

AGM: Research and impact SIG

Date: Monday 10 December

Time: 2pm

Venue: MOLA, Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED.

AGM minutes

Attendance

Natasha Powers, James Morris, Daniel Miles, Matt Edgeworth, Rebecca Nicholson

Staff - Amanda Forster, Lianne Birney

Apologies - Caroline Sturdy Colls, David Petts, Paul Everill, Royston Clark

NB For future reference, all formal communications will go via Lianne Birney (lianne.birney@archaeologists.net) as the IfA contact for this group. A list of the committee members email addresses will be circulated to the committee.

1) Introductions

Hopes and dreams –

- NP Highlight the research work which is happening in commercial archaeology. Collaborative work is essential to the future of archaeology in Britain.
- JM Research and training links between research, academic and commercial worlds.
- DM interested in how the group can help contribute to developing research networks, frameworks and resources, and how we work together eg academic, commercial, voluntary
- ME Has spanned different sectors in and touched upon the different issues of different sectors, and feels they could interlock really creatively – but don't always work out that way. V interested in the impact side.
- AF The group has been initiated as there is increasing concern that the various parts of the archaeological world as continuing to move further and further apart. However, recognition that there are some great projects taking place which combine collaborative efforts and good research, and result in positive impacts. Felt that R&I could provide a proactive response to issues and promote possible solutions.

2) Elections

Forms have been received from;

Natasha Powers (Chair)

David Petts (Secretary)

Daniel Miles (Ordinary member)

James Morris (Treasurer)

Paul Everill (Ordinary member)

Paul Belford (Ordinary member)

Rebecca Nicholson (Ordinary member)

Matthew Edgeworth (Ordinary member)

All nominees were elected.

ACTION:- AF to contact Royston Clark and Caroline Sturdy Colls to see if they were still interested in being involved on committee.

3) Representation

The elected committee felt it was important to consider the knowledge and experience represented and highlight any potential gaps. AF explained that gaps could be added by co-opting representatives of particular organisations or forums onto the committee, either regularly or for particular meetings.

ACTION:- the committee were asked to provide a breakdown of areas they feel they can represent, and what networks they operate in (eg via committees).

Areas highlighted as absent from current committee;

- Curatorial - *request representation from ALGAO; RN suggested she could approach David Radford, Oxford City Archaeologist*
- Museum - *request representation from SMA*
- Freelance specialist - *perhaps co-opt specific person to join committee*
- Community group – *ask is VCSIG would be able to send a representative to meetings? **AF to follow up.***

Group committee is currently regionally focused. One method of achieving greater representation would be to move meetings around to make sure people and places are represented, go to people's organisations and speak to them about what they do.

Committee meetings should be rotated between different regions, and different types of organisations. Host organisation could provide a 30 minutes presentation on their own research and impact – if they want to. Would be a good way to see what people are already doing and how the group can help.

AF suggested this could be an active part of the group's aims and objectives, and part of its business plan for the next three years. Would be a useful way of disseminating the interests of the group and being able hold direct discussions which those working across the sector.

4) DISCUSSION

The new group is concerned with the nature of archaeological research and its dissemination, and in the impact that archaeological research has in wider social and economic spheres. The group will contribute to the promotion of archaeology beyond professional spheres, and would encourage collaborative networks between professional, academic and community led archaeologists.

• How can we facilitate greater partnership working between private, charitable and educational organisations in archaeology?

Travelling meetings with person presenting their case studies, eg collaborative, encouraging

Science advisors – EH networks; DM is capacity building in KT team, guidance and training, science advisors etc, research framework meetings

CBA regional groups; could we get involved in the regional groups?

• What kind of networks should we try and develop to help better communication between sectors?

A) Committee level email list – **AF to set up**

B) Linked In group – **AF to set up a Linked In group**

C) Wiki – work on a document as a group, such as a definition of impact?

ACTION:- Google groups? DM and ME to investigate possible use of a wiki.

D) Knowledge Hub – forum for local/ national authority which anyone can use. Live Forum discussions. Calls for research funding – how do we bridge the gap between commercial and academic arena?

E) Asking non professionals what impact is – IMPACT WEEK – define your impact. Needs a date, suggested first week in March to allow to promote and also enough time to consolidate results for conference. Tbc Jan. Would be useful if bodies could also promote eg FAME, local and academic societies, Groups, ALGAO, Community, RCAHMS, HS, CADW

➤ Use Survey monkey

Organisations – get an organisational answer

Individuals also need to respond

One for everybody, need to capture organisational data

- Online forum? Maybe via linked in or google groups?
- Twitter - get some short responses!
- Aim: *What drives people and their understanding of impact – has it got a relevance to you? Has it got relevance to your job*
- Provides baseline data for the group, allows us to assess our own impact over the period of the business plan

ACTION ALL – need to all think about ten questions about impact for the survey

F) Communication - Seminar series in academic departments, invite specific members, sit on SCUFA

We could act as a showcase, how can people get together, who are the right people to get involved eg people sit on different arenas

Newsletter/ bulletin – info on commercial/ research collaborations

Collating different definitions of the WIKI – Matt is going to set this up, with Dan, and start the ball rolling with the definitions

• What kind of training events and workshops should the group provide?

Conference session – defining impact, what do people think it is?

Wait for those impact ideas have come up

IMPACT WEEK - see above

• Do archaeologists understand enough about impact – and what should we be doing to increase that understanding?

NO. Hence defining impact to start with.

Impact toolkit – how to build and impact into projects, how to demonstrate impact for commercial organisations; how can you use commercial – for the end of the third year?

What does it mean to us?

• Why is impact important? What could the group do to help practitioners and academics with understanding impact in archaeological projects?

Survey addresses this...

5) Next meeting

The committee hope to meet 3 times a year...

Next meeting – Wednesday 27 March

An open meeting is planned at conference as a fringe event to promote the group