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Issue 11



Welcome to our weekly update of what's happening in the world of CIfA – for members, about members, driven by members. We will cover a broad range of news, including events, training and resources, advocacy and policy, collaborative working with partners, and much more. We would love your feedback and suggestions about what we could cover in future issues. Email your ideas and comments to: [admin@archaeologists.net](mailto:admin@archaeologists.net)

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## CifA Area and Special Interest Groups news

CifA's [Groups](#) represent different specialisms, geographical areas and themes across the historic environment sector, established by CifA members to provide a forum for discussion regarding good practice, and assist in setting high professional standards. CifA members can [join any groups for free](#), and [non-members can join a group](#) for an annual fee of £10 per group.

[Research and Impact Group](#) has sent their final newsletter of 2024, summarising the work the committee has been involved with over the last two months since their October edition. Newsletters are sent via email to all Group members, so if you aren't already a member, join RIG to make sure you receive updates directly in future!

The [CifA Deutschland Group](#) now has a [LinkedIn page](#). Follow them to get information on their work and upcoming events. CifA Germany represents both employees and employers, and supports German (or German-speaking) archaeologists with accreditation or, in the case of archaeological specialist companies or institutions, with registration.

The last week has seen three different Groups host their AGMs:

·[Marine Archaeology SIG](#) delivered a fascinating presentation looking at the demographics of the MASIG members, and considered how they could reach those who aren't currently represented in the Group.

·[Buildings Archaeology Group](#) discussed next year's Group schedule of talks and lectures, which will be packed with CPD opportunities galore.

·[Information management Group](#) asked the attendees to vote on the Group's priorities for the next 12 months, which they plan to start work on in January, and hosted a Christmas quiz.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved with developing content for the meetings and to attendees for sharing your thoughts with CifA's Group committees.

## Celebrating 10 years of the Chartered Institute

Ten years ago this week, members gathered in the Museum of London to celebrate the launch of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. This followed the granting, by the Privy Council Office, of the Institute's Royal Charter. The Charter recognises that the work we do is in the public interest, and acknowledged that the Institute demonstrated pre-eminence, stability and [permanence in archaeology](#). The granting of our Royal Charter was a huge step forward for the Institute and has been at the heart of the Institute's strategy since its inception: the professionalisation of archaeology.

The Charter also provided the basis for a new organisational structure for the Institute along the lines of a model recommended by the Professional Associations Research Network (PARN). This introduced a smaller Board of Directors, with a larger Advisory Council as a sounding board. The new Board structure also allowed us the opportunity to recruit lay directors, which has led to a very useful working partnership of CifA members with professionals from other institutes and professions at Board level.

Now, 10 years on, the Board of Directors has agreed that it would be timely to carry out a governance review as part of the new 3-year plan it adopted in September. This review will get underway in early 2025.



### **Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) lunchtime chat**

Towards the end of November, members joined our informal EDI lunchtime drop-in led by Laura Hampden and other members of CifA's EDI committee. This provided an opportunity for members to network, chat, and share their thoughts about [EDI within CifA and/or the wider profession](#).

Discussion was very wide-ranging, with members saying that they missed the more casual open group meetings that the former EDI Group has provided. It would also be helpful for the EDI committee and CifA to do some wider promotion of the neurodiversity network which is open to all CifA members to join. If you are interested in being added to the mailing list, please email [alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net](mailto:alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net).

The neurodiversity network members have supported the creation of a wide range of [resources on our website](#) to support individuals, as well as providing useful information for those looking to develop their leadership and management skills, and to better support colleagues.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will plan in a series of EDI and neurodiversity drop-ins throughout the year, so please keep an eye out for announcements about dates for these. [Check out this short video](#), explaining why you should join CifA's Neurodiversity Network.



## Forensic Archaeology Group AGM

Members are invited to the Group's [AGM on 17 December](#) as they reflect on the achievements of 2024, and outline their goals for the year ahead. The meeting will provide an opportunity not only to learn about the initiatives the Group has been involved with, but also to participate in discussions about their future direction.

## Archives and Registered Organisations

CifA understands that managing and depositing archives is a widespread challenge for Registered Organisations, and has been working on efforts to address this, undertaking a programme of research to support the business case for a National Centre for Archaeological Archives (NCCA) in England.

As reported in last week's issue of the Weekly Update, CifA conducted research (funded by Historic England) which drew together data on the scale of archaeological work carried out each year relative to development and the archive it produces. This research fed into a report on [Future Demands of Development-Led Work in England: Archaeological Archives](#) which has just been published by Historic England for the Future for Archaeological Archives Programme.

During CifA inspections of Registered Organisations, the inspection panel asks for a copy of the organisation's archive strategy to ensure that the standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives is being met. This includes ensuring that the archive is prepared and stored in repositories that maintain proper standards of care and accessibility. CifA recognises that this can create challenges as repositories such as museums may no longer accept archives, or only accept a small number, and then only under certain conditions.

For further information on CifA's work in this area to date, there are two informative articles in the [latest edition of the Archaeologist magazine](#) - one from Claire Tsang, and one from Andrea Bradley et al.



CifA is currently preparing a suite of responses to consultations due early in the new year. These include finalising a response on [Brownfield Passports](#), which are illustrative of Westminster Government's recently stated plans for English Planning reform which have made headlines this week. Additional consultations include the [Historic Environment Scotland](#)

[Corporate Strategy](#) (deadline 3 January), and a [Burials and Cremations Law Commission review](#) (deadline 9 January).

CifA staff are engaging with Special Interest Groups and other expert members on all of these issues. If you wish to comment on any of these, please get in touch with CifA's Policy and Advocacy Manager [rob.lennox@archaeologists.net](mailto:rob.lennox@archaeologists.net).

## World Archaeological Congress seeking proposals for sessions

Proposals for sessions, papers and workshops are being sought for the 10th World Archaeological Congress (WAC-10), which will be held in Darwin, Australia from the 22 to the 28 June 2025.

WAC Congresses host global discussion and policy making by delegates from 70 plus countries. Approximately 1,000 archaeologists and indigenous people are expected to attend in person, with capacity for another 3,000 people online.

For further information, and to submit a proposal, visit the [10th World Archaeological Congress website](#).



There's fantastic funding news from Historic Environment Scotland, [who have awarded £21,000](#) to Registered Organisation [Wessex Archaeology](#) and Dendrochronicle to carry out further research of the Sanday Wreck, an intact section of shipwreck timbers uncovered on Sand o'Erraby, Orkney Islands, earlier this year. This was reported widely in the media, including this article on [Sky News online](#).

CifA member Dr Coralie Mills, of Dendrochronicle, says, "I am delighted to be working on this project, a true team effort with the Sanday community at the heart of it. It is wonderful that Historic Environment Scotland have funded the dendrochronology and wider research on the wreck. My colleague Hamish Darrah and I are working closely with Ben Saunders and the team at Wessex Archaeology. Together, we hope to reveal this vessel's date, origins, form and how she came to be in Sanday."

This funding award follows the launch of a new [Dendrochronology Research Framework for Scotland](#) in November which is hosted on [ScARF website](#).

## Snapshot survey - carbon reduction and planning

Historic England and CifA are keen to provide more support for small to medium sized archaeological organisations and need your help in shaping this. Please answer our [snap shot survey](#), and join us for one of our online focus group sessions being held on Wednesdays on 29 January and 5 February. Register via our [events page](#).



Are you interested in reviewing a book?

CifA currently has dozens of books on a wide variety of subjects available for members to review. With titles ranging from *The Archaeology of Worcester in 20 Digs* to *The Buildings of the Malting Industry*, there is bound to be one that interests you.

You can see the full list of books available, as well as any previous reviews, [on our website](#).

If you are interested in reviewing a book, or have a publication you would like to be considered for review, please contact Michael Sharp at [Michael.sharp@archaeologists.net](mailto:Michael.sharp@archaeologists.net)

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