



**Cambrian Archaeological Association  
Cymdeithas Hynafiaethau Cymru**

**Minutes of the 172<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

The AGM was held on Zoom and hosted by Dr Sian Rees, Chair of Trustees. An estimated 36 members attended. These minutes summarise officers' written reports, now filed in the Association's archive and were delivered verbally at the meeting.

Sian Rees welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the protocols for a Zoom meeting.

**Apologies:** Edith Evans, Genevieve Cain, David Metcalf, Marie-Thérèse Castay.

**Minutes of the 2024 AGM.**

These had been posted on the Association's website and circulated to members by email and post. They were accepted by the meeting as a true record, *nem. con.*

**Chair's Report**

It was her sad duty, Sian Rees began, to report the deaths of the following members during the past year:

Mr Peter Crew, Penrhyndeudraeth. Member since 1974

Mr J Barry Davies, Lisvane, Cardiff. Member since 1992.

Mr Gareth Dowdell, Reynoldston, Swansea. Member since 2002.

Mrs Marion Evans, Princetown, Tredegar. Member since 2004.

Dr Peter Jarvis, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. A very long-standing member since 1957, and an assiduous participant at meetings, a mine of information about industrial sites.

Dr Andy Jones, Truro. Member since 2009.

Dr Val Morgan, Clydach, Swansea. Member since 1993.

Dr David Price Williams, Kew, Richmond. Died September 2025. Member since 1966.

Mr David J Young, Usk. Member since 1977, and a former Trustee of the Association.

They will all be missed. She then asked members to contact the membership secretary if they knew of any other losses not here reported.

She next introduced our new President, Professor Huw Price, who was installed as President at the Summer meeting at Bangor. This, of course, brought to an end the Presidency of Gwilym Hughes, whom she thanked on behalf of the membership for his invaluable help to the Association during the past year. The Trustees of the Association had held the normal three meetings since the last AGM, in November 2024, February 2025 and June 2025 all on Zoom. During the November 2024 meeting, the following research grants totalling £9500 had been awarded:

£2000 for 6 AMS dates from the 1980s excavations at Caer Cadwgan hillfort, Ceredigion submitted by Professor Barry Burnham, to enhance the draft report already prepared and scheduled for publication in the next issue of *Arch Camb*. There was general support for this and £2000 was awarded from the £2,268 requested. £2500 was granted for sampling and dendro-dating 3 upland Monmouthshire Houses as a continuation of his Houses in the Hills submitted by Paul Davis, who has already submitted a draft report for *Arch Camb*., £2000 to Eurig Davies for the dendro-dating of two historic Carmarthenshire houses, £1000 to the Abbey Cwmhir Heritage Trust towards costs of preparation of a publication of a book on Abbey Cwmhir, to be payable once the draft publication had been further advanced and approved by the 2 series editors.

£1000 to Dr Rachel Pope, Liverpool University for work to collect and map artefacts and related sites in the vicinity of Penycloddiau hillfort in support of the excavation report. £1000 to Dr Yingying Yan to support a project Preserving the Welsh Coracles: A 3D Digital Reconstruction and Cultural Revival Initiative.

2024 had seen the fourth tranche of the Gwobr Archeoleg Cambrian Archaeology Prize for the most outstanding Master's and undergraduate dissertations on any subject that pertains to the history or archaeology of Wales and the Marches. This dissertation prize, largely managed by Tudur Davies, has proved very successful with 4 entries this year. The Trustees and outside specialists had a difficult job in judging the entries which covered a range of different topics, but the final decision was made to award the MA prize to Fiona Gray-Davies for her dissertation 'A genealogical study of Welsh immigrants to the United States of America'. Fiona was able come to receive her prize at Bridgend.

Sian Rees went on to report another successful year of events. The online *Darganfod* conference was held in March, organised by Trustee Elizabeth Walker and we are most grateful to her to all the considerable work required for this. Darganfod brings to the fore the work of emerging professionals, established Welsh scholars and a range of recent research projects and has proved very popular. It is a very useful way of helping young academics, thereby contributing to our charitable objectives while also promoting the great range of research in archaeological subjects being done in Wales. An excellent and wide-ranging series of 13 lectures was given and she thanked trustees and Genevieve Cain for their work in placing these on the Association's You Tube channel so that members not able to attend the Conference could watch them.

The Association's two meetings, the summer one organised by Andrew and Jo Davidson at Bangor and the Autumn organised by Eurwyn Wiliam at Bridgend had been enjoyed by participants. The summer meeting was themed on historic gardens in north Wales, with visits to both well and lesser-known sites. The Bridgend Autumn weekend, also themed, studied the pottery industry of south Wales with lectures and demonstrations by scholars and potters and visits to porcelain collections in Swansea and Nantgarw. She was pleased to report that several of the lectures are due to be published in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*., She extended the Association's grateful thanks to the organisers of both of these meetings. The Cambrians' 'Walks and Talks' Programme, now in its 5th year, continued with 8 excursions in all parts of Wales from Dinefwr, Blaenafon and Llanmelin Hillfort and Gray Hill stone circle and Buckholt Bryngaer hillfort in the south, Llangollen, Caergwle Castle, Moel Fenlli hillfort and Bangor historic city to the north. A planned walk to see the exciting new finds of prehistoric art at Gelligaer had to be cancelled due to the appalling weather but is scheduled to be re-tun in the spring. Social media is the most popular form of advertisement for these events, and we have been able to welcome many non-members who heard about Walks local to them

through SM. She extended her grateful thanks to those who have given up their time to organise these free events. In August at Wrexham, our annual Eisteddfod lecture was given by Ann Parry Owen on the fascinating word lists created in 1632-5 by the manuscript copier John Jones of Gellilyfdy, Flintshire. Well attended, it was chaired and organised by Trustee Eurwyn Wiliam to whom we offer grateful thanks. Turning to our journal, *Archaeologia Cambrensis* she extended the Association's grateful thanks to our editor Ken Murphy and Reviews Editor, Robert Silvester, who has produced Volume 173 for 2024 with a range of interesting articles, one by our Trustee and former editor Bill Britnell, and with a very elegant new cover design. The content for 2025 volume was nearly complete and this, a themed volume of hillforts in Wales, promises to make a substantial contribution to Iron Age studies.

Looking ahead she highlighted our forthcoming Christmas talk by Richard Osgood, Senior Archaeologist Defence Infrastructure Organisation, entitled 'The Druid's Sacrifice: Discovering Iron Age Wales on Military Land'. Our Summer meeting in 2026 will be in Durham looking at the city itself, Cathedral and Castle, and surrounding archaeological sites including a number of Roman forts, and our Autumn meeting is to be in Malvern. Walks and Talks will continue and the Eisteddfod lecture will be by Gerallt Nash on water and windmills in Southwest Wales.

Members have details of the forthcoming year's events, and reports on the past year's activities through our annual Newsletter issued in January which contains booking forms for upcoming events. This is delivered to members both by post, email and on the Association's website. She was pleased to report that the website continues to develop for which we thank the combined offices of Genevieve Cain, Rhiannon Comeau and Orchard Web, our web contractor. Furthermore, she reported, we continue to communicate with growing numbers of members with our own notifications and those of lectures and events hosted by other heritage bodies through emails, for which we must thank Andrew Davidson, Rhiannon Comeau and Genevieve Cain whose reports will follow. Sian Rees concluded her Report by thanking the officers, Heather, Jenny, Bill, Ken, Rhiannon, Andrew, Genevieve and Frances Lynch Llewelyn, and all the Trustees for their hard work throughout the year, continuing to support the study and care of the historic environment in Wales and the Marches. Special thanks were extended to our General Secretary, Heather James, and to trustee Marie-Thérèse Castay who were standing down at this AGM after many years of service to the Association.

### **Treasurer's Report & Adoption of the Association's Trustees Annual Report & Accounts 2024**

A copy of the TAR & Financial Statements has been placed on the Association's website & emailed to members. Treasurer Jenny Britnell reported that they had been approved by Trustees at their June 2025 meeting. They were now before members for Approval and this was signalled by show of (virtual) hands. She briefly summarised the Association's current financial position with Unit Trust funds valued at £352, 104 at the end of the year. Dividend income for 2024 was £12,995. An amount of £18,849 was received from subscriptions, legacies & donations. She was pleased therefore to report that the Association's finances were in a healthy state entering into 2025.

## **Editor's Report**

Ken Murphy was pleased to report that Volume 174 of *Archaeologia Cambrensis* for 2025 was almost ready to print, and he hoped it would reach members either just before Christmas or early in the New Year. It will be to an extent a 'themed' volume with a number of papers on hillfort excavations and surveys with an overview of the results, in addition to the President's address, shorter contributions, reviews and reports. He was glad to report grant aid for several excavation reports being published in the volume. A considerable amount of material was to hand or promised for vol 175 for 2026.

## **Membership Secretary's Report**

Rhiannon Comeau reported that although there had been a further drop in members, now standing at 480 individual members it was not a steep decline as in 2023. She was pleased to report 25 new members since January 2025 and only 1 less institutional member (now at 89, since 2024). The great majority of members pay their full subscriptions, but inevitably after a number of reminders, underpayers were finally struck off. Membership in 2025 has been enhanced by Gift Aid, the Association receiving £2557 in July 2025.

## **Programme Secretary's Report**

The year's events have been reported by the chair, Frances Llewelly said that she and her successor Fiona Gales had recently visited Durham for further preparation of the 2026 Summer Meeting. Accommodation will now be in the Marriott Hotel, and the week will run from Monday July 13 to July 20<sup>th</sup>. The incoming President for 2026-2027, Dr Chris Caple (recently retired from his post in the Archaeology Department there) will deliver his Presidential Address at the Meeting.

## **Social Media, Outreach & Website Report**

Unable to be present, Andrew Davidson, who manages the Association's email circulars, summarised Genevieve Cain's Report. She reported a steady increase in Followers on the Association's Facebook, and Bluesky accounts; our Twitter/X account is currently dormant. We have over 250 subscribers to our YouTube account which now contains over 50 videos. Sian Rees thanked Genevieve, Toby Driver, Rhiannon Comeau and Andrew Davidson for all their work in promoting the Association.

## **Election of Trustees**

The Chairman then handed the Meeting over to President Huw Pryce. He said that the following Trustees were standing for re-election:

Bill Britnell  
Jenny Britnell  
Rhiannon Comeau  
Andrew Davidson  
Tudur Davies

Toby Driver  
Fiona Gale  
Frances Lynch Llewellyn  
Ken Murphy  
Sian Rees  
Elizabeth Walker  
Eurwyn Wiliam

In addition, Henry-Owen John was standing for election, proposer Sian Rees, seconder Fiona Gale

All were elected by show of (virtual) hands, *nem. con.*

**AGM 2026: Thursday 12 November 7.30 pm.**

Following the Meeting President Huw Pryce gave his Presidential address 'The Age of the Welsh princes: an environmental perspective'.

Heather James  
30.11.2025