# CBA Festival of Archaeology 2021 – 17 July – 1 August

**Exploring local places**

We were really pleased to announce the launch of the 2021 Festival of Archaeology at our AGM on 4th February. This year we have chosen the theme ***Exploring local places***. We want it to be all about helping people discover the archaeology and heritage that is all around them. We want people to get out and explore their local places, to discover stories, sites, buildings, places, people and events that make our local communities so special.  Yes, we are mindful that we may still be under some form of lockdown restrictions and social distancing so the Festival will be a hybrid event with lots of self-guided and online activities alongside our traditional on the ground events.

Help us celebrate local sites, stories and the people who lived in and shaped our local places. Archaeology is a great tool to help do this through asking great questions about the places we live: How have they changed and how do we use them today?  Who lived and worked there in the past and do we use them in the same way today?  What can you see today that would have been in the landscape 10, 100 or even a 1,000 years ago?

We’ve put together some ideas to get you started:

* Try our [Local Explorer Bingo Challenge](https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/events/local-explorer-bingo-challenge-1601911002) and see how many things you can find. This is a great activity to do on your daily walk.
* Take a wander down your local high street and think about how it has changed over time. This could make a great research project (don’t forget social distancing).
* Discover [Dig School](http://digschool.org.uk/) and learn how you can use archaeology to find out about the people who lived on your doorstep. Dig School is a series of online workshops and activities ending with the opportunity to dig a test pit in your own back garden!
* Try out or make a self-guided walk and share it with others.
* Got a question about an object, site, feature or simply curious about something unusual have it ready to get answers from archaeologists around the world on [Ask An Archaeologist Day](https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/ask).
* Share your archaeological experience as part of [A Day In Archaeology](https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/day).
* Watch out for our growing list of events, activities and competitions and sign up for our regular updates via the [Festival website](https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/).

**Run your own event or activity**

We are keen for our CBA Groups to host and run events and activities. This is key to growing our membership at national and local level and demonstrating to new members and participants just what we have to offer. The Festival is a great way to celebrate our love for all things archaeology and heritage. We were really pleased with last year’s response in terms of the number of participants and reach (digital speak) of the activities and events.

So please do have think about how you might like to celebrate your own favourite local place and put on your own event for your community.  Events will be listed on the [Festival website](https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/) from April. Event organisers can find out more information on this year’s theme in the organisers area of the website.

If you can’t wait until April, we still have a range of fantastic events and activities from the 2020 Festival that you can view at any time. Search the event listings at <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/find> or you can watch our highlights video of [The CBA in 2020 - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4foLUODczVk&feature=youtu.be)

Neil Redfern

Executive Director, CBA