# Minutes of the Prehistoric Society Annual General Meeting

Held at 3.25pm on Saturday 18th June 2022 at Bournemouth University

Chaired by the President Professor Clive Gamble

**The AGM 2021 was held in person as part of the Europa Conference. Members were notified of the AGM by email in September and papers were made available in advance on the website.**

Chair: Clive Gamble (CG)

Council members present: Julie Gardiner (JG); Clare Randall (CR); Mike Allen (MA); Linda Hurcombe (LH); Rob Hedge (RH); Sue Greaney (SG)

About 30 ordinary members were also present.

In a change to the circulated agenda, Item 6 was not tabled, due to a decision not to raise subscriptions this year.

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| Item | Paper |
| 1 | Minutes of the AGM held on Zoom on Wednesday 20th October 2021 were available via the website |
| The minutes were confirmed as a true record of the meeting. |
| 2 | President’s Report – Clive Gamble |
| The President welcomed everyone, noting the joy of an in-person conference. He referred members to the Annual Report in the last PAST newsletter (PAST 100, 7–9) for full details of a successful year for the Society. The focus of his report would be on three of the Society’s core activities: promoting research, disseminating and honouring research, and new audiences for prehistory.1. **Promoting research**

We have distributed £10,582 in grants and awards to date in 2022.A new 5 year contract has been signed with Cambridge University Press for the publication of the Proceedings and PAST. These two publications, as well as the Research Papers series and Collections Online papers, continue to prosper. The refreshed new website and branding has given the Society a fresh and modern look, and our education blog aimed at schools is available at <https://theprehistoricsociety.school.blog/>. 1. **Disseminating and honouring research**

This year sees the introduction of two new awards, the President’s Award, to recognise those who have broadened the appeal of prehistory by engaging new audiences, and the Peter Clark Award, to recognise the role of fieldworkers whose contribution to prehistoric archaeology is vital but often overlooked. The inaugural winners were:**President’s Award: Professor Shanti Pappu** for her work on Palaeolithic archaeology in India and her book The Shining Stones aimed at children**President’s Award: Dr Rebecca Wragg Sykes** for her book Kindred, which successfully challenges stereotypes about Neanderthals**Peter Clark Award: Keith Parfitt**, Canterbury Archaeological Trust, for his work over more than 50 years on major excavations in Kent, including bringing many significant sites to publication.1. **New audiences for prehistory**

The President noted that although the Covid pandemic has been a difficult time for many, there has been an online dividend, with larger audiences, greater reach and there has been an excellent response to the Society’s online lectures. A new international lecture series, Global Pasts, was started in October 2021 and has been very successful. A highlight of the year was the *Are genes deep history?* panel discussion, held online as part of the Being Human Festival. Thanks were extended to the meetings secretary, Dr Matt Knight, who is stepping down this year, for his hard work on the programme.Largely through these activities, the Society gained 170 new members during 2021, bringing total membership to 1157. Membership of the Facebook group now stands at 18,000 members from 90 different countries, and the Society has 7000 followers on Twitter. This success is due to our membership secretary, Dr Tessa Machling, who manages and monitors these accounts with great skill. |
| 3 | Editor’s Report and the award of the R.M. Baguley award – Julie Gardiner |
| Dr Julie Gardiner noted that PPS 87 had been published a little late and was a shorter volume due to the impact of the pandemic, increasing workloads and leading to uncertainty surrounding various projects. Nevertheless, it is an excellent issue with a wide range of papers. Several papers have been promised for PPS 88, and the first paper from this volume is now online as a FirstView article. Again, this is likely to be a slimmer volume than usual.The Editor thanked Assistant Editor Dr Courtney Nimura for her incredible hard work, noting with sadness that she has had to step down from the role due to workload pressures. The Society is not currently seeking a new assistant, as there are some forthcoming changes in workflow over the next two years. However, if any members are interested in the role, please contact the Editor. The new editor of the PAST newsletter, Dr Sue Greaney, is now bedded in. PAST 100 celebrated its birthday with a new design, for which thanks are extended to our typesetter Val Lamb. The editor apologised to members for the late delivery of this edition, which was out of our control. A survey of membership in the last edition had relatively few responses, and no decisions have been taken yet about moving any publications to digital formats. However, the cost of printing and distributing PAST is quite high. Turning to the Research Papers series, the past year has seen the publication of:Oct 2021: Topping, P. Neolithic Stone Extraction in Britain and EuropeDec 2021: Knight, M. Fragments of the Bronze AgeForthcoming in autumn 2022 are two further volumes, Repeopling La Manche and The Drowning of a Cornish Prehistoric Landscape. The Editor said that this was the most successful co-produced series that Oxbow Books and Prehistoric Society had done, and this helps to fund non-financed volumes. Online Collections, bringing together seminal papers into groupings that provide a starting point into important themes in prehistory, were started a year ago. There are now 15 collections of papers available, with two new collections for Europa 2022 focusing on Neolithic mobility and migration, and diet. These have been downloaded by many people and are clearly proving useful.The Baguley Award for the best paper published in PPS in 2021 was presented by the President to Mark Houghton, who was given a certificate and engraved goblet for his co-authored paper on ‘Bronze Age woollen textile production in England: a consideration of evidence and potentials.’ |
| 4 | Treasurer’s Report – Clare Randall |
| The Treasurer stated that there were no accounts to be presented, due to this AGM being mid-way between two sets of accounts. However, the Society’s finances are healthy, and Clare was pleased to be leaving the Society in a better position than when she arrived. The success of growing membership and publications, as well as the money saved by the switch to online meetings, had resulted in a good bank balance. In addition, there has been a delay to the payout of some research grants due to Covid-related delays, and in some cases, projects have sadly been abandoned. The Society is therefore cash-rich at the moment, which will be reflected in 2021’s accounts, which are presenting being collated. To mark the end of her service of Treasurer, Claire was presented with a replica Mortlake pot, filled with chocolate gold coins! Her considerable administration load was noted by the President, with thanks for her sterling efforts over the past years. A new treasurer, Dr Lisa-Elen Meyering, will now be taking over the reins. |
| 5 | Report on meetings, study tours and research days – Clive Gamble |
| The meetings secretary Dr Matt Knight was unable to attend the AGM, but the President presented a short report on his behalf. This highlighted the many events for members that had happened in 2021:* Conference ‘Barrows of the Yorkshire Wolds: Prehistory, Inspiration and Legacy’ held in March 2021, and organised by Melanie Giles
* Europa Conference 2021 (postponed from 2020): *People and Society in Late Prehistoric Europe, Prof Colin Haselgrove.* Held online in June 2021 and a great success.
* The 20th Sara Champion Lecture: delivered online by Dr Tom Booth and titled ‘Genetic change and relatedness in Chalcolithic and Bronze Age Britain’.
* There was celebration of the launch of the Society’s Global Pasts online lecture series, which will be continuing into 2022, now organised by Dr James Cole.
* Eight collaborative lectures were recorded and hosted online in collaboration with other regional and national societies; all are available to watch on the Society’s YouTube channel.
* In November 2021, as part of the Queen Mary University of London’s Being Human Festival, a panel event called ‘Are Genes Deep History?’ was held, organised by Matt Knight and with panellist Jo Brück, Tom Booth, Chris Stringer, Adam Rutherford and Mike Pitts.

The Society has continued sponsorship of other conferences and events, especially those with strong involvement by younger prehistorians:* March 2021 - Participation in, and sponsorship of, the EXARC Experimental Archaeology Conference, EAC21, in which we hosted a session promoting the work of three students working on European prehistory (online via YouTube), organised by Professor Linda Hurcombe
* June 2021 – Provided support for the Iron Age Research Student Symposium, held at University of Liverpool, with a prize offered for best student paper.
* October 2021 – Held the 5th Annual Pitt-Rivers Lecture at Bournemouth University, given by Professor Sue Hamilton, UCL, on ‘Rapa Nui (Easter Island): Myths and realities of an iconic past’.

The President announced that the next Europa Conference will be held in honour of Professor Mary Louise Stig Sørensen of Cambridge University, to be held 2–3 June 2023, at Jesus College, Cambridge. More details will be available soon. |
| 6 | Awards – Clive Gamble |
| The President detailed the awards distributed this year, the awards process being organised by Susanna Harris and Tessa Machling.**SUERC Radiocarbon Awards**Cristian Rodriguez to date chullpas (tower shaped monuments) in the Altiplano Carangas, Bolivia**Conference Fund**Jessica Bates to attend Association of Archaeology Wear and Residue Analysts, £300Magda Basyiashvilli to attend the European Association of Archaeologists conference, £300**Coles Award**Rose Moir Freston, Neolithic pottery analysis, £500This award, allowing students to travel, will continue into the future, thanks to the Coles family.**Research Grants** totalling £6732 were awarded to the following**:**Richard Bradley: Exploration of King Arthur’s Round Table hengeMamza Melgarejo: Excavations at Bronze Age site of Kach Kouch N-W Africa (Leslie Grinsell Prize)Kate Waddington: Post-excavation at double ringwork of Meillionydd, Lyn Peninsula (James Dyer Prize)Francesca Cortese: Agricultural practices in Early and Middle Bronze Age, ItalyPetros Chatzimpaloglou: Neolithic material use in the Morava Valley, Serbia (Bob Smith Prize)Alison Sheridan: Lithic material form Slewcairn**Collections study award** of £2000 was given to:Gail Boyle and Peter Bray: Bristol Museum Copper alloy objects in the Dr H. A. Fawcett Collection |
| 7 | Election of officers and members of council - Clive Gamble |
| CG began by thanking all members of council and extending extra special thanks to the following outgoing members: Vice-President Jo Brück, and Council Members Anne Teather, Richard Brunning and Helen Chittock.The Society is pleased to welcome our new president, Professor Linda Hurcombe of the University of Exeter. As Linda was a Vice-President this leads two Vice-President posts to fill. The outgoing President Clive Gamble was thanked for steering the Society through a challenging four years, and was given a replica Lion Man, an Upper Palaeolithic statue, made by Wulf Hein, as a token of thanks.The following members of council and trustees were then elected (or re-elected):Vice-Presidents Dr Rupert Housley, Royal Holloway Dr Rachel Pope, University of LiverpoolSecretary Dr Rachel Crellin, Leicester UniversityTreasurer Dr Lisa-Elen Meyering, Durham UniversityManaging Editor Dr Julie Gardiner, Oxbow BooksMeetings Secretary Dr Felicity MacDowall, Museum of Natural History, OxfordOrdinary Council MembersDr Catherine Frieman, Australian National UniversityDr Meredith Laing, University of LeicesterDr Rob Wiseman, Cambridge Archaeological UnitThe following council members (non-trustees) were also re-elected:Editor of Research Papers Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental ArchaeologyConservation Co-Ordinator Dr Jane Sidell, Historic EnglandReviews Editor Dr Helen Chittock, AOC ArchaeologyAdministrator & Membership Secretary Dr Tessa Machling  |