

Association for Environmental Archaeology

AEA Newsletter 141

December 2018

Inside this issue:

Chair's Piece	1
Archaeological Palaeo- environmental Archives	2
AEA Autumn Conference 2018 Report	4
Taylor & Francis Developments	6
Photography Competition	7
Upcoming Conferences	8
AEA 2019 Spring Conference Call	9
AEA 40th Anniversary Conference Call	10
Don Brothwell Prize	11
John Evans Prize	12
Obituary: Eileen Reilly	13
News from the Committee: AGM Report	14
Social Media	21
Key Dates	22
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Dear members,

This newsletter sees me at the end of my first year as chair and reflecting on a wonderful annual conference in Moesgaard, Demark a few weeks ago. Thanks to Marcello Mannino and Peter Hambro Mikkelsen for their generous hospitality. It was a truly inspiring venue which could have easily tempted us away from a fascinating and thought-provoking scientific programme. I'm secretly disappointed it didn't snow as I would have loved to have had a go at sledging down the museum roof. However, I did get to meet some mythological characters whilst viewing the museum exhibits.

At this point in the year we welcome new members to the managing committee. At the AGM Don O'Meara was elected as our new secretary, Canan Çakırlar and Michael Bamforth as ordinary members, and Nora Battermann as the new student representative. Daisy Spenser was also elected as an ordinary member of the committee, following the completion of her term as student representative. I look forward to working with them immensely. I

would also like to thank the retiring members of the committee for the time they have given and the hard work they have put in on the association's behalf. Thanks to Rob Batchelor and Dani de Carle for producing and editing the newsletter without fail and to Suzi Richer for using her considerable talents to promote the association and its purpose. In particular I would like to thank Fay Worley, who steps down after eight years as AEA secretary. Her support and patience in answering my frequent queries over the last year have been invaluable.

If you are looking for some projects to do over the festive season and to kick off 2019, applications for the association's small grants are open until 31st January and we have extended the deadline for the #ScientistsandSamples photo competition until the 31st December. To be eligible for both you need to be a fully paid-up member of the AEA, so don't forget to renew your membership. Rates for 2019 are £45 waged, £35 student/unwaged/retired.

**Gill Campbell,
December 2018**



Incoming secretary Don with outgoing secretary Fay

Archaeological Palaeoenvironmental Archives: New Research from Old Collections

This short newsletter piece highlights how some of the existing challenges commonly identified in the process of archiving and accessing archaeological palaeoenvironmental remains are being met as part of a joint Historic England and University of Reading supervised Collaborative Doctoral Partnership. This research project - *Archaeological Palaeoenvironmental Archives: Challenges and opportunities* - is exploring how the underused archived palaeoenvironmental resource can contribute towards the improvement of public science engagement schemes and academic research. Into its second year, the project has collected interview data from museum and archive staff, representatives from commercial archaeology organisations and science communicators. The interview data is already demonstrating what the key challenges are and is beginning to offer insights into how a culture of change can have wide reaching benefits.



Image 1

Originally collected by diligent pioneers such as J.R Mortimer and Pitt Rivers who identified the significance of charred plant remains that other practitioners may have overlooked, the practice of collecting organic remains gathered momentum

over the following century (image 1) (Daniels 1981, O'Connor & Evans, 2005, Mortimer, 1882, Godwin 1975). Since the 1990s, organic remains have, for the most part, been routinely collected and deposited in museums and archive facilities as part of the statutory archaeological process (gov.uk 2018). Consequently, there is a wealth of curated organic remains in England's archives, but who in the specialist community can say that they have used this resource for either research or reference purposes? To date, the research conducted demonstrates that, with the exception of a few examples such as those used below, relatively few researchers have requested access to museum archives.

Reasons for the relatively low number of visits to archives by environmental archaeologists are numerous but the main points appear to include the following:

- Relative dearth of palaeoenvironmental remains retained, particularly in comparison to other archaeological materials (e.g. pottery)
- Difficulties in locating samples [inadequate accession records, unconventional storage media, poor labelling]
- Experience difficulties in understanding what quantities of an assemblage have been archived
- Difficulties in identifying what condition the remains are likely to be in (image 2 and 3)
- Experience difficulties in identifying what the policies are regarding destructive analysis

These issues have been highlighted by Lodwick (2017) as part of her recent reappraisal of archived material, the University of Oxford/University of Leicester co-ordinated Feeding Anglo-Saxon England project (<http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/feedsax.html>) and Jarman et al who have used archived material to investigate the introduction

of *Castanea Sativa* in the British Isles. Despite the challenges, both of these projects stand out as examples which have successfully used archived materials to reinterpret site assemblages and undertake syntheses on a national scale respectively.



Image 2



Image 3

The challenges which have been highlighted can be rectified but it is unlikely to be an easy fix. A recognisable complication is that some museum workers have commented that they do not feel comfortable handling organic materials and sometimes struggle to physically identify – even at a basic level – what they have in their collection due to unfamiliarity. To remedy this issue, it will require a collaborative effort by all parties involved in the archaeological process, not just leaving it to the already stretched museum services.

To date, I have only canvassed the opinions of a few members of the environmental archaeology specialist community so I am using the opportunity of this newsletter to promote my research but to also reach out to AEA members who may have suggestions or ideas regarding this subject. I am

especially keen to hear of experiences of specialists who have visited archives and what the purpose of your visit was. Equally valuable to me would be hearing of any experiences of why you may prefer not to use archived material.

Paul Flintoff, Reading University

If you wish to contact me and participate in the study, you can contact me at the University of Reading via the details listed below;

Email - p.e.flintoft@pgr.reading.ac.uk

Twitter - @paul_flintoft

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Websites

Feedsax - <http://www.arch.ox.ac.uk/feedsax.html>

NPPF - https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740441/

National_Planning_Policy_Framework_web_accessible_version.pdf

AEA Autumn Conference 2018, Aarhus, Denmark

This year's annual autumn conference of the Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) was organised by Marcello Antonio Mannino, Aarhus University, and Peter Hambro Mikkelsen, Moesgaard Museum. All presentations were given in the spacious lecture theatre of Moesgaard Museum, while the evening program was hosted at the manor and its bar – sorry, that is to say the Archaeology department of Aarhus University (see picture). The conference took its attendants 'Back where it all began' (i.e. the 'Kitchen Midden Commissions') and on a journey through environmental archaeology from its beginning to the present, which was wonderfully explored in Peter Rowley-Conwy's keynote lecture on the first day. The remaining three keynote lectures by Catherine Jessen, Bent Vad Odgaard and Søren M. Sindbæk opened up wonderful prospects for the future of environmental archaeology and offered a fitting start to the conference (as did the wine reception which followed their lectures).

The second day of the conference saw sessions on 'Humans & the Sea', 'Diet & Health', 'Past Agriculture' and 'People & Environments I: Individuals & Contexts'. Here, the diversity and

power of all sub-disciplines in environmental archaeology was highlighted by covering long- and short-term trends and developments, evidence from pollen, shells, botanical remains and more, methods and techniques of analysis and interpretation, and sites and material dating from early prehistory to late medieval times. The day was concluded with the AEA Annual General Meeting, where the John Evans Dissertation Prize for Undergraduates and Masters were announced. Here, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Aina Fiolseguí and Margherita Zona for their awards and all nominees on their fantastic work.

The final day of the conference saw the sessions 'People & Environments II: Landscapes' and 'Advances in Archaeological Science' placing a focus on the development of techniques in environmental archaeology, with many advances being presented and re-interpretations issued. In addition to these sessions, the poster session took place on this day. This was supplemented by a session of five-minute presentations on each poster; an organisational nightmare that was managed and timed fantastically by Marcello



Mannino and session chair Federica Sulas who, thus, created a means of gaining an insight into no less than 23 poster submissions. This third successful day was concluded by the conference dinner which is noteworthy not only for its great quality but also for Marcello seizing his opportunity to extend the university's zooarchaeological collection by collecting the main meal's bony remains from all participants and thus puzzling the waiters (not the archaeologists though).

I would not normally comment on the conference venue, however, in this case it would be rude not to. Each day all conference attendees were issued a free day pass for Moesgaard Museum. And I think I am right in saying that there was not one of us who did not have a fantastic time exploring this absolutely exciting place. At the wine reception on

the first day I had the pleasure of speaking to Peter Mikkelsen, co-organiser of the conference and Head of Department of Conservation and Natural Sciences at Moesgaard Museum, who warmly recommended visiting the exhibitions. Indeed, he promised that the museum is 'like nothing you have seen before'. This is, of course, the feedback to be expected of someone involved in the running of a museum, however, upon entering each of their exhibitions I was absolutely overwhelmed by what I saw and experienced. This museum is, indeed, like nothing I have ever seen and I think a special thank you is appropriate both to Marcello for bringing the conference to Aarhus and to Peter for hosting it at the museum. What a great conference and venue!

Nora Battermann, Leicester University



Taylor & Francis Developments

I would like to give members of the Association of Environmental Archaeology an update on some developments in our journal publishing programme. Please feel free to get in touch with any questions about the journal.

Publish 3D models within your article on Taylor & Francis Online

We've partnered with 3D content platform Sketchfab to develop an exciting new feature for journals on Taylor & Francis Online. 3D models, which are often produced by researchers in fields such as archaeology, conservation, and biomechanics, can now be published within the main text of an article. This pilot program makes Taylor & Francis the first major publisher to incorporate 3D models inline within the HTML version of online journal articles.



Publishing these models will help readers to interact with research in a new way and promote better understanding of results. Authors using this new feature will also benefit from increased discoverability of their research, with models being openly available to view on the [Sketchfab website](https://sketchfab.com).

The first article (featured in the *Journal of Field Archaeology*) to host 3D models can be found [here](#) and is free for all to access.

We are looking to roll out this pilot to more journals as soon as possible, *Environmental Archaeology* is a potential candidate but we need to know the level of support amongst authors. Please get in touch with Tim Mighall, editor of *Environmental Archaeology* if you have an article that might benefit from having 3D content.

Supplemental Material



Anything from tables to datasets, presentations to video and audio files can be submitted alongside a manuscript as supplemental material. Supplemental material does not count as part of the article word limit and is free to access alongside the online version of the article on Taylor & Francis Online so is readily available and citable. Including supplemental material can provide readers with another route to find research, which can make an article more discoverable.

More information on supplemental material, including the adjacent infographic, can be found here on our Author Services website:

<http://authorservices.taylorandfrancis.com/enhancing-your-article-with-supplemental-material/>

Social Media Guide

We have released a social media guide, which although aimed at editors has relevance for the wider membership especially with the various activities the Association is involved with. Social media platforms provide an ideal environment to promote and generate discussion around your journal. They can be used to improve the discoverability of research, and reach out beyond existing subscribers or readers to engage with the wider academic community and, increasingly, the public.

Our new social media guide for journal editors offers advice on what to consider before setting up an account, engagement tips to ensure your posts reach a broader audience, and information on how to use data from online platforms to develop future journal content. Access the guide here: <http://tinyurl.com/ya583o9c>

Peter Gane,
Managing Editor, Archaeology Journals
Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group
Peter.gane@tandf.co.uk



Social media guide for journal editors

How to plan, grow, and maintain
a journal social media account

Taylor & Francis Group

#ScientistsandSamples

Have you got a stunning photo of a scientist and a sample? It could be something as simple as sampling in action, processing and sorting a sample or analysing a sample; or it could be a more imaginative take on the title. We want to see people as well as the samples/sampling. When you've chosen your photo/s, then submit them to the Association for Environmental Archaeology photo competition at <http://envarch.net/photo-competition-scientistsandsamples/>.

The top 12 photos will be chosen by the Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) committee, these will then go out to a public vote, with the shortlist announced in the February newsletter and winner being announced at the AEA Spring Conference in Cork in April 2019. The competition is only open to members of the AEA. Full entry instructions can be found on the website.

Prizes: 1st Prize - £50; 2nd Prize - £30 and 3rd Prize - £20.

Competition deadline extended: 31st December 2018

Good luck!

The AEA Committee



4th 'Integrated Microscopy Approaches in Archaeobotany' (IMAA) workshop Reading University

16th-17th February 2019

For further details contact: imaaworkshop@gmail.com

Or visit: <https://blogs.reading.ac.uk/integrated-microscopy-approaches-in-archaeobotany>

INQUA 2019: Dublin, 25th-31st July 2019

Please find below details of what we hope will be a very interesting session for INQUA 2019:

Quaternary's three Rs, Retrieval, Reuse and Reflection: Optimising pre-existing data to reimagine the past

Quaternary scientists have been prolific over the last century, generating vast datasets from across the globe. Such datasets, when collated, provide the 'Big Data' that is desperately required to not only further our understanding of the earth system, but to inform social sciences and help define / underpin public policy. Over the past 50 years, many databases have been developed with the sole purpose of collating and making accessible a vast array of different Quaternary data, spawning a new sub-discipline known as palaeoinformatics. While existent datasets do have inherent complexities, such as variable methodologies, they provide the opportunity to test and even debunk existent hypotheses or identify previously unforeseen underlying trends. Utilising such data is fundamental for the underpinning of scientific methodology and provides the opportunity to rapidly, and cost-effectively, contribute to pressing social and public policy questions, along with strengthening the movement for open access science dissemination. This session focuses upon end-users utilising both existent databases and /or their own data retrieval endeavours, showcasing studies where new advances / perspectives have been gained solely through collating and re-evaluating pre-existing data. A key component of this session will be the collective experience of such an endeavour, showcasing the techniques employed to overcome limitations inherent in existent datasets such as archive accessibility, data reprocessing and metadata integrity.

We hope that this session will prove of interest across the wide range of disciplines used in Quaternary science and therefore attract scientists from often disparate fields to showcase and collectively discuss their experiences of handling and analysing such datasets, techniques employed, and identify future endeavours that might help expedite this process. The full list of session abstracts for INQUA 2019 is now available online along with registration: <http://www.inqua2019.org/call-for-abstracts/>

Michael Grant and Ben Gearey

20th Fish Remains Working Group (FRWG) Portland, Oregon, USA

26 –30th November 2019

For further details contact: virginia@pdx.edu

Environmental archaeology: Practice, Society, Politics

University College Cork, 27th April 2019

This conference intends to reflect on and debate the practice of environmental archaeology within the broader context of society and politics in the era of 'Post-Truth' and the environmental and social challenges related to an increasingly volatile World. What is the current status of the subject in the face of such momentous problems? Recent publications have suggested that environmental archaeology requires 'an ethical promise' (Riede *et al.* 2016) whilst others have called for increased emphasis on the role of research in terms of understanding and planning for future environmental changes and challenges (Murphy and Fuller 2017). Is it relatively easy to draw 'lessons' from the past, but much more difficult to translate these into effective practice? Developments in public archaeology include closer reflection and critical analysis of this area of engagement and involvement (e.g. Richardson and Almansa Sanchez 2018); what is the role of the environmental archaeologist in the context of 'public engagement'? Other developments include calls for the 'de-colonisation' of subjects such as anthropology (<https://anthrodendum.org/2018/06/15/the-decolonial-turn-2-0-the-reckoning/>), the importance of inclusivity and collaboration within ecology (Ramirez et al. 2018); whilst issues such as gender and power politics are relatively poorly debated within the practice of environmental archaeology. In order for the discipline to continue to prosper and grow, we need to ensure thriving communities of practice, but how can we ensure this at a time when many archaeology departments, in the UK in particular, are threatened by economic policies and models? Other directions might include closer contacts and collaborations with subjects outside the traditional cognate disciplines such as archaeology, but what challenges as well as opportunities might these bring? Themes could include but are not limited to:

- How might environmental archaeology influence 'real world' problems and debates such as those around climate change and ecosystem degradation? Case studies, theory and method.
- Environmental archaeology and the 'public'; especially debates around public archaeology in the contemporary context. Examples, problems and potential.
- Gender, power and the practice of environmental archaeology: provocations and reflections.
- Beyond archaeology and Quaternary Science: interfaces and collaborations of EA with 'non-traditional' subject areas: case studies and progress.
- Commercial environmental archaeology in uncertain times: challenges and connections
- Teaching and learning environmental archaeology: problems and reasons to be cheerful.

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40th Conference of the Association for Environmental Archaeology

University of Sheffield, 29th November - 1st December 2019

Living through change: the archaeology of human–environment interactions

As environmental archaeologists we recognise that human activity can impact local and regional environments, and, conversely, that dynamic environments can stimulate responses in human behaviour. The role of humans as agents of environmental change is increasingly central to debates far beyond our discipline and, given current global politics and the present threats of environmental change, it is more important than it has ever been for environmental archaeology to contribute powerful, vivid and evidence-based accounts of human-environment interactions from the deep and recent past. At the forefront of the study of past human-environment relationships, environmental archaeologists are keenly placed to explore what it means to live through long- and short-term environmental change.

The 40th conference of the Association for Environmental Archaeology will provide an opportunity to reflect on the discipline's past, and debate its future in the context of growing bodies of data, the integration of multiple proxies for change, new analytical techniques and fresh theoretical paradigms. We welcome papers that explore **environmental change** from the **human perspective** through engagement with questions of change, adaptation, sustainability and human impact. We welcome papers from across the breadth of the discipline, including – but not limited to:

- Human-induced changes to landscapes and environments at all scales
- Human response to anthropogenic and natural environmental change
- Sustainability and adaptability in changing environments
- Environment as a driver of economic and/or socio-political change
- The past as a proxy and model for future human-environment interactions
- The Anthropocene and other conceptual paradigms
- The contribution of environmental archaeology to policy-making and public engagement

Call for papers coming early 2019

Registration opens Spring 2019

The conference will be hosted by the University of Sheffield on the city centre campus. For maps and general travel advice about visiting the University please see the University's webpages at: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/visitors/mapsandtravel>

Conference website: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/events/aea40>

For enquiries about the conference please contact the Organising Committee: aea2019@sheffield.ac.uk

Winner of the Don Brothwell Prize 2018

Professor Don Brothwell (1933-2016) was a founder member of the AEA, one of the "gang of four" (his words) who established the association in 1979. He gave the opening paper, along with Geoffrey Dimbleby, on *Environmental aspects of coasts and Islands: a justification* at the first annual conference in Lancaster and was one of our first honorary members. For more about his career and contribution to environmental archaeology see: <https://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/staff/academic-staff/in-memoriam-don-brothwell/>



In Don's honour we have established the Don Brothwell Prize to be awarded to the best paper published in Environmental Archaeology each year. The prize will comprise free electronic access to the paper for a period of 2 years following announcement of the award.

Each year the journal's editorial board will select a shortlist of 5 to 8 papers, which in their opinion, form the best and most significant papers published. Peter Gane, Taylor and Francis' managing editor, will then choose the winner from this shortlist. We were pleased to announce the first winners of the Don Brothwell award at our AGM in Aarhus as Jane Bunting and Michel Farrell. Peter Gane commented that their paper *Seeing the Wood for the Trees* "highlights important advances in methodology, potentially very useful to other researchers in their own studies."

2018 Winner:

Bunting, M J, Farrell, M '[Seeing the Wood for the Trees: Recent Advances in the Reconstruction of Woodland in Archaeological Landscapes Using Pollen Data](https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14614103.2017.1377405)'. *EA* **23(3)**, 228-239 <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14614103.2017.1377405>

2018 Shortlist:

- **Aguilera, M, Zech-Matterne, V, Lepetz, S, Balasse, M** 'Crop Fertility Conditions in North-Eastern Gaul During the La Tène and Roman Periods: A Combined Stable Isotope Analysis of Archaeobotanical and Archaeozoological Remains'. *EA* **23(4)**, 323-337
- **Antczak, K A** 'Cultivating Salt: Socio-Natural Assemblages on the Saltpans of the Venezuelan Islands, Seventeenth to Nineteenth Century'. *EA* **23(1)**, 56-68
- **Athanassas, C D, Modis, K, Alçiçek, M C, Theodorakopoulou, K** 'Contouring the Cataclysm: A Geographical Analysis of the Effects of the Minoan Eruption of the Santorini Volcano'. *EA* **23(2)**, 160-176
- **Bogaard, A, Styring, A, Ater, M, Hmimsa, Y, Green, L, Stroud, E, Whitlam, J, Diffey, C, Nitsch, E, Charles, M, Jones, G, Hodgson, J** 'From Traditional Farming in Morocco to Early Urban Agroecology in Northern Mesopotamia: Combining Present-day Arable Weed Surveys and Crop Isotope Analysis to Reconstruct Past Agrosystems in (Semi-) arid Regions'. *EA* **23(4)**, 303-322

Winners of the John Evans Prize 2018

John Evans (1941-2005) was an inspirational environmental archaeologist, responsible for advancing the discipline and fostering many of today's top researchers in the field. His many books continue to make a contribution to practical and theoretical aspects of environmental archaeology. To honour the memory of John and his achievements within environmental archaeology, the Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA) has an annual competition for the best undergraduate and Masters dissertations in any aspect of environmental archaeology. This year's winners and their project abstracts are listed below:

Undergraduate Prize:

Aina Fiolsegui, BSc Archaeology, University of York

Sulphur isotope variability in pre-Columbian populations of South America: Paleodietary and paleoecological implications.

The reconstruction of diet and subsistence strategies is integral to understanding hunter-gatherer societies in the past. This study presents new $\delta^{34}\text{S}$ results from two pre-Columbian sites of south-eastern South America, Morro do Ouro and Rio Comprido. Stable isotope data from three other sites (Galheta-IV, Jabuticabeira-II and Moraes) was included in order to create a more comprehensive body of data and comparative data points, from which to draw more robust inferences about dietary subsistence practices. The aim of this investigation was to establish whether sulphur isotopes were useful in providing nuanced supplementary information when analysed in conjunction with nitrogen and carbon isotope analysis. The results show that these populations did not rely as heavily on marine resources as previously thought and add some complexity in the dietary picture of sambaquis populations. It is concluded that similar studies over a broader geographical range are needed before sulphur isotopes can be reliably used to study coastal and inland resource exploitation in southern Brazil.

Postgraduate Prize:

Margherita Zona, MSc Zooarchaeology, University of York

Isotopic and ZooMS Analysis of Islamic and Christian Animal Remains from Granada: Exploring the potential for differing husbandry practices at the time of the Reconquista.

By means of carbon and nitrogen stable isotope analysis of bone collagen, this study aims to reconstruct the diets of a sample of faunal remains from Medieval Granada to trace changes in animal husbandry practices between the Muslim and Christian occupation of the area. Additionally, the project employs ZooMS analysis to taxonomically identify 'sheep/goat' remains to investigate ovicaprid subsistence patterns specifically and throughout Medieval Spain.

Results indicate no difference in livestock diets for $\delta^{13}\text{C}$, but a rise in $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ during the Christian period might suggest a shift in both agricultural and husbandry practices after the Reconquista. Comparison between sheep and goat diets shows potential for differing subsistence/management strategies between the two taxa.

Submissions for the John Evans Dissertation Prize are accepted year-round, though dissertations must be submitted by 31st July for consideration in that year's prize – dissertations submitted after this date will be automatically included in the following year's competition. For more information, or to submit an undergraduate or postgraduate dissertation please contact the AEA John Evans Prize Administrator, Jen Harland (Jen.Harland@uhi.ac.uk).

Dr Eileen Reilly (May 15th 1970 - July 27th 2018)

It was with a heavy heart that my colleagues and I in the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI) learned of the tragic passing of our dear friend Dr Eileen Reilly MIAI. Eileen was Vice-Chair of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland from 2013 through to 2015.

Eileen was an environmental archaeologist and one of few who specialised in archaeoentomology – the analysis of insect remains in archaeological soils. A graduate of Archaeology and Geography at University College Dublin in 1992, Eileen completed an MSc in Environmental Archaeology and Palaeoeconomy at Sheffield University in 1995. Eileen worked on a number of research and commercial excavation projects as an archaeoentomologist between 1995-2002, including The Lisheen Mine Archaeological Project, Temple Bar West and Corlea Bog, and participated in the INTAR 3 research project in Novgorod, Russia. Eileen joined the Department of Botany at Trinity College Dublin, to carry out her PhD research examining insect biodiversity and woodland history change due to natural and human-driven influences.

After completing her PhD in 2008, Eileen continued to enjoy working in both the research and commercial archaeological sectors, including high profile projects such as the multi-period wetland complex at Edercloon and the Early Medieval monastic site of Skellig Michael, as well as the EPA-funded project Extreme Weather, Climate and Natural Disasters in Ireland project, and the Discovery Programme's Environmental Pilot Project.

Between 2011-2013, Eileen worked with the National Museum by analysing samples from the iconic Viking Age Fishamble Street site, one of the very few archaeoentomological studies of a major urban settlement in Europe, which fuelled her post-doctoral research project at UCD Archaeology, 'Dirt, Dwellings and Culture: Reconstructing living conditions in early medieval Ireland and Northwestern Europe, AD600-1100', funded by the Irish Research Council (2013-15). Eileen was recently appointed an Adjunct Research Fellow at

UCD Archaeology and also taught there. Her book, "Living Conditions in Early Medieval Europe: A Case Study from Viking Age Fishamble Street, Dublin" was due to be published by Archaeopress this year.

Eileen was a full member of the IAI. She contributed widely to the Institute and also co-authored the Institute's 'Environmental Sampling Guidelines for Archaeologists' in 2007. Eileen and I joined the Board of the IAI at the same time, in 2013, where she took up the post of Vice-Chair. She was an inspiring colleague and worked on a number of important projects for the Institute including coordinating the Working Group on Pay and Conditions for the Board and representing the Institute in meetings at the Northern Ireland Assembly in Stormont with the then Northern Irish Minister for the Environment.

In 2014, Eileen led the Institute for nine months as Acting Chair during a difficult time of transition, whilst also overseeing the Institute's three-year plan and recruiting new staff. She achieved all of this while managing her post-doctoral research and co-authoring the National Roads Authority's (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland) environmental sampling guidelines, which were published in 2015. Eileen brought professionalism, integrity, compassion and kindness with her wherever she went. Having worked in both the research and the commercial worlds in a highly specialised sub-discipline, she had a unique understanding of the profession that made her an excellent leader for the IAI, despite enormous pressure and never having sought the role of Acting Chair. She was, in short, the best Chair that the IAI never had.

Our research areas meant that we rarely met beyond the IAI Board Room, but I always enjoyed bumping into her at international conferences in Glasgow and Dublin. At the European Association of Archaeologists Conference in Vilnius in 2016, she popped by to say hello – Eileen insisted she wasn't attending the Conference, she was enjoying a holiday!

Eileen will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Ronan, her daughter Áine, and her family.

**Dr James Bonsall MIAI
Chairperson, Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland**

Minutes of the AEA Annual General Meeting 2018

The 2018 AGM was held at 17.30 on 30th November 2018 at the Aarhus University Moesgaard Campus, with 21 members attending. The AGM was chaired and presented by Gill Campbell and minuted by Fay Worley. The accounts were presented by Mark McKerracher. The Aarhus conference organisers kindly provided refreshments at the end of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Report on Committee activities and John Evans Prize Result
2. Election of new committee members
3. Treasurer's report including summary
4. Any Other Business (none received)

1 Report on Committee Activities (Gill Campbell, Chair, gill.campbell@historicengland.org.uk)

1.1 Membership (Jo McKenzie, Membership Secretary, membership@envarch.net)

2018 was another great year for membership, with 59 new members joining (including 27 Student members, an increase on our new member numbers at this point last year. Our current fully paid up membership stands at 253. Additional Institutional Memberships through Taylor & Francis and their package subscriptions see the Journal distributed to nearly 3000 recipients. The AEA represents an ever-increasing international community and we now have members based in 26 countries worldwide. Just over half of our new members are non-UK based, with 19 new members from 11 European countries and a further 12 based in the USA, New Zealand, Australia and South Africa.

While the majority of our individual members use our online payment facility (144 members), we still have 75 Standing Order (SO) payers and 20 who pay via other means (cheque, cash, bank transfer). We still receive a number of Standing Order 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), with payment due on January 1st each year. Members are reminded that prompt payment of subscriptions guarantees journals will be received and makes the job of managing membership significantly easier. Members will see a slight change in the way you renew membership in 2019 in the light of GDPR.

Individual, Institutional and Archaeological Society Membership Awards

The Archaeological Society Membership Prize is currently held by the South Somerset Archaeological Research Group (SSARG; award duration 2017-20), a community based group with a strong interest in environmental archaeology (see NL134). The 2018-21 Institutional Award has been accepted by the Archaeobotany Laboratory of the Museu Nacional de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (nominated by Meriel McClatchie) and the Individual Award has been offered to Dr. Reg Murphy, an archaeologist with National Parks and UNESCO Secretary General for Antigua and Barbuda (nominated by Naomi Sykes). The AEA hopes that these awards will help rebuild the discipline following disastrous events in each country.

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

The journal includes four issues a year. Copy for volume 23 (2018) is complete and online, and issues 1–3 of volume 24 (2019) are scheduled. The journal's impact factor for 2017 was 1.349.

Our publishers, Taylor & Francis, plan to move to format free submission to speed up the submission process. Mindful of our responsibility to manage our budget we are renegotiating our agreement with Taylor & Francis. We will not maintain a buffer of spare Journals, so cannot guarantee a hard copy of the journal to those who pay their subs late (digital access will not be affected). In an effort to reduce postage costs and unnecessary packaging it was proposed that issues should only be posted out to members twice a year (i.e. 1&2 together, followed by issues 3&4 later in the year). Attending members agreed this proposal.

Don Brothwell Prize

At the AGM we introduced a new annual prize, launched in honour of the late Professor Don Brothwell. Details of the prize and its very first recipient can be found on page 11 of this newsletter.

1.3 Publicity (Suzi Richer, Publicity Officer, publicity@envarch.net)

We have sponsored four events and four seminars this year. Our social media profile continues to grow with 1528 [Facebook](#) followers (up 183 from last year) and 977 [Twitter](#) followers (up 242 from last year). Follow these accounts for news on jobs, studentships, grants, bursaries and conferences. Suzi's term on the committee concluded at the AGM, the Chair thanked her for her work over the last four years.



2018 sponsored events. Clockwise from top left: *The Archaeology of Woodlands* (Bialowieza, Poland 19-21st April 2018; see NL 139); *Integrated Microscopy Approaches in Archaeobotany* (Reading, UK 25-26th February 2018; see NL 139); *Lessons From The Past: Archaeology, Anthropology And The Future Of Food* (The Oxford Martin School, Oxford, UK 23rd August 2018), *ICAZ Bird Working Group* (Sheffield, UK 8-11th June 2018; see NL 140).

Seminar Series

- * Mark Knight 'Must Farm Pile Dwelling Investigations' 28/03/18, University of Leicester, UK
- * Emily Banfield 'Tales from the Ontological Tern: posthumanist interpretations of the faunal remains in eight
- * Neolithic long barrows in Wiltshire' 10/10/18, University of Leicester, UK
- * Susanna Harris 'Textiles of the late Bronze Age – focus on Must Farm' 18/10/18, University of Edinburgh, UK

1.4 Newsletter (Rob Batchelor, Dani de Carle, Rhiannon Philp and Daisy Spencer, Newsletter Editors, newsletter@envarch.net)

The newsletter editors thanked everyone who contributed to the newsletter this year. They encouraged members to keep sending in short news stories, notes and early research summaries, recent PhD abstracts and news of forthcoming workshops and conferences to newsletter@envarch.net. **The next deadlines for copy are 20th January and 20th April 2019.** Rob, Dani and Daisy stepped down from their committee roles at the AGM. Rhiannon will continue to work on the Newsletter in the forthcoming year, together with Tom Fowler as senior Student Representative. Daisy stood for election as ordinary member. The Chair thanked the outgoing editors for their work on the newsletter.

In addition to the Newsletter and our Social Media channels, the Association may also contact you through AEA@jiscmail.ac.uk and maintains a members discussion list for members: env-arch@jiscmail.ac.uk (see <http://envarch.net/privacy/>)

1.5 Conferences (Lee Broderick, Conference Officer, conference@envarch.net)

Though omitted from the AGM presentation, the committee would like to thank the organisers of our 2018 meetings, both of which were great successes. The spring meeting *Pests of Society*, held at the University of Birmingham in association with Historic England, was organised by David Smith, Zoë Hazell and Ruth Pelling, and reported in Newsletter 139. The autumn conference *Back where it all began! Archaeological Science from the Kitchen Midden Commissions to the Present* was organised by Marcello Mannino, Peter Hambro Mikkelsen and Søren Michael Sindbæk and is reported in this Newsletter (pages 4-5).



For 2019 we look forward to a spring meeting in Cork (*Environmental archaeology: Practice, Society, Politics*). Contact Ben Gearey b.gearey@ucc.ie) and our 40th anniversary autumn conference in Sheffield (*Living Through Change: the Archaeology of Human-Environment Interactions, 29th November to 1st December 2019* <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/archaeology/events/aea40>). Contact Michael Wallace aea2019@sheffield.ac.uk). Further details of these meetings can be found on pages 9 and 10.

1.6 Student Representatives (Daisy Spencer and Tom Fowler)

Over the last year, Tom has been keeping on top of the student blog and Daisy has been helping on the newsletter team. Daisy's term as Student Rep concluded at the AGM and the Chair thanked her for her work. The Student Reps thanked all contributors to the AEA student blog. Please keep sharing your student research with us!

1.7 Small Research Grants (Niklas Hausmann, Grants Administrator, researchgrants@envarch.net)

2018 was the fourth year of AEA grants, with a highly competitive submission and many worthy applications. We received 34 applications for a total of £19,117.25. Applications were received from Australia, Canada, Poland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Sweden, USA and the UK, coming from a post-graduate, 15 PhD students, 16 academics and 1 commercial specialist. The recipients of the 2018 grants are listed in the table below.

2018 Small Grant Recipient	Project Title
Lucile Crété (Bournemouth University)	Multiproxy Study of ancient antelopes' diet to investigate past vegetation changes in the Turkana Basin
Katharine Alexander (University of Kentucky)	Deer Management Strategies and a Possible Explanation for the Increase in prehistoric Human Maize Consumption in the Eastern Woodlands of the United States
Ophélie Lebrasseur (University of Oxford)	An archaeological and genetics approach to the cultural history of chickens in Argentina
Lukasz Pospieznny (Polish Academy of Science)	The role of halophytes as a source of bioavailable strontium
Lena Strid (Lund University)	A study of medieval bone pens

Members were reminded that applications for up to £500 (or equivalent) are welcomed for 2019 grants, and the deadline is 31st January 2019. Further details available from <http://envarch.net/funding/grants/>

1.8 John Evans Prize (Jen Harland, Prize Administrator, john.evans.prize@envarch.net)

The Chair was pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 John Evans Prize, both of which were submitted from the University of York. The undergraduate prize went to **Aina Fiol Seguí** for her BSc Archaeology dissertation *Sulphur isotope variability in pre-Columbian populations of South America: Paleodietary and paleoecological implications*. The post-graduate prize went to **Margherita Zona** for her MSc Zooarchaeology dissertation *Isotopic and ZooMS Analysis of Islamic and Christian Animal Remains from Granada: Exploring the potential for differing husbandry practices at the time of the Reconquista*. Abstracts of these winning projects can be found on page 12.

2. Managing Committee Elections

Elections were held for the posts of Secretary, three Ordinary Member positions and Student representative. Congratulations to Nora Battermann, Michael Bamforth, Canan Çakirlar, Don O'Meara and Daisy Spencer who were duly elected. The AEA Managing Committee for 2019 is presented below (terms of office in square brackets). Committee personal statements and contact details can be found at <http://envarch.net/committee-members/>

Chair:	Treasurer:
Gill Campbell [17-21]	Mark McKerracher [16-20]
Secretary:	Journal Editor:
Don O'Meara [18-22]	Tim Mighall
Elected Ordinary Members:	
Michael Bamforth [18-22]	Niklas Hausmann [16-20]
Lee Broderick [15-19]	Jo McKenzie [15-19]
Canan Çakirlar [18-22]	Rhiannon Philp [17-21]
Lynne Gardiner [16-20]	David Smith [17-21]
Ben Gearey [15-19]	Daisy Spencer [18-22]
Jen Harland [16-20]	Michael Wallace [17-21]
Student Representatives:	
Nora Battermann [18-20]	Tom Fowler [17-19]

3. Treasurer's Report (Mark McKerracher; treasurer@envarch.net)

Main comments on AEA final finances for 2016 and 2017:

- Our Euro account is now closed, thanks to Meriel McClatchie for her help with this. All assets are held in our main Sterling account.
- Subscription income slightly down, but new subs rate beginning to take effect.
- Receipt of journal royalties, and less far-flung conferences, helping to balance the books.
- 2017 closed with a deficit, as in 2016, but... deficit reduced by about 56%.

The accounts were accepted by attending members.

Assets at start of year	2016	2017
Bank current account	£22,489.21	£16,803.71
Bank savings accounts	£20,489.17	£20,489.22
<i>Total assets at start of year</i>	£42,978.38	£37,292.93
Income		
Subscriptions	£14,387.25	£13,509.25
Donations	-	£151.00
Books	£3,734.50	£752.02
Interest earned	£9.05	£3.23
Conference proceeds	£988.61	-
Maney Royalties and Editorial income	-	£3,718.48
<i>Income sub-total</i>	£19,119.41	£18,133.98
Initial total assets excluding books in stock	£62,097.79	£55,426.91
Expenditure		
Stationery, flyers, publicity	£570.80	£114.94
Web page	£67.75	£51.85
Journal production and postage	£13,622.40	£13,692.80
Committee expenses	£1,582.84	£1,363.28
Book purchase	£1,261.06	£635.76
Event sponsorship	£165.90	£431.27
Conference support	£3,829.76	£1,322.93
Conference prizes	£85.00	£25.00
Bank and Worldpay fees	£634.09	£684.49
Subscriptions reimburse	-	£73.00
Research grants	£2,984.48	£2,216.90
<i>Expenditure subtotal</i>	<i>£24,804.08</i>	<i>£20,612.22</i>
<i>Total income minus expenditure</i>	<i>-£5,684.67</i>	<i>-£2,478.24</i>
Total assets minus expenditure	£37,293.71	£34,814.69
Assets at end of year		
eoy current	£16,803.71	£14,290.55
eoy savings	£20,489.22	£20,501.45
	£37,292.93	£34,792.00

Proposed budget for 2019

2018 expenditure is likely to be within budget, or very nearly so. The proposed budget for 2019 is based on a projected annual income of **£18,000** – i.e. £500 higher than 2018. It includes slight modifications based on previous expenditure.

Attending Members voted to approve the proposed budget for 2019, with no objections or abstentions.

Proposed budget for 2019	% budget	£ amount	£change
Committee expenses	6.1	1,100	+ 50
Conference fund	7.8	1,400	+ 262
Publicity & sponsorship	3.1	550	+ 25
Website	0.4	75	- 12
Finance (fees, etc.)	3.8	675	- 25
Journal costs (net)	64.4	11,600	+ 50
Prizes and Grants	14.4	2,600	+ 150

Call for Grant Applications: AEA Research Fund

Fund administrator: Niklas Hausmann, researchgrants@envarch.net

Research Fund Overview: Once again the AEA is offering a number of small grants to fund specific aspects of research projects concerning any area of environmental archaeology. Grant applications are open to all AEA members (<http://envarch.net/register/>) including students, unwaged or newly registered members.

Grants will normally be up to £500 but applications for larger amounts may be considered. Grants cannot cover the cost of equipment or conference attendance or costs that should normally be covered by developers or larger funding bodies (e.g. AHRC, ERC, ARC, NSF) funding other areas of the same research project.

Costs that may be covered include travel and accommodation for visits to research facilities, scientific analyses or time buy-out for those working in the commercial sector and wishing to carry out research beyond that funded by developers. Grants may also be used for research start-up or pilot projects.

Annual Application Deadline: 31st January.

Apply online: <http://envarch.net/funding/grants/>



Musings from Social Media



Archaeologists discover bread that predates agriculture by 4,000 years



Ruth Pelling @s Define 'bread'....

Over 1000 hectare, over 450 ancient oaks, oldest 900 year, grazed extensively with cattle and buffalo. Never seen chemicals. Perfect system. Ancient but the way forward.



Irish foxes have been isolated from British and European foxes for at least 4000 yrs, and owe their genetic heritage to a mix of Iberian, British and Central European foxes!



Michael Wallace @ArchaeoMichael Following

Hej hej Aarhus and @MuseumMoesgaard thank you for hosting #AEEAarhus @Envarch it was a delight. See you all next year in Sheffield @UniShefArch

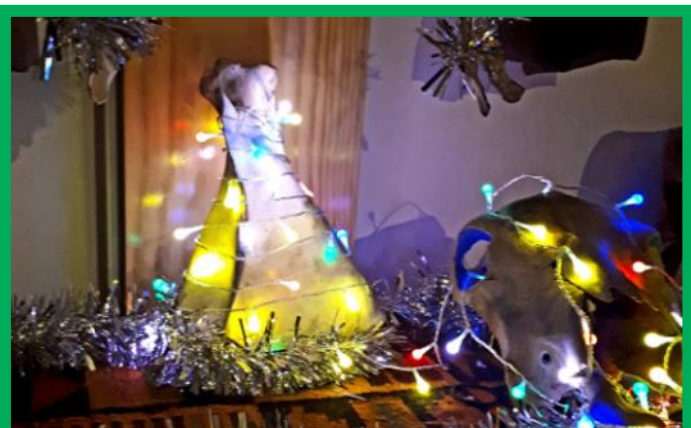
As a post conference treat Peter Rowley-Conwy explains the origins of the heritage signs collection #AEEAarhus

pollen diagram alert

sedaDNA diagrams are the new pollen diagrams! Expect to see lots of these in archaeology conferences in the future 😊



Tollund man died at a very convenient point along the radiocarbon calibration curve
#silverlinings @Envarch #AEEAarhus #39thAEA



MERRY CHRISTMAS



[http://
www.envarch.net](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

Extended Photography Competition deadline

31st December 2018

AEA Membership Renewal Due

January 2019

AEA Research Fund Grants deadline

31st January 2019

IMAA, Reading

16-17th February 2019

AEA Spring Conference, Cork

27th April 2019

INQUA, Dublin

25th-31st July 2019

John Evans Dissertation Prize deadline

31st July 2019

20th Fish Remains Working Group

26th-30th November 2019

AEA 40th Anniversary Conference, Sheffield

29th November-1st December 2019

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: 20th January 2019

Rhiannon Philp, Daisy Spencer and Tom Fowler