

CIFA LONDON AREA GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 19th September 2018, 19:30
The City Pride, 28 Farringdon Lane, Clerkenwell, London EC1R 3AU

Minutes

Present: Nick Bateman (OCM), Dave Bolton (Secretary), Catherine Cavanagh (Treasurer), Duncan Hawkins (Chair), Sofie Jackson (OCM), Christina Reade (OCM), Michael Tierney (OCM), and 17 members of the LAG.

1. Opening Remarks and Apologies for absence

Action

Hon Chair opened the meeting.

Hon Sec reported no apologies for absence had been received.

Note: All current committee members are "mid term" so there is no election at this AGM, the formal business is to receive the Annual and Treasurer's reports.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the 2017 AGM were accepted without comment.

3 Chair's Statement

Duncan Hawkins welcomed all present and thanked the panellists for the preceding event.

4 Secretary's Report

Dave Bolton presented the Annual Report:

Starting the year our 2017 AGM event in September "A crisis of upcoming work" was sponsored by CgMs. Contractors and consultants debated the impact that the volume and scale of projects planned over the coming years may have on our ability to do archaeology in London. We're already rising to the challenge with units working collectively and a growing number of archaeologists being recruited from outside the UK.

In March London Group submitted a response to the Mayor's Office's Consultation for the New London Plan; a document likely to have a significant impact on archaeologists over the coming years.

Forty people attended "Slipping through the cracks? Joined up thinking to protect non designated heritage assets", this year's joint seminar with IHBC London Branch in April. Alan Baxter once again kindly donated their lovely venue, The Gallery in Cowcross Street.

Speakers offered complementary but completely different solutions to the threats faced by historic sites. Their approaches to changing legislation and strategies, including the revised London Plan, were proactive and at times controversial.

Sheila Stones, Chair of IHBC London Branch, welcomed our professional institutes working together. Clare Price showed how the Twentieth Century Society is campaigning against post-1914 being undervalued and vulnerable to redevelopment. In a short time, C20 created a list of over 50 new areas that would benefit from designation, in a project that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Civic Amenities Act. Veronica Casson from CgMs/RPS spoke of her role in collaborating over design proposals for heritage assets that have no statutory protection.

Catherine Cavanagh of ClfA's London Area Group emphasised the risk of historic sites slipping through the cracks with the difficulties of controlling demolition where it is permitted development. Timothy Walder, Senior Conservation and Design Officer at Hackney Council, entertained us with case studies showing successes, partial successes and complete failures to conserve; and some top tips on how to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. David English, who leads the Historic Places Team at Historic England, examined the heritage aspects of the new London Plan and how it might relate to local plans, protected views, regeneration and place making.

A common theme was the need to sometimes be subversive to protect our heritage. We discovered that Historic England is providing more training and conservation awareness for planning inspectors (as well as the wider public with their I Am London campaign).

We all need to get involved like C20 contributors have and lobby local authorities to act on their recommendations, despite declining resources.

Our "C Peasy D" events are now established and popular; designed to be of particular interest to archaeologists in the PCIfA grade looking to gain wider knowledge about commercial archaeology in London. Sessions over the year included: London's Prehistory, with John Cotton focussing on prehistoric materials in October and Beyond the record shot, when Jürgen van Wessel gave insights on how to take archaeological photos with a purpose in November 2017. C Peasy D is both informal and informative. Held in a pub, they combine discussion and networking with half hour presentations by industry experts. We are grateful to the Registered Organisations for their sponsorship, which is keeping these events free for members of ClfA to attend. Further events are in the pipeline.

We also got out a little with "Heritage Regeneration in Action"; Becky Haslam (PCA) and David Divers (MOLA) led a walking tour of Kings Cross Central. We saw how regeneration of the former goods yard of the Great Northern Railway is informed by archaeological investigations (above and below ground).

5 Treasurer's Report

Catherine Cavanagh reported:

The London Area Group budget for 2017/18 was £200, primarily for committee member travel when representing LAG and that it was largely underutilised. Most of the budget admin is handled centrally by ClfA.

The LAG committee continues to aim for all our events to be sponsored, so that they are

free to ClfA members and there are refreshments to facilitate networking.

We are very grateful to CgMs for sponsoring this year's ClfA LAG AGM 2018; and to L-P: Archaeology and Headland for sponsoring CPEasyD sessions.

The Joint IHBC Day conference "Slipping through the cracks?" was financed from ticket sales - and Alan Baxter's provision of their venue - and again made a small surplus, which we share with IHBC.

Please make contact (cathecavanagh@gmail.com) if you'd like to sponsor a future event.

6. AOB

S: Commented on migration issues as the UK needs colleagues from the EU to support work in London and asked whether there were representations going forward.

C: Made a suggestion to attract a large audience for future events that a keynote speaker from outside archaeology be invited.

A member asked when the next CPEasyD was scheduled and the meeting was advised that one was planned for 10 October 2018.

The learning Centre at the Museum of London was suggested as a potential venue for a future AGM Event.

There being no other business the meeting closed.