



## **Minutes of the 170<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Cambrian Archaeological Association 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

The AGM was held on Zoom at 7.30 pm and hosted by Dr Sian Rees Chairman of Trustees. An estimated 39 members attended.

**Apologies:** Hywel Davies, Toby Driver, J. Wyn Evans, Louise Furse, Fiona Gale, John Kenyon.

### **Minutes of the 170<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.**

These had been circulated to members by email and posted on the Association's website. They were accepted by the meeting nem.con, proposer Tudur Davies, seconder Ken Murphy.

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman began by expressing condolences to the families of those members who had died since the last AGM, all of whom would be sadly missed: Mrs Ruth Bennett-Jones, Don Benson, John Ellis Jones, William Lawrence Banks, Wyn T. Hughes, Mary Richardson and Marion Davies. She asked members to contact the secretary if any other losses had not been noted. She then thanked the retiring President, Dr Elizabeth Walker for her many contributions to the Association's work and activities during her extended Presidential year. Next she introduced the new President, Professor Alasdair Whittle who had been inaugurated at the Brecon Meeting and had delivered his Presidential address there. The President said that it was an honour to serve and he looked forward to contributing to the Association's forthcoming Programme.

Trustees had held their normal three Meetings during the year in February, June and November, all by Zoom and she thanked them all for their work. Dr Eurwyn Wiliam had led a sub-committee to produce an appropriate bi-lingual policy for the Association. Research grants had been awarded in November 2022 to Caroline Kerkham, (£438), Dr Andy Seaman (£1334), Katie Faillace (£2000) and Professor Mike Parker Pearson (£2000). Details of their projects had been noted in the Newsletter sent to all members in January 2023 and also in *Archaeologia Cambrensis*. The second year of the new *Gwobr Archeoleg* Cambrian Archaeology Prize had seen 10 entries; the Trustees and outside specialists had awarded the prize to Sheridan Clements for their Master's thesis on North Wales hillforts. Charles Llewelyn was runner-up with an undergraduate thesis on Vikings in Dyfed.

Since the last AGM the Association, in collaboration with the Royal Commission, had 'broadcast' a Christmas lecture on zoom by Richard Suggett on painted decoration in Welsh Churches. The second 'Darganfod' online conference had been well attended with a full day of talks on recent research, many on projects helped by the Cambrians' Research Grants. She was pleased to report that most of these presentations can be viewed on the Association's You Tube channel and expressed her thanks and thanks on behalf of the membership to all organisers and contributors. A successful Summer Meeting, organised by Trustee Marie-Thérèse Castay, assisted by Heather James had been based in Saintes in south-west France. The Association's Eisteddfod lecture at Boduan had been given by Professor Huw Pryce. More recently the Autumn Meeting in Brecon, organised by Heather James and Nigel Clubb, had benefitted from attendance at the lectures by members of the Brecknock Society. Finally she thanked all those who had led the series of Walks and Talks at different locations in Wales. All these activities had benefitted greatly from promotion and reporting on the Association's social

media sites, on the website and through emails to members.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Jenny Britnell asked that the Meeting approve the *Trustees Annual Report and Accounts* for 2022 which had been audited by Whittingham Riddell and received and agreed by Trustees at their June meeting. This had been posted on the website and sent in hard copy to those members requesting it. The decrease of £65, 181 in net assets since 2021 was due to a decrease in the value of investments. Schroders had closed their poorly performing fund and Trustees had agreed to re-invest in the COIF Charities Investment Fund. The Meeting approved the Trustees Report and Accounts by a (virtual' show of hands.

### **Membership Secretary's Report**

Rhiannon Comeau said that membership levels were similar to last year's with 508 individual members and a welcome 23 new members joining to compensate for losses through death and resignations. The position was similar with institutional membership (90). Since the increase in membership rates some 75% of the members were now paying at the new rate. The dispersal of the Association's library at Amgueddfa Cymru, Cardiff, was proceeding as planned.

### **Programme Secretary's Report**

Since the Chairman had already reported on this year's events Frances Lynch Llewellyn looked ahead to 2024. There would be no spring 'Darganfod' conference since this was now a bi-annual event. The Summer Meeting will be based in Hay-on-Wye and is being organised by Sian Rees, dates 1-7 July. The Autumn Meeting will now be based in Wrexham, staying at the Wynnstay Arms, and is being organised by Fiona Gale and herself. A programme of walks and Talks has yet to be organised. In 2025 the Darganfod conference would be in the spring and a Summer Meeting will be organised by Andrew and Jo Davidson in North Wales, with an emphasis on historic gardens. Eurwyn Wiliam had offered an autumn weekend themed on the historic pottery industries of South Wales, especially Nant garw. She was in preliminary discussion with Francis Pritchard who had offered to organise a Summer Meeting in Durham in 2026 and a possible autumn meeting in Llanelli had been mooted.

### **Editor's Report**

Ken Murphy said that progress with vol 172 (2022) is a little behind schedule but he expected the volume to be circulated to members before Christmas. An anticipated major excavation report may have to be held over until next year but the forthcoming volume contained a varied mix of subjects and periods. There was an encouraging number of enquiries coming in about contributions for vol 173 (2024).

### **Website, Social media and Outreach Reports**

Genevieve Cain reported on ongoing work with Orchardweb to keep website contents up to date with Meetings reports being posted with more illustration than would be possible when they were published in *Arch Camb*. There continued to be a satisfying increase in numbers of followers on both Facebook and twitter/X. There are now 141 subscribers to our You Tube channel. Reporting on work on our bi-lingual policy outlined in the Chairman's Report she thanked Trustee Eurwyn Wiliam for all his help in making all posts relating to official CAA business bilingual. Andrew Davidson reported on the continuing numbers of emails sent to around 75% of the membership on CAA matters and in posts drawing attention to other events likely to be of interest to members.

The Chairman then handed over the Meeting to the President, Professor Alasdair Whittle, to conduct the **Election of Trustees** for the following year.

The following were standing for election:

William Britnell  
Jenny Britnell  
Marie-Thérèse Castay  
Rhiannon Comeau

Andrew Davidson  
Tudur Davies  
Toby Driver  
Fiona Gale  
Heather James  
Frances Lynch-Llewellyn  
Kenneth Murphy  
Sian Rees.

They were all re-elected by a (virtual) show of hands.

**2024 AGM**

This will again be an online meeting on Zoom at 7.30 pm Thursday 10 October 2025. Joining details will be circulated nearer the time and posted on the CAA website [cambrians.org.uk](http://cambrians.org.uk)

Following the AGM Professor Alasdair Whittle's Presidential Lecture 'West Side Stories: the early Neolithic in the west of Britain (and Ireland)' was shown on Zoom.

Heather James,  
General Secretary CAA  
20.10. 2023.