

## Forensic Archaeology Special Interest Group (FASIG)

Newsletter  
June 2023

Dear FASIG members,

Welcome to the Summer 2023 FASIG newsletter.

The newsletter aims to keep you updated on the committee's work behind the scenes, recent and upcoming FASIG events, and link to useful group documents. We also welcome and encourage members to contribute to the newsletter – please email [fasigcomm23@gmail.com](mailto:fasigcomm23@gmail.com) with any news, opportunities or resources that you would like us to include in upcoming newsletters.

### Meet the New Committee

#### **Robert Janaway MCIfA (Chair)**

Rob is Lecturer in Archaeological Sciences at the University of Bradford with over 35 years' experience of Archaeology in both the field and the laboratory. He originally qualified in Archaeological Conservation and specialised in the relationship between materials degradation and depositional environments. He has worked on a range of archaeological sites and is a specialist on the taphonomy of inhumation burials. In addition to a traditional archaeological role, he acts as a Forensic Archaeologist. He has worked on over 25 criminal cases for several British police forces and has also acted as an expert witness in court.

#### **Sabrina Ki BA (Hons), MSc, PCIfA (Secretary)**

Sabrina works in the Events team at the University of York, following freelance work and volunteering in youth theatre and museum education. She holds an MSc in Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology from the University of Exeter and a BA in Anthropology and Archaeology from Durham University. Aside from forensic archaeology and anthropology, her interests include archaeological outreach and public engagement, social bioarchaeology, EDI in the archaeology sector, mortuary and gender studies, and archaeological illustration.

**Laura Evis BA (Hons), PGCert, PGDip, MSc, PhD  
(Treasurer)**

Laura is a specialist in the development, testing and application of bioarchaeological techniques for the purpose of providing assistance to archaeological and medico-legal investigations. She has worked in both the academic and commercial archaeological sectors since 2009. She is the Director of the Forensic Anthropology MSc programme, the Archaeology with Forensic Science BSc programme, and the Forensic Bioarchaeology Transdisciplinary Research Group at the University of Exeter. She also works with other external organisations including Cotswold Archaeology, the Egyptian Journal of Forensic Sciences and Blake Emergency Services.

**Denise Hillier BA (Hons), MSc  
(Ordinary Committee Member)**

Denise has had various roles in the past, including counselling, museum work, management accounting and volunteering at her local archaeology group. She has also previously studied Egyptology and Archaeological Studies. She completed a Forensic Archaeology Summer School (OUSSA) at Oxford University in 2011 and later that year, enrolled as a mature student to study archaeology, full time, at the University of Bristol, graduating with a BA (hons) in 2014. Later that year, she enrolled at Cranfield University and has just achieved her MSc in Forensic Archaeology and Anthropology (October 2022). She has disabilities (neurodivergent and fibromyalgia with associated issues). She became a FASIG Ordinary Committee member in 2022.

**Alastair Vannan MCIfA  
(Ordinary Committee Member)**

Alastair is the Scientific Lead for Forensic Archaeology at Cellmark Forensic Services. He also oversees all archaeological casework and is responsible for the training and mentoring of forensic archaeologists, as well as research and innovation. He is the Co-Chair of the Forensic Archaeology Expert Register and Panel (FAERP).

**Peter Schofield BA (Hons), MCIfA  
(Ordinary Committee Member)**

Peter is a forensic reporting scientist at Cellmark Forensic Services. He has been a professional archaeologist for over 20 years and has been employed as a forensic archaeologist since 2017. He has worked on forensic casework for police forces across the UK and abroad. He is a member of the Forensic Archaeology Expert Register and Panel (FAERP).

**Anna Chaussée BA (Hons), PGCert, MSc, MCSFS, SFHEA  
(Ordinary Committee Member)**

Anna is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Winchester and she is the Founding Director of the Cold Case Unit at the university. She has conducted forensic archaeological case work since 2008 and has provided training in forensic archaeological awareness to police forces across the south of England. Her research interests are in the linguistic and archaeological understanding of concealment in forensic settings.

**Dr Deborah Ryder BSc Hons, MSc, PhD, MCifA, FRAI (FA-III), MCSFS  
(Ordinary Committee Member)**

Deborah is a consultant forensic archaeologist with over nine years' experience of crime scene attendance, providing forensic archaeological assistance to UK police forces with cold cases, suspicious deaths, missing persons and murder investigations. Deborah has widespread casework experience including the excavation of clandestine graves, the search, location, recording and recovery of human remains from surface scatter scenes, and the examination and excavation of fragmented and commingled human remains from fatal residential, commercial, car, and ship fires. Deborah has also worked alongside other agencies at multiple large scale mass-fatality DVI incidences.

### Committee Activities

Since the formation of our new committee in October 2022, we have been regularly meeting to keep abreast of developments in the wider forensic sector and CifA related matters, such as the separation of the Expert Panel from FASIG. Read about previous meetings and AGMs in more detail by accessing the minutes on [our FASIG page on the CifA website](#), which also has many more useful resources.

Rob Janaway (Chair) and Laura Evis (Treasurer) recently organised the FASIG session within the 2023 CifA Annual Conference, titled *The Scope and Nature of Forensic Archaeology*. The speakers were Sarah Ashbridge (RUSI), Matteo Barone (Nottingham Trent University), Karl Harrison (Cranfield University), Aidan Harte (Munster Archaeology) and Richard Osgood (UK Ministry of Defence). We are also preparing for an upcoming field event themed around awareness training of how forensic archaeology is done, main techniques and tools, etc. Watch this space for more specific details to come!

Please also take a moment to fill out our [Member Survey](#) – this will help us to better understand the composition of our membership and to determine the type of training, support and guidance our members would like to receive. Thank you!

## Keep in Touch

Aside from newsletters, you can also hear from and contact the committee via:

- **Twitter** ([@ClfA FASIG](#))
- The FASIG **Discord** server – [join here](#)
  - Discord has various channels that provide useful resources, event announcements, and provides members a direct channel to speak to the committee and wider group. Our 2021 Virtual Poster Conference was also hosted on Discord and you can still view the posters and discussions in the relevant channel. You can also [view the posters on the ClfA website](#) (will require you to login).
- **Facebook, LinkedIn** and **Mastodon** pages to come!

We greatly encourage members to contribute to the next FASIG newsletter – please email [fasigcomm23@gmail.com](mailto:fasigcomm23@gmail.com) with news, opportunities or resources you'd like us to include. Additionally, please also send along any ideas for events or workshops that you would like to see FASIG run in the future. Your views are very appreciated!

*With thanks,*

*The FASIG committee*