

HUMAN OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY SIG

29th September 2020, 1:00pm
Meeting held via Zoom

AGM Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Chair's welcome and comments**
- 3. Minutes from last AGM**
- 4. Secretary and Treasurer's reports**
- 5. Election: New committee members**
- 6. Social media**
- 7. Future events or activities in light of COVID-19**
- 8. AOB**

Apologies should be forwarded to the Group Secretary

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AGM Minutes

Osteo SIG committee members: Sharon Clough (chair), Isobel Curwen (ordinary committee member – social media), Kirsten Dinwiddy (ordinary committee member), Ceri Falys (secretary, arrived late), Louise Loe (ordinary committee member), and Clare Randall (Treasurer).

Non-committee members present: **Valentina Arroyave**, Jessica Butt, Heidi Dawson-Hobbis, Megan Keates (CIfA membership engagement coordinator), Sabrina Ki, **Amanda Lauder**, Samantha Tipper, **Mila(?)**.

| 1. | Apologies for absence | Action |
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| | Ceri Falys (will be late), Jackie McKinley | |
| 2. | Chair's Welcome | |
| | | |
| 3. | Minutes of Last AGM | |
| | <p>SC summarised the list of activities Osteo SIG had planned to do since last AGM. Unfortunately, haven't accomplished everything due to COVID-19.</p> <p>These items include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• updating CIfA technical papers. Best way to review and update (instead of re-writing entirely, provide an update online)• No CIfA policy regarding human remains.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Destructive analysis (guidance and advice). This was touched on in CIfA magazine, but aim to produce something more formal• provide a session at the CIfA conference (the conference was cancelled)• edit an edition of CIfA's <i>the Archaeologist</i> magazine. We successfully did this (The Archaeologist, issue 109, Winter 2020) <p>COVID -19 has limited our ability to complete many of these activities, but Osteo SIG will take forward points that were not accomplished this year, and focus on them in the coming year</p> | ALL |
| 4. | Secretary and Treasurer's Report | |
| | <p>Secretary's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No formal secretary report (CF is absent)• The AGM minutes will be written and distributed following the meeting• <u>Membership numbers from the annual report (2019/2020):</u><ul style="list-style-type: none">• 137 members (54 MCIfA/HonMCIfA, 25 ACIfA, 51 PCIfA, 5 Affiliates, and 2 students) | CF |

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| | <p>Treasurer's report (CR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to COVID-19, Osteo SIG's activities have been very limited (i.e. have not bought anything, no travel expenses to attend meetings, etc) • total expenditure for this year was £12.49 • had budget of £350 for the year • as meetings in the future will be online, there will be no travel expenditures | |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Election: New committee members</p> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three vacant positions for "ordinary committee members" • we have had two volunteers (Sabrina Ki and Heidi Dawson-Hobbis) • no need for a formal vote as there are three positions and two volunteers • Sabrina and Heidi are warmly welcomed to the Osteo SIG committee | |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>Social Media</p> | |
| | <p>IC summarized the activity on the group's social media accounts (i.e. Twitter and Facebook)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • highlighted that social media has been the main way to reach Osteo SIG members • has been generally quiet this year, due to COVID-19 and lack of activities to promote • the Osteo SIG Twitter account has 150 followers • IC suggested to do a recruitment drive to increase members on all Osteo SIG social media accounts • IC did a poll to find out about the people who engage with Osteo SIG social media, and why they follow the accounts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The majority were students (65%), some were field archaeologist, some were members just for general interest • The poll indicated that members wanted careers advice and guidance (early careers advice), networking opportunities, develop hands-on osteology skills, looking for latest news and updates in the osteoarchaeology field • In the future – we should tailor social media posts to these topics <p>Suggested ideas to increase Osteo SIG's social media engagement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a Q&A event online to ask/answer questions • advertise new guidance (when we produce them), and show social media what we are working on • virtual workshops <p>It is essential that Osteo SIG provides a realistic view of the field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide advice on the skills that are needed to do the job <p>Suggestions for how can Osteo SIG provide this info to the individuals that need it:</p> | <p>IC</p> |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • put on a ClfA digital tea-break, to provide a Q&A session • ask early career osteoarchaeologists and Osteo SIG committee members to share their stories to give advice and suggested career paths (LL and KD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • send out via social media (e.g. one story per month) <p>SC indicated that a limiting factor to communicating with the Osteo SIG members is that we cannot contact members directly due to GDPR regulations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MK suggested an option is to set up a forum group to directly engage with members <p><u>Suggested future engagement opportunities and careers advice</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recent opportunities from other companies/sites have developed “early career osteologist programmes”. Can we encourage such schemes, and/or have ClfA support/promote similar opportunities? 2. Focus on different aspects of osteology (e.g. cremation), which have few specialists, or those with specialists who are nearing retirement age 3. Give advice on career progression and developing skills necessary to be successful in osteoarchaeology: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SC suggested to make short, 5-minute videos to provide advice on developing essential skills. HDH is currently exploring similar videos. 4. HDH suggested contacting universities who are ClfA accredited to provide sessions for them. 5. Suggestion (by JB) to send out an email to promote Osteo SIG’s social media sites 6. SC indicated that it is essential to have experience beyond an MSc/MA. Need archaeological field experience to fully interpret the burial (i.e. be able to put the skeletons back into the burial/archaeological context) 7. Finish compiling our list for the “10 things archaeologists need to know about osteology and excavating human remains” 8. KD – reach a wider audience provide a short video (back to basics) of how to excavate a typical burial, or series of photographs/time-lapse photos. Not limited to just osteologists, but can apply to field staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to take into account confidentiality! • and need to agree a script to accompany the video (agree on methodology etc) | <p>volunteers to answer questions at a ClfA digital tea break session</p> <p>ALL – write personal career development</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>MK to advertise via ClfA emails</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p> |
| <p>7.</p> | <p>Future events or activities in light of COVID-19</p> | |
| | <p>Focus on developing content for social media (as above):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a ClfA Digital tea-break session • 10 things archaeologists need to know about osteology and | |

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| | <p>excavating burials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• social media accounts• if COVID-19 restrictions lift, we endeavour to provide a hands-on workshop | |
| 8. | AOB | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• KD – how have we worked from home during lockdown and with limited time in the office?• any volunteers to go the the CifA advisory council meetings (SC) <p>Next meeting in 3 months, via Zoom: December 2020</p> | |
| | Meeting adjourned at 2:13pm | |