

# Association for Environmental Archaeology

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## AEA Newsletter 150

February 2021

Dear members,

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2021 and the 150<sup>th</sup> edition! I still remember the days when the newsletter was produced using carbon paper and a dot matrix pinwheel printer. Each newsletter then had to be assembled, stapled, folded and put into an envelope with the correct address and postage. It was quite an undertaking and took a couple of days. However, it was a great way of catching up with colleagues and discussing work with lots of tea and sweet treats. How things have changed.

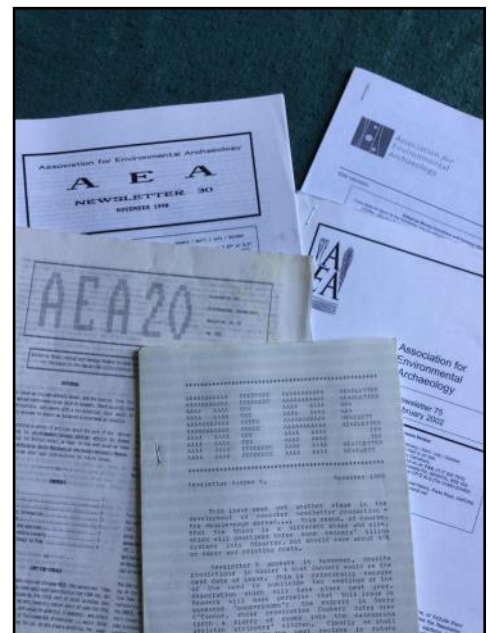
Reminiscing aside, I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the members of the managing committee both past and present for the huge amount of work they have put in over the last year. This despite COVID-19 restrictions, with people working from home, teaching remotely, home-schooling, carrying out fieldwork and keeping projects moving with all the adjustments this has involved. You are all stars and have ensured the AEA is much more resilient and fit for today's volatile world. I am particularly pleased that we have been able to bolster the small research grants fund pot and that we have revised and published the evaluation criteria we used for assessing applications.

The new website is now up and running and incorporates a new payment system for membership fees. There have been a few hiccups along the way but it is now working well apart from a small issue with access to the journal from the new members' area. This means that when you click on the icon to download a PDF from the relevant *Environmental Archaeology* webpage you get an error message. This can be resolved by right

clicking on the PDF icon and choosing 'open link in new window'; the article will then download properly. The issue is at the Taylor and Francis end and they are working hard to resolve it.

We also have a new AEA Google Workspace account which we will use manage and store the associations' archive. This account can also be used by members to run webinars and online meetings. If you are interesting in hosting such an event please contact us at [conference@envarch.net](mailto:conference@envarch.net). Last but not least registration for the online AEA spring conference *Open Science Practices in Environmental Archaeology* taking place on Saturday 24th April is now open. Registration closes on Friday 16th April. Many thanks to Lisa Lodwick and her team for putting this together and thanks also to the speakers for backing the conference, postponed from last year.

Gill Campbell, Feb 2021



The AEA newsletters of days gone by...

**Jochen Holger Schutkowski, biological anthropologist, was born on 3 September 1956. He died of Motor Neurone Disease (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) on 30 March 2020, aged 63.**



## In Memory of Jochen Holger Schutkowski

### **Biological anthropologist specializing in scientific studies to reconstruct diet, disease, and mobility in ancient populations**

As a teacher of osteology for archaeology and anthropology students, Holger Schutkowski often had to be inventive. On one occasion he faced a long wait from suppliers for models of human teeth in order to demonstrate natural variation and sampling strategies, so had casts made of his own masticators. Fully up to the job the casts are still in use, showing not only his appetite for home-spun solutions but also a preference for circumventing officialdom and bureaucracy when it suited him.

Human remains fascinated Holger, and his enthusiasm was infectious. Colleagues recall his patience when excavating complicated prehistoric burials, and his precision when laying out ancient skeletons in the laboratory for analysis. Ethical considerations were always at the forefront of his thinking and led to his involvement in the Working Group on the Revision of Burial Legislation led by the Ministry of Justice in 2011. He was soon afterwards appointed Chairman of the influential Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England (APABE), a tricky time as deep-seated concerns about the storage and treatment of human remains found voice through protest groups and the popular press, challenging museums and researchers to rethink working practices and tighten up established systems. As

colleague Simon Mays recalls, 'his unflinching good humour and people-skills allowed many potentially difficult situations to be successfully resolved through compromise and consensus'.

Research into the life and death of individuals and whole communities lay at the heart of his academic work. Starting with studies into the determination of the age and sex of individuals as a way of building up profiles of small population groups, he quickly moved into the field of human ecology with studies of diet, disease, and adaptation, publishing in quick succession a monograph entitled *Human Ecology: Biocultural Adaptations in Human Communities* in 2006 and an edited volume entitled *Between Biology and Culture* in 2008. Both were well received and pushed the field of bioarchaeology forwards, arguing for synthesis and greater nuance to be applied in the analyses of interactions between biological systems and human cultures.

Never one to shy away from a challenge, Holger took on the knotty problem of making sense of cremated bone, becoming an expert on burned remains at a time when few others had got to grips with this widely represented material. In class he sometimes played a video in which he demonstrated how to

excavate an urn full of cremated bone in the field, a film no doubt as memorable to students as a 'how-to-do-it' piece as it was amusing to see their tutor with long hair and flared trousers.

Another pioneering line of research was determining the sex of infant skeletons, a problem previously regarded as intractable. But his big break came with the development of isotope analysis as a way of documenting mobility patterns amongst human communities by looking at chemical signatures in tooth enamel that could be related back to drinking water in the places people lived. Quickly seeing the potential, he applied the technique to look at populations from prehistoric and early historic times across the Middle East to help sort out some of the most puzzling melting pots of human culture anywhere in the world. He was one of the first in Britain to take an explicitly biocultural approach to isotopic studies of human remains, demonstrating that isotopic and histological analysis should only, and can only, exist within the context of wider bioarchaeological studies, and are meaningless without the biocultural background.

Outside of archaeology music was his great passion. Almost any music was of interest, but chamber music was his favourite, and while competent on many instruments from the piano to a guitar, it was the viola at which he excelled. As a young man he mastered the demanding viola parts in Smetana's string quartet number 1 in E minor "Aus meinem Leben" (For my Life). And from school-

days onwards he played in orchestras and ensembles both for personal pleasure and for the delight of those listening. Most recently he played with the Winchester Symphony Orchestra where friends and fellow musicians described him as the 'best viola player we ever had', delivering solos in pieces such as Elgar's Enigma Variations with unparalleled expression and poignancy.

Jochen Holger Schutkowski, always known as Holger, was born on the 3 September 1956 in Berlin, but spent most of his childhood in the town of Wilhelmshaven in Lower Saxony on Germany's North Sea coast, with his parents and his older sister Bettina. The north-lands suited him, and in later life he defined himself as a 'Northerner', accepting the inherent propensity for directness, modesty, and the delights of a strong cup of tea accompanied by sweets. Holger studied anthropology at Göttingen University, mentored by the renowned German anthropologist Professor Bernd Herrmann. He completed a dissertation on the diagnostic value of the petrous portion of the temporal bone for sex determination in 1983, a PhD on the sex determination of juvenile remains in 1990, and his Habilitation in 1998.

He was appointed to a lectureship in the Department of Archaeology in the University of Göttingen in 1989, pursuing his interests in bioarchaeology with a Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) postdoctoral fellowship in 1994–5 and a research fellowship in the University of

Copenhagen in 1995. Returning to Göttingen he became acting head of department in 1995–6, by this time married to the prehistorian Helen Hofbauer.

In 2000 he moved to Britain to take up a Readership in Biological Anthropology in the School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Sciences at the University of Bradford, later becoming Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Transfer, and Head of Division from 2006 to 2010. During this time he became closely involved in the excavations at Sidon in Lebanon with Claude Serhal, but never neglected his administrative duties back home. The faculty in Bradford recall that he was at the helm during a difficult period for the Department with staff cuts looming and talk of closure. He was pivotal in turning that around, well-liked and trusted despite the hard decisions concerning staffing issues that had to be made. Indeed, colleagues fondly remember that he always seemed to be on their side rather than the voice of management; a real testament to his skills was that the Department retained a close sense of identity and friendship that endured through those years.

After a decade in Bradford new opportunities beckoned, and in 2011 he moved south to Bournemouth University to become Professor of Bioarchaeology and Deputy Dean in the School of Applied Sciences. He led the Bioarchaeology Group through several organizational reshuffles that galvanized

their future within what is now the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology. His research bridged science and the humanities, investigating the biological outcomes of socio-cultural strategies in human/environment interaction and looking also at forensic applications of physical anthropology. He combined morphological and instrument-analytical approaches to the study of human skeletal remains, and employed ecological and social theory as interpretive frameworks. Key projects included studies of dietary variability amongst human populations of the Near East from the Neolithic to the modern period funded by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the interrelationship of diet and status in early medieval Alemannic societies funded by the British Academy, and the Hyksos Enigma funded by the European Research Council. More than forty papers in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings resulted from this work, as well as monographs and edited volumes.

He served as an associate editor for the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, *Environmental Archaeology*, and *Bulletins et Mémoires de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris*, and was a regular participant and speaker at international conferences and meetings on both sides of the Atlantic. But despite all these successes at the cutting edge of the discipline, he never lost sight of the importance of teaching. Again, this was an area where Holger excelled, in which his eloquence and love

of precision combined perfectly with his boundless enthusiasm and joy of sharing his knowledge with others. In this sense perhaps Holger's most significant legacy is the great many students who were privileged to benefit from his wisdom and insights, and who now carry that forward.

Holger was widely recognized and honoured for his contributions to physical anthropology and bioarchaeology, being elected a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute in 2012, and a longstanding member of the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteology (BABAO). He was Chair/President of BABAO from 2004 to 2009, and at the 2018 Annual Meeting in Cranfield was appointed their first Honorary Lifetime Member. He was also a member of the Accreditation Panel for Forensic Practitioners of Royal Anthropological Institute and the British Association for Forensic Anthropology, recognizing the need to integrate academic training with professional practice.

Always happy at heart and unpretentious, he had a wicked sense of humour. It is said that he once laughed so much that he half fell out of his chair at a graduation ceremony in Bradford when the Chancellor, the cricketer Imran Khan, peddled the age-old joke in which

a well-known commentator absent-mindedly tells listeners that 'the bowler's Holding, the batsman's Willey'. Preferring small gatherings to large crowds, he espoused down-to-earth wisdom, was calm under pressure, and an unfailing source of sane and sensible advice.

Despite enduring Motor Neurone Disease (MND) for more than five years, Holger was teaching and researching right up until his death, latterly leaving his palliative care unit in order to spend a day at the university giving lectures, attending seminars, and talking to his students and research team. He showed remarkable courage and a positive outlook throughout, asserting that while it could take his physical abilities it could never dull his determination to live life to the full. Reflecting on the time living with MND Nivien Speith remembers how he constantly accepted change and adjusted accordingly: favourite walks became rides in his wheelchair; voice-banked words became bright new lectures, and listening to concerts replaced playing in the orchestra. The whirr of his motorized wheelchair became a familiar sound around the Bournemouth campus, and no-one will forget his impish smile as he swung into view. Stoic to the end, he perhaps sometimes secretly savoured the idea that casts of his teeth would be preserved for ever in the Department's teaching collection.

**Compiled by Timothy Darvill and Nivien Speith with generous assistance from many of Holger's friends and colleagues.**



The rescheduled AEA Spring Conference 2021 will be taking place online on

**Saturday 24th April 2021.**

Open Science Practices in Environmental Archaeology – the 2021 spring meeting of the AEA – will be taking place online on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April (UTC+01:00). We have a packed programme of 19 presentations discussing open data, open methods, and open access across all areas of environmental archaeology. Open Science is a key area of debate across disciplines, and with the challenges of conducting fieldwork, accessing laboratories and libraries, and undertaking teaching and research in a pandemic, the importance of this conference theme can be felt even more strongly now than when we began planning this event in 2019. A summary of the programme can be found below with all details available at this [link](#) and you can follow updates on twitter with #AEAOpenScience.

Canan Çakırlar – Lessons Learned and Lessons Taught in Open Zooarchaeology

Daniel Stansbie – Open Access, Open Data, and Open Standards: Sharing Environmental Archaeological Data Generated through Developer Funded Excavation

Anne de Vareilles, Ruth Pelling, Jessie Woodbridge, Ralph Fyfe and David Smith – Pros and Cons of Open Access Archaeobotanical Data: the Uses of ArboDat

Felix Bittmann, Wiebke Kirleis and Anna Maria Mercuri – Archaeobotany Networks and Data Sharing

Jessie Woodbridge, Anne De Vareilles, Ralph Fyfe, Ruth Pelling and David Smith – The Role of ‘Open Data’ in Investigating Long-term Human Land-Use Impacts on Land-Cover and Biodiversity

Philip Buckland – The Strategic Environmental Archaeology Database (SEAD)

David Osborne – Using the Arches platform for Heritage and Environmental Archaeology Data

Benjamin Irvine and G. Biké Yazicioglu-Santamaria – Comparative Perspectives and Current Trends in Multi-Isotopic Analyses: Towards an Integrated Bioarchaeological Isotope Database Website for the Greater Near East

Ricardo Fernandes, Barbara Zach and Robert N. Spengler III – Pandora and IsoMemo: Partnership-based Models for Big Historical Data

Sam Leggett - Open and FAIR Data in Stable Isotope Analysis – Some Reflections

Joe Roe - Out with the New, in with the Old: Recent Advances in Palaeoecological Modelling with Open Data

Kate Swinson – Unlocking the Potential of Meta-Analysis for Zooarchaeology

James Morris – We Need to Talk about Time

Jesse Wolfhagen – Biometric Mixture Modelling to Estimate Age and Sex Composition of Faunal Assemblages

Gayoung Park – Climate Models and Summed Probability Distributions: Using Open Data and Reproducible Methods for Understanding Environmental and Demographic Contexts of the Technological Transition during the Late Pleistocene in Korea

Emma Karoune – Striving for Reproducibility in Environmental Archaeology

Paul Flintoft – The ‘Openness’ of Archaeological Palaeoenvironmental Archives

Matt Law, Victoria Herridge, Hanneke Meijer and Suzanne Pilaar Birch – Reflections on Five Years of Open Quaternary

Elena Marinova, Angela Kreuz and Jeroen Poblome – Open access in Environmental Archaeology – Act Locally and Think Globally



Whilst we are sad not to be able to welcome speakers and attendants to Oxford, we hope that the online format will widen participation. Children and pets are of course welcome.

To register for this event (until Friday 16th April) please complete the form at this [link](#).

Please send any queries to [aea2020spring@gmail.com](mailto:aea2020spring@gmail.com).

**Lisa Lodwick, Tom Maltas, Tina Roushannafas and Rubi Wu**

**University of Oxford**



**AEA**

Spring conference 2021

Open Science Practices in  
Environmental Archaeology



## 12<sup>th</sup> International Meeting for Phytolith Research

*Towards positive synergies and wider horizons!*

In 2021, the 12<sup>th</sup> IMPR will be carried out in the frame of the 27<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA). >> <https://www.e-a-a.org//eaa2021>

**When / where: 8-11 September 2021 / Kiel (Germany)**

**What:** Several **IMPR-sessions** will cover the topics related to phytolith studies: find the best fit for your research!

**How\_1: Hybrid meeting** (virtual and in person\*)

**How\_2:** Check the **registration policy** for participants exclusively interested in IMPR-sessions!

You find all relevant information in the websites of the International Phytolith Society and of the 12<sup>th</sup> IMPR:

>> <https://phytoliths.org/>

>> [https://www.12impr.uni-kiel.de/en?set\\_language=en](https://www.12impr.uni-kiel.de/en?set_language=en)

**Looking forward to your contribution and to meeting you at the conference!**

Best wishes, stay healthy,  
The 12<sup>th</sup> IMPR organizing committee

*\*check the websites for updates!*



**EAA**  
**2021** Kiel, 8-11 Sept.  
Widening Horizons

Contact:  
12impr@email.uni-kiel.de



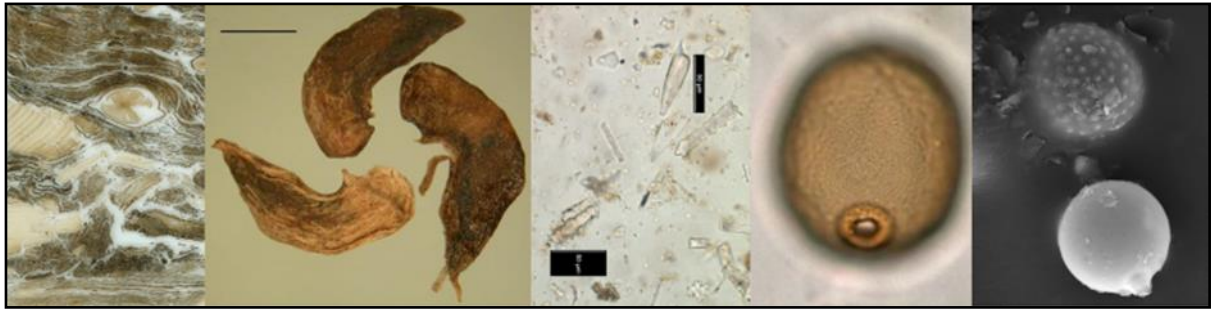
International  
Phytolith Society



European Association  
of Archaeologists



Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel



## **Integrated Microscopy Approaches in Archaeobotany**

### **School of Archaeology, Geography and Environmental Science**

IMAA 2021 will not be held in its usual slot in February/March this year, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Instead we are drawing up plans to hold the workshop later in the year, and we look forward to being able to welcome you to Reading.

<https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/integrated-microscopy-approaches-in-archaeobotany/2020/08/20/ima-2021/>



## Einladung & Call for Papers

*Tiere in Stadt und Land (und Kloster)*

MOVA Jena 2021

Vom Montag 4. Bis Donnerstag 7. Oktober 2021 in Jena, Universität (Details folgen)

Bei nahezu allen archäologischen Befunden und Funden steht der Bezug zum Menschen automatisch im Vordergrund. In den letzten Jahren sind jedoch verstärkt durch naturwissenschaftliche Analysen und interdisziplinäre Kooperationen auch die Lebensumstände der Tiere in den Fokus der Archäologie gerückt. Zweifelsohne lassen diese Ergebnisse einen noch detaillierteren Aufschluss über die Beziehung von Tier und Mensch zu. Aus diesem Grund ist es an der Zeit, sich mit dem Thema „Tiere“ auch in der DGaMN auseinander zu setzen.

Wie war die Lebenswelt von Nutztieren, Klein- und Haustieren gestaltet? Gibt es archäologische Nachweise zu Haltungsbedingungen, Zuchtumständen und/oder -bestrebungen? Ist archäologisch ein besonderes „Tiermanagement“ in Städten (Schlachthäuser), in Dörfern (Weiden/koppeln) oder in Klöstern (Teiche) nachweisbar? Wie erfolgte der Umgang mit Tieren, die z.B. für den Import oder Export bestimmt waren bzw. wie wurden diese ge- und verhandelt? Vom lebenden Allgäuer Weiderind bis hin zu Stockfischen oder Rentieren aus Nordskandinavien als Rohproduktlieferant sind hier auch Fragen nach Qualitäten und Quantitäten ein interessantes Abhandlungsfeld. Tiere waren aber auch Ausdruck von Lifestyle und dienten als Exotika und Luxusprodukt. So wurden Affen, Löwen und Elefanten nicht nur Symbolträger sondern fanden mitunter auch in physischer Gestalt den Weg nach Europa. Hier lohnt auch der Blick auf die materielle Kultur: Wie wurde mit der Rezeption von Tieren bzw. auch nicht existenten Tieren wie Fabelwesen, Drachen usw. umgegangen? Auch die Jagd ist ein Thema, die sich von den Anfängen der Falknerei und die Wildjagd bis über Jagdgesellschaften erstrecken könnte. Es geht aber auch eine Nummer kleiner: Was kann die Archäologie z.B. über Insekten aussagen? Insekten im Allgemeinen, in städtischen oder ländlichen Umfeld? Als primäres Beispiel wäre hier sogleich auch an die private, klösterliche oder städtische Imkerei gedacht. Wie sieht es mit besonderen Insekten aus, die gleichzeitig als besondere Anzeiger - wie die Totenkäfer aus dem Editha-Grab- gesehen werden können? Welche speziellen Tiere gibt es, die den Alltag des Menschen bestimmten, aber nicht sichtbar waren – so wie Parasiten? Was bleibt von den Tieren des Mittelalters und der Neuzeit überhaupt übrig? Sind sie verworfen, niedergelegt oder gar bestattet worden? Welchen Stellenwert haben z.B. animalische Exkremente? Wie können wir all diese „tierischen Funde“ als Datenträger für die Erforschung von Umweltaspekten oder die Wechselwirkungsbeziehungen zu anderen Tieren und dem Menschen nutzen?

Der Fokus der Vorträge sollte sich auf den deutschen Sprachraum richten, es sind aber natürlich auch Beispiele und Ergänzungen aus anderen Ländern herzlich willkommen. Ziel der Tagung soll es sein, anhand von vor allem archäologischen Befunden und Funden einen weiträumigen und themenbezogenen Überblick zu schaffen, um nachhaltig weitere Forschungsfragen anzuregen und zu formulieren.

Die Vorträge sollten eine Länge von 20 Minuten einhalten, gefolgt von 5-10 Minuten Diskussion. Wir freuen uns auf eingereichte Kurzexposés bis zum 15.03.2020 bei Dr. Martin Kroker, Landschaftsverband Westfalen-Lippe (LWL).

**Email: [martin.Kroker@lwl.org](mailto:martin.Kroker@lwl.org)**



10<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the ICAZ  
Bird Working Group  
5-6 June 2021  
University  
Museum of Bergen

Dear colleagues,

The abstract submission and registration for the 10th Bird Working Group Meeting, to be held on 5 – 6 June 2021, is now open.

**Abstract deadline for oral presentations and posters is 31st March.**

Abstract can be submitted [HERE](#). Abstracts (in English) will be 200-300 words and must include five keywords, the author's name/s, affiliation details, and email address. Please indicate whether you are submitting it as oral or poster presentation. Authors will be informed of whether their abstracts have been accepted by the end of April.

**Registration deadline is 15th May.**

You can register for the meeting [HERE](#). The meeting is open to anyone, but registration is required in order to access the links and participate online.

The details and program will be shared on our website <https://bergenosteology.w.uib.no/bwg2021/> as soon as they available.

We look forward to seeing you all online!

**Best wishes on behalf of the organizing committee:**

**Hanneke Meijer, Anne Karin Hufthammer, Samuel Walker, Liselotte Takken-Beijersbergen, Ramona Harrison**

## AEA AGM Round Up

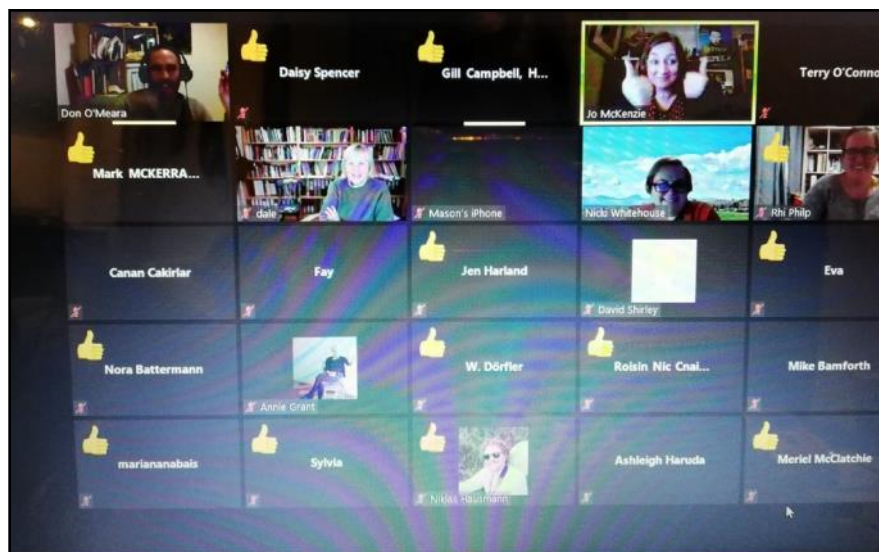
1st December 2020

The 2020 AGM was held at 18.00 on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 via Zoom, with 58 members attending. The AGM was chaired and presented by Gill Campbell and minuted by Don O'Meara. The accounts were presented by Mark McKerracher.

### Agenda

- Introduction by AEA Chair (Gill Campbell)
- AEA Committee elections (Don O'Meara)
- Treasurers Report (Mark McKerracher)
- Membership Report (Jo McKenzie)
- Small research grants (Nik Hausman/Alexandra Livarda)
- AEA Seminar Sponsorship (Canan Çakırlar)
- AEA Newsletter (Rhiannon Philp & Daisy Spencer)
- AEA Website (Eva Fairnell)
- Environmental Archaeology Journal (Tim Mighall)
- Don Brothwell Prize (Tim Mighall)
- John Evans Prize

The meeting began with the votes for the new AEA committee members. Voting took place either by members emailing Don O'Meara in advance, or by messaging him during the meeting. The results of these elections were announced at the close of the meeting (results below).



## Treasurer's Report

(Mark McKerracher; [treasurer@envarch.net](mailto:treasurer@envarch.net))

The main comments from Mark in relation to the finances were:

- Subscription income rose in 2019, with fewer subscribers paying the old rates (which are still being recorded as donations).
- Journal royalties fell slightly in 2019, but there has been an increase in editorial expenses from Taylor and Francis from 2020 onwards.
- There is a deficit on paper for 2019, but this was largely due to payment of two journal invoices, for 2018 and 2019. This is a 'catch-up' so that in future the AEA will be paying for the present year's journal, not the previous year.
- In 2019, there were underspends on the conference fund and the seminar sponsorship fund, which continued into 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- From 2020, more funds have been allocated to the website, which has been in need of a major overhaul for a number of years.

## Proposed budget for 2021

The proposed budget for 2021 is £24,200. Key differences with previous years are the committee expenses, which were largely travel costs in the past and therefore much lower for 2020, and an increase in money for the website overhaul.

| Heading                          | % budget | £ amount         | £change |
|----------------------------------|----------|------------------|---------|
| Committee expenses               | 2.1      | 500.00           | - 1,000 |
| Conference fund                  | 6.2      | 1,500.00         |         |
| Sponsorship/Publicity            | 2.5      | 600.00           | - 50    |
| Web                              | 6.6      | 1,600.00         | + 1,525 |
| Treasury                         | 4.1      | 1,000.00         | + 325   |
| Journal                          | 41.3     | 10,000.00        | - 1,200 |
| Prizes/Grants                    | 12.4     | 3,000.00         | + 400   |
| T&F research grant<br>(reserved) | 8.3      | 2,000.00         | + 2,000 |
| Editorial expenses (reserved)    | 16.5     | 4,000.00         | + 4,000 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                     |          | <b>24,200.00</b> |         |

Attending Members voted to approve the proposed budget for 2021 with no objections or abstentions.

## Membership

(Jo McKenzie, Membership Secretary, [membership@envarch.net](mailto:membership@envarch.net))

2020 has seen the AEA membership increase once again, with 38 new members joining this year (15 Ordinary and 23 Student). We are pleased to see the AEA continue to represent an international community, and welcome our first members based in Hawaii, Croatia, and Bangladesh. The AEA is now represented in 34 countries worldwide, with 304 members.

While the majority of our individual members use our online payment facility, we still have a number of Standing Order (SO) payers as well as a few who pay via other means (cheque, cash, bank transfer). We still receive a number of SO payments at superseded subscription rates. These individuals are therefore not fully paid up and will not be eligible for any membership benefits including the journal. If you pay by SO, but haven't received your journals – get in touch, and check your SO amount! The Association is unable to cancel or amend your SO for you and, following the introduction of GDPR in May 2018, only holds membership data for three years (see <http://envarch.net/privacy/>).

Our current subscription rates are £45 waged, £35 student/unwaged/retired (equivalent in other currencies, calculated at time of payment through Worldpay). This year we are asking members to delay payment until our new website is up and running in January 2021. Members are reminded that prompt payment of subscriptions, by the last week in February at the latest, guarantees journals will be received and makes the job of managing membership significantly easier.

In the wake of the devastating fire at the National Museum, Brazil, in September 2018, the AEA was proud to make its Honorary Membership Awards for 2019-21 to the Museum's Laboratory of Archaeobotany and Landscape:

- **Laboratório de Arqueobotânica e Paisagem**  
Departamento de Antropologia, Museu Nacional, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
(Institutional Award)
- **Dr Rita Scheel-Ybert**, Laboratório de Arqueobotânica e Paisagem, Museu Nacional, Brazil (Individual Award)

We are pleased to have been able to offer our support to our Brazilian colleagues during this period. The Museum's planned reopening for 2022 is now unlikely to go ahead due to the COVID pandemic. We send our continued good wishes for the future.

### Small Research Grants

(Niklas Hausmann, Grants Administrator, [researchgrants@envarch.net](mailto:researchgrants@envarch.net) )

2019 was the sixth successful year of AEA grants, with a highly competitive submission and many worthy applications. There were 32 applications totalling £16,811 in requested funding. Applicants came from Chile, France, Italy, Netherlands, Germany, Ireland, Belgium, Sweden, USA and UK. Of these 16 were postgrads, 1 undergrad, 5 academics and 2 independent researchers. The recipients of the 2020 grants are listed in the table below.



| Recipient         | Affiliation              | Title   |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---|
| Jessie Woodbridge | University of Plymouth   | Improving socio-ecological resilience to wildfire in the UK                             |
| James B. Innes    | Durham University        | Age, palaeoenvironment and recording of Mesolithic flint sites at Esklets               |
| Veronica Lee      | University of York       | Pike trade in the late medieval Baltic  |
| Hannah Britton    | University of Exeter     | No bark, all bite   |
| Sue Dyke          | Uni. Highlands + Islands | Investigating how Broch communities interact with their landscape in the Northern Isles |

There was some debate at the meeting about how the AEA can improve the grants process following detailed analysis and insight from Niklas Hausmann gained from his four years as Small Research Grants Officer. Thanks to the membership for their ideas and suggestions on how the association can address these issues. Alex Livarda now steps into this role to carry on Niklas' great work

### Seminars

(Canan Çakırlar Seminar Officer)

The AEA seminar officer Canan Çakırlar outlined the Seminars the AEA has sponsored this year. Due to the Covid restrictions there were fewer academic activities than in a normal year. However, a small number of events have been sponsored. These were the keynote by Catherine Perlès and Mario Mineo at a conference on the Neolithic held in Barcelona, Alex Pluslowski's keynote at the Historical Questions Zooarchaeological Answers Workshop in Amsterdam, and a session at the Integrated mMacroscopy Approaches in Archaeobotany held in Reading in February.

### Newsletter

(Rhiannon Philp and Daisy Spencer, newsletter@envarch.net)

The newsletter editors would like to thank everyone who contributed to the newsletter this year! Thanks also to Eva Fairnell and Nora Batterman for their proof reading contributions. After valued feedback from one of our members, changes have been made to the Social Media page. Social media has grown exponentially in the last number of years, and is now a serious means of promoting and highlighting important academic work. This section has been changed to more clearly reflect this, and to ensure the source of all information is properly credited.

The team is always on the lookout for short research pieces – would like to include more early career abstracts if we can. There was a general call for suggestions for new types of content and members were encouraged to get in touch if they would like to suggest a contribution. Content including short news stories, notes and early research summaries, recent PhD abstracts, and news of forthcoming conferences/ workshops are welcome at any time.

### Website

(Eva Fairnell)

Eva, with support from various committee members, but particularly Michael Wallace, has been working on a new website. The old website had reached the end of its life, and many years of modifications, quick fixes, and changing website formats had taken their toll. The website was increasingly liable to not functioning correctly (particularly for access to the journal for members, and for renewals), and therefore the decision was taken to develop a new website from scratch.

This can now be visited, and we hope our members see this represents a major improvement on the old website: [Association for Environmental Archaeology \(envarch.net\)](http://envarch.net)

### Journal

(Tim Mighall, Journal Editor, t.mighall@abdn.ac.uk)

Environmental Archaeology is moving to 6 issues from 2021. Currently copy for vol 25 (2020) is complete & online; 26.1/2 scheduled. For 2019 the impact factor currently stands at 1.475. Other improvements include Taylor & Francis plans to move to format free submission to speed up the process.

### John Evans Prize

(Jen Harland, Prize Administrator johnevansprize@envarch.net)

The John Evans prize is awarded to the best undergraduate and Masters dissertations which have been submitted by university departments. This year the two winners were:

#### 2020 Undergraduate Prize:

Synnøve Gravdal Heimvik University of Edinburgh MA (Hons) *Of Rodents and Men: A Study of the Microfaunal Remains from Çamlıbel Tarlası* (note that the undergraduate degree from a Scottish university is equivalent to an MA/MSc from when judged by international standards)

#### 2020 Postgraduate Prize:

Georgina Compton, University of Bournemouth, MSc Bioarchaeology, *Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth: An Isotopic Analysis and Osteobiographical Narrative of the Equid Burials at Umm el-Marra*

## Don Brothwell Prize

In Don's honour the AEA set up the Don Brothwell Prize which is awarded to the best paper published in *Environmental Archaeology* each year. The prize comprises free electronic access to the paper for a period of 2 years following announcement of the award. The journal's editorial board select a shortlist of 5 to 8 papers, which in their opinion, form the best and most significant papers published that year. Peter Gane, Taylor and Francis' managing editor, then chooses the winner from the shortlist. The 2020 shortlist consisted of the following papers:

Wenmin Qin, Lunche Wang, Aiwen Lin, Chao Yang & Hongji Zhu Spatial-Temporal Evolution of the Distribution Pattern of Neolithic Sites in Han River Basin, China. Issue 1, 1-13.

Wesley Parker, Yurena Yanes, Eduardo Mesa Hernandez, Juan Carlos Hernandez, Jorge Pais, Nora Soto Contreras, Donna Surge Shellfish Exploitation in the Western Canary Islands Over the Last Two Millennia. Issue 1, 14-36.

Seth Quintus and Noa Kekuewa Lincoln Integrating Local and Regional in Pre-Contact Hawaiian Agriculture at Kahuku, Hawai'i Island', Issue 1, 53-68.

Matthew Dalton & Philippa Ryan Variable Ovicaprid Diet and Faecal Spherulite Production at Amara West, Sudan. Issue 2, 178-197.

Rowena Banerjea, Monika Badura, Alex Brown, Lionella Morandi, Mirosław Marcinkowski, Heiki Valk, Kristin Ismail-Meyer, Aleks Pluskowski Feeding the Crusades: Archaeobotany, Animal Husbandry and Livestock Alimentation on the Baltic Frontier. Issue 2, 135-150.

Aroa Garcia-Suarez, Marta Portillo and Wendy Mathews Early Animal Management Strategies during the Neolithic of the Konya Plain, Central Anatolia: Integrating Micromorphological and Microfossil Evidence. Issue 2, 208-226.

Marta Portillo, Terry Ball, Michael Wallace, Charlene Murphy, Sebastian Perez-Diaz, Monica Ruiz-Alonso, Francisco Javier Aceituno, Jose Antonio Lopez-Saez Advances in Morphometrics in Archaeobotany. Issue 2, 246-256.

Nicolas Goepfert, Elise Dufour, Gabriel Prieto, John Verano Herds for the Gods? Selection Criteria and Herd Management at the Mass Sacrifice Site of Huanchaquito-Las Llamas During the Chimú Period, Northern Coast of Peru. Issue 3, 296-309.

The winner announced at the AGM was:

**Wenmin Qin, Lunche Wang, Aiwen Lin, Chao Yang & Hongji Zhu Spatial-Temporal Evolution of the Distribution Pattern of Neolithic Sites in Han River Basin, China. Issue 1, 1-13.**

Peter Gane, our contact at Taylor and Francis described it as: *“This is one of the best papers I have read from a Chinese archaeology team and a really good analysis of a large number of sites over time”*

**New committee members:**

The AGM concluded with the election of new committee members. The new ordinary members duly elected were: Aldona Mueller-Bieniek, Emma Karoune (née Harvey), and Tom Gardner. The student representative is Sebastião Lacerda de Lima Filho, while Mark McKerracher was re-elected as Treasurer.

The AGM was concluded at 19:00, and Professor Naomi Sykes presented a seminar focusing on a new interdisciplinary project she is developing which focuses on the nature of human-animal interactions, specifically the nature of feeding animals. The development of this project can be followed via their project website: [Welcome | FTB to DNFTA \(animalfeeding.org\)](https://www.welcome-ftb-to-dnfta.org)



## John Evans Prize Winners 2020

Undergraduate Dissertation:

**Synnøve Gravdal Heimvik, MA (Hons) Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, UK**

**Title: Of Rodents and Men: A Study of the Microfaunal Remains from Çamlıbel Tarlası**

Through the use of microfaunal remains and their accompanying environmental proxies, this thesis aims to address two central research aims:

1. To recreate the ancient surrounding environment of Late Chalcolithic Çamlıbel Tarlası at the time of occupation.
2. To build a picture of the anthropogenic environment of Çamlıbel Tarlası, with emphasis on the use of the site's "Burnt House".

It will achieve these aims through a multi-faceted analysis of different sources of paleoenvironmental, archaeological contextual, and material evidence. Chapter 2 will discuss some of the key methods used to access paleoenvironmental information from archaeological faunal assemblages. Following this, Chapter 3 will situate the site of Çamlıbel Tarlası, culturally and temporally, within its wider archaeological context, while simultaneously providing a detailed reconstruction of the site's architectural and stratigraphic development; this will prove critical in situating the microfaunal material analysed in this dissertation. Chapter 4 will detail the materials and methods which will be used in this paleoenvironmental study, taking care to consider the methodological and archaeological issues discussed in the two previous chapters. Finally, while Chapter 5 will present the empirical results of detailed analysis of the Çamlıbel macrofaunal sample, Chapter 6 will bring these results to bear on the central research questions outlined above. This final chapter will therefore offer significant new perspectives on the immediate environment surrounding Çamlıbel Tarlası, as well as the site's anthropogenic environment throughout its occupation, with particular focus on the use of the "Burnt House" structure. Significantly, this dissertation will demonstrate the vast potential of microfaunal remains in future archaeological interpretation.

Postgraduate Dissertation:

**Georgina Compton, MSc Bioarchaeology, University of Bournemouth, UK**

**Title: Looking a Gift Horse in the Mouth: a Isotopic Analysis and Osteobiographical Narrative of the Equid Burials at Umm el-Marra**

Umm el-Marra, a site located in the Jabbul Plain in north west Syria, has an elite mortuary complex dating to the Early Bronze Age (c. 2550–2200 BCE). Within the complex, 40 equids are interred, often in their own mud-brick structures, on a scale unique in Early Bronze Age Syria. Research conducted on the equids suggests they are elite hybrids called kunga, prized by the royals of Bronze Age Syria. Kunga were bred in a few locations, most notable of which is Tell Brak, 308 km to the west of Umm el-Marra. This dissertation employs  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  ratio analysis (n=14) and incremental  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  from carbonate sampling (n=72) to examine and compare trade, migration and diet in four equids, one *Bos* and two ovicaprines from the site. Two equids, one ovicaprine and the *Bos* specimen had  $^{87}\text{Sr}/^{86}\text{Sr}$  values reflective of local values at Umm el-Marra or the nearby Jabbul Plain, while two of the equids had values outside of the area. One equid appears to have been born at the site which challenges assumptions on the locations of kunga breeding. Equids had higher  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values than the other animals studied, two of which had  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  values between  $\text{C}_3$  and  $\text{C}_4$  plant ranges which may be indicative of foddering. There appears to be no unified treatment of these elite equids. An osteobiographical narrative was created to curate, contextualise and present the information gathered for the kunga of Umm el-Marra, in an accessible way.

We invite each Department of Archaeology (or other relevant department) to submit the dissertation of their best candidate at Undergraduate and Masters level.

Nominations for submission should be submitted before 31st July to be considered for the 2021 prize.

For more details please visit the [John Evans Dissertation Prize](#) page on our website or contact the prize administrator via [johnevensprize@envarch.net](mailto:johnevensprize@envarch.net).



# Trending in Environmental Archaeology



Welcome to our Social Media roundup of all things Environmental Archaeology! Here you will find snapshots from social media selected by our Student Representative to provide a flavour of what has been happening online in the world of Environmental Archaeology during the last quarter.

If you have a particular social media campaign that you would like featured on this page, please email the newsletter editors: [newsletter@envarch.net](mailto:newsletter@envarch.net)

**Lincoln Palaeo Lab**  
@LincolnPalaeo

Happy International Day of Women in Science to all the wonderful female scientists out there  
[#WomenInScienceDay](#)

8:47 AM · Feb 11, 2021 · Twitter for iPhone

**Paul Blinkhorn**  
@R1100GSBlueNose

Re Sutton Hoo. The site photographs were not taken by a man, they were taken by two women, Mercie Lack and Barbara Wagstaffe, and their work includes what are thought to be the first colour photos of an archaeological excavation in England. Here they are in action at SH  
[#TheDig](#)

9:25 AM · Feb 2, 2021 · Twitter Web App

AEA Retweeted

**Antiquity Journal**  
@AntiquityJ

It's [#NationalPoopDay](#)

This is a fossil human faeces, from the ~8,000-year-old proto-city of Çatalhöyük in [Turkey](#). The coprolite helped researchers study parasitic infection in the [#Neolithic](#).

to research on it that doesn't stink from 2019 (£)  
[buff.ly/2LBpXba](http://buff.ly/2LBpXba)

10mm

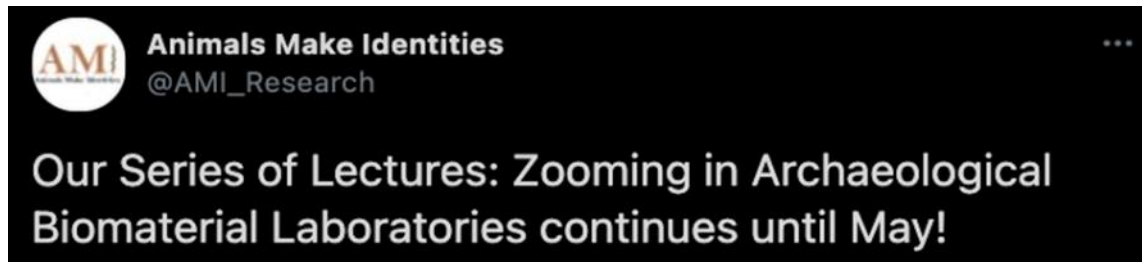
**Quite Interesting**  
@qikipedia

In 2003, archaeologists in Venezuela discovered fossilised remains of a guinea pig the size of a cow.

10:00 AM · Feb 5, 2021 · TweetDeck



## Trending in Environmental Archaeology



This project has received funding from European Research Council (ERC), Consolidator Grant (864258) 2020 -2025

### Series of Lectures: Zooming in Archaeological Biomaterial Laboratories

What data can be produced from a soil sample? How to extract organic residues from a sherd? Where to learn high resolution microscopy? How to reach out to biomaterial labs?

Biomaterials are a specific and rich-find group for every archaeologist. Their analyses contain macroscopic, microscopic and molecular methodologies. In this series of lectures, a selection of laboratories focusing on biomaterials will be introduced. We will hear about methods, for instance, on how samples taken from soils, plants and animals are converted into data on species distributions, isotopes, proteins and micro wear.

Welcome to tune in and listen to the leading researchers presenting their labs, facilities and projects!

#### LECTURES

- **Tuesday 23.02.2021 at 4 PM.** EcoPast: what happens when natural and human sciences walk together. **Olalla López-Costas**, Laboratory EcoPast, Faculty of Biology, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
- **Tuesday 09.03.2021 at 4 PM.** Nanomicroscopy Center of Aalto University - Scanning electron microscopy for dry and wet archaeological biomaterials. **Krista Vajanto**, Aalto University
- **Tuesday 23.03.2021 at 4 PM** Traces in Archaeology. **Anya Kostylanya**, Laboratory of the Experimental Traceology, Institute for the History of Material Culture RAS, Saint-Petersburg, Russia
- **Tuesday 06.04.2021 TBA**
- **Tuesday 20.04.2021 TBA**
- **Tuesday 04.05.2021 at 4 PM Eileen Murphy**, Bioarchaeology, radiocarbon and isotopes facilities at the Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland (title will be provided later)







<http://www.envarch.net>

### *The AEA*

*The AEA promotes the advancement of the study of human interaction with the environment in the past through archaeology and related disciplines.*

*We hold annual conferences and other meetings, produce a quarterly newsletter for members, and publish our conference monographs, as well as our journal 'Environmental Archaeology: The journal of human palaeoecology'.*

## Key Dates

### **AEA Spring Conference**

Saturday 24th April 2021 (online)

### **ICAZ Bird Working Group**

5th–6th June 2021 (online)

### **John Evans Prize Submission Deadline**

31st July 2021

### **European Association of Archaeologists Conference**

8th–11th September 2021 (online)

### **DGaMN**

4th–7th October 2021

## Notes from the Newsletter Editors

We are always keen to receive newsletter content, especially from our non-UK members. We accept short research pieces, thesis abstracts, conference announcements and calls for papers and are open to other suggestions.

To submit an article, please email word documents and images to:

**[newsletter@envarch.net](mailto:newsletter@envarch.net)**

**Next deadline: 20th April 2021**

***Rhiannon Philp and Daisy Spencer***

*With thanks to our proofreaders Eva Fairnell & Róisín Nic Cnáimhín*