

CIfA Voluntary & Community SIG

Meeting 21 July 2022 – online

Committee members present: Sarah-Jane Farr, Jessica Lowther, Clemency Copper, Penny Foreman, Nina O’Hare and Dan Miles

Apologies: Mike Nevell, James Brown and Annie Partridge

Agenda:

1. Revised SIG aims and name

- Email sent out to SIG members with proposed changes. Deadline changed to beginning of August, to allow more time for feedback.
- Proposed changes will now be submitted to the CIfA Board at their 13th September meeting, rather than July as originally planned.
- Discussion about new SIG name – Community Archaeologists is the suggestion that’s been sent out to members, but general preference amongst committee present for Community Archaeology.
- **Action:** NO to check with Megan if any feedback has been received.

2. Vacant committee post

- Two vacant posts have been advertised on recent JIST bulletins. A couple of people expressed interest during the CIfA conference – see if they are still interested if no other interest.
- **Action:** NO to check with CIfA whether anyone has expressed interest in joining the committee.

3. Sector updates

- Discussion about Historic England’s heritage wellbeing working group, of which the CBA are also a part. Might be useful to link with them in future.
- Archaeology Audience Network (AAN) – feedback received that project needs to be re-scoped, as initial focus not clearly defined. MOLA have gone back to NLHF to get a project extension, to allow time for a series of pilot projects to be run. These will be delivered by the project partners, along with further training.
- **Action:** CC to circulate AAN training dates once set.

4. Group webpages

- Email from CIfA asking for thoughts on group webpages and suggestions for improvement.
- **Action:** NO to forward email around the group

5. Standards & Guidance update

- Tender sent out and deadline recently extended until Friday 22nd July. Decision to appoint a contractor will probably be mid-August.

6. Annual report

- Due by 1st August – report to include: funding secured for community engagement toolkit project, release of LPA public benefit survey report, tea break sessions held in the autumn, ClfA conference session and revision of SIG aims and name.
- **Action:** NO to send DM notes on tea break topics. DM to write annual report and send to ClfA.

7. LPA community engagement survey report

- Report now sent out.
- From feedback received, there is interest in conducting a similar survey amongst commercial archaeology units, as they are the ones who undertaken community engagement work. Possibly work with FAME on this? Or it might already be covered by plans for Sadie Watson's UKRI infrastructure project. No action for now due to lack of committee capacity, but an idea to bear in mind.

8. Tea breaks

- Several tea break dates had been suggested for spring 2022. Didn't hear back from ClfA so sessions didn't go ahead. NO now has reduced capacity so is unable to run these at the moment.
- **Action:** If any committee member is keen to run more tea break sessions, please arrange directly with ClfA.

9. AOB

- Could we hold an in person meeting soon? Committee generally keen on this idea and SIG has budget to facilitate travel if employer support not available. Suggested that we hold a meeting somewhere that can give us a tour and invite others along for an informal tea break style half-day.
- **Action:** CC and PF to look into venue options.

10. Next meeting

- Monday 26 Sept, 11.30 – 12.30