

HUMAN OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY SIG

19 June 2023, 12:00pm
Meeting held on Microsoft Teams

AGM Minutes

Present:

Committee members: Sharon Clough (SC, Chair), Heidi Dawson-Hobbis (HDH, Ordinary member), Ceri Falys (CF, Secretary), Sabrina Ki (SK, Ordinary member) and Louise Loe (LL, Ordinary member).

Other attendees: David Bryson, Jenny C., Gabrielle Delbarre, Milena Grzybowska (MG), Dee Hillier, Vickie Jamieson, Megan Keates (MK, CifA), Chiará M., Ariadne Schulz, Siobhan Sinnott and Diana Swales (DS).

1.	Apologies	Action
	Isobel Curwen (IC, Ordinary member) and Clare Randall (CR, Treasurer)	
2.	Minutes of last AGM	
	The minutes of the 2021 OsteoSIG AGM were accepted.	
3.	Chair's welcome and AGM report (SC)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified that this AGM was for 2022 although taking place in 2023. Due to scheduling difficulties between CifA and OsteoSIG it was not possible to hold the AGM earlier. • Due to busy work schedules of the committee, OsteoSIG has been inactive for the past year. • SC has been attending advisory council meetings, and has updated the OsteoSIG committee if/when decisions have been made. • SC is mindful that the CifA Geophysics groups has recently closed due to inactivity of the committee/members. This is a “wake up call” for OsteoSIG to increase visibility within the CifA community with the aim of remaining an active CifA Special Interest Group and attract new members to the group and committee. • Update on OsteoSIG committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Matt Lee has stepped down from his role of OsteoSIG ordinary committee member due to other commitments. ➢ SC reinforced the fact that many of the OsteoSIG committee members (SC, IC, CF, LL, CR) will be stepping down in June 2024, as will have served their posts for six years and will be unable to continue on the committee. SC stressed the importance of attracting new members to the OsteoSIG committee to ease the “hand over” of the group next summer. 	

4.	<p>Treasurer's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details provided by CR but delivered by SC. • No money was spent from the budget last year, due to online committee meetings and no workshops or other OsteoSIG events. • For the coming year, the same budget as this year has been requested from ClfA, with the aim of having more in-person committee meetings and providing the educational workshops to ClfA members. 	
5.	<p>Secretary's report (CF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OsteoSIG membership numbers have increased slightly on the previous year. As per July 2022, the number of OsteoSIG members increased to 317 individuals of all ClfA grades (compared to 304 members in 2021, and 137 in 2020). • Quick assessment the OsteoSIG social media accounts indicate a total of 460 followers on Twitter and 106 followers on the group's private Facebook page. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ SC stressed the importance of increasing the provision of information and interaction with the membership on social media – will discuss with IC (Committee member responsible for online content) • The AGM minutes will be transcribed and distributed following the meeting. 	<p>SC & IC</p> <p>CF</p>
6.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions for increasing the interaction between OsteoSIG and the members include being more active on social media (i.e. regular updates), and providing information/updates in the ClfA newsletter every approx. three months. SC will contact MK for further detail for how to contact members through ClfA newsletters. • The OsteoSIG annual review will be due soon. CF and SC will produce. • OsteoSIG has space on the committee for additional Ordinary Members. Milena Grzybowska (attending the AGM) volunteered to join the OsteoSIG committee. MK will provide MG information for joining the committee. • <u>OASIS/ADS project</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Osteo SIG have been approached by BABAO for thoughts on how to improve the process for researchers to obtain information for archaeological sites if they do not have all of the site details (e.g. the "official" name of the site). ➢ Suggestions are needed for how to make skeletal reports more accessible. ➢ SC: Standardize keywords to accompany specialist reports/grey literature to ensure they are more searchable (e.g. FISH)? ➢ A second project has been in touch, which is led by Prof Mary Lewis (University of Reading), which seeks information for how human remains are databased (i.e. how easy is it to locate skeletons in museums/commercial units in England) • How can we make skeletal reports (and locating skeletal remains) more accessible? 	<p>SC/MK</p> <p>CF/SC</p> <p>MK</p> <p>ALL</p>

		ALL
7.	Goals for the coming year	
	<p>1) <u>10 Things to Know about Osteoarchaeology</u> (for the ClfA Digger's Forum)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Osteo SIG have been working on this project for over a year and are keen to finish the project. SC is to contact the Digger's Forum to determine if they are still happy to receive the information, and will re-distribute the long list of suggestions to committee members to finalise the top 10 suggestions/details. <p>2) Suggestions for OsteoSIG events to hold in the coming year to raise our profile before many on the committee step down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show and tell: This mini-conference has been suggested in previous OsteoSIG meetings, but raised again LL. This event would be held online (in the evening?), with presenters requesting a slot of 10, 15 or 20 minutes to share case studies that are unusual, interesting, or would like advice on. All case studies should be from commercial projects only. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of this session would be a platform for osteoarchaeologists/archaeologists to share/seek help with their discoveries in an informal setting – without the pressure, stress and time commitment of preparing for an academic conference. Have a “pint of science” format? ClfA's Zoom licence would permit up to 100 people to attend. Need to discuss whether to have different sessions based on time period, geographical location, or something else (e.g. 2 themes and 1 open session)? SC will put “feelers” out to gauge the level of possible interest. OsteoSIG committee could prepare case studies to get the event moving? DS suggested perhaps (depending on popularity) could do a series of mini conferences, based on different themes, etc. Workshop to instruct on the analysis and reporting of burnt human bone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SC will organize and run the session, but would appreciate helpers. Suggestions during the meeting have resulted in splitting the workshop into two sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Session 1:</u> a half day, online session to provide the theoretical background of cremations. This would need to be limited to the commercial applications and realities in British archaeology, as the topic of cremation is very broad and culturally specific – perhaps focus on Bronze Age/Roman/Saxon?. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of the workshop: “what cremation-related deposits will you encounter, what do you do with it, what can you learn from it...” <u>Session 2:</u> an in-person, practical workshop to provide attendees with the processes and experience of 	<p>SC</p> <p>SC/ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>

	<p>analysing and report production of burnt human skeletal remains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A venue is needed – SC will contact the CifA events coordinator (Richard) for suggestions (MK will put SC in touch), and CF to enquire about the availability of the osteology lab at the University of Reading. ➤ Problem: limited numbers of attendees for the practical session due to resources/venue H&S. ➤ DS suggested perhaps the Forensic Archaeology SIG (FASIG) may also be interested in holding a joint workshop, as cremated bone is applicable to both disciplines. SK will approach the FASIG. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>How to discuss Osteoarchaeology with the media</u> – A workshop to provide training for Osteoarchaeologists to engage effectively (and accurately) with the media. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ This suggestion has been explored before as an OsteoSIG event and raised today by MK. ➤ SC suggests that this topic is perhaps too big for OsteoSIG to tackle alone. All archaeologists would benefit from training to deal with the media to avoid sensationalist/ inaccurate/unethical stories. ➤ Perhaps a collaborative workshop could be held with many other CifA SIGs: <u>How to discuss archaeology with the media</u>. OsteoSIG could possibly collaborate with the Finds SIG and Heritage Crime SIG. SC has asked MK to explore the possibility of collaborations with other SIGs. 	<p>SC/MK, CF</p> <p>SK</p> <p>MK</p>
8.	Date of next committee meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed date for the next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Informal meeting at the BABAO conference in September for those committee members attending. ➤ Official Osteo SIG meeting in October 2023. 	

Meeting adjourned at 12:59pm