



Edited by Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker

Copy dates for Items for the Newsletter may be submitted by e-mail or on disk. Newsletter: 20th of the following months - January / April / July / October. Short typed manuscripts can be sent to Wendy Carruthers.

e-mail addresses: wendy.carruthers@virgin.net; vanessa.straker@english-heritage.org.uk

Vanessa Straker, English Heritage SW, 29 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4ND

Wendy Carruthers, Sawmills House, Castellau, Llantrisant, Mid Glamorgan CF72 8LQ (Tel: 01443 223462).

AEA Membership Secretary; Dr Ralph Fyfe, Room 211, 8 Kirkby Place, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon PL4 8AA United Kingdom. E-mail: membership@envarch.net

AEA website <http://www.envarch.net/>

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EDITORIAL

This issue of the Newsletter contains information about the two AEA conferences to be held next year; a One-day Meeting in Birmingham in March and the 30th Anniversary Conference in York in September 2009. Registration forms will be provided in the next Newsletter.

We are very grateful to Meriel McClatchie for her detailed report on the Aarhus Conference. If you are going to a conference and would like to write a review for the Newsletter, please contact one of the editors.

As this is the last Newsletter of the year, please note the item about Membership fees in the 'News from the Committee' section below.

We send festive greetings for Christmas and good wishes for 2009.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The time is fast approaching to renew your AEA membership! A renewal form for 2009 is printed at the end of the Newsletter. You do not need to complete this if you have already arranged to pay your membership fee by standing order.

We are delighted to announce that there will be no change in the membership fee, which remains at **£38 for waged** and **£28 for students/unwaged**. In addition, there is no postage charge for overseas members. Members are asked to **submit their payment on time (by end of December 2008)**, as reminders from the Membership Secretary are both costly and time-consuming.

UK members – Standing Order: If you do not already have one and would like to set up a standing order to renew your membership automatically each year, please **complete the standing order form** at the end of the Newsletter, which will be forwarded to your bank. The completed form should be sent to the Membership Secretary at the address below.

If you have internet banking, you can **set up a standing order yourself online**, but we still **need the form for our records**.

For standing orders, the first payment should be made for 1st January 2009. In this case, please send in the completed form **no later than 31st December 2008**.

Eurozone members – IBAN payment: If you are living in the Eurozone, you may be interested in paying AEA membership fees using the IBAN (International Bank Account Number) electronic transfer system. With this system, an AEA member can go to their local bank and transfer money to an AEA account for a small fee.

The AEA has set up a bank account in the Republic of Ireland to enable payment of membership fees using this method. Your bank's charge for payment will vary, depending on the bank and country, but the fee should be low (for example, many banks in the Republic of Ireland charge around €0.75 – check your local bank for their rates).

AEA membership fees for IBAN transfers are: **€50 waged** and **€37 student/unwaged**. If you would like to use this method of payment, please complete the form at the back of the Newsletter.

Non-UK members – Visa: Payment by **Visa** can be made by non-UK members only. For reasons of security, the AEA do not hold members' Visa details. Members using this method of payment must therefore **confirm payment each year**, providing their payment details each time.

Credit card details **should not be sent via email**. If you would like to use this method of payment, please complete the membership form at the end of the Newsletter.

Membership Secretary:

Dr Ralph Fyfe

Room 211

8 Kirkby Place

Drake Circus

Plymouth

Devon PL4 8AA

United Kingdom

Email: membership@envarch.net

THE JOURNAL

Environmental Archaeology 13.2 has recently been distributed. If you have paid your 2008 subscription but have not received your copy of 13.2, please contact the Membership Secretary (membership@envarch.net) to check your current membership status.

Eurozone members using the **IBAN** system to pay membership fees are reminded that they **must include their name on the payment**. We have received a small number of payments where the name has not been recorded, and we **cannot ascertain who has made the payment**, which means that the Journal cannot be sent out to these people. If you have paid your 2008 membership fee by IBAN and **have not yet received the Journal**, please contact the Membership Secretary (contact details above).

ONLINE ACCESS FOR ALL MEMBERS TO THE JOURNAL

Online access to *Environmental Archaeology* (Volume 11 onwards) is now available to **all** members. If you would like to **register** for access the Journal online, please email Rob Craigie, the AEA Webmaster (r.craigie@shef.ac.uk) with your chosen **username** and a **password**. When your registration has been accepted, access to the Journal will be available through a link on the AEA website (www.envarch.net).

Please note that access will only be made available to fully paid-up members.

SPONSORSHIP/SUPPORT OF CONFERENCES

The Committee is delighted to announce that the AEA will sponsor the Geoarchaeology 2009 conference, to be held at the University of Sheffield on 15th-17th April. The convenors are Gianna Ayala from Archaeology, and Mark Bateman and John Wainwright from Geography, which will enable a significant focus on interdisciplinary aspects of the subject. The aim of the conference is to address a number of interlinked themes that are of interest to geomorphologists and archaeologists, as well as related topics relating, for example, to geology and sedimentology and landscape history. The AEA will contribute £250 to support travel and running costs. It is

anticipated that sponsorship of the conference will enable greater promotion of the AEA to conference attendees from a range of disciplines, which, it is hoped, will eventually result in increased AEA membership. The Committee is also delighted to announce that it will support a session at the QRA meeting to be held at the University of Oxford on 5th-7th January 2009. The session is entitled "Early agriculture in uncertain climates: integrating social and environmental perspectives" and is being organised by Amy Bogaard (Oxford) and Nicki Whitehouse (Belfast). The aim of this session is to work towards integrated understandings of early farming from different regions of Asia and Europe. To this end, the session will present a cross-section of current archaeological research that investigates the relationship between early agriculture and environment. The AEA Committee will not be required to provide any payment towards session costs, but will instead be formally linked to the session. The AEA Committee is pleased to support this session, which will draw the attention of potential members to our organisation, as well as being of great interest to current members.

SUMMARY OF THE AEA AGM MEETING, 14th SEPTEMBER 2007, AARHUS, DENMARK

At the AEA AGM in Aarhus, a review of the Committee's activities was presented, along with the Treasurer's report and elections for new Committee members. A summary is presented below.

CONFERENCES UPDATE:

Meetings in 2008

Thanks were extended to Jacqui Mulville and Richard Madgwick for organising the spring one-day meeting, *Unconsidered trifles? Environmental archaeology at a small scale*, at Cardiff University, Wales, in March. The theme for the conference was the little things that fill the majority of peoples' lives and how these intersect with larger events. There were 10 papers and five posters presenting research from a range of sectors, including universities and archaeological consultancies. Two recurring themes of the day were the importance of integrating results, and the importance of not over-looking the mundane or ordinary in gaining broader insights into the past. A review of the Cardiff meeting appeared in the May 2008 Newsletter.

The AEA autumn conference, *The consequences of fire*, took place in Aarhus, Denmark, in September. The meeting was organised by Peter Hambro Mikkelsen, Moesgaard Museum (with the help of a large number of colleagues), and they were thanked for co-ordinating this much-enjoyed event. A review of the Aarhus conference appears later in this Newsletter.

Meetings in 2009

The next AEA one-day meeting will take place at the University of Birmingham, England, on Saturday 28th March. The meeting will be organised by David Smith (Birmingham) and Paul Davies (Bath Spa). David Smith reported that he is pursuing funding from his University to support post-graduate attendance of the meeting. Further information on this one-day meeting appears later in this Newsletter and will soon be available on the AEA website (www.envarch.net).

The next AEA autumn conference will take place at the University of York, England, from 3rd to 6th September, where we will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the AEA! This anniversary provides an appropriate opportunity to celebrate the achievements of both the AEA and environmental archaeology as a discipline. It also provides an opportune moment to consider how we, as an organisation and practitioners, should maximise future opportunities and meet contemporary challenges. The conference, entitled *Environmental archaeology in a changing world*, will be organised by Andy Hammon (English Heritage) and Allan Hall & Harry Kenward (York). Sessions will include (1) Environmental archaeology, climatic change and sustainability: past and present, (2) Environmental archaeology and developer-funded research: constraints and opportunities, and (3) General session: research and advances. Further information on this conference appears later in this Newsletter and will soon be available on the AEA website (www.envarch.net).

Call for one-day environmental archaeology meetings outside the UK

A proposal was made at the 2007 AGM that the AEA should consider facilitating further one-day meetings in environmental archaeology at venues outside of the UK. The AEA Committee welcomed this proposal, suggesting that these could be 'local' AEA meetings, held in addition to the main AEA spring one-day meeting and autumn conference each year. We welcome proposals from non-UK AEA colleagues who would like to run one-day meetings to facilitate research in their geographical region. Such meetings would be advertised along with all other AEA activities. If you are interested in proposing such a meeting, please contact the AEA Conference Officer, Gianna Ayala, for further information (see website for contact details).

AEA Conference fund

The establishment of the AEA Conference Fund was announced in the August 2008 Newsletter. The Conference Fund is available to all members of the AEA, of at least six months standing, to assist attendance at our annual conference. Priority will be given to those with limited alternative sources of funding (particularly postgraduate students and those in the private consultancy sector). Applications from postgraduates must be accompanied by a letter of support from their supervisor. A total fund of £750 will be available each year, which

will be divided into five grants of sums up to £150. Successful applicants will be required to provide a statement of expenditure and activities undertaken within three months after the event has taken place in order to receive reimbursement. Successful applicants will also be requested to provide a report on the conference for the AEA Newsletter. We hope that this initiative will provide an opportunity for better representation of each sector of the environmental community at our conferences, particularly those people who may be self-funding their attendance. The first grant from this Fund was awarded to Pamela Chester, a consultant archaeologist/palynologist based in New Zealand – Pamela presented a paper at the Aarhus conference entitled “Fire and *Pteridium* cultivation by Polynesians in prehistoric New Zealand”.

Publication of AEA conference/meeting papers

The potential for publication of AEA conference/meeting proceedings was raised by David Smith. A general discussion ensued, with the following key points emerging:

- Neither Maney (nor our previous Journal publisher, Oxbow) generally support the publication of conference monographs, as such publications create little revenue for the publisher;
- The AEA Journal cannot accept batches of externally-edited conference papers, but contributors are encouraged to submit papers through the standard peer-review process. Zoë Hazell reported that only three of the papers submitted following the spring 2006 one-day meeting (Portsmouth, England) were accepted for publication;
- David Earle Robinson suggested that the book of abstracts at each AEA conference could be given an ISBN number (this happened for the Aarhus meeting). This would allow abstracts to be ‘published’;
- Peter Hambro Mikkelsen requested that the program from the Aarhus meeting be put online to promote dissemination of the meeting.

JOURNAL UPDATE

Submission of papers to the Journal

Ingrid Mainland is the Co-ordinating Editor of *Environmental Archaeology*, and she would particularly like to encourage AEA members to submit research papers, review articles or short contributions on any aspect of environmental archaeology. Full details regarding submission to the Journal can be found on <http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/env>, or contact Ingrid Mainland for further information.

Dr Ingrid Mainland,

Co-ordinating Editor of *Environmental Archaeology*,
Department of Archaeological Sciences,
University of Bradford
Bradford
BD7 1DP
United Kingdom
Tel: +44 [0]1274 23 3541; Fax: +44 [0]1274 235190
E-mail: i.i.mainland@bradford.ac.uk

Online edition of the Journal

The Journal (volume 11 onwards) is now available online to all members of the AEA – further information on how to access the online version is available in AEA Newsletters. The Journal is also available online to institutional subscribers via IngentaConnect.

Negotiations continue with Oxbow (publisher of volumes 1-10), and we hope that these volumes will also be available online in the near future.

Maney: publisher of the Journal

Maney are enacting a revised marketing strategy, which includes mass emailing of institutions (to increase institutional subscriptions), regular presence at conferences, and advertising the Journal in other journals that they publish. This has resulted in a significant increase in institutional subscriptions, which provides extra income for the AEA. This extra income is being used by the AEA to pay for the newly established Conference Fund. The AEA Committee is very pleased at the hard work being carried out by Maney to promote the Journal.

PUBLICITY AND WEBSITE UPDATE

AEA seminar series

The 2007-08 seminar series, organised by Richard Thomas (Publicity Officer), has now concluded. The seminars have been organised in association with a number of academic departments around the UK and Ireland to provide members with the opportunity to hear the latest research and developments within environmental archaeology.

All seminars are free to AEA members and include refreshments.

The 2007-08 series was again successful – a total of seven speakers presented seminars in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

It is hoped to extend meetings more broadly in the future, and AEA members are asked to contact the AEA if they are interested in becoming seminar hosts.

Updated AEA poster and leaflets

Richard Thomas oversaw the production of updated AEA posters and leaflets, which have now been distributed. The Committee thanked John Vallender (English Heritage) for help with the printing of posters.

Website (www.envarch.net)

The website continues to be maintained by Rob Craigie (University of Sheffield, England). In order to keep the website as up-to-date as possible, please continue to send items and comments to the Webmaster: r.craigie@sheffield.ac.uk.

A redesign of the website – under the direction of Rob Craigie and Richard Thomas – has now been completed. The new website has received good feedback from the membership, and the AEA would particularly like to thank Rob Craigie for his work on this.

Retirement of Richard Thomas

The AEA Publicity Officer, Richard Thomas, will retire at this AGM, having completed his four-year term in the post. The AEA Committee is very grateful to Richard for his hard work during this time, particularly in developing a new image for the AEA, establishing a successful seminar series, and producing new posters and leaflets to publicise the organisation.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE

The Committee is very grateful to Wendy Carruthers and Vanessa Straker for their continuing good work on the Newsletter. A new, illustrated features section has been established, which highlights current research and issues. This is intended to be an international series, and the Newsletter Editors welcome comments on these pieces, as well as proposals for future publications. The Newsletter Editors also encourage members to continue sending your announcements, news and conference reports to the Newsletter Editors (contact details on page 1 of Newsletter).

James Greig continues to produce a bibliography for AEA members, and the Committee and wider AEA membership are most grateful to James for this work.

AEA DISCUSSION LIST

The AEA Discussion List has been launched, and is available to AEA members already on the JISCmail (email) system. The JISCmail system provides essential information, for example on the AGM and Committee elections. It is hoped that the new Discussion List will encourage members from a variety of backgrounds to pose questions and discuss their work in a wider forum. Members have the option of being removed from the Discussion List at any time (see instructions at the bottom of each email or contact Paul Davies). The AEA Committee thanked Paul Davies (JISCmail Manager) for his work in setting up the Discussion List.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership figures

The Membership Secretary, Ralph Fyfe, has reported that we now have around 310 fully paid-up members. The AEA Committee has worked hard over the last couple of years in an effort to increase our membership numbers and also to make sure that people are paying on time. Many thanks are due to the hard work carried out by Ralph Fyfe in encouraging our members to pay on time. Thanks also to Richard Thomas who, as Publicity Officer, has introduced a range of new initiatives to increase membership.

Student members comprise around one-sixth of the membership, and we hope to continually increase student representation in the AEA. The AEA is a truly international organisation, as the following membership distribution figures illustrate: 229 UK (74%), 58 EU (19%) and 22 non-EU (7%), comprising Canada [8], USA [6], Australia/NZ [5] and UAE, China and Israel [1 each].

Honorary Membership

The AEA Committee has awarded Honorary Membership to David Earle Robinson and James Greig for their important contributions to the AEA. David Earle Robinson was Chair of the AEA from 2003-2007, leading the Committee through an eventful period. The AEA Committee is enormously grateful to David for his very hard work, including the considerable task of overseeing the changeover in publisher of the Journal. James Greig oversees production the AEA Bibliography, which can be found in the Newsletter. The Bibliography is an important resource for our members, bringing us up-to-date on recent relevant publications, and the AEA Committee is grateful to James for his continuous hard work on this.

New payment system

Payment by all members is now required by 1st March (at the latest) each year. If payment is received after this date, members will not receive Issue 1 of the journal until Issue 2 is published (around October), when both issues are sent together. The AEA Committee has found that this system has been successful in encouraging more people to pay on time, and we plan to continue implementing this system.

Methods of payment:

A number of methods of payment are currently available to members:

- Annual sterling cheque;
- Annual standing order (UK members);
- Annual electronic transfer to Euro account;
- Annual Visa payment (non-UK members only).

CALL FOR VIEWS ON RECOGNITION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY PROFESSION BY THE AEA

The AEA Committee has received several proposals encouraging the AEA to recognize the professional status and technical abilities of its members in the same way that other organisations do (i.e. some sort of accreditation of specialist abilities).

For example, if you are a member of the Royal Entomological Society, you can join as an interested person (and be a Member), or if you have more than a passing interest and have made a substantial contribution to entomology, through publications or other evidence of achievement, you can apply to become a Fellow and are entitled to use the suffix FRES. Other organisations that operate similar systems include the Royal Geographical Society (who offer Chartered Geographer status, allowing the use of the suffix CGeog) and The Geological Society (who offer Fellow status allowing the use of the suffix FGS).

Discussions within the AEA Committee suggest that such a system could be operated by the AEA, although it would involve consideration of the Constitution. Implementation of this system may prove particularly valuable to members working in environmental consultancy, enabling them to demonstrate proficiency and technical competence in an environmental specialism. It may also help to attract new members to the AEA, and address concerns of curators and organisations who commission work.

Before this issue is discussed any further, the Committee would be grateful for comments from AEA members. More detailed information can be found in the August 2008 Newsletter. Comments, which should be received before 30th September 2008, should be sent to Andy Howard.

Members at the AGM noted that the issue of accreditation of environmental archaeologists has arisen several times over the past decade. It was noted that the Institute of Field Archaeologists in Britain had previously been formally approached by the AEA to undertake accreditation, but due to a range of issues, the initiative did not progress. It was also suggested that the AEA is an international organisation, but these issues are predominantly concerns for the UK and Ireland.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Jacqui Huntley (Treasurer) submitted accounts to the end of December 2007, which were presented at the AGM. Jacqui noted that the AEA is better off than at the end of 2006, and she has confidence that we will be able to delay any subscription increase for some time.

Subscriptions

Disappointingly, membership is a little down, although Eurozone membership is up – European members are increasingly making use of the euro account. At least some of the drop in overall membership is because of the removal of duplicate and out-of-date standing orders from British members.

We have had one attempt of fraud on the Sterling account via Ebay, but were very quickly reimbursed.

We have also had several attempts at fraud on our Euro account, leading to the removal of the Euro account IBAN details on the website. Jacqui apologises for the inconvenience that this may have caused members in the Eurozone, but asks that you contact either Meriel McClatchie or herself for details if you wish to pay this way.

Jacqui also reiterates her request to ensure that you include your name on the IBAN form – she still has payments from one unknown Polish and one unknown German colleague, and the bank cannot provide further details. Jacqui can only wait until they complain about not receiving the Journal.

Journals

In 2007, the AEA paid for volume 11 of the Journal (2006 edition), plus a small number of back numbers, so we need to continue to earmark between £9000 and £10,000 of funds for the current year's journal.

Books

Income from books in 2007 follows a large outlay on books in 2006. Thanks are extended to Allan Hall for his excellent work in maintaining the book service, which is much appreciated by the AEA membership.

Seminars

We have started to support seminars and would like to extend this to the wider European community. This is under Committee discussion at the moment.

AEA Accounts

Sterling account	2006	2007
Assets at start of year		
Bank - current account	£9,262.05	£16,500.17
Bank savings account	£3,264.67	£3,309.62
Petty cash		£24.63
<i>Total assets at start of year</i>	£12,526.72	£19,834.42

Income

Subscriptions	£12,652.75	£12,221.30
Books including journal back numbers	£7,454.05	£2,098.50
Interest earned	£44.95	£207.05
Conference fees		£18.00
Ebay fraud attempt		£13.00
Credit card adjustment		£14.62
<i>Income sub-total</i>	£20,691.75	£14,572.47
Initial total assets excluding books in stock	£33,218.47	£34,406.89

Expenditure

Office stationery, stamps	£15.37	£43.30
Credit card charges	£244.12	£152.17
Web page	£600	£675.00
Journal production and postage (includes backnumbers)	£5,007.57	£9658.45
Rejected subs cheques/Visa	£120.00	£213.05
Committee meeting travel related	£197.63	£221.39
Book purchase	£7,174.63	£115.50
AEA Seminars	£25.00	£60.00
Ebay fraud attempt		£13.00
<i>Expenditure subtotal</i>	£13,384.05	£11,151.86

Total assets minus expenditure	£19,834.42	£23,255.03
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End of year assets		
Bank - current account	£16,500.17	£4713.73
Bank - savings account	£3,309.62	£18,516.67
Petty cash	£24.63	£24.63
Year end assets	£19,834.42	£23,255.03

Euro account:	2006	2007
Start of year balance		€3,162.64
Income subscriptions	€ 2,548.66	€ 2,871.58
Income books	€ 352.98	€ 84.80
Cork conference income		€811.80
Unknown income (appears to be payment of hotel bill)!		€ 868.00
Standard bank charges	€ - 31.16	€ - 52.78
Committee expenses		€ - 834.63
Cork conference expenditure		€ - 686.14
End of year assets	€ 3,162.64	€ 6,225.27

Jacqui Huntley, Treasurer, 9th September 2008

Jacqui Huntley was thanked by the Committee for her hard work as AEA Treasurer over the years.

ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Elections

Biographies of the nominated candidates were provided in the August 2008 Newsletter and in subsequent emails to members. Ellen Hambleton, Zoë Hazell and Fay Worley were elected as Ordinary Committee members at the AGM.

Ingrid Mainland's four-year elected term of office has now been completed, but she will be co-opted onto the Committee in order to continue in her role as Co-ordinating Editor of the Journal. The Committee is very grateful to Ingrid for her excellent work in producing the Journal, which is recognised to be of an internationally high standard.

The new Committee structure (<http://www.envarch.net/aea/committee.html>) is as follows:

Elected Committee members

Elected term in []

- Gianna Ayala (Sheffield, England) – Conference Officer [2005-2009]
- Amy Bogaard (Oxford, England) [2006-2010]
- Ralph Fyfe (Plymouth, England) – Membership Secretary [2006-2010]
- Maaïke Groot (Amsterdam, Netherlands) [2007-2011]
- Ellen Hambleton (Bournemouth, England) [2008-2012]
- Andy Hammon (English Heritage, York, England) [2006-2010]
- Zoë Hazell (English Heritage, Portsmouth, England) [2008-2012]
- Jen Heathcote (English Heritage, Cambridge, England) [2005-2009]
- Andy Howard (Birmingham, England) [2007-2011]
- Jacqui Huntley (Durham, England) – Treasurer [2007-2011]
- Meriel McClatchie (Dungarvan, Republic of Ireland) – Secretary [2005-2009]
- Peter Hambro Mikkelsen (Moesgård Museum, Højbjerg, Denmark) [2005-2009]
- Naomi Sykes (Nottingham, England) – Publicity Officer [2007-2011]
- Nicki Whitehouse (Belfast, Northern Ireland) – Chair [2007-2011]
- Fay Worley (English Heritage, Portsmouth, England) [2008-2012]

Co-opted Committee members

- Wendy Carruthers (Llantrisant, Wales) – Co-editor of the Newsletter
- Paul Davies (Bath Spa, England) – JISC-mail Manager
- Ingrid Mainland (Bradford, England) – Co-ordinating Editor of the Journal
- Vanessa Straker (English Heritage, Bristol, England) – Co-editor of the Newsletter

Thanks were extended to retiring Ordinary Committee members Miroslaw Makohonienko and Richard Thomas for their contribution to the AEA.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The AEA Managing Committee proposed an amendment to the AEA Constitution, which would enable the election of a student representative to the Managing Committee each year.

The proposed change to the Constitution was as follows (changes marked in red):

“10. The affairs of the Association shall be handled by a Management Committee which shall include twelve ordinary elected members, **two student representative elected members**, and an elected Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

11. Three ordinary members of the Managing Committee **and one student representative member** shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting. Candidates for election must be Members of the Association and can be nominated by any Member of the Association. Nominations must be submitted to a member of the Managing Committee not later than the beginning of the Annual General Meeting. Elected **ordinary** members of the Managing Committee will normally serve until the fourth Annual General Meeting after the one at which they were elected and may not immediately stand for re-election, with the exception as given in clause 12. **Elected student representative members of the Managing Committee will normally serve until the second Annual General Meeting after the one at which they were elected and may not immediately stand for re-election.**”

The proposed amendment was carried and the first student representative to the Committee will be appointed at the 2009 AGM. A number of members at the AGM further noted that this new initiative was to be welcomed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee was formally thanked by the membership for their work over the past year.

CONFERENCE REPORT

AEA annual conference: *The consequences of fire*
12th-14th September 2007, Aarhus, Denmark

The AEA autumn conference is increasingly an international event, with recent meetings being held in Germany and Poland, as well as Britain. The AEA 2009 annual conference was held approximately 10 km south of the city of Aarhus in Denmark, at a modern, dedicated conference venue in Handelsfagskolen. The conference was hosted by the Department of Environmental Archaeology and Conservation at the nearby Moesgaard Museum. The conference was a much-enjoyed meeting, which ran very smoothly thanks to hard work by the conference convenor, Peter Hambro Mikkelsen, the organising committee (Jacob Kveiborg, Peter Mose Jensen, Marianne Høyem Andreasen, Renée Enevold and David Earle Robinson) and a large team of helpers. The subject for this year's conference was "The consequences of fire" in the preservation and interpretation of the environmental archaeological record, and a range of papers and posters presented analysis of many types of environmental remains. The conference was attended by more than 50 delegates from northern and southern Europe, as well as more distant regions, such as America and New Zealand. The conference venue at Handelsfagskolen contained a lecture hall, as well as accommodation, a restaurant and a bar, ensuring that delegates were provided with an excellent opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new friends – all within a single location.

The conference began on Friday with dinner and an evening session of papers that highlighted recent Danish research. Following a warm welcome by Peter Hambro Mikkelsen of the Moesgaard Museum, Mogens Bo Henriksen (Odense City Museums) presented his research into prehistoric cremation techniques. Cremation of the dead was popular from the Early Bronze Age in Denmark, and the speaker highlighted ethnographic and archaeological evidence for cremation, as well as his own experimental work. Henriksen examined the cremation process in great detail, noting how different methods could leave varying archaeological traces. Interestingly, a pyre created and burnt in one experimental cremation left no surface trace on the ground surface, once the pyre was cleared. Henriksen's cremation experiments were carried out using animals, and he did not hide his disappointment that he couldn't get any human volunteers for his experiments! This was followed by Jacob Kveiborg (Moesgaard Museum), who presented a paper on animal husbandry in Early Iron Age Denmark based on evidence from houses that had been burnt down. A number of the houses contained dedicated living quarters for humans, with other areas being taken by animals. Whole animal skeletons were recorded at these locations – burnt in what appear to have been catastrophic fires – and humans sometimes also perished. The preservation encountered at these sites inspired much envy from European colleagues, and Kveiborg was able to identify potential patterning in stalling practices, suggesting differences between the housing of large- and medium-sized mammals. Peter Mose Jensen (Moesgaard Museum) then presented a paper on carbonised Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age plant remains from houses in Central Jutland. Enormous quantities of cereal (and, in one case, acorn) remains were discovered in pits and post-holes at two sites, while excavation of a third site revealed three carbonised wooden containers, each containing a different cereal type. Jensen provided a useful overview of grain storage methods, assessing the advantages and disadvantages of internal and external storage.

The final paper of this session was presented by David Earle Robinson (English Heritage), who brought us up-to-date on recent scientific investigations of Grauballe Man. This paper provided a helpful introduction to our meeting with this Danish national treasure (Grauballe Man, rather than David) during the fieldtrip on Sunday. New analyses of Grauballe Man were carried out by Pauline Asingh (Moesgaard Museum) from 2001-2003, and Robinson presented this work on her behalf. He provided a history of how the bog body was found and the various analyses carried out since the 1950s. Grauballe Man's last meal was also investigated, which was found to consist of seeds of herbs and grasses, as well as smaller quantities of grain. Robinson agreed with Helbaek's assertion that this represented a poor man's, rather than a ritual, meal.

Following socialising on the Friday evening, we began the next morning with a welcome from Jan Skamby Madsen, Director of Moesgaard Museum, who introduced us to the many and impressive activities carried out by this Museum. This was followed by Ferran Antolin (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona), who presented an interdisciplinary approach to the study of a partially burned Early Neolithic burial deposit in Can Sadurní Cave (Catalonia, Spain). Antolin presented results from a range of environmental analyses, the integration of which enabled a much greater insight into activities at this location. An assessment of the degree of carbonisation of various remains was provided, which was then compared with soil micromorphological analyses. One of the more interesting finds included aggregated seeds, which may have been the result of the combustion process taking place in a confined space, whereby the seeds stuck together following expansion from heat exposure. This was followed by a presentation on faunal pyre goods in Late Iron Age and Roman cremation burials in Britain by Fay Worley (English Heritage). Faunal pyre goods were generally quite rare at Late Iron Age sites, but were recorded in one-quarter of burials at some of the larger cemeteries. In contrast, faunal pyre goods were more common in all regions of Roman Britain. Classical sources that mentioned associations between pyres and animals were drawn upon to aid interpretation of the archaeological record, providing another example of how interdisciplinary studies can improve our understanding of past activities.

After Saturday morning tea-break, Peter Steen Henriksen (National Museum, Denmark) presented results from recent investigations into carbonised plant macro-remains from Iron Age and Viking Age Denmark. An Iron Age house at Vorbasse revealed a large quantity of cereal and associated remains, and analysis of the distribution of remains indicated divisions of activity areas in the house. Viking Age houses at Hundborg, meanwhile, produced evidence for large-scale beer production, including charred malted grain and seeds of sweet gale (*Myrica gale*). The grain all appeared to be sprouted to the same length, indicating that it was deliberately malted for brewing, rather than representing indeterminate sprouting (e.g. becoming damp during storage). This was followed by Martin Bell (University of Reading, England), who examined Mesolithic fire history in lowland Britain. This paper demonstrated the remarkable quantity and quality of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental work carried out on Mesolithic occupation sites, including Star Carr, Thatcham and Goldcliff. Integration of this evidence suggests that burning appeared to be directly associated with charcoal horizons at a number of sites, perhaps representing deliberate and repeated burning of vegetation. Bell provided a fascinating comparison of the British evidence with North American anthropological evidence – the latter highlighted the social role of fire and particularly its relationship with territorial markings, routes and social communication. Bell also addressed the contrast between the increasingly abundant evidence for fire in Mesolithic Britain and the comparative paucity for such evidence elsewhere in Europe – could this be a result of different site and context types and/or different methods of analysis?

Lunch followed, which was one of a number of excellent meals at this conference – delegates were presented with a wonderful choice of food, including a range of Danish delicacies. The next session moved from Mesolithic to later prehistoric Britain, when Alex Brown (University of Reading, England) reviewed the evidence for Neolithic to Iron Age fire and wetland exploitation in the Severn Estuary, south-west Britain. Drawing upon a wealth of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental evidence, Brown discussed the use of fire in the purposeful manipulation of landscapes to encourage growth of edible wild plants along woodland edges. Furthermore, fires could improve areas of seasonal graze for cattle, and open up or maintain openness of areas around settlements or along particular routeways. Brown noted that humans may also have taken advantage of disturbances caused by natural agencies. Sabine Karg (National Museum, Denmark) then presented a paper entitled “Burning down the heath”, which examined plant remains from the Bronze Age grave-mound at Skelhøj, western Denmark. Grave-mounds were constructed using grass- or heath-sods from surrounding areas, enabling reconstruction of ancient landscapes in these areas through analysis of the sods. Karg noted that heathland management was needed to avoid forest colonisation, and such management could also provide improved fodder for grazing animals. The final paper of this session was presented by Pamela Chester (Consultant, New Zealand), who presented her research into relationships between fire and *Pteridium* (bracken) cultivation by Polynesians in prehistoric New Zealand. Chester explored the rise in bracken pollen around 600-800 years ago, which was coincident with a sudden, dramatic rise in microscopic charcoal particles, and has been interpreted as representing initial arrival/settlement by New Zealanders. She indicated that fine resolution of palynological techniques, including precise dating and charcoal counts, is necessary in such an examination of fire history. The session concluded with an announcement by Caroline Veermeeran (BIAX Consult, Netherlands) on the new attempts to establish an international wood/charcoal database, known as “WODAN”, following an initiative in Ireland to produce a database of Irish remains.

The final session on Saturday opened with an interesting presentation by Harry Kenward (University of York, England), which focused on the recovery of carbonised insects from archaeological deposits. Kenward began by examining the terms used to describe burnt remains (he suggested the following categories: carbonised = turned to carbon; charred = heated through but still containing organic molecules; toasted = partially heated). It is sometimes thought that insect remains cannot survive the charring process, but Kenward’s experimental work indicated that they can survive when exposed to temperatures of 400°-450°. At 500°, preservation was, however, generally poor. Kenward also highlighted the potential for damage to these fragile remains as a result of the methods currently used to process insect samples. This was followed by Poul Nissen (Moesgaard Museum) who explored theoretical approaches towards intra-site analysis of burnt houses in Iron Age Denmark. Nissen focused on the distribution of ceramic remains, and he highlighted the potential for variation in a household’s inventory and food supply through the years and the year (e.g. inhabitants may increasingly cook outside during summer months). There can also be variation in the distribution of a household’s inventory through the day – what is found in the archaeological record can depend on exactly when the fire occurred. Nissen went on to develop models for comparative analysis of vessel distribution, suggesting patterning in the distribution of different types of vessels within the house. The final session on Saturday concluded with a presentation by Jess Tipper (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, England) on the detailed investigation of a burnt building at West Stow Anglo-Saxon Village. The building, which was part of a reconstructed ancient village, was accidentally burnt down, but this unfortunate incident did provide an excellent opportunity for the excavation of a house where the structure and contents were known. Tipper noted that the burnt remains were spread over a much larger area than the original house dimensions. Interestingly, all of the posts in post-holes did not char as a result of the fire – only the sections above ground were charred, which was also the case in experiments carried out at reconstructed Iron Age houses in Lejre, Denmark. Sherds from a ceramic vessel that was sitting on a shelf in the house were later found over an area 3m in length, with some

sherds being found in post-holes – the dispersal of this pot was quite alarming and should be noted when carrying out spatial analysis of archaeological remains.

A total of eight posters were displayed at the conference. Raili Allmäe (University of Tallin, Estonia) examined the role of fire in burial customs, based upon analysis of two Iron Age burial sites in Estonia. Rowena Banerjee (University of Reading, England) presented an experimental geochemistry study, focusing on multi-elemental characterisation of archaeological activity areas. Matt Canti and Neil Linford (English Heritage) provided a study of the effects of fire on different types of underlying soil, demonstrating that certain soil types were more likely to display evidence for ancient fires than others. Ralph Fyfe (University of Plymouth, England) examined divergent prehistoric fire histories in south-west England, employing evidence from microscopic charcoal and pollen records. Zoë Hazell and David Earle Robinson (English Heritage) examined charcoal and charred plant-remains from a Roman bath-house and hypocaust at Swindon, England, finding evidence for a range of different fuel types. Maciej Karczewski (University of Białystok, Poland) presented a study of the relationship between burial ritual and plant remains discovered in cremation graves of the Bogavzewo culture. Kersti Kihno (University of Tallin, Estonia) and colleagues examined experimental slash-and-burn cultivation in Karula National Park, Estonia, an agricultural technique that survived until the early 20th century in eastern and south-eastern Estonia. Finally, the WODAN project based in Ireland, mentioned earlier by Caroline Veermeeran, presented a poster on their proposal to create a wood/charcoal database.

Dinner on Saturday night was followed by another evening of enjoyable socialising, including whiskey tasting! The AEA AGM took place on Sunday morning, and we then walked to the nearby Moesgaard Museum, which is situated in an attractive 18th century manor, surrounded by forest and near the eastern coast of Jutland. This excursion provided an opportunity to come face-to-face with the remarkable Grauballe Man, as well as warrior finds from Illerup Aadal. This Irish delegate was particularly envious of the wonderful Danish prehistoric metalwork on display, as well as an exciting ethnographic exhibition – a remarkable range of artefacts can be viewed at the Moesgaard Museum, which is well worth visiting. The conference came to a close with another wonderful lunch, and a number of delegates then took a trip to the nearby sea-shore to round off the day.

This was a very successful conference, with an excellent standard of presentations. A number of colleagues remarked that they learnt a huge amount about fire and its effects on the archaeological record, which is a good indicator of the quality of research presented. A great range of approaches was employed in exploring burnt remains. Standard methodologies were tested, ethnographic and historic evidence were regularly incorporated, the fascinating results of experimental work were revealed, and theoretical and social approaches were also considered. The importance of an inter-disciplinary approach – whether at site or regional level – was highlighted in many papers, and the great range of sub-disciplines represented by delegates at the conference resulted in stimulating and useful discussion. Peter Hambro Mikkelsen, the organising committee, the Moesgaard Museum and the large team of helpers are to be thanked for all their hard work, which resulted in an excellent meeting and sets a very high standard for future meetings. This will, no doubt, be met by the AEA 2009 meetings: David Smith encouraged us to attend the 2009 AEA spring one-day meeting in Birmingham, England, and Allan Hall brought the 2009 AEA autumn conference to our attention, which will take place in York, England.

Meriel McClatchie (Dungarvan, Republic of Ireland)

CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

AEA ONE DAY SPRING CONFERENCE

Saturday, 28th of March 2009

Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, The University of Birmingham

The Association for Environmental Archaeology (AEA), The Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity, The University of Birmingham and The School of Science and the Environment, Bath Spa University are pleased to announce an AEA one day Spring Meeting On **Saturday the 28th of March 2009**.

Traditionally, the spring meeting normally consists of a number of 15-20 minute papers on a range of subjects and is a venue for the presentation of 'work in progress' and first papers by research students on a variety of subjects. Papers from research students or more established colleagues presenting preliminary results are most welcome.

Spring conferences often have a themed mini-section reflecting the research interests of the hosts. This year we would like to explore the theme of 'modern analogue studies'. These studies underlie much of our interpretations about the past, especially in environmental/ geoarchaeological disciplines, and have gained

increasing importance in the last few years. In addition to their role in terms of elucidating taphonomic effects they have been increasingly used as a way of defining possible 'fingerprints' (indicator packages) for past materials/ activities or as an 'actualistic' test of past behaviour/ activity to refine our current interpretations of the past. Papers which address this theme will be very welcome.

Location

The conference will be hosted by the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity at the University of Birmingham. It will take place in Lecture Room 3 the Arts Faculty Building (building R16 on the campus map) on the University Main Campus at Edgbaston. Directions to the Arts Building and the University can be found at <http://www.bham.ac.uk/about/maps/>

Conference fee

The conference fee will be £27.50 and this includes coffee / tea at arrival, mid-morning and afternoon. A two course 'finger buffet' lunch is also included in the price. The Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity is also offering to cover the conference fee for the first 10 students to book a place.

Accommodation

The University of Birmingham can offer a limited amount of overnight accommodation in the Conference Park. This is charged at the rate of £75.00 for a single room and £95.00 for a double.

Booking

An on-line registration form for this conference is available at <http://www.iaa.bham.ac.uk/aea2009/>

This should be returned by email to d.n.smith@bham.ac.uk by Wednesday the 11th of March 2009. Overnight accommodation will need to be booked no later than the 20th of February 2009.

30th Anniversary Conference
Environmental Archaeology in a Changing World
University of York, UK, 3-6 September 2009

The local organisers, Andy Hammon (English Heritage, Yorkshire and the Humber Region), Harry Kenward, and Allan Hall (Department of Archaeology, University of York) extend a warm invitation to all members to attend the 30th Anniversary Conference of the Association, which will take place in York in September 2009.

We are planning two full days of papers aligned to the following themes:

Thread 1: Environmental archaeology, climatic change and sustainability: past and present

Thread 2: Environmental archaeology and developer-funded research: constraints and opportunities

Thread 3: General session: research and advances

Accommodation will be provided at an approximate cost of £85 per night full board in recently built student residences, situated very close to the location of dining rooms and conference facilities on the University's main campus at Heslington (NB NOT at the Department of Archaeology's main base at King's Manor, in the city).

There are currently no firm plans for a field excursion on Sunday 6th Sept. – there is plenty to do and see as an 'archaeo-tourist' in York, in any case! Although, it may be possible that a visit will be arranged to the well-known Mesolithic site at Star Carr if fieldwork coincides with the conference.

Further details and booking forms will be included in future newsletters. Meanwhile – we are very happy to hear from anyone who wishes to offer a paper (we anticipate programme slots of 15-20 minutes) or poster relevant to the themes outlined above.

For further information at this stage, please contact Dr Allan Hall, Department of Archaeology, University of York, Kings Manor, York YO1 7EP, UK (+44 1904 434950, fax 433902, arh1@york.ac.uk).

QUATERNARY VERTEBRATE RESEARCH GROUP 2009

The Division of Archaeological, Geographical and Environmental Science, **University of Bradford**, is hosting the 2009 meeting of the Quaternary Vertebrate Research Group (QUAVER) on **Thursday 16th - Friday 17th April 2009**. QUAVER is a research group of the Quaternary Research Association (QRA). The two-day conference will consist of one day of oral and poster presentations followed by one day of workshops. This year the workshop focus is small vertebrates. Contact quaver2009@googlemail.com for further information.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOIL MICROMORPHOLOGY WORKSHOP 2009, POVIGLIO, ITALY

Organized by the Department of Earth Sciences "A. Desio" of the University of Milano; Comune di Poviglio - Assessorato alla Cultura; C.N.R.- IDPA Sezione di Milano; Soprintendenza Archeologica dell'Emilia Romagna

When: May 27th-28th-29th 2009 (Wed-Thu-Fri).

Where: Cultural Center "Kaleidos" in the town of **Poviglio** (Reggio Emilia province, Emilia Romagna region – Northern Italy). The address of the Cultural Center is Via Bologna, 1 –Poviglio (RE).

Contact: micromorphology2009@gmail.com; Phone (GSM): 0039 349 8489408 (Cristiano Nicosia).

The Polish Association of Environmental Archaeology (SAS)

The Archaeological Institute of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń

The Poznań Society for the Advancement of the Arts and Sciences

The Institute of Palaeography and Geoecology of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań

kindly invite you to the

15TH MEETING OF THE ICAZ FISH REMAINS WORKING GROUP (FRWG) Fishes – Culture – Environment through Archaeoichthyology, Ethnography & History

3rd –9th September 2009, Poznań & Toruń.

We plan 2-3 days of paper presentations (20-25 minutes) and posters with the main focus on the following topics:

- importance of archaeoichthyology for the interdisciplinary study of past cultures,
- study of fish and fisheries based on different types of evidence,
- differences and similarities in the past fishing,
 - archaeoichthyological studies in the countries of the Baltic Sea basin and Eastern Europe,
- isotopic and genetic analysis: present day achievements, prospects and limits in the studies on fish evolution and fisheries,

We request all colleagues, who would like to present a paper and/or a poster, to send us a **long abstract of 2-4 pages**, including figures and bibliography, if appropriate. The abstracts will be included in a conference book. Please send them to the contact address below. Deadline for Abstracts (Papers and Posters) is the 15 June 2009.

The conference fee is expected to be around 150 €, and 100 € for students. It will cover coffee breaks, meals, reception and conference pack with the abstracts book.

We have booked rooms for participants in two hotels:

a) single 35-40 EUR, b) double 55-65 EUR (both variants with breakfast).

Contacts will also be made with high standard hotels (3 or 4 stars).

Registration form with details on accommodation will be sent soon.

Colleagues who need financial support are kindly requested to specify by the end of January 2009 the kind of help they would need: conference fee, accommodation and meals, participation in fieldtrip.

For the Meeting presentations English is preferred. If French, Spanish, German or Russian are used, participants are kindly requested to provide English titles, abstracts, captions in figures and so on.

The meeting will be followed by a two days fieldtrip that is expected to cost about 130-150 EUR per person. Details will follow in the second circular.

If you want to attend the meeting, please, send the following information to:

Daniel Makowiecki

Laboratory for Natural Environment Reconstruction, Institute of Archaeology

Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Szosa Bydgoska 44/48, PL 87-100 Toruń

makdan@umk.pl

Tel.: +48 - 56 - 6112349 or +48 - 61 - 8145 444

Fax: +48 - 56 - 6113971

Organising Committee: Daniel Makowiecki, Wojciech Chudziak, Michal Brzostowicz, Mirosław Makohonienko

Scientific Committee: Philippe Bearez, Richard Cooke, Lembi Lougas, Arturo Morales-Muniz, Wim van Neer

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We are very grateful to James Greig for sending us this information. James sends his thanks to Graeme Barker for his reference. Please send information to jimi.gee@virgin.net

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