



The University of  
**Nottingham**

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# Archaeology@Nottingham

Department of Archaeology Newsletter 2014-15



## Excavating Crete

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### The purple project

Undergraduates to help educate school children

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### Archaeology in Africa

Uncovering the secrets of the savannahs

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### Heritage Lottery funding

£10,000 for the University's Roman town project



# Welcome to the Department of Archaeology



Thank you for your interest in studying archaeology at Nottingham.

Archaeology is the study of the material remains of the human past. This is not just the objects people used, but also the bones of people and their animals, seeds, charcoals and other remains. We use these to reconstruct the life of humans in the past, rather like detectives.

The Department of Archaeology is widely recognised as a very friendly place to study. The quality and high reputation of our University and of the staff teaching here mean that it is an excellent place to take a degree in archaeology. I hope that you enjoy reading about some of our work.

**Professor Mark Pearce**  
Head of the Department of Archaeology

Cover image: Students get hands-on experience of excavation in Crete, Greece.

## News



Staff and students in the Department of Archaeology on a field trip in Lincoln.

## New BA degree in historical archaeology

If you have a fascination with history but want to study the past in a more hands-on way, our new single honours BA Historical Archaeology could be for you. Available to students entering in 2015, the course will provide opportunities to study a range of historical cultures, from the states and empires of the ancient world and the medieval

period, to European colonialism and the industrial revolution, and beyond. Students will also learn practical skills in archaeological techniques, historic building recording, and working with artefacts.

Visit our online prospectus for more information:  
[www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/ugstudy)

## Funding for research training

The School of Humanities is delighted to be part of a successful bid to the Arts and Humanities Research Council for £14.6m to support doctoral research training in the arts and humanities. The Midlands3Cities doctoral training partnership will be offering 410 studentships over a five-year period from 2014-19 at six universities in Nottingham, Birmingham and Leicester.

## Meeting the community

The University of Nottingham Museum recently hosted the first Nottinghamshire Community Archaeology and History Day – a fantastic event that brought together professionals and amateur archaeology groups from across the county and beyond.

Our students held a stall showing the results of our Southwell archaeology test-pitting project, with maps and finds on display. They also ran a whole range of activities for visitors, including artefact-handling sessions of Roman pottery, Saxon grave goods and medieval coins.

Students with the Southwell display at the community day.





# Building local histories



Connor March recording medieval timbers in Southwell.

The study of standing buildings is a vitally important part of today's archaeology, especially in Britain and Europe, where we have so many historic buildings to care for.

Dr Chris King, from the Department of Archaeology, has been conducting an English Heritage-funded research project on historic buildings in Southwell, Nottinghamshire. A team including student and community volunteers, and our commercial partners, Trent and Peak Archaeology, delved behind the town's Georgian and Victorian brick frontages to find a wealth of medieval and post-medieval timber-framed buildings hidden within.

Our most important findings were two unusual aisled halls – large rooms with central open hearths, divided by a central row of timber posts. Using the science of dendrochronology (tree-ring dating of surviving timbers), we have discovered that one of the halls was built in the years AD 1506-1511. The results for the other hall are eagerly awaited!

We have also recorded the Saracens Head Hotel. One of Nottinghamshire's best known medieval timber-framed buildings, this courtyard inn was built during the Wars of the Roses and was where King Charles I spent his last night of freedom after escaping the siege of Oxford in 1646. As part of our work with English Heritage we have recorded a set of Elizabethan wall paintings which have been preserved there.

Find out more about our work in Southwell:

[www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/southwell](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/archaeology/southwell)

Uncovered wall paintings at the Saracens Head Hotel.



## News

## The importance of purple Archaeology in Africa

As part of a new interdisciplinary educational project called 'My Name is Royal Purple' we are giving undergraduates a unique opportunity to get involved in the setting up, design and development of an online archaeological educational resource. The aim of the project is to introduce school children to the significance of the colour purple from prehistory to medieval times, through the study of the painstaking production of purple dye and its use in the manufacture of luxurious textiles.

Our students will be able to assist with the production of a series of archaeological animations and reconstructions and project-based podcasts. The project has been designed for children by Dr Chrysanthi Gallou, Assistant Professor in Aegean Archaeology and Director of the University's Centre for Spartan and Peloponnesian Studies.



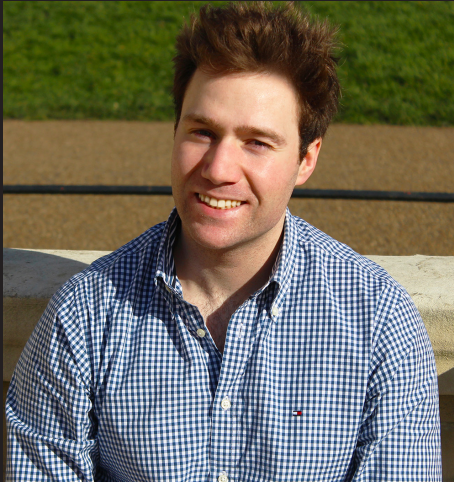
In this famous mosaic from the Basilica of San Vitale in Ravenna (AD547), Emperor Justinian is clad in Tyrian purple.

Dr Hannah O'Regan (archaeology) and Dr Paul Aplin (geography) have been awarded a new University of Nottingham Discipline Bridging Award to bring their subjects closer together. Hannah and Paul recently presented a talk at a palaeoecological conference in Bloemfontein, South Africa, to discuss these ideas with a wider audience.



Paul and Hannah record vegetation and GPS points in Kruger National Park, South Africa.





Name: Luke Taylor  
 Course: BA Archaeology,  
 MA Roman Archaeology  
 Graduated: 2010, 2012  
 Now: Creative content producer

## Graduate profile

"I switched to the Department of Archaeology from a course in architecture a few months after starting university, which was one of the best decisions that I have ever made.

The fantastic thing about archaeology is that it builds a range of experiences from writing, researching, computer graphics and design to IT skills, marketing and scientific analysis, to prepare you for any career path. During my degree I was able to practise illustration and learn graphic design skills thanks to various modules, the Digital Humanities Centre and the incredible resources available within the department. The flexible nature of the course enabled me to work as a graphic designer for the Students' Union, as a design editor for two University magazines and to run the Digital Humanities

Centre for two years, allowing me to utilise skills built from my degree.

After graduating I worked as a freelance graphic designer for the National Trust, developing their digital media and marketing strategy in the Lake District. I now work in the advertising and marketing industry as a creative content producer at McCann Manchester, where I develop award-winning digital strategies, artwork and creative content for a range of international clients including Aldi, American Airlines, npower and Unilever. The ability to research new ideas and generate quick analysis, produce creative material, manage multiple deadlines and resources, liaise with clients and operate various applications all originated from my time studying archaeology at Nottingham."

### Field work project

## Heritage Lottery success for Caistor Roman town project

A charity which grew out of a University of Nottingham archaeology project has just been awarded £10,000 to pursue new areas of research. The Caistor Roman town project, which is focused on the town of Venta Icenorum, just south of Norwich, has enabled volunteers of all ages to participate in archaeological fieldwork alongside University of Nottingham students. The success of the community archaeology aspect of the project led to the foundation of an independent charitable body (Caistor Roman Project), of which the University's Dr Will Bowden is a trustee.


The money from the Heritage Lottery Fund will be used to look at the areas including a previously unexamined part of the early Roman defended settlement beneath the medieval and modern village of Caistor St Edmund. It will also provide additional training for project volunteers.



Caistor volunteer Ian Jackson recording one of the test-pits excavated as part of the new Heritage Lottery-funded work at Caistor.

### Get involved

[www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/societies/society/archaeology](http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/societies/society/archaeology)

 [UniversityofNottinghamArchaeology](https://www.facebook.com/UniversityofNottinghamArchaeology)

 [@UoNArch](https://twitter.com/UoNArch)

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