

HUMAN OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY SIG

10th July 2019, 12:30pm
Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, G09 Allen Lab

AGM Agenda

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Chair's welcome**
- 3. Minutes of last AGM**
- 4. Treasurer's report**
- 5. Matters arising**
- 6. Other items**
- 7. AOB**

Apologies should be forwarded to the Group Secretary

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10th July 2019, 12:30pm
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AGM Minutes

Present: Sharon Clough (chair), Isobel Curwen (ordinary committee member – social media), Kirsten Dinwiddy (ordinary committee member), Ceri Falys (secretary), also non-committee members: Ed Ardell, Natalie (CifA work experience student), and Emma Robertson

1.	Apologies	Action
	Louise Loe (Ordinary member), Claire Randall (Treasurer), Jackie McKinley	
2.	Chair's Welcome	
3.	Minutes of Last AGM	
	<p>A review of the previous AGM minutes highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Social Media</u>: OSTEOP SIG's social media presence (i.e. Facebook and Twitter) is slowly growing in member numbers. It has been effective in advertising our events (i.e. "sold out" all of our places for the puberty workshop without accessing other on-line Biological Anthropology resources for extra advertising – e.g. BABA0).<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Other uses for OSTEOP SIG's social media presence were discussed, including routinely updating followers with what OSTEOP SIG is working on, and perhaps poll the members for topics they would like training in, or issues they need help or advice with.• Has been suggested to make a 2-way relationship with those who follow OSTEOP SIG on social media. Provide an avenue to give support or advice for osteoarchaeologists.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ?create a forum for discussions• <u>Reviewing and Updating CifA's technical papers</u>: it was concluded that more discussions are needed regarding what the best way to update CifA's technical papers. The point was raised that there are many guidance documents available to osteoarchaeologists. Perhaps is it best to review and update the technical papers with this information rather than completely rewrite them.	ALL
4.	Treasurer's Report	
	Summary of OSTEOP SIG's account was provided by SC in the absence of CR.	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • April 2018-March 2019 financial year: OSTEo SIG did not spend much in the first year. The primary expenditure was for travel expenses for committee members to get to meetings etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>The Palaeoradiology Workshop</u> – was in credit after the invoices were paid. • April 2019-March 2020 financial year: minimal account activity so far. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Puberty in the Past Workshop</u> – waiting for final invoices to be sent to ClfA. 	
5.	Matters Arising	
	<p>1) ClfA do not currently have a policy regarding human remains.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSTEo SIG feel it is essential to get one in place ASAP. • The question was raised whether this should be a joint policy with BABAO, or solely ClfA. • Will pursue this issue ASAP. <p>2) Requests for excessive, unnecessary or unethical destructive analyses of human skeletal remains is becoming commonplace for osteoarchaeologists working in the commercial sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently, official guidance does not exist that could act as support for osteoarchaeologist(s) as to why such analyses should not be undertaken. At the moment, it is nearly impossible to refuse to allow unethical analyses from being done. • OSTEo SIG has proposed to produce a document or a statement that is supported by ClfA and BABAO that can be referred to for support to refuse unethical requests. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The document should use non-technical language to explain what information different scientific methods can retrieve from skeletal remains (e.g. C14 dating, isotopes, peptides aDNA), how much bone is needed, when are these techniques needed, the need for scientific analyses to be reproducible (i.e. be able to do the same experiment again, thus not using up all bone present), and the ethics of undertaking destructive analyses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make recommendations to the osteoarchaeologists to check the credentials of those proposing destructive research, and ensure the results of the analyses will be returned to the osteoarchaeologists caring for the skeletal assemblage. • The proposed next step: propose some ideas for this document or statement and then ClfA for their advice and support. 	<p style="text-align: center;">ALL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL</p>
6.	Other items	
	<p>1) the question was raised as to whether OSTEo SIG should advertise at BABAO's annual conference, being held in London in September.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce fliers or business cards that advertise OSTEo SIG, or have a table with leaflets? • Need to contact the conference organizers, or Dr Lauren McIntyre, the commercial representative for BABAO. • Contact ClfA to produce fliers. 	<p style="text-align: center;">SC</p>

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	<p>2) ClfA conference, April 2020 in Bath. Should OSTEOP SIG make a session? SC is happy to organize it, but would like to have some ideas.</p> <p>3) OSTEOP SIG have been asked to write a piece for The Archaeologist magazine. SC asked if anyone would like to write something. This issue has been left undecided.</p> <p>4) SC asked for help assessing ClfA applications for those with a specialism in osteoarchaeology. There were no volunteers.</p> <p>4) There are three OSTEOP SIG posts available for “ordinary committee members”. We have had one enquiry to join the committee. Has been suggested to informally let them join the committee, then vote on official membership at next OSTEOP SIG AGM.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>
7.	AOB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ideas for OSTEOP SIG’s next workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basics of scientific analyses • Cremations – this topic has been chosen as the next workshop. Will approach Jackie McKinley (Wessex Archaeology) to ask if she would be happy to run the workshop. • Next meeting: September 2019, during BABAO annual conference in London. 	<p>KD & SC</p>
	Meeting adjourned at 13:20.	