

Association *for*Environmental Archaeology

AEA Newsletter 134

May/June 2017

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ISSN 1363-6553

From the editor

Our chair Richard Thomas has been rather busy in the last few months from a guest slot at Groningen University, Netherlands, to New York, USA where he has been hobnobbing with David Attenborough about celebrity elephant 'Jumbo' then off to the childhood home of the nine day Queen, Lady Jane Gray, where he is exploring the supposed brewing vat (sadly not functioning) within the ruinous kitchens with Leicester's first year students, also finding Mesolithic flints... ah, the serendipity of archaeology.



Images R. Thomas and Bradgate Park field school, University of Leicester

Before he got so busy back in April we were able to welcome members, and a good number of local students, to an enjoyable and varied day at the Association's 2017 spring conference at the University of

Leicester. The sessions focused on the theme of the use/presentation of environmental archaeological data to hardened specialists as well as how findings might be better communicated with a wider public (conference report in this issue from some of our AEA supported attendees). It was also an opportunity for us to celebrate the work of AEA stalwarts and retiring Historic England Science Advisors Jacqui Huntley and Vanessa Straker. We kept them busy over lunch as judges and you will find the AEA/BAR student prize winning poster 'The Sanguine Sheep' from PhD student and commercial archaeologist Rachel Small in the research section of this issue, along with an excellent piece on dogs by another Leicester PhD student Lauren Bellis.

At the postponed 2016 AGM we were able to announce the winners of our community member prize South Somerset Archaeological Research Group (intro inside). Other announcements included winners of this year's AEA Grants as well as plans for our upcoming AEA conferences in Edinburgh on the 1-3rd of December (call for papers in this issue) and a pest related meeting, in spring 2018, in Birmingham,. We hope you will be able to join us at one of these upcoming events. Also relating to the AGM in this issue you will find information/ reports relating back to the association's activities in 2016, in some cases from committee members who have ended their terms, a welcome to our new committee members and a call for new committee members, including the chair (well we had better give Richard a chance to rest after all that gallivanting around the world).







Association for Environmental Archaeology

Autumn Conference 2017

Grand Challenge Agendas in Environmental Archaeology University of Edinburgh (UK), 1-3 December 2017

Conference abstract

How do we approach today's great themes in international environmental archaeology? How will this feed into the next research agenda? What are environmental archaeology's grand challenges? 'Grand challenges for archaeology' have recently been proposed to focus the disciplines efforts and capabilities on the most important scientific challenges (Kintigh et al. 2014, PNAS 111, 879-80). Those identified focus on investigating the dynamics of complex socio-ecological systems, addressing key questions of emergence, complexity, demography, mobility, identity, resilience, and human-environment interactions. Environmental archaeology is ideally situated to contribute directly to these challenges, concerned, as it is, with the human ecology of the past – the relationship between past human populations and their physical, biological and socio-economic environments - through the analysis and interpretation of animal and plant remains within the depositional environment of the archaeological site and its surrounds. These approaches allow analysis of the dynamics of socio-ecological systems at varying spatial and temporal scales. Combined with the continued advancement of scientific methodological applications this is enabling increasingly powerful insights into human paleoecology, for example via analyses of palaeodiets, disease ecology, and past climatic change. Particular challenges lie in how to integrate data generated from diverse methodological approaches, and how to model and test cultural and ecological agency in the past, and how to tap the full potential that lies in increasingly large and disparate datasets being generated by the different practitioners of environmental archaeology. Public and fiscal responsibility also challenges environmental archaeological research to contribute to debates of relevance to the modern world, with its important potential insights on human-environment interactions, biodiversity, food security, and societal resilience.

This conference seeks to explore the grand challenge agendas for environmental archaeology that confront its methods, approaches, contributions and relevance, including (but not limited to):

- the ways in which the discipline can contribute to the major research foci of archaeology
- advances in method, and integration of methods, that are permitting more robust and nuanced insights in these areas
- approaches to modelling and testing past socio-ecological relationships, and exploring issues of cause and effect in these systems
- the ways in which environmental archaeological research is relevant and contributes to the contemporary world

The organising committee invites oral and poster presentations that examine these themes. We are particularly keen to encourage comparative research that show how regional case studies can make essential contributions to globally-important questions, or indeed help to shape them and set new agendas for research.

Please send proposals for papers and posters to <u>AEA2017@ed.ac.uk</u> by **Friday 29 September 2017**. Abstracts should be sent as Word documents, be a maximum of 200 words and contain a clear description of the topic. Please include a title, complete name(s) of author(s), affiliation(s), and full postal and email addresses.

Conference organisers:

Dr Robin Bendrey, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh Prof Andrew Dugmore, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh Dr Eva Panagiotakopulu, School of Geosciences, University of Edinburgh Dr Xavier Rubio-Campillo, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh

SSARG

—2016 Recipients of the AEA *Archaeological Society Membership Award*

The South Somerset Archaeological Research Group (SSARG) is a community based group run by volunteers based near Wincanton in Somerset. We are a very active group, both on the field work and social front. Our field work includes excavation, test pitting and geophysics, plus post-ex work, e.g. finds processing and flotation at our Unit at Sutton Montis near South Cadbury Hillfort. We also run a programme of talks and outings and each year take part in the CBA's Festival of Archaeology. This year we will be continuing our work at Montacute House, working with the National Trust to locate buried garden features and buildings using geophysics.

SSARG is very lucky to be able to do this because it has access to help and advice with respect to plant remains, molluscs and faunal remains via its membership. Two of our members, Liz Caldwell and Nigel Harvey, also run a local business called GeoFlo, carrying out geophysical

surveys and processing soil samples. Their work helps to support SSARG financially. Last year SSARG members set up a new branch of the Young Archaeologists Club - Mick Aston's Young Archaeologists (MAYA) based at the Museum of Somerset in Taunton.

SSARG is a keen supporter of environmental archaeology, both on the practical side by taking soil samples during our excavations, and also by educating our members though talks and giving people the opportunity to do flotation and residue sorting. Our most recent speaker was Matt Law from Bath Spa University, who also recently did a session for our Young Archaeologists. The children were absolutely fascinated by the tiny seeds, bones and shells!

We were really delighted to discover we had been awarded the Association for Environment Archaeology Community Group Prize! *Liz Caldwell SSARG*



A Dog's Life:

An interdisciplinary study of changing human-animal relationships in Roman Britain

Summary

The Roman annexation of Britain (from 43 to 410 AD) is linked with new dog types, particularly very small 'toy' dogs. This may bring new attitudes towards dogs compared to the previous Iron Age. If so, this may indicate developments in how people perceived the natural world or even treated other humans (present-day studies indicate links between animal and human abuse).

Questions: Did dogs' roles and significance in society change, e.g. to companion animals? Did attitudes towards dogs change, e.g. their welfare?



'Never has another dog missed me or my comrade... as he does... When he sees me he smiles and goes on once more... Therefore, I have no hesitation to set down his name, so that something of him may survive' (Arrian. Hunt. 5.1-6)

Methods

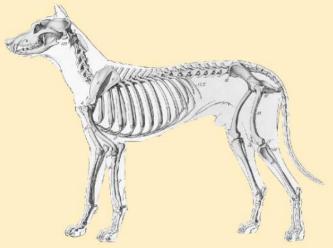
- Dog bones will be examined for pathological changes, showing how well the dog was treated and cared for.
- Texts from the Roman world about dogs will be examined.
- **Stable isotope analysis** of bone collagen; this can indicate the quality of diet the dogs had.

City and Country Dogs

My MA research piloted this project, noting several interesting trends in the Roman period:

- Urban dogs were on average **smaller**, and had a **higher rate of fractures** than dogs on rural sites.
- Few dogs appeared to be intentionally abused.

How these results, and their implications in terms of human-dog relationships, differed from the Late Iron Age will be explored further.



Lauren Bellis

lb342@le.ac.uk





A Dog's Life Methods and Materials

Dog Biographies

The counties of Hampshire and Dorset show a particularly large concentration of later Iron Age and Roman dog burials; the reasons for such are not yet known. They have been selected as a case study for the analysis of dog skeletons, and will provide around 70-80 burials in total. From these, dog biographies will be constructed. These will draw from the skeletons as much data as possible about the animal in death and life: its deposition, completeness, physical size and shape, health and diet.

This data will be drawn together to create a biography of each individual animal; in this, each attribute measured will provide the most information analysed as a whole rather than separately. While biographies of dogs in the Roman world have already been created (c.f. MacKinnon and Belanger, 2006), the data provides an opportunity to produce them in larger quantities than usual, thus allowing dogs from different sites and time periods to be compared with one another.







Textual Evidence

Textual evidence, while largely unrepresentative of direct attitudes towards dogs in Roman Britain, none-theless is invaluable for insights into the attitudes of the mainland Roman elite towards them. These attitudes would have been introduced to Roman Britain (in varying degrees) and provide an opportunity, in conjunction with the archaeological evidence, to examine whether these attitudes were adopted, adopted in part or rejected by various social groups in Roman Britain.

Textual evidence largely falls into three categories: agricultural treatises, works on hunting and depictions of dogs in epigrams and literature. They indicate, most strongly, an interest in careful dog breeding and care that builds upon a tradition spanning back to Classical Greece. Sentimental depictions of dogs are less common, but appear in epigrams and works of literature, and indicate that some dogs, at least, had a bond with their owners that went beyond a purely functional one.

AEA Grants 2017

After assessing a strong range of projects the panel are please to announce the 2017 recipients of the AEA Research Grants

Tansy Branscombe: Postgraduate MPhil , University of Cambridge

Shell fishing at the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition in the East Adriatic

This project is focused on the investigation of shell fishing and dietary change over the Mesolithic/
Neolithic transition in Croatia. I am using an archaeological assemblage of marine and terrestrial molluscs (largely the result of human subsistence) from the site of Vela Spila, on the island of Korčula as the basis for the research. This is a large cave site,

with relatively continuous deposits between the Upper Palaeolithic and Copper Age. The Mesolithic-Neolithic sequence provides a good dataset for research into this important human transition.

In order to show changes in shell fishing strategy and marine/terrestrial dietary sources over this transition, I am utilising several approaches. Firstly, I have done substantial work identifying and quantifying the assemblage using zooarchaeological approaches, in order to see broad changes in species diversity and intensity of use over time. I am now undertaking a morphometric study of the assemblages. This involves taking several measurements on samples of well-

preserved Patella sp. throughout the different periods of occupation. I am looking for changes in shell size and shape that could relate to intensity of resource use, size selection and environmental change.

The next stage is an isotopic investigation into the seasonality of shellfish gathering. I intend to take samples for isotopic analysis from Patella sp. And Phorcus sp. from trench 2 of Vela Spila, with samples from layers representing the Neolithic, Mesolithic, and the transition between the two. Oxygen isotope analysis should provide estimates of sea surface temperature from the time of collection, which will be used to assess the seasonality of shellfish gathering in the past. This should provide greater insight into potential subsistence differences between these periods. It is this part of the project that requires funding, due to expenses incurred in mass spectrometry.

Lídia Colominas: Researcher/academic, Institut Català d'Arqueologia Clàssica, Spain

Tracing ancient livestock farming in eastern Pyrenees as a shaper of mountain landscapes: a sediment DNA approach

High mountain environments have traditionally been conceived as natural spaces characterised in essence by the marginality of human activities. Likewise, diverse research projects have shown that the high mountains are areas that have been profoundly humanised since ancient times, where one of the activities that has most modified the landscape over the centuries has been stockbreeding. Palynological and charcoal analyses suggest that a process of forest degradation affecting the highland areas took place in the Pyrenees from the Neolithic on. At the same

time, field surveys have documented the existence of enclosures and shepherd's huts at 2000m. Analyses of faecal molecules and coprophilous fungi spores also show the presence of domestic animals in the highlands. However, all this is indirect evidence, making the information on animal husbandry scattered and imprecise. It is therefore necessary to address this gap to better understand the impact of human activities on these sensitive and at-risk environments. A palaeogenetic sediment approach will be used to achieve this goal. We will analyse the column sediment sample already available from the "Forcat Lake" (Andorra, eastern Pyrenees) at an altitude of 2550m. This innovative approach will allow us to detect the presence of particular animal species in this eastern Pyrenean ecosystem along

history and, therefore, to reconstruct a detailed and long picture of human land use and past human/ environment interaction from the 7400 BP until the seventh century AD. It will also allow us to bypass the limitations found in both landscape archaeology and zooarchaeology to study animal husbandry in highlands.

Youri van den Hurk: Postgraduate PhD, University College London, UK

Optimizing Zooarchaeological Research on Cetacean Remains

The field of zooarchaeology, by definition, aims to reconstruct the relationship between animals and humans in the past; however, research has primarily focused on domesticated mammals, frequently ignoring other animal groups. The group of mammals that is most seriously understudied are cetaceans, resulting in a poor understanding of early human-cetacean interaction and the origin of commercial whaling practices.

My research is concerned with reconstructing the

dynamics of human-cetacean relationships in medieval Europe and the changing tempos of exploitation. For this I am looking at cetacean remains ecosystems on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, from a variety of medieval archaeological contexts. However, in order to understand the complexities of cetacean exploitation, it is necessary to identify these cetacean specimens to the species level. Unfortunately, a lack of osteological cetacean reference collections and well-trained specialists renders speciation problematic, frequently resulting in the labelling of archaeological specimens merely as "whale" without further speciation.

For my PhD I am working on the creation of an osteological cetacean reference manual, that will optimize speciation of zooarchaeological cetacean remains. I am currently doing this at the Smithsonian, Washington DC. To test whether my manual, I will look at a large number of zooarchaeological cetacean remains identifying them to species level with the help of the manual, and ZooMS. By using both methods, speciation will be more accurate and in additional it will show the potential of the osteological cetacean manual could have on zooarchaeological assemblages. The money I am applying for will be used for ZooMS identification at Manchester University. I intend to make my manual available to all zooarchaeologists studying cetaceans, thereby making it possible to optimize zooarchaeological research on cetaceans.

Jessica Watson: Prostgraduate PhD, University at Albany, USA

Paleoenvironment and Prehistoric Diet on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts

An investigation of dynamic patterns of human responses to climate change along the northeast Atlantic coast. An integral component of my dissertation project, which focuses on prehistoric human diet and paleoenvironmental reconstruction. I intend to explore prehistoric interactions with local where significant climatic changes have altered the island and its resources over the past 5,000 years.

My project re-examines curated archaeological assemblages from the Frisby Butler and Hornblower II sites, located in southwestern Martha's Vineyard. Nearby excavations have dated the island's settlement from 5,000 B.P. to present. This project will continue to expand this timeline and will integrate stable isotope analysis to achieve a more indepth look at the island's environment.

A total of 160 stable isotope samples will be extracted from terrestrial mammal bone (expenses for 20 samples requested from AEA). Collagen extractions will be prepared at the New York State Museum under the direction of Dr. Robert Feranec. These samples will then be sent to the University at California at Berkeley Center for Stable Isotope Biogeochemistry for analysis in an accelerator mass spectrometer. Each sample will require approximately 200mg of bone, leaving most of the collection intact and usable for future museum-based research. Sampling will focus on bone fragments rather than rare or diagnostic articular ends to preserve as much of the collection as possible. Samples of carbon, nitrogen, and sulfur will be tested together to reduce costs and yield significantly more data than is available with separate runs per element.

The results of stable isotope analysis will be used to reconstruct the early habitats of Martha's Vineyard, including the arrival and impact of domesticated plants and animals. These data, in turn, should help answer my research questions about human diet during a period of climate change.

We look forward to hearing about the results over the next few years. For future funding rounds and details please see the AEA website grants pages

First call of the third International Workshop of Pedoanthracology

2-3 November 2017, at the University of Limoges in France

Abstracts must be submitted to marie-claude.bal@unilim.fr by the 1st July 2017

The Bountiful Sea: Fish processing and consumption in Mediterranean antiquity

6-8 September 2017, Ioannou Centre, University of Oxford http://oxrep.classics.ox.ac.uk/pages/thebountifulsea/



International Plant Science Conference 2017 (http://www.botanikertagung2017.de/) 18 to 21 September 2017, Kiel University and the German Society for Plant Science

Session "Archaeobotany: Domestication of Crop Plants".19th of September. key-note Dr. Mascher from the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research Gatersleben "Barley diversity now and 6000 years ago".

Call for abstracts. Contributions on interlinked transdisciplinary studies in archaeobotany, molecular botany, environmental archaeology and neighbouring fields focusing on the diverse issues related to crop domestication from the onset of farming to early modern times. The deadline for abstract submission is the 10th of July 2017.

Save the Date AEA Spring conference 2018

21-22 April 2018, University of Birmingham

Pests of society

David Smith (University of Birmingham)
Zoë Hazell (Historic England)
Ruth Pelling (Historic England)

Encountering evidence of infestations and damage caused by pests, both invertebrate and vertebrate, to material from archaeological and other historic environment contexts is common, yet it is less-commonly studied in its own right. Insect pests in particular are an understudied aspect of environmental archaeology, even though they have a clear potential to severely damage timbers and food products, thereby potentially reducing the lifespans of buildings and the viability of stored products.

This AEA spring conference will present a one-day series of papers which will document both modern and archaeological examples of pests, from a range of situations, such as historic buildings, museum collections, and archaeological materials (including maritime), the damage they cause and the implications of their actions.

The day conference will be followed by a day school (led by the Charcoal and Wood Work Group) where methods and approaches to identifying pests and the types of damage they cause will be explored.

"The Archaeology of Woodlands"

Proposed dates: 19-21 April, 2018

University of Bialystok, University of Gdansk and the National Park of Bialowieza, Eastern Poland

To be held in the National Park, we are looking to involve the broadest range of specialists working with woodland environments (palynology, plant macro-fossils, dendro, geoarchaeology, charcoal, zooarchaeology in relation to forest ecosystems) as well as settlement archaeology within current wooded areas.

Organisers: include Maciej Karczewski, Aleks Pluskowski a.g.pluskowski@reading.ac.uk

AEA Spring Meeting 2017

New Directions in Data Visualisation in Environmental Archaeology

Saturday 29th April 2017 University of Leicester

Faidra Katsi & Julia E M Cussans

The AEA Spring Meeting 2017 took place at Leicester University. Around 50 archaeologists from across Europe from both the commercial and academic sector as well as students and one baby(!) attended the annual meeting. The conference focused on new methods of visualisation and communication of environmental archaeological data. All attendants had the chance to hear about and discuss the challenges of presenting complex datasets in a clear way aiming at more effective communication to a variety of audiences. In the meeting, specialists from different disciplines (zooarchaeology, archaeobotany, geoarchaeology, archaeoentomology) had the opportunity to discuss new methods and software for the presentation of palaeoenvironmental data. Additionally, the contributions of Jacqui Huntley and Vanessa Straker to (environmental) archaeology,

the AEA and English Heritage/ Historic England were celebrated in a key note speech by Mark Robinson.

A number of interesting and informative posters were on display and Rachel Small, with her poster about research on early modern authors' dietary recommendations, won the AEA student poster prize (sponsored by the Association and BAR publishing).



AEA Chair Richard Thomas and Poster prize winner Rachel Small (Photo SuziRicher 2017)



Key Note Mark Robinson (Photo JC 2017)



Jacqui and Vanessa discussing the winning poster (Photo JC 2017)

Suzi Richer kicked off the meeting with a paper examining how personal perspective influences visualisation and interpretation of environmental data. The meeting continued with papers which highlighted the necessity of visual representation of the past environment in order to help communication with the audience (colleagues in other specialties or other disciplines and the general public). Michelle Farrell suggested that the Yorkshire, questioning at the same time how large use of MSA (Multiple Scenario Approach) assisted in the reconstruction of past vegetation landcover in the Somerset Levels and Moors and the

Coffee break/Networking (Photo FK 2017)



Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site. Cruz Ferro Vázquez transferred the discussion in the pre-Columbian Atacama Desert. The presented maps, illustrated clearly the results of prolonged farming on the Atacama landscape. Jonathan Baines' paper presented the preliminary results of the archaeobotanical remains from the A1 Leeming to Barton rescue excavations in North archaeobotanical assemblages can be quantified and presented effectively in order to reveal economical and agricultural aspects of past communities.

Lunchtime presented the opportunity for some lovely food, discussion of the morning's papers and the posters as well as perusing the BAR book stall and cooing over baby Rupert!

The afternoon session began with David Smith's informative paper in which successful and unsuccessful examples of diverse



Many Enviro. books were on show from BAR (Photo FK 2017)

archaeoentomological data visualisations were presented. Rebecca Kibble suggested the use of open-source GIS to the spatio-temporal analysis and mapping of complex zooarchaeological datasets. Carol Lang and Suzi Richer highlighted the necessity of understanding our audience prior to any presentation, in order to adapt presentations to their needs and interests.

The meeting ended with an Ignite format session with six brief (and energetic) case studies, in which new technologies (software, 3D printers), new directions on visual presentation of geophysical surveys and stratigraphic excavations, the help of pie charts on the presentation of multivariate analysis results and a review of archaeobotanical data visualisation and museum display were presented. There couldn't be a better closing session for a meeting which provide us with plenty food for thought for further discussion!

Overall the meeting gave the opportunity to re-think and re-evaluate the methods for environmental archaeological data

visualisation. Special focus was given to problematic or large datasets which can be a real challenge when it comes to their visualisation and communication. It became clear that data visualisation is one of our major tools to communicate and share our research into past environments, not only with our colleagues but also with the general public.

The day was rounded off with the postponed AEA 2016 AGM which provided a roundup of the AEA's activities over 2016, introduced the new committee members and gave Jacqui Huntly the opportunity to make her last treasurer's report.

The authors would like to thank the AEA committee for the travel bursaries provided that enabled them to attend the conference to create new networks and reinforce old ones; it was a super informative and interesting day. Finally Julia would like to thank all those attending the conference for their kindness, patience and support regarding the attendance of baby Rupert.

The next AEA conference and AGM will take place in Edinburgh 1-3 of December 2017



Julia with baby Rupert and poster (Photo JC 2017)

Postponed 2016 Annual General Meeting Report

The 2016 Annual General Meeting was postponed until April 29th 2017 in order to be quorate. It was held at the 2017 Spring Meeting in Leicester and was attended by 37 AEA members. AEA Chair Richard Thomas presented a report on the Committee's activities since the 2015 AGM and announced the winners of the John Evans Dissertation Prize and Archaeological Society Membership Award.

Richard was delighted to announce that Honorary Member status has been conferred to longstanding Managing Committee members Wendy Carruthers, Jacqui Huntley and Vanessa Straker after they stepped down from their roles. This recognition also marks Jacqui and Vanessa's retirement. All three have made tremendous contributions to the Association. Vanessa's first recorded service was as Treasurer from 1986, moving on to edit the Newsletter the following year. Vanessa is first credited as co-editor in NL17, July 1987. Wendy joined Vanessa as Newsletter editor in August 1993, for NL41. Both Vanessa and Wendy continued in the role until recently; their last edition was NL129 in August 2015. Jacqui Huntley was elected as Treasurer in 2002 and continued in that role through a continuous series of co-opted and elected terms until 2016. Jacqui's presentation of the Association's accounts at the 2016 AGM was her last task as Treasurer. A summary of the 2016 AGM is below.

Membership

2016 was a very successful year for member numbers with paid and honorary membership standing at 413, including 55 new members, and we are chasing payment from a further 86 potential members. The new members are made up of 25 students and 30 ordinary members, with both groups coming from within and beyond Europe.

Ruth Pelling is stepping down from the committee after a total of 11 years' service since 2001 and 6 years as Membership Secretary (her second stint in this role).

After a period of shadowing Ruth, Jo McKenzie took over as our new Membership Secretary from the start of 2017 onwards. Jo can be contacted at membership@envarch.net

Individual and Institutional Membership Awards

The 3-year membership awards (2015-17) are currently held by Dr Premathilake Rathnasiri, Sri Lanka (Individual Award) and The Library, Postgraduate Institute of Archaeology, University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka (Institutional Award). You will

have seen Dr Premathilake's work reported in Newsletter 133 (August 2016). During 2017 we'll be seeking nominations for 2018-20 awards. These awards are open to any institutions or individuals who would benefit from membership but do not have means to pay.

Archaeological Society Membership Prize

In 2015 we announced that we would be offering a 3rd free membership, with hard copy journals, to be awarded to community/local archaeology societies for a period of three years. AEA Members voted for their favourite via Facebook and the award was given to South Somerset Archaeological Research Group (http://www.ssarg.org.uk/). SSARG have many years of flotation experience and strong links to the new Somerset Young Archaeologists Club.



Ruth Pelling, Membership Secretary 2010-16



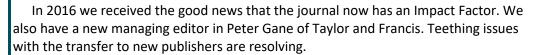
Jo McKenzie, incoming Membership Secretary

Total membership	UK	Rest of Europe	Rest of the World	Total
Honorary	5	2	3	10
Ordinary	221	59	26	306
Student	58	13	13	84
Retired/unwaged	9	2	2	13

AEA Membership for 2016

Journal

Volume 21 (2016) included three special issues and a volume of independent papers. Volume 22 (2017) will again be a mix of special issues and collection of independent papers. Planned special issues include 'From Isoscapes to Farmscapes', 'Identifying Anthropic Activity Markers' and 'Current Perspectives on Amerindian Ecodynamics in the Caribbean'. We welcome submissions of independent papers and proposals for special issues.





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









The four issues of Volume 21 included two special issues on fish and one on isotopes

Publicity

During 2015-16 we sponsored six seminars, a reception at the JIA (Young in Archaeological Investigation) conference, Santander, a poster prize awarded to Susan Lyons (UCC) at 'Looking Back, Moving Forward: 70 Years of Environmental Archaeology In Ireland' conference, Dublin (conference report in Newsletter132) and had an AEA membership stand at the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) conference in Leicester, UK. Our social media presence continues to grow and is helping the AEA reach a wider international community. In 2016 we had a total of 1098 Facebook likes, with 250 new likes in the last year and regularly reach over 1000 users a week. Our Twitter account was started much more recently but momentum has built substantially with 550 followers (up from 367 last year).



Suzi Richer, Publicity Officer

Speaker	Title	Venue
Dr Michelle Alexander,	Diet, economy and mobility in medieval	10/12/2015
University of York	Islamic and Christian Valencia: an isotopic	University of
	approach	Reading
Dr Paul Halstead,	Where moustaches wear all: farmers recent	16/12/15, Durham
University of Sheffield	and ancient in the Mediterranean	University
Dr Henry Hooghiemstra,	Human impact on the environment in	05/02/2016,
University of Exeter	Colombia and Ecuador: a story told by pollen	University of
Dr Evi Margaritis, Science	Ritual use of plants in prehistoric Aegean	17/02/16,
and Technology in		University of
Archaeology Research		Nottingham
Centre, Cyprus		
Dr Yijie Zhuang and Prof	Crop movement, regional networks and the	14/03/2016,
Dorian Fuller, University	emergence of agricultural societies in	Institute of
College London (UCL)	Eastern China and East Asia	Archaeology, UCL
Dr Ana B. Marin-Arroyo,	The interaction between climate and human	19/05/2016,
University of Cantabria	subsistence during the middle to upper	University of York
	Palaeolithic transition in northern Iberia	

The 2015 -16 AEA Seminar Series

Newsletter

The NL team is very grateful to everyone who has contributed articles over the last 12 months and looks forward to receiving many more in the coming year! The NL has expanded to include a new section entitled 'Musings from social media' and the team hope to encourage a greater number of articles from research projects and commercial units for 2017.







The 2016 Newsletter editorial team, Dani elle deCarl (left), Rob Batchelor (centre) and Laura Green (right)

Conferences

The 2015 autumn conference 'From Anthrosphere to Lithosphere (and back again): A Celebration of the Career and Research of Terry O'Connor', (6-8 November 2016, University of York) was organised by Lee Broderick (Who has since taken over from Robin as Conference officer), Claire Rainsford, Eva Fairnell, Carol Lang, Julie Bond and Matthew Collins. The conference received a total of £1423.60 in bursaries to support attendance by members, and was reported in NL 130.

The 2016 spring meeting 'Islands: Isolation and Connectivity' (1-2 April 2016, University of Highlands and Islands, Kirkwall, Orkney) was organised by Ingrid Mainland, Jen Harland, Annalisa Christie and Scott Timpany. The AEA was able to offer £1500.00 in bursaries to support member's attendance. The conference report can be



Robin Bendrey, Conference Officer



found in NL 132.

The 2016 Autumn conference 'SCOPE: Synthesis and Change of Palaeo-Environments in the Mediterranean' was held 29 September to 1 October in Rome, Italy, organised by Robyn Veal, Charlene Murphy, Valerie Higgins and Giulio Lucarini. The AEA was able to offer £1145.00 in bursaries to support

Student Representatives

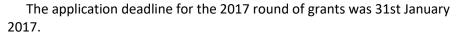
During 2016 the Student Reps have focussed on blog posts showcasing new and exciting research and activities from current AEA student members. If you would like to be part of the student blog, please submit your posts to philprl@cardiff.ac.uk. In addition Laura has been working as part of the newsletter editorial team for the past year and will hand over to Rhiannon at the end of her term. Both Student Reps have assisted with administration and assessment of John Evans Prize and Small Grants applications throughout the year.

Student Representatives Laura Green (left) and Rhiannon Philp (right)



Small Research Grants

2016 was the second successful year of AEA grants, and even more competitive than 2015 with many worthy applications. We received 32 applications for a total of £16943.50. Applications came in from the UK, USA, Sri Lanka, Netherlands, Italy, Iceland, France, Egypt and Denmark; primarily from doctoral students and academics (27) but also from members working commercially (2) and independently (3).





Julia Cussans, Grants

Recipient	Affiliation	Title
Caroline Vermeeren & Kirsti Hänninen	BIAX Consult, Netherlands	A method to recognize woodland management in Archaeology
Lisa Lodwick	University of Reading, UK	Growing Roman Britain: Cereals and weeds as evidence for farming practices in the East
Lena Strid	Oxford Archaeology, UK	Study of sex-related morphological traits on sheep skeletons
Angela Trentacoste John Evans Prize	University of Oxford, UK	Orvieto Environmental Project

Grant recipients in 2016

2016 winners of the John Evans Dissertation Prize were announced as **Nora Batterman** (University of Leicester) for an undergraduate dissertation *Exotics and Empire. An Investigation into Roman Conceptions of the 'Wild', and Samantha Preslee* (University of York) for a post-graduate dissertation *'Using ancient proteomics tools to identify the exploitation of birds eggs in archaeological contexts'.* Both chose to receive a 3-year membership of the AEA as their prize and their abstracts were published in NL134. Both winners have been also invited to submit papers to the journal.



Alex Livarda, Prize Administrator (up to 2015 round)

Committee Elections

AEA Managing Committee elections were held by proxy following the 2016 autumn conference and the elected candidates (Lynne Gardiner, Jen Harland, Nik Hausmann, Mark McKerracher and Daisy Spenser) were announced in NL134. The committee thanks outgoing members Robin Bendrey, Laura Green, Jacqui Huntley, Alex Livarda, Don O'Meara and Ruth Pelling for their years of service to the Association. In particular we owe a debt of gratitude to Jacqui Huntley for her 14 years as the Association's Treasurer, and to Ruth Pelling for her extended term as Membership Secretary.

Following the election Michael Wallace was co-opted to the position of Web Officer. The current committee structure can be found on the <u>Association website</u>









Treasurers' Report

Jacqui Huntley, Treasurer. 8th February 2016

Subscriptions up significantly again in the sterling account. Euro account subscriptions are down due to many more people choosing to use Worldpay. We are up to date with Maney royalty payments this year; although, as usual, one year behind with journal payments (invoice for 2015 not yet received). Committee expenses remain up due to more employers not having funds to support travel; it's a sign of economic times. Streamline charges are up because much of this traffic has moved to Worldpay which, although is cheaper overall, has seen higher volume this year.



Jacqui Huntley,

Sterling account	2014	2015
Assets at start of year		
Bank - current account	£19,621.25	£20,270.06
Bank savings accounts	£20,335.08	£20,685.79
Total assets at start of year	£39,956.33	£40,955.85
Income		
Subscriptions	£13,201.75	£14,397.75
Books	£1,209.00	£617.00
Interest earned	£7.08	£21.14
Interest on fixed term deposit	£350.41	-
Maney Royalties and Editorial income	£2,709.96	£2,808.55
Income sub-total	£17,438.38	£17,980.44
Initial total assets excluding books in stock	£57,434.83	£58,936.29
Expenditure		
Office stationery, stamps, poster, flyers	£710.22	£100.00
Web page	£177.08	-
Journal production and postage (includes back numbers)	£10,276.00	£10,864.00
Committee meeting travel related	£1,172.28	£1,340.40
Book purchase	£1,607.75	£809.80
AEA Seminars	£114.33	£121.90
Conference support	£1,594.10	£1,185.60
Conference prizes	£160	£75.00
Standard bank charges	£114.57	£75.68
Credit card charges (Streamline)	£255.37	£377.92
Worldpay charges	£287.28	£287.28
Subscriptions reimburse	£10	£720.33
Expenditure subtotal	£16,478.98	£15,957.91
Total assets minus expenditure	£40,955.85	£42,978.38
Sterling account		
eoy current	£20,270.06	£22,489.21
eoy savings	£20,685.79	£20,489.17
	£40,955.85	£42,978.38

Call for prospective Managing Committee Members

Elections for new committee members will be held during the AGM at the autumn conference in Edinburgh (1st-3rd December 2017).

This year we are seeking nominations for Chair (a four year term), three Ordinary Members (each a four year term) and one Student Representative (a two year term).

General Committee Information

Serving on the Committee is an opportunity to help determine the future direction and priorities of the Association, and to promote environmental archaeology to an international audience. The Committee usually meet four times a year, when possible timed to correspond with Association conferences. There is funding available to assist with travel to meetings and we use teleconferencing to allow members to participate where travel is prohibitively expensive.

The main items of business at meetings include the organisation of conferences and events, Environmental Archaeology journal matters, responses to new policy documents and frameworks that impact upon environmental archaeology and its practitioners, as well as issues relating to the Newsletter, website, social media, membership, finances and new initiatives.

We welcome nominees from all countries, but please note that meetings are conducted in English.

Further information on the available roles

The role of Chair (four year term) The Chair presides over committee meetings and the Association's Annual General Meeting, represents the Association at other forums and introduces each Newsletter. Alongside the AEA Secretary, the Chair acts as a channel for communications to/from the Association. If you have a suggestion of an outstanding environmental archaeologist you would like to see in the role, or would like to find out more about it yourself please contact the current Chair Richard Thomas (rmt12@leicester.ac.uk) or the Secretary Fay Worley (envarch@envarch.net) for further details.

The role of Ordinary Member (three positions available, four year term)

The committee includes 12 elected Ordinary Members who contribute to the management and promotion of the Association through active participation in committee meetings and additional tasks as required. Ordinary committee members may take on additional specific responsibilities (such as Conference Officer, Publicity Officer, Web Officer, Prize Administrator etc.) during their term of office. Ordinary Members may also sit on review panels for prize and grant decisions. A list of current committee members can be found on the website http://envarch.net/committee/.

The role of Student Representative (one position available, two year term)

The committee includes two Student Representatives, with one new Student Representative elected each year, and their term of office lasting two years. The post is open to both undergraduates and postgraduate students and is an excellent opportunity to get involved with the environmental archaeology community.

The Student Representatives are responsible for expected to promote the AEA within the undergraduate and postgraduate communities, and also encourage the establishment of student-led meetings/seminars. During their first year of office, the newly elected Student Representative will 'shadow' the senior Student Representative, and contribute to the content and administration of the student blog. During their second year, the Student Representative will be part of the Newsletter editorial team. Student Representatives also contribute to the administration of grants and prizes.

How to Stand for Election or Nominate

To stand for election you must be a paid-up or honorary AEA member. Please apply through the website. You will need to provide a personal statement and the names and email address of two AEA members who have agreed to nominate and second you. They will be asked to confirm your nomination by email. Your personal statement will be circulated to AEA members, including through the Newsletter.

Nominations can be received at any time up to the AGM, but we would like to encourage members to submit nominations by July 20th 2017, so that we can share candidates' statements in the August Newsletter.

Please contact the Secretary, Fay Worley (for contact details see http://envarch.net/committee/) with any queries or for more information.

TAG 2017 CARDIFF

Theoretical Archaeology Group Conference

18th –20th December



Call for Papers Tag Cardiff session: <u>The Wind in the Willows: Employing the Narrative in Environmental Archaeology</u>

Abstract: Scientific communication is often presented as logical and empirical (context-free). The facts, however, do not speak for themselves and context serves a very necessary function in providing meaning for data. Honestly, who cares that there were 14 ducks a-dabbling, or that the Wild Wood was bigger at some point? Secretly, even most specialists do not. Yet as specialists, we continue to complain that our reports are consigned to the graveyard of the appendices where they can be safely ignored by non-specialists.

Storytelling might appear to be anathema to rigorous scientific approaches to data. Literary theory and psychology research both suggest though that readers better understand narrative writing in comparison with expository writing. It has also recently been demonstrated that climate change science papers which adopt a narrative style are both more likely to be cited by peers and more likely to have a wider impact beyond the specialist audience.

Environmental archaeology is in a unique position – able to contribute equally to archaeological debates and to the discourse surrounding climate change. As such, it is especially important that our voice is heard – not just that our data is published but that our interpretations are understood and remembered. We believe that adopting a narrative approach in our writing may be one way in which to achieve these aims.

This session welcomes papers which use literary theory and psychology to critique environmental archaeology – the state of the discipline, its development, its impact and accepted paradigms. We also welcome papers which use narrative structure to interpret environmental archaeology evidence.

Principal Session Organiser: lee@zooarchaeology.co.uk

Euro account	2014	2015
Bank- current account	€3,869.80	€6,408.95
Income		
Subscriptions	€2,564.75	€810.75
Initial total assets	€6,434.55	€7,219.70
Expenditure		
Standard bank charges	€-25.60	€-24.94
Total assets minus expenditure	€6,408.95	€7,194.76
Expenditure		
Standard bank charges	€-25.60	€-24.94
Total assets minus expenditure	€6,408.95	€7,194.76

A National Zooarchaeological Reference Resource (NZRR)

Eva Fairnell at the University of York have been developing a national resource to facilitate the search for osteological reference specimens by zooarchaeologists across all sectors. The project is funded by Historic England (HE), and the web interface will be hosted by the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

The aim is to provide a simple, easy, searchable interface to the holdings of relevant reference collections held by universities, museums, public bodies and private individuals. It is extremely unlikely that any institution holds the ideal, dream reference collection, which would comprise multiple examples of each relevant species, including male, female (castrate as well, if applicable), skeletally mature, skeletally immature and perhaps pathological specimens for each species. However, by pooling resources a 'virtual' dream reference collection could become available, drawing from as many collections as possible.

Following a very constructive workshop held in May 2016, and a subsequent call for participants, the NZRR currently has data from 18 collections, representing: Historic England; the universities of York, Sheffield, Leicester, Durham, Birmingham,

Nottingham, Bournemouth, Southampton, Cardiff and Edinburgh; museums from York, Manchester, Oxford and London; and one private collection. The As hopefully many of you are aware, David Orton and resource went live on the ADS web pages by in June 2017 http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/ view/nzrr he 2017/index.cfm. However, the NZRR would still like to hear from anyone else who is interested in contributing data: an update is planned later this year, at which time new collections can be added.

> A second workshop was planned, for University of York on 20th June. The aim of this workshop was to review the distribution of specimens as represented in the physical collections so far, establish a consensus on priorities for the creation of digital reference resources, and consider broader strategies for developing and sustaining an on-line national collection.

What gaps exist in the distribution of species within the submissions so far (bearing in mind some further submissions are likely)?

What strategies could be used to co-ordinate finding the specimens to fill in those gaps? For example, should we prioritise the rarest taxa within physical collections (perhaps approaching overseas collections to fill gaps), or those more frequently encountered in British archaeology? Can the NZRR be used to facilitate swaps? Which anatomical elements

are priorities for digitisation? Which formats would be most useful to end-users, for example 3D scans or 2D images, as downloadable pdfs or an on-screen interface? How might the establishment of a digital reference collection best be funded? In the longer term, beyond the remit of the current project, could the NZRR be developed further by being affiliated, for example, with a body like the AEA or ICAZ?

In the longer term, could or should the NZRR consider going international, and/or could the on-line model be used for collections other than vertebrates? How could such a development be funded?

This workshop hoped to focus on how best to carry out any digitisation, but rather on gathering views from across all sectors about what digital resources are needed. The outcomes will be used to target further development of the NZRR. Currently the scope is British, but ideally the resource could expand beyond that.

If you are interested in submitting data to the NZRR, please contact either David Orton david.orton@york.ac.uk or Eva Fairnell eva.fairnell@york.ac.uk the deadline for submitting data will be confirmed later this year.



An example of A NZRR entry



9th International Workshop for African Archaeobotany, IWAA

Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, 26-29 June 2018

Organized by the Department of Historical Sciences, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria and the Instituto de Historia, CSIC (Spanish National Research Council)

PRE_REGISTRATION FORMS by the 1st October 2017 to the conference e-mail: iwaa2018@cchs.csic.es



Call for papers 9th ICAZ Bird Working Group Meeting. "The archaeology of human-bird interactions. A conference in honour of Dale Serjeantson.

Humanities Research Institute of the University of Sheffield (UK), June 8-11, 2018

Abstracts of 150-200 words to bwg2018@sheffield.ac.uk, must include five keywords, the author's name/s, affiliation details, email address and whether you are submitting it as oral or poster presentation

Deadline January 15, 2018 and accepted authors informed by March 2018





Musings from Social Media





AEA Retweeted

Dr Lisa Lodwick @LisaLodwick - Jan 11

43 3

Integrated Microscopy Approaches in Archaeobotany 25-6 Feb - thanks to @SAGESNews & @UniofReading attendance is free blogs.reading.ac.uk

/integrated-mic.

AEA Retweeted

Dr Lisa Lodwick @LisaLodwick - Jan 11

Just stumbled across the really cool Global Pollen Project

globalpollenproject.org

£3 1

AEA @Envarch - Jan 6

Wonderfully preserved Roman food remains...

Liz @LizPearsonMann

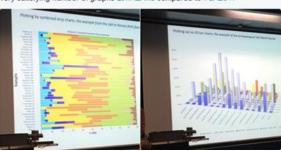
Remarkable food remains from Roman Colchester bajrfed.co.uk/bajrpress /rema... via @BAJR Archaeology News

£3 1



AEA Retweeted

Dr Lisa Lodwick @LisaLodwick - Apr 29 Very satisfying number of graphs at #AEAvis compared to #CA2017





AEA @Envarch - Apr 29

Oh my word...now it's pac man @ArchaeoMichael





Association for Environmental Archaeology shared

Instituto Internacional Investigaciones Prehistóricas de Cantabria's photo.

Published by Susan Dawn Richer [?] - 21 February - €

Kate Britton giving the AEA-sponsored seminar last week at the Instituto Internacional Investigaciones Prehistóricas de Cantabria.

Do you have a speaker giving a seminar on environmental archaeology at your institution? Would like sponsorship towards the refreshments? If so, contact Suzi suzi richer@york.ac.uk





AEA @Envarch - Apr 29

Mark Robinson celebrating the contributions of Jacqui Huntley and Vanessa Straker to #EnvArch at #AEAVis





Dr Lisa Lodwick @LisaLodwick - Apr 29

Mark Robinson is celebrating the work of Jacqui Huntley and Vanessa Straker brilliant abots who are retiring from @HistoricEngland #AEAvis

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Association for Environmental Archaeology shared Colin Forrestal's post.

Published by Suzi Richer [?] - 30 April at 07:30 - €

Glad you enjoyed it Colin!

Although the thanks must be credited to the Leicester team for putting together such an interesting programme!



Colin Forrestal > Association for Environmental Archaeology

29 April at 22:19 · @

I have just spent a wonderful day at the AEA Spring conference in Leicester. I can honestly say there was not one duff paper all day, and it was a challenging conference. After a couple of years looking at big data, today's conference was about how do we communicate the data we have not only to fellow academics but to the general audience, which is interested in what we have to say. Congrats AEA for a wonderful day.



AEA @Envarch - Apr 29

Apparently only 10% public know that acorns come from oaks @EnviroSuzi. What does that mean for presenting our evidence?









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

2017 John Evans Dissertation Prize competition.

The closing date for submitting candidates 31st July 2017, http://envarch.net/john-evans-prize/

AEA Autumn Conference 2017 & AEA AGM

Grand Challenge Agendas in Environmental Archaeology

University of Edinburgh (UK), 1-3 December 2017

Abstract deadline Friday 29th September

Save the Date AEA Spring conference 2018 21-22 April 2018, University of Birmingham

Pests of Society

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Notes from the Newsletter Editors

Please note that thesis submission forms can be found on the website which gives AEA members an opportunity to publish abstracts of their postgraduate thesis.

We are always keen to receive newsletter content, especially from our non UK members. To submit an article, please email word documents and images to;

newsletter@envarch.net
Next deadline July 22nd

Rob Batchelor, Danielle de Carle, Rhiannon Philp