



## Previous winners of the ARA New Professional of the Year Award

This award recognises the achievements by an individual member of the ARA's section for new professionals within the last eighteen months.

Information below taken from press releases of the year of the award, winners may now have moved or changed jobs.

### New Professional of the Year 2023

The nominees for New Professional of the Year 2023 were

- Fran Horner
- Kurt Jameson
- Eleanor McKenzie

The winner, with 55 per cent of the vote was **Fran Horner**.

Fran was nominated for her work as Assistant Archivist at Heritage Quay, the archive of the University of Huddersfield. Her nominator for the award wrote:

“Fran threw herself into this role with determination and enthusiasm, whilst also finishing her archive qualification. Within a few months it was difficult to recall that she was not only relatively new to Heritage Quay but also a new professional. In the 16 months Fran worked with us, in addition to shouldering the day-to-day workload and responsibilities of this role, Fran also made exceptional contributions to the service.”

Fran qualified as an Archivist in 2022 and also achieved Registered Membership of the Archives and Records Association in that year. She previously worked at the National Theatre Archive as their Archive Assistant.

[Read Fran's full nomination here](#)

### New Professional of the Year 2022

#### **Gemma Evans**

The nominees for New Professional of the Year were Gemma Evans and Iida Saarinen

In a closely fought contest the winner with 58 per cent of the vote was Gemma Evans

Gemma was nominated for her work as the Records at Risk Project Officer for Archives and Records Council Wales, Gemma was required to lead on the development and delivery of a national records rescue strategy and process, so that all information about archives at risk and potential repositories fed into a central resource. The post required substantial professional experience in archives at an intermediate or senior level with a successful track record of leadership in a partnership or multi-agency context. However, as a newly qualified archivist, Gemma was able to draw on her theoretical learning from the Aberystwyth course

and her experience from previous roles to shape and define the scope of the project and ensure that it was successfully delivered on time and within budget. This is a significant early-career achievement, and it is for this reason she was nominated for the New Professional of the Year Award.

Gemma Evans, winner of ARA New Professional of the Year Award said:

“I am delighted to be granted the ARA 2022 New Professional of the Year Award and was honoured to be nominated by my colleagues at the National Library of Wales and Archives and Records Council Wales. It was a privilege to work on the Records at Risk Project, where I gained invaluable early career experience, and I would also like to thank ARA for their continuing support and guidance for newly qualified archivists. Thank you!”

*No awards were made in 2021 and 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic*

### **New Professional of the Year 2019**

**Julie Devenney** is the 2019 New Professional of the Year. Julie became social media officer for ARA Scotland in June 2017 and very quickly became an integral part of the committee. Her main responsibility was the ARA Scotland Twitter account and, since she took on the role, account twitter followers have risen from just over 500 to well over 3,400, making @ARAScot one of the most popular ARA-related accounts on twitter. Julie’s innovative use of Graphics Interchange Formats (GIFs) and commitment to posting several times a day has raised awareness of ARA Scotland activity and helped the group to grow its membership by engaging with a worldwide audience.

In the last year, Julie has innovated and made the monthly @archivehour activity on social media a mainstream ARA activity, with sections and nations/regions queuing up to take part. She has also run an innovative new social media campaign almost every month. Archivists and records managers from all over the world participated in her #Archive30 campaign in April 2019, content for which was translated into over 18 languages and reached over three million people. Her #ArchiveZ social media activity ran for the 26 weeks before the 2018 ARA Conference in Glasgow, showcasing the collections held in repositories across Scotland. This had a demonstrable and positive impact on both Conference attendees and in encouraging online participation by those unable to attend.

In addition, in the last 18 months, Julie has generously volunteered her own time to speak at events for various groups in the records sector, sharing her extensive knowledge and providing help and advice to a wide range of colleagues. For a new professional to show such leadership, dedication and innovation so early in a career has had an inspirational effect on many of her peers and colleagues.

Philip Milnes-Smith of *Shakespeare’s Globe* in London was a worthy runner-up in this category.

### **New Professional of the Year 2018**

The winner of the New Professional of the Year Award 2018 is Zoe Fullard, Archives Cataloguer at Transport for London. In this role Zoe has taken the lead in the development

of Transport for London's digital repository and has created a 'translator' document. This document takes each warning message issued by their digital repository software system and breaks it down into understandable information. This has greatly increased efficiency at the Transport for London Corporate Archive by allowing them to identify and rectify problems quickly and will hopefully be an aid to other repositories using the same software in the future. Many repositories have visited the Transport for London Corporate Archive to enquire about their digital repository program. Zoe has delivered most of these sessions, really contributing to the spread of digital records knowledge within the profession.

ARA, and therefore the wider professional community have also benefitted enormously from Zoe's enthusiasm and passion for the sector. In May 2017, Zoe became responsible for the ARA Conference Twitter feed. She applied herself to this role with such dedication and success that it was expanded out into a wider social media role, which she continues to perform. She initiated new ideas including live Twitter feeds on screen at Conference and as well as promoting this year's Conference is also part of the team who deliver Archive Hour every month on Twitter.

Zoe remains dedicated to her own professional development as well as that of others. Zoe takes a leading role in the setting of work and objectives for the Transport for London work placement students, ensuring that she gives feedback to the trainee at all stages of the placement.

All these factors combine to make a Zoe a worthy winner of this year's award. Congratulations Zoe on your achievement.

### **New Professional of the Year 2017**

**James Elder**, Archives Manager BT is New Professional of the Year 2017. James' work managing digital records at BT was praised for contributing to the developing field of digital preservation and acknowledged he undertook a significant undertaking for someone so early into their career and displayed initiative and leadership. Not only has his implementation of a digital repository made an impact in the workplace, it has also benefited the wider sector thanks to his presentation at the ARA Conference 2016 and by hosting visits and meetings with other professionals. We would like to commend James for achieving so much at this stage in his career.