

Council for British Archaeology

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting (151st Council Meeting)

The Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday 10 February at 10:00am 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/playlist?list=PL0jz2K7enTbQ89iY8jnTIJXbjElu-kQoh>

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

This AGM marks the standing down of four CBA Trustees including The Chair Mr Ken Smith, the Vice Chair Professor Carena Lewis, Professor Keith Lilley and Mrs Alison Spaul. On behalf of the CBA KS offered thanks for their hard work and commitment to the CBA during their time as Trustees.

New Trustees: As the number of candidates for election did not exceed the number of available places no ballot is required. The meeting was asked to ratify the election of Gail Boyle, Dr Peter Buxton, Clemency Cooper and Hannah Fluck as new Trustees of the CBA.

Members RATIFIED the election of the above Trustees.

In addition to being elected a Trustee Gail Boyle stood for the position of Chair of Trustees. The meeting was asked to ratify Gail Boyle as CBA Chair of Trustees.

Members RATIFIED the election of Gail Boyle as CBA Chair of Trustees.

In addition to being elected a Trustee Dr Peter Buxton stood for the position of Vice Chair of Trustees. The meeting was asked to ratify Dr Peter Buxton as CBA Chair of Trustees.

Members RATIFIED the election of Dr Peter Buxton as CBA Chair of Trustees.

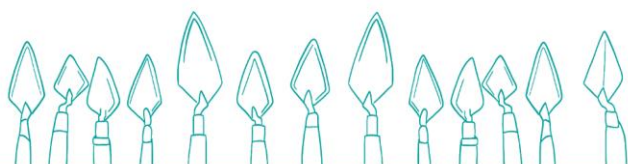
2. CBA Honorary President

The CBA's Honorary President Raksha Dave has served her first three-year term. She indicated that she would like to serve a second term.

The meeting was asked to ratify the appointment of Raksha Dave to serve for a second three-year term and CBA Honorary President.

Members RATIFIED the appointment of Raksha Dave as Honorary President.

At this point Ken Smith handed over the chairing of the meeting to Gail Boyle.



3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 9th February 2023.

The Minutes of the 150th Council Meeting held on Thursday 3rd February 2022 were APPROVED.

There were no matters arising.

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

Mr Smith reported on the events of the last year, including the ongoing impacts of Brexit and the current economic crisis on the CBA and the wider sector, the closures of university archaeology departments, and changes to planning policy and legislation. He reflected on changes at the CBA, including the development of the magazine under a new editor, an improved website, a cohesive set of policies for the organisation, and a more inclusive approach. He looked forward to the future development of the organisation and the potential for a large new National Lottery funded project.

He thanked members for their support and CBA staff for their work, noting the commitment which often sees staff going the extra mile. He thanked Neil Redfern for his work leading the CBA.

The Chair also thanked the outgoing Trustees for their work, and all Trustees for their support during his term as Chair.

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 2023-2024 was APPROVED.

The Annual Trustees' Report is available to read at <https://www.archaeologyuk.org/resource/agm-2024.html>

5. Membership and subscription rates 2024/25

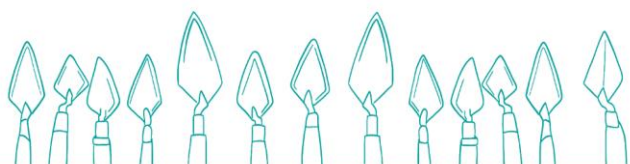
CBA Trustees having considered the financial position of the CBA and the burden of increasing costs proposed a 5% increase in the standard membership of the CBA. Standard membership increases from £44 to £46.50. For larger institutional memberships increase in subscription rates is between £3 and £10. This increase follows a standstill in membership fees in 2022-23.

Members APPROVED the increased membership and subscription rates for 2024/5.

6. Appointment of Mr Peter Liddle as Honorary Life Member of the CBA.

Peter Liddle has been the driving force behind Leicestershire Fieldworkers, a great supporter of the CBA Festival of Archaeology and the CBA and the former County Archaeologist for Leicestershire and Rutland.

Peter first worked on excavations in Leicester City Centre in the early 1970s, including the Austin Friars in 1973. Later in the 1970s he was appointed senior Archaeological Survey Officer, heading up a team which



set up the Sites and Monuments Record for Leicestershire and Rutland. During this time, he set up a network of Leicestershire Fieldwalking groups. The public-facing side of archaeology was always at the forefront of Peter's role and apart from fieldwork groups, he also helped many university students and volunteers, plus ran a number of very successful events in the 1979s - 90s including Bringing the Past To life at the Jewry Wall Museum. Following local gov reorganisation in 1997, Peter became a senior archaeological officer and continued with his public activities including lectures, guided tours and events. In particular, he has organised Leicestershire Events for the CBA's Festival of Archaeology since it started - the county having one of the largest programmes nationally. Peter was appointed MBE for his work with public archaeology.

Members APPROVED the Trustees' nomination of Mr Taylor as an Honorary Life Member 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.

He thanked the outgoing Trustees for their work, particularly noting Ken Smith and Carenza Lewis' support as he took on the leadership of the CBA.

In 2023 the CBA moved to a new office in central York.

A new Youth Advisory Board has been created, with 12 young people giving the CBA advice. The majority of the Youth Advisory Board and Trustee Board joined the CBA in York for an annual training and development session. In addition, the Letters to a Young Archaeologist programme has been running monthly for the past two years, offering advice and insights into the archaeology sector and challenging perceptions.

The CBA's role in standing up for archaeology is shown in the casework and advocacy work undertaken, including a letter objecting to the cuts to heritage funding in Wales.

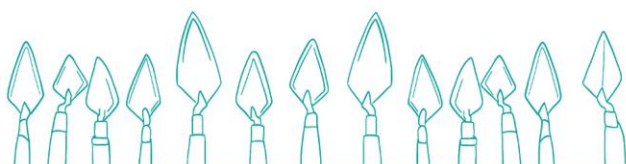
2024 is the 80th anniversary of the CBA, and the focus for the upcoming year is finding a new aspiration for archaeology, the role of the CBA, and allowing everyone to participate in archaeology. Resources are critical for this, for the organisation and the wider network of archaeological groups and societies. At the end of 2023, a rapid survey of archaeological groups was sent out and the results have been used to inform the application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, for a project which particularly focuses on understanding and supporting the CBA's members. The results of this application will be known shortly. In the coming year, members will be asked about their needs and desires from the CBA. This includes groups as well as individuals. Many local groups have aging membership, which will provide a challenge in coming years. Additional funding for staff capacity will allow better support for members and groups, and allow research into new kinds of membership and engagement. With a reducing membership, the CBA will also need to find other income streams alongside funding and sponsorship for specific streams of work, including donations.

A new editor of British Archaeology magazine, Cat Jarman, has been appointed, but the long-term future of the magazine will be re-examined, including the relationship between magazine content and digital content. Online engagement is now very broad but that must run alongside other ways of reaching people.

Mr Redfern thanked the CBA team for all their work.

You can watch the full Executive Director's report at

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0jz2K7enTbQ89iY8jnTIJXbjElu-kQoh>



8. Appointment of auditors

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

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 2025. The provisional date is Saturday 8th February.

