

PALESTINE EXPLORATION FUND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) 2026

Monday 29th June 2026

1. Minutes of the last AGM

The Minutes of the last AGM 12th June 2025, having been previously published on the PEF website, were taken as read, and there being no corrections, the Chairman proposed that the AGM accept them as a true record. The motion being carried, a hard copy of those Minutes was signed by the current Acting Chairman, Daniel Reynolds, to be kept on file at the PEF office.

2. Chairman's Report

The Chairman of the Fund, Daniel (Dan) Reynolds, welcomed members to the AGM. It was his first as fully elected Chairman.

It has been a busy year at the PEF as we continue with our plans to widen our reach and audience through the Open Doors Project. We have also continued our work on updating our archival records, progressing restoration work on parts of our collections, and supporting field research in the region, as well as publications from across the world. First and foremost, I would like to express my thanks to the PEF team—Felicity Cobbing, Ava Clark, and Valentina Prunas—for the energy and effort they put into maintaining the PEF as an important hub of research and community activity. This has been Valentina's first six-months in post, and I want to thank her for the enthusiasm and speed with which she has gotten to grips with the role.

Thank you also to all members of the Executive Committee, who contribute a great deal to the life of the PEF through their work on our collections, grants, publications, and the Open Doors Project. Finally, thank you to the many volunteers who gave their time this year to work on our collections. In particular, I would like to thank our former Chairman, Professor John MacDermot, who recently completed the archiving of the PEF's Office Archive – some 10,000 items - and has since moved to the British Museum. John has been a valued member of the PEF community—as an Executive Committee member, then Chairman, and latterly as a volunteer—and I want to thank him for his tireless championing of the work that we undertake. He will be much missed as a regular presence at our premises in Greenwich.

On a more sombre note, I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that our current President, Paul Collins, has stepped down from his post at the PEF. Unfortunately, the media furor surrounding the British Museum in recent months has made Paul's work with the PEF increasingly difficult. As a result, Paul tendered his resignation as President a few weeks ago, which Felicity Cobbing, Ray Bruce, and I accepted, albeit with regret.

I want to stress that this was an amicable decision and to express my thanks to Paul for his continued commitment to championing the work we undertake at the PEF, and for representing our work on the wider international stage. We will continue to work with Paul and the British Museum on future projects, including the Tell es-Sa'idiyeh publication. In addition, I have offered the PEF's expertise to the British Museum in its plans to create a new academic steering group to address issues of nomenclature and toponyms in its galleries.

While there has been some media speculation regarding the PEF's involvement in the removal of the word "Palestine" from the British Museum galleries, I would like to state clearly that such assumptions

are unfounded, and that no member of the PEF Executive Committee has been involved in the Museum's internal decision-making. In this regard, I have also written to the Palestinian Ambassador to the UK, Husam Zomlot, to clarify the PEF's position.

As you will read in Ray Bruce's report, this has been a busy year in terms of focusing on the rebranding of the PEF and the rebuilding of the website to make it better suited for contemporary users and audiences. Much of this work has centred on the redesign of our logo and the core messaging of the PEF. In particular, it was felt that our previous logo, featuring an explorer with a theodolite, was no longer appropriate due to its colonial subtext and its lack of representation of the diversity of Palestine's landscape, region, and history.

After much discussion, we have agreed on a new logo which we feel offers a more inviting and inclusive identity for the PEF. However, this was not solely a conversation about logos. The deliberations we have had as a committee have also allowed us to reflect deeply on the core values of the PEF and to consider where we want to be as a learned society in the coming years. I would like to thank everyone who contributed their views along the way.

The opportunity to review our current branding also extends to our wider ethical policies, including the ethical status of our financial investments. A recent review has highlighted that parts of our portfolio may be in breach of our internal ethical policies. As a result, we are presently engaged in a project to determine the extent to which our financial portfolios are invested in companies that may be in breach of international law through their involvement with the Israeli military in the Palestinian occupied territories (including Gaza and the West Bank), as well as the Occupied Golan.

In light of this, I have written to our investment managers to ascertain the degree of influence we hold over individual investment and divestment decisions within our portfolio, and to clarify our ability to request changes where necessary. I hope to be able to return to you shortly with further details.

I want to stress that this does not represent an effort by the PEF to divest from all companies that are based in, or do business with, Israel and the Israeli state. Rather, our efforts are focused on companies that may be in breach of international law through their presence in Palestinian occupied territories.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, as members, for your continued support and engagement with the PEF over the past year. Our strengths and successes are due, in no small part, to your ongoing support. Thank you.

I wish you all a very relaxing and productive summer.

Following this report there was a discussion between those members and Trustees present. Firstly, on the issue of the British Museum labelling and Dr. Paul Collins' resignation as our President, it was important that our thanks as an organisation to Dr. Collins for his work on our behalf be formally recorded in these Minutes. As it was highly unlikely that he would be in a position to resume his position, it was now important to think of a suitable candidate to replace him. Dan Reynolds was of the opinion that this person should be a well-known public figure with an interest in the area. He asked for members help in identifying such an individual.

Secondly, on the issue of the Board of Trustees' decision to seek to divest its investments from businesses implicated in the illegal occupation of Palestine and the Golan, and the ongoing assault by the IDF on Gaza. It was noted that at the time our switch from a property based financial model to an

investment portfolio model was made in 2018, upon the sale of our previous property in Marylebone, some care and attention had been paid to the issue of ethical investment, and that this re-evaluation, undoubtedly made more pressing by the ongoing situation in Israel and Palestine, was very much in line with the PEF's ongoing concern regarding ethics in all areas of its work and business dealings.

It was stressed that the divestment was not from all firms doing business with Israel, or Israeli firms *per se*, but with those involved in activities which broke international law, either through their business dealings in the occupied territories, or through the supply of information or products to the IDF.

It was also pointed out that the switch to more ethical investments could have a positive financial outcome for the PEF as the share price of those companies whose activities were suspect was more likely to suffer because of it. As the financial adviser who had worked on the PEF's portfolio had taken the trouble to identify more ethical choices, it was hoped that our investment firms could be persuaded to make the switch.

Finally, it was observed by both Trustees and the members present that with the increased scrutiny that would no doubt come as a result of the PEF's Open Doors project (more of which below), that aligning our investments policy with our ethical policy was prudent.

3. Hon. Secretary's Report

Ray Bruce extended his thanks to the CEO, Felicity Cobbing for providing the details for his report.

Board Appointments

There have been no additional board appointments throughout the year, subsequent to the election of three excellent new board members last June; Nir Arielli, Leila Sansour, and Dima Srouji. However, our Honorary Treasurer, Amy Hitchcock, is due to stand down at next year's AGM, and so we are on the lookout for someone to shadow her, and ultimately step into her shoes at the next AGM. A job description was circulated with the First Notices for this AGM. This is now a matter of some urgency, so we appreciate your help with this issue.

Staff Reviews.

These were all carried out satisfactorily in September/October.

Staff Activities

Valentina Prunas has completely taken over from Ivona as our Administrator, and also as Librarian and Reviews Editor from Elisabeth Sawerthal.

Felicity and Ava have been working together on the full range of PEF activities. Ava has been focussing on the management of the PEF's collections, coordinating the volunteers, developing the Museums accreditation process. Felicity has been overseeing these and other activities, including the CPF grant (more below), the database project, the joint CBRL-PEF BSAJ archive project, running our lecture programme, liaising with our auditors, insurance brokers and assisting with publications. Both assist with an increasing number of visitors and researchers, and are playing an important part in the ongoing Open Doors project.

With the Turkowski volume soon to be published, Penny Butler has stepped down as our copy editor. When this volume is published, we will begin the transfer to Edinburgh University Press for our Annuals Series publications, and the role will transfer to Dr Rebecca Darley, Associate Professor in Global History, University of Leeds.

Sam Ashdown continues to promote the PEF's activities on our social media platforms, which now also includes BlueSky @palexfund.bsky.social

Library

Regarding Jonathan's bequest, we are liaising with Dr. Mahmoud Hawari and his colleagues at the University of Bethlehem to arrange the transfer of a number of his books to the University. Hopefully, a number of books from Peter Parr's collections can be added to this donation as well.

In general, the library continues to grow, and there is a focus on expanding its holdings with titles concerned with ethics in archaeology and cultural heritage. There is also a focus on identifying and caring for the rare books in our collection.

We are always grateful for donations which help us make the most of our limited budget to expand our library's holdings.

Lectures

Many events were held at the PEF's premises in 2025 and 2026. Where possible, these talks are available to view at your leisure on -

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQUegUpcDcOAQN7ou8qto4A>

2025

19th June: Rethinking Preservation: Diversifying Engagement with the Middle East's Material Past. Mirjam Brusius, German Historical Institute, London.

4th September: Hold the Line: Byzantine Archaeology in Colonial Palestine, c.1800-1948. Daniel Reynolds, University of Birmingham.

6th November: The Ruins of Local Memory: Oral Histories at the archaeological site of Dira-Europos, Syria.

Jen Baird, Birkbeck College, University of London

4th December: How I Discovered the Middle East: A Jane Taylor Adventure Story
Jane Taylor, introduced by Bob Bewley.

2026

19th January: Witnessing Through Art: Exploring Palestinian Heritage within the Collection of the PEF. Artists working with the PEF's collections.

19th March: The Role of Animals at Medieval Islamic *Zughar* in the Bilad ash-Sham: preliminary zoological analyses.

Louise Martin & Marie Middleton, UCL, Konstantinos Politis, HSNS.

17th April: Developing Marine Capacities in Marine Cultural Heritage Management and Preservation. Georgia Andreou, University of Southampton & Julia Nikolaus, Ulster University.

21st May: Origins & Peculiarities of Early Urban Experiences in Palestine and Jordan: A View from Jericho & Batrawy,
Lorenzo Nigro, La Sapienza, University of Rome.

11th June: Syria's Cultural Heritage after Fourteen Years of Conflict: Loss, Resilience and Recovery. Hiba Alkhalaf, Birkbeck College, University of London.

Group visits.

As well as our regular lecture series, and making our collections available to researchers, the PEF welcomes larger groups of visitors by appointment for guided tours, and special events. In the past year, these have included the following:

- The T.E. Lawrence Society
- 321 Group
- Brigham Young University students
- Leo Baeck College, KCL.

Collections

The PEF's collections, archives and library continue to be accessed by numerous researchers, from people looking to learn more about their own heritage, to academics with extremely wide ranging and specific research enquiries.

Our staff take great pride in making the collections as accessible as possible, assisting our visitors not only making the material available but by suggesting possible new avenues of enquiry when this is relevant. This is only possible because of the depth and breadth of staff knowledge and experience.

Museums Accreditation

We have now successfully identified a Museums Accreditation 'Mentor', to help guide us through the complex and rigorous last stages of submitting an application. Our Mentor is to be Catriona Wilson, Head of Egyptian and Sudanese Archaeology Collections at the Petrie Museum. We are looking forward very much to working with Catriona on this important part of our long-term strategy. We have also appointed Jen Baird to be our Trustee who is the point of contact between the staff, mentor, and the Board of Trustees for the purposes of reporting.

Heritage Lottery Fund Archives Grant

We are looking to redesign the database project, and are constructing a funding bid in to achieve this. The archives, maps, plans, photographs and watercolours from the various surveys undertaken by the PEF have been selected as the material most suitable for a coherent funding project. This is a total of 10,000 items.

CBRL -PEF joint BSAJ Archive

Following the signing of the MOU last year, we have been working with our colleagues to devise a long-term strategy for our shared archival resource, namely the archive of the British School of archaeology at Jerusalem which is held in London at the PEF, in Jerusalem at the Kenyon Institute and in Amman at the CBRL Institute there. The aim is to make this jointly held and owned archive available to researchers in the most efficient and accessible way. Starting with the archive of the seminal Mamluk Jerusalem publication, we are planning several funding bids to tackle this material.

Volunteers

- Geoff Cosson (retired) Matthers Provenancing project part 2.
- Georgios Ghatzoflias (Birkbeck – BM) Library.
- John MacDermot (retired) 4 days per week – PEF Office Archive.
- Sam Ashdown (ex-Greenwich University) Social Media Officer.
- Ola Dajani (local) Yusif Cana'an archive – translation of folklore accounts.

- Ava Bogdanovic (University of Leeds – via Anne Caldwell). Garstang Photographs.
 - Alessandra Guadigneri (Birkbeck) archive reorganising.
 - Sophie Cummings (Duke University via AES) Photography of Ethnographic Collections.
 - Sehar Ahmed (Oxford University) digitising Tufnell photographic archive.
 - Karine Cajigas (Knox College via FIE) – re-sorting & digitising Tufnell photographic archive
 - Jillian Patterson (via AES – University of Wisconsin) Tufnell Photographs.
 - Harry Horn (UCL), Ethnographic collections photography and database
 - Leonardo Jones PEF watercolour collections.
 - Will Caldwell (via FIE - St John University) - Samaria Excavations photographic archive
 - Violet Taylor (via AES – Indiana University) – Tufnell Photographs
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- Maddie Amme (via AES – Duke University) Elizabeth Murray Archive
 - Kylie Ehren (via AES – Clemson University) Video Editing, Archaeological Database updating, Garstang Photographic database
 - Erden Gungor (SOAS) Samaria Excavations photographic archive.

Open Doors Project

Educating the Public is in the very DNA of the PEF. The driver of the Open Doors Project is to deliver wider awareness and access to the PEF, its work and its collection to engage with new audiences and help secure a sustainable future.

For 13 months, the PEF has undertaken a major rebrand and website development work with an independent creative company, Ark by Design, who specialise in strategic branding, graphic design and digital communications, helping us with marketing and design solutions to open new doors. We are happy to report that the collaboration has been very successful for both sides.

We have engaged in lengthy discussions on how we present ourselves, improve accessibility, reach wider audiences and build stronger foundations for future fundraising, educational work and digital access to the collections.

A talented Open Doors sub-committee has been at work, ably supported by our trustees and others, identifying and researching challenges and possibilities. We have been fortunate in that two sub-committee members have extensive experience in marketing fields which has helped enormously in educating those of us not familiar with this territory. Ark's enthusiasm and genuine engagement with us has also been key to progressing the project.

The PEF's Strengths and weaknesses for new branding have been identified. Findings demonstrate a clear opportunity to reposition the PEF as an open, welcoming and trusted organization that can make knowledge accessible to new audiences to better understand Palestine's history and its stories held in our unique, 150-year-old archive.

Our focus has been to clarify the role of the PEF, positioning ourselves as a heritage and research centre, a welcoming hub for education and engagement. During the process, Ark has developed draft purpose, mission and vision statements to guide the future direction of the brand. The proposed messaging focuses on exploration, preservation, openness and trust.

Following the brand work, attention is now focused on the much-needed redevelopment of the website. The existing site serves the interest of a mainly academic audience but is not easy for a wider audience

to navigate. The new site will focus on functionality and future growth with clearer navigation making information significantly more accessible to existing audiences and new users.

It has been an invaluable journey thus far, re-positioning the PEF for new possibilities. I want to thank all who have committed time and effort in making it happen. We look forward in the not-too-distant future to share with our members the fruits of our labours.

Ray Bruce, Richard Rizzo Hills, Nikki Elvin

Dan Reynolds thanked Ray Bruce, and the other members of the Open Doors subcommittee for their reports.

A discussion took place regarding several aspects of the Honorary Secretary's report.

Museum Accreditation: It was asked why this was necessary for the PEF which was primarily a research organisation. The answer was that Museum Accreditation opened up many grant application opportunities which were currently closed to it. It was also helpful for its outreach endeavours, and enshrined a level of protection for its collections should the PEF as an institution be disbanded for whatever reason.

Discussion regarding the Open Doors Project: It was asked how the success of the project would be measured. The different aspects of the project would each need to be measured separately - for example, how many schools would purchase the planned education aids, and so on. The Open Doors Subcommittee would employ various metrics to monitor and measure the success of the different aspects of the project as a whole. It was noted that the point of the question was about ensuring that the effort and resources which were invested in the project were properly evaluated. The PEF Trustees would agree which metrics would be employed.

It was asked if the PEF had been in touch with the EES regarding their very successful education packages. It was confirmed that the PEF was in regular touch with the EES.

Dan Reynolds noted that the PEF's area was not as well supported in the National Curriculum as that of the EES, so we would need to be creative about the products which were produced.

The first step in the process would be the development of the new website by ArkByDesign. It was asked when the new branding and website would be in place. It was hoped that the structure and design of the new website would be finalised by this September, and that it would be up and running in the spring of 2027. A question regarding the maintenance of the website was asked. It was recognised that there was a need to build the PEF's human resources, including those devoted to website and social media. It was anticipated that the new website would be considerably easier to update, and would help streamline other activities, such as taking payments for services and products, and making donations.

4. Hon. Treasurer's Report

Amy Hitchcock

Amy sent her apologies as she was unable to attend due to a last-minute work commitment.

The PEF has continued to navigate another challenging financial year with unpredictable markets, rising costs and less available income, largely caused by various worldwide events. The team are continually reviewing costs and savings, whilst being realistic about what is achievable and what is essential, and ensuring spend is in line with the charities aim and mission. I'm sure you'll agree it's a lot to factor in and the team are managing these conflicting interests and necessities well.

There have been several strategic decisions made in the year; for example, to update both the PEF's branding and website; also to ensure staff are able to attend lectures and conferences so that PEF has a presence at events. Although these decisions have caused higher costs, these are ways to hopefully 'open doors' to future funding and opportunities- particularly around receiving grants and moving more into the world of education. This does, however, mean that there is a higher reported deficit in the 2025

accounts than in 2024. We expect these costs to continue to be high into 2026, particularly as the Open Doors project is finalised.

It has been agreed that there will be a review of the current investment manager set up this coming year. This is to be done on a five-yearly basis, to ensure PEF is getting the best value for money and outturn from the investment portfolio. An ethics review is also currently taking place to ensure all the investments chosen by the investment manager are in line with the PEF's ethical standards.

This has been the first year of Valentina working on the PEF finances without Ivona. Valentina is doing exceptionally well and has worked hard to pick everything up quickly, provide all the financial information needed and deal with auditors. I'd like to extend a massive thank you for all her hard work this past year.

A thank you also to all the PEF staff and volunteers who have been working tirelessly to keep the PEF alive in an ever-restricting financial environment.

Dan Reynolds thanked Amy Hitchcock for her excellent work as Honorary Treasurer. He noted that there had been considerable delays with the audit this year, resulting from a merger of our auditors with a new firm, Carpenter Box. None of the issues were the PEF's fault. The issues had resulted in a great deal of uncertainty for PEF staff trying to plan for the AGM, which was subsequently delayed this year. . We were expecting a meeting soon with the Auditors to discuss this situation and would be monitoring their performance at the next audit very closely. He also noted that this was Amy's last year in the post, and the PEF was anxious to appoint a shadow Honorary Treasurer to work alongside her and take over the position at the next AGM. He welcomed suggestions from the membership. A background in accounting was essential, and interest in the area was, whilst welcome, less essential. Charitable accounting was somewhat different from business accounting, and this involved ensuring the PEF's financial records were in line with the requirements of the Charities Commission in the form of an annual audit or financial report. This was an undertaking which was shared by the Honorary Treasurer and the PEF's staff, in particular the Administrator (Valentina Prunas) and the CEO (Felicity Cobbing). The PEF Trustees would also be looking to tap into the online portals, such as the Honorary Treasurer's Forum, to attract suitable candidates.

5. Hon. Editor's Report on the Palestine Exploration Quarterly

Charlotte Whiting

PEQ was published by Taylor and Francis in 2024/5 with Charlotte Whiting as Editor. Claire Ruben assisted with copy editing and Elisabeth Sawerthal was the Reviews Editor until October 2025 when she resigned from the role. Valentina Prunas took over as Reviews Editor from October 2025. Each of the issues of *PEQ* 157 in June, September and December 2025 and *PEQ* 158 in March 2026 were published online and in print as scheduled.

Twelve articles of high quality and wide interest were published in *PEQ* issues 157.2-4 in 2025 and 158.1 in 2026, as well as three book reviews and one acknowledgement of books received by the PEF library with the help of the Reviews Editors. One grant report outlining research conducted by PEF's grant recipients and two editorials, announcing the 2025 and 2026 winners of the Davies Prize, were also published.

PEQ was achieved 47,319 downloads in 2025, which shows a 75% increase in readership growth compared to the number of downloads in 2024 (27,169). The number of articles submitted remained stable, with most coming from the US, the United Kingdom and Israel.

In terms of citation metrics, *PEQ* received a 2.1 Citescore (Scopus) - up from 1.4 in the previous year and 0.8 before that – as well as an Impact Factor of 0.8, placing it in the top 100 of journals in the archaeology subject category.

Regarding alternative metrics, *PEQ* was mentioned 154 times in 2025, which includes mentions on social media, podcast and blogs, as well as in the news.

Dan Reynolds thanked Charlotte Whiting for her work as Editor of *PEQ*. He noted that the commitment to publish more scholars from Arab speaking countries, and in particular from Palestine, was beginning to bear fruit. This took considerable mentoring expertise to achieve effectively, but was essential for the PEF to correct an historical imbalance in representation in its publication record. He also noted that members had received an newsletter concerning missing issues of *PEQ*. Any members who had not received recent issues of the *PEQ* should contact the Administrator, Valentina Prunas, at admin@pef.org.uk. She would then be in touch with our publishers, T&F to hopefully resolve the problem.

6. Hon. Chair of Publications Report

Daniel Reynolds

Peasant Agriculture in the Jerusalem Hills

I am pleased to announce that the latest in the PEF Annuals series is due to be published later this summer. *Peasant Agriculture in the Jerusalem Hills*, edited by Carol Palmer, is a landmark achievement, bringing to publication Lucjan Turkowski's account of peasant life in 1940s British Mandate Palestine. This represents the culmination of many years of collaboration between the PEF and the Council for British Research in the Levant, and its publication will be marked by a special launch event to be held in London in October. Further details about the event will be circulated in due course. Details of the book may be found here:

<https://www.routledge.com/Peasant-Agriculture-in-the-Jerusalem-Hills/Palmer/p/book/9781041320982>

New Publisher for the PEF Annuals Series

After many successful years of working with Routledge, we have decided to move the publication of our annuals to the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies section of Edinburgh University Press. This is a new venture designed to broaden the appeal and awareness of the PEF Annuals series and will also include digital versions of our works.

Daniel Reynolds wished to thank his predecessors in the post of Publications Chair for their tireless efforts in getting this volume ready for publication. His thanks were extended also to Penny Butler, who had copy edited the volume, Felicity Cobbing, who had worked to coordinate the efforts, and the Trustees at CBRL, in particular Bob Bewley, who had provided the volume's editor, Carol Palmer, with a working schedule and framework to enable her to successfully complete the project after 28 years. The launch event was being planned jointly between the PEF and CBRL for the 23rd October this year, and would be held at the University of Notre Dame's Strand Campus.

7. Hon. Chair of Grants Committee Report

Jen Baird

General Matters and Membership

Jen Baird continued as chair. The committee is made up of Dan Reynolds, Zeina Klink-Hoppe, as well as Ava Clark and Felicity Cobbing.

PEF Grants

The budget remains reduced this year at £4,7525 due to financial pressures on the PEF. Consequently, some difficult choices have been made to maximise the benefit of the PEF grants. The level of competition

increased again this year, and we received 14 applications. Decisions were made on the basis of our published criteria, which we will be revising again for clarity as we continue to receive requests for PhD funding which are not eligible.

The grants made this year were:

- Loay Abu Alsaud, An-Najah University Nablus, *Documenting Christian Heritage in Nablus: Digitalization of Manuscripts and Archival Materials*, £2,000.
- Nicole Khayat, Tel Aviv University, *Moving Objects: Levantine Antiquities, Dealers, and the West (1870-1940)*, £2000
- Diek Halbertsma, University of Leiden, *Picking up the Threads: Final Excavation and Conservation of a Late Bronze Age Pillared Building at Tall Dayr 'Alla* £725 (partial support)

Grants will reopen in December 2026.

2025 PEF/Albright Institute Fellowship

This is on a pause at the moment because of various factors as communicated at the September 2025 board meeting, which we will be revisiting in the near future.

Routledge/Philip Davies Award

This award, which is funded by our publishers T&F (Routledge) was established to honour the contribution to scholarship and scholarly publication, of our Chairman, Philip R. Davies, who died suddenly in 2018. The award in its current format has had very slow uptake in recent years, because of the wait time between submission and publication in PEQ. A new model has been agreed with T&F that early career scholars who wish their submissions to PEQ to be considered for this award, should indicate so at the time their article is submitted to the journal. The winner for 2025 was Haggai Olshanetsky with the article “The Identity of the Leaders of the Second Jewish Revolt and Bar Koseba’s True Role in the Insurrection.” Which was published in PEQ175.4

HLF and other applications

We are continuing to think carefully about how the research grants subcommittee’s work relates to other aspects of the PEF’s work, including programming research events and collaborations for the coming year, and supporting the work of digitising documentary collections at the PEF, trying to ‘open doors’.

Daniel Reynolds thanked Jen Baird for her report, and for the work she and the Grants Subcommittee put into ensuring the PEF’s grant resources were well spent.

8. Adoption of the audited report and accounts

Ray Bruce reported that there had also been approval in the returned postal ballots for the 2025 Report and Accounts.

Dan Reynolds referred the members to the Annual Report and Accounts for 2025, copies of which had been sent by email to the membership in advance of the meeting. This document was also available for consultation in the PEF office.

The members present Approved the Report and Accounts for 2025.

9. Appointment of Auditors for June 2026 - June 2027

Ray Bruce reported the results of the postal ballot which were in favour of reappointing our Auditors, Carpenter Box (formerly Hartley Fowler Llp) for the forthcoming year.

Dan Reynolds proposed the appointment of Carpenter Box for the year June 2025 – June 2026.

The proposal was Approved by the membership.

Dan Reynolds stressed that the PEF would be lobbying for a discount to offset the considerable inconvenience it had incurred as a result of the auditor's troubles with this years audit, and the PEF would be monitoring their performance at next year's audit closely.

10. Subscribers' Questions and Answers (questions submitted via email prior to the meeting)

No additional questions had been submitted by email prior to the meeting.

11. Any other business

Dan Reynolds asked if any of the members present had questions they wished to raise.

He thanked the PEF Officers and all Board members for their essential input during the course of the year. He also thanked the PEF staff, particularly Felicity Cobbing, for her excellent work in the preparation of the paperwork for the AGM.

12. Date of 2027 AGM

This would be decided and announced to the membership closer to the time.