

RIG Committee Minutes

14 July 2023, 13.00

By Zoom

Present:

Evelyne Godfrey (EG) (Chair), Colin Forrestal (CF), Aikaterini Vavaliou (KV), Marianne Mödinger (MM), Megan Keates (MK), John Halsted (JH)

1.	Apologies	Action
	None, all invitees in attendance.	
2.	Previous Minutes	
	These were accepted.	
3.	Matter Arising from Previous minutes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-option of Colin Forrestal to act as secretary until the AGM was agreed. 	
4.	RIG AGM 2023	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After a brief discussion it was decided to hold it on Monday 28th August at 15.00 (BST). JH to produce a report for the AGM of all the AC meetings he's been to. MK to contact Alexandria to see if she is prepared to be nominated as Treasurer, and Mark Holmes and Perry Gardiner to see if they are still willing to be OCM's. 	<p>JH</p> <p>MK</p>
5.	Heritage Crime and EAA 2023.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair explained how the EAA are working on a much-needed pan EU law concerning Metal Detecting which should come into British Law as well. Both Chair and MM are involved in this work. It appears that the RIG committee is heavily involved. Chair is running a session and CF, MM and JH are giving papers at Belfast 2023 so we will make it known when advertising for the AGM and invite group members to say hello if there. There was a lengthy discussion on co-operation with the newly formed Heritage Crime Group SIG and it was decided on a Joint venture. It was decided that it should also include the International Practice group as well. Chair to email MK with details to pass on to the Heritage Crime and International Practice groups to see if they wish to collaborate on a session or workshop on this matter. 	<p>EG</p>
6.	ChatGPT	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The discussion on this started with an explanation that this came from a discussion being held by AEA (Association of Environmental Archaeologists), and comments by some professors about the ethics of using ChatGPT for papers. It was generally felt that if it was being used as a personal tool there was no problem. Chair pointed out that in her experience you could spot a ChatGPT piece of work due to lack of citations so not a good tool for scholarship. It also brought into the discussion Plagiarism. It was felt that while an eye needs to be kept on it, as a personal tool it was OK. 	
7.	Archaeological Lab H&S and Risk assessment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CF informed the committee that he had presented a discussion paper to archeobotanist working group of the AEA. Most commercial environmental archaeologists claimed their company was very good, and that there were procedures were adequate to deal with harmful materials, academics were less sure. CF expressed scepticism that all was rosy in the garden especially in the field. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There then followed a wide-ranging discussion on many aspects of H&S especially in the field, where consensus was that Archaeology was operating far behind modern construction practices and standards. • Chair explained that she was a rep in the Prospect union and had made use of a free 10 week training course provided by the TUC to all union members, and bemoaned that none of the other Prospect archaeological reps were not also H&S trained especially as the course was an enlightening one that highlighted how behind the times archaeology was. • Chair asked CF to write up a report and circulate to the committee for next meeting. 	CF
8.	Business Plan	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair to circulate a draft Business Plan as soon as possible. • MK referred to a previous email of hers that highlighted a new platform that CifA were encouraging groups to use (relevant part of email quoted below). The committee were interested mainly as a way to engage group members and considered the H&S topic a good one to kick off RIG's use of this platform. 	EG
9.	AOB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CF pointed out that the new look RIG group webpage was missing the AGM and committee minutes. MK indicated that they had been lost. So, CF to send copies to MK. • A report of the EAA Belfast 2023 to be given to the committee at the next committee meeting. 	CF ALL
10.	Next Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be confirmed after the AGM 28/08/2023 15.00 h (BST) 	

“The format of groups can be quite organised and processual. Potentially we could look at other formats like our networks through KnowledgeHub- if we believe there will be enough of a consistent community and more appropriate? A previous group which winded down, Airborne Satellite and Remote Sensing SIG, encouraged its members to join a discussion forum on the platform, which we understand is very popular.”

<https://khub.net/welcome>