

Carol McDavid & Suzie Thomas (2014) Editorial, *Journal of Community Archaeology & Heritage*, 1:3, 191-191, DOI: 10.1179/2051819614Z.00000000021

One of the most rewarding aspects of editing the *Journal of Community Archaeology and Heritage* research is the diversity of the papers that we see, from geographic location to the communities involved, to the nature of the work.

In this issue we see papers dealing with work and research in the Republic of Ireland, the USA, and the Netherlands. Inspired by initiatives seen in other countries, Paul Duffy embarked upon doing community archaeology in the place he grew up, where his parents still live — suburban Seagrang, located in the outskirts of Dublin.

In his paper, he reflects on the many successes of this project in gaining local interest and participation, but is also open about the challenges that they faced, especially in the earliest months of the project. This is set against the backdrop of the truncated archaeological ‘industry’ in Ireland following the global economic crisis.

Working in a different city and a different country, Jodi Skipper provides another very reflexive account, as she describes her work and its impact on the African American community attached to St Pauls United Methodist Church in Dallas, Texas. In the wake of university-led archaeological excavations in the area, Skipper embarked on curating a community-focused exhibition that encompassed archaeology as well as oral history and documentary research. Here she discusses, among the other things, the realities of trying to ensure sustainability in communities as an external archaeologist, when career and other pressures pull in many directions.

The third paper deals with another ‘community’ altogether, that of metal detectorists. As a community of shared interest, this group is increasingly becoming the subject of recent research in a number of countries, notably the UK, Norway, and Denmark. Here, Jef and Max van der Schriek shed light on how metal detecting hobbyists may interact (or not) with professional archaeology within the Netherlands. Extremely relevant to recent debates (for example, online discussions earlier in 2014 generated by National Geographic’s ill-fated ‘Nazi War Diggers’ television programme), these authors situate metal detecting against the backdrop of twentieth-century conflict archaeology. This is a field which, they argue, could stand to develop further within Dutch archaeology as an area of research and expertise.

Our Reflections article comes from Steve Winterton, and provides a fascinating insight into the impact of community archaeology initiatives on wellbeing and rehabilitation. Winterton, a former member of the British Army, describes how archaeology helped him find a new focus and enthusiasm after debilitating injuries ended his military career.

Both of the reviews in this issue are of practical handbooks published by the Council for British Archaeology, and are written by members of the Waveney Community Archaeology Group — a voluntary group based in East Anglia (eastern England). We hope that this final collection for 2014 continues to stimulate our readers and generate discussion. We hope to hear from you soon, either through papers or through our blog and social media platforms!