

MINUTES AND FINANCES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lithic Studies Society held on Friday 7th November 2013 at 12pm at Franks House, 38-56 Orsman Road, London, N1 5QJ

Present:

Laura Basell (**LB**), Olaf Bayer (**OB**), Rob Banbury (**RB**), Claire Harris (**CH**), Molly Pearce (**MP**), Rob Davis (**RD**), Ella Egberts (**EE**), Francis Wenban-Smith (**FW-S**), Frank Banford (**FB**), Paul Whitcome, Jacky Sommerville, Hazel Martingell (**HM**), J. Edwin Jarvis (**JEJ**)

1) **Apologies:** Andy Shaw (**AS**), Beccy Scott (**BS**), Wei Chu (**WC**), Dave Underhill (**DU**), Hannah Fluck (**HF**), Sam Griffiths (**SG**), James Cole (**JC**)

2) **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** Unanimously accepted as correct

3) **Matters Arising:** None

4) **Chair's Report:**

- It's been a hectic year with lots of activity. There have been 4 committee meetings, both within and outside of London. Attendance at committee meetings has greatly improved this year, with only 1 meeting where decisions couldn't be made due to the meeting not being quorate.

- The planned conference had to be cancelled due to organisers getting new jobs at the last minute. **LB** and the committee apologise for any inconvenience or disappointment caused. However, a new conference is in the works for next year in collaboration with Reading University.

- The committee is aware of the competing journals that have surfaced and is working hard to do something about the problems they pose.

- The society has received a number of requests from students for knappers to help with their research. Although the first several of these were emailed to the membership, the society is conscious of not bombarding the membership with such emails. **LB** suggests that instead an area of the website and a section of *Lithics* be set up with the purpose of advertising those members willing to knap for students. **LB** to discuss this with **DU**, **SG** and **WC**.

- There have been some enquiries about how members can book events if they don't have access to email. All events can be booked via post to the Franks House address (advertised in *Lithics* and on the website), as long as this is done far enough in advance and a phone number is included for the purpose of confirmation.

- This year, LSS has been represented at lots of different society meetings and conferences within and outside of the UK. We currently have lots of international society members, so it is important and worthwhile to keep this international representation of LSS up wherever possible.

- Butser went ahead as usual this year, although difficult weather conditions meant that the second day was effectively cancelled. The society is in the process of sorting out refunds for those who attended. Thanks to **OB** for stepping in and helping to organise this event.

- **LB** will be stepping down as chair this year, in line with the new constitution. Over the next year the society will be looking for someone to become Vice Chair and then Chair. If anyone is interested, please get in touch with **OB**, **LB** or **MP**, who will be more than happy to help.

- **AS** will be stepping down as Treasurer this year. **LB** and the committee would like to offer sincere thanks to **AS** for his hard work, and also to **BS** (who's final *Lithics* as editor came out this year). A small gift has been purchased to thank them.

- **JC** will be standing down as an ordinary committee member this year. **LB** and the committee would like to thank him for his contribution to the society.

5) **Treasurer's Report:**

-Accounts will be published in *Lithics*.

- Only 1 Wymer payment was made out of the two awarded this year as Peter Reavill is out of action. The money will be kept for when he is ready.

- Quite a lot of membership payments have lapsed recently. **AS** has been chasing these up, but can all members please make sure they are paid up to date.
- **AS** is happy to work closely with the new Treasurer to facilitate a smooth changeover.

6) **Editor's Report:**

- **BS** sends her apologies for the errata in the last issue of *Lithics*, corrections have been emailed to members and will also be sent out with the next issue of *Lithics*.
- 13 articles have been submitted for this year's *Lithics*, with proofs sent for authors' approval, ready for press at the start of December.

7) **Secretary's Report:**

- It's been a busy year with membership details being updated and the move to primarily online communication to the membership. This change should save the society a huge amount of money and time, as well as helping us be a little greener. However, do rest assured that, as long as you have notified **MP**, those who would prefer to receive paper mailings will still do so.

8) **Webmaster's Report:**

- Everyone is very busy and, as such, only 2 members being able to update website content has proved an issue.
- The committee has discussed a revamp of the webpage to enable us to compete with the up-and-coming journals (see Point 4), as well as to enable the whole committee to post updates.
- **LB** welcomes suggestions, advice and information from members re: webpage revamp.

9) **Publicity Report:**

- More membership leaflets have been printed and sent out to a variety of conferences. If any members would like leaflets to hand out, please get in touch with **RB**.
- The banner has been taken to various events and is always well received.
- Please do make sure that your emails are up to date, there are always 20-30 addresses rejected.
- The ATC Symposium was postponed this year but will hopefully go ahead next year.
- **RB** is looking into badges and other merchandise, just need to sort out cost. Nice, tasteful badges have been found at £3-4 each initially, with a reduced price subsequently.

10) **Events Report:**

- There have been 2 Franks House Research Group meetings held over the past year, one in February focussing on cognition and another in September with talks on Lower Palaeolithic Britain and digital refits. **CH** is aiming to run several more Research Group meetings over the coming year.
- The Illustration workshop with Craig Williams from the British Museum was run again this year following demand for the last one, although there was a surprisingly low uptake – this may have been due to a clash with university exams, however. **CH** is happy to put this workshop on again if there is enough interest. **HM** stresses her belief that the society needs to continue with workshops such as this to emphasise the importance of lithic illustration.
- **CH** will help Rob Hosfield with the society's joint conference with Reading University in 2015. The Society will also be heavily involved in the 2015 London ESHE conference and will have some involvement in the Experimental Archaeology Conference coming up in Dublin.
- **CH** and Nick Ashton have been editing a book in honour of Roger Jacobi, using money from the Society as well as from AHOB. It is being published as a *Lithics* occasional paper with LSS and AHOB logos and the profits will be used to create a Jacobi bursary as a memorial for Roger, honouring his encouragement of new research. This will help to raise the society's profile, also.
- Butser went ahead again this year, with around 15 participants. Although the Sunday was rained off, the Saturday was very successful. Refunds are being sorted out for those participants who missed out on the second day due to the unfortunate weather.

11) **Wymer Bursary:**

- There were a huge number of applications this year, resulting in discussion by the committee to split into multiple awards focussed on different research areas, allowing more people to be helped. 2 awards of £250 were granted this year.
- Applications with clear and specific research aims involving lithics are favoured.
- **LB** proposes that the committee discuss and decide upon such a split, with the permission of the membership. Seconded by **OB**. Unanimously in favour.

12) **Competing Journals:**

- The committee is aware of up-and-coming journals that are very similar to *Lithics* and is working hard to make sure that *Lithics* holds its ground.
- The committee has discussed the merger proposed by *Lithic Technology*, but decided against due to the poor quality of the publication.

13) **Conference:**

- A conference is to be held at Reading University on 28/03/2015, in collaboration with Rob Hosfield and the university.
- A combination of papers and workshops.
- Fee: £20, or £10 for students/unemployed.
- Deadline for abstracts: 21/01/2015.
- Deadline for attendance: 01/03/2015.

14) **Terminology Working Group:**

- **FW-S** is setting up a lithic technology terminology working group and would like to act as representative of the Society.
- English Heritage currently controls the archaeology terms to be used but the terminology is very poor with regard to lithics. **FW-S**'s project, awaiting approval, aims to rectify this.
- The Forum on Information and Standards in Heritage is willing to let **FW-S** collaborate with all stakeholders and produce a list of appropriate terms.
- **CH** and Nick Ashton will represent the British Museum.
- **LB** has received an email from English Heritage about an Archaeology Reference Resources Project – potential overlap here will need to be considered.
- **OB** emphasises the important of including terminology about the types of sites represented by lithics.
- Any members wishing to offer suggestions and contributions should get in touch with **FW-S**.

15) **Election of New Committee Members/Officers:**

- Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Rob Davis proposed by **LB**, seconded by **OB**. Unanimously in favour.
- Ordinary Member: Ella Egberts proposed by **LB**, seconded by **RB**. Unanimously in favour.

16) **Any Other Business:**

- **FW-S** notes that it should state 'Franks House' on AGM Agenda, not 'Frank's House'. **MP** to change this.
- **HM** raises the issue that many museums are not currently accepting new collections, leaving collectors in a difficult position. **LB** points out that this relates to a working group that the society set up last year but which had to be put on hold, suggests that perhaps collectors should approach universities. **CH** agrees that not much can be done other than encouraging collectors to register finds with the Portable Antiquities Scheme and their HERs, also notes that the changes in the school curriculum might mean that they would accept teaching collections. **JEJ** notes that many collectors worry about what will happen to collections after they die. **FB** suggests that collections are passed down to younger researchers, but **OB** notes that this is only a temporary solution. **CH** notes that often artefacts shouldn't be collected unless the collector is willing to do the necessary curating, recording and archiving.

17) **Date of the Next Meeting:** Friday 6th November, noon, Franks House, London.