

CIfA Voluntary & Community SIG

Meeting 8 March 2022 – online

Committee members present: Sarah-Jane Farr, Mike Nevell, Jessica Lowther, Dan Miles, Clemency Copper, James Brown, Penny Foreman and Nina O’Hare

Apologies: Annie Partridge and Hannah Potter

Agenda:

1. Standards & Guidance

- Funding now agreed with Historic England and CIfA have first payment instalment. Brief should be going out from CIfA soon to ask for tenders.
- SIG committee will be an advisory group for the S&G project. Would be good to build this into the group’s 1 and 3 year plans.

2. Updates from recent events

- Dan attended the Archaeology Skills Summit run by the Archaeology Training Forum, which encouragingly flagged up the transferable skills used in community engagement.
- Archaeology Audience Network – 24th March is next training session, on inclusive engagement (run by Wessex Archaeology). Following session will be run by the CBA in May, then rest by other project partners – topics to be decided still, so send any suggestions to Clem.
- AAN discussing extent to which evaluation data could be standardised to enable wider comparison. Considering why we want to collect this data and how it will be used.

3. Vacant committee post

- Sheena Payne-Lunn has handed in her resignation. CIfA are aware – waiting to hear back about next steps for filling this committee post.

4. Communications role

- **Action:** Jessica to draft email about conference to go to mailing list next week. Newsletter to follow at end of March, including S&G update, conference reminder, AAN info, tea breaks and any other relevant events or resources.
- **Action:** James to send around social media log in details.
- **Action:** Clem to email info about AAN to Jessica for including in the next newsletter.
- **Action:** Nina to discuss tea breaks with Jessica.

5. CIfA 2022 conference session

- Outline plan, still waiting to hear back from ClfA about whether a blend of online and live presenting is possible. **Action:** James will chase.
- Emails from ClfA about two free conference tickets and that they need all content by end of March to upload to the digital platform.
- **Action:** Reply to James if free ticket would be helpful. Nina to check with Annie if SIG can help towards travel for those who need it, as we'll be meeting during the conference.
- **Action:** Ask in newsletter for comments from those who have used the Community Archaeology matrix and for low cost inclusive engagement ideas.
- **Action:** Nina to draft email to LPAs asking for video contributions or support in person.

6. Planning for year ahead

- Focus of SIG is currently unclear and doesn't necessarily fit with the group's aims. What's the process for reviewing this and involving the wider membership?
- SIG has moved on since 2016, as has the CBA. General consensus of committee is that we're here to support professional community archaeologists (whether paid or unpaid) who undertake projects that engage with communities. It is not to support communities directly. It's also not just about the planning system, as professional community archaeologists also work for National Parks etc.
- Who is our main target audience? Need to think about this. Not to say that resources etc can't be used by other groups, but we need to have a clear target audience. SIG webpage also needs to be clear and accurately reflect the group's work and aims.
- According to ClfA's SIG rules, changes need approving by ClfA's Board of Directors. Aim to put proposal to them at 12th July meeting. Membership also needs to be involved.
- **Action:** Jessica to update list of committee names on SIG webpage
- **Action:** Dan to ask Early Careers group about the process they went through
- **Action:** committee to draft new aims after Easter/ conference

7. Next meeting

- Mon 28 March, 2pm – conference planning meeting
- Thurs 28 April - meeting and training session being held at ClfA conference
- w/c 23 May – next general committee meeting