

MINUTES AND FINANCES

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lithic Studies Society held on Friday 6 November 2015 at 12 noon at Franks House, 38–56 Orsman Road, London, N1 5QJ**

**Present:** Olaf Bayer (**OB**), Claire Harris (**CH**), Robert Banbury (**RB**), Rob Davis (**RD**), Ella Egberts (**EE**), Josie Mills (**JM**), Sam Griffiths (**SG**), Tabitha Paterson (**TP**), Francis Wenban-Smith (**FW-S**), Hazel Martingell (**HM**), J. Edwin Jarvis (**JEJ**), Rebecca Devaney (**ReD**), Frank Beresford (**FB**), Jacky Sommerville (**JS**), Geoff Halliwell (**GH**), Ivana Jovanovic (**IJ**), Christopher Taylor (**CT**), Richard Wilson (**RW**), Paul Whitcombe (**PW**)

1. **Apologies:** Alan Saville (**AS**), Wei Chu (**WC**), Laura Basell (**LB**), Terry Manby (**TM**), Peter Hoare (**PH**), Paul Preston (**PP**), Kate Davenport-Mackey (**KD-M**), Hannah Fluck (**HF**)
2. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** unanimously approved.
3. **Matters arising:** none.
4. **Chair's report for the year 2014–15:**

- Events in 2014–2015 began with a lecture series at Franks House focused on the prehistory of the English Channel.

- Following this a conference was held in Reading exploring experimental archaeology in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic. This event attracted 50 attendees (a full house), with a mix of academics, non-academics, specialists and students. The format was based on lectures in the morning and discussion groups in the afternoon. There will be a report on the conference in the next issue of *Lithics*.

- The knapping weekend held at Butser was very successful, thanks to **RB** for stepping in to organise the event. It was particularly well planned leaving enough flint raw material for next year's event, which will take place on 6–7 August 2016. A focus for the future of this event is to publicise it earlier in order to get more attendees.

- A Lithic Illustration workshop was organised by **CH** and taught by Craig Williams at Franks House, this was well attended and will be offered again in 2016.

- The Wymer Bursary was awarded respectively to Seosaimhin Bradley for work on new techniques for flint raw material sourcing and also to Katie Davenport-Mackey who is running a capacity building volunteer project in the Peak District looking at multi-period lithic assemblages. Additionally, three small grants were given to support student posters at the ESHE 2015 conference held in London. This money went towards travel cost and printing, and will be reported on in *Lithics*.

- The Jacobi *festschrift* was published in 2015, edited by **CH** and Nick Ashton, and has sold enough copies to supply five years' worth of bursaries for the Society in the

form of the Jacobi Bursary. We still have copies for sale, these are being publicised through our normal email lists and will be advertised on the website.

#### 5. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2015–16:**

Several longstanding committee members have come to the end of their terms of office this year:

- **LB** is standing down as vice chair (formerly chair);
- **HF** is standing down as joint events secretary;
- **DU** is standing down as web officer;
- **Lynden Cooper** has had to stand down as deputy editor.

The committee would like to thank all of the outgoing committee members for the hard work they have put into the Society.

- Due to personal circumstances Molly Pearce has been unable to carry out the role of secretary over the last year; the committee therefore agreed to co-opt **JM** as acting secretary.

#### 6. **Committee Elections:**

- a) **Dr Claire Harris**, standing for vice chair, proposed by **OB** and seconded by **LB** – unanimously approved.
- b) **Sam Griffiths**, standing for web officer, proposed by **DU** and seconded by **OB** – unanimously approved.
- c) **Tabitha Paterson**, standing as events secretary, proposed by **CH** and seconded by **RD** – unanimously approved.
- d) **Dr Peter Hoare**, standing as an ordinary member/ deputy editor of *Lithics*, proposed by **WC** and seconded by **CH** – unanimously approved.
- e) **Katie Davenport-Mackey** – standing for ordinary member, proposed by **OB** and seconded by **RB** – unanimously approved.
- f) **Seosaimhin Bradley** – standing as an ordinary member, proposed by **OB** and seconded by **RD** – unanimously approved.
- g) **Dr Paul Preston** – standing as an ordinary member, proposed by **LB** and seconded by **OB** – unanimously approved.

#### 7. **Treasurer's report for the year 2014–15:**

- We currently have 406 members, 14 institutional members and 124 suspended members. Suspended members are those whose subscriptions are more than three years behind and will therefore not receive a copy of *Lithics 36*.

- 26 new members have joined and four members have retired.

- Currently 120 pay via PayPal, 220 by standing order and 66 send a cheque to Franks House.
  - PayPal members need to ensure that there is enough money in their account on 1 October when payment is taken out.
  - On top of the 124 suspended members a significant number of people are currently in arrears but have not yet reached the three-year cut-off point. At this stage there is no formalised reminder process prior to this time; however, the committee has decided to send a reminder email, or letter where appropriate, with the annual AGM notification.
  - It was agreed that this is a priority and we will also perform a yearly audit for arrears. In future years notification of membership status will be included in the AGM mail out.
  - **RD** reported that the Society has made an overall loss of £1289.28; however, we had the publication of the Jacobi *festschrift*, which we are likely to make further profit from. Removing the publication from the equation we made just under £500 loss for this year, which is concurrent with previous years. Additionally, we will not need to buy any more raw materials for the Butser weekend in 2016. Overall the account is healthy and we have scope in the next year to be imaginative about possible new events that we want to put on.
  - At this time we have accrued £1200 profit from the *festschrift*, which has been ring-fenced for the new Jacobi bursary.
  - The committee agreed that focus needs to be put on increasing attendance for events by announcing them earlier and higher publicity levels.
8. **Secretary's report for the year 2014-15:**
- Due to absence of Molly Pearce we do not have a report this year.
9. **Editor's report and publications for the year 2014-15:**
- *Lithics* 36 is underway with four research articles and three letters/notes. One author is already in the proofreading stage. We are still awaiting the Wymer reports. The volume will be completed by **WC** in December 2015 and circulated early in the New Year.
  - We are making an online website to view *Lithics*. There will be a one-year pay wall with the most recent edition for members only. The back catalogue will remain freely available. Additionally, we will be adding DOIs to new articles, making them much easier to search for and find online.
  - We have decided to continue self-publishing *Lithics* and will make a renewed effort to sustain and promote the journal whilst maintaining and expanding our readership.

- **SG** will organise PDFs of back issues for members only and facilitate putting the 'Great Prehistorians' issue online. This will counter any current problems members have with access.

#### 10. **Events programme for 2015–2016:**

- We are sponsoring a conference in Manchester called 'Immersed in Lithics', which will take place in February 2016.
- Butser knapping weekend will run again in 2016 on 6–7 August. There was a suggestion that attendees pay a deposit for this event to secure their commitment. We will make sure that this happens in future years. Additionally, **RW** noted that advertising the weekend with 'limited places' may reduce the number of applicants, therefore we perhaps need to think about how we promote the event itself.
- The Society will hold a day conference themed around 'Lithics and Landscape' in 2016. The conference will be held in Oxford on a Sunday in May/June with the date and venue to be confirmed. The day will be themed around lithics in the landscape and our priority is to encourage participants from all sectors of archaeology. **OB** will confirm a date and venue and the committee will begin the organisation process by the end of 2015.
- The illustration workshop will be organised again by **CH** at Franks House.
- Overall our aim is to promote events early across many different platforms in order to maximise attendance and make sure that everybody is aware of what is going on.

#### 11. **Website news:**

- Our web host has switched to a new server and no longer allows real-time updating of content. **SG** is going to switch hosts to a different provider; as soon as this is done he will move the new site (created by **DU**) over to this server and it will be up and running.
- An additional aim of this new website platform will be to allow committee members to update their own committee pages and create personal blurbs.
- Putting together the back catalogues of *Lithics* will take some time; however, **SG** will begin to collect them, additionally the new website will make it easier to find them through Google.

#### 12. **Any other business:**

- The committee recognised concerns held over content posted on our Facebook page, this led to a discussion about how to manage current issues, such as legal implications of surface collections made in the USA and the promotion of artefacts that may have been excavated/collected without permission. The decision was made to develop guidelines within the Society based on brief policies with clear objectives to put both on the Facebook page and the website. Additionally, both committee and general

members will regularly moderate the page in line with these guidelines; **ReD** has agreed to begin this admin process.

- The other option discussed was to change the Facebook into a publicity group rather than a public forum; however, we agreed that the page provides a positive discourse between academics and non-academics internationally therefore we have decided that it will remain in this style.

13. **Date of next meeting:** – Friday 4 November 2016 at Franks House.