

Newsletter March 2024

Hello RIG group members,

Welcome to the March newsletter. Your committee has been active, and we have lots to report. So please read on.

RIG Committee

Unfortunately we still have a vacancy for Treasurer, if you are accredited (PCIfA upwards) and would like to volunteer please email to our Secretary, forrestal.colin@gmail.com, and they will send you a co-option form to complete and you can be co-opted at the following committee meeting until the next AGM.

We also now have a Three-year plan which can be found [on our webpage](#).

We are currently reviewing the Academic competence matrix and are reviewing CIfA standards and guidance to see where they may be improved. In addition, we are investigating Regional Archaeological plans to see if we can assist/improve them. If you wish to contribute to the debates on these topics, please contact us, either by joining us on the RIG Knowledge Hub (see later news item) or by email cifarig@gmail.com.

RIG at EAA Rome 2024

Members of the RIG committee have a session #882 at EAA Rome 2024, and we are merged with session #1117 which is now deleted from the accepted sessions. This was also a CIfA sponsored session but unfortunately, like us, they only received three proposed papers. This merger makes sense. All papers have been approved and so we await the EAA scientific committee decision of when we will be scheduled.

For those of you who will be attending either online or in person its Session #882 is *'Synthesis, Facilitator or Hindrance: Should Synthesis Be Part of Commercial Archaeology or Left to the Academics?'* We will be very pleased to see you there.

Knowledge Hub RIG group

In the last newsletter, in order to engage more with our group members, your RIG committee were investigating the Knowledge Hub platform to create a group discussion and hoped to have it up and running for the end of March 2024.

We are pleased to say we are ahead of schedule, and it is up and running with two committee members acting as facilitators. We are posting three discussion points initially, one on mentoring, another on the academic matrix and lastly a third based on the EAA 2024 session questions and we would love to hear your take on all of them.

To join the RIG Knowledge Hub group please [click here](#).

Bursaries and Grants

CifA conference bursaries

There are still bursaries available for April's CifA2024 annual conference. A number of options exist to assist with the cost of registering or attending the conference, providing places for over 20 attendees. This includes an annual bursary to enable an early career archaeologist of any age to attend the CifA conference, including £100 contribution towards travel costs, kindly sponsored by the Hal Dalwood Trust. To find out more about the bursaries that are available, as well as how to apply, visit CifA's website:

www.archaeologists.net/cifa2024-bursary-options

The CifA2024 conference will be hosted on 24 and 25 April in the beautiful city of Chester, where you can attend some stimulating sessions, catch up with old friends, meet new ones and enjoy the company and camaraderie of other archaeologists. It will take place in-person, but there will also be post-event online recordings available if you are unable to attend in-person.

AEA Research grants

Unfortunately, the applications for this year have closed but this could be a useful source of help for environmental archaeologist masters/PhD students to be aware of for next year.

Research Fund Overview: The AEA is offering a number of grants to fund specific aspects of research projects concerning any area of environmental archaeology. Grant applications are open to all AEA members including students and unwaged members.

For 2024 the AEA is offering Small Grants of up to £750 (c. €850 /c. US \$900) together with one Research Grant of up to £2000 (c. €2300/c. US \$2500).

Bursaries for Environmental Archaeology at the Falerii Novi Project

At least three bursaries for participation in the inaugural session.

Intensive Summer School: environmental archaeology trench side

A two-week field programme at the Roman town of Falerii Novi, Italy 9–22 June 2024.

This two-week programme is designed to provide a foundation in the theory and methods of environmental archaeology, alongside focused in-field training in the collection and processing of environmental evidence (macrobotanical and zooarchaeological remains) relevant to Roman sites. Participants will leave the programme with a strong foundation in on-site environmental archaeology, and essential knowledge on bulk sampling strategy, set up of a water-separation machine for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and artefacts, and processing of faunal remains and bulk sediment samples.

Participants will join the Falerii Novi Project's on-going excavations for 2 weeks. The programme emphasises hands-on work with plant and animal remains, undertaken

alongside a taught programme of short talks, case studies, seminars with directed readings, and in-field activities that introduce a broader range of topics in environmental archaeology.

Who should apply The summer school is aimed at upper-level undergraduate students, recent graduates, and post-graduate students in Archaeology, Classics, Environmental Humanities and related disciplines who wish to deepen their knowledge of and skills in environmental archaeology. We welcome applications from participants with different reasons for joining the course and on different study/career tracks, e.g. individuals who wish to gain a greater understanding of the nature of on-site environmental evidence, Classical archaeologists who want to prepare for setting up their own excavations, specialists who wish to deepen their in-field knowledge, etc. Prior excavation experience is not necessary, but a willingness to work in the field is. We welcome applications from low-income backgrounds and groups under-represented in Classical archaeology.

Bursaries The Falerii Novi Project is offering at least three bursaries for participation in the inaugural session. This will cover the costs of participation in the summer school (accommodation, meals and local travel). Participants will need to cover their own travel costs to the site.

For further details and to apply visit: <https://faleriinoviproject.org/opportunities/>

Contacting the RIG Committee

Please get in touch with us directly by the RIG Knowledge Hub or by email using cifarig@gmail.com