



# London and Middlesex Archaeological Society

*Promoting London's unique heritage and historic environment*

## Minutes of the 166th LAMAS Annual General Meeting 8th February 2022

**Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent national lock-down the LAMAS AGM was held via the Zoom online platform. We are therefore authorising ourselves to meet and make decisions virtually. All motions of the meeting will be deemed as accepted by members unless they wish to abstain or vote against, which they are invited to do via the Chat Box in Zoom. The majority decision will be carried.**

**Panellists:** President: Gillian Tindall; Chair: Harvey Sheldon, (HS) Hon Secretary: Karen Thomas (KT - taking minutes), Treasurer: Stuart Forbes (for Malcolm Mac Lellan who was standing down); Facilitators: Luisa Duarte, Jane Sidell; Proposed Treasurer: Robin Densem, Proposed Council Members: Roy Stephenson, Jelena Bekvalac.

Approximately 78 members attended

**1. Apologies:** Clive Orton, Dave Taylor, John Clark

**2. Minutes of AGM 8th February 2021:** The Minutes of the previous AGM had been made available to members via the LAMAS website. No corrections or comments were received. Minutes were seconded by Tim Wilcock.

There were no matters arising. The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

### **3. Annual Report and Accounts:**

**Annual Report:** The Annual Report had been made available to members before the meeting via the LAMAS website. KT summarised the Report highlighting the popularity of the online lecture series, the successful migration of the postponed 2020 Archaeology Conference to the Zoom platform with the upcoming Local History conference soon to be following suit, and the award of the Research Grant to the Middlesex Hospital Annexe Oral History project.

A project to make all the individual articles from our *Transactions* series up to 2016 available online via ADS had been completed and another excellent Volume 70 had been distributed. Thanks were also given to Richard Gilpin who had done a wonderful job as Newsletter Editor for nearly 8 years but was now standing down.

The various society committees had remained very active over the year including the Historic Building and Conservation Committee who were finding that their opinions on both high profile and smaller local planning cases were being valued by the local planning officers.

HS added that the Society had set up two Working Parties this year to look into two important issues. Firstly, there had been a decline in membership numbers over the last few years and we need to find ways of recruiting new members as well as retaining our existing

ones. Secondly we would like to make the work of the Society more relevant to the 21st century and become involved in both local and national issues such as the debate on the government's proposed Planning reforms and the development of a new Chinese Embassy at Royal Mint Court, the site of the abbey of St Mary Graces and a Black Death cemetery.

Finally it was noted that the closure of the Museum of London later this year meant that we were having to find reasonably priced alternative premises for a return to 'in person' lecture meetings which was proving difficult.

**Accounts:** SF presented the Annual Accounts which were shared on screen by KT. These had been approved by Council and verified by Hazel Thomas, our Independent Examiner. It had been a difficult year leaving a deficit of £3,185. The digitisation of *Transactions* for ADS and additional online costs – for the use of the Zoom platform and to pay SyncSkills for their help with the Archaeological Conference – had meant that costs were up at a point when income from membership subscriptions was significantly down. However, the Society was still in a strong position with high reserves for a body of our size and we are working to improve our income. SF thanked LAMAS Council and Hazel Thomas for their assistance in finalising the Accounts.

The Annual Report was seconded by Chris Seymour and the Accounts were seconded by Cherry McAskill.

**4. Election of Officers and Members of Council:** HS thanked the Officers of Council and the Committees for their work during another difficult year:

The following Officers were proposed for re-election

Chair: Harvey Sheldon  
Hon. Secretary: Karen Thomas

Robin Densem was nominated by Council for the post of Treasurer following Malcom Mac Lellan's decision to stand down. He had experience as Treasurer with the student union at the Institute of Archaeology and at RESCUE and had put himself forward for the role.

The re-election and election were seconded by Chris Constable.

HS then thanked the Council members for all their hard work including Malcolm and Lucie Altenburg and Stephanie Ostrich who were standing down from Council this year. .

It was agreed that the following members of Council be elected *en bloc*; all were proposed for re-election by Council

Barney Sloane  
Jane Sidell  
Kathryn Stubbs (Lectures)  
Stuart Forbes  
John Price  
Luisa Duarte (Publicity)  
Richard Gilpin  
Steve Gill  
Leanne O'Boyle  
Niamh Carty

The re-election of the Council members was seconded by Joanna Clark and all were unanimously elected.

HS then invited the proposed two new Council members below to introduce themselves:

Roy Stephenson  
Jelena Bekvalac

Roy has worked in London's archaeology since 1986, starting as a post-Roman pot specialist and moving into management at MoLAS before becoming the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre manager in 2005 and later the Head of Archaeological Collections at the Museum of London, stepping down in 2020. He is interested in broadening participation in our heritage and also using the historical antecedence of a place to understand and improve that place.

Jelena's background is in archaeology and ancient history and subsequently in osteology. She has worked in Jordan and Russia as well as on the major site at Spitalfields in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Little did she realise that she would be curating the very human remains that she had excavated when joining the Centre for Human Bioarchaeology in 2003! Here she has been involved in creating a bespoke database of skeletal data from many important projects in London as well as public outreach projects and teaching adults and children.

Richard Gilpin and Valerie Young seconded Roy and Jelena's nominations. All the Officers and Council members were unanimously elected.

**5. Appointment of Auditor(s):** HS thanked Hazel Thomas for her work as Independent Examiner but, unfortunately, due to personal circumstances, she was unable to carry on in this role so the Society was looking for a replacement and if anyone was interested in taking it on could they please let us know.

SF emphasised that the Independent Examiner reported to the members and not the Officers or Council so it was an important role.

**6. Any other business:**

There was no other business so HS declared the AGM closed.

In a departure from our usual Presidential Address, HS was pleased to introduce Alex Werner from the Museum of London to talk to us about the plans for the Museum's move to new premises in Smithfield.