

Armchair Adventures

A Digging Into The Past Adventure – Part 1

Connie: Welcome to the Armchair Adventures Travel Agency, journeys of the imagination. I'm Head Travel Agent and Host, Connie!

Music: Armchair Adventures theme tune

Connie: G'day, afternoon or bonne nuit wherever you're listening from adventurers and welcome to the first episode of series 4! The voices of today's special guest adventurers are...

Adventurers say their names

Rocco

Matthew

Eva

Sophie

Curtis

Ikra

Max

Connie: Hi everyone!

Children: Hi Connie!

Connie: You too can star in an episode of Armchair Adventures as one of our special guest adventurers. All you need to do is ask your grown up if you can join the Armchair Adventures Fanclub on Patreon. Simply head to [Patreon.com](https://www.patreon.com/armchairadventures), forward slash Armchair Adventures for more information! We've got such a fun-packed series for you, with a musical adventure...

SFX orchestra playing

...A Christmas sprout eating competition

SFX eating sounds followed by a fart

...And even a rocket ship adventure to celebrate the first woman on the moon!

SFX rocket blasting off

SFX phone rings

- Connie: Excuse me, I just need to get this... (*into the phone*). Hello. Armchair Adventurers Travel Agency.
- Walter: Connie? I'm glad you picked up.
- Connie: Hi Walter, is everything okay?
- Walter: Absolutely fine – it's just we hadn't heard from you for a while, so, I wanted to check you were okay.
- Connie: Oh, I'm so sorry. I didn't mean to neglect you guys. It's just been so busy, I'm moving house you see!
- Walter: Moving?
- Connie: Don't worry - I'm not going far, but you know how we've always lived in the flat above the Travel Agency?
- Walter: Yes...
- Connie: Well, now that things are going so well with Armchair Adventures, we can finally move somewhere bigger: our own house with a little garden and everything. It's what my Mum's always wanted.
- Walter: That's exciting!
- Connie: Yeah, I guess...
- Walter: But...?
- Connie: It's not that I don't want a garden, a bit more space for all my bits and bobs, but we've always lived here. I can't imagine moving on...
- Walter: I tell you what, why don't we get the others on the line? I'm sure they'll have some words of wisdom. Maybe even some ideas for an Armchair Adventure, to take your mind off things? A bit of excitement, a new perspective...
- Connie: Good idea. Let's get all my customers on a group telephone chat. Because with an Armchair Adventure, we can go anywhere we like from the comfort of where we are right now, so they're perfect for everyone, no matter what age you are. Start. Call. Now.

SFX dialling in the Armchair Adventurers customers.

Customers all say hello

- Connie: Hello everyone, sorry I've not been in touch for a little while. How are you all doing?

Customers: Great, thanks. Can't complain. Excited for our next adventure etc.
Anne: Are we off on an adventure now then Connie?
Pat: Oh yes please, I really fancy getting away.
Connie: I'd like to, but I'm just so busy...
Walter: Connie's moving house...
Pauline: That's exciting.
Linda: Moving house? That's an adventure in itself.
Connie: It feels more like a chore than an adventure. Packing up my room is taking ages...

SFX Rustling - packing a box - and then a heavy sigh.

Keith: Moving can be pretty stressful.
Connie: I keep getting distracted – finding things I'd forgotten I even had...
Jan: Oh really, like what?

SFX Rustling

Connie: This medal – I won it on Sports Day in Year 6.

SFX Cheering at a race

Pauline: My brother went to the same school as me, and every sports day he'd always beat me, except one year... I won and he didn't speak to me all afternoon! I still get the certificate out to show off to him!
Connie: What about you adventurers, can you act out some of your favourite sports day moments?

SFX Ding

SFX sports day, cheering etc.

Adventurer: My favourite sports day memory was when my grandad tried doing the parents' race!
Adventurer: Winning a race with my best friend's little brother...
Adventurer: When the hurdles fell over...
Adventurer: I love the egg and spoon race...
Adventurer: When me and my best friend won the sack race.
Connie: Those sound like fantastic sports days. What great memories.
Hazel : They stay with you, those memories from primary school.

Connie: I still remember being in the Year 6 play. I found the programme earlier in a muddle of my old reports and things...

SFX flicking through pages

Connie: Look there I am...

Ronnie: I like your costume, Connie.

Connie: My Mum made it. I used to love all the dress-up days at primary school.

SFX Rummaging in a pile of things.

Connie: Look, here: this is the wig I wore to be Tracy Beaker on World Book Day.

Pat: I love the sound of world book day. I wish they'd had that when I was at school.

Connie: I bet our join-in adventurers will have lots to say about their memories and mementos from primary school...

SFX Ding

SFX of school classroom, bell ringing accompanying the below dialogue

Adventurer: When my friend was on my back and I accidentally dropped her into a puddle...

Adventurer: When we won the dodgeball tournament...

Adventurer: Playing football on the top field with my mates...

Adventurer: I really love going on school trips on the coach...

Adventurer: Best school dinner...fish and chips Friday!

Connie: Thanks for sharing those stories.

Anne: You never forget your primary school.

Linda: Do you remember the little bottles of milk we used to drink?

SFX of school classroom, bell ringing accompanying the below dialogue

Pauline: If you were lucky you got to be the milk monitor handing it out.

Hazel: And year six were really lucky, they got to be the coffee monitors and go into the staff room to wash the teacher's mugs!

SFX Washing up, while teachers chatting in the next room

SFX fade out

Walter: School was a bit different for me...

SFX Air raid siren

The war had broken out... Me and all the other children from my school were sent to the countryside, to keep us safe from the bombs.

Keith: That must have been very nerve-wracking.

SFX Air raid siren fade out

Connie: It's so special to hear all your primary school experiences.

Hazel: I still remember how sad I was about leaving Primary School.

Connie: That's exactly how I feel now, about moving house.... A jumble of excited and scared. What about you join-in adventurers? How does the thought of leaving primary school make you feel?

SFX Ding

Adventurer: I'm sad about going to a different school to my friends...

Adventurer: I feel quite excited but at the same time nervous because it's a brand new school and it's quite big...

Adventurer: I'm excited 'cos it's quite a sporty school...

Adventurer: I can't wait to try new subjects...

Adventurer: The high school's sooooo big, what if I get lost?!

Adventurer: I'm excited!

Connie: Thanks for sharing those feelings. I've got similar worries about this house move too. I've had so many happy times in this flat, what if nothing is ever the same?

Walter: I thought that Connie could do with a break, an adventure to take her mind off things.

Pat: Good idea.

Jan: Where should we go, though?

Walter: Well, as it happens rooting around in your bedroom, discovering all those artefacts from your past has given me an idea Connie...

Keith: Go on...

Ronnie: What are you thinking?

Walter: Why don't we go on an archaeological adventure, digging into an exciting past?

Jan: I love the sound of that!

Hazel: I really enjoyed history at school.

Connie: Come on then, let's go. A journey of the imagination here we come...

Music: Armchair Adventures Theme (instrumental only)

Scene 2.

SFX Digging and scaping, construction site sounds...

Connie: Where are we?

Walter: This is an archaeological dig.

Connie: But where are the pyramids?

Walter: Pyramids?

Anne: And the camels?

Connie: Exactly!

Walter: What are you talking about pyramids and camels?

Connie: Well, when you said an archaeological dig, I assumed we'd be going to Egypt to study the Pharaoh's tombs.

SFX/Music that evokes ancient Egypt

Hazel: Or to the Andes Mountains – to Machu Pichu to see the lost city of the Incas.

SFX/Music that evokes the Incas

Pauline: Or to Ancient Greece – to the acropolis to see Greek Mythology come to life.

SFX/Music that evokes Ancient Greece

Connie: But this... This is just down the road. It looks just like any other construction site...

Ronnie: Not exactly...

Lynda: Look, there are different areas marked off with rope, and look at all these people carefully digging.

Pat: Brushing the dirt off the things they have found.

SFX Brushing and scraping

Connie: Shall we get our own digging equipment out?

Walter: Good idea!

Connie: What do you think we need?

Keith: I've got my shovel.

Jan: I've got a trowel.

Anne: Digging by hand sounds like hard work to me, I've brought a rotovator!

SFX rotavator machine, not too loud

Ronnie: Forget that, I've brought the JCB!

SFX JCB, really loud!

Connie: What about you adventurers at home? Let's test our digging equipment...

SFX Digging

SFX Ding

Adventurer: I've got a massive snow shovel.

Adventurer: I'm doing digging with a tiny spoon.

Adventurer: I'm using my sister's princess shovel.

Adventurer: I've got a jack hammer.

Adventurer: I've got my bucket and spade.

Connie: Great stuff everyone.

Ronnie: I'm excited to see what we find buried under the ground.

Linda: It'll be like playing on the beach, seeing if you can dig all the way to Australia.

Connie: Shall we get started?

Hazel: Maybe those people over there can tell us where to start digging?

Walter: Those people are archaeologists. That means somebody who looks at ancient sites and objects to learn about the past.

Pauline: Look...one of them is coming over to join us.

SFX footsteps of a man walking closer to the customers

Walter: This is my friend Campbell, from Manchester Museum.

Campbell: Welcome, have you come to join our dig?

Connie: Yes please.

Walter: Connie's been thinking a lot about her own past, so we thought why not explore the past beneath our feet?

Campbell: Fantastic! Archaeology is a way to build connections between us and the people who came before us. The people who lived hundreds of years ago can feel far away, unreal almost. But when you dig down and find the objects they owned: toys, tools, things to drink from, the kinds of things we still use today, it builds a connection between them and us. It's like a time machine.

Connie: That sounds wonderful! I was surprised to come here though, I thought archaeology happened in faraway places...

Campbell: Ah, that's a common misconception, archaeology can happen anywhere.

Hazel: Like you in your bedroom Connie, excavating the objects from your time at primary school.

Campbell: Exactly. I'm actually an Egyptologist but when the construction company building this new road said they thought the site might be of archaeological interest, I thought I'd come and take a look. Here comes the site manager now...

SFX Site manager walking towards Campbell and the customers

S.Manager: I didn't think your dig would take this long though...

Campbell: The construction company are keen for us to get on with our dig so they can get on with their job...

S.Manager: We're widening the road, building more cycle lanes, making the transport system greener and more efficient. Looking to the future, see...

Campbell: So, we need to be quick...

Walter: It's a good job we're here to help then!

Campbell: If you'd like to borrow any equipment...

Anne: Thanks, but we came prepared.

Campbell: Well then, dig in! Careful though, you never know what you might find...

Connie: Ready, adventurers? Let's dig.

SFX Ding

SFX Digging

Anne: Come on, put your backs into it!

Connie: That's it. Brilliant digging.

Ronnie: Stop!

SFX Digging stops

Connie: What is it, Ronnie?

Ronnie: I've found something...

Linda: Ooh, how exciting!

Pat: What is it? What have you found?

Jan: Let's take a look.

SFX brushing dust and dirt off the object

Ronnie: Oh, it's only an ordinary glass bottle. Rubbish...

Campbell: Actually, even rubbish can tell us something about who we are and how we live.

Lynda: Really?

Campbell: Oh yeah, in fact, the rubbish dump can be the most intriguing part of an archaeological site because it shows you how ordinary people really lived, people whose lives weren't necessarily written about in history books.

Linda: What is it they say, one man's trash is another man's treasure?

Ronnie: I'm still hoping for some real treasure, let's dig a little deeper...

Connie: Come on then everybody, keep digging...

SFX Ding

SFX Digging

Pat: Keep going...

Lynda: Dig deep everybody.

Linda: Got something!

Hazel: Fantastic!

Anne: What could it be this time?

Linda: Let's look and see.

SFX brushing dust and dirt off the object

Pauline: It looks like a medal.

Jan: Wow, that's a Victoria Cross!

Pauline: Someone must have done something really special to have earned that medal.

Hazel: A proud moment to be awarded it.

Campbell: That medal looks to me like it dates back to the first world war!

Connie: Wow. Let's imagine...

SFX digging and construction site sounds fade out

SFX Ding

SFX At an army parade, music, marching etc.

Adventurer: A proud moment...

Adventurer: I'd have my chest puffed out...

Adventurer: It made me feel happy...

Adventurer: I'd be stood bravely.

SFX At an army parade, music, marching etc. fades out

SFX digging and construction site

Linda: This should be in a museum.

Jan: Would you like it for your Museum, Campbell?

Campbell: Oh, we'd have to talk to the Finds Liaison Officer. We can't collect everything that people find, there'd be no room in our museum!

Hazel: It would be good to reunite the medal with the family of the person who owned it.

Pat: They'd be so proud.

Lynda: And they might be able to tell us a bit more about it, fill in the blanks of the person's life story...

Connie: That's a great find.

Walter: Ah, I bet there's still more to discover.

Ronnie: Let's dig a little deeper...

Pat: I'm going to try out this metal detector....

SFX Beeping of the metal detector

Keith: Sounds like that's where we should dig next!

Connie: Come on everyone, you know what to do.

Anne: Let's keep digging!

SFX Ding

SFX Digging

Connie: That's it, come on, keep digging....

Linda: Keep going.

Pat: Stop! I've got something.

SFX Digging stops, tools down

Hazel: What is it?

Pauline: Let's take a look.

SFX brushing dust and dirt off the object

Pat: A beautiful candle stick.

Campbell: We archaeologist's sometimes use a technique called carbon dating to see exactly how old something is, but that looks pretty Victorian to me...

Pat: In the Victorian era there were no electric lights, so they lit their rooms by candlelight.

Hazel: Looks fancy to me.

Pat: I imagine an elegant Victorian lady owning it.

Pauline: Imagine, a whole room lit by beautifully flickering candles.

Pat: For a ball, maybe...

Connie: Oh yes, let's imagine that candlestick, the centre piece for a beautifully decorated room. Elegant ladies and gentlemen...

SFX digging and construction site sounds fade out

SFX Twinkling magic as if back to the past

SFX Victorian ballroom music and dancing

Ronnie: May I have this dance?

Connie: Wonderful.

SFX Twinkling magic

SFX construction site/digging

Walter: I think we can still dig deeper though...

Keith: Wait one minute. All this digging is thirsty work.

Anne: And tiring!

Lynda: I need a little sit down.

Campbell: Oh Wait. Here come the site manager...

PROMO SWAP ADVERT

Connie: Let's pause our journey of the imagination. There's something I'd like you to listen to. It's another podcast I think you'd enjoy.....

ADVERT

Connie: Welcome back adventurers. We're going to start digging again...

PROMO SWAP ADVERT ENDS

SFX Site manager walking towards the customers and Campbell.

S.Manager: Excuse me but, is this dig going to take much longer? Because we're way behind schedule on this new road already.

Campbell: I'm sorry but we're not done yet. I think there's still more to find.

Jan: Let's keep digging.

Walter: Are we all ready to dig again?

Ronnie: I'm still hoping to find my fortune.

Connie: Come on, let's dig.

SFX Ding

SFX Digging

Pat: Pick up the pace.

Anne: Come on, we can dig faster than that.

Keith: Stop! I've got something.

SFX Digging stops, tools down

Anne: What is it?

SFX brushing dust and dirt off the object

Keith: It looks very old...

Jan: Some kind of tool maybe...

Campbell: Err, that's actually a coprolite.

Pat: That sounds fancy.

Hazel: Is it valuable?

Campbell: To archaeologists it is. It's actually fossilised poo.

Keith: Fossilised poo!
Campbell: In this case, it looks like fossilised human poo.
Connie: That's disgusting.
Customers: Ew, disgusting, yuck etc.
Ronnie: Oh I'm not touching it!
Connie: What could possibly be valuable about that?
Campbell: Well, it can tell us a lot about how people used to live, what else did you find near it?

SFX brushing dust and dirt off the object

Linda: I've found this: it looks like some kind of tool.

SFX clay pot pieces

Pauline: Broken bits of pot?
Campbell: Looking at those other objects, I'd say this is Viking Poo.
Keith: Fossilised viking poo, I don't believe it!
Connie: So, what does this fossilised poo tell you?
Campbell: Well, it can tell you about the diet, for example there is no evidence of seeds in this coprolite, so this Viking probably wasn't getting their five a day.
Connie: Fascinating as fossilised poo might be, I think we should keep digging.
Linda: Come on everybody. Let's dig!
Lynda: Who knows what we'll find next?!

SFX Ding

SFX Digging

Ronnie: Keep going.
Connie: That's it, keep digging...
Pauline: I've got something.

SFX Digging stops

Pat: What is it?

SFX brushing dust and dirt off the object

Pauline: It looks like a shoe.

Anne: I've got a pair like that.

Campbell: That looks like a Roman sandal.

Connie: Woah, now that is old.

Campbell: Around 79AD is when the Romans came to Manchester.

Keith: Can you imagine them, all marching in sandals just like these?

Anne: I bet they'd have got sore feet.

Connie: Let's march Adventurers, or should I say Roman soldiers?

SFX construction site sounds fade out

SFX Ding

SFX Marching

SFX construction sounds fade in

Connie: I can't believe how much we've found.

Walter: Isn't it incredible? All these clues to the lives of people who were here before us.

Hazel: So much history, right under our feet.

Pat: It's amazing.

Connie: It is, but it's making me sort of sad too... All this stuff, all these stories, all these lives, buried in the dirt and forgotten.

SFX Site manager walking over to Connie and the customers

S.Manager: Are you finished yet?

Connie: Built over by a new road...

Lynda: They do need roads with better cycle lanes around here, though.

Linda: Encourage people to get on their bikes.

S.Manager: Progress, the world moving forward, it can be a good thing.

Connie: But what about the past? Does it all just get forgotten?

Walter: Connie, I think you need to look at this situation from a different perspective. There's something I brought along on this adventure that I didn't get chance to show you yet...

SFX rummaging/opening a box

Connie: What is that?

Anne: It looks very high tech.

Keith: Is that a drone?

Walter: Yes, it is.

Pat: And that looks like a satellite.

Walter: That's right. As well as my digging equipment, I brought along drones and satellites...

Connie: This all looks very exciting Walter, but what's it got to do with archaeology?

Campbell: I think I might have an idea. Archaeologists sometimes use satellites and drones to help us in our work, some people even call it space archaeology.

Connie: Now, that sounds cool!

Pat: But how does it work?

Campbell: It's a bit like a doctor, using medical scans to examine the parts of the body they couldn't otherwise be seen.

Walter: Satellite images help archaeologists find and map long-lost rivers, roads, and cities.

Campbell: It can help us explore sites we wouldn't otherwise be able to get to.

Hazel: You really get images of archaeological sites from space?

Campbell: We can do.

Connie: And that's what you thought we could do, Walter?

Walter: That's right: a fresh perspective.

Ronnie: Right now?

Campbell: No time like the present...

S.Manager: And time is of the essence, don't forget...

Music: Armchair Adventures Theme slowly fades in

Keith: Well, if I'm going up into space, I'm going to need some energy.

Jan: Rocket fuel so to speak.

Linda: A spot of lunch to keep us going.

SFX Beeping and error sounds

Walter: And I might need some time to figure out exactly how this equipment works...

Connie: I tell you what adventurers at home, why don't we get the equipment sorted...

Keith: And our butties eaten...

Connie: And you can join us next time for some space archaeology? Also, watch out for a Halloween bonus episode this month in your feeds from Monday 23rd October. My Uncle Chris and the local theatre company run through the ingredients we need for a super spooky mooovie! But beware as they encounter a hair raising visitor! Make sure you follow or subscribe so you don't miss ooouuuuuuuut!

Music: Armchair Adventures Song