

CIFA LONDON AREA GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 28 October 2023, 19:30
The Gallery at Alan Baxter, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EL
and
Via Video Conference

Minutes

Present: Chris Reade (Chair), Alistair Douglas (Treasurer), Richard Morkill (OCM), Jonathan Gladwin (OCM), Joss Piper-Jarrett (OCM), Meg Keates (CifA), Alex Llewellyn (CifA), Dave Bolton, and 5 members of the LAG.

1. Opening Remarks and Apologies for absence Action

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present in the room and online.

Apologies have been received from Alice Marconi, Robert Whytehead, Michael D'Aprix

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the 2022 AGM had been circulated. Chair asked if any had read them and a number of members indicated that they had and that they were acceptable. Chair asked if there were any objections to accepting the minutes and there were no objections. The Minutes were therefore accepted.

3. Chair's Statement

Chair repeated her welcome to all present, and noted that the LAG was for the benefit of the members and encouraged more members to get involved. Thanks are extended to Committee members, advisors and others who have supported the Group over the year.

4. Secretary's Report

The Secretary (Alice Marconi) had given her apologies. Chris Read read out the Secretary's Report on her behalf.

It was reported that the AGM marks the end of a year which continued to develop our programme of in person / hybrid events with our programme of Ordinary Meetings.

The October 2022 AGM introduced a discussion format to the meeting whereby a panel of archaeologists, including Matt Pope (UCL Palaeolithic Archaeology), Hana Morel (Citizen / MOLA sustainability manager), Mark Williams (Heritage and sustainability, Wessex Archaeology), Ruth Knight (English Heritage, head of climate & sustainability) and Jane Sidell (Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Historic England), were invited to reflect on the role, impact, and significance of climate change issues in their work. Thanks to Pre Construct Archaeology for sponsoring the event.

Over the year, we continued to focus on providing a programme of Ordinary Meetings which are intended to provide a regular space to network and to discuss topics of relevance to the membership. Where appropriate these were shared on-line. Four have been held to date since the last AGM, with the fifth scheduled for 5 December.

Mola hosted the December 2022 meeting which included an interesting and provocative exhibition by Kayt Hawkins (Archaeology South East) on Archaeo-Sexism, at Mortimer Wheeler House. The exhibition has been touring Europe and we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to include it in our LAG event. Thanks to MOLA for sponsoring the event.

Arup hosted our first international speakers at the March 2023 LAG ordinary meeting in their office, including a talk on 'The Arches International Data Management System and the new look Greater London Historic Environment Record' by Alison Dalgity of the Getty Conservation Institute and Dennis Wutherich of Farallon Geophysics, as well as Stuart Cakebread (GLASS) which showed us the Greater London Historic Environment Record new look. Thanks to Arup for sponsoring the event (the catering from this event is still being mentioned as a high point).

The meeting in May 2023 was our first excursion into a joint event with LAMAS and the Prehistoric Society. It included a talk by Andy Daykin on the Excavation of a Roman Cemetery, hoard and prehistoric and post medieval remains at Principal Place, London. The event was hosted at Jacobs. Further joint events with LAMAS are in the works – so look out for those.

The August 2023 meeting was hosted by the Institute of Archaeology at UCL and comprised a talk by Stephen White entitled 'From a Middle Iron Age Settlement to The Red Lion Playhouse and beyond: 2000 years of archaeology in Whitechapel'. Thanks to Archaeology South East for sponsoring the event.

Keeping the Group relevant continues to be important to us so thoughts and feedback on this years' happenings are always welcome and we will knock it about from time to time at future meetings.

The London Group Committee is always seeking the views and concerns of our members and we represent these to ClfA through our representative at Advisory Council and to the Board.

We have continued to pause our CPeasyD sessions, but they have not been abandoned. We still think that these seasons brought immense value to the early career practitioners in our group in particular and we continue to have the good intention of bringing these back. If taking a leading role in the organisation of this series sounds like something you could help us with then please do get in touch with us!

This evening's event has been highly interesting and provides an insight into the many ways we can provide better wellbeing and public benefit through our work - with a venue generously provided by Alan Baxter Associates and refreshment (again for the second year running) by PCA. We cannot thank all of our panellists enough for their time tonight, but also their contributions to heritage practice through their ongoing, brilliant work.

5. Treasurer's Report

Alistair Douglas reported that:

The London Area Group asked ClfA for only a nominal Budget for 2022/23 and this remains largely unused.

Committee members incurred no expenses to attend meetings over the last year with meetings held via Zoom or within Committee members normal commuting area.

Our "Ordinary Meetings of the LAG" have been sponsored by Mola, Arup, and Jacobs at their offices, facilities provided by the Institute of Archaeology at UCL (with nibbles there sponsored by Archaeology South East). All of our Speakers have very generously provided their time without charge.

We propose to continue our policy of sponsored events, though this will be reviewed, and this AGM has been supported by Alan Baxter and PCA.

A nominal budget will be requested for this coming year to ensure budget is available for incoming committee members should they incur expenses.

6. Election of committee

Hon Chair: No nominations have been received for the position of Chair. The position remains open.

Hon Secretary: Alice Marconi nominated for Secretary. As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies, she was declared elected.

Hon Treasurer: Alistair Douglas nominated for Treasurer. As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies, he was declared elected.

Ordinary Committee Members: Jonathan Gladwin nominated for Ordinary Committee Member. As the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies, he was declared elected.

Chair noted that the Committee would benefit from further committee members and expressions of interest were invited.

7. AOB

None

There being no other business the meeting closed

Post Meeting notes:

Chris Reade (Chair) stands down at this AGM

Advisory Council Representative: No nominations were received for the position of Advisory Council Representative. Richard Morkill indicated he was willing to continue to represent The Group at Advisory Council. His offer was accepted.