

## FASIG Winter Meeting

27 January 2023, 1pm-2pm  
Online (Zoom)

### Minutes

**Present:** Robert Janaway (Chair), Sabrina Ki (Secretary), Laura Evis (Treasurer), Alistair Vannan (OCM), Peter Schofield (OCM), Denise Hillier (OCM), Anna Chaussée (OCM)

Agenda Point	Action (Initials)
<p><b>1. Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Deborah Ryder (OCM).</p>	
<p><b>2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>AGM minutes were accepted without changes.</p>	
<p><b>3. Matters Arising</b></p> <p>Running a field event was suggested (RJ), with bookings to be taken within CifA. The idea is to help non-forensic archaeologists learn more about what forensic archaeologists do.</p> <p>After the concern of cost came up, LE mentioned the popularity of free university events where attendees cover their own travel and accommodation costs. Would there be a need to hire facilities?</p> <p>RJ suggested that it could be like an Archaeology Weekend, where people could come along to a location where FASIG would run some demos and workshops.</p> <p>There was also discussion of the new draft code produced by the Forensic Regulator - please see Section 6 on the upcoming conference session for more details.</p>	
<p><b>4. Advisory Council Feedback</b></p> <p>Advisory Council Rep (LE) reported that there was no Advisory Council feedback at this time.</p>	
<p><b>5. Group Documentation</b></p> <p><b>Annual Budget request form:</b> committee to assist the Treasurer to complete this (maximum request £800) by the end of January for the next year.</p> <p>The budget is designed to meet the costs of advertising, CPD course hosting, etc.. Use for funding members to speak at the CifA conference is not permitted. LE and RJ suggested that we could tie asking for £800 with our action plan.</p>	LE

	<p><b>Annual Report:</b> committee can assist the Secretary to complete this by August about the previous year.</p> <p>When complete please send to Meg at Megan.Keates@archaeologists.net.</p>	SK
6.	<p><b>CifA2023 FASIG Conference Session: Speakers</b></p> <p>The conference session will be in-person. There have been a few submissions (Matt?) and Laura had been contacted by someone at Liverpool(?).</p> <p>RJ suggested Mike Groen from the Netherlands Forensic Institute (NFI) as a potential presenter, and the NFI could possibly fund this.</p> <p>AV pointed out that there are a lot of forensic archaeologists (FAs) in Europe, but the forensic aspect of CifA2023 is so small that they might not find it worth travelling for the conference session.</p> <p>The topic of the new draft code produced by the Forensic Regulator was raised as something the conference session should include, in relation to ‘future-proofing’ the discipline. This code lists all the disciplines subject to the code, however, forensic archaeology (FA) was not mentioned at all. This could be problematic as some aspects of incident scene examination overlap with FA.</p> <p>PS and RJ were involved in CifA’s consultation response to the draft code. In the past, FAs were excluded from requiring the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) accreditation, as there were already subject-specific standards and guidance. The Forensic Regulator may potentially decide that it’s not appropriate to endorse external standards and guidance. There is a need to ensure the new code’s wording is clear that FA is exempt from UKAS accreditation, in case a future Forensic Regulator decides to include FA in future disciplines that require accreditation.</p> <p>AV has been contacted by someone in the Home Office who will speak to the Forensic Regulator. AC asked for a copy of the written response from CifA’s FA Expert Panel.</p> <p>RJ suggested the conference session could contrast Scottish FA to English FA, with speakers who are actively doing casework. Police Scotland could talk about how FA is used, or an FA in the Scottish community. LE suggested Dr Diana Swales at the University of Dundee. AV could speak on Forensic Regulator updates. Mike Groen could speak on FA in Europe and the Netherlands - he is currently prepping for an FA session at EAA so wouldn’t need to prepare something completely new.</p> <p><i>RJ and LE will have a chat about speakers.</i></p>	RJ, LE
7.	<p><b>Communications: Social Media Output ideas and Newsletter content</b></p>	

	<p>SK noted that FASIG do not have a Facebook page or group, and asked the committee if they thought that a Facebook page would reach many more members. For example, if some members do not use Twitter or Discord.</p> <p>RJ was unsure if Facebook was that useful, and suggested that FASIG could try using the Mastodon social network - lots of European FA are on Mastodon. RJ also suggested that links to the newsletter could be shared on LinkedIn. AV mentioned that groups can have LinkedIn pages.</p> <p>The survey to SIG members about what they want to see/do in the future with the group has been a bit delayed, SK suggested that the Spring newsletter could include a link to the survey.</p> <p>SK summarised the planned newsletter contents: committee member bios, the CifA2023 conference session abstract, a brief summary of January's meeting, link to Oct 2022 AGM minutes and Jan 2023 minutes, social media links, and a callout to members if they have anything they'd like to share in the Summer newsletter.</p>	<p>SK</p> <p>SK</p>
8.	<p><b>Possible Social Media Officer role</b></p> <p>DH volunteered to take on a Social Media Officer role with more involvement in running FASIG's social media.</p> <p><i>DH will handle creating FASIG Facebook and Mastodon groups/pages.</i></p> <p><i>SK to send DH the Twitter login information.</i></p>	<p>DH</p> <p>SK</p>
9.	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>LE asked if any other subfields were excluded from the Forensic Regulator's draft code like FA. It was mentioned that soil science and botany seem to have been excluded, though it is a bit grey as examination of deceased persons seem to be exempt from the code? Entomology was excluded from being subject to the code and UKAS accreditation.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Date of Spring meeting and future events</b></p> <p>The Spring committee meeting will aim to avoid the Easter break if possible. The field event/workshop location and date will be discussed at the Spring meeting.</p> <p><i>SK will poll committee first before contacting wider SIG for 'market research'</i></p> <p><i>SK to send out poll to committee members for meeting availability</i></p>	<p>SK</p> <p>SK</p>