

## **The London Archaeologist Association Minutes of 56<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

The hybrid meeting was held in person at the Institute of Archaeology (UCL) and via Zoom on Thursday 22 May 2025 at 7.00 pm.

In total 17 people were present in the room and 41 people were present on Zoom during the AGM. Non-members were asked to abstain from voting.

Committee members present in the room: Diana Briscoe, Helen Johnston, Jenny Hall, Joanna Udall.

Committee members present on Zoom: Helen Chittock, Jacqui Mellows, Dan Nesbitt, Clive Orton.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Natasha Bilson, Les Capon, Brigid Geist, Peter Rowsome and Victoria Ziegler sent apologies for their absence.

### **2. Chairman's Introduction**

The Chairman's Introduction was delivered by Diana Briscoe in the absence of the Chairman, Les Capon.

Diana welcomed all to the meeting, both in the room and on Zoom. She noted that London Archaeologist has had another busy year, publishing quarterly magazines and the 2023 fieldwork roundup in their usual print formats. In addition, London Archaeologist's digital archives are complete to the end of volume 16 and available via the Archaeology Data Service.

Membership of London Archaeologist has dropped slightly and is currently around 600. Annual UK subs are currently £22 (£18 for under 25s).

The committee has continued to work together to produce the magazine and promote archaeology in London. Diana thanked all members of the publication committee for their contributions. Special thanks were given to Membership Secretary Joanna Udall for her excellent work. Further special thanks were also given to Jacqui Mellows for her work as Treasurer and Helen Johnston for her work on social media as Communications Officer.

Finally, Diana encouraged those present online who are not current members to subscribe.

### **3. Minutes of the 55th Annual General Meeting**

- a. To confirm the Committee's Report

*First motion: to confirm the Committee's Report*

Votes for: 23. Votes against: 0. Abstentions: 35.

The report was agreed in the room and by Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record.

- b. Matters arising from minutes

No matters arising.

#### **4. Editors' Report**

On behalf of the Joint Editors, Jenny Hall reported that 17 features, nine research articles, three book reviews, three obituaries, and one letter have been published in the last four issues of Volume 17. As ever, there are only a few research articles in the pipeline and more submissions from the archaeological units, freelancers and students would always be welcome.

The printers of London Archaeologist, Charlesworth, were taken over in the summer by TJ Books Ltd, who are based in Cornwall. Fortunately, our Account Manager, Clare Stoppard, has retained her position and has been of great assistance in the inevitable turmoil. It was because of this transfer of production that the dispatch of the Autumn 2024 issue was delayed, but the mail-out of the Winter 2025 issue ran smoothly. However, TJ Books have now been purchased by Clay & Co Ltd, a very large printing company based in Suffolk, and it was the financial transition period into Clay & Co's account, which appears to have caused yet another late mail-out for the Spring 2025 issue. The editors are reserving judgement on this latest incarnation of our printers, but if they fail to improve on dispatch, we shall start looking for an alternative.

Jenny reported that the editors have been given unfailing support by the Publication Committee. She thanked Becky Wallower for her work on features, as well as Gill Dunn and Clive Orton for proof reading; Daniel Nesbitt for compiling the 2023 Fieldwork Round-up; Bruce Watson for compiling the 2023 Bibliography; and, as ever, Tracy Wellman for design support.

The editors are now working on issue No. 9 of Volume 17. Jenny noted that editors hope London Archaeologist members are enjoying the revised design – the editors try very hard to make each issue something which is a pleasure to read as well as being a record of past works and informative about upcoming items of interest.

#### **5. Communication Officer's Report**

Helen Johnston, the Communications Officer, reported that the London Archaeologist website and social media continue to be well used and engaged with. There have been 6600 unique visits to the website in 2024-25. At the time of the meeting there are 3000 Facebook followers and 261 Instagram followers, representing an increase in activity.

Helen has retired the magazine's X account and started a BlueSky account (as many archaeologists have done). The response to this move has been positive, with improved interactions. London Archaeologist also has a new LinkedIn account.

Helen noted that there are plans to change mechanisms of subscription to London Archaeologist to make it easier, which will likely lead to improved engagement.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

The financial statement for the financial year ended 31st December 2023 was prepared by the Treasurer, Jacqui Mellows and was presented in this meeting by Diana Briscoe. The Association is generally in good order financially. The figures in the report have been broken down to show the cost of printing, postage and other support costs.

As usual, income has been primarily from subscriptions and Gift Aid. Diana explains that we could be benefitting more from Gift Aid, and this is something that will be pursued in the future.

The Financial Report has been posted online for information.

*Second motion: to receive the Statement of Financial Activities for 2024*

Votes for 22. Votes against: 0. Abstentions: 36.

The report was agreed in the room and by Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record.

## **7. Trustees' Report**

The Trustees' Annual Report for 2024 has been agreed by the Trustees and posted online for information.

*Third motion: to receive the Report of the Trustees for 2024*

Votes for 22. Votes against: 0. Abstentions: 36.

The report was agreed in the room and by Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record.

## **8. Election of Officers**

Diana Briscoe (Joint Editor), Jenny Hall (Joint Editor), Helen Johnston (Communications Officer), Helen Chittock (Secretary), Jacqueline Mellows (Treasurer), Peter Rowsome (Managing Editor) and Jo Udall (Membership Secretary) offer themselves for re-election

*Fourth motion: to re-elect the Officers of the committee.*

Votes for: 23. Votes against: 0. Abstentions: 35.

The re-election of Officers was agreed in the room and by Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record.

## **9. Election of Ordinary Members**

The following Ordinary Members offered themselves for re-election: Les Capon (elected May 2023), Natasha Billson (elected May 2023), Alistair Douglas (elected May 2023), Brigid Geist (elected May 2024), Daniel Nesbitt (elected May 2022), Alison Telfer (elected May 2024).

The following Assistants to the Publication Committee offered themselves for re-election: Andrew Reynolds (ratified May 2023), Victoria Ziegler (ratified May 2023), Clive Orton (co-opted annually as Editor Emeritus).

*Fifth motion: to re-elect Ordinary Members and Assistants to the Publication Committee*

Votes for: 23. Votes against: 0. Abstentions: 35.

The re-election of Ordinary Members and Assistants to the Publication Committee was agreed in the room and by Zoom poll, *nem con*, as a true record.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Diana Briscoe noted the success of the 2025 London Archaeology prize competition and thanked Alison Telfer and Peter Rowsome for the co-ordination of the selection committee.

## **Annual Lecture**

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.