

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lithic Studies Society
held on Friday 4th November 2011 at 12.00 pm at
Franks House, 38-56 Orsman Road, London N1 5QJ**

1. Present

Cate Frieman, Diana Coles, Francis Wenban-Smith, Frank Beresford, Geoff Halliwell, Hazel Martingell, Hugo Anderson-Whymark, J Edwin Jarvis, John Venables, Lesley Blundell, Martina Delany, Peter Allen, Richard Wilson, Robert Banbury, Rosemary Stewart, Wei Chu, Yvonne Atkinson and Barry Bishop

2. Apologies

Alan Forno, Alan Saville, Andy Shaw, Beccy Scott, Caroline Wickham-Jones, Chaz Czastka, Claire Fisher, Clive J Bond, Dave Underhill-Stocks, David Walters, Hannah Fluck, James Cole, Kate Cramp, Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, Lynne Bevan, Matt Pope, Nick Ashton and Rebecca Devaney

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 5th November 2010 at Franks House, Orsman Road, London, were circulated and approved by the AGM.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising were raised

5. Chair's Report

The Chair, Hugo Anderson-Whymark, noted that the committee is rather down on numbers at this meeting. This is due to good news that Hannah (Seth) and Beccy and Andy (Freya) have recently taken maternity leave. He extended congratulations to all, and will look forward to meeting the babies at forthcoming events! Matt Pope and Dave Underhill were also unable to attend but have sent reports to be read at this meeting. Overall, 2011 has been a fairly steady year for the Society. There has been a slight increase in membership, up by 34 overall to 330 individuals and 17 institutions. This is encouraging after the drop in numbers last year resulting from suspension of individuals in arrears.

In terms of meetings, the CAHO conference in Southampton, which we sponsored, was a great success and a good number of LSS members took advantage of the discounted rate. The knapping event at Butser Ancient Farm was also well attended, and the Chair thanked Francis for stepping in and running the event. There were no site visits this year largely because of a shortage of excavations due to the economic downturn. There will be a number of interesting prehistoric research excavations in the next year that we are hoping to be able to visit. If anyone has any ideas for events, please contact Wei Chu or the Chair who are stepping in while Hannah is on maternity leave. The Society is also looking for someone to take on this post next year; please contact the committee if you are interested.

The Chair also thanked the Editors for their efforts on *Lithics*. *Lithics* 31 was a bumper issue including papers from the Past Lives from Cold Stone conference – thanks are also due to Cate, Matt and Barry who edited that special section.

6. Election of Officers and Committee

The posts of three Ordinary Committee Members had become vacant:

Robert Banbury was nominated by J Edwin Jarvis, seconded by Richard Wilson and duly elected by the meeting as Ordinary Committee Member.

James Cole was nominated by Francis Wenban-Smith, seconded by Hugo Anderson-Whymark and duly elected by the meeting as Ordinary Committee Member.

Lynne Bevan was nominated by Cate Frieman, seconded by Hazel Martingell and duly elected by the meeting as Ordinary Committee Member.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Andy Shaw, could not be present but submitted a report that was read to the meeting by the Chair. The full accounts for the year could not be finalized but a final version will be published in the forthcoming edition of *Lithics*. Its acceptance will need to be voted on at the next AGM. Meanwhile, a provisional summary of the accounts show that total reserves as of the meeting stand at £12,559.82 with income for the year amounting to £6,754.91 and expenditure at £4,868.44, leaving a surplus of £1886.47. Over £1000 has been taken from events, although this includes the income from two Butser knapping events (2010 and 2011).

The Society currently has 346 members with 34 joining this year. There are still 19 people paying the old subscription fee of £10. Despite many warnings, their membership has been suspended and they will not receive copies of *Lithics*.

8. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Barry Bishop, reported that it had been a good year for the Society. The Society's finances are in good health and order, and membership continues to increase, despite the suspension of some members for continual underpayment of subscriptions. The Society's main event, the knapping weekend at Butser was again very successful and this will help ensure it becomes a regular annual event. It is also very encouraging to see that Society is fully embracing the digital age with great improvements to the website. Here, copies of *Lithics* can now be downloaded and members can amend their details, pay subscriptions and order on-line the Society's publications. *Lithics* appeared in good time and contains many of the fascinating papers that were read at the 30th Anniversary conference. Since the last AGM the Committee has met twice, in March and in September. As well as the usual routine running of the Society, attention at the meetings was geared towards the possibility of organising another conference in the near future as well as organising further events and fieldtrips. We have also started to email announcements of outside events, conferences and workshops that we feel the membership might be interested in. If anyone has anything of relevance to the wider membership then please pass it on to the Secretary. A single formal mailing has been distributed, this being the announcement of this AGM. Thanks to all of you that have supplied emails, this was mostly accomplished electronically. However, we still do not have emails for 134 people and they were mailed paper versions. This has cost the Society £192 in printing and postage costs. If anyone wishes to continue receiving paper mailing then of course they will, but otherwise please do let me have your email address.

9. Editors' Report

The Editors, Beccy Scott and Andy Shaw, could not attend the meeting but provided a report that was read to the meeting by the Chair. They reported that they have received a good number of submissions for *Lithics* this year and five research papers had been accepted for publication. In addition to the research papers, a report detailing the use of the Wymer bursary for 2010–2011, an account of the CAHO10 conference, three letters and notes and three book reviews are all on track for inclusion.

They also reported that a new publisher is being sought, which should make formatting proofs much easier and should also reduce costs to the Society. 3 quotes will be obtained before *Lithics* is printed this year.

Hard-copy back issues of *Lithics* will also be available for free distribution to members after this afternoon's AGM talk.

10. Events Secretary's Report

The Events Secretary, Hannah Fluck, could not attend the meeting but provided a report that read to the meeting by the Chair. The Butser annual knapping weekend for next year has been confirmed and will take place on the 11/12th August 2012. It should be noted that this event is run on a cost-neutral basis. Money raised from the attendance fee goes towards paying for John Lord to attend with any outstanding profit being donated to Butser Education CIC who otherwise hosts the event for free.

The Society intends to hold a joint conference with the Sussex Archaeological Society next September (2012) celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Piltdown hoax, for which the meeting unanimously approved a contribution of £550 to cover airfares and expenses of international speakers.

11. Website Officers Report

<http://www.lithics.org/>

The Website Officer, Dave Underhill, reported an increase in visits to the website over the past 12 months with 5000 visits and 22,090 page views. Over 50% of our visitors arrive with us from search engines, largely Google, and we are the top result when searching for any iteration of the Society's name and 'lithics'. It is encouraging to see that searches for the Society's occasional papers are generating a high number of visits. Most of our visits are from the UK, although visitors have come from 84 different countries, primarily the USA, Australia, and Germany.

If anyone has any relevant news or announcements that could be posted onto the website then please get in touch with Dave Underhill via Facebook or direct email: dave@daveunderhill.co.uk. Also please pass on any references to the society, particularly from the press or any source that is non-archaeology related.

11. Any Other Business

It has been noted that certain sections of the Societies constitution might benefit from an overhaul. It was agreed that the Chair and the Secretary would examine the constitution, make any proposals for amendments and present the findings to the next (2012) AGM for discussion. The constitution is available on the website and we would welcome any comments, ideas or suggestions from the membership.

It was suggested that the Society might benefit by holding a tutorial on the classification and identification of Clactonian technology.

It was suggested that a car sharing section could be added to the website to facilitate transport to and from meetings and events. This will be looked into by the Website Officer.

A draft of a new membership leaflet was shown to the meeting and will be placed on the website; all comments will be welcomed.

12. Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed that the next Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 2nd November 2012 at Franks House, London. The next committee meeting will be held towards the end of February 2012 at a venue to be announced.

The meeting closed at 13.00 and was followed after lunch by a talk by Dr Francis Wenban-Smith on recent research at the Clactonian elephant butchery site at Southfleet Road, Swanscombe