



## **Officer's Reports for 2020-21**

### **Chair**

This has no doubt been one of the most difficult years for community archaeology that most of us can remember: aside from the impossibility of any social interaction caused by the pandemic we are also faced with internal and external challenges.

The recent announcements of archaeology unit closures by Sheffield and Hull universities, and the review of archaeology at other higher education establishments has caused shockwaves throughout the sector. I fear these are not the last, nor the worst of announcements to come.

The future of archaeology in higher education is therefore under serious threat, and with it the inflow of newly qualified professionals. This will have a profound effect over the next few years on community archaeology, and on the importance of our voluntary projects.

However, CBA Yorkshire has, despite these challenges, managed to achieve some important objectives.

Over the last two years we have introduced our skills and equipment libraries, we have launched a Grants Scheme and the first financial awards have been made, we have responded to the lockdowns with our Fireside Chat series of evening talks and worked hard to keep our members and affiliates informed, engaged, amused, and educated. There is no doubt it has been a long dark eighteen months, but as this summer lengthens, we are emerging with many of our objectives achieved. The move of Forum from a printed publication to a series of on-line periodicals has saved the group substantial funds that we have available to reinvest in the Grants, and hopefully in skills and equipment for our members.

Personally, I look back on the last 2 years with some frustration: the pandemic has prevented us from 'seeding' many community projects as we so keenly wanted to do: we have been unable to grow our membership as I would have liked, and we have not been able to get out in the field to engage with communities. These achievements will have to wait for the next Chair to manage, as this report marks the end of my two years: extended to 30 months by our old adversary Covid-19!

It then only remains for me to sincerely and effusively thank the CBA Yorkshire committee for their efforts and for putting up with me, and trust that the next 2 years will be better for us all.

*Tony Hunt*

### **Honorary Secretary**

The AGM in February 2020 was the last physical gathering of the committee prior to the pandemic. Following lock-down in March 2020 we adopted 'Zoom' and with various degrees of success continued to manage CBAY business by virtual means up to the present time. The committee met on six formal

occasions over the last 18 months (25 April, 4 July, 3 Oct 2020; 16 Jan, 17 April, 17 and 27 July 2021). These meetings, plus other working party gatherings, kept CBAY's business moving forward and supported some remarkable adaptations to circumstances (see other officer's reports), including the on-line Showcase in 2020 and the Fireside Chats series, our contributions to the digital 'Festival of Archaeology', the proper establishment of our community grants fund, several digital editions of 'Forum+' and delivery of a QGIS training course. There have also been disappointments, however. The first is that, for largely technical reasons, we failed to ensure the regular presence of affiliated society reps at our Zoom meetings. This is something the committee must urgently seek to redress in 2022 when CBAY returns (hopefully) to physical gatherings. The other concern, of course, is that we had to postpone the February 2021 AGM as we simply could not work out how best to achieve a practical gathering at that point in time. This September's AGM is quite a pragmatic affair, designed to transact formal business in line with our constitution and our obligations as a registered charity. The intention is to return to a more normal pattern of symposium and showcase in 2022, when members will have the pleasure of one another's company and conversations once again. That of course will be something for the successors to the present committee to arrange. Most of the present committee have now exceeded their normal periods of office, including the Chair, Vice-Chair, Membership Secretary, Programme Secretary, Digital Communications Officer and Heritage and Conservation Officer, as well as myself as Hon Secretary. I extend my thanks to all my colleagues for their conscientious efforts through this most difficult period, and I hope that we can elect (or co-opt) similarly dedicated individuals to take their places in the coming year.

*Dave Went*

### **Membership Secretary (Jo Heron)**

Numbers have held up fairly well, despite the problems created by the pandemic. If anything, we have benefitted from the lock down and the move to online meetings. 19 new members have joined the group and I believe that many of them have been due to the success of the *Fireside Chats* which have given us interesting and informative evenings. Thanks are due to our Editor for organising them. Even so, we did have 3 resignations, but that still leaves our numbers as 226 members.

*Jo Heron*

### **Acting Treasurer**

I continued to act as Treasurer following the February 2020 Annual General Meeting because the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic made it impractical for the newly elected treasurer to take up the position. It is thanks to the unavoidable postponement of the February 2021 AGM that I am able to report on two financial years namely those ended 31 March 2020 and 21 March 2021. The account summaries for these two years are included with this report.

The financial year ended 31 March 2020 was mainly business as usual finishing as it did before any meaningful arrival of the pandemic. Indeed I last reported to an AGM in the very week that the first UK cases of the virus were identified in York, where the symposium/AGM was being held. 2019/20 very much followed the trend of previous years with the consolidation of the group's financial position with a closing balance of £16,733 up £2,086 on the previous year end. Worryingly membership income continued to fall

to £2,775, down £407 on 2018/19. A small surplus of £226 from the 'Pathways to your past' workshop, together with a reduction in general on administration expenses, particularly related to the move to a 100% on line Forum in the previous year, more than offset the reduction in members' subscriptions.

The Financial year ended 31 March 2021 was a different matter as Covid restrictions impacted on the activities of the group in one way or another, throughout the whole of the year. The overall balance at the yearend rose a further £3,493 to £20,226. Membership subscriptions continued to fall but only by a modest £64 to £2,711. This position may have been helped by members being able to pay their subscriptions via PayPal for the first time. General administration expenses increased only slightly but were of a different nature as digital communication replaced face to face events. A generous donation from members who were appreciative of the efforts made to stay in touch, inform and entertain locked down members together was gratefully received together with a small income from donations made via the 'Amazon Smile' initiative. Any member may specify CBA Yorkshire as its nominated charity when making a purchase via the 'Amazon Smile' website and a percentage of the purchase price goes to the Group. An online Quantum Geographical Information Systems training course was organised and run by our Forum Editor, Mike Turpin. The course was fully booked and very successful. The group received £840 in course fees with the associated expenses and tuition time all being provided to CBAY free of charge.

Looking forward from 2020/21 CBA is once again back on a firm financial footing. The group is now able to fund a wider range of its own activities and to provide some financial support to its individual and affiliated members. CBA Yorkshire's Trustees and management committee have agreed to allocate a proportion of the group's balances and annual income to support a totally revised Community Grants Scheme. In July 2021 the first grants under the new scheme have been awarded to four affiliated organisations totalling £2,332.

Finally, as this should be my last report to an AGM as Treasurer, I would like to thank all those Trustees, Officers and members of CBAY who have provided me with invaluable assistance and advice over the years and wish my successor good luck in the future. I hope they enjoy the experience as much as I have.

*Ian Drake.*

## CBA Yorkshire Receipts and Payments year ended 31st March 2020

	Receipts	Receipts	Payments	Payments
	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019	TOTAL 2020	TOTAL 2019
National Group Subscriptions	<b>2,775.11</b>	3,182.50	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Previous years Subscriptions	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Subscriptions in advance	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Symposium and AGM	<b>798.66</b>	1,067.99	<b>931.52</b>	879.28
Forum	<b>0.00</b>	200.00	<b>0.00</b>	623.57
Excursions	<b>0.00</b>	204.00	<b>0.00</b>	75.30
Donations	<b>0.00</b>	477.86	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Showcase/Workshops	<b>636.00</b>	0.00	<b>862.21</b>	0.00
Investment Income	<b>4.65</b>	3.70	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Chairman Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Secretary Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	38.54
Membership Sec. Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Treasurer Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Administration Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>244.07</b>	177.86
Meeting room hire	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>46.00</b>	0.00
YAS subscription	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>45.00</b>	90.00
			<b>0.00</b>	
	<b>4,214.42</b>	<u>5,136.05</u>	<b>2,128.80</b>	<u>1,884.55</u>

### Summary 2019/20

Balance brought Forward	<b>14,647.42</b>	11,395.92
Receipts	<b>4,214.42</b>	5,136.05
Payments	<b>2,128.80</b>	1,884.55
Balance carried forward	<b>16,733.04</b>	<u>14,647.42</u>

### Balance sheet 31 March 2020

Community Account	<b>15,862.79</b>	13,781.82
Business Saver	<b>147.44</b>	147.18
CIOF Investments	<b>722.81</b>	718.42
	<b>16,733.04</b>	<u>14,647.42</u>

*Jan Drake.*

Acting Hon. Treasurer.

31 July 2021.

## CBA Yorkshire Receipts and Payments year ended 31st March 2021

	Receipts		Payments	
	TOTAL 2021	2020	TOTAL 2021	2020
National Group Subscriptions	<b>2,711.05</b>	2,775.11	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Previous years Subscriptions	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Subscriptions in advance	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Simposium and AGM	<b>0.00</b>	798.66	<b>0.00</b>	931.52
Forum	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Excursions	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Donations (inc. Amazon Smile)	<b>510.47</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Showcase/Workshops/QGIS	<b>840.00</b>	636.00	<b>0.00</b>	862.21
Investment Income	<b>0.93</b>	4.65	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Chairman Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Secretary Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Membership Sec. Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Treasurer Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>26.98</b>	0.00
Administration Expenses	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>542.37</b>	244.07
Meeting room hire	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	46.00
YAS subscription	<b>0.00</b>	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	45.00
	<b>4,062.45</b>	4,214.42	<b>569.35</b>	2,128.80

### Summary

Balance brought Forward	<b>16,733.04</b>	14,647.42
Receipts	<b>4,062.45</b>	4,214.42
Payments	<b>569.35</b>	2,128.80
Balance carried forward	<b><u>20,226.14</u></b>	16,733.04

### Balance sheet 31 March 2021

Community Account	<b>19,354.96</b>	15,862.79
Business Saver	<b>147.50</b>	147.44
CIOF Investments	<b>723.68</b>	722.81
	<b><u>20,226.14</u></b>	16,733.04

*Jan Drake.*

Acting Hon. Treasurer.

31 July 2021.

## **Editor**

The 2019 Forum Edition 10 was published in February 2020 as the first fully on-line edition and seemed to be well received. In February 2020 everything changed with the onset of Co-vid. As indicated in my previous Editor's report it had been agreed that we would publish a Forum Plus edition as an interim publication. In a situation in which contact between members became problematic, three Forum Plus editions were published in March 2020; August 2020 and December 2020. Due to a general lack of fieldwork activity to report on during 2020 a committee decision was made not to publish a full Journal edition in Spring 2021. Forum Edition 11 is planned for publishing in February 2022, hopefully with news of new Yorkshire fieldwork as allowed this year 2021.

As part of a programme to keep CBA Yorkshire members in touch, I established a series of evening Zoom talks which were presented under the title of 'Fireside Chats'. There has been a total of 12 Tuesday evenings, from October 2020 through to June 2021. Attendances have ranged from around 40 to 100 + on each evening covering a wide variety of archaeological topics. I am very appreciative of all those who prepared and presented talks and to members of CBA Yorkshire and others for supporting the project. There is evidence to suggest that the talks have attracted new members. All the evenings have been recorded and are freely available to view from a new section of the CBA Yorkshire website. We were also able to extend the video facility to enable the Bedale History and Archaeology society to record and present their talks.

As part of the wider programme of support from CBA Yorkshire to its members, I ran an on-line QGIS course for 16 participants who were able to attend from all corners of Yorkshire and with a wide variety of archaeological experience. The course not only provided revenue for the CBA Yorkshire support programmes but hopefully helped to enhance the regional profile.

Finally, if the above activities are to continue as part of the overall programme, then more help and support will be necessary post co-vid. The Associate Editor role still remains vacant.

*Mike Turpin*

## **Programme Secretary**

This report has a few of the updates of events over the previous year since February 2020.

The CBA Archaeology Symposium was able to take place in person in February 2020 at Fountains Lecture Theatre at York St John University in York. We were fortunate to have had 8 speakers; Rebecca Hearne (University of Sheffield), Sam Griffiths and Chris Kolonko (CITiZAN), Adam Booth (Leeds University), Eric Holder (PonteArch), Marie Woods (SAHS), Jon Kenny (Freelance Archaeologist) and Steve Sherlock (Freelance Archaeologist). There was a short presentation from Mike Turpin (Editor of Forum for CBA Yorkshire) on encouraging and explaining members how they can include their archaeological investigation in FORUM.

In all 58 tickets were sold online before the event. For this event student tickets were trialled. Six student tickets were sold and all were non-members.

The Autumn Showcase was held in October 2020, but time as an online event. There were 9 talks in all from members of affiliated groups about the archaeological investigation they have been undertaking.

There was also a video from the new Executive Directors of the CBA National. Speakers included representatives from North Duffield Conservation and Local History Society, South Leeds Archaeology, Friends of Judy Woods, Scarborough Archaeology and Historical Society and more.

Due to this event being online via Zoom, the decision was made to allow free bookings for attendees. Most bookings were via Mike Turpin, using his digital skills to allow online attendance. The advantage of running this event digitally meant that there were members of the audience who would normally not attend, being able to take part. There were members of audience who were from outside of Yorkshire, as well as outside of the UK. Much of the feedback was positive from the audience, but there were a few points I will take on board for future events.

The decision was made to postpone the AGM and Symposium in February 2021, in favour of a later date. Fireside chats continued to be run.

The AGM this September 2021 will include talks, but not as many as usual and with a difference. The talks will all be given by members of local groups who have benefited from the grant scheme.

*Megan Clement Dryland*

### **Heritage and Conservation Officer**

While this has been a time of delays and the suspension of normal procedures, we have continued to deal with ongoing concerns and help with new ones. The planning application to demolish the Shears Inn, was finally refused, with Kirklees Council designating the Shears as a significant heritage asset. However, the application for development at Castle Hill, Almondbury, was granted. York City Council refused the application to replace Northern House with an apartment/office complex and Roman museum, but it seems probable that a further, modified application will be submitted. We were able to advise regarding the exposure of building remains on a scheduled site at Thornhill Park, Dewsbury, and on the deliberate damage to Grade II listed Thornbush Farm, Hartshead. The fate of Red House, Gomersal remains unclear, but we are continuing to monitor the situation.

*Christine Went*

### **Digital Communications Officer**

Unlike some officer roles, the nature of digital communications is flexible in times of reduced activity. Despite the lack of in-person events that one would normally attend, I have been able to help CBA Yorkshire maintain a reasonably busy events schedule under the circumstances. For example, back in April 2020 the museums officer gave me a list of free museum events that were happening online, as well as advertising some additional content on the social media pages to maintain our presence, more so than usual. Most notably I ran the digital image carousel in the summer of 2020, to run alongside the first CBA Festival of Archaeology 2020. This carousel, which allowed our members to demonstrate activities they had been doing either just before or during lockdown, had over 500 views on the website during the week of the Festival, and it is still available to view on the website. A second one was advertised but there were no contributions this year. Additionally, Natasha Lawson was also made an admin of the Facebook CBA Yorkshire account, so now more officers are involved in adding content to our account.

Although many conferences didn't go ahead as planned, our Autumn Showcase 2020 was held online and I was able to resume some of my "live" reporting of the presentations on social media. As and when in person conferences are held again then more live reporting will be on social media.

I have also been involved in the Grants Subcommittee, helping to discuss applications to community fund.

I have finally installed PayPal payments onto the website and after a year of activity, the current pattern appears to be members signing up or renewing their membership in waves; some months many members pay through the PayPal system, while some months virtually no one uses it. As it stands it isn't perfect, as PayPal doesn't yet recognise us as a charity. This means they charge a percentage of administration fees for every membership sale. Once this is resolved then a reduced administration fee would be applied to every sale, down from 5% to 2%. However, we now offer an online payment system that is independent of CBA National.

The digital subcommittee has also been more active this year. In conjunction with the Editor we have attempted to ensure that all of the new content from the Fireside Chats and zoom conferences can be hosted on the website. However, after discussions with our current website host it is clear that, in order to meet our expanding requirements, we are likely to get a more suitable deal with a different provider. This is still very much a work in progress, but we are looking to have this completed ASAP. None of the older content will be lost in this transition.

*Alistair Galt*

## **Education Officer**

In 2020-2021 I have focussed on the 16-30 age group and maintained a watching brief on involvement of the age group in activities across the region - activities which were influenced by the constraints (and opportunities) of online and other adaptations to COVID regulations. A number of themes and issues were identified.

The data gathering for Yorkshire used to plan the CBA Strategy for Growth significantly under-represented the numbers of actual and potential stakeholders and participants in the 16-30 age group in our region. As a result, the North in general and Yorkshire, particularly north of York is not regarded as a priority area.

I am currently collating data from open access, publicly available resources in order to identify where the actual and potential stakeholders in the 16-30 age group are and to begin to understand how we, in our own community groups, might reach them and engage them in our on-line and face-to-face activities.

Young people in continuing education include significant numbers in further education, especially in former agricultural colleges, taking courses which include units on the management and maintenance of heritage and environmental assets, or which are wholly focussed on heritage management in agriculture, construction and other sectors. They are represented by social and community groups e.g. Young Farmers which are rarely seen as potential partners in our heritage activities despite the upcoming changes in farm subsidies.

Archaeology is not a prominent part of the enrichment curriculum post age 16, despite the place of science and digital technologies (STEM) in community projects, contract archaeology and academic research.

Young people face barriers to participation. First, knowing what is going on. Second, knowing what is no- or low cost. Third, 'getting there', transport to events and activities.

Our reach, especially into towns and urban areas to the north, and also into rural districts, is poor. CBA National believes that engaging more diverse audiences from urban centres is a priority. There are only 6 YACs north of York, predominantly rural. Only one caters for older teenagers.

Whilst individual groups may have a track record, based on past or current relationships with external bodies like universities or disability groups, many lack information about contacts and connections with organisations which can assist in enabling access or promoting participation from younger, diverse audiences. This is a national issue as well as a regional issue. Many groups are very protective of their achievements and social media presence and are reluctant to place younger people in responsible public facing roles in case 'they mess it up'. We have a very restricted understanding of what young people, particularly in the 16-22 age range know, understand and have achieved already.

The number of online talks given by young people in our area in 2020-2021 was vanishingly small. CBA Yorkshire has recognised this and has begun to build a quota of talks given by students, and early career researchers and contract archaeologists. A few community groups have taken similar steps.

Taking part in free on-line events like the ClfA Innovations Conference or free online training offered by Heritage Alliance, Heritage Digital and Charity Digital have been invaluable. Many of these events foreground the kinds of work which young people are doing, the skills and technical expertise they have and the ways in which they wish to innovate in archaeological investigation and publication, particularly in areas of work like 'citizen science' e.g. geoarchaeology, technology (developments in aerial and ground based survey) or social media and formats for publication e.g. graphic novel/'comic' based models.

Many of these skills and capabilities are well represented in the undergraduate and post graduate communities in regional universities. But they are also used and represented in further, higher and adult education in courses in adjunct sectors such as computing and gaming, art and design, construction

The introduction of online briefings and quarterly national discussion groups by CBA National has been a step forward.

CBA Yorkshire has yet to receive updates from CBA National project managers on the delivery and impact of projects especially the YAC development project in its regions. It does not yet know what part it can play across the region in growing the project or evaluating its impact. At a recent on-line discussion of how to engage with the over 25s it was made clear that CBA National would deal with the 16-25 age group without additional information about what potential there might be for community groups in the Yorkshire area to contribute to a project with this group of potential stakeholders and participants.

Goals 2021-2022:

- Complete data gathering and circulate. Gather data from community groups and their web sites on opportunities for young people 16-30 in their organisations and activities.

- Encourage local groups to ensure that young people from diverse backgrounds are better represented in positions of responsibility in their organisations and in the events and activities which those groups organise
- Promote the value of Archaeology as a STEM subject and encourage community groups to take on board more 'citizen science' with young people.
- Encourage and enable CBA National project managers to recognise the value of the experience of Yorkshire members and engage more proactively with them in the planning, delivery and evaluation of national projects with 16-25 year old age group in our region.
- Encouraging CBA National project managers to report more regularly on progress and impact of their projects in the Yorkshire region building in order to build foundations for more effective collaboration.
- Encouraging British Archaeology to ensure that young people and community groups in Yorkshire are able to speak for themselves and that their projects are given more prominence in the publication.

*Perry Gardner*

### **Co-opted Chair, grants sub-committee**

The Trustees and Committee discussed at their January 2020 meeting the setting up of a grant scheme to complement the Thubron Award. The intention was to kick-start new groups or re-generate old groups to investigate their local archaeology by making small grants available for a variety of projects. A small steering group was set up at this meeting to investigate the criteria and necessary forms. A series of exchanges of emails between the steering committee resulted in a draft scheme being submitted for consideration at a meeting of the Trustees and Committee in October 2020.

The fund was originally entitled the Council for British Archaeology Small Grants Scheme and the final versions of the Application Form and Guidelines were posted on the CBA (Yorkshire) website in early 2021. A suggestion from Tony Hunt regarding to a formula for deciding the size of the fund for the 2021/2022 financial year was adopted and set at £6000. The formula would be used to arrive at a total fund for the 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 financial years. A video guide to applying for the grant formed one of the Fireside Chats in 2021 and is now available on the website. The scheme will be reviewed after the first 12 months of operation to monitor performance.

Since the inception of the Small Grants Scheme, a total of 7 applications and two exploratory requests for advice, pre-application, have been received. The Sub-Committee has met on 6 occasions by video conferencing platform, Zoom.

Five applications have been submitted to the Trustees and Committee of CBAY with a recommendation from the Grants Sub-Committee that they be approved. One application has since been withdrawn by the applicant who was able to obtain additional funding from CBA National. Two applications, in the opinion of the Grants Sub-Committee, failed to reach the level where they could be recommended. The four remaining successful applications were ratified by the Trustees and total £2331.80. There is therefore £3668.20 remaining in the fund for the present 2021/2022 financial year.

The Grants Sub-Committee considered all the applications and where necessary, sought clarification of points or liaised with the applicant to ensure that the application met the aims and criteria of the grant scheme. This included one site visit. In each case a member of the Grants Sub-Committee is named as 'liaison' and interacts with the applicant throughout the life of that particular project.

Two requests for pre-application information have been received and of these, one prospective applicant intends to submit an application in the near future and the other has decided not to pursue their application for the time being.

The grants scheme has been known as the 'CBA Yorkshire Grants Scheme' from the outset, however, the Sub-Committee was concerned that this title did not fully reflect the true purpose of the scheme and that it should be known henceforward as the 'CBA Yorkshire Community Archaeology Fund'. This change was ratified by the Trustees and Committee of CBA (Yorkshire)

*Brian Elsey*