

Finds Special Interest Group

Wednesday 12 February 2025,
1-3pm Online via Teams

Minutes

Present: Emily Johnson (EJ; Chair), Imogen Woods (IW; Treasurer), Bekky Hillman (BH; Secretary) , Rachel Cubitt (RC), Gulfareen Kamran (GK), Laura Ratcliffe-Warren (LR), Peter Guest (PG), Cara Burton (CB; guest), Kate Geary (KG; guest)

Agenda Point		Action (Initials)
1.	Apologies Ruth Beveridge (RB), Deborah Fox (DF)	
2.	Minutes of the Previous Meeting Accepted without changes	
3.	Matters Arising CB Specialist register on website wishlist RC to contact Phil about HESCAPE for next meeting EJ FFAF we have been asked to collaborate with advertising LRW it will be all online with online training sessions for each chapter/module ICON have small budget for training	LRW to send email updating more of this after ICON meeting on 14/2/25
4.	Advisory Council Feedback EJ 28/11/24 but some has been superseded since then by the board Main subject survey of the membership, most popular was a comprehensive survey set out by a committee, due Autumn. Discussions as to when Finds SIG survey our membership – no clear decision made. NB we have 999 members currently Now an advisory committee k hub group too BH to attend next meeting 16 July as EJ on leave Governance review happening next year. CPD also being reviewed. Group review looks at omitting the treasurer and having a vice chair. IW says she won't have time to be vice chair but looks at taking on a CPD post instead. Decisions at the EGM are being worked on.	EJ to send email confirming BH as stand in AC rep (DONE)
5.	Conference session RC Summary sent to committee, AMP (Archaeology Mentoring Pot). HE has a pot of funds to pay mentor for 3-12months to cover mentors time/expenses. Mentees are NOT funded, this can be up to £7,000 with a pot of £70,000. Application open March 2025 and close June	RC to update after meeting next week

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	<p>2025, money awarded to be spent that year. This is a pilot and more grants could be awarded in the future. Scoring for grant will hopefully be based on achievable goals. Meeting next week.</p> <p>Tuesday 29 April (day before conference starts), there will be a session to launch this, with no charge for entry. BH, IW offered to help with this session and talk/write a review of their experiences. AT, IW travel costs high so attending in person is hard. AT offers to help mentor but will need museum artefacts to do so. KG noted that being self-employed is difficult they did this type of thing before and can help support and broker relations between those that don't have in house specialists can be helped too. LRW good opportunity to find out what works and doesn't and create a clearer pathway for the future training. IW her mentoring is through a masters placement, would EH fund university mentoring. RC says can't see any exclusions but thinks it is maybe aimed more at post educational posts, also aimed at people with some knowledge not novices and is set out in their career plan.</p>	<p>ALL to email RC if they are interested in attending conference session.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Communications Social media GK new Facebook group is ready and we can send an invite to those on the business page to join. This will make it more interactive people can share things, this will have to go through admin first. Currently a private group so you have to ask to join. EJ suggests changing the name to 'finds group community' not the 'Facebook group'. CB banner is good, colour is good and it shows what we do. IW either change the 'Facebook group' to larger text or take the group words out. GK graphics post to welcome members approved unanimously GK Instagram page created but not active yet, welcome post discussed and updated not to include 'insights from specialists' EJ slightly busy maybe needs fewer items.</p> <p>GK Bluesky now accepted and we should set up account CB ClfA are putting guidance together for groups on how to set up and make sure functions all work and look uniform. Groups can choose to use or close whichever accounts they want to ClfA have no rules on which social media to use.</p>	<p>GK Words taken out during meeting. Change 'finds group' to 'finds group community' move to under the axe instead of above</p> <p>GK to update launch post with less images less text.</p> <p>GK to set up as any changes can be made by ClfA while it is live.</p> <p>GK to update K hub with our new version of current social media rules</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Training trainer KG ClfA want to revamp and reconfigure CPD on website and run more events. Potential to train the trainer for groups and whether this would help. Want to be seen to</p>	

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	<p>be offering more visible help for members. Received positively by committee. RC would be good for mentors to help them convey things in a suitable way that is easy to understand and ensure that quality was maintained. IW this shouldn't be a requirement for mentors as it may put people off. RC not a requirement but can be given as an option and as many people should do it as possible.</p> <p>KG will probably be online training and offered to groups and sharing knowledge to people, maybe a type of mentoring for groups would work.</p> <p>CB Trying simplify groups so that ClfA do admin and groups can do what they are better at. Want to have a space where people can reach out for support and gain this from other group members. CB meeting in March finalise and discuss things. Evert committee member will get K hub training invite and will hope to convert this into bite size videos.</p> <p>EJ we do do a lot of events and sometimes overstretch ourselves. Things don't always need EJ approval so other could just action.</p> <p>CB someone can set up tea break with her, she can do mailings, set up event, sort timing etc and so you just do your talk she can do all the background work</p> <p>KG CPD can just be a video or recorded interview, that you can watch it doesn't have to be a meeting or laborious. ClfA always happy to help with content or feedback on ideas.</p> <p>CB can also monitor chat etc in meetings.</p> <p>EJ would this be for members only CB free for finds group members and ClfA members £5 for non members.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Finds letter training</p> <p>EJ reports RB has had many replies mostly positive, some groups want meetings, so a large meeting for all interested groups is proposed. Hopefully have a ClfA rep there too. Online aiming for March IW to give advice as she has experience from her recent organised CPD event for CAS.</p> <p>AT suggests if we get specialists and early careers we could start the pairing process.</p> <p>AT Pieta Greaves has set up some guidelines for conservation and cleaning of finds that we could maybe use/adapt. LRW says there is also mud-larking training available that we could do the same with.</p>	<p>ALL meeting late March headed by EJ, RB, AT, IM</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>AT met Phillipa Walton about the Riverine contexts wants confirmation that we will support them in their guidance</p>	<p>AT to email to group email for reply</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Date of next committee meeting and future events</p> <p>By doodle poll to follow mid-late March</p>	