

Community Archaeology SIG Newsletter | Autumn 2025

AGM Highlights

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our AGM on 23 September 2025. We were delighted to see so many members take part and contribute to the discussions!

Here are some of the key takeaways:

- The group continues to embed the Community Engagement Toolkit into everyday practice, following its launch at ClfA2024.
- Our May Tea Break Session on Proportional Participation was a huge success with over 50 attendees and fantastic discussion.
- We've updated the Specialist Competency Matrix and reinstated our quarterly newsletters to keep everyone connected.
- A Knowledge Hub has been introduced to support collaboration and succession planning.
- Looking ahead, we'll be hosting a session at the ClfA Innovation Festival, chaired by Jessica Lowther, on Engagement and Storytelling.

Financially, the group remains in a healthy position with £30 in income and no expenditure this year.

We also discussed how the group can continue to serve as a forum for connection, helping practitioners across the UK share experiences, insights and ideas.

 If you missed the meeting, [the minutes have been uploaded to the website](#)

Welcome to Rebecca Dolan!

We're thrilled to welcome Rebecca Dolan as our newest Ordinary Committee Member. Rebecca brings great energy and experience, and we're looking forward to her contributions as the group continues to grow and evolve.

A Fond Farewell to Nina O'Hare

This autumn we'll be saying goodbye to Nina O'Hare, who has been such a valuable member of our committee.

As Secretary, Nina has played a huge part in the growth of the group and the development of our activities. Her thoughtful contributions and commitment have made a real difference and she will be greatly missed.

Tea Break Session Recap

On Thursday 22 May 2025, we hosted a tea break session on:

“Public Engagement in Archaeology – Proportional Participation.”

We explored how engagement strategies can be:

- Scaled appropriately to project size and context
- Inclusive and responsive to the communities we work with
- Built using the Toolkit for Public Engagement as a foundation

Discussions also touched on public benefit, social value, and the balance of active vs. passive participation.

 [View the slides here](#)

What We're All About

The Community Archaeology SIG is here to champion and support everyone involved in delivering community archaeology. 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

We're also currently completing our annual reporting for CIfA, which helps us reflect on achievements and set clear priorities for the year ahead.

 [Explore Our Aims & Priorities](#)

Share Your News!

Do you have a project update, discovery, or achievement to share with the SIG community? We'd love to feature it in the next newsletter.

Please send your news to: Groups@archaeologists.net with the subject line **Community Archaeology SIG Member News**