



CBA YORKSHIRE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

10.00 am Saturday 4 February 2017

Fountains Lecture Theatre, York St John University, Clarence Street, York

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence

Paul Brayford (Vice-Chair)

David Buck (Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society)

Louise Mallinson (Programme Secretary)

Terry Manby (NYM National Park rep)

Elaine Wisdom

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 6 February 2016

Minutes were approved by the meeting

3. Matters arising

None raised

4. Chairperson's report (S. Bence)

These are challenging times for CBA Yorkshire and organisations like it. Despite the astonishing rate of growth in our knowledge of the past over the last twenty years or so, principally the result of highly successful archaeological interventions, many of the organisations that exist to celebrate that new knowledge now find themselves in real difficulty, with museums probably hardest hit.

Heritage Lottery funding and Arts Council England grants can do great things for organisations with very specific and time bound objectives but organisations with more generalised remits - such as CBA Yorkshire - tend to find it much more difficult to attract funding.

At the root of these problems lies 'austerity'; with government increasingly expecting heritage related organisations to be self financing, their income streams have suffered, impacting negatively on their ability to serve the needs of their memberships. In addition, and possibly even more problematically in the longer term, heritage related organisations now seem to be finding it increasingly difficult to attract volunteers that they need to fill their committee posts and produce their products. The reason for this is not totally clear but again the suspicion must be that 'austerity' is probably the main culprit; as people find it harder to make ends meet, they feel they have less time for the sort of voluntary work that heritage related organisation like CBA Yorkshire rely upon.

Against this rather difficult background I have, since taking over as Chairman of CBA Yorkshire a year ago, been working with my fellow committee members to try to identify a *sustainable* way forward for CBA Yorkshire. To that end we have reviewed all aspects of our current activities and have come up with a simple forward plan. Our overriding objective is to take action to both reduce our costs and give our members greater value for money. We recognise that our plan is not without risks, principally in terms of the scale of the voluntary effort required to deliver it, but we passionately believe it is the right one in our current circumstances.

Here is a summary of what CBA Yorkshire currently hopes to do for its members in 2017.

Institutional Membership Drive

Resources permitting, we will write to all Yorkshire's archaeological societies, archaeological contractors, universities and colleges that offer archaeological courses and Historic

Environment Forums asking them to join CBA Yorkshire. We will emphasise that becoming a member of CBA Yorkshire will give them -

1. the opportunity to take part in our well-established Annual Symposium event
2. the opportunity to take part in our new annual Autumn Showcase event
3. the opportunity to have annual updates of their activities published in 'Forum'
4. the opportunity to have details of their specific digs and other projects published in 'Forum Extra'.

Newsletter

We will publish 4 e-newsletters each year that highlight our own activities and those of our institutional members,

Website

We will replace our existing website with a new and simpler one that highlights our own activities and those of our institutional members,

Annual Symposium

We will organise and run the Annual Symposium event in February 2017.

Autumn Showcase

Resources permitting we will organise and run an entirely new Autumn Showcase event for our members in September 2017.

Hard copy edition of 'Forum'

We will produce a hard copy edition of 'Forum' which will contain

- Annual updates from our institutional members
- Abstracts of articles about our institutional members' specific digs and other projects.

Online edition of 'Forum'

We will produce an online edition of 'forum', possibly to be entitled 'Forum Extra' which will contain detailed articles about our institutional members' specific digs and other projects.

Programme of Events

Resources permitting, run a programme of events, ensuring that all such events are self-financing.

Advocacy

Resources permitting, we will carry out some advocacy work in support of Yorkshire archaeology. In carrying out this work we will, in particular, try to ensure that Yorkshire's planning authorities always take archaeology properly into account when progressing development proposals.

As I hope everyone will accept this is a very demanding set of objectives for an organisation that currently relies on the efforts of a handful of volunteers.

In closing therefore I would particularly like to thank my fellow committee members, and in particular Paul Brayford, Spencer Carter, Christiane Kroebel and Trevor Pearson for their ongoing and herculean efforts on behalf of CBA Yorkshire.

I would also like to take this opportunity to ask all members of CBA Yorkshire to think seriously about whether they might be able to help the organisation in some capacity in the future.

5. Hon. Secretary's report (T. Pearson)

The committee met on four occasions in 2016 in April, June, September and November at St Clements Hall, York. It has been another quiet year as regards what the group has been able to organise and the Chair has covered the business of the group during this period. Under the guidance of our new Chairman, Steve's Bence, we have focused on the key challenges facing the group during our committee meetings

- Developing a clearer vision about what we do and what we don't do

- How to retain membership and attract new members by improving our offer
- The need to strengthen our communication with members but to accept this will have to be primarily via electronic means due to postage costs
- The need to reduce financial risk - Events, Forum and the Symposium

6. **Hon. Treasurer's report** (I. Drake)

The Group's financial year ends on 31 March. The audited accounts summary available as you came in therefore relates to the 12 months prior to 31 March 2016.

Total receipts in the year were £5,615, an increase on the previous year of approximately £250. Our principal income comes from organisations and individual members' subscriptions, some of which are paid directly to the group and others as an add-on to CBA Nation subscriptions which are then forwarded on to us. It is an ongoing struggle to try and develop membership and therefore subscription income. Subscription receipts in 2015/16 were £2892 sadly a decrease of £510 on the previous year. An increase in voluntary donations and a grant towards the cost of the annual symposium slightly offset this reduction in our core income.

Payments increased by £2,300 to £5,064 totally explained by the fact that the group's largest expense, the printing of FORUM 2016, was not actually paid until April 2016. The result of all this was a reduction of the groups balance at 31 March 2016 which stood at £8,072 an increase of £550 on the March 2015 figure. It must be remembered however that at 31 March 2016 the cost of printing 2016 forum had been incurred but not paid. This cost paid in the current financial year being £2,950 very similar to the 2015 issue. The effective extent of the Group's funds should therefore for practical purposes be considered as £5,000.

All this of course is now more than 9 months ago. For the period to 31 December 2016 subscriptions stand at £3,165 some of which relate to arrears due from previous years but not previously paid due to the confusion created by CBA National's change of collection practise some years ago. The indications are that membership numbers and therefore subscription levels will hold steady for 2016/17. The trustees are also actively considering ways to reduce the cost of producing FORUM by far the Group's largest expense.

My overall message is that the Group's finances are holding steady but this is holding steady at a low level with balances just enough for the group to continue to function all be it at a fairly basic level. All the Group's activities must be self-financing leaving subscription income to cover the production of FORUM and day to day administration expenses

7. **Hon. Membership Secretary's report** (T. Pearson)

I was elected at AGM last year taking over from Paul Brayford. Paul carried on running things until formal hand over at end of April 2016. Membership shows a year on year decline and the committee is looking at ways to turn things round. Looking back at the numbers over the last few years, the impact of the large changes forced on National CBA in 2011-12 by the withdrawal of British Academy grant is reflected strongly in our figures because of the subsequent changes implemented by National CBA in how the membership of regional groups is organised.

In the future we will continue to rely increasingly on electronic communications to keep in touch with our membership. So far, of our 260 members we have e-mail addresses for 206 - but we will not lose sight of the fact that we need to continue to send out hard copies of information to members who do not have an e-mail account.

8. **Hon Programme Secretary's report** (L. Mallinson)

It was not possible to put on any events in 2016 apart from a visit to the excavations at Hanging Grimston on the Yorkshire wolds which was poorly supported by members. the trip to Byland abbey had to be cancelled but plans are in place for a tour of Byland Abbey and Helmsley Castle in June 2017. Ideas are also being considered for a trip in September.

9. Hon. Editors report (C. Kroebel)

CBA Yorkshire's journal Forum vol. 4 for 2015 was published in June last year with a huge thank you to Spencer Carter for taking the lead in getting it produced. I was very relieved to have been able to count on Spence for his help. For 2016 we have implemented our plans to print a slim volume which will be in your hands at this AGM, and an on-line version with full articles, which complements the printed volume. Looking forwards to vol 6, I would like to see more contributions from our affiliated societies as well as personal members and contractors. In addition, I am going to investigate e-book publishing to improve the reader experience and enable alternative formats.

10. Hon Museums and Archives Officer's report (P. Robinson)

Peter resigned from the committee in December 2016. His resignation letter contained the following points about his time in the post:

It became very clear that trying to co-ordinate and garner a response from other museums in Yorkshire in regards to developments and status' of their archaeological collections and archives was near impossible, largely due to either the lack of archaeological curators in some areas or due to the heavy work commitments of staff responsible for archaeological collections. This I think is one of the most significant issues that museums now face in regards to communicating to and with the public in terms of understanding and support for the current crisis in museums regarding the curation of and facilitation of access to archaeological collections and archives.

The problems I have encountered will be ones which I take back to the Society for Museum Archaeology, with the hope that they can look at possible solutions for sustaining contact with and support from local CBA groups and the public in general.

It is difficult to know who else might be able to takeover in this role. Museums (In Yorkshire and everywhere else) are in a very difficult position right now, with resources and staff being pushed to and beyond capacity.

11. Individual Members Representative report (Eric Houlder)

The AGM agreed that the role of Individual Members rep would, for the time being, be amalgamated with that of the membership secretary as Eric himself had previously expressed concerns about the need for the role as a separate committee post.

12. Reports from representatives on other organisations

a) North York Moors National Park Archaeology Group (T. Manby) - received after the AGM

During 2016 the Group held the customary May and November business meetings in Helmsley, these followed the pattern of the permanent agenda style of reports of park authority activities and of current work by other organisations and individuals. The representation is roughly equally divided between official organisations, societies and archaeological practitioners. Select agenda items are:-

1. NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY ACTIVITIES:

The reduction in financial support for the National Park continues a dependency on obtaining external funding for the major conservation projects.

- (a) Historic Environment Strategy - "This Exploited Land". This is a landscape partnership focused on the 19th Century ironstone industry and railways of the North York Moors. Following the award to the Park Authority by the Heritage Lottery Fund of Stage 1 funding for the planning of the conservation of industrial monuments; funding has been received for the Stage 2 conservation repair and consolidation of the historical structures. The archaeological elements involve a budget of nearly £1 million for work on industrial sites:- Rosedale kiln sites and railway, Warren Moor Mine, Grosmont Iron Works site and their surrounds. The scheme over the next 2-3 years will involve a substantial community participation.

- (b) Monument Management Scheme. Receiving attention during the year:- the clearing bracken and undergrowth on scheduled monuments; the problem of walkers' cairns and

footpaths damaging some barrows; the treatment of erosion damage to earthworks such as Green Dyke, Fylingdales, and Percy Rigg hut circles. Much of this work has been done by the local volunteer groups.

- (c) The Coastal Alum Works Project. The report on this investigation was the subject of a day seminar at Whitby Museum in the spring of 2016 to consider the next phase of this project. The Alum House at Stoup Brow and Saltwick Nab suggested for future research.
- (d) Arden Mill. Contractors have undertaken substantial ground works after the flood damage to secure the building and surrounds. The next priority will be to conserve the wooden mill machinery and create a preservation environment.
- (e) Roulston Scar Hillfort. Further surveys are to be undertaken on linear earthworks around the hillfort where some are possibly of medieval date related to the Battle of Byland.
- (f) North East Yorkshire Mesolithic Project Survey. A booklet outlining the results of this project has been published.

2. REPORTED WORK BY OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN THE NATIONAL PARK.

- (a) Historic England: Funding has been provided to repair the Fyling Deer Park boundary wall.
- (b) Forestry Commission: Work is in progress to improve the condition of scheduled monuments within the forestry area by the removal of bracken and bushes. An assessment of the 237 monument sites within Dalby Forest is being carried out.
- (c) Scarborough Archaeological Society. Continuing survey work in Raincliffe and Rowbrow Woods mapping boundary works, hollow-ways and tracks, barrows and charcoal burners' platforms.
- (d) The Yearsley Moor Research Project, supported by the Helmsley and District Archaeological and Historical Society, completed excavation of the pottery production area and concentration is now on analysis of the ceramic assemblage and report preparation.
- (e) Fylingdales, Stoup Brow Moor. In August there was a further two weeks of excavation and survey directed by B.E.Vyner. Standing stones, decorated rocks and some gully features identified as round house foundations, the latter's dating as yet to be established.
- (f) WINDYPITS FORUM. There has been no meetings during the year.

Graham Lee announced his forthcoming retirement as the authority's Archaeologist, effective on 31st March 2017, and will be working only one day a week until then. A successor will be appointed at the beginning of the next financial year.

- b) Yorkshire Archaeological Society (J. Cruse)

Management Board Report

In a busy year, the Society and its five main sections have organised 34 talks and 4 visits, with our nineteen affiliated societies contributing a further 115 events to the overall YAHS programme.

The sale of Claremont, previously subject to recurrent delays, has now developed an encouraging momentum. A new housing developer is progressing planning permission to convert the building into serviced apartments. If this is obtained this month, completion should be achieved in March. Arrangements are in hand to rent an office in the Jacob's Well complex for YAHS administration purposes and to host small meetings. The bulk of the Claremont sale proceeds will be invested, aiming to establish a reliable income stream to underpin the Society's continuing activities.

At the 151st AGM, our President, Dr Gill Cookson reviewed the above developments and discussed the Society's future options. Our Treasurer, Brian Barber, reported on the financial position. Fixed costs were being steadily reduced and the objective of 'breaking even' was

becoming increasingly realistic. The Membership Secretary noted that membership numbers were reasonably stable.

A successful conference was held in Grassington in October, organised jointly with YDLRT, with nine speakers reviewing different aspects of Romans and Natives in Central Britain. An update to our web-site has been commissioned, aiming to improve the service to users.

Publications available to YAHS and section members

Yorkshire Archaeological Journal (Vol 88) was published in October 2016. Its 261 pages included five articles on archaeological subjects, six on historical topics along with three obituaries.

Prehistoric Yorkshire (No 54) was issued in December 2016, with 124 pages of articles, research summaries, reports from members and book reviews.

Medieval Yorkshire (Issue 3) was circulated in January 2017, with six articles on medieval subjects.

New YAHS Monographs

YAR 7: Hayton, E Yorks: Iron Age & Roman Landscapes: 2015: This two volume set has sold well.

A further YAHS volume on the excavations of an IA/R-B site at Thwing, E Yorks is in prospect.

Future Activities

Skipsea Brough Project: In a follow-up to last autumn's discovery that the Norman motte at Skipsea could incorporate a late prehistoric site, the Prehistoric section is sponsoring a University of Reading geophysical survey of the 'Brough', the crescent-shaped earthworks south-west of the motte. If any CBA members with geophysics experience want to get involved in this project, please contact me at john.cruse1@btinternet.com

c) York Archaeological Trust (I. Drake)

In recent Years YAT has divided its reporting to members into two parts, an overview of the Trust's activities presented in October and the formal Annual General Meeting including the presentation of the Chairman's and Chief Executive's reports together with the Annual Accounts and Financial Statement in December. Sadly I was unable to attend either event this year. This is particularly regrettable as the period reported on includes probably the most significant YAT event, if not ever certainly in recent years. On 27 December 2015 the Trust's flagship attraction the Jorvik Viking Centre along with many other parts of this historic city was inundated with floodwater. The pumps at the Foss barrier were unable to cope with the amount of water in The Foss and the barrier was raised to prevent it becoming stuck in the closed position. The far reaching impact of the event is only partially reflected in the period I am now reporting on as it did not occur until nine months into the year. The impact will be more fully reflected in the current year with Jorvik remaining closed for the whole of 2016/17.

I have with me a copy of the published Annual Review appropriately titled 'After the Flood'. I reported last year that the 2014/5 review was titled 'Hidden Depths' but I am pretty sure that the subsequent events were not what the authors of the review had in mind when giving it this title.

Unsurprisingly the Chairman's Report to the AGM is dominated by the effect of the flooding. He reflects on the fact that if it were not for the effect of water from the Foss creating the waterlogged conditions that were instrumental in preserving the original site of Jorvik the Viking Centre would never have existed at all. The 2016 AGM was the final one for Terry Suthers who has stepped down after 10 years in the chair. These words in his final report best sum up the position post December 27th. 'Mercifully quick action by our staff and volunteers, ample insurance, professionalism and sheer determination saved every original artefact and is enabling Jorvik to be faithfully reconstructed. Fund raising continues a pace to enable us to update the presentation and interpretation and further enhance the visitor experience.

In his introduction to the Annual Review YAT Chief Executive David Jennings likewise focuses on the Jorvik Viking Centre when he contends that not only do such major events change things from the past but also in the way we think about the past and interpret its importance.

As a result the 2015/16 review showcases a few of the many very different ways YAT has explored and experienced change within the review period. The review as usual includes some key facts and figures but 2015/6 has been a very atypical year in the life of York Archaeological Trust.

Total turnover was £6.5m of which 54% was attraction receipts and 33% archaeological income. Despite everything YAT still reported an operating profit of £11k for the financial year 2015/16. The Trust's attractions welcomed on average of over 1,000 visitors per day and over 60,000 attended other YAT hosted events throughout the year.

I did attend a 'Cheese and Wine' event at the temporary Viking exhibition in St Mary's church on 18th January this year. This event, hosted by The Friends of YAT, was mainly an update for members and of course a fund raising opportunity. Those attending learnt that the new improved Viking Centre (now generally referred to as YORVIK 4) would be opened on 8th April 2017, sadly not in time for the 2017 Viking festival which runs from 20th to 26th February. YAT set a target of £1.5m to supplement the insurance funding to enable the centre to be improved from its pre-flood position. At the time of this event £1.1m had been raised but I don't think the evening's raffle proceeds were quite enough to fill the gap!

13. National Trustee's Report (G. Bull - Deputy Director CBA)

Gill reported that one of her first tasks after joining National CBA is to look at the relationship between the network of CBA regional groups and the national body as this is vital to build on the work of the CBA in the future. Advocacy work is an important theme both nationally and locally due to cuts in local services and it is important to remember the important part the the CBA's Local Heritage Engagement Network can play in this. Another important aspect of the work of CBA is the network of young Archaeologists Clubs of which there are six groups in Yorkshire but with gaps on the coast - including Hull where it would be good to have a club set up to mark Hull's elevation to City of Culture. Finally, the Festival of Archaeology in July 2017 is an important event in the calendar and groups are encouraged to link into this right across the country.

The board of National Trustees is now headed by Marilyn Palmer and three new trustees have been appointed. Two members of the trustee board are based in Yorkshire and they will be encouraged to liaise with the Yorkshire group.

14. Election of Officers

There was a formal proposal, seconded and agreed by the meeting that the current Chair (Steve Bence), Secretary (Trevor Pearson), Treasurer (Ian Drake), Programme Secretary (Louise Mallinson), Editor (Christiane Kroebe) and Trustees (Shirley Thubron and John Cruse) and Auditor (Steve Boothman) remain in post. The posts of Education Officer, Museums and Archives Officer and Digital Communications Officer are vacant. There was a formal proposal by Steve Bence, seconded by Ian Drake and agreed by the meeting that Eric Houlder is elected to the vacant trustee post.

15. Any other business

No matters raised

SIGNED (CHAIR)

DATE