

Cymru / Wales IfA Group Committee Meeting Minutes
31st January RCAHMW Aberystwyth Chairman's Room 10.00am

Vice Chair: Neil Maylan;

Present: John Latham (secretary), Ian Brooks (treasurer), Kathy Laws, Jenny Hall, CS Briggs & George Nash.

1	Apologies Claudine Gerrard, Fiona Grant, Mike Green, Dave Maynard.	Actions
2	Minutes of meeting on 19th September 2012 "Briggs" to replace "Brigg" otherwise approved	
3	Matters Arising (items not on Agenda) Matter of the personal CVs - needs to be ca 100 words plus picture - mentioned again but deferred to discuss and coordinate at a later date.	JL?
4	Reports: Vice Chair: Referred to an e-mail from Dave Maynard (Chair of Group but currently in Azerbaijan) agreed that it was ok for him to continue until the AGM in May when he would stand down. The merger of the RCAHMW with Cadw still under discussion but no actual progress as yet ie the issue is still awaiting a decision following the many consultation exercises, including the seminar organised by this Group last summer. Mentioned <i>re</i> last Council meeting that subscriptions were to rise by 2% and that there had also been discussion about "minimum salaries" but Unions and Employers won't get together on this. There was the matter that this might be seen as a Cartel, which was against government rules. Secretary: mentioned that we were now fully involving IfA centrally in our activities – this was proving to be a success. Treasurer: A sum of £1,884.77 in bank a/c of which £713.82 was Research Agenda/Research Framework funds (£32.41 for web-posting for the RA). The last Dayschool made a notional profit of £65.00.	
5	Group Annual Budget The Group was last funded directly from IfA in 2004 and NM mentioned that it was necessary for the Group to hang onto its own finances until the RA was finally wound up and also that it was ok for the Group to have its own funds as long as the Group as such continues – in all a situation approved by IfA centrally.	
6	Review of Last Dayschool (30.11.12) The event made a profit, there was very good attendance (30+). IfA did all the promotion of the Flyer produced by the Group. Although ultimately a matter of personal opinion there was some discussion about the speakers, notably that it appeared that they were encouraging the use of untrained amateurs to do site survey (notably SCHARP) using poor recording techniques to produce data of a dubious quality, to low standards, which would then enter the HER. However, despite some queries as to whether the presentations "joined-up" it was generally agreed a good session. Discussed whether we could look into any extant guidelines for conference presentations in future to avoid some of the (perceived) problems.	JL / all
7/8	Spring 2013 Dayschool, Date, Topic & Venue. This would be on the subject of Rock/Cave art or a related topic and would be organised by GN. JL to send Word version of last Flyer for use a model. The Date to be 17 th or 24 th May. JL would check availability of the OGI and book caterer etc. Discussed possibility of running another workshop along the lines of the Heritage Bill session of last summer but on the subject of Archaeological	

	Archives (?July 2013) see below...	JL
9	<p>National Panel for Archaeological Archives / The AAF</p> <p>There are two strands to this: the Wales one run by Elizabeth Walker and the AAF (Rachel Edwards) in England but similar problems and issues. The HEG keen on solving the problem (in Wales) but process all very much ongoing. It is a fact Elizabeth Walkers NPAA is still stymied by funding. CSB and JL will go to the AAF in Birmingham on 7th March and report back.</p>	JL/CSB
10	<p>Heritage Workshop June 2012 & the Heritage Bill – progress</p> <p>Noted that no official reports yet published. Last Tuesday (29.1.13) TAF had a meeting at GGAT with Rick Turner representing Cadw. Cadw reckon that 500 people have now been involved in the process. There have been two pieces of consultancy work and 10 topics worked on. Local conservation Services in Wales have been looked at by Hyder. A lot of the intended objectives not achieved yet and intended liaison has not entirely taken place. An afternoon meeting was mentioned (!). Some information now possible very soon as to what in fact goes to the Minister. At the end of 2014 the lot to be presented to the Senedd. The issues are (for example): What is the Bill going to be? An amended version of the 1979 Act of a (new) consolidation Act? Seems more likely to be the latter. A “Sustainable Wales” Bill currently out for consultation (see Welsh Govt. Website).</p>	
11	<p>Future of the Research Agenda</p> <p>JH reassured committee that the RA/RF still an ongoing process and had not been abandoned. The whole thing does take a lot of time... The papers (bar three) are all on the website. The three outstanding papers have been promised as soon as the respondents can complete other commitments. JH stated that she cannot push the respondents any harder to complete. However, when this is done we shall have all the review papers. Somebody needs to be paid to amend the website (which also needs reviewing) and how it interacts with social media needs to be sorted out as well as another round of publicity for it. JH does not have time to deal with this before (end of) March and will re-convene another meeting soon after and once the papers are all in. There are sufficient funds in the RA budget for the process to be sustainable. Stated also that the website no longer has a forum and questioned how the RF was being used. So in all another meeting but with IfA Wales organising and with Cadw invited. A date to be arranged after the end of March.</p>	JH / JL
12	<p>Committee Status, AGM & election of new members</p> <p>Need to publicise vacancies via IfA to members and invite applications. There are vacancies for Chair and Secretary otherwise committee is essentially complete for the time being.</p>	
13	<p>AOB</p> <p>Merger of the Forestry Commission,. Environment Agency & CCW mentioned and that the new body needs to have a liaison/link with Archaeology. The HLF grant to Cardigan Castle was mentioned in the context that the group in charge of that project might not be aware of the need for an archaeological element in their work but this could not be verified at present time</p>	
14	<p>Date & Venue of next meeting</p> <p>Second week of June at RCAHMW</p>	JL