

1 . Keynote address, Dr Hannah Fluck (Head of Environmental Strategy at Historic England), **Heritage, community and climate: why the past is essential for the sustainable future of our places**

*Abstract*

This presentation will explore the ways in which cultural heritage can contribute to a sustainable future. In this presentation it will be argued that the sort of local knowledge and temporal and cultural understanding of places that is accessible through oral histories, archives and the historic environment is not only valuable for planning for a sustainable future but an essential part of the human solution to the anthropogenic problem of the climate crisis.

*Biography*

Hannah, Head of Environmental Strategy, Historic England, is an archaeologist with a PhD in the archaeology of human evolution and over 20 years' experience of archaeology and heritage management in research, commercial and public sectors.

For the past six years Hannah has worked at Historic England, the public body that looks after England's historic environment, overseeing its work on climate change, increasing awareness of the relevance of heritage to climate change policy and action, and has become a leading voice on the subject. Hannah is a founding steering committee member of the Climate Heritage Network (founded at UN Climate Action Summit, San Francisco 2018), contributing author for the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, and author of Historic England's Climate Change Adaptation Report. Hannah is a Co-Investigator on two AHRC funded research projects on heritage and climate change and advisor on a number of other climate related initiatives.

2. Dr Alice Harvey-Fishenden (University of Liverpool), **Archives and communities as repositories of climate change knowledge.**

*Abstract*

This talk will discuss my research over the last five years working with communities and archives to explore climate past and future. It will encompass my PhD research working with the Staffordshire Record Office and a group of volunteers to explore evidence of past droughts within the archives and my current work reengaging with similar archive material in different ways, and under very different circumstances. My research across both projects has involved a cycle of archival data collection, community engagement and community data collection and reengagement with the archive (through catalogue improvements, creative workshops, or the addition of material). There is valuable information in local, community and national archives and uncollected within communities

for exploring past and possible future experiences of climate change and extreme weather, and with the potential to engage people with their local environment and global climate.

### *Biography*

Alice Harvey-Fishenden is a historical geographer, with experience of working across a variety of disciplines, including English, History, Archaeology, Physical and Human Geography. Her PhD research (University of Liverpool 2016-2020) focused on developing a better understanding of the societal impacts of droughts in the past, and how archive documents can be used to learn more about droughts and other extreme weather conditions. She is a Post-doctoral research associate currently working on an AHRC/ UK Climate Resilience programme funded project 'CLANDAGE: Building Climate Resilience through Community, Landscapes and Cultural Heritage'.

### 3. David Barnes (local community archivist and activist), **Am I an archive activist? Using connectedness to record our 'present past'**

#### *Abstract*

In his talk David which discuss how although he has not ever thought of himself as an archivist he does promote a record of our current times through activities such as blogs, newspaper reports, heritage articles and how he aims to engage people as co-researchers to develop the capacity of communities to record their experiences.

#### *Biography*

“I am a registered social worker and I may be an amateur archivist, I hope so. I have recently completed a Masters in Health Research which identified the role of 'connectedness' in people's lives and it made me realise that a lot of my activities have important aspects of active archiving, by which I mean that I am creating records that I like to think have current interest value and future social history value. I also combine this with practical work in heritage and wildlife conservation.”

### 4. Professor Vlatka Lemić (University of Zagreb), **Topotheque – collaborative portal for archives and communities**

#### *Abstract.*

Topotheque is a digital platform – a collaborative online archive – giving access to digitized communal historic sources with the help of interactive IT tools for description, presentation and search. It was created by ICARUS within the framework of the Creative Europe co:op - Community

as Opportunity project (2014-2018), as a tool for creating virtual archive collections of local history and/or theme. Topotheque concept is based on the collaboration of heritage institutions with the community, as well as on the idea of inclusion of more citizens in the preservation, research and promotion of their history and tradition. From its creation Topotheque has become the largest community platform in Europe, with more than 350 virtual collections on local history, sights, events and people from 15 countries, driven by various organisations, groups and communities. It is used in various projects and programs, local and international, dedicated to safeguarding of not always easily accessible private documents and opening it for the public, providing contribution in building regional and historic identities of communities and their population. Author will provide an introspective of platform development and running, work methodology and participatory concept of integration of voluntary work and crowd sourcing in the platform workflow, as well as examples of unveiled community stories. Besides presenting past experience and lessons learnt, the idea is to explore perspectives and best practices in the digital archiving and community archives field in order to make the platform a better tool for community archiving. (<https://www.topothek.at/en/> )

### *Biography*

Assistant professor Vlatka Lemić, Ph. D. works at University of Zagreb as Head of Archival Office. She is an archival counsellor as well as professor at the Archival Studies Department of the University of Zagreb. She is actively engaged in various international projects and initiatives in the field of information and archival sciences, culture and digital humanities (Creative Europe, Time Machine, DARIAH, AERI). She is vice president of ICARUS, president of ICARUS Croatia, member of ICA EURBICA Executive Board and EGSHAH, Time Machine Ambassador and member of Europeana Advisory Board.

5 Tim Powell & Georgie Salzedo (Sector Development Managers at The National Archives), **All is hazard. Is there no plan? A risk assessment approach to archives and climate change**

### *Abstract*

That climate change will pose many challenges to all aspects of society is well-known. Heritage organisations have begun to consider the risks that will specifically affect the environments, buildings and collections of which they are custodians. Where do archives fit into this?

The National Archives recently joined the Climate Heritage Network. Its Sustainability and Climate Action statement commits members to addressing the impacts of climate change, planning for adaptation and contributing to disaster risk reduction. Our response, then, calls us not only to

ensure our policies and practices are as environmentally responsible as possible, but also to prepare for the risks to collections that climate change might bring.

The archives sector has long experience of identifying hazards to its collections and has the tools with which to prepare for, mitigate and prevent many of them. The National Archives is keen to work with all archives collaboratively to develop a practical response to climate and archives. This interactive presentation by Tim Powell and Georgie Salzedo of TNA's Regional and Networks Team will, we hope, initiate a conversation with community archives by looking at how a risk analysis approach can provide an overview of potential hazards arising from climate change.

### *Biographies*

Georgie Salzedo joined The National Archives as Sector Development Manager for London and Business archives in 2019. She previously worked as the archivist in a business and completed an MA in archives at UCL. She also has done an MA in Public History.

After completing a PhD in early medieval history, Tim Powell forgot all about it and worked for 20 years on modern scientific archives. He has been at The National Archives since 2012 and is Sector Development Manager for the South West, Religion, and Science and Technology.