

Thursday 16 January 2025

Issue 14



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

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Cifa Conference 2025

Registration

Registration for Cifa's Annual Conference 2025 is now open! Early bird rates are available until the end of the month (31 January). Cifa members save over 30% on bookings. The event programme will be announced in the next week. [Book your place here.](#)

Accommodation

Additionally, Cifa has worked with Birmingham and West Midlands Conference Bureau to create an exclusive [conference accommodation booking portal](#). These rooms are being held at dedicated rates until 31 March 2025, but are limited in availability; the nightly rates range from £119 to £201 for a single occupant stay.

If you are interested in any of these options, we encourage you to book early. This portal is by no means an exhaustive list. Please note that

Birmingham has a range of accommodation centrally to suit all budgets. Most budget hotels, hostels, and B&Bs do not participate in these booking portals.

Call for papers

Emails will be sent in the coming weeks with the complete list of sessions requesting papers. Please find the most up-to-date list of sessions requesting papers on the [conference information page](#).

Exhibitor and sponsor applications

We are now accepting bookings for sponsors and exhibitors within our exhibition hall. We look forward to welcoming our exhibitors back in full force to the CIfA conference.

[CIfA2025 Sponsorship & Exhibitor Brochure](#)

[CIfA2025 Sponsorship & Exhibitor Booking Form](#)

Bursaries

We will have a range of bursaries available and we hope to have applications open in the coming weeks.

The Archaeologist 125 – call for articles

The theme for The Archaeologist 125 (TA125) will be Social Value.

Articles are invited that explore the terms 'social value' and 'public benefit', as well as illustrated examples of projects (development-led or not) that have made an impact in either area. While the terms merit further discussion, we consider that projects with social value will have demonstrated a positive impact on local community, local or individual culture/identity, social inclusion, social interaction, health/wellbeing, education, training, local environment or economy. Examples of offering 'public benefit' will more likely have focussed on the dissemination of and engagement in the results of archaeological work itself.

Deadline for articles is 1 April 2025 and should be emailed to alex.llewellyn@archaeologists.net. Read here for [further guidance on the articles](#) including word length and information on images.



Members in the News

Each week we will feature 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

Roman Coffin as Heavy as Caravan Found by Road.

A team of archaeologists from CIfA's Registered Organisation Headland Archaeology uncovered a Roman stone coffin whilst working on a project with National Highways.

The casket, which weighed 118 stones or the same as a same caravan, was discovered by a stretch of road near Peterborough. The 1,500-year-old hand-carved artifact is being featured in the new series of the BBC's *Digging for Britain*, [available to watch now on BBC iPlayer](#).

"The coffin is a fascinating discovery which is quite unique to this region. Its careful excavation and recording, both in the field and the laboratory, allow us to continue to learn how our Roman ancestors lived and died," said project manager David Harrison MCIfA.

Neurodiversity network and Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) drop-in sessions for 2025

Following on from the successful informal EDI drop-in led by Laura Hampden and other members of CIfA's EDI committee in November, we've planned ahead for 2025 and have already scheduled in a series of neurodiversity network and general EDI digital chats. The dates for these are below and you can find the registration links for these on our [events list](#).

Neurodiversity network

- Tuesday 4 February: 12:30 – 13:15
- Tuesday 3 June: 12:30 – 13:15

•Wednesday 24 September: 12:30 – 13:15

EDI drop in's

•Wednesday 19 March: 12:30 – 13:15

•Thursday 24 July: 16:30 – 17:15

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.

Please promote these to your colleagues as it would be great to grow the network further this year. [Check out this short video](#), explaining the benefits of being part of the members neurodiversity network.



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

Struggling to find an interesting new year's resolution which benefits both you as an individual and the wider archaeological profession? Consider volunteering on a CIfA Group committee!

CIfA Group volunteers tell us the benefits they receive from volunteering with us include skills development, career advancement, an improvement in their mental health, confidence building, professional and personal networking prospects, and extra CPD opportunities

Currently we have vacancies for a chair for [Diggers' Forum](#) and chair and secretary for [International Practice SIG](#), as well as committee members for the [Project Management SIG](#). If you would like more information about any of the roles or volunteering with CIfA Groups, view the [roles and responsibilities infographic](#) or email groups@archaeologists.net.

[Human Osteoarchaeology SIG](#) have released their first Group newsletter. It includes information about the committee, the events we have planned for this year and member publications and reports. Grab a cuppa and have a read of it [here](#).

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](#).



Stay up-to-date with our upcoming events by checking our [event list](#). We have a wide range of networking events, light CPD lunch & learns, and other events in the coming weeks!

International Practice Special Interest Group AGM

The International Practice special interest group are holding their Annual General Meeting on *Wednesday 22 January from 17:00 - 18:00* this is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of 2024 and explore the goals for 2025. [For further information and to register.](#)

Human Osteoarchaeology SIG Osteobites Session

The Human Osteoarchaeology special interest group invites you to their first 'Osteobites' series of short online talks from *18.30 until 19.30 on Thursday 30 January 2025*.

These bit-sized talks, followed by discussions and questions are a chance to connect with fellow OsteoSIG members. Each session which focuses on a specific topic and are open to all CifA members to attend. [For more information and to register.](#)

Innovation Festival Recordings

The recordings from the 2024 Innovation Festival are now available. Find the [festival recordings here](#).



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 Black Kingdom of the Nile* to *Hoards from Wiltshire*, 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

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