



RESCUE
The British Archaeological Trust
www.rescue-archaeology.org.uk

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 10th May 2025 at 12.00

At Roman Circus House, Roman Circus Walk, Colchester, CO2 7GZ

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 11 May 2024
3. Matters arising from the minutes
4. Chair's report
5. Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report, adoption of accounts and appointment of accounts examiner
7. Elections of Officers and new members of Council
8. Any other business

The formal AGM will be followed at 13.00 by talks and discussion on the theme "Coastal Communities: Heritage and Climate Change" and at 14.45 a guided walk around Colchester

There is limited parking at the venue itself, please do tell us if you need one of these places, and public car parks at Butt Road and Napier Road, a gentle 5-7 minutes walk away.

If you want to travel by rail Colchester is on the main London (Liverpool St) to Norwich train line and you will need to change there for Colchester Town which is about a 10-15 minute walk from the Roman Circus House (see map at <https://catuk.org/find-us/>)

RESCUE The British Archaeological Trust

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on Saturday 11 May 2024 at 12 noon at Verulamium Museum, St Michael's Street, St Albans AL3 4SW

In the Chair: Jo Caruth

Apologies for absence: Tony Howe, Robin Densem, Diana Friendship-Taylor, Pam Irving, Valerie Marden

1. *Minutes of the previous AGM:* held on 24 June 2023 were passed as an accurate record *nem. con.* and signed by the Chair.
2. *Matters arising from the minutes.* None
3. *Chair's report:* I am so pleased to be standing here in Verulamium Museum for our AGM. As we will hear Rescue has a long history with Verulamium. We are really grateful to the museum and to our vice-chair Dan for organising this. Our open meeting day is always a highlight of the Rescue year where we always get some stimulating talks and thought-provoking discussions. It helps to provide us with the motivation and insight to carry on the work throughout the rest of the year as we respond to government consultations, challenge planning applications and continue our core function of defending archaeology and archaeologists.

As with all organisations we are struggling to maintain a core of dedicated volunteers to carry out our work, and we are painfully aware that our membership communication has been less than we would like. For that I apologise, however we do believe that you support Rescue for what we do, not what you can get out of it. It has proved impossible to produce a printed newspaper, we simply don't have the time to do it, however we are intending to move to a digital offering with regular e-newsletters and monthly updates via Mailchimp which I hope will keep you informed about what we are doing or planning to do.

Valerie has summarised some of the things we have done in the last year and I would like to consider what the upcoming year is likely to bring - a general election for one. This is a very good opportunity for us to challenge those that wish to lead us to think about the issues that interest us. We have also continued to support the Stonehenge Alliance and we remain implacably opposed to the tunnel, but at the same time we must recognise the increasing likelihood that this will go ahead. Our upcoming role will be to ensure that the archaeological opportunities that unpopular developments bring are realised - we must be ready to give all the support the archaeologists need to ensure that the best possible job is done on this and other infrastructure projects.

I cannot leave the subject of Stonehenge without reflecting on the very sad loss of our colleague and friend Kate Fielden who died after a short illness last summer. Kate was a marvellous person whose tenacious battling to protect our heritage for the future marked her out as an extraordinary human being whose loss makes the world poorer. We owe it to Kate to continue our work even when it appears impossible.

Finally thanks to colleagues, Valerie who has made a great start to her term as secretary and has been a wonderful support, Dan as vice-chair whose dynamism and hard work allows events such as today, Diana our Treasurer and of course Sue our wonderful membership secretary whose dedication and reliability keeps the whole organisation running. We now have a small council and everyone does their bit so I'd like to thank them all. This year we will see Sophie Vigneron leave council; her extensive knowledge of the trade in artefacts has made a significant contribution to Rescue. And we say goodbye to Evelyne Godfrey who has also made important contributions to our consultations.

4. *Secretary's report :* This AGM marks the end of my first year as Secretary for Rescue. Although I have a lot of administrative experience, every organisation has its own way of working so there has been a lot to learn, especially for a non-archaeologist.

After the quiet years of Covid, activity seems to be picking up again. Rescue has responded to five Government consultations since autumn 2023:

- On Plan-making Reforms aimed at making local development plans simpler, shorter and more accessible.
- On changes to certain Permitted Development Rights that would allow for easier change of use to dwelling houses, development on agricultural sites, development of educational buildings, erection of non-domestic extensions and the use of Local Design Codes in relation to certain permitted development rights.
- On proposals to amend the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, either to replicate existing hedgerow requirements derived from EU directives or alternatively developing new legal protections for hedgerows.
- On changes to the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, as amended, to allow for easier improvement and enlargement of homes and construction of structures ancillary to the home.
- On proposals for an accelerated planning service, including for major commercial applications.

Individually, none of the consultations raises any major issues. However, it is important for Rescue to respond wherever possible as a number of smaller changes can have a big cumulative effect over time.

Rescue also made a submission to the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group's enquiry into metal detecting. The enquiry asked a number of questions around the role of metal detecting in archaeology, engagement with metal detectorists and treatment of finds. The initial phase of the enquiry closed on 30 April and it is likely that Rescue will have further engagement in the enquiry as it progresses.

Rescue has also spent time over the past year initiating what I might call internal administrative improvements. Work is underway to digitise back issues of Rescue News and make these available to the public. And we are looking at how we can better communicate with members.

With an election expected this year, Rescue will be looking at how best it can engage with all parties to get its message across.

5. *Treasurer's report:* An ongoing decline in membership has seen a reduction in income from subscriptions, partially off set by increased donations, due to a very kind one off large donation, and by the increase in interest rates on our investment income. As we produced no eNews this year our costs were lower on publications and there were also lower office service charges. Overall we had an excess of income of £2,158 and our finances are therefore in a healthy position going forward. I'm sure I speak for everyone in thanking Sue Mulligan most warmly for her efficient management of Rescue's finances and membership.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Jude Plouviez, seconded by Hana Morel and passed *nem con*. The reappointment of the independent examiner Timothy Codd was proposed by Valerie Carpenter, seconded by Dan Phillips and passed *nem con*.

6. *Elections of Officers and new members of Council:* No officers were standing down. Jude Plouviez proposed the re-election *en bloc* of the four officers, seconded by Hana Morel. It was passed *nem con*.

There were two elections to Council: Robin Densem and Chris Turner. Their election was proposed by Dan Phillips, seconded by Hana Morel and approved *nem con*.

7. *AOB:* There was no other business raised.

The meeting closed at 10.50am

RESCUE - the British Archaeological Trust

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year ending 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
Income	£	£
Subscriptions	4,228.38	4,578
Donations	214.00	696
Legacies	18,392.68	0
Gift Aid	676.50	726
Foundations for the Future sales	22.00	29
Manual of Archaeological Field Drawing sales	73.00	60
Other publications sales	6.00	26
Post & Packing	32.30	60
Publishers Licensing Society	161.34	148
Merchandise	0	13
C.O.I.F. interest	1,087.51	891
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>24,893.71</i>	<i>7,227</i>
Excess of Expenditure over Income		
Totals	24,893.71	7,227
 Expenditure		
Rescue News, eNews and Newsletters	91.80	0
Office & Council expenses	151.80	135
Postage	43.14	70
Telephone	787.32	723
Rent & Rates	1,858.50	1,848
Salary	1,332.45	912
Office service charges (electricity, water, cleaning)	199.57	127
Insurance	337.03	325
Subscriptions & Donations	342.00	595
Scanning of RN	2,160.00	0
Meetings incl AGM	255.00	333
<i>Sub total</i>	<i>7,558.61</i>	<i>5,069</i>
Excess of Income over Expenditure	17,335.10	2,158
Totals	24,893.71	7,227

RESCUE - the British Archaeological Trust

Charity Commission No. 1064836

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
General Fund		
As at 1.1.2024	28,783.50	26,625
Profit (Loss) for the year	17,335.10	2,158
	<u>46,118.60</u>	<u>28,784</u>
<i>Represented by:</i>		
Current Assets		
Pre paid Insurance	351.28	305
FAFF Grant	-3,000.00	
Other Pre payments		
Sundry Debtors		
Payments outstanding	-50.00	-300
Taxation recoverable	650.00	700
C.O.I.F Charities	22,313.40	21,226
Investment Fund		
Cash at Bank	25,853.92	6,853
	<u>46,118.60</u>	<u>28,784</u>

Diana Friendship-Taylor
Hon. Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Rescue

I have examined the accounts of RESCUE The British Archaeological Trust and can confirm that in my opinion they have been prepared in accordance with the Books and other supporting documentation supplied. They provide a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity as at 31 December 2024

Timothy Codd
April 2025



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Connecting Coastal Heritage, Communities and Climate Change



Thousands of significant archaeological and heritage sites line coastal or floodable landscapes, threatened by loss and damage from rising sea levels and other cascading impacts, such as flooding, landslides, increased salination, erosion, or even the shift from being land-based heritage to being submerged or underwater heritage. There is a need for a sustainable initiative across the national, regional, and local levels to manage the complexity of this 'new norm', yet with austerity not yet out of sight, how can this be done? This meeting brings together speakers to explore how archaeology can help better understand the extent of climate change's impact on our lives and historic environment, and what we can do to help respond to the crisis.

Saturday 10th May from 12 noon until 3:00pm
At Roman Circus House, Colchester, CO2 7GZ

12.00 Rescue AGM

12.30 Sandwich lunch

13.00 Talks and discussion

Speakers include Coasts in Mind, the National Lottery Heritage Funded project focusing on heritage and communities; Hertfordshire County Council's Flood Officer and Flooded People UK's Community Officer

14.45 Guided Walking Tour

16:15 Pub n' Chat in the town centre

All Welcome!

Please book for this free day on Eventbrite to help us manage lunch numbers:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/connecting-coastal-heritage-communities-and-climate-change-tickets-1325088809299?aff=oddtcreator>

Contact: secretary@rescue-archaeology.org.uk