

## LETTERS AND NOTES

### BUTZER KNAPPING WEEKEND 2013

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Once again, the Lithics Studies Society returned to Butser Ancient Farm near Petersfield, Hampshire for a weekend of flint knapping and associated activities. John and Val Lord brought us some fine Norfolk flint and gave us the benefit of their considerable knowledge. This year there was an increased interest in hafting the products of the knapping session, and John and Val helped a number of people to turn their knapped points into arrows and spears. One LSS member focused her attention on hafting an axe with rawhide and tried working yew with the result, while another made a bow to go with the arrows (Figure 1). On Saturday evening there was some fun trying out the bow, and also throwing short spears with a spear thrower.



*Figure 1. John Lord hafting an arrowhead (photo courtesy of Rob Banbury)*

There was a huge amount of public interest and several members kindly gave their time to help some very enthusiastic children (and adults) try to knap (Figure 2). We also had a small display where LSS members showed the results of their knapping efforts for the public to see. Val and John brought a collection of material and photographs from the Middle Palaeolithic site of Lynford quarry in Norfolk for people to look at and handle, allowing them to compare our efforts with the genuine article.



*Figure 2. Public area of the Butser knapping event (photo courtesy of Rob Banbury)*

Knappers also had a chance to participate in an experiment assessing handaxes and Levallois cores made by novice and experienced knappers. These had been made from porcelain slabs and this novel raw material prompted a number of knappers to try it out.

Saturday evening saw the usual BBQ and enjoyment of the quiet of the site once all the visitors had gone. Unfortunately meteor spotting was somewhat hampered by a cloudy sky, but we retired to the large roundhouse to enjoy the fire. Some slept in the roundhouse, while others opted for the more modern Roman villa for the night or camped.

We are extremely grateful to Butser Ancient Farm for hosting the weekend and we plan to return next year when we might include a bit more hafting and possibly a round of palaeo-games....

*Hannah Fluck, Hampshire County Council.*