The Annual General Meeting (143rd Council meeting) was held on 9 November 2015 in the rooms of the British Academy, London. Representatives of 21 institutions and 85 individual members were present. The meeting was chaired by Dr Jane Grenville OBE, Chair of Trustees. Apologies were noted. The CBA Director and staff members were in attendance.

1. Minutes of previous meetings
The Minutes of the 142nd Council meeting, held on 2 March 2015, were APPROVED. There were no matters arising.

2. Chair of Trustees' strategic overview
The Chair noted that the UK Government spending review announcement was expected on 25 November and was likely to define the health of the public heritage sector for many years to come, at national and local authority level.

A Culture White Paper in England is to be published next spring. It includes heritage, but is being written in a context where further funding cuts are expected so we need to have a compelling vision for what we can offer. In Wales, the Historic Environment Bill is progressing through Welsh Assembly. It includes statutory status for Historic Environment Records which will be a significant achievement, particularly as there are major concerns about their future in other parts of UK.

Organisational change is bedding in for the heritage bodies in England (English Heritage/Historic England have now split) and Scotland (Historic Scotland/RCAHMS have merged to form Historic Environment Scotland). Across the UK, partnership working is crucial to ensure that we work together and make the best use of scarce resources. The CBA is now on a more financially stable footing and keen to work collaboratively with partners across the heritage sector to take forward our charitable objectives.

3. Annual trustees' report and financial statements
The Director reported that a break even position had been achieved for the year with a turnover of £1.12m, although this would fall to under £800k in the current year. Financial reserves remained at £153k and a more stable financial future for the charity was now anticipated following the loss of the British Academy grant aid.

The annual trustee report and financial statements for 2014-15 were APPROVED.

4. Director's report on current and future activities
The Director reported on recent activities undertaken by the CBA and updated members on the overall funding situation for the charity.

The Director noted the importance of the CBA’s advocacy work at the present time, particularly in the light of further reductions to come in public sector spending. Archaeology across the UK relied on the planning system to protect much of the historic environment and the likely further reductions in the number of expert archaeology and conservation advisors was therefore a major concern. Cuts to local museums were also a concern, especially where this meant there was no archive facility available to store excavated archaeological material and present the results of research and new finds to the public.

The CBA continues to work with partners across the UK through the Archaeology Forum and the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group to promote the value of archaeology and the public benefit it delivers. The CBA’s Local Heritage Engagement Network is supporting local groups in their campaigns and advocacy, and this meshes well with the work of our listed building casework team in England and Wales standing up for the archaeology of our built heritage. Two new doctoral students at York University are researching public stewardship of
the archaeological heritage in a partnership between the CBA and the University of York, funded by the Arts & Humanities Research Council.

There was encouraging progress towards ratification of The Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, and the Culture Secretary had recently announced a new £3m initiative to support the training of archaeologists in Iraq, led by the British Museum.

The CBA continued to promote public participation in archaeology. The 2015 Festival of Archaeology had been a great success in reaching out to a large audience, and the CBA’s publications and excellent magazine continued to educate and entertain members and subscribers. The annual CBA members’ event had visited Orkney and had been a great success. It was hoped to visit the Isle of Man in September 2016, in partnership with Andante Travel. The number of branches of the CBA’s Young Archaeologists’ Club (YAC) continued to expand across the UK, and the CBA continued to develop plans to expand training and development opportunities for people of all ages. Additional funding had been received from the Headley Trust to expand the CBA’s training network across the UK. It was hoped to develop further options in conjunction with the Network of CBA Groups and partners.

The Director thanked everyone associated with the work of the CBA, particularly volunteers on the trustee board, in the Group Network, operating branches of YAC, and supporting advocacy to demonstrate that archaeology matters. He asked for continued support to ensure that the CBA could continue to speak out and campaign on behalf of the UK’s archaeological heritage.

5. Membership and subscription fee increase
A modest £2 fee increase on all membership and subscription rates from 1 April 2016 was APPROVED.

6. Appointment of trustees
The Director thanked Joe Flatman, Sian Jones and Jan Wills who were standing down as trustees for their service and support.

The re-election of Helen Maclagan, Emma Plunkett-Dillon and Jim Thomas was proposed. Four new trustees were proposed for election: Edward Bace, Marjoleine Butler, Lis Dyson and Tim Hedley-Jones.

As the number of candidates for election did not exceed the number of available places no ballot was required. The trustee appointments were CONFIRMED.

7. Appointment of Honorary Vice-Presidents & Members
The Director proposed the appointment of Dr Kate Pretty CBE (past President) and Mr George Lambrick (past Director) as new Honorary Vice-Presidents of the CBA. He also proposed the appointment of Mr Peter Olver (past Finance Director) as a new Honorary Member.

The appointments were CONFIRMED.

8. Appointment of auditors
The appointment of BHP Barron & Barron as auditors for the coming year was CONFIRMED.

9. Dates of future meetings
To be confirmed. Likely to be March and November 2016.

Dr Grenville thanked members for attending and closed the Meeting.