1. FROM THE COORDINATOR

WOAM conference
The WOAM Interim conference is only months away. There is a great preliminary line up of papers and posters. If you have not already checked the conference website out please have a look. The website is http://www.woam2016.net/. Registration is available online. Please note that there is a fairly significant price rise for registrations received after March 31st so do try to take advantage of the early bird registration rate. Online registration will end on April 30th and from then on it will only be possible to register on site. When registering on-line you have the option to add events for accompanying people and to book a room in one of the four conference hotels. The hotel names and rates are as follows:

- Hotel Cellai **** (DUS: €198.00/ DBL: €229.00)
- Hotel Bonifacio *** (DUS: €79.00/ DBL: €99.00/ TPL: €129.00/ QPL: €149.00)
- Hotel Cimabue *** (DUS: €120.00/ DBL: €140.00/ TPL: €160.00)
- Hotel Orto Dei Medici *** (DUS: €99.00/ DBL: €219.00)

Peer Reviewed Publications
This is just a gentle reminder that we have moved to an all peer-reviewed publication for the conference Proceedings. In order to accommodate that all presenters who wish to submit their papers for publication are asked to submit them to me by MARCH 30th 2016. You should have received guidelines on formatting your contribution when your paper was accepted. Please adhere to these guidelines while preparing your publication.

2. COLLEAGUE’S CORNER

Thesis available on line

Dilys Johns elected Fellow of IIC

3. CONFERENCES AND COURSES

Leather course

WOAM Lifetime Achievement Award Nomination Form
Istanbul Proceedings
Speaking of proceedings, the Istanbul proceedings are still undergoing final formatting. Tara Grant has been working very hard on them. She had hoped to be able to send them out by the end of the December 2015, however this was not feasible. There is a little more to do but the hope is that they will be available soon.

2017 ICOM-CC call for papers
Please note that the ICOM-CC call for papers for the 2017 conference will most likely go out in early February. An eblist will be sent to all ICOM-CC members once the details and relevant documents have been loaded to the ICOM-CC website. The deadline for abstract submissions will be April 2015 2016. As in the past, ICOM-CC will provide a template and the word limit for abstracts will be approximately 500 words. Because the call for abstracts often coincides with our interim meeting WOAM often seems underrepresented both in the terms of the number of abstracts that get submitted and also in terms of the number of papers and posters that are presented, so start thinking about your projects now and assessing which ones might make good candidates!

ICOM-CC Membership
If you have not renewed your membership in ICOM-CC this year please consider doing so. There are a number of advantages to being a member not least of which is that your ICOM membership card will get you into many, many museums (particularly in Europe) for free. The annual savings can easily and quickly pay for your membership. Additional membership benefits include:
- The ICOM-CC e-zine On Board.
- Participation in Working Group(s) including subscription to Working Group Newsletters.
- Reduced registration fees at the ICOM-CC Triennial Conferences and Interim Meetings of Working Groups.
- Priority to have papers/posters accepted at the ICOM-CC Triennial Conferences (in case of papers/poster of equal merits).
- Voting rights for matters such as the election of the Directory Board members and Working Group Coordinators.
- Eligibility to stand for office within the ICOM-CC structure as a Directory Board member or Working Group Coordinator.

In addition, to all the personal benefits to you as a member of ICOM-CC, there are additional benefits to WOAM if you become a member. Although we are a very active group with large interim meetings and a number of publications, within the ICOM-CC structure we appear quite small (currently only 45 voting members) with the result that we are not allotted as much time or as many paper slots as some of the “larger” groups at the ICOM-CC Triennial conferences. By increasing our membership base we will also be better able to ensure that all our good work is recognized within the ICOM-CC structure. For anyone interested in Joining ICOM and ICOM-CC information may be found at the following site:
http://www.icom-cc.org/171/about-icom-cc/join-icom-cc/#.VqkcB_krlDv

ICOM-CC History Project
ICOM-CC will mark its fiftieth anniversary at the 18th Triennial Conference in 2017. Created in 1967 from a small nucleus of conservation professionals, ICOM-CC now has over 2200 members
worldwide, making it the largest international conservation organization and the largest of ICOM’s International Committees. ICOM-CC Triennial Conferences, Working Group interim meetings, and related publications are among the most respected in the profession.

Under the guidance of ICOM-CC Secretary, Joan M. Reifsnyder, and Preprints Managing Editor, Janet Bridgland, the project to record ICOM-CC’s history has already begun with a systematic review of ICOM-CC’s archives and compilation of basic historical information on Directory Board members, Working Group Coordinators, Preprints, and ICOM-CC Medal recipients, etc. which are posted on the website.

Your help is vital to bring the project to completion. Please contribute images or ephemera from Triennial Conferences, Working Group interim meetings, Directory Board meetings, and/or other ICOM-CC activities or compose a special memory or two of meaningful experiences as an ICOM-CC member. Contact us by e-mail (historyproject@icom-cc.org) for further information and guidelines.

WOAM Lifetime Achievement Award
I am really excited to announce the creation of the WOAM Lifetime Achievement Award. This gives us an opportunity to recognize some of our colleagues who have made profound contributions to our field during their lifetimes. The coordinating group has been working hard to define the scope of the award, and the guidelines for nomination. The Directory Board of ICOM-CC has given us their approval for the project and we hope to make the first award(s) at the upcoming WOAM meeting. The description follows and the nomination form can be found in the conference section. Please feel free to nominate colleagues whom you feel are worthy.

The Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Working Group (WOAM) Lifetime Achievement Award
Purpose
The purpose of this award is to recognize exceptional contributions to the field of wet organic archaeological materials and/or service to the field.
Criteria
1) Distinguished service to the field of wet organic archaeological materials over the course of the nominee’s professional career
2) Exceptional contributions with significant impact to the functioning or advancement of the study, treatment and preservation of wet organic materials
3) Dedicated and sustained service to the Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Working Group (WOAM). This may include: service as a coordinator, assistant coordinator or as chair of one of the local arrangements committees; sustained service as a peer-reviewer for the conference proceedings; service as an editor for one or more conference proceedings.

Guidelines
The award will be given at the Interim conferences. When merited, more than one award can be given at the conference although the number of awards given per conference may not exceed three. Nominations are due to the Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Working
Group (WOAM) Coordinator by February 15th of the year of a WOAM Conference (i.e. Feb 15th 2016, 2019, 2022, 2025). The Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Working Group coordinator and assistant coordinators will review the nominations and serve as the award committee. Nominations may be submitted by any Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Working Group member. Each nomination should describe the conservation, service and/or publication activities that demonstrate the candidate’s lifetime of contributions to the advancement of wet organic archaeological materials. Each award nomination should be supported by a letter from the proposer and letters from two sponsors. Nomination letters should provide details on how the nominee meets one or more of the award criteria. Sponsor letters may support or augment these details. Visual documentation (photos, etc.) are also encouraged.

Although membership in ICOM-CC is not a criterion for this award, preference will be given to ICOM-CC members, in cases where all other criteria are equal.

2. COLLEAGUE’S CORNER
The PhD thesis: “Microscopic and spectroscopic characterisation of waterlogged archaeological softwood from anoxic environments” by Nanna Bjerregaard Pedersen is now finally (one year after the defense) available online at: http://ign.ku.dk/formidling/publikationer/ign-phd-thesis/
In short the thesis includes application of Confocal Raman imaging, UV-microspectrophotometry, light microscopy, transmission electron microscopy, compositional analysis, and ATR-FTIR spectroscopy to waterlogged archaeological Norway spruce [Picea abies (L.) Karst] and Scots pine [Pinus sylvestris L.] retrieved from anoxic waterlogged sites and solely decayed by erosion bacteria. This was done to refine the understanding of the residual wood structure left after degradation to improve the ability to develop suitable and cost effective conservations treatments but also to improve the understanding of anaerobic decay mechanisms acting on plant biomass in waterlogged anoxic environments.

Academic elected to The International Institute for Conservation

Dilys Johns, Senior Research Fellow, School of Social Sciences – Te Pokapū Pūtaiao Pāpori, Faculty of Arts, has been elected as a Fellow of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic works (IIC) London.

“I am especially indebted to the many iwi I have worked with over the years for their guidance and trust and to my overseas and New Zealand colleagues. Dilys is the only Fellow of the IIC in New Zealand.

Returning in 1987 Dilys established a unique, national facility for conservation at the University of Auckland. Since then the laboratory has completed thousands of conservation projects for at-risk artefacts in New Zealand and the Pacific, including 11 waterlogged canoes conserved in satellite facilities. Dilys is an Assistant Coordinator of the International Council of Museums Committee for Conservation Wet Organic Archaeological Materials and a founding member of New Zealand Conservators of Cultural Material- Pu Manaaki Kahurangi.

Her research and teaching focuses on in situ wetland archaeological site sustainability, conservation of at risk materials and the importance of cultural orientation to materials conservation. Recent publications include articles with Oxford University Press and the Proceedings of National Academy of Sciences (USA).

3. CONFERENCES AND COURSES

**Understanding Leather: From Tannery to Collection**  
**Monday - Friday, July 4-8, 2016**

Run by The Leather Conservation Centre and Northampton University Institute of Creative Leather Technologies, The University of Northampton, Boughton Green Road, Northampton NN2 7AN

**Monday - Friday, July 4-8, 2016**

5 days CPD training for Conservators, Curators and other MuseumProfessionals (10 -12 participants only) NB The course will not run with less than 10 participants.

Main Subjects
- Understanding Leather
- Understanding the threats to the preservation of leather in your collection

The course is a mixture of theory and practical (tanning, handling different leathers and examining deterioration problems). Each aspect of leather production is explored in both a theoretical and practical way, and explained in relation to deterioration processes and resultant care and conservation problems. Participants will have opportunities to try some of the production methods using both modern and traditional techniques. Experienced professionals are on-hand to answer questions and the course takes place in an informal group, where students are encouraged to take part and get involved. Lab coats, gloves, boots and other necessary PPE will be provided. Please note the course does not cover conservation treatments or techniques

Participants: This course is aimed at conservators, curators and other museum professionals with responsibility for collections which include historic leather items, who wish to understand leather making processes and common deterioration problems found in historic leather objects. Those students who attended the course in 2014 and 2015 found it to be immensely useful as well as enjoyable.

Cost - UKP495 tuition only. An accommodation list will be available shortly. For further information or to book a place on this course please contact by email:

Yvette Fletcher, Head of Conservation, The Leather Conservation Centre, lcc@northampton.ac.uk
WET ORGANIC ARCHAEOLOCAL MATERIALS WORKING GROUP (WOAM) LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

NOMINATION FORM

Criteria

4) Distinguished service to the field of wet organic archaeological materials over the course of the nominee’s professional career

5) Exceptional contributions with significant impact to the functioning or advancement of the study, treatment and preservation of wet organic materials

6) Dedicated and sustained service to wet organic archaeological materials. This may include: service as a coordinator, assistant coordinator or as chair of one of the local arrangements committees; sustained service as a peer-reviewer for the conference proceedings; service as an editor for one or more conference proceedings.

Nominee__________________________________________________________
Address:_____________________________________________________________________
Email:_____________________________________________________________________

Proposer:_________________________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________________________
Email:_____________________________________________________________________

Sponsors:
1)_____________________________________________________________________
2)_____________________________________________________________________

How to Nominate

1) Please fill out the fields above and write a letter of support listing the qualifications of the nominee and addressing the criteria below

2) Find two additional sponsors who must also write letters of support

3) Submit all of the materials to the WOAM Coordinator via email (ewilliams@cwf.org)

Deadline: Feb 15, 2016