

51st Annual Report (Interim) of the London Archaeologist Association

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the AGM, which had been due to be held at the Institute of Archaeology on Thursday 14 May 2020, was cancelled. This Interim Report was prepared in the light of this and the untimely death of the Treasurer, Alastair Ainsworth, and the Annual Report will be presented for ratification at the next AGM.

1. Chairman's introduction

As Chairman, Les Capon noted that the well-attended 50th-Anniversary Conference of 6th October 2018 had spawned the Proceedings volume which was published just before the Covid-19 lockdown. Relevant members of the Publications Committee have worked hard to fulfil orders and get copies of the volume out to those who ordered them online under the auspices of Vicki Ridgeway, PCA, and Ju Udall by post, at a time when just getting to the Post Office proved to be difficult.

We have seen a major change in the make-up of the Publications Committee after Becky Wallower, our long-term Secretary, stood down at the May 2019 AGM and Rosalind Morris took up the role of Secretary. Helen Johnston was able to take over the duties of the new post of Communications Officer. *London Archaeologist* has embraced new technology and ways of accessing the *London Archaeologist* archives, building on our new website launched last year. This was timely in that we have entered upon a new collaborative project with the Layers of London website which has proceeded to enter articles from the *London Archaeologist* magazine archive held by ADS, allowing links to be made and thus making past articles more accessible.

The Annual Lecture, which usually takes place after the AGM, was held as a webinar and was viewable by 110 people who had booked places online. It was well received and created a pleasing amount of Facebook and Twitter reactions. The film is now on the *London Archaeologist* website. Adam Corsini of Layers of London is to be thanked for all his hard work on the project.

The Chairman noted that, in the last year, the Publications Committee had worked well together to produce excellent quarterly magazines and a conference publication, and to continue to promote the archaeology of London. He thanked the dedicated people who volunteer to run the magazine, and who do a remarkable job while balancing this with their working lives and roles in other organisations, to ensure the smooth running of the magazine. He particularly thanked the Membership Secretary, the Joint Editors, and the late Treasurer. Finally, he thanked the membership for their continued support in the dissemination of information on London's heritage.

Addendum

The post of Treasurer is currently vacant due to the death of Alastair Ainsworth on 6 May 2020. A shorter version of his obituary can be found on the website and a fuller obituary will feature in the Summer 2020 issue of the magazine.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 19 May 2019 at 7pm

These are posted on the website and be will be ratified at the next AGM.

3. Editors' Report

Nine features and 14 research articles have been published, but there were few research articles in the pipeline and more submissions from the archaeological units, as well as freelancers and undergraduate and graduate students would be welcome. The printers, Charlesworth, have been helpful with any last-minute issues, and the Editors have been given unfailing support by the Publication Committee. We would like to thank Becky Wallower for her work on features, as well as Richard Gilpin, Lucy Whittingham and Clive Orton for proof-reading; Dan Nesbitt for the 2018 Fieldwork Round-up; Bruce Watson with Jonny Gardner for the 2018 Bibliography; and Tracy Wellman for design support. We continue to welcome books for review.

A new venture for LA has been the publication of the conference proceedings – *London Archaeologist- Fifty years of London's Archaeology: Papers from the 50th Anniversary Conference* – a 171-page compendium of most of the lectures given by speakers at the LA@50 Conference. The Committee wishes to thank Vicki Ridgeway for her unstinting work as lead editor in order to get the volume published for sale in time for the LAMAS conference (which was then cancelled). Copies can be bought online or by post.

4. Treasurer's Report: to receive the Accounts for 2019

The late Treasurer, Alastair Ainsworth, had prepared and presented the financial statements for the year ended 30 November 2019. These were agreed at the January 2020 Publications Committee meeting and the financial statement was passed by the Committee. His view was that the Association was in good order financially. As usual, income had been primarily from subscriptions and Gift Aid, and costs were mainly for printing and postage.

5. Annual Report: to receive the Annual Reports for 2019

This report, on the occasion of the cancellation of the AGM, is to be posted on the *London Archaeologist* website until such time as the Annual Report can be ratified. The Accounts for 2019 were agreed by the Committee in January 2020 and this Interim Report was compiled in May 2020 and will be put forward for acceptance at the next AGM.

6. Communication Officer's Report

With Helen Johnston now in post, the work of the Communications Officer has been much appreciated. The level of social media has increased and online engagement including Twitter has improved. The increase in followers on Facebook and Twitter outnumber the number of subscribers.

7. Election of Officers of the Committee

Following the advice of the Charity Commission to other charities, it has been decided, due to the unprecedented pandemic and the cancellation of the May 2020 AGM, that the serving Officers of the Committee should continue without re-election.

8. Election of Ordinary Members

Again, the following Ordinary Members will remain in post until the next AGM. Dr Jonathan Gardner has left London and resigned from the Committee in January 2020 and we thank him for his input. Alison Telfer has been co-opted on to the Committee, so that she can organise the *London Archaeologist* Publication Prize being held later in 2020.

9. AOB

Please let the Secretary know via the website if there is any matter outstanding that should be included in the final report that will be presented at the next AGM.

The Annual Lecture was held as a webinar. Adam Corsini spoke to *The Layers of London Project: putting archaeology on the map*. He described how to discover past excavations online previously published in *London Archaeologist* over the last 50 years. They are currently being mapped by a team of trained volunteers on to the Layers of London website, a free online, crowd-sourced mapping resource. Summaries of over 414 articles, previously published in *London Archaeologist*, have now been mapped online and there are about 60 more issues of the magazine to be prepared for inclusion. The records provide a link to the downloadable pdfs on ADS, making the articles even more accessible and putting them in their geographical context. Other bodies, such as Museum of London Archaeology and Historic England, have also added archaeological material. He demonstrated the methods of sourcing *London Archaeologist* articles and encouraged the audience to test it and to send him any comments. Twitter comments and retweets that appeared during the presentation expressed amazement at the full extent of the archaeological records now available on Layers of London.

Rosalind Morris, Secretary,
Diana Briscoe and Jenny Hall, Joint Editors
14 May 2020

THE LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST ASSOCIATION

**SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2019**

	2019	2018
	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
From donations and legacies:		
Subscriptions	12,928	11,823
Gift Aid	1,553	1,525
Donations	308	361
	14,789	13,709
From charitable activities:		
Advertising in publications	80	-
Conference	-	2,831
Back issues of journal	186	228
Merchandise	213	306
Copyright fees	-	27
Sales of journal	281	714
	760	4,106
Investment income	59	22
Total income	15,608	17,837
<u>Expenditure</u>	£	£
Expenditure on raising funds	1,140	1,426
Charitable activities:		
Publications	14,010	14,250
Back issues of journal	-	-
Binders	186	145
Archaeology Prize	-	316
50 th Anniversary	55	6,384
Festival of Archaeology	23	-
	14,274	21,095
Governance	439	496
Total expenditure	15,853	23,017
Net (expenditure)	(245)	(5,180)
Investment gains	3,137	1,209
Net movement in funds	2,892	(3,971)
Total funds at 1 December 2018	58,589	62,560
Total funds at 30 November 2019	61,481	58,589

The Summary of Financial Activities is an extract from the full annual accounts of the Association