

Thursday 19 December 2024

Issue 12



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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### Get accredited!

Need an activity or excuse to escape the seasonal events over the Christmas break? Why not grab a mince pie\* and start writing your accredited application?! (\*other snacks are available)

For Associate (ACIfA) and Member (MCIfA) applications, the first deadline in 2025 is Monday 27 January. Practitioner (PCIfA) applications can be sent in at any time and will be reviewed regularly approximately at the end of each month.

Our guidance webpages and performance criteria for each grade provide all the guidance you need in one place, which should make it easier to apply:

- Practitioner (PCIfA) guidance - [PCIfA performance criteria](#)
- Associate (ACIfA) guidance - [ACIfA performance criteria](#)
- Member (MCIfA) application guidance - [MCIfA performance criteria](#)

If you have any questions about the application process, please email Lianne and Ellen at [membership@archaeologists.net](mailto:membership@archaeologists.net) who will be happy to help.

What are you waiting for? – Grab that snack (or beverage) and apply now!

Merry Christmas from all at ClfA

Christmas is rapidly approaching, we hope you have a fantastic festive break with family and friends. So, hang up your trowel and put that report on the backburner – it's time to kick back and relax, and hope that nobody buys you another archaeology book for Christmas.

CIfA staff, Board and committee members, and a whole host of volunteers will also be taking some time off, so our email and phones won't be monitored between 25 December and 1 January. We look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

The next issue of CIfA's Weekly Update will be published on 9 January



## Members in the News

In a new section in the Weekly Update, we will be featuring CIfA members and Registered Organisations who have made the news recently. If you have a news piece that you would like to share, email: [carl.smith@archaeologists.net](mailto:carl.smith@archaeologists.net)

## Medieval origins of Oxford college unearthed

Medieval features of Oriel College Oxford, including its original kitchen, have been unearthed by CIfA Registered Organisation Oxford Archaeology during renovation works, [as reported on BBC News Online](#).

The excavations will help to improve archaeologist's understanding of the medieval layout of Oriel College, which was founded in 1326. Knowledge of the College's medieval structure from historical maps and documents had previously been patchy.

Ben Ford, senior project manager at Oxford Archaeology, said: "This is an archaeologically rich area of Oxford, having once been located in the late-Saxon town's south-eastern corner, before the city expanded to the east."

## CSCS cards – an update



We know that some archaeologists are still being asked for CSCS cards on construction sites. CSCS have told us that construction companies should have been informed that archaeologists no longer need a CSCS card to do their work but is aware some sites insist everyone must hold a card. They are working with the construction industry to tackle the issue. In the short term, your employer should be having prior conversations with principal contractors to attempt to anticipate and minimise confusion.

Representatives from CifA, FAME and National Highways have had discussions with CSCS and are now considering options to try and resolve the situation. In the meantime, if you are refused entry to a site without a card you should direct the site manager to [this page of the CSCS website](#) which lists occupations not requiring a card. If you have further queries, please [contact CSCS](#) for more information.



## 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

During the [Marine Archaeology SIG AGM](#) last week, committee members Alison and Hefin led a presentation sharing the results of the MASIG membership survey. The survey covered the Group demographics, experience, employment status and experience, and what the MASIG members want from the Group. Watch the recording of the session on CifA's YouTube page [here](#).

## End of year Groups roundup

Everyone at CifA would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the individuals who have volunteered their time for the Area and Special Interest Groups in 2024.

We have three Area and 16 Special Interest Groups which are run by committees of volunteers.

Currently there are 174 roles being carried out by 162 individuals, including:

- 18 Advisors

- 18 Group Chairs
- 16 Treasurers
- 18 Secretaries
- and 104 Ordinary committee members

Thanks to all of you for your time, effort and passion in enabling CIfA to be the professional home for archaeology, driven by our members. We wish you all a well-deserved break and we look forward to supporting you in driving the work of the Groups forward in 2025.

### BBC's Digging for Britain would like to hear from you

The highly popular BBC 2 archaeology series, Digging for Britain, presented by Professor Alice Roberts, has contacted CIfA asking if our members and Registered Organisations can nominate excavations taking place in 2025 which may be suitable for future programmes.

Production of the 13th series of Digging for Britain will begin fully in April 2025, but if you have any pre-excavation work planned before this date they would like to hear about it as they may be able to organise some filming in the gap between series.

Contact Eleanor Ware of Digging for Britain at: [eleanor.ware@rare-tv.com](mailto:eleanor.ware@rare-tv.com). We would love to hear if your work is to be featured in a future programme, so please keep us informed: [carl.smith@archaeologists.net](mailto:carl.smith@archaeologists.net)



### Marine guidance added to the Toolkit for selecting archaeological archives

The [Marine Special Interest Group \(SIG\)](#) committee, with input from external marine specialists, has developed and approved guidance that has now been added to the [Toolkit for selecting archaeological archives](#).

The Toolkit provides resources to assist archaeological practitioners in creating project-specific selection strategies for archaeological projects. The newly added guidance provides important information and outlines the legislative frameworks to be aware of for finds recovered from marine and tidal water contexts (up to Mean High Water Springs).

A new page has been created within the Toolkit that can be accessed via the side menu. Thank you to the Marine SIG and to all the specialists involved for this important addition.

CIfA has worked with professional partners to develop a series of seven Toolkits to date, designed to help support members and those working in archaeology. [They can be accessed here.](#)

## New CIfA members

We are delighted to share that in recent weeks four applicants were successful in gaining their PCIfA (Practitioner) accreditation, five their ACIfA (Associate) and one their MCIfA (Member) accreditation.

If you are interested in becoming professionally accredited (or know someone who is), or upgrading your membership, [click here](#) for more information, or get in touch with any questions at [membership@archaeologists.net](mailto:membership@archaeologists.net)



## Landscape Special Interest Group tea break

You are invited to join the Landscape SIG's first online tea break lecture of the New Year, from 12:05 - 12:55 on 15 January, where they will explore the fascinating world of landscape archaeology.

This session will feature two short lectures: *Make un-dateable features a thing of the past! OSL Profiling and Dating (OSL-PD) for landscape archaeology* by the Group's chair, Professor Sam Turner; and *Case study of a landscape; Parish of Birse Aberdeenshire* by the Group's treasurer, Meike van Lit.

Each tea break session focuses on a specific topic, and everyone is welcome regardless of their level of pre-existing knowledge. They are open to all CIfA members and are free to attend. [For further information and to register.](#)

## International Practice Special Interest Group AGM

You are invited to the Group's Annual General Meeting on 22 January from 17:00 - 18:00 to reflect on the achievements of 2024 and explore their goals for 2025.

This meeting will provide an opportunity not only to learn about the International Practice SIG's initiatives, but also to participate in discussions about their future direction. [For further information and to register.](#)

### **New story map website of Runnymede Explored Project**

Surrey County Archaeological Unit (SCAU), a CIfA Registered Organisation, has launched a new [Story Map](#) website focusing on the community archaeology aspect of the Runnymede Explored Project.

The National Trust commissioned SCAU to provide archaeological services for their Runnymede Explored Project in 2021. The project aimed to encourage engagement, provide training in archaeological techniques, and enhance knowledge and understanding of the history and archaeology of the site at Runnymede and Ankerwycke.

SCAU offered a range of community engagement activities, including geophysics training, tours, YAC workshops, and excavations, all to engage the local community with the heritage on their doorstep. The project was completed over the summer, and the Story Map detailing the work is now live.





## New Chair of Cotswold Archaeology

Dr Laura Evis has been appointed as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees of Registered Organisation Cotswold Archaeology. Laura is a Cifa member, a Senior Lecturer in Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology at the University of Exeter, and has been a Trustee of Cotswold Archaeology since 2018.

A forensic bioarchaeologist who adapts and applies various archaeological and anthropological techniques to help answer questions and solve problems for medico-legal investigations, Laura is also a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute.

Cotswold Archaeology has grown considerably over the past five years, now employing over 300 archaeologists, with considerable depth and breadth of archaeological expertise within the organisation.

## JIST Bulletin

Cifa's weekly [Jobs Information Service & Training \(JIST\)](#) bulletin is the most comprehensive source of information about work and training opportunities in archaeology and related disciplines.



Due to the Christmas break, the next issue of the JIST will be out on the 20 January 2025. However, adverts will still be placed on our website during this time. The latest issue of JIST was published on 16 December.

If you would like to subscribe to, or place an advert in the JIST, please contact Michael Sharp at [admin@archaeologists.net](mailto:admin@archaeologists.net)



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 *Norton Folgate and the Story of Spitalfields* to *Stone Circles in Britain*, 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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