

The London Archaeologist Association

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2025.

Reference and administrative details of the Charity, its Trustees and Advisers

Registered charity number: 262851

Official address: 117 Cholmley Gardens
London NW6 1UP

Website: www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk.

Bankers: **CAF Bank Ltd**
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent, ME19 4JQ
Santander UK plc
2 Triton Square, Regent's Place,
London, NW1 3AN

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year ended 31 December 2025, and up to the date of this report:

Chairman: Les Capon (elected as an Ordinary Member, May 2023)

Officers:

Managing Editor Peter Rowsome

Joint Editors Jenny Hall

Diana Briscoe

Secretary Helen Chittock (elected May 2024)

Treasurer Jacqueline Mellows

Membership Secretary Jo Udall

Communications Officer Helen Johnston

Ordinary Members of the Publication Committee:

Natasha Billson (elected May 2023)

Alistair Douglas (elected May 2023)

Brigid Geist (elected May 2023)

Daniel Nesbitt (elected May 2023)

Alison Telfer (elected May 2023).

Assistants to the Publication Committee

Andrew Reynolds (ratified May 2023)

Victoria Ziegler (ratified May 2023)

Clive Orton (co-opted annually as Editor Emeritus)

Structure, Governance and Management Governing Document

The London Archaeologist Association was registered as a charity on 16 March 1972. Its governing document comprises a Constitution adopted on 1 May 1971 and amended on 10 February 1972, 15 May 2001, 7 May 2002, 22 May 2007, 20 May 2008, 12 May 2016 and 16 May 2019.

Membership of the Association is open to any person or organisation throughout the world. Members are required to pay an annual subscription. The current membership rate is £22 for the UK, £30 for Europe Zones 1–3, and £40 for the rest of the world.

The Publication Committee is empowered by the Constitution to manage the affairs of the Association. The Officers of the Committee are Trustees for the purposes of charity law. The Committee comprises six or seven Officers (Managing Editor, Editor or two Joint Editors, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, and Communications Officer) plus up to six ordinary members elected annually.

Appointment of the Committee

All members of the Committee are proposed for election or re-election at each Annual General Meeting. Vacancies for Officers and Ordinary Committee members are advertised in *London Archaeologist* and on the Association's website. Nominations for Ordinary Committee members are also taken from the floor during Annual General Meetings.

The Committee can co-opt additional members during the year and these co-opted members may then be proposed for election at the following Annual General Meeting if there is a vacancy. Ordinary Committee members may not serve for more than three consecutive years.

Risk Management

The Committee regularly reviews the major risks to which the charity is exposed. The significant external risk is a reduction in membership, which constitutes the main income. However, this risk is minimised because each member's payment is received before their subscription commences for the periodical *London Archaeologist*, the printing of which is the charity's major expense. Internal risks are minimised by control procedures for the authorisation of external payments. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they still meet the needs of the charity.

Organisation

The Committee, which meets each year in January, April, July and October, receives full reports from the Officers. The Committee makes the strategic and tactical decisions about the current and future direction of the charity. The Officers manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. Committee members are kept informed by electronic communications of all important actions made by Officers on behalf of the Committee.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Having reviewed the objects of the Association to ensure that they reflected its public benefit, the Committee recommended amendments to the Constitution which were agreed in May 2008. Subsequently, when considering any activities, the Trustees have kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARITY are the advancement of the study of archaeology among the public, in particular to:

- a) publish interim excavation reports and articles concerned with the archaeology and history of the London region
- b) inform and promote the study and practice of archaeology and history of the London region and to foster all aspects of education in these subjects at all levels
- c) act as a unifying focus for London archaeologists and provide an independent forum for all points of view.

THE PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF THE CHARITY are:

- the publication four times a year of *London Archaeologist*. Copies are mailed to members. Back issues are sold to individuals and organisations, and binders are sold to store a complete volume of 12 issues. To extend the benefit provided by the publication of archaeological research and information over 50

years, access is provided online via ADS to all back issues, including the Round-ups and Indices that are more than two years old.

- the annual publication of the *London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up* which lists all fieldwork projects undertaken in the London region during the previous year. The *Round-up* also includes a bibliography listing all publications during the previous year that are relevant to the London region.
- the presentation of an Annual Lecture, held in conjunction with the AGM, on a subject of interest to London archaeologists. The lecture is open to all members of the public and admission is free.
- the award of a biennial London Archaeology Prize for the best publication during the previous two years related to the archaeology of Greater London.
- the award of occasional grants to aid the publication of research and study on the archaeology of London, and representation on CoLAT (City of London Archaeological Trust), which awards grants for assistance with publication.
- representation on the London regional group of the Council for British Archaeology (CBA London), and participation in the CBA's Festival of Archaeology (FoA) and attendance at the annual archaeological and local history conferences organised by London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (LAMAS), in order to promote archaeology to more people, and to provide information and educational activities.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The main priorities for the year were to continue to promote archaeology, mainly through membership and readership of *London Archaeologist*. The primary means employed were broadening the appeal of the magazine, participating in educational events and forums, working with other archaeological bodies and exploiting the internet as a means of access for readers and researchers.

Publications

Four issues of *London Archaeologist* were distributed during 2025 to individual and institutional subscribers. The *London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 2023* was circulated with the Winter 2025 issue.

London Archaeologist is available to readers in major London libraries and many university and college libraries. Most copies of the magazine are distributed in the UK, but a proportion also go all over the world to countries such as USA, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and several European nations.

Maintaining membership of *London Archaeologist*

Membership levels have continued to drop after the price was raised in 2022: the average for the year being 550. The Trustees have continued to advertise a lower rate for under-25s at UK addresses and a special Christmas gift subscription for the UK only. The majority of payments are now made online.

Marketing efforts continue to re-enlist former members, and recruit new ones, through events and the CBA online shop. Our new PayPal option for subscriptions via the website has undoubtedly made it easier for people to join on impulse and is proving popular with renewing members. Another 47 new members joined while the Winter 2026 issue was in preparation, as a result of publicity given to LA by an independent source on the internet.

Publications online

London Archaeologist makes available online all publications more than two years old through the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) in York. All such issues of the magazine from its foundation in 1968 are available free of charge, providing an exceptionally popular and useful resource to the archaeological community, and enabling the Association to increase both the accessibility of information and readership.

56th Annual General Meeting and Annual Lecture

The 56th Annual General Meeting was held in person and online via Zoom. The Annual Lecture was presented by Gustav Milne and Angela Broomfield. They spoke about ***New Research on the City Foreshore***, looking at illustrated examples of the erosion-threatened issues faced by archaeological sites on the Thames foreshore, and responses involving co-operation between local societies and UCL. There were 17 people in the room and another 41 attended via Zoom.

Editorship

The Joint Editors, Jenny Hall and Diana Briscoe, successfully continued to share editorial and production tasks. Clive Orton is co-opted to the committee annually as Editor Emeritus.

Grants

Due to changes in criteria for the grants scheme administered by the City of London Archaeological Trust, it is no longer feasible to have grants funded by the Association administered solely by CoLAT, but the Association is represented on CoLAT to aid in awarding their annual grants. Both the giving of grants from any Association surplus, and the means of distributing such funds, is being kept under review.

Marketing

Much of such activities were carried out online. The Communications Officer has done a lot of Tweeting and updating the website with news items and this appears to be generating a small but steady flow of new members. The Membership Secretary successfully ran a stall at the LAMAS Archaeological conference in March 2025 and at the LAMAS Local History conference in November 2025.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity had an operating loss of **£1,749** in 2025, compared to a loss of £488 in 2024. These were mostly due to a reducing membership and increasing print and postage costs. Because of this, the Committee has launched a membership recruitment drive in 2025–26 with a new recruitment leaflet and further outreach to social media.

Bank funds not required for day-to-day expenditure are held in a bank deposit account at CAF Bank Limited, a subsidiary of the Charities Aid Foundation. The bank deposit account earns interest at a commercial rate.

Almost all outgoing payments are now made online from the CAFCash account. New subscriptions are being pointed to this account, with transfers of funds from the Santander account being made once or twice per year.

In 2025, there was a small loss on the small equity investment that the charity made as a hedge against future inflation, which brought us back to a loss of **£2,475**. However, the charity continues to be financially strong with Unrestricted Reserves of **£54,059** at 31 December.

Investment policy

The charity has an investment in the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund as a medium-term hedge against future inflation in the United Kingdom economy. At 31 December 2025, this original investment of £10,000 was valued at **£32,619**.

Reserves policy

The Committee's reserves policy is to retain surplus funds of about £25,000 so that production of *London Archaeologist* can be continued if any unforeseen event occurs. £30,000 of these reserves are invested in a managed equity fund as a hedge against inflation. The remainder of the reserve funds are retained in an accessible bank deposit account. The £5,000 Gift Aid windfall from 2009 has been retained in reserves until a suitable charitable objective is identified.

Independent Examiner

The charity is not required to have an Independent Examination of the annual accounts because it is a small charity. The charity operates internal financial controls that protect its assets.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

The Committee expects to continue its publication programme and related activities. It will be undertaking activities to retain and expand membership. The redesigned website will continue to be developed to provide additional facilities, and collaborative activities are planned in conjunction with other archaeological bodies in London in order to raise the profile of the magazine and attract both members and new sources of material for the magazine.

Approved by the Committee at its meeting on 28 April 2026, and signed on its behalf by:

Helen Chittock
Secretary

THE LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST ASSOCIATION

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2025

Income	2025	2024
Income from donations and legacies:	£	£
Subscriptions	12,829	14,718
Gift Aid	0	0
Donations	688	900
	13,517	15,618
Income from charitable activities:		
Advertising in journal	95	0
Back issues of journal	88	130
Merchandise	45	123
Other Income	231	179
	459	432
Investment income		
Bank Interest	368	558
Total income	14,344	16,608
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities:	2025	2024
	£	£
Publications		
Printing	9,143	7,555
UK postage	4,753	5,846
Foreign postage	999	647
Binders	0	274
Archaeology Prize	2	438
	14,897	14,760
Support costs:		
Other postage	0	170
Stationery	171	241
Website	187	144
Other expenses	428	60
Bank Service Charges	70	0
Governance	341	217
	1,197	832
Total expenditure	16,094	15,592
Net income/(expenditure)	(1,750)	1,016
Adjustments to reserves	246	0
Investment gains /(loss)	(725)	1,795
Net movement in funds	(2,229)	2,811
Total funds at 1 January 2025	56,288	56,158
Total funds at 31 December 2025	54,059	56,288