



Cambrian Archaeological Association *Cymdeithas Hynafiaethau Cymru*.

Minutes of the 171st Annual General Meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association 10 October 2024

The AGM was held on Zoom at 7.30 pm and hosted by Dr Sian Rees, Chair of Trustees. An estimated 35 members attended.

Apologies: Fiona Gale, Elizabeth Walker, Sonia Heywood, Marie-Thérèse Castay, Bill Britnell, Ken Murphy.

Minutes of the 171st AGM

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

Chair's Report

Sian Rees began by expressing condolences to the families of those members who had died since the last AGM and said that they would be sadly missed. She read out the names of Professor T.C. Darvill, (1979), Christopher J Dunn (1966), Michael Eastham (1997), Robert (Robin) Griffith (1971), R.A.E. Herbert (1970), David W. Hall (1988), John B. Hilling (1987), Robert Hurst (1971) Dr David Orville Jones (2002) Dr John Kenyon (1979), Andrew J Knight (1988), Paul Oldham (2008) Morfydd Owen (1958), Prof J. Beverly Smith (1952) Graham C.G. Thomas (1985) Richard G Waters (1983) Dr John E Welton (1979). She asked members to contact the membership Secretary, Dr Rhiannon Comeau, if they knew of other members who had passed away and were not noted above. Sian Rees then thanked the outgoing President Professor Alasdair Whittle and asked our new President, Gwilym Hughes, to say a few words after concluding her Report.

Trustees had held three meetings since the preceding AGM in November 2023, February and June 2024, all on zoom. Research grants awarded in November 2023 totalled £9818 comprising £1465 to Richard Brewer for study of glass from Roman Caerwent, £2000 to CRAG for dating Brynaglwyd Ring Cairn, £1890 to Oliver Davis for C14 dates from Trelai Park Early Bronze Age roundhouse, £1963 to Katie Hemer for osteological analysis, St Patrick's Chapel Whitesands Bay. 2024 saw the third year's awards of the Association's Gwobr Archaeoleg Cambrian Archaeology Prize. The MA prize went to Hannah Lycet-Smith for her MA dissertation on dietary reconstruction from dental calculus analysis, Llandough monastic cemetery and the undergraduate award to Sian Evans, Bangor University, for her study of the medieval Priory at Nefyn, Anglesey. The Association's WHSI award for 2024 was won by Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth for their project on Pendinas hillfort. The

Association's Eisteddfod lecture for 2024 at Pontypridd was given by our trustee Dr Eurwyn Wiliam on *Aur Gwyn o Gymru – creu ac ail-greu porslen gorau'r byd yng Nghrochendy Nantgarw*' (White Gold from Wales) -creating and recreating the finest porcelain in the world at Nantgarw China Works). The online Christmas lecture was given by Michael Freeman on Welsh Costume.

Sian Rees then reported on the 2024 Summer Meeting which she had organised based at Hay-on-Wye with an emphasis on the prehistoric chambered tombs of the area. She thanked Fiona Gale for the excellent Autumn Weekend Meeting based in Wrexham. The annual Walks and Talks programme continued in 2024 , with a walk around Trellech (Sian Rees)) Brenig, Denbighshire (Fiona Gale) , Gwent Levels (Jan Bailey) and Barry (President Gwilym Hughes & Diane Williams).

Treasurer's Report & adoption of the Associations accounts for 2023

A copy of the *Trustees' Report and Financial Statements* had been placed on the Association's website. Treasure Jenny Britnell reported that the Report had been approved by Trustees at their June 2024 meeting and were now put before members at the AGM for approval. She briefly summarised the Associations net assets at 31 Dec 2023 as £379,269, an increase of £14,269 on the previous year. Total income for 2023 was £67,190 and expenditure £56,721. She was thanked by SR who then asked the meeting to approve the accounts by virtual show of hands, nem. con.

Editor's Report

Ken Murphy reported on progress on vol 173 (2024) of *Archaeologia Cambrensis* which will contain the Presidential address by Alasdair Whittle, archaeological reports from the Mesolithic to the early Middle Ages and articles on historic houses and 17th c cottages evidenced from documentary and literary sources. He hoped to be able to circulate the volume to members by the end of the year or early in 2025.

Membership Secretary's Report.

Rhiannon Comeau reported a considerable decline in membership numbers since 2023 now standing at 486 individual members, made up of 5 life members, 4 prize winners (entitled to 3 years free membership) 16 student members, 371 single members, 45 joint members and 45 joint subsidiary members – 432 having subscription paying membership. She was pleased to report 9 new members. Institutional membership remained at 90.

Programme Secretary

Frances Lynch Llewellyn briefly noted the 2024 meetings already described by the Chair and outlined the Programme for 2025 which will include the bi-annual 'Darganfod' online Conference to be organised by Dr Elizabeth Walker in conjunction with Dr Oliver Davis (Cardiff University) on Saturday 8 March. The Summer meeting to be based in Bangor, organised by Andrew and Jo Davidson and themed on the Historic Gardens of North Wales. A themed autumn meeting, to be organised by Dr Eurwyn Wiliam, will be based in Bridgend on the subject of the ceramic industries of Glamorgan and Carmarthenshire. Planning is already underway for the Summer Meeting for 2026 to be based in Durham and Autumn 2026 based in Malvern.

Social Media, website and outreach reports

Genevieve Cain summarised work on the Association's website. She was pleased to report that numbers of followers continue to grow on our social media channels . We now have 179 subscribers on our You Tube Channel which continues to benefit from added content. Andrew Davidson reported

on emails sent out to those members (a majority of the membership) happy to receive information on Association events and other events likely to be of interest.

The chair, Sian Rees, thanked all the officers for their work and members for their support. She then handed to meeting over to President Gwilym Hughes . He said that the following trustees were willing to stand for re-election:

Bill Britnell , Jenny Britnell, Marie-Thérèse Castay, Rhiannon Comeau, Andrew Davidson, Tudur Davies, Toby Driver, Fiona Gale, Heather James, Frances Lynch Llewellyn, Ken Murphy, Sian Rees, Elizabeth Walker, Eurwyn Wiliam.

They were re-elected by a (virtual) show of hands, nem, con.

Chairman Sian Rees then announced the date of the 2025 AGM as Thursday 13 November, to be held on Zoom. The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Following the AGM a recording was shown of Gwilym Hughes' Presidential Lecture: 'Ivy and Elevators: Developing Visitor Experiences on the Guardianship Monuments of Wales'.

Heather James

General Secretary CAA, Nov. 2024