

Council for British Archaeology

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting (150th Council Meeting)

The Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday 9 February at 17:15 via Zoom. The meeting was chaired by Mr Ken Smith, Chair of Trustees. The CBA Executive Director, Mr Neil Redfern, and staff members were in attendance.

A recording of the AGM and the following de Cardi lecture can be watched at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h5HBfcahaoo>

1. Confirmation of appointments to the Board of Trustees, Chair and Vice-Chair of Trustees

This AGM marks the standing down of two CBA Trustees: Dr Simon Elliott and Mr Jeremy Taylor. We would like to offer our thanks to both of them for their hard work and commitment to the CBA during their time as Trustees.

The meeting is asked to vote on the election of Mr Phil Pollard to the role of Honorary Secretary. Mr Pollard was appointed as a Trustee at the 2022 AGM and was co-opted to the role of Hon. Secretary. In accordance with the CBA Articles of Association, the membership were asked to ratify Mr Pollard as CBA Hon. Secretary.

Members RATIFIED the co-optation of Mr Pollard as Hon Secretary.

The meeting was asked to ratify the election of Danika Parikh, Michael D'Aprix and Jeannette Plummer Sires as new Trustees of the CBA. As the number of candidates for election did not exceed the number of available places no ballot was required.

Trustee candidates nomination statements are available to read at <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/asset/1AB61C9C-613A-4623-B53EDC8B58E1A6DA/>

Members RATIFIED the election of the above Trustees.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 3rd February 2022

The Minutes of the 149th Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd February 2022 were APPROVED.

There were no matters arising.

3. Strategic overview from the Chair of the Trustees, Mr Ken Smith

Mr Smith reported on the events of the last year, including the ongoing impacts of the pandemic and the current economic crisis on the CBA and the wider sector, and the closures of university archaeology departments. He reflected on the need for the CBA and partner organisations such as ClfA to ensure ongoing communication between academic departments and commercial units to ensure a workforce of trained field archaeologists. He thanked members for their support and CBA staff for their work.

The Chair also thanked the outgoing Trustees and the outgoing editor of British Archaeology magazine, Mike Pitts, for their work.

4. Annual Trustees' Report and Financial Statements

Members were provided with access to the Annual Trustees' Report and Financial Statements in advance of the AGM.

The Trustees' Annual Report for 2020-2021 was APPROVED.

The Annual Trustees' Report is available to read at <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/asset/57C39291-EA6A-44D2-823050949982EC39/>

5. Membership and subscription rates 2023/24

The Board of Trustees have proposed that there will be no change in for Membership Rates for 2023/24, in recognition of the ongoing increased cost of living.

6. Election of Mr Francis Taylor as Honorary Vice-President of the CBA.

This February marks 30 year of Mr Taylor's support of the CBA and CBA Wessex in Trustee roles. Since his appointment as Chair of CBA Wessex in 1993, he has shared his knowledge and enthusiasm to the organisation, has contributed to fundraising through giving lectures, and has acted as expert witness in the ongoing discussions of the future of the Stonehenge landscape. He has been a longstanding member of the CBA Trustees Resources committee, and was Hon Treasurer from 2009-2012.

In recognition of Mr Taylor's long service to the CBA, the Board of Trustees proposed that Mr Taylor become an Hon Vice President.

Members APPROVED the Trustees nomination of Mr Taylor as an Hon Vice President of the CBA.

7. Executive Director's report on current and future activities

Mr Neil Redfern reported on the CBA's activities over the previous year and priorities for the coming year.

The CBA are working to the priorities set by the Business Plan for 2021-25.

There are 5 strands to the CBA's core activities:

Youth engagement – This includes the Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC) which is coordinated by the CBA and has nearly 80 branches nationwide. New branches have recently been opening, although the pandemic was a challenge due to closed venues and being unable to meet in person. An After Schools Club initiative has recently been launched to promote archaeology clubs within schools. A Youth Governance project has also begun, to bring young people into the governance of the CBA. In the coming year the CBA aims to establish a Youth Governance Board of 12 young people to help create activities for young people and eventually take an oversight role alongside that of the Board of Trustees.

National Amenity Society – The CBA has a formal role in the planning process, commenting on Listed Building applications. We also manage the Casework Database on behalf of all of the national amenity societies, which is publicly accessible so anyone can see casework and read responses by Amenity Society caseworkers. This database has recently undergone an update. Notifications have recently risen by over 25%, which reflects the easy use of the processes set up and the use of a single point of contact for all local planning authorities. Additional resources have been awarded by Historic England to maintain the database

and log the incoming casework. Advocacy work has been busy, including advising on the Levelling Up Bill and planning policy reforms.

Events – The Festival of Archaeology had the theme of Journeys in 2021, and has developed a digital reach of over 84 million. The challenge is to translate this reach into CBA membership. The CBA were delighted by able to hold the Archaeological Achievement Awards in person in Dublin in November. Other events include the Marsh Community Archaeology Awards and the This is Archaeology lecture series.

Publications – The CBA publishes *British Archaeology* magazine. This has been edited by Mike Pitts for 20 years, but he has recently announced he will be stepping down to focus on other work. The CBA hope to use this opportunity to bring in young editorial talent. It is intended to survey members and magazine readers to help improve the content included. The CBA also publishes a large amount of content on social media and the website, and the CBA's YouTube account includes content which is only available to members to watch.

Work with members – The CBA have been developing the offer for members, including the This is Archaeology lecture series. In 2024 we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of the CBA and the CBA groups, and will be a chance to look at how the CBA supports a network of archaeological activity across the UK.

The Letters to a Young Archaeologist series has been developed alongside Birkbeck University, encouraging young people to enter archaeology. In the upcoming year we hope to include more responses from young people on the issues raised.

The CBA staff have created a set of organisational behaviours, to ensure that our activities reflect the organisational values within the business plan. This will be shared on the CBA website shortly.

Mr Redfern thanked the CBA team for all their work.

Questions

What is happening to the South West Group?

The CBA have been in contact with the remaining members of the CBA South West group, and the group are currently facing challenges and do not currently intend to take the group forward. The CBA are keen to either retain or replace what the group have offered, and any members from the South West who would be interested in getting involved should get in touch.

You mentioned new offices: is it the intention to remain in York?

The CBA share a building with the York Civic Trusts, who are our landlords. We are relocating alongside the Trust to the De Grey rooms in central York. This will allow our space to be more publicly visible and accessible.

How would you like to see YAC develop?

The first priority for YAC is to ensure it has recovered from the challenges of the pandemic. We hope to see new branches. We are also aware that the YAC club ends at 16 years old, which leaves an educational and extracurricular gap in archaeology provision between 16 and 18. Jo Kirton and the Youth Engagement Team have been working on bridging the gap, looking at pathways into archaeology.

There are now also online YAC branches in Scotland and Wales, which allows YAC to reach places which would otherwise be challenging due to location and transport infrastructure. This is supported by Cadw, Historic Scotland and Archaeology Scotland.

The CBA are keen to ensure that the Youth Governance work helps young people to shape the activities they would like to see.

8. Appointment of auditors

Members were invited to approve the appointment of Streets Chartered Accountants as auditors for the coming year.

Previously the CBA auditors were Armstrong Watson, and Mr Smith thanked them for their work.

The appointment of auditors Streets Chartered Accountants for the coming year was APPROVED.

9. Dates of future meetings

The next Council for British Archaeology AGM will be held in early February 2024. The provisional date is Saturday 10 February.

Staff and Trustees are keen to explore moving back to a hybrid in-person/online AGM. Following member feedback on the difficulties of attending on a weekday, a weekend date has provisionally been selected.

During the event the 2023 Festival of Archaeology theme was announced as Creativity. More information on the Festival can be found at <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/festival.html>.