



Newsletter December 2023

Welcome to our 2023 Winter newsletter! Here you can find a list of CPD opportunities, Resources, and Finds SIG news. Enjoy, and send any feedback to CIfAFindsSIG@gmail.com!

CPD Opportunities

Conferences

[TAG \(Theoretical Archaeology Group\) Conference](#), **18-20 Dec**, University of East Anglia. Climate Archaeology: Temporalities and Ontologies. Day tickets available, session 15 may be of particular interest! Sign up by 8 Dec.

The Roman Finds Spring Meeting, **8-9 Mar**, Reading. Theme and papers to be confirmed.

[CIfA 2024 Annual Conference](#), **24-25 Apr**, Chester

Opportunities

Archaeological Specialist (Level 7) Apprenticeship at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. Webinar **11 Jan**. [Sign up to the Webinar](#) or [Submit an expression of interest](#).

Fully-funded PhD opportunity on glass from Fishbourne Roman Palace, expressions of interest close **12 Jan**. [Project information can be found here](#).

Resources

Each newsletter a different committee member picks a star resource. This one comes from our secretary, post-excavation supervisor and archaeobotanist-in-training, Bekky Hillman.

★ [The Plant Atlas Website](#):

[Plant Atlas](#) is an online repository of photos of modern seeds which I refer to a lot. Lots of archaeobotanists use this along with the book containing the same photos!

Finds Group News

AGM 2022 AND FINDS SIG UPDATE: Thanks to everyone who came to our hybrid conference with the Archives SIG and/or our AGM! We're working on making the recorded talks and AGM available to people to watch, and our AGM minutes should soon be on our website.

This year we welcomed three new committee members – Ruth Beveridge, Deb Fox, and Rachel Cubitt – giving us a full committee for the first time in a long time. Thanks go to Helen Wickstead, who stepped down this year, for her involvement in the committee.

Our priorities over the next year include continuing our work to address the Finds Specialist Crisis in terms of training and retention through running more tea breaks and devising a training program. We're also committed to increasing the amount, quality and usability of the ClfA Standards, Guidance and Toolkits. If you use the Toolkits, look out for our 2024 members survey where we'll be reviewing how they're used and if/how they could be better!

NEW FINDS GROUP EMAIL ADDRESS: Want to contact the committee directly? Now you can with our new email address! Reach us at ClfAFindsSIG@gmail.com or on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Our socials are the best place to keep up with Finds SIG news between newsletters!

POTTERY STANDARDS TOOLKIT: Work has begun on transforming *A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology* into a Toolkit! In doing so we are bringing it up to date with recent developments in Specialist Reporting best practice while retaining the original Pottery Standard, in consultation with the pottery groups that wrote it back in 2015. Watch this space!

TEA BREAK BLOG POST: Back in August we had a really well-attended tea break with the ClfA Early Careers SIG on *Finding a Career in Finds*. It's taken us a while but we've written a blog post with loads of contributions from the specialists who were at the session. Find out about our finds career struggles and successes and check out a humungous list of resources and contacts at the bottom. Out soon – keep an eye on the [Early Careers Group Blog!](#)

NEW ORGANISATION OFFERING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SPECIALIST LEVEL 7 APPRENTICESHIP: Hot off the press - Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln will be soon offering this apprenticeship! It will provide advanced skills across the breadth of archaeological process, from planning projects, surveying, preliminary investigation, excavation, post-excavation, analysis, report writing, and archiving. You can register your interest via their form on the website and join their webinar in January to get more information and support as an apprentice or an apprentice-employer. [Sign up to the Webinar](#) or [Submit an expression of interest](#).

Got a CPD opportunity or resource to share? Want to contact the Finds SIG committee? Message us on Facebook, Twitter or via email ClfAFindsSIG@gmail.com