Academy for Field Archaeology

Archaeology for all in 2015...

please come and join us

Are you fascinated by archaeology? Seen it on television and wanted to try it for yourself? Well, if you like the idea of getting your hands dirty, then come and join us... it's archaeology for all!

WAFA is where anyone from primary school pupil to pensioner, and of any level of experience and ability, can come to learn how to be an archaeologist.

WAFA is a place where you can explore past landscapes, through practical fieldwork, aerial photography, geophysics and excavation. And all as part of a long-term landscape study and experimental archaeology project.

In 2015 we have an exciting range of courses, taught by experts in their field, that are designed to help you to get involved in archaeology and understand how it works.

The following courses are available to book through the website where further details and information about local accommodation can be found.

April
Saturday 25th - Sunday 26th
Test pit excavation
The ideal introduction to excavation and recording on a small scale.
Tutor: Julian Richards

May
Saturday 9th - Sunday 10th
Practical earthwork survey
How to carry out field survey of earthworks using simple and readily available equipment.
Tutor: Mark Bowden (English Heritage)

June
Saturday 13th - Sunday 14th
Geophysical Survey
Practical use in the field of both magnetometer and resistivity followed by the analysis of survey results.
Tutors: Geofllo staff
Saturday 20th - Sunday 21st
Summer Solstice weekend
Check the website in April for details of a special event to mark the longest day.

July
Saturday 4th
Preparing for the dig
Getting ready for excavation, from research design to Health and Safety. The essential guide
Tutors: Julian Richards and panel
Saturday 11th - Sunday 26th
Training Excavation
The medieval village site of Lazerton and its early medieval chapel. Options include: ‘dig for a day’, 5 day courses with tuition in practical excavation skills and site recording and a ‘family dig day’.
Tutors: Julian Richards and specialists
And during the excavation:
Saturday 18th - Sunday 19th
An introduction to soils and sediments
Using the excavation as a study, this will examine the soils and environmental potential of the area.
Tutor: Mike Allen

September
Saturday 5th
Finds workshop
What to do with your archaeological finds from excavation from cleaning to analysis.
Tutor: Emma Firth (AC archaeology)
Saturday 26th (also available on Sunday 27th)
Aerial Photography
Cropmark/solmark formation, sources of images and plotting. Also, interpretation and pitfalls!
Tutor: Mark Corney

October
Saturday 17th - Sunday 18th
Ancient Wood and Woodland
A unique opportunity to use a range of prehistoric and historic tool types in our beautiful woodland.
Tutors: Ancient Technology Centre staff
Saturday 31st
The joy of flint
Flint technology (including practical demonstrations) and the recognition of worked flint in the field.
Tutors: Ancient Technology Centre staff

November
Saturday 14th - Sunday 15th
Ancient Wood and Woodland
The archaeological evidence and the start of our second experimental project, to establish and plant ancient (‘Celtic’) fields at Ash Farm.
Tutors: Ancient Technology Centre staff

December
Saturday 5th - Sunday 6th
Fieldwalking
Surveying, sampling and how to recognise surface artefacts (especially flint). Will also cover plotting, analysis and results interpretation.
Tutor: Julian Richards
Saturday 19th
Winter Solstice gathering at WAFA
Come and meet up in Mick’s Barn to celebrate the turning of the year with mulled wine and mince pies. Open house from 11.00am onwards.

Please book through our website at bookings@wafa.org.uk for all courses.

Mick’s Barn, Ash Farm, Stourpaine, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8PW