The Annual General Meeting (141st Council meeting) was held on 10 November 2014 in the rooms of the British Academy, London. Representatives of 14 institutions and 91 individual members were present. Dr Jane Grenville, OBE, chaired the meeting as Chair of Trustees. The Director and senior managers were in attendance.

1. Minutes of previous meeting
It was AGREED that the minutes of the Winter General Meeting (140th Council meeting), held on 24 February 2014, would be presented to the 2015 Winter General Meeting.

2. Chair’s strategic overview
The Chair of Trustees welcomed all to the meeting.

It was the seventieth year of the CBA’s existence and also the final year of British Academy funding, which had been tapering down for several years. The principle goals of the CBA remained those of advocacy and participation.

Advocacy was crucial at a time when there were so many threats to the archaeological heritage of the UK. Such threats had seemed unimaginable a few years ago and they reinforced the need for the Council for British Archaeology to continue its campaigning work.

The CBA must continue to provide a voice for archaeology, but to do so it must strengthen its membership. The membership needs to grow in number and be further empowered to help campaigning issues. Membership was vital in enabling the CBA to speak for the archaeological sector.

Participation was also a very high commitment for the CBA. At the heart of such participation were the CBA Groups which carry out the congruous charitable remit of the CBA at a more local level. The Chair wished to congratulate and thank, in particular, Mrs Marjoleine Butler who was retiring as Chair of CBA Wessex after a highly successful tenure in office.

3. Reports and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2014
The Finance Director presented the above statements for adoption by members. They had been approved by CBA trustees on 21 July 2014 and had received an unqualified audit report.

The narrative Trustees Report carried detail of the wide ranging work of the CBA. This included advocacy campaigns and listed building work, the educational activities of the Young Archaeologists’ Club volunteers, training opportunities across the UK and the input of those who run the Festival of Archaeology events.

The financial results for the year to 31 March 2014 showed a deficit of some £5k, comprising a deficit on normal operating activities of £11k and a gain in the market value of investments of £6k. This compared to an overall surplus of £6k for the previous year (comprising a £2k deficit on operation and an £8k increase in investment value).

The results had meant that the level of net assets of the organisation had reduced by £5k and now stood at £150k. This was seen as a minimum level by trustees and it was vital that this is not materially further reduced. Work therefore continued to bring about enhanced revenue streams and to reduce costs where possible.

Members ADOPTED the Reports and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2014.

4. Director’s report
The CBA had played a vital role throughout the seventy years of its existence. It had acted as an advocate for archaeology in many ways and on many issues. A meeting had just been held with the Welsh Minister and high level dialogue with legislators was a continuing fundamental part of the overall campaigning strategy.
The threats to the historic environment were increasing, particularly with the impact of local authority cuts in heritage services. Further and deeper cuts were expected in the near future and there were emerging areas where there were black holes in terms of expert advice not being available to advise on development proposals. Archaeology was consequently being lost.

The CBA continued to monitor developments with government heritage organisations. English Heritage was to be split into two parts – one retaining the name and managing the national collection of properties with a £90m dowry to enable sustainability; the other advisory section being set up as a separate government supported entity. In Northern Ireland the government environment agency was facing large financial cuts.

There were many changes to the planning system which had archaeological impact and needed to be monitored carefully. There was a need to expand the highly successful Portable Antiquities Scheme and there was a need for input into the management plans for Stonehenge.

These were all areas where the CBA acted as an advocate and, even more importantly, encouraged local responses to issues. It was important that the CBA continued to monitor and act on such issues.

The Young Archaeologists’ Club continued to have sustained engagement with young people. It was in the process of re-structuring its activities with an increased focus on Branch development and activities. The YAC website would be redeveloped and become an even greater free resource full of news and educational activities.

The Festival of Archaeology continued to go from strength to strength. In 2014 there were an increased number of events which attracted some 250k attendees.

*British Archaeology* remained the leading magazine in the sector and received praise for its exciting content.

The CBA continued to provide training opportunities to raise the level of knowledge and skill in the community. By the end of the calendar year some fifty-one bursary holders would have completed their year-long work placements with host organisations, as part of a three year HLF funded programme. Similarly hundreds of volunteers would have attended CBA archaeological workshops.

It was however becoming more and more difficult to maintain such levels of activity in an environment of lower grant income. The current year was the last one in which British Academy grant-in-aid would be received. Forecasts presently indicated an operating deficit of some £95k for the next financial year, a figure akin to the loss of current grant revenue from the Academy. Work was underway to find ways to balance the books before the start of the year.

The Director noted the inter-connected nature of the CBA’s work and the need to sustain it all, to ensure maximum impact. Much work was being conducted to move to a more mixed economy. Fundraising initiatives were being followed to seek further financial support from trusts, major donors and corporates. This in itself required dedicated resource to pursue. Members were also asked to give help where they can – in terms of donations and encouragement to others to join.

The financial challenges meant that a further staff re-structuring was likely later in the year. In the meantime the CBA was most grateful to those who had upgraded their memberships in order to give more the organisation.

Questions were invited from members. During these it was noted that archaeology can contribute to the integration and cohesion of society. It also offered much to young people in terms of life skills training. Participation was the key – giving people the opportunity to take part on a local level. CBA Wessex had shown how this could be done by means of the recently established Field Academy, by its Friends Of Ancient Monuments project and many other activities.

### 5. Appointment of trustees

The candidates standing for appointment in 2014 were (in alphabetical order): Mr Peter Connelly, Ms Diana Maudslay Cross, Prof Marilyn Palmer, Mr Bob Sydes and Ms Katy Whitaker. Individual statements had been made available to members. The number of candidates did not exceed the number of available places and so members were asked to confirm their appointment. Dr P Addyman, CBE (CBA Hon Vice-President) had provided oversight over the process.

Members CONFIRMED the appointment of the trustees standing above.
7. **Appointment of auditors**
Members APPROVED the re-appointment of BHP Barron & Barron of York as auditors for a further year.

8. **Dates of future meetings**
Details would be circulated to all CBA members via the Newsletter.

9. **Closing thanks from the President**
Mr Dan Snow thanked all for attending and congratulated the CBA and its members on work done. He noted that CBA projects such as the Home Front Legacy Project were successful in turning everyone into being archaeologists. He also noted how CBA members had taken up the baton in local initiatives.