



Human
Osteoarchaeology
SIG

Dear Human Osteoarchaeology Group members,

Welcome all to our newsletter!





As a new committee it has taken a few months to get organised and sort out what events to organise for the coming year. We have now got a few things organised and a couple in the pipeline, so thought we would introduce ourselves and tell you about the events for early 2025!





We are always open to suggestions so if there is something you would like the group to organise, please let us know.

In this issue:

- the new committee
- 2025 Events
- member publications and osteological reports
- member news, upcoming meetings and membership


The new committee

	<p>Interim Chair - Sam Tipper is a biological and forensic anthropologist with over 15 years of experience working in both the commercial and academic sectors in human osteology, paleopathology, forensic anthropology, and forensic science in both the UK and USA. She is currently a Senior Lecturer in Forensic Anthropology and course leader of the BSc Forensic Science at Anglia Ruskin University in Cambridge. Sam is currently working on osteological/archaeological projects with the National Civil War Museum, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln County council and the Norton Disney Archaeology group.</p>
	<p>Secretary – Kirsty Squires is an Associate Professor of Bioarchaeology and MSc Forensic Science course leader at the University of Staffordshire, where she has worked since 2014. Prior to this, she worked for Wessex Archaeology and the University of Nottingham. Her research primarily focuses on the analysis and interpretation of cremated bone, non-adult bioarchaeology, and ethics in osteoarchaeology and forensic anthropology. She is currently concluding an Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project exploring the health, development, and mortuary treatment of non-adults housed in the Capuchin Catacombs in Palermo, Sicily.</p>
	<p>Member (and social media) - Jenny Carey is a second-year PhD student in Archaeology, currently researching narrative creation and perpetuation in bog body research, and the perception of bogs, peatlands and wetlands as spaces/places through time. Originally from Co. Durham in England, she has lived in Copenhagen since 2017. Beyond the PhD topic, Jenny is very interested in the digitalisation of human remains, ethics and how human remains are displayed to the public (both physically and virtually).</p>
	<p>Member – Heidi Dawson-Hobbis is a Senior Lecturer in Biological Anthropology at the University of Winchester. She completed her PhD in 2011 at the University of Bristol on sub-adult medieval remains. Specialising in osteoarchaeology, she has worked on projects within the commercial sector since 2005 and is currently working with Avon Archaeology Ltd on nineteenth century burials from Bristol.</p>

	<p>Member – Milena Grzybowska is an archaeologist and bioarchaeologist, specialising in human and animal remains. She has been working in commercial and research sectors in Europe and beyond, and for the past ten years she has been the principal osteologist at Archaeological Research Services Ltd., where she worked with assemblages from the Mesolithic through to the post-medieval periods from across the UK.</p>
	<p>Member – Sabrina Ki</p> <p>Sabrina has a long-standing interest in osteoarchaeology and previously completed an MSc in Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology at the University of Exeter, following a BA in Anthropology and Archaeology at Durham University. She enjoys working and volunteering in arts and heritage and is currently the Operations Administrator for the Durham University Department of Archaeology.</p>
	<p>Treasurer – Nick Baker</p> <p>Nick is an archaeologist with Ground Archaeology</p>
	<p>Member – Rachel Ives</p> <p>Rachel is the Curator of Anthropology at the Natural History Museum, London, responsible for the curation and documentation of the Human Remains, Palaeoanthropology, Fossil Primate and Artefact collections. She promotes and supervises scientific research, exhibitions and outreach across the collections and manages collections enquiries and databasing. Prior to this, she worked for AOC Archaeology Group as an osteoarchaeologist carrying out burial ground excavations and post-excavation analyses and reporting. Her research focuses on palaeopathology and particularly the metabolic bone diseases, together with juvenile skeletal growth and the effects of adult ageing.</p>

2025 Events

Osteobites - Our quarterly online short talks and discussion. Our first Osteobite will take place on

	<p>30 January 6.30 GMT 2025</p> <p>Speaker: Tom Booth</p> <p>Talk: Ancient DNA for Archaeologists: What it Can and Can't Do and Why.</p>
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Additional information

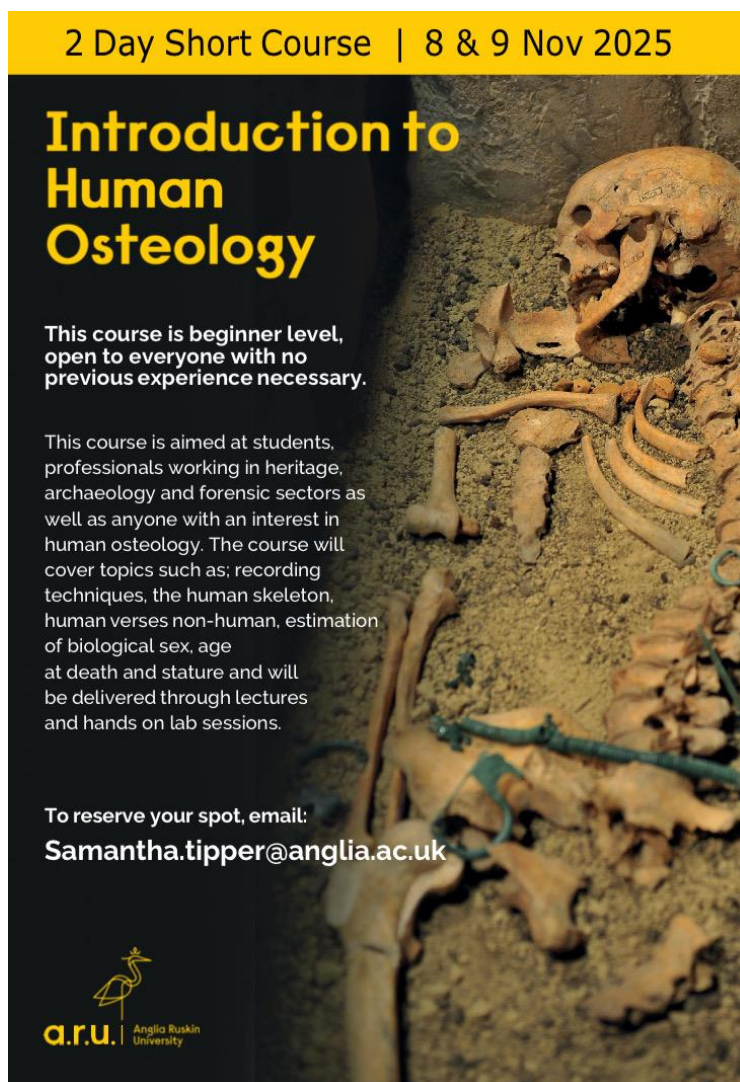
This session counts as 1 hour of CPD if it meets objectives on your personal development plan.

This meeting will take place on Zoom; the link for the meeting will be sent in the confirmation email.

Use the link to sign up; <https://www.archaeologists.net/civicrm/event/info?id=556&reset=1>

Short courses

8 – 9 November 2025 Short course in Human Osteology – contact Sam on Samantha.tipper@aru.ac.uk for more information or to reserve your place.



2 Day Short Course | 8 & 9 Nov 2025

Introduction to Human Osteology

This course is beginner level, open to everyone with no previous experience necessary.

This course is aimed at students, professionals working in heritage, archaeology and forensic sectors as well as anyone with an interest in human osteology. The course will cover topics such as; recording techniques, the human skeleton, human versus non-human, estimation of biological sex, age at death and stature and will be delivered through lectures and hands on lab sessions.

To reserve your spot, email:
Samantha.tipper@anglia.ac.uk

aru. | Anglia Ruskin University

- Please get in touch if you have any courses or conferences you would like to share.

Member café – More information to come. Starting March 2025.

Member publications/osteological reports & projects

Reports and publications

Kirsty Squires

Publications

Piombino-Mascalì, D., Squires, K. and Zink, A. 2024. Ethical challenges in the bioanthropological and biomedical investigation of Sicilian mummies: past experience and future pathways. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology*. doi: 10.1002/ajpa.24946

Squires, K. 2024. The bioarchaeology of early medieval cremation practices in England, 173-183. In: Williams, H. and Lippok, F. (eds.) *Cremation in the Early Middle Ages: Death, Fire and Identity in North-West Europe*. Leiden: Sidestone.

Squires, K., Davidson, A., Cooper, S., Viner, M., Hoban, W., Loynes, R., Zesch, S., Rosendahl, W., Lindauer, S., Greco, C. and Piombino-Mascalì, D. 2024. A Multidisciplinary Investigation of a Mummified Egyptian Head and Analysis of its Associated Resinous Material from the Salinas Regional Archaeological Museum in Palermo (Sicily). *Journal of Archaeological Science: Reports* 55: 104525. doi: 10.1016/j.jasrep.2024.104525

Squires, K., Davidson, A. and Piombino-Mascalì, D. 2024. Public attitudes towards the display of juvenile mummies in the Capuchin Catacombs of Palermo, Sicily. *International Journal of Heritage Studies* 30 (8): 888-904.

Squires, K., Viner, M., Hoban, W., Loynes, R., Van Shaik, K. and Piombino-Mascalì, D. 2024 The "Angioletti" of Palermo: the health and development of mummified non-adults in Late Modern Palermo, Sicily (1787-1880 CE). *Frontiers in Medicine (Pathology)* 11. doi: 10.3389/fmed.2024.1443291.

Squires, K., Viner, M., Hoban, W., Loynes, R., Van Schaik, K. and Piombino-Mascalì, D. 2024. Unveiling the Identities of the Juvenile Mummies from the Capuchin Catacombs of Palermo, Sicily. *American Journal of Biological Anthropology* 183 (supplement 77): 174.

Squires, K. and Piombino-Mascalì, D. 2024. Striking a Balance: Preserving, Curating, and Investigating Human Remains from the Capuchin Catacombs of Palermo, Sicily, 51-64. In: Biers, T. and Stringer Clary, K. (eds.) *The Routledge Handbook of Museums, Heritage, and Death: New Ways of Examining Mortality in the Modern World*. London: Routledge.

Milena Grzybowska

Publications

Grzybowska, M., Doonan, R., Holgate, R., Lotherington, R., Nicholson, M., Waddington, C. 2023. Archaeological Excavation at Ponteland School and Leisure Centre, Ponteland, Northumberland, *Archaeologia Aeliana*, Series 6, volume 2

Grzybowska, M. 2023. Ponteland's prehistoric past. Tracing life and death on the edge of the Northumberland Coastal Plain, *Current Archaeology*, 399: 30-37. *Current Archaeology Awards: Nominated 2024 Rescue Project of the Year*.

Miket, R., Derham, K., Grzybowska, M. 2024. (in press) A short cist burial at The Tankerville Arms Hotel, Wooler, Northumberland. *Archaeologia Aeliana*, Series 6, volume 3.

Samantha Tipper

Osteological reports

Tipper, S (In prep) Osteological Analysis: Lincoln Road, Newark. Newark Civil War Museum.

Tipper, S 2024 Osteological Analysis: Cremation Burial, Little Houghton. PCAS Archaeology.

Tipper, S. 2024. Osteological Analysis: The Lady in the Lead coffin. Newark Civil War Museum.

Publications

Tipper, S. 2024. The human remains from East Stoke battlefield. Battlefield magazine.

Tipper, S., Wilson, P. and Roberts, C, A. 2023. Spondylolysis in Ancient Nubian skeletal populations. *International Journal of Osteoarchaeology*, Vol 33 (5):876-885.

Current or past projects

Ysabelle Reeve was part of Smallhythe Place project 2023.

Sam Tipper

2024-26 Newark castle project

2024 Friary Lincoln Road, Newark

2024 – 26 The Malandry Project, Lincoln

- We need more – please send us info on your work/projects!



Congratulations to our student member Avril Lauren Lindsay for completing her MSc Human Osteology and Paleopathology dissertation at the University of Bradford!

- If you know a member that is graduating or that has something to celebrate let us know!

Thanks for reading, upcoming meetings and membership

As a member of the CifA's Osteoarchaeology Group, you can attend our group committee meetings if you so wish. Members can attend in person (when possible) or remotely with an internet connection via our videoconferencing facilities.

The next meeting is 13 January 2025 at 18:30 GMT. If you would like to attend, please send an email to groups@archaeologists.net

Membership of CifA Area or Special Interest Groups is free for CifA members and is £10 per year for non-CifA members. Please feel free to circulate this newsletter and we would ask you to encourage your friends/colleagues to join the Group. For more information, [see here](#).

Keep in touch!

Keep in touch with us via our Group webpage and social media pages, where information about events and the work of the Group will be publicised.

- Our new BlueSky account: [Cifa Osteoarchaeology Group \(@cifaosteotech.org\)](https://bsky.app/profile/cifaosteotech.org)
- Facebook: [Cifa Human Osteoarchaeology Group \(OsteoSIG\)](https://www.facebook.com/CifaHumanOsteoarchaeologyGroup)
- Group webpage: [Cifa Human Osteoarchaeology Special Interest Group](https://www.cifaosteotech.org)

Please note: we no longer use Twitter.



Newsletters are published 3 times a year and contributions from members are always welcome. Our next issue will be released in April 2025.

To make a contribution to forthcoming editions of the newsletter please email groups@archaeologists.net

We hope to help share the work done by osteoarchaeologists around the UK. If you have completed any projects, monographs, osteological reports or publications, let us know!