

CIFA AREA AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORTS 2018

CIfA has 20 area and special interest groups bringing together professionals with specific historic environment interests. Most groups produce regular newsletters and run training events. Groups represent specialist views to CIfA via representation on the Advisory Council and offer advice on issues which have a specific relevance to their subject/geographical area.

The Archives, Buildings Archaeology, Deutschland/German, Finds, Forensic Archaeology, Graphic Archaeology, Information Management, International Practice, London, Marine Archaeology, New Generation, Project Management, Research and Impact, Scottish, Wales/Cymru Groups and Voluntary and Community have provided annual updates on their activities. Information about all our Groups is on the CIfA website at www.archaeologists.net/groups/about.

Archaeological Archives (AAG)

The AAG held a day conference and AGM in March 2018. The conference hosted nine speakers on the subject of *Working collaboratively with archaeological archives* and was attended by around 80 delegates. You can read the conference abstracts here www.archaeologists.net/AAGconferenceabstracts2018.

For the past two years, the focus of the AAG has been on the appropriate selection and rationalisation of archaeological archives. We successfully applied for funding from Historic England for our project *Developing a selection toolkit for archaeological archives (Phase 1)*. This project aimed to produce a Toolkit to assist in the creation of a selection strategy for all components of the working project archive prior to deposition with a repository.

During phase one of the project, a working party produced a Selection Toolkit to aid in the formulation of a project specific selection strategy. The working party included the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, ClfA Archaeological Archives Group, ClfA Finds Group, Society for Museum Archaeology (SMA), Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (ALGAO), Historic England, Archaeology Data Service, and Archaeological Archives Forum (AAF). Following the consultation, the Selection Toolkit was workshopped as part of a continuing professional development session at the ClfA2018 conference. The final version of the Selection Toolkit was agreed by the working party based on the consultation feedback and workshop results.

The first phase of the project has now ended, and we are in the process of applying for funding for phase 2 of the project. Phase two of this project will address the dissemination of the Selection Toolkit to the archaeological sector and the long-term sustainability and curation of the Selection Toolkit.

For regular updates on group activity see our Facebook and Twitter pages:

www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalArchivesGroup/

https://twitter.com/ifa_archives

Buildings Archaeology (BAG)

2018 has been a busy year for the BAG committee and we will hold our third committee meeting of the year soon. In June we held our CPD session *Archaeological building recording: processing and archiving* at Cressing Temple Barns in Essex County Council. The day commenced with presentations by Jane Golding and Marion Page, of Historic England, providing an insight and overview of the OASIS system. This was followed by a presentation and workshop given by Louisa Matthews of the Archaeology Data Service.

We have recently welcomed three new committee members: Jess Tipper, Lara Band and Megan Lloyd-Regan. We very much look forward to their contribution to the committee over the coming years.

Our summer newsletter was published in July and we are now working on the next edition, an autumn/winter event and focussing on how we can get involved in next year's ClfA conference. One of the most important pieces of work we are currently undertaking is the update of ClfA's guidance

for 'Schemes of Archaeological Building Recording', we hope to present more on this by the 2019 conference.



Deutschland/German

Deutschland was offered support by CifA to start an Area group in Germany on the 1 June 2017. On 4 July 2017 during the 'Deutscher Archäologiekongress' in Mainz CifA hosted an evening event where, – represented by Gerry Wait – CifA stressed their interest in helping to set up a professional association in Germany. Michaela Schauer was announced as coordination for the German group.

In November the group was nearly set up – translations of the important documents (Statement of competence, accreditation form, matrix of competences, reference templates and the *Code of conduct*) were finished, 15 members had joined, and the founding committee was complete.

In February 2018 CifA Deutschland was recognized as an area group, and the constitution for the group was accepted by the first AGM of CifA Deutschland on the 12 May 2018 in Munich. In this first year CifA Deutschland has grown to about 60 members, created and routinely updated German-language webpages, writing its own newsletter and starting to implement the way CifA works as a professional association in Germany. Three working groups are already working on different issues that are important in Germany, including adopting the system for accreditation of companies in Germany.

CifA Deutschland is also liaising with different organisations in Germany and has help to establish a Memorandum of Understanding between CifA and DGUF (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Ur- und Frühgeschichte e.V.) agreed by the CifA Board in May 2018. In the next year CifA Deutschland will focus on growth, liaising with organisations and setting up the accreditation of companies in Germany.



Finds

The Finds group has had another busy year. In May 2017 we held our AGM and conference day *Interpreting finds: innovative and multi-disciplinary approaches in post-excavation*. The event was well attended with a diverse range of presentations. The programme also included a feedback session on the Historic England funded and CifA managed survey project *Review of the standard of reporting on archaeological artefacts in England* which the Finds committee have been heavily involved with. Our conference days are an ideal opportunity to meet up with colleagues working on artefacts, environmental material and archaeological conservation and enable members to come together and discuss issues and research of interest across our sectors.

Our regular committee meetings (three times a year in September, January and May) have been considering ongoing initiatives within our sector such as the Historic Environment Trailblazer apprenticeships for Archaeological Specialists and other training needs, archive selection and retention guidelines and toolkits, group membership survey, CifA chartership and working on the implementation of recommendations from the Reporting Standards project.

The group also hosted a session at the CifA2018 conference in Brighton entitled *Making the most of the assessment stage*. This workshop style session presented viewpoints from five speakers

representing national bodies, local government, consultants, commercial units and specialists. Following on from the presentations, each table discussed a range of questions about current purpose and practice, which was rounded up in general discussion. The debate was very lively, and it was clear that there is currently very different expectations and aspirations for the assessment stage amongst the different participants in the process. This is a topic likely to remain on the Finds group agenda!

The committee are now busy planning for our next events in late 2018 and 2019 and encourage any group members wishing to get more involved to get in touch via our webpage.



Forensic Archaeology (FASIG)

The FASIG held a joint event with the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) on 24 March 2017, *Estimating the post-mortem interval: a hands-on workshop*. The workshop was open to CifA and non-CifA members and proved to be very popular with a long waiting list.

The SIG ran another event on 17 June 2017 at UCLan, *Forensic taphonomic research and practice: the impact of taphonomy on forensic archaeology*, with presentations and discussions on the current state of forensic taphonomy research. The event included a visit to UCLan's Forensic Taphonomy and Experimental Facility. The SIG's 2017 AGM was also held at that event.

At CifA's 2018 conference in April, the SIG session brought in a variety of speakers presenting on crime scene investigation, marine forensic taphonomy and recovery, and forensic ecogenomics. The session tried to bring in more participation from members of the SIG's Expert Panel.

The AGM was held at that conference and a new Chair was elected, Karl Harrison. As of 2018, the SIG committee also includes Alexandria Young (Secretary), Alastair Vannan, Caroline Sims and Laura Evis.

The committee is hoping to bring in more members and hold more events this year in comparison to recent years. Contact us on Twitter @CifA_FASIG.



Graphics Archaeology (GAG)

GAG is currently undergoing something of an overhaul. Several senior committee members have served their terms and stepped down, which means that a new Chair and Treasurer have been nominated; Hannah Kennedy and Ellie Winter respectively. The Secretary role is still to be filled and volunteers to be committee members are gratefully received.

We are currently focussing on bringing our website up to date and seeing if we can rehome it on the CifA website. Ellie has taken charge of the refresh and is looking for artwork to populate our gallery. If you have any work you would like to be featured, please get in touch.

We are also looking to increase the range of members we have, as we are poorly represented within the technical and survey sphere of visualisation. We want to be the SIG for all aspects of visualisation

within the sector, meaning we would like to see surveyors, geomaticians, photographers and anyone else who creates visual media, both in our membership and on our committee.

Earlier in the year former Chair, Lesley Collett, published an updated [Introduction to drawing pottery](#) professional practice paper. We are also looking at producing guidelines and standards for archaeological illustrations for CifA members.

Later in the year we hope to host an exhibition and session about Archaeological Reconstruction Art in collaboration with Historic England and include a session on photography at next year's CifA conference.



Information Management (IMSIG)

IMSIG will be running a session at the Computer Applications & Quantitative Methods in Archaeology (CAA-UK) conference Edinburgh in October and holding its AGM there, where sadly our Chairman Hugh Corley will be standing down after 6 years on the committee.

We are currently involved, like the Archives Group, in Security Standards and GDPR.

For CifA 2019 IMSIG are submitting two session proposals, one a joint one with New Generation for Early Career members to present papers on various aspects of Information management. The second is a workshop 'Hackerthon' to create exemplar templates for recording Meta Data management to assist in training people in best practice and provide a resource.



International Cultural Heritage Practice (IPSIG)

The IPSIG held a CPD event, coinciding with the Group's AGM, on *International cultural heritage assessment: policy and practice*. This event included two CPD presentations, on 'International agreements and national heritage legislation, standards and permitting regimes' and 'International financial institutions and cultural heritage: policies, standards, and practice' together with four case studies provided by members showcasing their work around the world.



London

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.

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 who are 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.

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

This year's AGM, set for 19 September 2018, will be preceded by a panel discussion 'question time' on several topics relating to our *Aspirations for London archaeology*.



Marine Archaeology (MASIG)

The MASIG 2018 AGM was held at Wessex Archaeology's offices in Salisbury. There were two changes to the committee with Robert MacKintosh and Tom Harrison stepping down and Diana Donohue and Alistair Byford-Bates elected as ordinary committee members. It was also agreed that Danielle Wilkinson would act in an advisory role to the committee during the coming year.

The primary focus for the year has been the continued rebranding of the group to both reengage our membership and to reflect our understanding that our specialism addresses the full range of 'marine archaeology' and not just 'boats and ships'. The group membership has increased this year to 441.

During the past year, it was recognised that the website for the group has become increasingly ineffective and, consequently, a decision was made to remove the web pages and to focus on social media as a primary means for sharing information. We have seen renewed engagement through social

media, in particularly through the groups Facebook site with each post uploaded reaching an audience of between 100 and 200 users and the number of 'likes' on the page increasing to 808.

We have many aims for the coming year including

- instigating MASIG as a source of content as opposed to simply sharing links to external content via social media
- running a MASIG session at the ClfA conference but also promoting the submission of marine archaeology papers and 'non-marine' panels to increase awareness and integration of the specialism
- working with the New-Generation group to promote the research of early career professionals and provide a forum for marine archaeology post-graduates and undergraduates to talk about their work
- to develop stand-alone events and practical sessions for MASIG members

Specific area of focus we have discussed for the coming year are: the future direction of the profession, including the nature of 'chartership' for marine archaeologists in the ClfA; the lack of adequate protection for marine archaeology and specifically wrecks beyond the 12nm limit; and ensuring that marine archaeology always has a voice in consultation responses in the development of heritage policy and guidance.



New Generation

We have been a busy committee this year. We were part of the Heritage career fayre run by Surrey County Council and we had a fringe event with RIG at ClfA2018 prior to the networking event which we are part off.

We were also part of a joint session with International Practice Group at EAA 2018 in Barcelona and are submitting joint session proposals with Information Management, Finds and Marine Groups to ClfA2019. The Finds one being the follow up to last year's environmental specialist fringe event.

We have been approached by Diggers Forum for another joint event and it will take the form of a workshop and AGM in the autumn. We are also looking to speak to Universities and Archaeological Societies about us and what membership of ClfA is. We have also been very interested in the apprenticeship schemes and have attended the workshops.



Project Management (PMSIG)

The PMSIG committee has met online over the last year and discussions have included new initiatives coming up, such as apprenticeships; what's new in the world of project management, what issues have the committee encountered and training needs in archaeological project management.

Our newsletter went out at the end of Spring which included notice of the AGM and event at Wessex Archaeology in June and a survey of our 479 members.

Unfortunately, the event had to be cancelled due to low take up of places. However, the AGM took place as planned and it is hoped the event, which included a talk on *Major infrastructure archaeological project management* will go ahead either later this year or early in the new year. We're awaiting the results of the survey of PMSIG members, which asked about the experiences of members and what training they felt would help in their role as a project manager and will report on this shortly.



Research and Impact (RIG)

The RIG was involved in two sessions at CifA2018, first was the fringe event on how to become a post excavation environmental specialist. The second event *Maximizing research outputs and knowledge transfer of interdisciplinary research teams*.

The Chairman and Treasurer have also been involved in advisory roles for various CifA projects. RIG is planning workshops and events for this year.



Scottish

It has been a busy but successful year for the CifA Scottish Group committee - with a new Chair, Treasurer and Secretary along with a number of ordinary members elected and co-opted to the committee. This year has also seen a marked increase in new members.

In addition to the delivery of numerous successful training events throughout the year in partnership with CifA Scotland, such as a highly successful WSI workshop, the committee has focussed on addressing various skills-gaps in the profession and supporting new archaeologists entering the profession. The committee provided input to these discussions while exploring available early-career opportunities within the profession and presented ideas as to how this may be achieved, such as internships for school-leavers and training bursaries.

This year the Committee will hold its annual AGM in Holyrood Park as part of a wider training event around setting.



Voluntary and Community Archaeology

The SIG ran a survey of community archaeologists from December 2017 to February 2018 to get a better idea of who is working in community archaeology and find out what they need in terms of support and training. The survey was primarily focused on 'community archaeologists', ie archaeologists working with community groups, potentially as part of local authority, university or commercial organisations. James Brown of the SIG gave a presentation at the group's AGM at the CifA

conference in Brighton. Currently the SIG is writing up a report of the survey which will set out potential ways forward to address the results.

The SIG is met with Gill Bull and Debbie Frearson of the CBA in to discuss the results of the survey and of the CBA survey of community groups. We hope this will enable a more coordinated and collaborative approach to addressing several issues across community archaeology, for example online resources, training, guidance etc. One of the outcomes of this meeting is a proposed joint hosted CPD session in the Autumn.

The meeting will also discuss a recent project commissioned by the New Forest National Park Authority. As part of the Our Past, Our Future Landscape Partnership Scheme supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project will undertake a review of community 'how to' guidance around archaeology and heritage. James Brown, a SIG member is leading the project for the New Forest and it will be a valuable complement to the surveys undertaken by the CBA and the SIG.



Wales/Cymru

In March 2018 we had intended to host a day school on the *Archaeology of timber frame buildings* unfortunately this was cancelled due to poor weather and traveling conditions in Wales. The day school is now planned for early next spring.

Cifa Cymru has completed the latest round of updates to the Archaeological Research Framework for Wales, and this can be viewed online at <https://www.archaeoleg.org.uk/intro.html>

Judith Doyle has been elected as acting Chair in place of Chair Neil Maylan, who is absent due to ill health. Cifa Cymru sends its best wishes to Neil.

In the second half of the year we will be co-hosting a CPD session with the National Museum of Wales on the Archaeological Archiving and Museum Charges, which will be held in the National Museum in Cardiff in mid-November.

The Cifa Cymru AGM is planned for 9 November and is expected to be held in Welshpool. The AGM will be run alongside a symposium on *Recent archaeological discoveries in Wales*. At the AGM members will be asked to vote on three issues; the election of up to two new committee members; the adoption of Cifa's central groups regulations; the adoption of Cifa's central finance and banking regulations.