

CIFA AREA AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORTS 2017

Cifa has 18 area and special interest groups bringing together professionals with specific historic environment interests. Most groups produce regular newsletters and run training events. Groups represent specialist views to Cifa via representation on the Advisory Council and offer advice on issues which have a specific relevance to their subject/geographical area.

The Archives, Equality & Diversity, Finds, Forensic Archaeology, Graphic Archaeology, Information Management, International Cultural Heritage Practice, London, Marine Archaeology, New Generation, Project Management, Research and Impact, Scottish and Wales/Cymru Groups have provided annual updates on their activities. Information about all our Groups is on the Cifa website at www.archaeologists.net/groups/about



Archaeological Archives group

The AAG committee has undergone some changes this year and we now have a new chair, secretary, treasurer and events co-ordinator. We continue to meet regularly and provide feedback to CifA on issues such as chartered status and RO inspection policy. Our increasingly popular annual Day Conference and AGM event took place in March at the Birmingham Midland Institute attended by 80 delegates. The theme for the day was 'Are Archaeological Archives Relevant?' and thankfully it seems they are! The busy schedule covered the re-use of human remains in academic projects, old site dairies and photographs as resource in their own right and inspiring ideas around communities engaged and archaeological archives. Interestingly, two of the papers covered the re-use and analysis of stored environmental material- a first for the AAG day conference. The abstracts and conclusions from the speakers at this year's day conference and AGM can be found at www.archaeologists.net/groups/archives

The CifA AAG is currently working on a toolkit for the selection of archaeological archives and is hoping to expand the project over the next 6 months. As ever, for regular updates on group activity see our Facebook and Twitter pages:

www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalArchivesGroup/

https://twitter.com/ifa_archives



Equality and Diversity group

In the last year we have achieved a great deal. We held four committee meetings, and in particular, at the winter meeting the group voted on the decision to focus our activities around an annual theme. We agreed that the annual theme will be the focus of our CPD workshops, our conference offerings and our group research, and each theme will be accompanied by a working party that will aim to provide a report, guidance document or similar output, depending on what is required. For 2017 our theme is 'Disability in archaeology' and so far we have run a Mental Health first aid CPD workshop, been co-organisers in a CifA conference session about making archaeology accessible, and we have made a statement on conference accessibility and are further consulting upon this issue with CifA. Committee members are also working on accessibility guidance for hard copy and online documentation, researching unseen disabilities in archaeology and a Working Party is developing CifA guidance for disabled employees. We have also published a number of guest blogs on the subject on our website.

We have also undertaken a range of non-theme related activities too; having a representation at PRIDE, presenting on gender at the Public Archaeology Twitter conference, addressing issues of gender bias in conference panel representation, and supporting the TrowelBlazers Raising Horizons exhibition.

In addition we were the first group to take advantage of the amendment we proposed to the model group constitution which states that *'In the event of leave requirements (eg maternity/paternity leave or long term sick leave (ie 3 months or more)) other group members will be co-opted to cover the role during the required period.'* From August 2016 to May 2017 Jim Brightman was co-opted into the role of group Chair, whilst Hannah Cobb was on maternity leave. We felt this worked really well and allowed continuity for the group and a smooth hand over at the start and end of Hannah's leave. The group has minuted what a valuable contribution and excellent job that Jim undertook as interim-chair, and we would be keen to encourage other groups to use this clause in the event of an officer needing to take long term leave.



Finds Group

The Finds group has 946 members. The committee meets quarterly and we have a regular newsletter. This year the Finds group has been involved with the successful completion of the survey of finds reports which looked at a sample of finds reports on OASIS to see how they met with current standards and developed criteria for assessing the quality of a report for non – specialists. We will be promoting this report over the coming year and promoting its findings and recommendations throughout the sector.

We have updated our website presence to include biographies of the current committee members. A number of committee members attended the CifA conference in Newcastle, where we advertised our presence with our new banner. We had a successful CPD event on 'interpreting finds' to coincide with our AGM in which a number of speakers gave examples of recent work, highlighting the benefit of cross collaboration between find and field specialists. This attracted 13 new members of the finds group who are not currently members of CifA, meeting our recruitment target.

We are planning this year to repeat the survey of finds practice we last carried out in 2008 to give an overview of how finds work is being carried out and to continue to promote its importance at all levels of archaeological endeavour.



Forensic Archaeology group (FASIG)

Elections

The FASIG AGM in 2017 resulted in the election of a new secretary and a new ordinary committee member. Following the 2017 AGM there remained an opening for another ordinary committee member and a new treasurer.

Membership

FASIG maintained the same membership level from 2014/2015 into 2015/2016 (c. 429) and

increased its membership level in 2016/2017 (c. 442).

Activity

The FASIG AGM was held in June and included the election of new committee members. In September, a new treasurer was elected, as the previous treasurer took an extended sabbatical and their term as treasurer ended. There is an on-going transition of powers from old to new committee members but the aim with the new committee is to draw in more members and make FASIG more active. Following the AGM, FASIG began a social media account on Twitter (@CifA_FASIG), in accordance to CifA'S guidance on social media usage.

In August the members of both FASIG and FAEP represented UK forensic archaeology in Rome the European Meeting on Forensic Archaeology.

FASIG, in conjunction with UCLan, is planning an event for November to discuss various topics on forensic taphonomy.



Graphics Archaeology group (GAG)

Committee 2016-17

At the AGM held at the CifA Conference at Leicester in 2016, the Committee was as follows:

Lesley Collett (Chair)

Sarah Lambert Gates (Treasurer)

Liz Gardner (Secretary, Assessments Officer and Advisory Council Rep)

Tom Small (Website)

Lucy Martin

Drew Smith

After the AGM, Hannah Kennedy and Ellie Winter were co-opted onto the committee.

Activities 2016-17

Hannah Kennedy took over the role of Newsletter Editor, and produced a full newsletter in October 2016, followed by a short news update in April 2017

Hannah Kennedy and Sarah Lambert Gates organised a very successful conference session for the 2017 Annual Conference on the Practical Application of Photogrammetry and SfM. Once again the GAG Exhibition took place at the conference. Following discussion, we hope to be able to expand the exhibition to include digital and 3D entries in future by the addition of a digital projector or tablet.

A Portfolio Assessment for CifA Membership was held in March 2017 in Edinburgh. The panel consisted of Liz Gardner, Tom Small, and Dr Guillaume Robin (External Assessor - Course leader for Archaeological Illustration at The University of Edinburgh). The portfolio assessment is a specialist assessment by peers for archaeologists working in graphics and cartographics. It gives a recommendation to the Membership Validation Committee but is designed to be a relatively

informal event to discuss the applicant's portfolio and understanding of methodology. It is undertaken for upgrades and new membership applications.

Further discussions were held during the course of the year on the production of Standards and Guidance for archaeological graphics. Due to the complexity of the subject, the committee is investigating the possibility of working in partnership with Historic England on this project.



GAG exhibition of members' work at the Cifa conference, Leicester 2016



Information Management group

Since last year's annual report the IMSIG Committee has been busy working and planning events. We held our AGM at Fort Cumberland last November where we had a presentation by Keith May and Sarah Poppy on the Heritage Information Access Strategy (HAIS). The committee has met several times this year we have been working hard on developing a refreshed 3 year plan and have arranged an AGM for November 29 in Birmingham where we will have a CPD workshop on data management by Hugh Corley and Claire Tsang.

International Cultural Heritage Practice group

The International Practice SIG provides a forum for archaeologists, historic environment and cultural heritage professionals working on international projects and initiatives (or based outside the UK and the Republic of Ireland), and advises the CifA Board of Directors on issues relevant to the international practice of archaeological and cultural heritage management. The group brings together international commercial, academic and public-sector practice on fieldwork and survey, research, heritage management and policy.

The committee elected at the AGM in April 2017 are Frank Meddens (Treasurer, MCifA 1825); Jamie Quartermaine (Deputy Treasurer, MCifA 504); Kathryn Price (Secretary) and ordinary members Kenneth Aitchison (MCifA 1398), Peter Clark (MCifA 370), Mike Dawson (MCifA 20), Mark Dunkley, (MCifA 1263), Rob Early (MCifA 2727), Charles Le Quesne (MCifA 5077) and Leonora O'Brien (MCifA 2487). The Chair is currently vacant. The SIG also has a team of specialist advisers/liaison with other groups, including Evelyne Godfrey (ICOM-UK, PCifA 1890), Zsolt Magyar (Central & Eastern Europe, PCifA 5013), Kevin Wooldridge (Scandinavia, MCifA 486) and John Sode Woodhead (Israel/Middle East, MCifA 1978).

The group has 510 members in 23 countries. It continues to be accessible online at the CifA website and the LinkedIn group had 137 members in September 2017.

External events in 2016-2017, including ongoing conflict and destruction in the Middle East and North Africa, highlight the continuing relevance of the International Practice SIG. The period saw a number of initiatives to protect endangered heritage, such as France and the UAE's Safeguarding Endangered Cultural Heritage project and the UK Cultural Protection Fund. In February 2017 the UK Cultural Property (Armed Conflict) Act was passed, which will enable the UK Government to ratify the 1954 Hague Convention. In March 2017, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 2347 condemning the destruction and smuggling of cultural heritage by terrorist groups, and the G7 Ministers of Culture signed the Florence Declaration condemning the destruction of cultural sites and calling on the international community to intensify their fight against the illegal trafficking of cultural goods.

In April 2016, the committee prepared a conference flyer, 'mobilising CifA talents and capabilities to participate in the protection of world heritage sites and resources under threat'.

In July 2016, CifA issued a post-Brexit Referendum statement emphasising that CifA is an international-facing body committed to working with archaeologists from around the globe to promote professional standards and ethical behaviour, to maximise the benefits that archaeologists bring to society. In August 2016, following the Brexit Referendum and CifA's July Brexit statement, the SIG prepared and circulated a Post-Brexit survey, led by Kevin Wooldridge with Jen Parker-Wooding.

In April 2017, IPSIG was strongly involved in the CifA2017 conference, 'Archaeology: a global profession'. Members Gerry Wait (MCifA 771) and Leo O'Brien contributed papers to a DCMS/CifA Workshop on Archaeology and UK soft power. Kevin Wooldridge gave a paper from the perspective of an archaeologist working in both the UK and the EU, partly based on the August 2016 Post-Brexit

survey. Jamie Quartermaine, Mike Dawson and Leo O'Brien organised a session on 'Global Archaeology – Threats and Solutions', which brought together speakers from a range of groups including the Endangered Archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa project, the University of Durham, Building Conservation Services, Oxford Archaeology and the Curious Travellers/Visualising Heritage Project. A publication is in preparation, edited by Mike Dawson and Jamie Quartermaine.



London group

Commencing the group year with the AGM debate on 'The future of London's archaeology'; speakers from ClfA, GLAAS and CgMs /RPS, introduced and discussed aspects of the impact the proposed loosening of planning controls might have on our ability to do archaeology in London. This was followed by the AGM where all the existing committee members retired having served full terms. Three new committee members were elected, and several individuals volunteered; the new committee being made up to its full strength subsequently through co-opting these and further volunteers.

Continuing our fruitful relationship with IHBC we again held a joint day conference at Alan Baxter's Gallery venue in Cowcross Street EC1. 'HELP! - Getting the Historic Environment into Local Plans - and the London Plans' examined the theory, policy and implementation behind the inclusion of historic environment policies in local plans. Richard Parish, Historic Places Adviser, Historic England spoke about Heritage in Local Plan-making, Sandy Kidd, Principal Archaeology Advisor (GLAAS) Historic England, covered Archaeological Priority Areas, in conjunction with Borough Local Plan reviews. David Divers of MOLA provided a case study and Isabelle Adams gave the viewpoint from Crossrail 2.

The first of our CPeasyD events 'Environmental Samples; When, why, and how to take them' was presented by Sylvia Warman (Historic England Science Advisor for London) in May. The event, sponsored by CgMs, was attended by 24 delegates. CPeasyD is a series of half hour informative and educational presentations, with half an hour to discuss the topic and put questions to industry leading experts. The series - designed to be of particular interest to archaeologists in the PCIfA grade looking to gain some wider knowledge about commercial archaeology in London, continues with events in October, November and January; all are sponsored by London archaeological organisations.

A debate will again be held preceding our 2017 AGM on 13 September: 'A crisis of upcoming work', will examine the impact the volume and scale of projects planned over the coming years may have on our ability to do archaeology in London.



Marine Archaeology group

The 2017 AGM was held at the CifA Conference in Newcastle in April and there were no changes to the committee at this time. Victoria Cooper agreed to continue to represent the group on the CifA Advisory Council although from September 2017 Toby Gane is now the group's representative on the AC.

The primary focus for the year has been the rebranding of the group to both reengage our membership and to reflect our understanding that that our specialism addresses not only 'boats and ships' but the full range of archaeology on the seabed, from maritime craft and crashed aircraft to seabed prehistory and the overall character of our historic coasts and seascapes. To this end the group name was changed from the Maritime Affairs Group to the Marine Archaeology Special Interest Group (MASIG) and the constitution was updated and rebranded to bring this up to date. The MASIG website has been updated under a new domain (www.cifamarinearchaeologysig.co.uk) and the old MAG blog has been discontinued in favour of a renewed focus on social media through Facebook and Twitter. Through regular posting we have publicised to a far greater extent the work that we are doing and the key issues relevant to marine archaeology in the UK and the activities of CifA. Our Facebook page is now up to 797 'likes' and continues to rise on a weekly basis.

Also, this year we secured a session at the CifA conference entitled 'Marine archaeology: global standards for protection and professional practice'. We had seven speakers talking about a range of case studies and wider issues on how we protect and manage marine archaeology. The panel was attended by sufficient numbers to result in a lengthy discussion about the ratification of the UNESCO convention on the protection of underwater cultural heritage.

Our key focus for the coming year will be to continue to use the group rebrand to centre a programme of reengagement with our members including plans for CPD events, ongoing use of social media and web based resources, the reintroduction of news bulletins and to visibly demonstrate the work that is done by the committee to represent the interests of our members. We will also continue to write letters, consultation responses and provided comment on key issues across the wider discipline and continue to represent CifA in this respect.



New Generation group

Since the last CifA AGM, the New Generation Group has been active on many fronts. The new committee has worked with CifA to ensure that all student members are automatically made members of the group (with the opportunity to opt out). This will enable us to actively engage and work with the people we are set up to assist. We currently have 324 members.

We have been promoting the Pathways scheme as well as looking into ways of providing a mentoring system within CifA to assist in further advancements. We are also exploring the

introduction of shadowing current committee members as a way to encourage our group members to join the committee. We have sent mailings to keep in contact with our members in a series of short, informative emails.

Event wise we were active in assisting at ClfA2017 in Newcastle, and have a joint proposal for a session at ClfA 2018 with the Research and Impact group entitled 'Transitioning from student to post excavation specialist'. We also held a joint session with the Geophysics SIG at ICAP 2017 in Bradford, and we are exploring joint ventures with both Information Management and Diggers' Forum to encourage active participation and dissemination of knowledge of the opportunities, and ways to take advantage of them for our members.

In addition, we are in discussion with the organisers of the next EAA conference to have New Generation Group involved in running a session on routes into archaeology that would encourage European students to join ClfA.

Concluding I would like to thank the New Generation Group committee members for their assistance this year, especially my fellow officers Rebecca Enlander and Alistair Galt.



Project Management group

The Project Management Group held its 2017 AGM and a training event at the Environment Agency, with anyone not able to attend in person able to dial in via a conference call. The event heard from Jim Anderson, Programme Manager for the EA's National Capital Programme Management Scheme (NCPMS).

Some founding members stood down and new committee members were voted in. The committee currently comprises Steve Haynes (Chair), Andy Crockett (Treasurer), Nicola Powell (Secretary) and ordinary committee members Steve Kemp, Martin Locock, Dan Jackson and Sarah Ashridge. The committee is looking at opportunities for some 'pop-up' project management training as well as more focussed workshops on issues around the project management of archaeological projects. We welcome ideas on way to develop project management in the profession, and members who would like to be co-opted onto the committee.



Research and Impact group

Following on from a successful conference session in Newcastle entitled 'Maximising the research potential from infrastructure projects', the RIG committee which includes several new members, have been reflecting on how best to serve membership of the group and to reinvigorate active membership of it.

We have submitted session proposals for the 2018 conference and will be working with other convenors over the coming months to finalise plans. We also intend to finalise proposals for a workshop focused around desk-based assessment during the winter months as well as competency matrices relevant to RIG.



Scottish group

The Scottish group started this last year with a fabulous AGM and CPD event at Strathyre replica Broch undertaking conservation works alongside Archaeology Scotland and a professional drystone Waller. Members got the hands on experience cutting curves and laying them across the exposed upper surface of the Broch and learning how this helps to consolidate the extant structure.

The committee have also assisted in the development of the Professional Development and Practice Coordinator (Scotland) post, which has been principally designed to develop training networks across Scotland. This was awarded to Cara Jones and Phil Richardson on a job-share basis and we continue to work alongside them. Part of this is to develop 'CifA Champions' across Scotland and the Scottish Group committee hopes to lead by example!

Members of the Scottish Group also regularly represent CifA on a number of other panels and groups, including

- SHED programme management group
- Regular Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS) Historic Environment Working Group meetings
- Archaeological Archives in Scotland discussion group
- Historic Environment Bill stakeholder workshops
- Scotland's Archaeology Strategy lead bodies workshop

Part of the Group's work is to assist CifA in responding to historic environment consultations relevant to Scotland and Scottish members. Full consultation responses can be found [here](#).



Voluntary and Community Archaeology group

The group had its AGM on 7 March and some changes to the committee were made with Dan Miles becoming Chair and Annie Partridge Treasurer. That same day a Mental Health Awareness training day was held, co-organised with the Equality and Diversity group. This was a very interesting and successful training event.

The group is currently working on putting out a survey of community archaeologists working in the UK heritage sector and will have a stand at the 2017 Scotland's Community Heritage Conference in Glasgow.



Welsh group/grŵp Cymru

At the end on 2016 we undertook a review of the archaeological research framework for Wales, which culminated in a conference in Bangor.

In March, we held an open session on "Reflections on the Research Framework" and sponsored RCHAMW training event on the new digital archive standards in Wales.

In the coming month, we will be holding a day school on Archaeological Archiving and Recording of Material Remains, and we will be holding our AGM followed by a symposium on Recent discoveries in Wales. In the new year (March) we will be holding a further day school looking at wooden buildings and their recording.