

Sian Evans

I decided to study history and archaeology as I've always been interested in the subject - growing up in North West Wales means you're surrounded by archaeology, from prehistoric to industrial, and I wanted to understand more about how this landscape has shaped the people over time. I've also always been fascinated with churches and monastic remains, so the chance to study them in depth was key, and one of the main drivers of my dissertation topic. That, however, grew out of the Geophysics Survey training day put on by Dr Kate Waddington and Dr Gary Robertson for the Archaeology Society in May 2022. The reason for undertaking the survey intrigued me, even more so when the results came through - and I was determined to discover just how big the priory had been, and how long it had lasted, especially as it isn't listed in any of the main directories. I didn't think a damp May day would lead to receiving such a prestigious prize - and had I been told, at the start of 2019, that I'd go back to university in the midst of a global pandemic, graduate, start a new career and win this prize I would never have believed it.