

RIG Committee Minutes

6 November 2023, 19.00

By Zoom

Present:

Evelyne Godfrey (EG) (Chair), Colin Forrestal (CF), Aikaterini Vavaliou (KV), Marianne Mödinger (MM), John Halsted (JH), Perry Gardener (PG), Daria Dabal (DD), Matilda Holmes (MH), Richard Hughes (RH)

1.	Apologies	Action
	None received.	
2.	Previous Minutes	
	These were accepted.	
3.	Matter Arising from Previous minutes	
	None	
4.	RIG AGM 2023 – Co-Options	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-options of Daria Dabal and Matilda Holmes until the Next AGM was agreed. It was agreed that the secretary contact Alexandria to see if she would be willing to take on the Treasurers role. • CF asked if there were any corrections required to the Draft AGM and there were none, so CF will request the Draft be put up on the RIG webpage as per the business plan. 	CF
5.	CifA conference 2024 (Chester)	
	RIG have submitted a session ‘Setting Archaeological Heritage Policy accommodating Decolonisation: Putting it into the Hands of Archaeologists.’ The plan is for two hours of papers followed by an open discussion.	
6.	Heritage Crime and EAA 2023.	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast 2023 was a good conference only shame was the 2 Heritage sessions, one on crime and the other on setting Heritage policy at the EU level were held at the same time. • EG/CF to email MK with details to pass on to the Heritage Crime and International Practice groups to see if they wish to collaborate on a session or workshop on trade in archaeological artefacts and on Maritime, the emphasis to be to influence the majority of the priority this needs to have. 	EG/CF
7.	EAA 2024 – possible session on Synthesis	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIG is proposing a session on synthesis the submission needs to be in by 13/11/2023. EG, CF and JH to co-ordinate to get this in on time. 	EG/CF/JH
8.	Archaeological Lab H&S and Risk assessment	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair asked CF to write up a report and circulate to the committee for next meeting. • Discussion range on training for academics, volunteers and commercial staff in safe lab practices and testing of sites, especially brown field sites and that this should be an essential element of the risk assessment. • It was also suggested a survey be undertaken to approach academic, volunteers and commercial staff as to their experience probably anonymous. • KV to contact departments to enquire what type of training is available for their volunteers and technical staff, • Set up a Knowledge Hub group. 	CF KV CF

9.	Environmental and Academic Matrices	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies were provided for the meeting of the Academic, Environmental and General Matrices, as the latter is the major matrix used for evaluating applications for accreditation. CF gave a quick history of both explaining that the academic only started at ACIfA as it was felt that Bachelor and Masters graduates would only satisfy the general matrix initially. Concerning the Environmental matrix, this while created by RIG, as it was so specialised it was considered by the then RIG committee that the Association of Environmental Archaeologists (AEA) should co-own this. CF being the only environmental archaeologist on the committee now agrees that it should be evaluated by the AEA. Comments on both should be sent to CF to collate and pass onto CIfA. 	ALL
	Business Plan	
	Everyone to review it as soon as possible and comment by email.	ALL
10.	AOB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CF pointed out that the Levelling up bill was given Royal Assent the week before this meeting. This bill appears to have useful supports for Archaeology, especially that it makes HERs mandatory. It was suggested that maybe the profession should be talking to Labour to persuade them to re-introduce an Upgraded Heritage Bill. A small discussion took place on archaeology on the island of Ireland re HERs Discussion on the need to make CIfA a statutory regulator, possibly start a campaign to make this possible. 	
11.	Next Meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late January Monday 22/29 2024 at 19.00 GMT, CF to poll, then Early March 2024. 	CF

“The format of groups can be quite organised and processual. Potentially we could look at other formats like our networks through KnowledgeHub- if we believe there will be enough of a consistent community and more appropriate? A previous group which wound down, Airborne Satellite and Remote Sensing SIG, encouraged its members to join a discussion forum on the platform, which we understand is very popular.”

<https://khub.net/welcome>