

### **CIFA AREA AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORTS 2019**

CIFA has 20 area and special interest groups bringing together professionals with specific historic environment interests. Most groups produce regular newsletters and run training events. Groups represent specialist views to CIFA via representation on the Advisory Council and offer advice on issues which have a specific relevance to their subject/geographical area.

The Archives, Buildings Archaeology, Deutschland/German, Diggers' Forum, Equality and Diversity, Graphic Archaeology, Geophysics, Human Osteoarchaeology, Information Management, International Practice, London, Marine Archaeology, New Generation, Project Management, Research and Impact, Scottish, Wales/Cymru Groups and Voluntary and Community have provided annual updates on their activities. Information about all our Groups is on the CIFA website at [www.archaeologists.net/groups/about](http://www.archaeologists.net/groups/about).

### **Archaeological Archives (AAG)**

This last year has continued to focus on the *Archaeological Archives Selection Strategy Toolkit* (see: <http://cifa.heritech.net/selection-toolkit>), which was officially launched at the CIfA annual conference in Leeds (April 2019). Following this, the emphasis is now on Phase 2 of the project – dissemination and training – with a series of workshops being held from June to September 2019. These are being led by Sam Paul (former AAG Chair) and Katie Green (AAG Treasurer) and are supported by members of the AAG committee.

The group's AGM and conference day (20 March 2019) maintained the selection theme, with the topic: *Selection strategies for archaeological archives: Making archaeological archives sustainable*. The day was well attended, with 62 participants, attracting a range of presenters and attendees from across the heritage sector; abstracts and presentations are available at [www.archaeologists.net/selectionstrategiesconference19](http://www.archaeologists.net/selectionstrategiesconference19).

Throughout the year the committee has been commenting on consultations and providing advice as and when required. Examples include responding to The Treasure Act consultation, contributing to the DigVentures survey on digital archives, and assisting ADS with the new OASIS form.

For regular updates on the group's activities see our Facebook and Twitter pages:

[www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalArchivesGroup/](http://www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalArchivesGroup/)

[https://twitter.com/ifa\\_archives](https://twitter.com/ifa_archives)

### **Buildings Archaeology (BAG)**

2018-19 has seen the Buildings Archaeology Group (BAG) committee having some success in making the Group more relevant to its large on-paper membership (over 900), and more influential within the profession. Whilst our Chairman (previously Treasurer), Tim Murphy, has recently stepped down after five years, he leaves us more confident in the well-being of the Group. Tim has worked tirelessly to help rejuvenate the committee and has been a driving force to achieve much needed updating of CIfA's *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*.

A mini re-shuffle of roles now sees Charlotte Adcock as Acting Chair and the Group's representative on the Advisory Council. Esther Robinson Wildwill remain as Treasurer. Megan Lloyd Regan will take over from Charlotte as Newsletter editor. Lara Band, Beverley Kerr, and Tiffany Snowden are Ordinary committee members and Jeremy Lake has been co-opted to bring us back to full membership. Other candidates for the committee position have been offered 'advisor' roles.

Whilst there have been technical glitches along the way, the decision to hold most of our committee meetings via Skype, supplemented by active e-mail communication, has resulted in more efficient

use of resources. The committee has met five times during the year – twice face-to-face and three times via Skype.

Advocacy on behalf of the often-misunderstood Buildings Archaeology sector, and involvement in standards enhancement and promotion have become our paramount concerns. Work on the revised ClfA buildings Standard and guidance document is moving steadily. The committee wrote essential edits to make the present edition fit-for-purpose for a little longer. The brief for a long overdue full revision will be put out to tender by ClfA soon. We are committed to being actively involved with the developing document, during the writing of which we have insisted that a substantial number of sector stakeholders be consulted. The committee has also made strong arguments within ClfA's response to a draft of Historic England's proposed guidance document on *Statements of Heritage Significance*.

We are making progress towards addressing issues raised by the results of our survey., The online data has been supplemented by some anonymised statistics about the Group's membership and further analysis of the results is underway.

The CPD event on Archiving held at Temple Barns at Cressing in Essex in June 2018 was useful, but attendance was lower than we hoped. The 2019 AGM was held in May, followed by a thought-provoking talk by visiting New Zealand based Buildings Archaeologist Eva Forster-Garbutt. The AGM ran smoothly, and the timing and location meant that there was a good turnout of members, and pragmatic and focussed discussion about the future trajectory of the Group.

In 2019 we are initiating free evening CPD events in York – *Buildings archaeologists in the pub* (BAP) - looking at the relationship between archaeology and historic buildings, the complimentary roles of architects, historic building consultants and archaeologists, and the buildings archaeology skills needed for the future.



### **Deutschland/German**

ClfA Deutschland group had a busy year, holding its first AGM in Munich and electing the committee with Michaela Schauer as President (Chair). In spring 2018, working groups on CPD, professional training and Registered Organisation's were set up. In June 2019, ClfA Deutschland hosted its second AGM in Bonn. With two newly elected members, the committee was rejuvenated and is more gender balanced. Janine Fries-Knoblach took over the position of Senior Coordinator Germany and will focus on getting the accreditation of German RO's started.

The introduction of the RO scheme in Germany has been the most important and time-consuming project in the last year. To fit German law and requirements and to have the same benefits for ROs in Germany as in the UK, some adjustments were necessary. These were made in close cooperation with the ClfA Deutschland working group, the RO committee and ClfA Board and staff. To this purpose, the German committee translated and/or published relevant documents, eg one regarding the introduction of a German quality mark for ROs.

In the course of 2018/19, ClfA attended the national conference of MOVA/WSVA (one of the two major German archaeological associations), in Halle, and meetings with other German association in

Würzburg. Representatives of ClfA Deutschland participated in Advisory Council meetings, the AGM and the ClfA conference.

One of ClfA Deutschland's major aims is liaising with other archaeological organisations to create an audience and raise awareness for ClfA strategy and goals. ClfA Deutschland is working closely together with DGUF to have access to their social media channels and reach out to archaeologists. Additionally, all essential ClfA documents now have a German translation on the ClfA website and a video made by *Anarchäology* under supervision of ClfA Deutschland, explains the role of ClfA. All these efforts have proved fruitful, and there are now nearly 140 members of the Area Group, 66 of them resident in Germany and amongst them a high percentage of accredited professionals.



### **Diggers' Forum (DF)**

It's been a busy year for DF as we knew there were events we wanted to organize and even more we wanted to set in motion for next year. We held a joint workshop with the New Generation Group at their AGM in the autumn of 2018, then began this year with a preliminary committee meeting in York during February. This gave us the opportunity to discuss a variety of ideas and gather some information to solidify plans at the AGM later in the year.

There has been a small shake up of the committee; Peter Lovett has joined our ranks, Ben Saunders is with us for a second term, and Cat Gibbs has taken on the role of chair as we bid farewell and many thanks to Paul Riccoboni.

Our AGM was held this year at Mortimer Wheeler House on the 18 May. Amongst other things, we reviewed the current DF [business plan](#) (2017-2020) and discussed our next three-year plan, agreeing that that our focus should continue to be placed on wages, training and accreditation schemes, establishing links with other groups, and providing CPD sessions and other events.

We also agreed to review and update our specialist competence matrix and to include examples of the types of evidence that might be submitted with applications to upgrade, particularly helpful for those that don't write reports. This has now been redrafted and submitted to ClfA and will hopefully make progression through accreditation clearer for our members and address the misconception that accreditation is reliant upon grey literature. The new matrix also has far more focus on alternative ways to display 'diggers' knowledge of field archaeology.

A constant theme coming up in our meetings has been the issue of Chartered Archaeologist grade, which didn't gain the 75% support required to pass the resolution at the ClfA EGM in April. You'll be pleased to know that, in addition to our group rep, now Ben Saunders, two of the DF committee members (Cat and Gemma) are also elected members of the Advisory Council, where the feedback is being reviewed. Do email the committee, message us on Facebook, or contact ClfA directly, with your thoughts on the matter.

We have also been working on updating our constitution, especially regarding whistleblowing and the complaints procedure. Any ideas from our members for our next business plan are heartily welcome.

Separately, members of the committee have been working on wellbeing, and training issues, looking into planning CPD events, and dealing with issues relating to working conditions/concerns raised by staff on joint or multiple organisation projects. Complaints are kept confidential, but take up a considerable amount of committee time, and we are looking for ways to advise members of how much work we do in this area, but our concerns for confidentiality must come first.

Following on from how positively our *Call for voices* session was received, where members submitted their experiences of training on the job, we have been inspired to submit a session for the ClfA2020 conference to discuss the changes of various elements of employment in archaeology affecting our members over the years that DF has been running. We hope to follow this with a seminar discussion as to what has improved, what still needs to improve and how it is achievable. One of the things that stood out at the last session was how helpful it was to have people from all areas of a business discussing the issues collectively and working together to figure out an achievable outcome. We would love to put something together that is practically achievable for RO's to agree and we welcome any suggestions or early submissions.

We've also been lucky enough to secure a collaboration in a session for TAG, to be held at UCL later this year in December, contributing towards papers on how our field work is changing (or not) due to external pressures.



### **Equality and Diversity**

The Group remains extremely busy, meeting regularly and working closely with partners within ClfA and across the cultural sector, and 367 members.

The Group's AGM in April 2019 confirmed in post the Group Officers for 2019/20:

- Hannah Cobb – Chair
- Joe Flatman – Secretary
- Jim Brightman – Treasurer
- Laura Hampden – Comms Lead
- Penny Foreman – Comms (Twitter contact)
- Emily Taylor
- Alex Grassam – Mentoring Lead (New position agreed at AGM)
- Cat Rees
- Kevin Wooldridge

In April 2019, the Group welcomed Linda Monckton (Head of Wellbeing and Inclusion Strategy at Historic England) as our Group's external advisor. We were also pleased to welcome Peta Glew as the ClfA Board's new E&D Champion in the summer of 2019.

Among other activities, the Group:

- was well-represented at the 2019 annual conference (and is already planning its 2020 conference work, including advising ClfA on its updated Conference Harassment Policy)

- has been planning and will be hosting an unconscious bias training session in September 2019
- was an invited speaker at the 2019 FAME conference in June 2019
- was represented at London Pride in July 2019
- has been deeply involved in working with the ClfA Advisory Council on issues of professional conduct, wellbeing and policies, as well as providing Group feedback on the proposal for individual 'chartered archaeologist' status
- has been contributing to ClfA's Disability Practice Guidelines and in the beginnings of forming a Decolonising Archaeology toolkit
- has been active with Prospect on a broad range of issues of mutual interest



### **Geophysics (GeoSIG)**

This year, ClfA's Geophysics Group focus is on updating the *Standards and guidance for archaeological geophysical survey* to bring it in line with current techniques, methodology and good practice.

To kick off this exciting project, Mark Whittingham and Lucy Parker put together a session on the state and status of geophysics in archaeology at ClfA 2019. This was well attended and produced some engaging discussions on methodology, quality assurance and the use of geophysics in the commercial sector. Alongside this, several case studies were presented, exploring the increasing use of techniques, including large-scale ground-penetrating radar and electromagnetic induction surveys. Highlighted within the discussion was a knowledge gap among non-specialists of how to appraise the quality of geophysical practices and outputs, leading to confusion and myth around the efficacy of geophysical survey techniques. This topic was followed up in May during a committee meeting at the Near Surface Geophysics Group (NSGG)'s Field Exhibition and Postgraduate Research Symposium.

At the GeoSIG AGM in Birmingham, we confirmed Lucy Parker as Chair, Ed Burton as Secretary, Andrew Hutt as Treasurer, and Mark Whittingham and Simon Haddrell as Ordinary Committee Members and welcomed new Ordinary Committee Members John Walford, Graham Arkley, Sam Harrison and Finnegan Pope-Carter.

Following the AGM, at the committee meeting, we discussed some the survey results and proposed a number of options to move forward. The scope of the upcoming standards and guidance review was widened to include plans for follow-on CPD workshops for regional groups, a web-based toolkit for practitioners, curators, consultants, and other end users, and a review of RO application and inspection procedures for organisations which provide geophysical services.

GeoSIG looks forward to a very busy remainder of 2019!

To follow our progress, check out our ClfA webpage and Twitter account:

Group Page: <https://www.archaeologists.net/groups/geophysics>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/cifa\\_geosig](https://twitter.com/cifa_geosig)



### **Graphics Archaeology (GAG)**

At this year's CifA conference, Graphic Group ran a well-attended session on photography, featuring Historic England photographers Alun Bull and James O. Davies and Must Farm photographer Dave Webb from the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. A diverse set of talks contrasted elegant postmodern houses with the familiar challenges of capturing shades of brown.

In the marketplace we hosted an entirely digital display, showcasing member's work in a range of media to demonstrate the staggering breadth of the graphical specialism. This included traditional artwork alongside 3D point clouds, finds illustrations, landscapes and reconstructions.

This summer saw the AGM head to London. An encouraging turn out of interested members were able to experience both Historic England's beautiful roof garden and a dramatic interpretation of a Roman ritual at the adjacent Mithraeum. Even more excitingly (for the Chair at least) two new committee members joined us, Amy Wright as Hon. Secretary and Leanne Gerrity as an ordinary member. Hannah Kennedy and Ellie Winter were re-elected as Chair and Treasurer respectively.

Actions arising from the AGM include the possible renaming of the group and the formation of a working group to start creating standards and guidance for archaeological illustration and visualisation.

Looking ahead, we hope to host an evening on the history of archaeological reconstruction to tie in with the release of *Illustrating the Past* by Judith Dobie (published by Historic England), and have submitted session and display proposals for the 2020 CifA conference.



### **Human Osteoarchaeology**

2018-19 was the Osteoarchaeology Group's inaugural year, so we have been finding our feet.

At our forming AGM we discussed the scope and ideas for the group, as well as areas we could investigate. We were all keen to provide training in aspects of our work which just wasn't available elsewhere.

The group has started small with only six members on the committee, but we would like to add more people and we have vacancies for three further places.

Social media accounts were set up so we could directly communicate with members and we aim to use this to advertise our workshops and other events.

We have contributed our views on the Ancient DNA policy and attended the Advisory Council and CifA Groups Forum meetings.

We organised and ran our first workshop on the use and interpretation of radiology in osteology. It was well-received, and it was great to get many osteologists together to share their work. Our second workshop was in the newly developed area of identifying the stages of puberty in adolescent skeletons. Again, a great day and we are all now aware just how sexually dimorphic our elbows are!

We have plans for more workshops this coming year and hope to repeat the others again and we are keen to hear from our group members on what they would like from us as a group.



### **Information Management (IMSIG)**

IMSIG ran two successful training events in the last year. The first was a session at Computer Applications & Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA-UK) Edinburgh conference in October 2018. *The true cost of digital data* presented case studies looking at the costs and benefits of creating, using and archiving digital data. These are now available on YouTube. Then, at CifA 2019, we held a *Metadata edit-a-thon* — a workshop promoting the creation of useful metadata standards for archaeological records.

There have been changes in the Committee. At our last AGM (Edinburgh) Hugh Corley stood down as Chair after 6 years on the committee. Hugh is still an active member of the Group and reports back to the Committee on FISH/HEIRNET activities. Jeremy Oetgen is now Chair and Doug Rocks-Macqueen has taken over as Treasurer. Theodora Anastasiadou was formally accepted as ordinary committee member. Next year our Secretary, Colin Forrestal, will also have served his full term in office, so we will soon be inviting nominations for that role. And we are now actively seeking to fill two vacancies for ordinary committee members.

IMSIG continues to contribute to Security Standards and GDPR. Having reviewed our own responsibilities under GDPR, we have formally closed our dormant JISC email account.

We are planning to contribute to CAA-UK 2019 (Bournemouth) and the CAA International Conference 2020 which next year will be hosted by UK, in Oxford.



### **International Cultural Heritage Practice (IPSIG)**

The International Cultural Heritage Practice Special Interest Group (IPSIG) held its AGM at CifA Conference in Leeds on 25 April 2019.





## London

Our focus for 2018 continued to be on continuing professional development, for and about London archaeologists.

**Vision for the future** - Supporting our 2018 AGM, we had a panel discussion on *Aspirations for London Archaeology*, kindly sponsored by CgMs with free food and drink at The City Pride Pub EC1. Chaired by Taryn Nixon, the Question Time format tackled diversity, equal opportunities, dissemination and innovation. With thanks to our wonderful panel for addressing these issues head on: Adam Corsini from Museum of London Archive, Raksha Dave from DigVentures, Peter Hinton from CIfA, Michael Tierney from Headland, and Sadie Watson from MOLA.

**Representing London archaeologists** – Our regular activities include representing our members by contributing to discussions and issues wherever there is a London angle. Discussions around introducing a Chartered grade of accreditation were of course one of the major themes over the year. The London Group Committee is always seeking the views and concerns of our members and continue to represent these through our representative at Advisory Council, Christina Reade.

**CPeasyD** - Rebecca Haslam of PCA gave a refresher session on site formation in October. Watch out for more of our popular CPeasyD events, designed as informal training for archaeologists, particularly those in the PCIfA grade and an opportunity to network these are regularly attended by professionals in all the membership levels and disciplines together with several non-members. The format is to combine discussion and networking with half hour presentations by industry experts - for free and in a pub. Suggestions and assistance for future sessions are welcome. These events are sponsored by a range of organisations 'in the business' in London.

We were in turn very pleased to be able to support MoL Archaeological Archive in July with a free event about significance-led selection for archives in London.

**Getting up to speed** - *Infrastructure and the historic environment: HS2 in London*. Once again, we held a joint seminar with IHBC London Branch at the Gallery in Cowcross Street, with Alan Baxter generously letting us use this great venue for free. The speakers were literally in the hotspot on one of the warmest days of the year, which didn't prevent us from enjoying their presentations. Ken Sable of Atkins and HS2 introduced the project from the client's perspective; new methods are being developed not only to monitor and record standing buildings, but for the largest archaeological excavation programme ever undertaken in the UK. David English of Historic England put the project into its strategic context; the new station and its setting are informed by the need to create an attractive new destination, such as improving Euston Square informed by earlier town planning and safeguarding of monuments. Sorina Spanou of MOLA Headland Infrastructure showcased practical solutions to challenges such as recording over 30,000 burials at Euston. Finally, Alan Wito of Camden Council illustrated how the council is managing the impact on its heritage assets, with some detailed case studies of adapting listed buildings to help residents during the long construction period and beyond.

With thanks to the CifA and IHBC London committees for contributing to the smooth running of this event.

**AGM 2019** – This year's AGM in September is accompanied by a talk on the Excavations at Westminster Abbey given by Joe Brooks of Pre-construct Archaeology. We are grateful to Arup Environmental for supporting this event.



### **Marine Archaeology (MASIG)**

MASIG held their 2019 AGM at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer had all reached the end of their terms. Elections were held and a new committee was elected in with Danielle Wilkinson as Chair, Stephanie Said as Secretary and Alison James as Treasurer. Ordinary members are Phoebe Ronn, Hefin Meara, Alistair Byford-Bates, Paolo Croce, Terry Newman, Diana Donohue (on maternity leave) and Michael Walsh (covering for Diana). In addition, three other members will be providing the committee with advice and support; Toby Gane, Victoria Cooper and Nikki Cook.

MASIG membership numbers have risen from 441 last year to 788 this year, with a good spread amongst the grades but more of the lower CifA grades. The committee will use this information and aim to engage more with the lower grades.

MASIG held a successful session at the 2019 CifA Conference called *Offshore development: creating a legacy for marine archaeology*. There were four papers presented which was followed by an energetic and provoking discussion about offshore marine planning issues. During the year, we also responded to two consultations for *Managing the Marine Historic Environment of Wales* and a *Tailored Review of Historic England*. MASIG's consultations and advocacy will now be conducted through CifA with our input.

A specific focus discussed by the MASIG committee has been to create CPD opportunities for marine archaeological graduates. Future CPD sessions will provide additional training opportunities that will help to prepare graduates for commercial consultancy roles.

Group aims for the 2019-2020 year include:

- involvement in consultations and advocacy
- a MASIG session or event at the 2020 CifA Conference
- generating content for social media and newsletters
- creating CPD opportunities
- providing guidance information on the MASIG webpage



### **New Generation**

The New Generation SIG, after a very busy 2017 -2018 year with lots of events and sessions at different conferences have had a quieter 2018 – 2019.

At our 2018 AGM we lost our secretary Alistair Gant due to other commitments, and one of Ordinary Committee members (OCM). Fortunately, Otis Gilbert has stepped in as Secretary, and Alistair has agreed to be our liaison with CBA youth, but we are now short of 3 other committee members. The major problem being is that most New Generation committee members are early careers people as well, so are very busy. This was compounded when we lost our Treasurer, Elizabeth Pratt, due to promotion and joining a new company. We are therefore running a recruitment campaign in the autumn.

At the 2019 AGM, our chairman Colin Forrestal, will be standing down having served the three years he intended too. So, we will be looking for nominations for Chairman, Treasurer and for three OCM's. This will be held at the same venue as the December Groups Forum in Birmingham.

This does not mean we have been totally idle; we were involved in the early career's session at CIfA 2019, with Historic England and have proposed a similar session for CIfA 2020. We also managed to get a poster session and a prize for the 2019 event thanks to other collaborators.

The New Generation group is an important group for co-ordinating and promoting early career archaeologists and we have been heavily involved in the apprenticeship and accreditation schemes. We have been also trying to get both a mentoring and ambassadorship scheme up and running and will continue to support work on these. In addition, we welcome invites to attend career events for pre-university students.



### **Project Management (PMSIG)**

The PMSIG is very pleased to announce we now have well over 500 members – 589 to be precise – with some of them taking part in our recent workshop and discussion on *Project managing major infrastructure projects – the archaeology*. We sent out a feedback form soon after the event and hope to collate information that will help us deliver training that will be engaging and useful to our members.

Our AGM took place at the same time, and we were able to co-opt three committee members. This brings the PMSIG committee almost up to strength and will enable us to deliver an annual workshop and seminar.

The committee continues to meet regularly via conference calls and is currently working on a Professional Practise Paper for Project Management as well as looking towards a mentoring programme. We hope to see everyone at Conference 2020!



### **Research and Impact (RIG)**

RIG has had a relatively quiet, but no less productive year. In comparison to other special interest groups, RIG has struggled with its *raison d'être*, since its key aims (ie research and impact) cut across all other SIGs. Therefore, the committee has spent the last year and its regular meetings trying to map out a more clearly defined role for it, which does not replicate the work of other groups, but rather supports and enhances it. We have revised our mission statement and over the coming months, we will be seeking feedback from the wider CIfA community on our other ideas for moving forward.



### **Scottish**

At the SGIfA AGM held in Edinburgh on 28 September 2018, Peta Glew stood down as Hon. Chair and committee member. Sam Fox took on the Hon. Chair role, with Joe Somerville taking on the Hon. Secretary role for the committee. We also welcomed three new committee members: Lindsey Buster, Paul Murtagh and Kevin Paton.

The next AGM will be held on 15 October 2019 in Edinburgh

### **Aims of the SGCIfA**

- to promote CIfA and its services to members in Scotland
- to raise the public profile of archaeology and archaeologists in Scotland
- to advise the IfA on issues specific to Scotland
- to increase membership and we now stand at 548 members of the Scottish Group

Continued support from Historic Environment Scotland for co-ordinating skill development initiatives and training activities was very valuable. Funded through the HES Archaeology Programme, this has resulted in financial support for a CIfA post (for 2.5 days a week, filled by Cara Jones) and 4 CPD training workshops. Cara's work has involved supporting the delivery of CPD training courses, co-ordinating the development of a Modern Apprenticeship in Field Archaeology and two new college-based qualifications (a new National Progression Award and Professional Development Award). All three initiatives are designed to support new entry routes into the profession. This has involved working with the Archaeology Skills and Training Working Group (our Industry Panel), Scottish Qualifications Authority and Skills Development Scotland (SDS). CPD courses delivered in the period included: *The role of setting in the management of Scotland's heritage*, 28 September 2018, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh; *Managing volunteers with Volunteer Scotland* Glasgow, 21 March 2019; *Public speaking and presentation skills*, March 2019, Edinburgh; and *From field to museum: training workshop on artefact identification and accessioning process*, November 2018 with the National Museum of Scotland.

Forthcoming training initiatives include a session on desk-based assessments to tie in with the next ClfA Scottish Group and main ClfA AGMs, and *Introduction to dendrochronology*.

We are interested in widening and deepening our committee membership, in particularly looking to tie in closer with ALGAO, Scotland members and with Scottish archaeologists based outwith the Central Belt.

We continue to engage with ClfA Advisory Council and Groups Forum. Members of the committee contribute to ClfA consultation responses to Scottish Government public consultations. We collate and contribute to a Scottish Group newsletter that is emailed to members on a quarterly basis. We have active ClfA Scotland Facebook and Twitter (@ClfA\_Scottish) accounts that we use to engage with our members, promote relevant Scottish heritage news, and to cross-promote CPD training opportunities. The Facebook page has 1146 followers, and the Twitter account has 442 followers. Thanks go to Tristan Boyle as our Treasurer and social media guru for his efforts in raising our profile via these media, and to Biddy Simpson for her commitment to and diligence in editing the newsletter the past few years.



### **Voluntary and Community Archaeology**

It has been a busy year for the SIG as the group has focused on how to implement the recommendations and next steps set out in the SIG's Community Archaeologists survey report (published in November 2018, [www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfA%20Vol%20SIG%20Community%20Survey%20Report%20Nov%202018\\_0.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/ClfA%20Vol%20SIG%20Community%20Survey%20Report%20Nov%202018_0.pdf)). A presentation was given on the report to the Archaeology Training Forum in February and a meeting was held at Surrey History Centre to set out a plan of action to implement the findings. A subsequent joint meeting was held with the CBA in York to discuss next steps, which was attended by representatives of the SIG and of organisations from Scotland and Wales, including Historic Environment Scotland and Archaeology Scotland. The SIG has taken the lead on various aspects including: working on establishing a ClfA competency matrix for community archaeologists; developing a model job description; promoting the value and benefit of engaging communities through development led investigations and, in particular, promoting and being advocates for the value that community archaeologists have or should have in commercial archaeology. One other important aspect that was identified was the lack of any ClfA standards and guidance for community archaeology and the SIG is currently developing a project proposal to create this.

The SIG also had a very busy conference in Leeds with a stand and session titled: *How can we improve the legacies of archaeological community engagement in place making?* The conference session was very well attended, and we had a great range of speakers talking about different aspects of engaging communities and place making. These presentations are now available online. One of the stand out messages from the session is that engaging communities through planning led archaeological investigations should be an 'ethos', rather than a nice to have 'add on' – and this is something that the SIG will continue to promote and embed into practice in the upcoming years.

### **Wales/Cymru**

The Wales/Cymru AGM was held on 9 November alongside a symposium on *Recent archaeological discoveries in Wales*. Presentations were given on updates on recent work in Wales by practitioners and curators. These have included the management of large projects from both curatorial and projects points of view; with complex and extensive archaeological remains; and the management of other projects which encountered unexpected archaeological remains was also examined.

Claudine Gerrard stepped down as secretary and Rachel Morgan was elected.

A CPD event which detailed new developments in archiving practice was held at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff in November. This included both practical and documentary aspects; current Standards and guidance, discussed potential charging schemes; discard and retention policies; digital archives standards, and a tour of the NMW archaeology store. Given the problems with physical storage space in Wales for archives, clarity on process and the nature of archiving and archives is valuable for both contractor and curator.

CIFA Cymru was asked to comment on the Welsh Government *Managing the marine heritage of Wales* consultation and responded individually as group members to the NPAAW consultation on the amendments to the *Selection and retention guidelines for archaeological archives*.

CIFA Cymru is one of the oldest groups within Cifa and was set up before the current Cifa model constitution and regulations for Groups came into effect. We have been focussing on bringing the group in line with Cifa guidance and regulations, and in March the committee of Cifa Cymru voted to adopt the model constitution. The group had included a sub-committee for the Research Framework for Wales which now exists as a separate legal entity with its own constitution. Anyone interested in becoming involved with or contributing to the Research Framework should contact Jenny Hall.

A workshop exploring the use of desk-based assessments within the planning framework for Wales and England will be held in Cardiff on 13 September. This will follow on from the event previously held in London and will explore implications from both the NPPF and the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The Cifa Cymru AGM will be held on 8 November in tandem with the *Archaeology of timber framed buildings* day school which was postponed from last year.