

165th ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION YEAR ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER 2021

All five Council meetings held during this year were online via the Zoom platform. Both Council and the Society's Committees have largely continued to function online either via email or Zoom.

The Society continues to be represented at meetings of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee and the Council for British Archaeology London.

Lecture meetings (report by Kathryn Stubbs)

The lecture series programme ran from October 2020 to May 2021 and included a joint lecture with the Prehistoric Society. The lectures are announced on the website, social media and the diary page of the 'London Archaeologist'. Due to the ongoing restrictions and the Covid 19 pandemic, all lectures were held on Zoom, booked through Eventbrite, as, regrettably, we were unable to hold the lectures at the Clore Centre, Museum of London. Lectures are available on YouTube after the event.

The lectures were very well attended (around 1,000 attendees in all) and attracted a wide audience including attendees from Europe and the US. Council hopes that the current on-line format will attract new members and raise the profile of LAMAS and, although it has been disappointing not to be able to meet members and guests in person at lectures, it is hoped that physical meetings can soon be held again.

The October lecture was the Joint Prehistoric Society and LAMAS lecture, 'Revealing a Late Bronze Age enclosure', postponed from May 2020 and given by Andy Peachey of Archaeological Solutions. The excavation, on the edge of former marshes on the north bank of the Thames, revealed two phases of Late Bronze Age activity, with round houses and a deposit of a group of extraordinary bronze hoards. In November, Adam Corsini, Layers of London explained this free, on-line mapping resource and its multiple mapping layers. This has benefited from many contributions from the public and local groups. Adam answered audience requests demonstrating the depth and range of the map layers which enable a very interactive lecture. December's lecture 'Additional Kilns of the Roman Thameside Ceramic Zone: Excavations at the land of the former Mardyke Estate, Rainham, London Borough of Havering', postponed from April 2020, was given by Eniko Hudak, Pre-Construct Archaeology. Her talk described the second century Roman pottery kilns and the pottery produced on the site and their context as part of the Thames Estuary or Thameside ceramic production zone. Interpretation panels have been placed on the site with details of the Roman landscape, kilns and ceramics. Louise Fowler, of MOLA, gave the January lecture 'London Calling: an elsewhere archaeology of the Calais Jungle', an insight into objects collected by photographer Gideon Mendel following demolition of the Calais jungle in 2016. The work by MOLA and collaborators considered application of archaeological methods in a contemporary context which was both challenging and thought provoking. In March, Roger Chapman from HADAS gave a history of the society which has operated in Hendon and district for over 50 years. For the last few years, Clitterhouse Farm, an Anglo-Saxon farm on the doorstep of Brent Cross has been explored by HADAS, adding new information to the history of this densely built-up area. Excavations within the Great Kitchen of Westminster Abbey was the subject of the April lecture from Joe Brookes, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Excavation within the former Adrian Boulton Music Centre at Westminster School revealed evidence of the monastic Great Kitchen built during the 1070s to serve Edward the Confessor's Abbey, in use until demolition shortly after the Dissolution. In May, the Joint Prehistoric Society and LAMAS lecture, 'In this Heath hath many camps bin pitched ...': The West London Landscapes Project in context was given by Jon Cotton and Nicholas Eldon. Their lecture set out the results from a range of prehistoric and Roman sites examined between 1979 and 1994 on and beyond the Heathrow terrace gravels in west London and set them in their local and wider regional contexts.

At the AGM in February, the Society's President, Gillian Tindall gave her Address on 'The Long History of Conservation'. This was a reminder that concern for historic buildings existed before the time of Ashbee and Morris with interest in 'relics' from the wake of Cromwellian destruction, 18th century antiquarianism and records made of Tudor London. Gillian explained that as enthusiasm for the Gothic and pre-Raphaelite world grew, new discoveries were made – and sometimes faked. It is hoped that Gillian will be able to give an updated version of this talk in person as soon as circumstances allow

LAMAS Lates (report by Jane Sidell)

It was once again difficult to organise Late Events this year as meeting up for walks or visits was not really viable but we did experiment with a Poetry evening in February where a select few attendees discussed their favourite London poems and poets. Not the usual Late type of event but a very enjoyable evening nevertheless.

We hope to start some in person Late Events once the daylight get a little longer and if anyone has any suggestions for walks or visits do contact Jane Sidell

Newsletter, Website and Publicity (report by Richard Gilpin and Karen Thomas)

Three issues of the Newsletter were published during the year. Copies of the January, May and September 2021 issues were printed and distributed through the post to those members who either (a) had no email address or (b) had one but had not registered it with the Society. A PDF of each of the three issues was emailed to members whose email addresses were known to the Society.

The Society's social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Linked in have continued to attract followers and prove to be a useful tool to disseminate the Society's news and bring in new attendees to our lectures and conferences.

A selection of past lectures and conference talks are now available on the LAMAS YouTube channel and the Society's would like to thank Jane Sidell for her hard work in making this possible..

Membership (report by Dr Fiona Haughey)

During the past 12 months I have been overhauling the membership database which took a lot longer than I thought and included trawling back through past years and, with Council permission, transferring a number of members from the 'active' database into the 'former members' file. You may have been aware of this as I have been regularly mentioning this in the front section of the Newsletter publication. I did get a response from some members who contacted me (for which I say a big 'thank you') but sadly there is still a number which haven't. However, should any of them want to re-join the Society, I would be delighted to hear from them!

The current membership number of active i.e. paid members is 477 which includes individual and joint memberships, overseas members, honorary members. affiliated societies and institutions. Finally, I would like to send an apology to those members who have contacted me and not heard back. I have had bouts of ill-health which have meant I have not been able to function as I would have liked and I am just getting on top of the backlog.

Research Fund

The 2020/21 Research Fund grant was finally awarded in August 2021 to Sarah Ricketts at Icen Projects Limited for her project 'Social Memory and Oral Histories of the Middlesex Hospital Annexe'.

Publications Committee (report by John Schofield, Chair)

The Committee met three times during the year. Volume 70 of *Transactions* was published in November 2020. It had xiv+306 pages and contained ten articles. The project to make security copies of Peter Marsden's colour slides from his excavations of the 1960s and early 1970s, funded

by a grant from CoLAT, was begun but was held up by the Covid pandemic and restrictions at the Museum's archaeological archive. Efforts in support of the publication of Robert Cowie's report on excavations at Syon Abbey continue and it will be published in *Transactions* 71. In July 2021 all the LAMAS *Transactions* articles published between 1860 and 2016 went online with the Archaeology Data Service as part of the Society's commitment on making its publications freely available to the public.

Archaeology Committee (report by Jon Cotton, Secretary)

The Committee met remotely via Zoom four times during the year, in January, May, July, and September. As usual, reports were received from MOLA, Pre-Construct Archaeology and from GLAAS.

Issues that continue to concern the Committee included the Government White Paper *Planning for the Future*, which the Society responded to in 2020, and which is likely to require a joint effort going forward from the Society's Archaeology, Historic Buildings, and Local History Committees.

The Committee is also continuing to plan for a major conference on Roman London, in conjunction with King's College London, and London Archaeologist magazine.

The 57th Annual Archaeology Conference, postponed from 2020 due to Covid lockdown measures, was eventually held via Zoom in March 2021. This was professionally facilitated by Syncskills and featured a series of recorded and 'live' presentations.

The 2019 Ralph Merrifield Award was given jointly to Gary Brown and Nick Bateman, following which the morning session was devoted to recent work in the capital at Barn Elms (Iron Age oppidum); Blossom Street (Roman roadside activity in the city); Fulham (Saxon settlement); Somerset House (garderobe feature); and the Havering Hoard (Late Bronze Age metalwork).

The afternoon session focused on the archaeology of London's monastic houses and was addressed by Matt Edmonds (Holywell Priory); Sue Wright (20 years of monastic finds); Alistair Douglas (Bermondsey Abbey); Don Walker (osteological evidence from female monastic houses); and Nick Holder (where from here?).

Local History Committee (report by Pat Gough, Secretary)

The Committee held two meetings, in January and June 2021. Owing to problems caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, both took place using Zoom. The members of the Committee were John Price (Chair), Richard Gilpin, Pat Gough, Oliver Harris, Mike Marriott (who joined the Committee in June 2021), Alex Werner and Lorraine Woodleigh. Roger Chapman resigned in November 2020.

The Annual Local History Conference that was due to take place in November 2020 at the Museum of London was cancelled owing to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Entries for the 2020 Local History Publication awards were received, but disruption to the judging process caused by COVID-19 led to the 2020 awards being moved to 2021.

Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee (report by Robert Briggs, HBCC representative to LAMAS Council)

Over this 12-month period, the Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee (HBCC) sent 49 letters concerning Listed Building Consent and other planning applications. It also did so for a handful of planning appeals and, in a pleasant change to be able to offer an opinion at an early stage of development proposals, made a lengthy submission to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's consultation on the Kensal Green Canalside Supplementary Planning Document regarding a large ex-industrial site abutting the Grand Union Canal.

As in previous years, the cases the HBCC produced letters for regarding development proposals varied greatly in magnitude and public profile. At one end of the scale were high-profile cases such as the National Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens just south of the Palace of Westminster, a number of proposed skyscrapers around Bevis Marks synagogue in the City of London, and Battersea Power Station. At the other end were a multitude of smaller-scale developments across Greater London, from a cottage in Sidcup to Canons Park

Station car park. It is with smaller cases that the HBCC often sees its biggest impact, particularly when they concern development proposals that have not received any interest from national amenity societies nor from local groups. The HBCC and the nature of its objections are often referred to in planning officers' reports explaining how their decisions were reached, sometimes borrowing passages of its letters to articulate the reasons for the refusal of the applications in question. It is gratifying for members to see their contributions acknowledged and utilised in such ways.

The continuing Covid-19 pandemic meant the HBCC continued to be unable to convene in person. Instead, the Committee had been "meeting" over emails, which was functional up to a point but certainly nowhere near as effective nor as enjoyable as in-person meetings. It began using the LAMAS Zoom account for monthly meetings in January 2021, which has been a great help to get proceedings back to something like how they were pre-pandemic. John Ricketts and Rob Briggs both chaired some of these meetings; thanks are due also to Karen Thomas for providing the Committee with access to the Zoom account.

July 2021 saw the realisation of a long-held aim (reaching back as far as September 2017) to send a letter to the planning department in every London Borough highlighting the existence of the HBCC, its activities and the advantages that could come from notifying it of submitted planning applications and appeals affecting listed buildings and other heritage assets. While this initiative did not result in every local planning authority notifying it directly, it has spurred several to do so. Indeed, the HBCC now has been elevated to the status of Consultee by several Boroughs as a result, which places its responses alongside those of national amenity societies and other key stakeholder organisations.

Membership numbers remained static across the year, meaning parts of Greater London continue to lack dedicated coverage by the Committee. Recruitment of new members in these areas remains a key goal but is hampered by the ongoing necessity of holding meetings online. It is hoped that a return to normality as the pandemic eases, and the resumption of being able to convene in person once a month, will permit us to be in a stronger position to attract new members.

BY DIRECTION OF COUNCIL

Harvey Sheldon
Chairman of Council

Karen Thomas
Honorary Secretary