Please support our work to deliver this vision and reach out to more people across the UK.

In the year ahead we will be reviewing our priorities and increasingly we have to focus our limited resources on a smaller number of high impact activities. We plan to survey our members later in the year to find out what you think matters most, and how the CBA can help take forward your interests in archaeology. We’d love to hear your thoughts.

Our vision is: “Archaeology for all: by 2020 everyone will know how they can enjoy, understand and care for the historic environment – and why it matters.”

CBA director, Mike Heyworth, talks about the threat facing Oswestry Hillfort with BBC Radio.

OUR VISION

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Please support our work to deliver this vision and reach out to more people across the UK.
**Marsh Awards for Community Archaeology - nominations now open**

The Marsh Archaeology Awards are annual awards, supported by the Marsh Christian Trust, which showcase excellence in archaeology.

We are happy to announce that nominations for 2018 are now open. This is your chance to recognise the passion and dedication of those you work with or who have inspired you in your archaeological journey.

Nominations are open until 3 September and winners will be announced at the CBA Archaeology Day and AGM, in November.

To ensure that we recognise all facets of the archaeology community, three categories are awarded each year.

The Marsh Award for Community Archaeology recognises and promotes the results of research and/or fieldwork led by community groups which have made a substantial contribution to knowledge and wellbeing.

The Young Archaeologist of the Year Award is for a young person or group of young people under the age of 18 who have made an outstanding contribution to community archaeology.

The Community Archaeologist of the Year Award is for an individual who has inspired others to share their love of archaeology.

For more details on each category, to download a nomination form, and to see case studies of previous winners, visit new.archaeologyuk.org/marsh-archaeology-awards-2018

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**Let’s keep in touch**

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25 May 2018. It strengthens the protection of personal data in a number of ways, including increased transparency about how personal data is used and processed by organisations.

The CBA wants to make sure that it is complying with these new regulations whilst still being able to keep in touch with you about appropriate archaeological issues. So we can do this, we need you to take five minutes to sign up to continue to receive information from the CBA.

Signing up is easy to do. Just follow the link below, select your preferred method of contact, tick the box giving your permission, and click the “subscribe” button.

https://shop.britarch.ac.uk/communication-preferences/

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**Festival of Archaeology: bigger and better for 2019**

The Festival of Archaeology has been running for 27 years – from a single day in 1990 to two weeks in 2017. Last year over 1,000 events were put on by 318 organisers across the UK, putting more than 700,000 people in touch with their heritage.

Unfortunately, as a result of not being able to raise sufficient funds for the festival following a drop in our grant income, our trustees have decided not to host a Festival in 2018. Instead we will focus our efforts on developing a new festival for 2019. This will coincide with the 75th anniversary of the Council for British Archaeology and creates an exciting opportunity to build a better and bigger festival next year.

To do this we will be developing a new fundraising strategy to secure the future of the festival and want to work with organisers, supporters and funders to help shape our plans. We would love to hear from you if you would like to work with us – just email gillbull@archaeologyuk.org

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**CBA SEEKS NEW TREASURER**

The CBA is governed by a group of 15 trustees who are elected by members, in accordance with our charitable constitution. Each year at least five trustees are required to stand down or stand for re-election, and new nominations are invited from amongst the membership.

Looking ahead to our 2018 AGM, we anticipate that four existing trustees will be standing for re-election, but we will have one vacancy as our current Honorary Treasurer Edward Bace will be standing down. We are therefore seeking nominations for a new Hon Treasurer to oversee our finances and support the staff in maintaining our financial systems. The role will also require liaison with the CBA’s auditors.

Nominations need to be submitted to our Company Secretary (Mike Heyworth, CBA Director) at the York office three months in advance of the AGM which is being held in late November.

Anyone interested in the role is welcome to contact Mike for an informal conversation and to hear more about the nomination process.
Preserving archaeology in the buildings around us

As we approach the 75th anniversary of the CBAs foundation, our unique services are in more demand than ever and we will be finding new ways to create opportunity for local communities to engage with understanding and conserving their heritage.

For many years the CBA has been involved in commenting on Listed Building Consent applications in England and Wales in partnership with five other National Amenity Societies: The Ancient Monuments Society; the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings; The Victorian Society; The Georgian Group; and, The Twentieth Century Society. Local planning authorities have a statutory duty to notify the Joint Committee of the National Amenity Societies of applications for listed building consent involving partial or total demolition. Local Planning Authorities are, however, not obliged to act on our comments and we often need to work hard to be listened to. That said, a recent visit to walk around the Stonehenge landscape – is based on a recent visit to walk around the Stonehenge landscape which he examined planning policy and processes as well as the legal framework that underpins it. The report says that, if there is one “striking conclusion” to be drawn from the work of the review to date, “it is that the current planning system in England does not work effectively in the long-term public interest of communities or the nation”.

Our input on listed building and archaeology casework is increasingly important locally and nationally. Sometimes we might be the only heritage specialist engaging with quite complex developments that potentially harm the significance and value of the historic environment. There is a common misconception about historic buildings that significance is largely external – what you see from the street. Most historic buildings are the result of additions and subtractions which provide physical evidence of changes in technology, fashion and social relations. Much of this evidence will survive within buildings and be vulnerable to change through adaption to the needs of our own contemporary society. The CBA’s unique take on buildings involves this archaeological perspective which complements the predominately aesthetic or architectural perspective of our Amenity Society partners.

Our core mission, “Archaeology for All”, resonates well with casework. Historic buildings and their settings form such an important part of our lives and make a huge contribution to our quality of life. We live in them; we live next door to them; we stay in them; we shop in them, we pass by them. When those important assets are changed or lost, we notice. Often these changes are imperceptible from the outside. Listed building consent applications give us an opportunity to work with others to manage change and minimise harm.

On the 4 May this year, former housing minister Nick Raynsford published an interim review of the planning system in which he examined planning policy and processes as well as the legal framework that underpins it. The report says that, if there is one “striking conclusion” to be drawn from the work of the review to date, “it is that the current planning system in England does not work effectively in the long-term public interest of communities or the nation”.

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Supporting Community Archaeology across the UK

The Council for British Archaeology (CBA) brings together the interests of a wide range of people and organisations involved with archaeology in the UK. This includes commercial archaeologists; those working in local authorities or museums or other parts of the archaeological heritage sector; universities; community archaeologists and volunteers. In 2013 we published a Research Report (funded by the Headley Trust) into the scale, nature and diversity of learning and development opportunities and activities. Nearly 10 years after the initial research was carried out, the CBA wanted to establish how the Sector had progressed, if at all. We wanted to find out who was involved in community archaeology and what they were doing, were the community requirements still the same? Most importantly, we wanted to know about the additional support the CBA or others could provide.

We learned a lot about communication from our previous projects, in particular the Local Heritage Engagement Network (LHEN). Many groups have a single point of contact and often the message we want to deliver does not get circulated to all relevant people, so this time around we incorporated two completion options: a group representative, or an individual.

The activities taking place emphasised the broad spectrum of archaeology; this was also reflected in the output of work which ranged from delivering lectures to publishing full monographs. Although the majority of our audience is over 60 and archaeology is a hobby, this does not prevent them wanting to learn new skills and be active members of the archaeology community. Their comments reflect those of Henry Ford who said “Anyone who stops learning stays old, whether at twenty or eighty.” Anyone who keeps learning stays young.” 30% of our total audience take part in archaeology as a means to aid their mental and physical health, many in the 30-40 year range engage with archaeology to learn new skills towards their career in archaeology, either as an existing role or a change in direction from outside the sector.

We asked what prevented people taking part in activities, there were three clear answers, lack of training, lack of funding and that they simply did not know who to ask. This lack of resource was amplified in the data we collected regarding the provision of a digital platform. The majority want information about training, managing projects and learning about projects being carried out by other groups, how to engage with others in the sector as well as artefact identification. Without re-inventing the wheel we can signpost to resources which already exist such as basic artefact identification, but the additional training resource requires a significant input.

We want to use the results from the survey, which has also been funded by the Headley Trust, to help shape our work over the next few years and better tailor the support we, and others, can offer to community archaeology. This ties in with our future aims, can we use the data to identify the characteristics and typology of our audience. We know we have not reached everyone but we have an excellent representative data set to be working with. Our survey alone identified that 35 new groups had been established in the last five years; the average number of members from our previous survey suggests that is a prospective 5,000 participants. This trend is not yet reflected in the increase in the CBA membership so we have potentially a new audience to engage with.

Other research results from organisations in the sector support our findings; there is a disconnect within the sector, a need for an umbrella organisation(s) to provide actual rather than a perceived cohesive networking and training platform, with regular updates and signposting. The CBA is perceived as providing a service to a national, regional and local community structure, there are many examples of “the CBA will provide this” signposting on social media commentary, yet the standard to which this should be maintained is unsustainable with our current level of resource.

The next stages of the project are to fully analyse the questionnaire response data this will then be published as a CBA Research Paper later in the year. We will be updating our Introduction to Standards and Guidance in Archaeological Practice (ISGAP) which is a short term low cost solution to some of the issues raised. Finally, we will be investigating a long term solution for the learning, development and networking requirements, we will also explore working with partners to achieve this.

What are the options for the future?
The CBA has the experience to deliver what the archaeological community needs, and there is a potential to create a ripple effect for groups and individuals to influence them in best practice and provide a cohesive community experience by involving and guiding them in a variety of schemes for all ages and abilities. The resources to implement this learning platform and networking forum can take many guises perhaps combining digital and workshop engagement, we just need to find a sustainable solution to deliver it.
YAC Leaders’ Weekend 2018: buildings archaeology

Every year, the Young Archaeologists’ Club (YAC) organises a weekend for volunteers to come together to share ideas and learn new archaeological activities to try out with their YAC members at their local YAC clubs. This year’s weekend was themed around Buildings Archaeology and took place on the weekend of 19-20 May in Bedford. It was hosted by Albion Archaeology.

YAC volunteers were challenged to work out which buildings and structures from a selection of pictures were listed. A listed building is one that is protected by law, and people are not allowed to make changes to it, or demolish it, without special permission. The volunteers were surprised which buildings were listed... they included a car park, a swimming pool, a bank, and even a water tower!

LISTED BUILDINGS AND LEGO!

After deciphering the clues and matching listed buildings with their official ‘listing’ description, our volunteers had a go at recording a building constructed out of Lego! They learned that the skills of observation needed to create drawings and descriptions of a Lego building are exactly the same as the skills used to record buildings archaeologically. Having practised their recording skills on the Lego buildings, our YAC volunteers had a go at the real thing! They headed out onto St Cuthbert’s Street in Bedford, to become buildings detectives and track down clues for how the buildings had changed and developed through time. Armed with specially designed recording sheets, the volunteers spotted blocked up doors, changes in roof height, extensions and new windows.

RECORDING CHURCHES AND GRAVEYARDS

On Sunday morning, our YAC volunteers had a tour of St Mary’s Church, which is now home to the offices of Albion Archaeology. They were challenged to spot different features of the church including places where the building had been altered or extended over. The YAC volunteers also learned about different window styles in churches and how to record them, and YAC volunteers had the opportunity to record these awesome Tudor buildings, which are not regularly open to the public. We were lucky enough to see inside too.

YAC volunteers exploring the National Trust’s Willington Dovecote and Stables. Other YAC volunteers were busy in the graveyard recording the gravestones and memorials. About 20 million memorials are thought to exist in churchyards across the UK. Recording and analysing the information found on these gravestones, markers and other memorials provides a huge wealth of evidence about the lives and deaths of people in the past.

Finally, the volunteers took a trip to explore the National Trust’s Willington Dovecote and Stables. The volunteers were able to explore these awesome Tudor buildings, which are not regularly open to the public. We were lucky enough to see inside too.

The YAC leaders weekend was made possible through the generous donations of the leaders themselves and YAC supporters from across the country. If you would like to see the resources that our leaders used, they are available on the YAC website: http://www.yac-uk.org/

The CBA’s timely project to commemorate the centenary of the First World War will be drawing to a close later this year, but there is still an opportunity to get involved and record the physical remains of the War across the UK and add to our knowledge of this key period in our history.

Three workshops, jointly hosted by Home Front Legacy and Living Legacies 1914-18 AHRC funded First World War engagement centre were recently held in Duxford, Bristol and Stirling and were attended by 45 individuals from YAC branches, voluntary groups and heritage professionals. Two further training events were held with partners at the Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network and East Coast War Channels.

A network of Home Front Legacy Champions is developing with 5 individual Champions across England and Scotland and 1 YAC branch. Champions are individuals or groups who have made a significant contribution by adding sites to the recording app and/or helping others to participate in the project.

Over the last year, a further 386 First World War sites have been recorded across the UK, 187 of which were recorded during August’s Big Recording Month. A total of 4,381 sites have now been recorded via the HFL recording app. Details of the project – including a map showing all the sites recorded to date – are available on the project web site at https://www.homefrontlegacy.org.uk/wp/

Any new sites have to be added to the database before 3 August, so make sure you don’t miss the opportunity to record any sites near you!
The rescheduled archaeology in Wales conference is now open for booking. It will take place between 31 Aug – 2 Sep, although single day tickets are available. It will be held at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Lampeter.

The event will showcase current innovative projects and fieldwork and provide opportunities for hands on workshops, professional development, networking, and guided visits to some of the most iconic and interesting sites in Wales. Hear and experience Wales’ archaeology from the Prehistoric to the Industrial, from coastal to gardens, and from poetry to place names, and participate in an exciting programme of social events.

Leading British archaeologists will be on hand running sessions, giving presentations and guiding visits.

Professor Mike Parker-Pearson, author of Stonehenge: Making Sense of a Prehistoric Mystery will be exploring the latest evidence regarding the origin of the Stonehenge Bluestones. Plus you can visit the potential quarry site and decide for yourself! Professor Carenza Lewis will provide her reflections on archaeology in Wales as the keynote address at Saturday’s formal dinner and Professor David Austin will be exploring the myths, landscape and future of Strata Florida Abbey.

The conference is suitable for all, whether professional, volunteer or anyone else interested in the archaeology of Wales. You don’t need to be a member of CBA Wales to attend, but members of this regional group will get a special discount.

You can see full details of the event can be found on the brand new CBA Wales website: https://councilforbritisharchaeologywales.wordpress.com

Attendees have a chance to visit the beautiful Preseli hills with Professor Mike Parker-Pearson and hear evidence of how it was the origin of the Stonehenge Bluestones.

2018 AGM and Beatrice de Cardi lecture

This year’s CBA Annual General Meeting – part of our annual Archaeology Day event – will be held on 30 November at the University of York Department of Archaeology, which is close to the CBA’s secretariat office.

We are working with university colleagues to give CBA members access to the results of very recent research at the important Mesolithic site at Star Carr, in North Yorkshire.

The Archaeology Day will also include the CBA’s AGM, the presentation of the annual Marsh Archaeology Awards (see page 4), a reception and an opportunity to meet with CBA trustees and staff, and the annual Beatrice de Cardi lecture.

We are also planning other opportunities for CBA members to sample other local archaeology attractions over the weekend for anyone staying over. Further details will be made available via our web site at http://new.archaeologyuk.org/archaeology-day-2018. There will be a modest charge to attend the event to cover our costs.