

Minutes of 52nd AGM (2021) of The London Archaeologist Association

Minutes

The meeting was held via Zoom on Thursday 20 May 2021 at 7.00 pm.

Seven officers of the Committee and approximately 62 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 poll enabled attendees to either vote for, against or abstain.

1. Apologies for absence

Peter Rowsome, Vicki Ridgeway and Jo Udall apologised for their absence.

2. Chairman's Introduction

The Chairman, Les Capon, apologised for the fact it had not been possible to hold the AGM in person in 2020 and although the Annual Lecture had been held online, the unprecedented circumstances had prevented the AGM itself being held.

He was pleased to see the publication of the Proceedings volume in March 2020. Alison Telfer and Peter Rowsome had organised the biennial LA Publication Prize in 2020 and he thanked the judges who had 9 publications to read through. The deserved winners were Warwick Rodwell and David Neal for their seminal work on *The Cosmatesque Mosaics of Westminster Abbey*.

All things must change, and London Archaeologist embraced this through new technology and a different way of accessing both the LA AGM and Annual Lecture (on Zoom) and the LA archives, including the LA presence on the Layers of London website where all the articles up to Volume 15 can now be found. He thanked Adam Corsini and his team of volunteers who worked hard to get the articles online and to Adam himself who gave the 2020 Annual Lecture with a very useful guide to using the Layers of London. This can still be seen on the website.

He noted that in the last year, the committee has continued to work well together but in a virtual way, to maintain the high quality and standards you have come to expect to produce an excellent publication, 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 for doing a remarkable job whilst balancing this with their working lives and roles in other organisations. He also thanked the Membership Secretary, Joint Editors, the new Treasurer, Secretary and the Communications Officer for ensuring the smooth running of the magazine at a difficult time. 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 50th Annual General Meeting, held on 16 May 2019 at 7.00 pm

To confirm the 2019 Minutes - Of those who voted, the results were: 31 for, 0 against and 9 abstentions.

The minutes were agreed *nem con* as a true record. There were no matters arising.

4. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting 2020, [cancelled]

The Committee's report replaced the Minutes.

To confirm the 2020 Committee's Annual report - Of those who voted, the results were: 29 for, 0 against and 12 abstentions.

The minutes were agreed *nem con* as a true record. There were no matters arising.

5. Editors' Report

On behalf of the Joint Editors, Diana Briscoe reported that 16 features and 11 research articles had been published, but there are 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 2019 Fieldwork Round-up and Bibliography; and Tracy Wellman for design support.

6. Communication Officer's Report

Helen Johnston reported that 110 had attended the online annual lecture, Adam Corsini talking about the Layers of London project, and, as a consequence, the Association had set up a Youtube channel for the first time – this lecture received 257 viewings in the first year. There had been a steady increase in social media with over 2000 followers on Facebook and nearly 800 on Twitter. The website had been visited by about 600 users every quarter.

7. Treasurer's Report: to receive the Statement of Financial Activities for 2019 and 2020

The financial statement for the financial year ended 30 November 2019 prepared by the late Treasurer, Alastair Ainsworth while the financial statements for the financial year ended 30 November 2020 were prepared by the new Treasurer, Jacqui Mellows. The Association was generally in good order financially, although extra costs had been incurred due to the publication of the conference proceedings volume. As usual, income had been primarily from subscriptions and Gift Aid, and costs were mainly for printing and postage.

Both Financial Reports had been posted online for information.

- a) To receive the financial statement for 2019 – Of those who voted, the results were: 28 for, 0 against and 11 abstentions.

The statement was agreed *nem con* as a true record.

- b) To receive the financial statement for 2020 – Of those who voted, the results were: 31 for, 0 against and 11 abstentions.

The statement was agreed *nem con* as a true record.

8. Annual Report: to receive the Annual Reports for 2019 and 2020

The Annual Reports had been posted online for information. Both Reports for 2019 and 2020 had been agreed by the Committee.

- a) To receive the Annual Report for 2019 – Of those who voted, the results were: 32 for, 0 against and 8 abstentions.

The Report was agreed *nem con* as a true record.

- b) To receive the Annual Report for 2020 – Of those who voted, the results were: 31 for, 0 against and 11 abstentions.

The Report was agreed *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 Johnstone (Communications Officer), Rosalind Morris (Secretary) offered themselves for re-election and Jacqui Mellows (Treasurer) to be elected.

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

Of those who voted, the results were: 40 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

Officers were duly elected *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 were elected in 2019 and offer themselves for re-election, none having served for more than three consecutive years: Natasha Billson, Les Capon and Alistair Douglas. Alison Telfer, who was co-opted in 2020, also offered herself for election.

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

Of those who voted, the results were: 42 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

Members were duly elected *nem con.* as a true record.

b) Brigid Geist was nominated from the floor by Helen Johnston and seconded by Les Capon.

Of those who voted, the results were: 42 for, 0 against and 3 abstentions.

She was duly elected *nem con.* as a true record.

We would like to thank outgoing members, Sinead Marshall, Vicki Ridgeway and Daniel Nesbitt for their hard work on behalf of the Association. The committee have since co-opted Daniel Nesbitt to work on the Fieldwork Round-up for 2020.

11. AOB

There being no other business, the meeting was declared closed at 7.20 pm.

The Annual Lecture was presented by Stephanie Ostrich, leader of the Walworth Heritage Action Zone and spoke on 'Heritage Action Zones (HAZ): heritage-led regeneration in London's historic high streets'.

Stephanie explained that these zones aimed to generate economic growth. Sixty zones had been selected including London boroughs, Walworth and Sutton. The criteria for zones considered heritage at risk, areas of deprivation but needed local partners to deliver the projects. She then looked at Walworth which had Saxon origins, then became a rural village before a boom in development in the 18th and 19th centuries. Walworth's aims were to rediscover its historic urban village and to work with local people and partners to raise the role of heritage and to protect its special character and social vitality.

Rosalind Morris, Secretary
22nd May 2021