

Minutes Prehistoric Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 20th October 2021

6pm – Online via Zoom

The AGM 2021 was held on-line. Members were notified of the AGM by email in September. In addition to members of Council more than 30 ordinary members attended via ZOOM. During the meeting the President asked for questions but none were received.

Chair: Clive Gamble (CG)

Council members present: Rachel Crellin (RC); Tess Machling (TM); Julie Gardiner (JG); Clare Randall (CR); Mel Giles (MG) Matt Knight (MK) Courtney Nimura (CN); Helen Chittock (HC); Jane Siddel (JS); Mike Allen (MA); Annabell Zander (AZ); Leo Webley (LW); Anne Teather (AT); Jodie Lewis (JL); Linda Hurcombe (LH); Ben Roberts (BR); Susanna Harris (SH); James Cole (JC)

Incoming council members: Rob Hedge (RH); Eileen Wilkes (EW); Sue Greaney (SG); Felicity McDowall (FM).

Item	Paper
1	Minutes of the AGM held on zoom on Wednesday 21 st October 2020 on zoom were available via the website
The minutes were confirmed as a true record of the meeting	
2	President's Report – Clive Gamble
<p>The President began by taking a moment to reflect on the loss of both John Coles and Peter Clark in the past year. Both have been key voices in the Society and will be sorely missed.</p> <p>The President went on to describe a successful year for the society in spite of the ongoing pandemic. He spoke about our activities in 5 core areas:</p> <p>1. Advocacy</p> <p>The president drew attention to the support we have offered to campaigns to stop the closure of Worcester, Chester and Sheffield archaeology.</p> <p>Our role as advocates for prehistory was led by Jane Sidell, our conservation co-ordinator. This year we have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supported the Kilmartin Museum application to be recognized as a Nationally Significant Collection• Objected to planning proposal at Old Oswestry Hillfort• Provided a submission with the Royal Anthropological Institute to the Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia, Australian Parliament, review into the destruction of the Juukan rockshelters• Written a letter to the National Trust over the proposed cuts to curatorial staff at the Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury	

2. Promoting research

We have distributed £9798 in grants and awards in 2020. We have new awards planned for 2022:

- The President's award – to recognise those who have broadened the appeal of prehistory by engaging new audiences
- The Peter Clark award – recognise the role of fieldworkers whose contribution to prehistoric archaeology is vital but often overlooked.

3. Disseminating research

The President spoke about our continuing, productive partnership with Cambridge University Press.

4. Teaching Prehistory

The President reported on the continued success of our school resources and the excellent work by Roy Loveday (ex -VP), Stuart Needham (ex-VP), Pippa Bradley (Reviews editor), Courtney Nimura, Helen Chittock, and Ben Geary. The website is free to use:

<https://theprehistoricsociety.school.blog/>

5. Online

The president reported on our continuing collaborations with a variety of local societies to deliver lectures across the UK. He noted the use of online had lead to larger audiences, greater reach and an excellent response allowing us to take the society to more people than ever before.

He thanked Tess Machling for her continued work on our facebook and twitter pages where we now have 18000 members from 101 countries on facebook and 6686 followers on twitter.

6. New website and rebrand

The president unveiled the new prehistoric society branding and website. A breath of fresh air in terms of design to take us forward into the future. He thanked Courtney Nimura for her incredible volume of hard work on this.

3	Editor's Report and the award of the R.M. Baguley award – Julie Gardiner
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JG detailed the success of PPS over the last year mentioning the many great papers in the most recent issue. She also noted the success of the research paper series.

She thanked Courtney Nimura for her hard work, cheeriness and support as the assistant to the Editor in recent years. Courtney stepped down from her role at this meeting.

The editor then thanked Dani for her hard work as the editor of PAST and welcomed the new editor, Sue Greeney.

She highlighted the new online collections edited by the Society available on the journal pages.

4	Treasurer's Report – Clare Randall
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CR talked through the impact of the pandemic on finances with an extract from the reports noting that the full 2020 accounts of the society are available either online or on request. CR noted the savings that had been made by moving to online meetings and online events and the potential future issues that may continue to arise from delays claiming grants.

CR also noted that the subscription increase that had been planned will now, due to the pandemic, be delayed until the beginning of 2022.

5 | Report on meetings, study tours and research days – Matt Knight

The meetings secretary highlighted the many events for members that had happened in 2021:

- Conference 'Barrows of the Yorkshire Wolds: Prehistory, Inspiration and Legacy' held in March 2021, and organised by Melanie Giles
- The 19th Sara Champion Lecture: delivered online by Rachel Crellin and titled 'Becoming metallic' – available on youtube
- Europa Conference 2011 (postponed from 2020): *People and Society in Late Prehistoric Europe*, Prof Colin Haselgrove. Held online and a great success.

He detailed our continuing lecture programme that is now mostly run online allowing sustained engagement with local and regional societies. And the launch of the Global Pasts series in October 2021.

He noted that we have sponsored the following events and conferences which prioritise early career prehistorians:

- Continued sponsorship of other conferences and events, especially those with strong involvement by younger prehistorians
- 4th Annual Pitt-Rivers Lecture Bournemouth University, The origins of our species, Professor Chris Stringer, Natural History Museum (Oct 2020)
- Participation in and sponsorship of EXARC Experimental Archaeology Conference, EAC21 World Tour 2021, in which we hosted a session promoting the work of three students working on European prehistory
- Support for Iron Age Research Student Symposium (June 2021), University of Liverpool. Prize offered for best student paper.

6 | Awards – Clive Gamble

The president detailed the awards distributed this year.

The Coles award was not given due to the travel restrictions from the pandemic.

The Undergraduate dissertation prize was awarded as follows:

- Philippa Kent (Oxford) Unearthing Pompeii: a study of the stratigraphic sequence beneath the Roman town using tephra analysis

Three runners up:

- Owen Gilmore-Noble (York) Ochre in Upper Palaeolithic Europe and the African Middle Stone Age: a comparative analysis
- Kate Maclachlan (Manchester) A social zooarchaeology of wild boar during the Mesolithic
- Molly Pye (Leicester) Neanderthals in the print media

Research awards were given as follows:

- Kerry Allen, Radiocarbon offsets in marine molluscs

- Rob Dinnis and Jennifer French, Excavations at Wogan Cavern, Pembrokeshire
- Susanna Harris, Early Bronze Age bone curation - Oakslaw fibrous evidence Leslie Grinsell Prize
- Tim Malim, Geophysical survey and excavation at Old Oswestry hillfort James Dyer Prize
- Mik Markham, Photographic survey and audit of Neolithic stone tools in South West England
- Eoin Parkinson, A survey of Malta's 'forgotten' megalithic monuments Bob Smith Prize

The Collections study award

- Alison Roberts, Jennifer Foster and Courtney Nimura, John Evans and the Hallstatt collection at the Ashmolean Museum

The SUERC award

- Gary Lock, for post excavation of Mole y Gaer Bodfari
- Peter Slaughter, for research on the intertidal zone at Swalecliffe, Kent

The conference fund was not awarded due to the travel restrictions.

As part of our Covid management strategy all awardees received the following email from Jodie Lewis as Grants Co-ordinator:

'The Society is aware that the current global pandemic will undoubtedly impact upon your research plans. As such, we have decided that grants will be deferred until next year unless we hear to the contrary. Please be assured that no-one will lose their grants.'

7 Election of officers and members of council - Clive Gamble

CG began by thanking all members of council and extending extra special thanks to the following outgoing members: Melanie Giles, Jodie Lewis and Sophia Adams.

The following members were then elected (or re-elected)

OFFICERS:

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| Vice-President | Professor Eileen Wilkes, Bournemouth University |
| Secretary | Dr Rachel Crellin, Leicester University |
| Treasurer | Dr Clare Randall, Bournemouth University |
| Editor of <i>PPS</i> /Managing Editor | Dr Julie Gardiner, Oxbow Books |
| Editor of <i>PAST</i> | Dr Susan Greaney, English Heritage |
| Editor of Research Papers | Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology |
| Europa Co-ordinator | Annabell Zander, York University |
| Meetings Secretary | Dr Matthew Knight, National Museums of Scotland |
| Conservation Co-Ordinator | Dr Jane Sidell, English Heritage |

ORDINARY COUNCIL MEMBERS: Dr Felicity McDowall Museum of Natural History, Oxford; Susan Greaney, English Heritage; Rob Hedge, Finds specialist

8 Europa 2021

CG noted that the Europa Conference in honour of Prof Eszter Bánffy would be held on the 17-19th June 2022 with the AGM. The event will be titled: *Sans frontières: mobility and networks in Neolithic*

Europe and take place at Bournemouth University. It is being organised by Annabell Zander and hosted by Prof Tim Darvill.

9	Sara Champion – was delivered live on Zoom after the event by Dr Tom Booth and titled: Genetic change and relatedness in Chalcolithic and Early Bronze Age Britain
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