



Association of British Forensic Anthropology Bulletin

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Issue
6

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In this issue >>>>>

Message from the
Chair

MISSING PEOPLE
charity update

BAFA Nominated
Charity 2023

Student &
Practitioners Forum

In the Spotlight
Keele University

DVI Update

Forthcoming
Conferences

Other BAFA news

Message from the Chair

Hello BAFA members,

It has been a while since our last newsletter and a lot happened since then, including the sad death of Her Majesty the Queen. We have also seen the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the recent discoveries in Bucha and Izyum are an unfortunate reminder that our skills as forensic anthropologists are still very much required. We

have had an exceptionally busy summer in the UK too, and both police and practitioners have commented on the unusually high numbers of cases where our services have been needed. Within academia, things have returned to normal following the pandemic and thankfully our students are now able to participate in the practical sessions which are such a valuable part of the forensic anthropology programmes.

The BAFA committee has not been able to meet as frequently as usual due to the pressures of work, but we have set a date for our virtual AGM and Winter Conference, at which we will announce further details of a planned face to face event in Spring 2023.

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of abFab, and as ever, we welcome contributions from members for future newsletters!

Best Wishes,

Julie



Dr Julie Roberts ChFA, Cert FA-I

Missing People – BAFA Charity 2021

Although it was some time ago now, I would just like to say a big thank you to all those of you who supported and attended the joint BAFA-Missing People Webinar on the 30th of March, particularly the brave members who presented their research in the 'Told in 90 Seconds' challenge! Your talks were all fantastic but there could be only one winner (or actually two in this case with an equal number of votes).

The joint winners, who were notified and received prizes after the event, were **Amy Rattenbury and Taylor Flaherty** - congratulations again to both of you!

Thank you message from Missing People

Dear all BAFA members,

I wanted to take this opportunity to extend a massive thank you on behalf of us all at our charity, Missing People.

Firstly, for your support as an organisation over the past 12 months following your charity partnership with us, and your involvement during this time in the arranged community activities. Secondly, for your attendance at the charity organised webinar, which took place on Wednesday 30 March, and all the very kind donations that were made as part of the registration.

The partnership has generated over £600 for our charity so far, which is fantastic, and will mean we can fund 3 missing appeal days for a missing person in their area – a vital part of our service, which ensures we can reunite them with their loved ones.

During the evening of the webinar I shared some information about ways in which you can continue to keep in touch with the charity and possibly get involved in some more of our activities, if you felt inspired and could see the genuine difference you can make for a charity like ours, especially through building awareness and fundraising.

Here are some ways you can engage with us further with links:

- Receive email updates from us: [Subscribe to our newsletter](#)
- Social channels: [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)
- Volunteering – [Find out more](#)
- Guaranteed charity places across the UK and in Europe – [Events programme](#)

Once again, thanks for your continued support of the charity and we really hope to speak with many of you again in the future. In case you ever would like to reach out directly, you can contact me at David.warne@missingpeople.org.uk

Regards,

David Warne
Individual Giving Coordinator

missing people

Registered charity in England and Wales (1020419)
and in Scotland (SC047419)

Please have a look at their website
and learn more about the charity's
current campaigns:

[https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/
for.../news-and-campaigns](https://www.missingpeople.org.uk/for.../news-and-campaigns)



SUGGESTIONS?

Idea for a Webinar?

WORKSHOP IDEAS?

FUNDRAISING IDEAS?

If you have any suggestions or ideas for a webinar, workshop or a piece for the newsletter, do not hesitate to contact us! If you wish to support the ECPAT UK charity by organising a Fundraiser, get in touch!

BAFA Nominated Charity 2023

ECPAT UK

Every Child Protected Against Trafficking (ECPAT UK) is a leading children's rights organisation working to protect children from trafficking and transnational exploitation. We support children everywhere to uphold their rights and to live a life free from abuse and exploitation.

ECPAT is an international organization with 118 partner members in over 100 countries collectively working to end the prostitution and trafficking of children.

ECPAT's work

Policy, advocacy and campaigns. We mobilise the public and lobby governments to:

- improve legislation, policy and practice to protect children
- prevent child trafficking
- implement tougher action against those who abuse children.

Youth work

- We directly support children who have been trafficked and provide expertise in children's cases.

Training

- We deliver rights-based, practical training to build the capacity of professionals and agencies working with children.

Research

- We monitor the issue and publish cutting-edge research on child trafficking and exploitation, informed by our direct work with trafficked children and the professionals who support them.



Every Child Protected
Against Trafficking

**BAFA will be supporting
ECPAT UK for 12
months, from January
2023**

**Learn more about
ECPAT UK by visiting
their website:**

<https://www.ecpat.org.uk/>

Student and Practitioners Forum

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

October, 2022

- 21st Oct [International Conference on Forensic Science and Evidence Technology](#) - Baie du Tombeau, Mauritius
- 21st Oct [International Conference on Forensic Anthropology and Medicine \(ICFAM\)](#) - Athens, Greece
- 25th Oct [International Conference on Forensic Anthropology and Medicine \(ICFAM\)](#) - Bali, Indonesia
- 28th Oct <https://conferenceindex.org/event/international-conference-on-legal-and-evidential-framework-in-forensic-anthropology-icleffa-2022-october-lisbon> - Lisbon, Portugal

November, 2022

- 4th Nov CSFS Autumn Conference <https://www.csfs.org/news-events/csfs-autumn-conference-2022/> - Leeds, England
- 11th to 13th Nov BAHID Autumn Conference <http://www.bahid.org/conference/> - Moreton-in-Marsh, England
- 18th to 19th Nov <https://waset.org/migration-and-refugee-studies-conference-in-november-2022-in-london> – London, England

December, 2022

- 1st Dec [International Conference on Forensic Anthropology, Human Bone Analysis and Identification \(ICFAHBAI\)](#) - Auckland, New Zealand
- 10th to 11th Dec – 11 BAFA AGM and Winter Conference

January 2023

- 9th to 10th Jan <https://waset.org/forensic-autopsy-and-postmortem-chemistry-conference-in-january-2023-in-tokyo> - Tokyo, Japan
- 20th to 24th Jan IAFS <https://iafs2023.com.au/> - Sydney, Australia

BAFA AGM and Conferences

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Winter Conference will be held on the 10th and 11th December this year. It will be a virtual event but with your continued enthusiasm and support we anticipate that it will once again be an enjoyable and stimulating two days!

The theme for this year's conference is Vicarious Trauma, mental health and wellbeing in forensic science practitioners. We will also be inviting people to showcase their research again in the '90 second' talks.

Details of our Spring conference and workshop, which will be held at Coventry University, will be announced at the AGM.

We are keen to ensure that the workshop is something which BAFA members feel would be of value to them, so we encourage you all to submit your ideas!

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

Although opportunities for employment as a forensic anthropology practitioner are unfortunately rare, the commercial forensic science providers have been able to recruit three new anthropologists to their Anthropology and Archaeology teams since March! Congratulations to FA II Forensic Anthropologist Micol Zuppello and FA III Forensic Anthropologist Rita Faria, who have joined the team at Alecto, and to FA III Forensic Anthropologist Emily Norton, who has joined the team at Cellmark. We wish all of them every success in their careers!

VACANCIES

Analytical Services International (ASI) are advertising two positions for trainee forensic toxicologists. ASI has an international client base and offers services in three main areas; forensic toxicology, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring (TDM) and pre-clinical/clinical studies. The forensic toxicology service provides a screening and quantitation service for clients (including coroners and pathologists) investigating cause of death. The positions are full time and located at St Georges, University of London. The salary is from £24,000 per year and candidates are required to have a degree qualification or equivalent in a biological or chemistry related subject. For a copy of the job description please email me at julie.roberts@alectoforensics.com. You can also follow this link info@bioanalytics.co.uk to request further information.

The **ICRC** is seeking forensic experts for several positions worldwide with continuous departures throughout the year. The ICRC's forensic services promote and support forensic best practices, in order to ensure the proper management and identification of dead bodies and to help prevent and resolve the tragedy of people unaccounted for as a result of armed conflict and other situations of armed violence. Their objective is to guarantee the dignified management of the dead and uphold the right of bereaved families to know what happened to their loved ones. The currently sought profiles include **Forensic Specialist**, **Senior Forensic Specialist** and **DNA Matching Specialist**. For further information on how to apply please see the following link: <https://careers.icrc.org/go/Forensics/3808001/>

In the Spotlight – Keele University



Keele University

At Keele University we offer degrees in forensic science, including a single honours course focussing on forensics, to dual honours programmes spanning forensics and criminology, to neuroscience, to physics. We also offer an integrated master's course - MSci in Forensic and Analytical Investigation. Within these courses students are given the chance to study forensic anthropology across themes of osteology, entomology, and taphonomy.

The forensic science staff at Keele are highly research active, conducting projects in a wide range of areas including the use of isotopes, entomology, taphonomy, and geophysics in forensics, as well as cold case analysis. We are also excited to announce the start of two new lecturers in forensic anthropology, Dr Amber Collings and Dr Chris Aris, who started in April this year. With them comes more exciting new developments for forensics at Keele:

- Investment in the development of new 3D imaging and printing facilities for skeletal analysis and court room advances
- Investment in the expansion of histological facilities for microscopic skeletal and dental analysis in forensic investigations
- The start of three new PhD research projects – keep an eye out for advertisements in the near future!"

DO YOU WANT TO FEATURE YOUR RESEARCH OR HIGHLIGHT THE WORK OF YOUR DEPARTMENT OR UNIVERSITY IN THE NEWSLETTER?

In future issues of the BAFA newsletter we will feature some of the research by our members and highlight the research carried out in departments and universities in the UK and internationally.

Interested to write a piece for the newsletter? Won an award? Publications or funding opportunities you wish to highlight?

Please contact Paige Tynan for any academic enquiries at: ACADEMIC@BAFA.UK

Student Reps can contact Conner Welty at: STUDENT@BAFA.UK



Other BAFA News

DVI News

The 31st Interpol DVI conference was held at the Interpol HQ in Lyon at the end of June (see below), and the Pathology and Anthropology Sub-Working Group had several very productive meetings. Key areas for discussion included the role of forensic anthropologists, archaeologists, and pathologists at disaster sites, representation of forensic imaging experts and forensic archaeologists in the group, and revisions to the Interpol Guide for 2023. A focus group of forensic anthropologists and pathologists with qualifications and experience in forensic archaeology, was formed to update the section in the Guide on recording and recovering remains from mass fatality scenes. The updated section was approved by the wider group and the changes were sent to the Interpol DVI working group.

Work done on vicarious trauma, use of secondary identifiers, and identification of the living, was reported back by the three focus groups. A presentation was given on vicarious trauma by Dr Sarah Ellingham, and recommendations on the use of secondary identifiers were submitted to the DVI Working Group. A manuscript on secondary identifiers, written by the focus group, has also been submitted for publication. Watch this space!



There have also been some changes within UK DVI following the appointment of a new DVI Commander and Coordinator. Our BAFA Chair and point of contact for UK DVI was asked to update details for the Forensic Anthropology cadre, and also to include names and details of suitably qualified and experienced Forensic Archaeologists who could be deployed if required. As a result, we now have eight UK DVI Forensic Archaeologists within our group, in addition to the Forensic Anthropologists who are dual qualified.

The new UK DVI Coordinator has also re-instated the quarterly DVI Specialist working group meetings, where representatives from key disciplines involved in DVI meet with the UK DVI police leads. Scientific disciplines represented include Forensic Anthropology and Archaeology, Pathology, Odontology, Forensic Imaging, Anatomical Pathology, and Fingerprints. The first of these meetings will be held on the 13th October. A summary of the discussions will be fed back to the various cadres following the meetings.

RAI Update

The last RAI Forensic Anthropology meeting was held on the 12th May. BAFA updates were presented by Dr Julie Roberts. The committee recorded that they are keen to encourage more applicants at all levels especially FA III, it has been noted that FA IIIs especially would welcome CPD activity by the RAI. International certification is being progressed starting with Australia. Professor Niamh NicDaeid has stepped down as Moderator of the Examination Board, she was thanked for her contribution to the certification process since its inception. Professor Roger Soames (Prof of Anatomy, Dundee University) was proposed as her replacement. FA Administrator Jo Yates also left the Committee to start a new life in Australia. She has been replaced by Felicity Davies fdavies@therai.org.uk who will now be the main point of contact for forensic anthropology certification and any other RAI queries. The next committee meeting will be held at the end of October. Please contact CHAIR@BAFA.UK if you have any issues you would like to raise.

BAFA ONLINE

Please let us know if there is any specific content that you would like to see added to the website or the newsletter and we will try to incorporate these ideas as much as possible.

You can find us at...

www.bafa.uk



@BAFA_info



@BAFA.UK



British Association for Forensic Anthropology