

The London Archaeologist Association

Minutes of 53rd AGM

The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday 19 May 2022 at 7.00 pm.

Six officers of the Committee and approximately 44 people were present.
(due to it being online, it was not possible to discern between members and non-members).

NB Due to the AGM meeting being held online, it was not possible to have proposers and seconders for each point to be agreed but a series of Zoom polls enabled attendees to vote.

1. Apologies for absence

Jenny Hall, Jacqui Mellows and Jo Udall apologised for their absence.

2. Chairman's Introduction

This had been another busy year with the regular production of the quarterly magazine and the 2020 Fieldwork Round-up and Bibliography. These have been produced in the usual way but the London Archaeologist Association also continues to embrace new technology and a different way of accessing both the LA AGM and annual Lecture on Zoom. The LA archives are now both on ADS and on Layers of London where all our articles up to and including Volume 15 can be found.

The membership numbers have dropped slightly but there are still some 750 members.

He noted that in the last year, the committee has continued to work well together over Zoom to maintain the high quality and standards in order to produce an excellent magazine, and to continue to promote the archaeology of London, whichever borough it may be from.

He thanked the dedicated people who volunteer to run the magazine, the Membership Secretary, Joint Editors, the Treasurer, Secretary and the Communications Officer, for ensuring the smooth running of the magazine at a difficult time. They do a remarkable job whilst balancing this with their working lives and roles in other organisations. He also thanked the proof-readers who do sterling work on the proofs.

He thanked the membership for their continued support, and invited any non-members present to join and support LA in disseminating information on London's Heritage, now and in the future.

3. Minutes of the 52nd Annual General Meeting, held on 20 May 2021 at 7.00 pm

The minutes were agreed by the Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4. Editors' Report

On behalf of the Joint Editors, Diana Briscoe reported that 14 features, 11 research articles and 5 book reviews had been published in the past year. There were only a few research articles in the pipeline and more submissions would be welcome. The printers, Charlesworth, have been helpful with any last-minute issues, and the Editors had been given unfailing support by the Publication Committee.

She thanked Becky Wallower for her work on features, as well as Richard Gilpin, Lucy Whittingham and Clive Orton for proof-reading; Daniel Nesbitt and Bruce Watson for the 2020 Fieldwork Round-up and Bibliography; and Tracy Wellman for design support.

5. Communication Officer's Report

Helen Johnston reported that 110 had attended the online annual lecture, Stephanie Ostrich spoke to 'Heritage Action Zones: heritage-led regeneration in London's historic high streets'.

There had been a steady increase in social media with nearly 2,500 followers on Facebook and nearly 1,000 on Twitter. Some minor changes had been made to the website to make it easier to use.

6. Treasurer's Report: to receive the Statement of Financial Activities for 2021

The financial statement for the financial year ended 30 November 2021 was prepared by the Treasurer, Jacqui Mellows. The Association was generally in good order financially. As usual, income had been primarily from subscriptions and Gift Aid, and costs were mainly for printing and postage. The Financial Report has been posted online for information.

The statement was agreed by the Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record.

7. Trustees' Report: to receive the Annual Report for 2021

The Trustees Annual Report for 2021 had been agreed by the Trustees and posted online for information..

The Report was agreed by Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record.

9. Election of Officers of the Committee

Jenny Hall and Diana Briscoe (Joint Editors), Peter Rowsome (Managing Editor), Jo Udall (Membership Secretary), Helen Johnston (Communications Officer), Rosalind Morris (Secretary) and Jacqui Mellows (Treasurer) offered themselves for re-election.

These had been proposed *en bloc* by the Publications Committee

All Officers were duly elected by Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record.

10. Election of Ordinary Members

To elect up to a total of six ordinary members of the Committee:

- a) The following Ordinary Members had been elected in 2021: Alison Telfer and Brigid Geist. They offered themselves for re-election.
- b) Daniel Nesbitt, who produces the Fieldwork Round-up each year, and who has been co-opted for the past year, also offered himself for election.

They were nominated *en bloc* by the committee.

Members were duly elected by Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record.

Les Capon, Natasha Billson and Alistair Douglas were thanked for their hard work of behalf of the Association. No nominations were received for new members and, as a consequence, Les Capon, Natasha Billson and Alistair Douglas were later co-opted for the rest of the year.

11. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.15 pm.

ANNUAL LECTURE

The Annual Lecture was presented by Antonietta Lerz of MOLA who spoke on 'From Riches to Rags: 2,000 years of settlement at Landmark Court, Southwark'.

Antonietta described the site, located on the south side of Southwark Street, bounded by earlier sites at Redcross Way and the Cross Bones burial ground. Previous work in the 1980s had found substantial high status Roman buildings with tessellated floors, painted wall plaster and partial hypocaust system. Work for the Jubilee Line had also revealed Roman buildings and a box well. The site lay on a gravel island bisected by the Southwark Street stream. The area was prone to flooding until the land was reclaimed.

There were three Roman buildings with rooms of varying quality. Some had plain red tessellated floors. One building had stone walls with different flooring depending on the building's use. One room had an *opus signinum* floor while the main room had remains of a mosaic panel. Another room was laid as gravel and may have been an inner courtyard. There was also evidence of painted wall plaster. Later activity in the 3rd century revealed two more elaborate mosaic floors, one with parallels in Trier and Luxemburg and a larger example which showed features similar to other London mosaics. In the late Roman period, the site was used as a cemetery – over 80 burials, mainly in coffins but with few grave goods.

In the 17th century the site lay in formal gardens. Brick-built houses was constructed between the 17th and 19th centuries. One house is recorded as lived in by a dealer in iron, rag and bone. By the 20th century, the site was densely populated.

Rosalind Morris, Secretary
22nd May 2022

THE LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST ASSOCIATION
SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 2021

<u>Income</u>	2021 £	2020 £
Income from donations and legacies:		
Subscriptions	13,119	15,785
Gift Aid	—	—
Donations	317	214
	13,436	15,999
Income from charitable activities:		
Advertising in publications	80	—
Back issues of journal	199	107
Merchandise	150	22
Sales of journal proceedings	—	456
50th Anniversary	—	1,600
Other income	331	—
	760	2,185
Investment income		
Bank Interest	1	34
Total income	14,197	18,218
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Expenditure on raising funds	—	—
Charitable activities:		
Publications	12,224	11,380
Indexing expenses	395	—
Binders	—	500
Archaeology Prize	166	—
50 th Anniversary	—	1,779
	12,785	13,659
Support costs:		
Postage	2,175	1,923
Stationery	562	93
Website	156	6
Bank Charges	72	—
Other expenses	370	—
	3,335	2,022
Governance	373	—
Total expenditure	16,493	15,681
Net income/(expenditure)	(2,296)	2,537
Investment gains	4,392	2,104
Net movement in funds	2,096	4,642
Total funds at 1 December 2020	56,837	61,443
Total funds at 30 November 2021	58,145	56,837

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

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 November 2021.

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: **Santander UK plc**
BBAM, Bridle Road,
Merseyside L30 4GB
CAF Bank Ltd
25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year ended 30 November 2021 and up to the date of this report:

Chairman: Les Capon

Officers:

Managing Editor	Peter Rowsome
Joint Editors	Jenny Hall Diana Briscoe
Secretary	Rosalind Morris
Treasurer	Jacqueline Mellows
Membership Secretary	Jo Udall
Communications Officer	Helen Johnson

Ordinary Members of the Publication Committee:

Natasha Billson (elected May 2019, re-elected 2020 & 2021)
Les Capon (elected May 2019, re-elected 2020 & 2021)
Alistair Douglas (elected May 2019, re-elected 2020 & 2021)
Brigid Geist (elected May 2021, eligible to 2023)
Sinead Marshall (elected May 2017, stood down May 2021)
Daniel Nesbitt (elected May 2017, re-elected 2018 to 2021, co-opted July 2021)
Alison Telfer (elected May 2021, eligible to 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 £16 for the UK and Europe and £25 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 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 and are for sale, on a sale or return basis, at the Museum of London. 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 to all back issues 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 in other events in London, and in the annual archaeological conference 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 the year 2020–21 to individual and institutional subscribers. The *London Fieldwork and Publication Round-up 2020* was circulated with the Autumn 2021 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 are fairly stable at some 750 members, having increased somewhat during the 50th anniversary year. Marketing efforts continue to re-enlist former members, and recruit new ones, through events and the CBA online shop. To help encourage membership and to achieve the charity's aims and objectives for those on low incomes, the Trustees have maintained UK subscription rates at the current level since 2004, and all other activities are free.

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.

52nd Annual General Meeting and Annual Lecture

The 52nd Annual General Meeting was held online via Zoom. The Annual Lecture was presented via Zoom by Stephanie Ostrich, leader of the Walworth Heritage Action Zone. She spoke on 'Heritage Action Zones (HAZ): heritage-led regeneration in London's historic high streets'. Approximately 70 persons attended.

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most 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.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity had an operating loss of £2,380 in 2021, compared to an operating profit of £2,537 in 2020. 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.

During the year, a CAFCash account was opened with CAF Bank Ltd to enable online payments to be made more easily. New subscriptions are being pointed to this account, with transfers of funds from the Santander account being made two or three times per year.

In 2021, there was a gain on the small equity investment that the charity made as a hedge against future inflation. The charity is financially strong with Unrestricted Reserves of £56,837, which includes a £15,824 gain on the equity investment.

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 30 November 2021, this original investment of £10,000 had grown to £30,216.

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. £10,000 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, such as Festival of Archaeology events, 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 20 April 2022, and signed on its behalf by:

Rosalind Morris
Secretary