



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
BANE Bournemouth**

**To be held on 4th March 2021, 14:45-15:00
Virtual conference**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** – Augusta McMahon, Josef Mario Briffa, Joanne Rowland

2. **Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting**

The Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting were circulated and approved.

3. **Matters arising**

.1/ The Treasurer will report on plans to introduce Direct Debit and other payment option in his report

.2/ The New Committee Secretary Martyn Weeds is leading the subgroup on the use of BANE funds and a report will be forthcoming in due course.

.3/ Free BANE membership for students

It has been decided that this is impractical as it would be impossible to manage the repayment of existing student membership payments. Given that the charge is already minimal, it was decided that it was not unfair to continue to ask students to contribute this small amount.

4. **Elections to and retirements from the Steering Committee**

.1/ Institution Representatives:

Martyn Weeds is replacing Shahina Farid – as the BIAA representative; Rachel Sparks replaces Graham Philip as the representative for CBRL; and Sam Mirelman is the new representative for SOAS

.2/ New student members

Elifgöl Doğan (Cambridge) – proposed by Yağmur Heffron; seconded by Cameron Petrie

Glynnis Maynard (Cambridge) – proposed by Augusta McMahon; seconded by Cameron Petrie

Latif Öksüz (Durham) – proposed by Dan Lawrence; seconded by Wendy Matthews

Ailbhe Turley (Glasgow) – proposed by Claudia Glatz; seconded by Felicity Cobbing

.3/ Nominations which were approved

Dr Selena Wisnom (Leicester) - Outreach Officer;

Dr Sam Mirelman (SOAS)- representative member for SOAS

Dr Kristen Hopper (Durham) decolonising officer

Martyn Weeds - New role of Committee Secretary (separated from Membership Secretary)

5. **BANEA Constitution**

The BANEA constitution was approved at last AGM. The completed document will be circulated to the membership by Martyn Weeds in due course. It was suggested that a place on the BANEA website could be found for the Constitution, along with other official documents. It was hoped the new student members would be able to assist the Steering Committee with BANEA's Social Media output.

6. Chair's report: News from the Steering Committee

.1/ Steering Committee working practices

We are reviewing the working practices of the Steering Committee to ensure a more evenly distributed burden of duties and therefore increased efficiency. New tasks include a secretary (separate from membership secretary), new website officer, social media officer, outreach officer, and decolonising group

.2/ Thanks to Jan Picton

With the change-over of the role of Treasurer to Neil Erskine, The Chair wished to reiterate the sincere thanks of the Steering Committee for the immense input of Jan Picton as Secretary and Treasurer to BANEA over the years.

.3/ Impacts of Covid

The Steering Committee has met more regularly than normal during the pandemic and is very active. The major impacts of the pandemic have been to live events. We moved to a virtual conference hosted by Bournemouth University, and our thanks to Emma Jenkins and her Bournemouth colleagues for doing a brilliant job, and to Christoph Bachhuber for drawing up the conference protocols.

Our outreach student sessions which were to be held in London and Durham University have been put on hold for the time being.

Meetings have been held between BANEA and LCANE around finances and memberships, more of which below in the Membership Secretary's report.

.4/ Publication series

Wendy Matthews has been continuing discussions with Oxbow, however, only one current edited volume is in the pipeline. Therefore, if you have a publication which may fit the BANEA series, please do consider it.

7. Decolonizing agenda

The subject had been raised at previous meetings but had been delayed a little by the pandemic. However, a subcommittee has been formed, with a possible workshop in June to develop our thinking. More on this below.

Felicity Cobbing presented a preliminary statement on decolonizing:

“Since 1986 BANEA has gathered together researchers, students, educators, and museum professionals based in the United Kingdom who work on the archaeology of the Eastern Mediterranean and Western Asia.

Due to its area of interest and the history of archaeological work in this region, and the institutions from which BANEA gathers its membership, the Steering Committee recognises a pressing need to re-examine its position and priorities in light of the society-wide effort to decolonise perceptions, practices and representation. BANEA acknowledges the historical contexts of the subject within a broadly colonial setting, and aims to formulate strategies to address this context in a meaningful and productive way, in collaboration with members and institutions, and to become itself more representative across various areas of activity, output, and engagement.

The Steering Committee wishes to embark on this process in a deliberate and equitable manner, and so have set up a provisional subcommittee, with an external advisory group to provide objectivity, to begin to formulate a strategy to this end.

We recognise that this is an ongoing task, which will evolve over some period of time.

We are right at the beginning of this process, and so now is not quite the time to be taking questions, but we are interested in the opinions of BANEAs members and so are inviting comments, which you can put in the chat or submit later. We'll be sending out details of how to engage in this conversation shortly after this meeting."

Felicity Cobbing explained the composition and organisation of the new sub-committee on decolonization. The Decolonizing sub-committee will consist of Kristen Hopper (Decolonizing Officer), Christoph Bachhuber, Felicity Cobbing, and Latif Öksüz.

It was also proposed that an external advisory group be formed to provide objectivity. The statement was read out and opened to comments from the AGM, as well as afterwards via email to Christoph Bachhuber (christoph.bachhuber@orinst.ox.ac.uk). All members are invited to contribute ideas which will be discussed by the committee, with decisions reported to members.

Q&A

Q from audience – will BANEAs need to change its name?

A from Karina Croucher - No decision has been made on whether there is a need to change the name of BANEAs, but discussions on this topic are within the remit of the committee

Q from Roger Matthews – What are the objectives and schedule for this work?

A from Karina Croucher– no objectives as yet, we are at the stage of formulating a strategy, which will have milestones and consultation built in, including a workshop in June or July to discuss progress

A from Felicity Cobbing – Important to stress this is an ongoing process, so strategy and objectives will need to be flexible and work will be ongoing

A from Yağmur Heffron – No suggestions to the group are too big or too small at this stage, the intention is to get a sense of the issues of importance to BANEAs members

It was noted that Roger Matthews and Diederick Halbertsma (Liverpool PhD student) expressed an interest in helping with this work.

Action (FC/CB/KH): Take on board above comments/suggestions in the subcommittee

8. Membership secretary and Treasurer's report

The Membership Secretary and Treasurer role had traditionally been combined, but had recently been divided between Yağmur Heffron as Membership Secretary and Neil Erskine as Treasurer

.1/ Membership Secretary's Report

The main development to report was the evolving relationship between BANEAs and LCANE, which is becoming closer, with membership being shared. For the organisations, this will mean the fees will be split to fund their activities. For members, there will be no change in fees, but will mean the benefits of membership to both institutions will be available to BANEAs and LCANE members, creating far more potential exposure, including student grants, conference presentation opportunities, publication opportunities, and so on.

.2/ Treasurer's Report

The transfer from Jan Picton to Neil Erskine had been a little complicated by Covid-19, so a full report was not yet possible, but all the accounts were currently OK, although a significant loss was incurred by the Oxford conference. It is hoped that a trial of Direct Debit and other payment methods like PayPal will be carried out in the next few months.

Action (NE) : An interim report be submitted once the transfer of information from Jan Picton and the merger of fees with LCANE are complete.

9. Future conferences

BANEA 2022 would be held at Cambridge University – either live or virtually depending on how the pandemic continues to impact travel and other considerations.

Action (AM): Confirm conference dates

Future conferences would be under discussion by Decolonizing and Steering Committees, around Greenwich and the British Museum

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

11. Thanks. The Chair wished to register her thanks again to Emma Jenkins and her colleagues at Bournemouth for organising the Annual Conference, to new members of BANEA, and to her colleagues on the Steering Committee.