



Members eBulletin, September 2020

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CIfA news

Call for nominations for the Board of Directors and Advisory Council members

The Annual General Meeting will be held at **12:30pm on Tuesday 13 October** via Zoom and all members are invited to attend. A link for online bookings will be issued soon.

Accredited members of CIfA are invited to stand for election to the Board of Directors or Advisory Council of the Chartered Institute.

- Board of Directors - there are three vacancies for the Board of Directors including the position of Honorary Chair.
- Advisory Council - there are vacancies for ten elected members of the Advisory Council.

A list of members who are stepping down from the Board and Advisory Council can be [downloaded here](#).

All of the nomination forms and further information can be [found here](#).

Candidate forms must be **submitted by 5pm on Friday 4 September 2020** and emailed to admin@archaeologists.net. Accredited members will be invited to vote for candidates in a ballot if the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies. Ballot papers, accompanied by information and an election statement of the candidates, will be distributed to members and the ballot will run from 16 September to 2 October 2020 inclusive.

Interested in getting involved?

Volunteering with CIfA offers a unique opportunity to help develop your professional institute. Accredited members are encouraged to get involved by putting themselves forward to support the governance and development of the Institute. Volunteering also provides a variety of CPD benefits, not only from being part of these discussions but also through networking with colleagues and benefiting from sharing advice and experiences.

Individual members of the Board and Advisory Council should cover a wide range of skills and experience from all areas of the profession and accredited members are encouraged to consider what they can contribute.

If you would like to have an informal discussion about getting involved please contact alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net or speak to any of the current members of the Board or Advisory Council.

Changes to the Yearbook and Directory

You should have received your hard copy or digital version of the 2020 Yearbook and Directory.

At the end of October we will be introducing our new online Directory of Accredited Professionals, listing our professionally accredited (PCIfA, ACIfA, MCIfA) members who have agreed to be listed.

This will be 'live' data so when you login to change your details it will change the fields in the online list, if you have a listing. The details will include First name, Last name, Accreditation (grade), Member number, Member since date, Job title and email address. We will no longer list postal addresses.

You will have the option of selecting the email address and job title you would like listed, only having your name listed or no entry, as per data protection guidance (GDPR).

The list will be A-Z with a search function to be able to find specific individuals or certain job titles, so it is important to keep your details up to date. You can do this when you renew each year or using the update contact details form in the [Members' Area Dashboard](#) at any time. You can also select your preference for your listing here too.

We will be sending a series of emails over the next few months to ensure all members are aware of these changes and have the opportunity to amend their details and preferences before we go live at the end of October.

From the Yearbook survey results, we are reviewing how the Yearbook will look in the future and how we will continue to showcase and promote the work, that our Registered Organisations and individual members undertake, to clients. In 2021 we intend not to include the printed list of members as the online Directory of Accredited Professionals will replace this, being more accessible and up to date.

Member consultation: evaluation and watching brief report templates

Do you commission, write or review field evaluation and watching brief reports? If so, we would like to invite you to comment on a proposed report template for these report types that would replace parts of the current guidance sections of the relevant CIfA Standard and guidance or be presented as an additional resource to support the implementation of the guidance. The project to develop the template originated in England and therefore references English planning policy and guidance but the template is designed to be applicable throughout the UK and potentially beyond.

Background information

At the CIfA 2018 conference in Brighton a session entitled 'Write here Write now (drafting a CIfA report standard)' took place. This was co-organised by Edmund Lee (HE) and Steward Bryant (Independent consultant) and focused on the formulation of new guidance for report templates, specifically for evaluation and watching brief reports. This was in response to the results from regional and national research projects including the Upper Thames Valley mapping project, Fields of Britannia, EngLaID and the Roman Rural Settlement Project that had identified issues with the quality of grey literature reporting. The proposed report template hopes to address these issues.

Consultation

The documents to review can be [found here](#) and include 1. Background information, 2. Proposed report template and 3. Consultation questions. Please return your comments/feedback directly to Jen by email jen.parkerwooding@archaeologists.net by **Friday 18 September 2020**.

Reimagining the CIfA Standards and guidance

A thorough review of the CIfA Standards and guidance (content, design, format, usability, and accessibility) is now underway and a new look suite of documents will be available this time next year! The newly established CIfA Professional Standards Advisory Panel (PSAP) met for the first-time in August to get the project underway. The panel is made up of accredited professionals from across the UK and Republic of Ireland representing a variety of different organisations and roles/specialisms. The panel will provide their experience, expertise, and counsel to help support the work undertaken by CIfA staff members, in addition to supplementing the advice and feedback already received from the CIfA Special Interest Groups. As the project progresses, additional members will be added (where necessary), and wider consultations undertaken – so there will be an opportunity to have your say about proposed changes over the next few months.



First Zoom meeting of the Professional Standards Advisory Panel.

The aim of the review is to look in more detail at the structure, format, and content of the Standards and guidance and their relationship to the *Code of conduct*. Redesigning them as a digital resource will be explored to facilitate wider use and better cross-referencing with other resources and good practice examples. This resulting suite of Standards and guidance will ensure that the information presented is:

- up to date with current practice
- relevant beyond the UK
- user friendly and accessible
- presented clearly with easy reference to good practice guidance examples, resources and case studies
- easier to maintain and update

Further updates will be provided as the project progresses. Please contact jen.parkerwooding@archaeologists.net for further details.

Advocacy update

Planning for the future reforms (England):

The Westminster Government published its planning reform White Paper on 6 August. **CIFA has responded** to the initial publication and has since been developing detailed policy briefings and evidenced responses. We are discussing these proposals with colleagues across the archaeology sector and are working with the Heritage Alliance and Historic England to help lead the sector's response.

We are concerned that the White Paper endorses a new direction for the planning system without providing a satisfactory case for how the proposed system would be effective at delivering its core aims, which are

to speed up the system and provide more certainty for developers, in an effort to build more. Because the White Paper lacks detailed description of policies, there are many questions that remain unanswered about the proposed model. One area which is not addressed is how archaeology, in particular, works within the planning system. Without a commitment to work with us to develop new approaches, we are deeply concerned that the current system which provides effective protection for heritage assets, including a precautionary approach to investigating archaeological potential, will be undermined. Archaeologists already contribute to sustainable development and facilitate development, not get in the way of it.

We are grateful to members who have taken the opportunity to write to their MPs. We have had several written responses that state that it is not Government's intention to weaken systems for archaeological assessment and investigation. This is useful, although we will need to work hard to ensure that these promises are translated into any new policy.

If you have written to your MP and received a response please [get in touch](#) as it is useful to know who has been contacted and how they have responded. And if you have not yet written, it is still a good time to do so. You can find our advice toolkit [here](#).

We are holding an online 'lunch and learn' session on the reforms on the **14 September**, see events section below for further information.

If you have any questions about CifA's advocacy, please contact rob.lennox@archaeologists.net.

Dyslexia in archaeology survey

Thank you to everyone who completed the dyslexia in archaeology survey – we were so pleased to have 209 respondents who have provided invaluable data on past experiences and current challenges. A summary report of the results is available [on our website](#).

We are at the start of our work with this and other areas of neurodiversity and archaeology. This word focuses on dyslexia; however, we recognise that there are many other elements to neurodiversity, and we hope in future to have further conversations about this.

We are so grateful to all the individuals and employers who took the time to complete the survey. There is a lot more detail in the responses and we are taking the time to read these in detail and reflect on what they say. Keep an eye out for our next steps – we are proposing to

- host an informal people led coffee chat on Friday 2nd October for all members and non-members about what they want to see happen
- create surgeries/online meet ups where people with dyslexia can talk to others about themed experiences, ie dyslexia with budgets/ dyslexia in the field/ dyslexia in academia
- create dyslexia themed resources which will include links for employers to erase the "dyslexics are stupid" attitude" including more individual case studies – some of which are already in the pipeline
- host a dyslexia awareness in archaeology week in October, coinciding with Dyslexia Week (5 to 11 October) themed this on 'Dyslexia creates', so please keep an eye on our social media and join us in raising awareness

If you would like to submit a case study or take part in some of the activities above, please get in touch with Alex at alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net

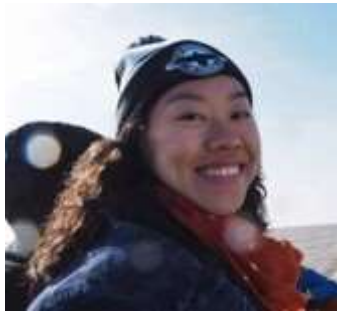
Ten things we wished your sector knew

On 29 June 2020 CIfA hosted an event with Caroline Raynor MCIfA, from Costain who presented *Ten things the construction industry wished archaeologists knew* put together from discussions with her colleagues in construction. Martyn Cooper MCIfA from CIfA Diggers' Forum then followed with *Ten things archaeologists wished the construction industry knew* with ideas fed in from some of our Registered Organisations.

Following the presentations, participants were asked to consider what they and CIfA could be doing differently to address the issues raised. Amongst other things, they looked at the advancement of better communication and engagement, promoting the profession, educating new construction industry graduates, and providing training for non-archaeologists in the construction sector.

A summary of the discussion can be [found here](#).

Digital tea breaks: my experience as an early career archaeologist



At the start of the COVID-19 outbreak it became apparent that the sudden absence or cancellation of office chats, face-to-face meetings, conference and events was having a big impact on our profession. The networking opportunities and interaction with archaeological colleagues that take place at those meetings and events were missing, so in response, we decided to set up a weekly 'tea break'. Sabrina Ki, a CIfA Student member, has attended some of these events and has produced a piece discussing her experiences. To read Sabrina's article please [click here](#). If you'd like to book to attend a future tea break session please go to our [events page](#).

CIfA Group news/events/training opportunities



London Group committee vacancies

Live/work in London? CIfA London Area Group are looking for an accredited member who would be interested in being their new Treasurer ahead of their AGM next month. Treasurers are integral to the group and are key in keeping LAG's events going. A role description for Treasurer is available on [their webpage](#).



Forensic Archaeology Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Forensic Archaeology Group's AGM is taking place 25 September at 2pm. The group is also holding open nominations for an accredited member to be their next Treasurer and members to join as committee members. Information about these can be found on [their webpage](#). Last date for nominations is 21 September.



Human Osteoarchaeology committee vacancies

OsteoSIG has open nominations for more committee members ahead of their AGM on the 29 September. Information about how to join the group committee can be found on [their webpage](#).



Scottish Group committee vacancies

CifA Scottish Group are holding open nominations for their next Chair, Treasurer and have open nominations for some committee members. If you would be interested in joining the Scottish Group committee, contact us via groups@archaeologists.net.

Morning chat

Tuesday, 8 September, 10:30 – 11:15

Come to our regular gathering of CifA members, combining the networking of live events with archaeological topics.

[Book your place here](#)

Decolonise archaeology

Wednesday, 9 September, 12:30 – 14:00

Our programme of events responds to how racism is systemic and present throughout our society, centring on the development of an anti-racist decolonise archaeology toolkit in collaboration with colleagues across the heritage sector. By attending this event you will not only be contributing to one of the most important conversations in our profession today, but you will also have the opportunity to explore how racism and colonialism impact your own practice and you will leave with clear take-aways about how you can actively challenge these, and be actively anti-racist, throughout your own heritage practice.

[Book your place here](#)

Afternoon chat

Wednesday, 16 September, 15:00 – 15:45

Come to our regular gathering of CifA members, combining the networking of live events with archaeological topics.

[Book your place here](#)

London Area Group AGM

Wednesday, 23 September, 18:30 – 20:30

Annual General Meeting of the London Area Group (LAG).

[Book your place here](#)

Morning chat

Thursday, 24 September, 10:30 – 11:15

Come to our regular gathering of CifA members, combining the networking of live events with archaeological topics.

[Book your place here](#)

Forensic Archaeology Group AGM

Friday, 25 September, 14:00 – 15:00

Annual General Meeting for the Forensic Archaeology Group (FASIG).

[Book your place here](#)

Human Osteoarchaeology Group AGM

Tuesday, 29 September, 13:00 – 15:00

Annual General Meeting of Human Osteoarchaeology Group (OsteoSIG).

[Book your place here](#)

Advocacy and planning reform

Monday, 14 September, 12:00 – 12:45 and 18:00 – 18:45

Join CifA's Senior Advocacy Coordinator to learn about proposed planning reform in England and hear an update on CifA's advocacy. There will be an introductory talk that will consider the background to the reforms, dissect relevant White Paper policies, CifA's policy positions and ongoing advocacy actions, and consider how CifA members can help. The remainder of the session will be an open discussion.

[Book your place here for the lunchtime session](#)

[Book your place here for the evening session](#)

CifA Annual General Meeting 2020

Tuesday, 13 October, 12:30 – 13:30

Join us for CifA's first digital Annual General Meeting.

[Book your place here](#)

For all other events, [please click here](#)

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

Power Steele Building, Wessex Hall, Whiteknights Road

Reading RG6 6DE

0118 966 2841 admin@archaeologists.net

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Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
Power Steele Building, Wessex Hall
Whiteknights Road, Earley,
Reading, Berkshire RG6 6DE
United Kingdom