

CifA Archaeological Archives Special Interest Group – Bulletin – June 2015

The archives group has had a busy year so far planning for both the AGM event and the Conference. There has been a small break in service in the producing of these bulletins, due to change of personnel on the committee – hopefully normal service will now be resumed!

The launch of the Chartered Institute was attended by three committee members, Duncan Brown, Helen Parslow and Rebecca Sillwood in December 2014. The committee has appointed Helen Parslow as our representative on the new Advisory Council. Much work is still to be done there on how things will run in practice.

The first committee meeting of the year was held on 5 February in which it was confirmed that Helen Harman was standing down as Secretary, and Rebecca Sillwood had been provisionally appointed as group secretary, pending formal appointment at the AGM. Further changes in the committee included the standing down of Emma Wells, who was also the group communications officer, and so no-one was currently filling this role. Nicky Powell has provided cover for the group Twitter accounts, and has helped to up our followers substantially, so huge thanks go to her for her help. Cover for Facebook has been provided by other committee members. Other business discussed at this committee meeting included an evaluation of the previous year's Plenary event, which sought to draw some conclusions from the training workshops and which would lead on to some updated aims which would be presented at the AGM. For the minutes of this Committee Meeting please use this link: www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/CifA_AAG_minutes_05022015.pdf

The group AGM was held on 25 March at the BMI in Birmingham, and was combined with a training day, the theme of which was 'It's not just about box sizes: Alternative archives in archaeological practice', which aimed to gather together disparate groups and discuss 'non-standard' archives. This included buildings, geophysics and community project archives. The day was well attended, and the AGM minutes will be available on the CifA website soon. The day included a tour of the new Staffordshire Hoard Gallery at Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery.

During the AGM, Rebecca Sillwood was confirmed as Secretary, and two new members were elected to the committee, which now stands as follows:

Duncan Brown – Chair

Helen Parslow – Treasurer

Rebecca Sillwood – Secretary

Lorraine Mepham – Ordinary Committee Member

Sam Paul - Ordinary Committee Member

Theodora Anastasiadou-Leigh - Ordinary Committee Member

Anooshka Rawden - Ordinary Committee Member

Ellen McAdam - Ordinary Committee Member

At this point there is still one vacancy on the committee for an Ordinary committee member, if you are interested please email groups@archaeologists.net.

Also at the AGM some new aims were agreed, as follows:

The new priorities of the Group, as formulated at the plenary session following the 'Best Practice' workshops, were presented as follows:

- Continue to provide information of what an archaeological archive is, in order to address poor understanding of the significance of archiving (which often results in poor resourcing).
- Provide advice on the initiation and monitoring of projects especially in areas where there is little or no provision for the long term curation of the archive.
- Collaborate on the production of guidance for the creation, compilation and deposition of digital material for archive.
- Work with others to address the lack of archaeological archive expertise and resources across the sector.
- Provide advice on the retrospective rationalisation of archive material in store.

At the ClfA conference, held in Cardiff from 15-17 April, the archives group and the Society for Museums Archaeologists organised a series of discussions/talks on the theme 'The future of archaeology has been shelved'. The sessions and discussions were filmed and will be available online in the near future.

The most recent committee meeting was held last week, minutes to follow on the ClfA website. Discussions centred on the production of the archives competency matrix for ClfA which will be produced shortly. Thanks go to Helen and Sam for their work on this. Also discussed was the possible theme for next year's AGM and event, for which the working title is 'Towards national guidelines on retrospective rationalisation'.

If you would like us to include your event in our next bulletin or for us to upload onto our Facebook page then please get in touch at archaeologicalarchives@gmail.com

The current membership of the AAG is 552 ClfA members and 13 non-ClfA group members.

Please remember all non-members can become a member of the group and all existing non-ClfA group members can renew membership to the group anytime at a cost of £10 per year online www.archaeologists.net/groups/about or by sending a cheque to ClfA head office. Please do encourage people to join us.

For the latest news, updates and discussions please see the group's Facebook and Twitter pages
www.facebook.com/pages/Archaeological-Archives-Special-Interest-Group/409131725829669
www.twitter.com/ifa_archives