

New Generation/Early Careers SIG Annual General Meeting

20th January 2021, 13.00 GMT
By Zoom

Present:

Colin Forrestal (Chair), Dr Jo Kirton (Treasurer), Phil Pollard, Claire Corkill, Annie Partridge, Neil Bayliss, Claire Boardman, Megan Schlanker, Anna Welch, Megan Keates

1.	Apologies	Action
	Otis Gilbert (Secretary) Rebecca Enlander, Tabitha Lawrence	
2.	Previous Minutes of last AGM	
	Both 2018 and 2019 AGM minutes were accepted as meeting quorate. 2019 AGM was not quorate so 2018 couldn't be accepted.	
3.	Matter Arising from Previous minutes	
	None.	
4	Chairman's Report	
	<p>Welcome everyone to the last New Generation AGM and the first Early Careers AGM. 2020 has been a very different type of year and has brought with it many complications and also an adaption to the use of the technology out there.</p> <p>The group has been very active in a number of spheres and the committee members responsible for these will be giving brief précis of their project later in the meeting.</p> <p>At the last AGM it was agreed that we would approach our membership with the view to changing our name to something that more appropriately reflected what this group does.. We firstly asked for our memberships opinion on changing our name to Early Careers and that was thought a very good idea by the membership and so we put it to a vote and over 90% agreed to the change. On the 9th November2020 the board of directors agreed to the name change, and today we will formally implement this change.</p> <p>This year I myself will be concentrating on two aspects of our clear role, firstly to have some clear CifA stance to the 16 to 18 year old sector especially with regards to apprenticeships.</p> <p>Secondly with the help I hope of the diggers forum and other SIG's to come up with a mechanism to help those that have recently graduated but cannot get a job in the sector due to no experience. We last saw this in 2008 but due to the pandemic we are seeing it. I also have some concerns with the introduction of new visa charges we also should be monitoring this area also.</p> <p>Lastly, at the last 2019 AGM I indicated that I would like to only serve as chair for one more year, but with the resignation of our Secretary I felt that it was better to only be looking for one officer. So, I will be continuing as Chairman.</p> <p>Lastly, I would like to thank all of the committee members who have made this year a success and would like to especially express my appreciation for our retiring Secretary Otis Gilbert and wish him all the best for the future.</p>	

5	Secretary's Report	
	<p>This year has led to more meetings and the main threat to the group's functioning of a shortage of committee members, has receded and has allowed us to have quorate meeting and has allowed us to preform committee business and arrange events. COVID 19 has created problems for holding meetings in person and with cancellation of conferences it is to Zoom we have looked. So, we have kept meetings going and hopefully we will gain from it this year.</p> <p>Due to work pressure, I cannot spare the time for the committee and so sadly I have had to resign both as secretary and committee member. I wish the group all the best in the future.</p>	
6.	Treasurer's Report	
	<p>During 2020 New Generation SIG did not spend any of the allocated budget.</p> <p>New Generation SIG has applied for a budget of £590 for 2021 to cover potential travel costs should the need arise. This form was submitted to CifA on 15/01/2021 and we are awaiting their response.</p>	
7.	Elections to Committee	
	<p>Nominations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Secretary – Claire Corkill 2. OCM – Megan Schlanker, Tabitha Lawrence and Phil Pollard <p>As the were no other nominations, and current OCM vacancies were five, Claire Corkill was elected Secretary and Megan Schlanker, Tabitha Lawrence and Phil Pollard were elected Ordinary Committee Members unanimously.</p>	
8.	Formal adoption of group name change as Early Careers SIG	
	<p>Following discussion at the 2019 AGM, consultation with members and approval from the CifA board the group proposes to formally change its name from New generation to Early Careers Special Interest Group.</p> <p>The group also needs to adopt a revised constitution that incorporates the name change. This is the standard constitution used by all CifA SIG's.</p> <p>The proposed name change was ACCEPTED. The proposed revised constitution was ACCEPTED.</p>	
8.	AOB	
	<p>Upcoming Early Careers SIG activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue working on helping to connect University Archaeology Societies with each other and create stronger links with the group. Megan has already made good progress connecting to a large number of societies via a Facebook group. • The group will host the Journeys into Archaeological Careers session at the CifA conference. The session will be sponsored by the CBA and we aim to have 8-10 short presentations from a range of specialists talking about the particular attributes needed 	

for their role. We aim to have a good gender balance across the range of speakers.

- We will also be undertaking some work to look at how recent graduates have been affected by the impact of Covid-19. Our focus will be on how the pandemic has affected learning on courses and the development and implementation of skills and how this in turn is impacting career opportunities.

Challenges for early careers archaeologists

- The ongoing pandemic has resulted in a number of challenges for young people looking to begin a career in archaeology. This is similar to the effect of the recession in 2008.
- Organisations need to offer more training for young people. MOLA have just developed some new traineeships and we need to see more offers like this across the sector that provide routeways into a career.
- Brexit is likely to create challenges around employment of staff from the EU and this may result in some new opportunities for early careers in the UK. The accredited degree system should help ensure graduates have developed a good level of skills.

Early careers good news stories from the last year

- People with UK degrees that have already started on the Erasmus scheme will be able to continue.
- There is a session called *Academic and Early Career Research – what’s new?* at CifA’s Innovation Festival. This will be held on 29th January at midday and includes contributions from a range of specialisms. Further details can be found on the CifA website at <https://www.archaeologists.net/civcrm/event/info?id=166&reset=1>.
- The CBA are about to launch the YAC Afterschool Club programme to help get archaeology into schools. They are also developing a young leaders pathway for 16+ to support young people into work and held an Early Careers Takeover as part of the 2020 Festival of Archaeology.

The Chair expressed his thanks to committee members and Alex Llewellyn for their work on the updates to the group’s website and social media.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the AGM.

The next committee meeting will focus on developing the group’s business plan. Once complete the business plan will be circulated to members and shared on the website. The business plan will help focus the group’s activities.

The date and time of the next committee meeting are to be confirmed but it was agreed that weekday lunchtimes were the preferred option.