

## Finds Special Interest Group

29 January 2026  
1pm Teams online meeting

### Minutes

**Present:** Emily Johnson (EJ; Chair), Ruth Beveridge (RJ; vice chair), Bekky Hillman (BH; Secretary), Rachel Cubitt (RC), Gulfareen Kamran (GF), Laura Ratcliffe-Warren (LRW), Antony Lee (AL), Joshua Toulson (JT), Anna Tyacke (AT), Phil Pollard (PP; advisor), Imogen Wood (IW; Advisor), Cara Burton (CB; ClfA)

Agenda Point	Action (Initials)
1. Apologies	
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting and matters arising All approved no matters arising	
3. Welcome to New Members	
4. <b>Finds Fest (EJ)</b> <i>Mini-meeting results</i> Lunch/coffee cost: ~£30pp (including VAT) Need to cover AMP attendees ticket price Tickets: £35 for members, £55 non-members No contact yet between MShed and ClfA. Waiting for M-Shed to give contract to ClfA for agreement which will finalise costs.  <b>Advertising</b> Save the date gone out on Finds SIG socials Launch (of booking) awaiting the above PP will circulate mentor's bios before the event to use in advertising  <b>Format/structure</b> 3 Talks, 1 keynote, 1 FAFF, 1 AMP Finds marketplace: 4 specialisms currently covered by AMP, committee could fill gaps Poster competition open to mentees and early careers. Poster expression of interest needs to be included on booking sign up form. <b>GK</b> to man registration table, will create badges/ lanyards for attendees including pronoun stickers. Possibly different colours depending on association (ie Finds Committee, AMP mentors/mentees) <b>CB</b> to provide ClfA banner, pens etc	<b>EJ</b> to chase M-Shed for contract  <b>GK</b> create post for group members to share on linked in  <b>CB</b> to ship to <b>AT</b> or SLR offices
5. <b>Survey Results (CB)</b> 109 responses (good engagement), 87 ClfA members 77 members of FSIG	

	<p>Training for specialists needed to keep them up to date, Highest ranking attribute to training hearing about new research and finds handling</p> <p>Top format video bitesize training followed by single find type conference</p> <p>46 had attended CIIfA conference</p> <p>31 say bursary would help</p> <p>Willingness to pay £35 online (1/2 day CPD) £90 in person (one day CPD)</p> <p>NB some responses are from finds managers responding for whole teams</p> <p><b>EJ</b> results suggest we haven't captured early career responses as well as eg MCIfA's. Need to reach early career people better and those in the field who may not want to fill in surveys after working all day</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Three Year Plan</b></p> <p>Bi-annual finds fest</p> <p>Try to do conference in between finds fest</p> <p>Tea break with AGM each year in Autumn</p> <p>Need to convert more CIIfA members to group members</p> <p>To be circulated for approval</p>	<b>EJ</b> to circulate
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Toolkits</b></p> <p><b>Support/guidance for specialist reporting (EJ)</b> POSTPONED</p> <p><b>Recording archaeological materials query (RC)</b> POSTPONED</p>	<b>RC</b> to circulate by email
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>Finds pay benchmarking</b></p> <p><b>RB</b> 2025 survey said 1% increase in finds specialists wages.</p> <p>Fewer specialist jobs advertised, freelance and employed pay differs. Finds processing only just above living wage. Numbers will be shared via CIIfA soon. Proposed actions:</p> <p>Pension planning seminar for CIIfA members?</p> <p>Finds SIG statement of concern when benchmarking numbers are released</p>	<p><b>CB</b> to investigate pensions seminar</p> <p><b>RB</b> to circulate her report as basis for a response</p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>AOB</b> None	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of next committee meeting will be arranged by Doodle Poll</b>	