



SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP – FORENSIC ARCHAEOLOGY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

OXFORD TOWN HALL, THURSDAY, 19TH APRIL 2012

Present:

Jo Bacon; Paul Cheetham; Corinne Duhig; Claire Graham; Nick Marquez-Grant; Karl Harrison; Andy Holland; Tim Howard; John Hunter, OBE; Rob Janaway; Roosje De Leuwe; Steve Litherland; Peter Masters; Gaille Mackinnon; Natasha Powers; Caroline Sims; Barrie Simpson; Andrew Wilson.

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

John Hunter welcomed the attendees to the second AGM of this newly formed Special Interest Group, noting that the attendance reflected the growing interest in forensic archaeology within the IfA. He also noted the wry sense of humour of the IfA Conference Organising Committee in allocating the old Court Room for our meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Liz Cornell; Cec Cropper; Ian Hanson; Jennifer Miller; Lucy Sibun; Caroline Sturdy-Colls; David Turley.

3. Minutes of the Inaugural Annual General Meeting held at the Henley Business School, Whiteknights Campus, University of Reading on Friday 15 April 2011

These had been circulated by Secretary and he had received no amendments. They were proposed for acceptance by Rob Janaway and seconded by Andy Holland and accepted as a true record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes.

5. Synopsis of the first Year's Activities

The Chair, John Hunter, gave a brief résumé of the year 2011-2012.

Firstly, as recorded in the Minutes, at the inaugural AGM of this Special Interest Group in Forensic Archaeology it was decided that we should have two meetings of the Forensic Archaeology Group during the year; each one to be a different region to enable IfA members across the country an opportunity to attend.

The first SIG Meeting was held in Birmingham on 19th October 2012.

This was well attended by forensic practitioners; students and representatives from the police service.

The programme covered:

- a ‘General Introduction to Forensic Archaeology’ presented by John Hunter;
- the ‘Wider Development of Forensic Archaeology’ presented by Steve Litherland;
- Rob Janaway, the Chair of the IfA ‘Expert Panel’ on Forensic Archaeology explained the Panel’s history, constitution and its role in assisting the police and the Courts;
- Andrew Wilson, Andy Holland and Rob Janaway then led the Group through a session on ‘Experimental Taphonomy’;
- Caroline Sturdy-Colls presented a ‘Survey of Nazi Death Camps in the Channel Islands’; and,
- Barrie Simpson presented a forensic case study.
- There was one other presentation, about which the Chair made special mention, as during our first year of existence the SIG made its first international connection, and Mike Groen attended the meeting of the SIG in Birmingham and gave a presentation on ‘Forensic Archaeology in the Netherlands’. More importantly, following which the presentation he and his colleague, Roosje De Leuwe, joined the SIG as our first international members.
- We look forward to undertaking a meeting one our meeting in the Netherlands

The second SIG Meeting was held at the University of Bradford on 22 February 2012.

Once again, a well-attended Meeting, with an audience comprised of forensic practitioners and students.

The programme included podium presentations by:

- Caroline Sturdy-Colls (University of Staffordshire) on “What is a Forensic Archaeologist” describing the differing routes taken by current practitioners into the profession and using these to illustrate the common skills required to be a competent practitioner.

- Andy Holland (University of Bradford) on, “Forensic Archaeology Professional Accreditation: Why and How” outlining the background to requirements for professional accreditation, the selection of the IfA as the professional body for Forensic Archaeology and the process of gaining corporate membership of the institute.
- Kathryn Whittington (Institute for Archaeologists) on “Continuing Professional Development” outlining what CPD is, and describing some of the activities that can contribute to a professional’s CPD log. The presentation also discussed Personal Development Plans and how to use them to formulate and structure your short and medium term career and personal goals through CPD
- These presentations were followed by searching and enjoyable questions and answer session. The Questions led to discussions on how to gain forensic archaeology experience in the UK and in other countries, the variation in requirements to allow practice in other countries in Europe, the importance of gaining a broad general archaeological experience base and where to seek funding for a Master’s degree in forensic archaeology and related subjects.

In conclusion the Chair was able to report that the SIG in Forensic Archaeology has enjoyed an encouraging first year of existence, as reflected in the attendance at the meetings and indeed in the attendance this second AGM.

It was intended to follow the same pattern of two Regional Meetings for Forensic Archaeology Group for 2012-2013.

6. Treasurer’s Statement of Accounts

The Accounts had been circulated prior to Meeting and there were no questions and Barrie Simpson proposed and Steve Litherland, seconded that they be accepted; these Accounts were accepted by the AGM.

A copy is attached to the Minutes.

The Chair expressed his grateful thanks to the financial support provided by the IfA in supporting the costs of hiring venues and refreshments.

7. Election of Officers

The Chair, John Hunter, had agreed to take on the Chair of the SIG for the first year only, and having set the SIG on the road he was now not standing for re-election.

John Hunter proposed Rob Janaway as the new Chair of the SIG and this was seconded by Barrie Simpson; Rob Janaway was unanimously elected to serve as Chair of the SIG.

The new Chair thanked John Hunter on behalf the SIG for his commitment to the Group and setting it on firm footing.

Barrie Simpson and Caroline Sturdy-Colls had agreed at the inaugural AGM, to serve as Secretary and as Treasurer for the first two years of the SIG. There were no other candidates and they were duly elected to continue to serve as Secretary and Treasurer for 2012-2013.

The following were elected as Committee Members for 2012-2013:

- Andy Holland;
- John Hunter;
- Paul Cheetham;
- Caroline Sims; and
- Peter Masters.

8. The Date of next Annual General Meeting.

It was decided to maintain the pattern of having the Annual General Meeting of the SIG in Forensic Archaeology during the IfA Annual Conference.