



**BRITISH ASSOCIATION
FOR
BIOLOGICAL ANTHROPOLOGY
AND
OSTEOARCHAEOLOGY**

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
DURHAM, 13TH SEPTEMBER 2014

1	Apologies
	Gundula Müldner, Simon Mays, Jo Buckberry, Simone Lemmers.
2	Minutes of the last AGM Accepted as a true record. To go on website.
3	Matters arising Piers Mitchell thanked the conference organisers for an excellent meeting and the BBAO committee for all their work during the past year.
4	President's Report (P. Mitchell)
4.1	<u>Outreach activities</u> BBAO again had a stall at this year's London Anthropology Day and PM thanked everybody involved
4.2	Members of the Association were also at the British Science Festival and hosted a debate on the most violent period in human history, which was well received. Next year the committee is organising a debate based upon a fictional court case where forensic anthropology evidence will be key to determining 'who done it'.
4.3	Work on the Grey Literature Database of osteoarchaeological reports to be hosted by the Archaeological Data Service is ongoing.
4.4	The database of UK human skeletal collections is currently being collated by Tina Jakob and a provisional version will hopefully be launched in approximately 1 month.
4.5	The 'Trends in Biological Anthropology' series, which will publish papers resulting from BBAO conferences, is due to have the first volume published in January 2015. This will be a combination of papers presented at the Edinburgh 2011 and Bournemouth 2012 conferences. The second volume in the series will be made up of papers presented at last year's York conference, and these are currently undergoing review. Contributions from this year's conference were encouraged from members, to make up the third volume in the series.

<p>4.6</p> <p>4.7</p> <p>4.8</p> <p>4.9</p> <p>4.10</p> <p>4.11</p> <p>4.12</p>	<p>Another publication series BABAIO is involved in will be published with Cambridge University Press and addresses current topics in biological anthropology. Five volumes have been commissioned that are aimed at MSc level students and will be published as ‘Cambridge Studies in Bioarchaeology’.</p> <p>Charlotte Roberts has pointed out that the BABAIO/IFA Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains are now 10 years old. Tim Thompson will send out a questionnaire to the membership to gather opinions on whether these should be updated and if so, republished in a paper-format or as a web-based resource.</p> <p>BABAIO’s status as a charity has just been approved by the Charity Commission. We are now eligible to apply to HMRC for tax exemption status, and we will submit this application shortly</p> <p>Simon Lemmers asked to announce that the BABAIO Student Forum is now online and invites students to register.</p> <p>BABAIO is involved in a collaborative conference with the Human Biology Association, which will take place in December in Oxford. Jo Buckberry and Nicholas Márquez-Grant of BABAIO are on the organising committee, and the topic of the conference will be age estimation.</p> <p>There have been email exchanges on the mailing list by members working in the commercial sector who are concerned about appropriate qualifications of those advertising themselves as osteoarchaeologists. A working group will be established, headed by the commercial representative of BABAIO, to collect evidence and check the feasibility of any licensing procedures. J. McKinley pointed out that it is important not just to check our discipline, but also let the ‘consumers’ (i.e. developers etc.) know what to look for when commissioning work to ensure adequate standards.</p> <p>Piers Mitchell thanked all outgoing committee members for their work – Linda Fibiger (secretary), Nicholas Marquez-Grant (commercial sector) and Tina Jakob (non-executive member).</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Membership report (S. Vincent)</p>
	<p>Our membership numbers currently stand at 468, which is slightly down from the 500 active members this time last year, however is roughly the same level we have been at for the last 5 years. We currently have 239 waged members to 183 student and 46 unwaged (retired/unemployed members). We have had 76 new members join the organisation this year (new members can join for free after the conference, although they do not get a copy of the Trends publication).</p> <p>We have 111 members based outside the UK; 65 from Europe, 35 from the Americas and 12 from the rest of the world. The number of non-UK members and their distribution remains pretty steady with membership for the past several years.</p>

	Could all members please remember to update their details with the membership secretary as needed – this will ensure you get the full range of membership benefits without a hitch.																		
6	Publicity Report (T. Thompson)																		
6.1	The usual General and Member enquiries – this time there were a lot of emails from students (leading up to projects?) asking about references etc. Helped as much as possible, but often these seemed to clearly fall under the responsibility of the supervisor. Also TV people.																		
6.2	We are going to print new colour posters for departments to have on their notice boards to advertise BABAQ – very excited it’s being done by a ‘proper’ ad man!																		
6.3	London Anthropology Day – Becky Redfern, Jelena Bekvalac. Very popular hands-on session, explaining biological anthropology to sixth form school children considering their options for university courses. As with last year, parents and students greatly appreciated our ‘neutral’ stance compared to the other exhibitors/contributors at the event.																		
6.4	British Science Festival – 1hr debate on the bloodiest time period in British History. Around 60 delegates, very enthusiastic and interactive. Martin Smith, Kirsty McCarrison, Jo Buckberry, Tim Thompson chaired. Results:																		
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Period</i></th> <th><i>% Vote Pre-Debate</i></th> <th><i>% Vote Post-Debate</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Neolithic</td> <td>5</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Iron Age</td> <td>18</td> <td>14</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Anglo-Saxon / Viking</td> <td>38</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medieval</td> <td>15</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All as bad</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<i>Period</i>	<i>% Vote Pre-Debate</i>	<i>% Vote Post-Debate</i>	Neolithic	5	14	Iron Age	18	14	Anglo-Saxon / Viking	38	7	Medieval	15	40	All as bad	23	24
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	Had a sneaky peak at the BSF feedback, and it was all very positive. People liked the debate format, the arguing, it was interesting. Negatives were ‘not enough stats’(!) and ‘would have liked longer’ (which we had asked for). We will organise another event next year.																		
6.5	Grey literature database and ADS – working with Bradford and have collected over 100 skeletal reports (several gigs worth), and completed the pilot spreadsheet. Took a while as the reports needed sorting etc, and then metadata compiling. This will be our bottleneck for existing reports. All with ADS now who are mulling it over while they designed their interface.																		
6.6	Varied assistance with the use of BABAQ resources, from Codes to Standards. Such as overseas institutions, Futurelearn projects, HS2, etc. Partly lead to...																		
6.7	OutreachHUB: Page created, mainly for schools and educators, filled with some content. Needs suggestions for more! A request was made to members for																		

copyright-free images for use in lectures, talks, etc and a couple of reports from interesting sites. A trawl of similar pages by other associations shows that photos, videos, blogs, etc are all common features. Members were asked to forward TT any Youtube etc clips about biological anthropology that they recommend.

7 Finance Report (G. Müldner, delivered by L. Fibiger)

7.1 BABAO Treasurer's Annual Report Jan-Dec 2013

BABAO Accounts

The BABAO account balances on 31st December 2013 were as follows:

Reserve Account Balance: +£10,448.59

Current Account Balance: +£2169.09

Paypal Account: +£3,311.04

Total Funds: +£15,928.72

Cheques not yet cashed (but included in expenditure): -£105.48

Income and Expenditure 2013

Income:

Membership subscriptions: +£6202.14

Interest: +£2.05

Total Income 2012: +£6,204.20

Expenditure:

Committee Travel: -£1,438.70

London Anthropology Day (Stall Rental, Travel): -£506.30

BABAO Grants 2013: -£2,942.00

BABAO Conference 2013 Start-Up and Bursaries: -£1,500

BABAO Conference York 2013, Student Prizes, Gifts for Organisers: -£355.48

Website Maintenance 2012: -£378

Total Expenditure 2013 (Jan-December): -£7120.48

Income-Expenditure (1 January – 31 December 2013)

-£880.28

Comments: A deficit is not great but acceptable, since we had agreed that we should mobilise some of our reserves (and have done so by, for example, increasing the amount of grant money awarded by almost £500, which accounts for the larger part of the deficit).

Expenditure calculation also includes £1500 to York for conference start-up fund, which is not a regular expenditure, but should be recovered if the conference breaks even. York have indeed recovered the money after the conference and passed on to Durham, along with any other surplus.

BABAO Treasurer's Report Jan-Sept 2014

BABAO Accounts

7.2

The BABAO account balances on 15 August 2014 were as follows:

Reserve Account Balance: +£10,451.72

Current Account Balance: +£14,797.50

Paypal Account: +£3,311.04

Total Funds: +£28,560.26

Cheques not yet cashed (but included in expenditure): -£3,139.86

Income and Expenditure 1 Jan -10 September 2014

Income:

Membership subscriptions: +£6,769.93

Interest: +£2.07

Conference Surplus Bournemouth 2012: £+6966.87

Total Income until 15 July: +£13,738.87

Expenditure:

Membership Overpayments Refunds: -£40

Travel Committee Meeting March: -£452.80

Travel Committee Meeting July: -£423.75

BABAO Promotional Material: -£175.81

London Anthropology Day 2014: -£252.00 (Stall Rental)

London Anthropology Day 2014: -£57.50 (Travel Expenses for Helpers)

BABAO Grants 2014: -£2,716.11

Total Expenditure 2014 (Jan-July): -£4,117.97

Income-Expenditure (1 January – 10 September 2014)

+£9,620.90

Comments: Because of the unexpected windfall from Bournemouth, finances look very healthy. We are very pleased but should remember that a large chunk of this is already ear-marked to pay the costs of the publication of the new 'Trends in Biological Anthropology' series, the Skeletal Remains Database, and Grey Literature Database at the ADS.

8. **Grant Report** (J. Buckberry, delivered by L. Fibiger)

This year, the BABAO small grants received 17 applicants in total, 3 commercial and 14 academic.

All members of the committee graded the grants. Declarations of interest were made where necessary.

Outcomes:

Commercial grant:

- 1) Jelena Bekvalac, Museum of London

The Impact of Industrialisation on Female Health: Understanding the Aetiology of Hyperostosis Frontalis Interna

£1500

	<p>Academic grant:</p> <p>1) Jason Nadell, Durham University Skeletal development with reference to ontogeny and behaviour; a cross-sectional study of primate limbs £716.11</p> <p>2) David Errickson, Teesside University Rapid prototyping of osteological trauma for conservation and education: an accurate alternative to forensic casting? £500</p> <p>We awarded two grants this year as the top two graded applications were both for significantly less than the maximum £1500.</p> <p>Last year's grant winners Ross Kendall and Don Walker both presented their research here in Durham. Claudia Garrido-Varras was not able to present this year, but has agreed to present next year.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Committee Election Results (L. Fibiger)</p> <p>Three committee posts were up for election this year. 155 members took part in the online poll, of which 147 votes were valid.</p> <p>The new Non-Executive Member is Nicholas Márquez-Grant, who received 62% of the votes.</p> <p>The new Secretary is Tina Jakob, who received 58% of the vote</p> <p>The new Representative for the Commercial Sector is Sharon Clough, who stood for election unopposed.</p> <p>A number of committee posts will come up for election next year, including Treasurer, Membership Secretary and President.</p> <p>10. BABAO Conference 2015</p> <p>The next BABAO conference will take place at the University of Sheffield from the 12-14 September and the meeting will be organised by P. Nystrom and Dawn Hadley.</p> <p>The 2016 conference will be held at the University of Kent</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Pia Nystrom asked members for their views on whether to alter the format of the conference next year. This was because the number of people attending the conference had risen in recent years, but the length of the conference had remained the same. This means it is becoming harder for those wishing to present to get a podium slot. The options discussed were lengthening the conference, holding parallel sessions, or keeping the structure the same. There was no clear winner among the options as members held different views, so it was decided to keep the structure the same as in previous years.</p>