

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lithic Studies Society
held on Friday 5th November 2010 at 12.00 pm at
Franks House, 38-56 Orsman Road, London N1 5QJ**

1. Present

Committee: Andrew Shaw, Barry Bishop, Beccy Scott, Dave Underhill-Stocks, Francis Wenban-Smith, Hannah Fluck, Hugo Lamdin-Whymark and Matt Pope.

Membershop: Caroline Wells, Chris Taylor, Antony Whitlock, Diana Coles, Dirk Leder, Fotini Kofidou, Frank Beresford, Gail Flesch, Geoff Halliwell, Hazel Martingell, J. Edwin Jarvis, Jacky Sommerville, Jenny Brown, John C. Sharp, John Venables, Karen Ruebens, Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews, Linda Hurcombe, Paul Whitcombe, Rob Dinnis, Robert Banbury and William Mills.

2. Apologies

Committee: Clive Bond, Kate Cramp, Cate Frieman, Lynne Bevan, Rebecca Devaney, Rob Hosfield and Wei Chu.

Membership: Anne Graf, David Walters, Lesley Blundell, Peter Hoare, Rosemary Stewart and T William Bee.

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on Friday 6th November 2009 at Franks House, Orsman Road, London, were circulated and approved by the AGM.

4. Matters Arising

The Lithic Studies Society (LSS) full accounts for the year 2008–2009 were not available for approval at the last AGM but they have since been published in *Lithics* 30 and were unanimously approved at this AGM.

5. Chair's Report

The Chair, Hugo Lamdin-Whymark, reported that 2010 was a successful year for the Society with a number of good events, the updating of the website, provision of free on-line access to *Lithics* and some very efficient “housekeeping” by Andrew Shaw, bringing the Society’s membership and finances into order.

Hannah Fluck has maintained a good range of well-attended events and in January the Society held its 30th Anniversary Conference, which sold out with over 120 people in attendance.

The Chair thanked Dave Underhill-Stocks for his work on re-designing the website and also to Wei Chu for scanning the back issues of *Lithics*, which can now be accessed by all for free via the website. The Society also has a new Facebook group and the Chair urged all to join:

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=101929229850233>.

The Chair expressed his desire for the Society to keep at the forefront of the “digital age” and to develop the website into a useful research tool, including the provision of an artefact and raw material database for 2018.

The Chair thanked Andrew Shaw for reforming the membership database, updating subscriptions and reclaiming a significant quantity of money from members in arrears. This has resulted in the suspension of a number of members but an improvement in the Society’s finances. Thanks were also expressed to Beccy Scott and Andrew Shaw for their hard work in producing *Lithics* 31, which is on schedule for publication.

6. Election of Officers and Committee

The posts of Web Editor and six Ordinary Committee Members had become vacant:

Dave Underhill-Stocks was nominated by Matt Pope, seconded by Francis Wenban-Smith and duly elected by the meeting as Web Officer.

Nick Ashton was nominated by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark, seconded by John C Sharp and duly elected by the meeting as Ordinary Committee Member.

Clive J Bond was nominated by Barry Bishop, seconded by Hazel Martingell and duly elected by the meeting as Ordinary Committee Member.

Chris Butler was nominated by J Edwin Jarvis, seconded by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark and duly elected by the meeting as Ordinary Committee Member.

Wei Chu was nominated by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark, seconded by Matt Pope and duly elected by the meeting as Ordinary Committee Member.

Rebecca Devaney was nominated by Francis Wenban-Smith, seconded by Caroline Wells and duly elected by the meeting as Ordinary Committee Member.

Dave Field was nominated by Hugo Lamdin-Whymark, seconded by Francis Wenban-Smith and duly elected by the meeting as Ordinary Committee Member.

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Andrew Shaw, circulated copies of the Society's financial account for the year 2009–2010 and this was passed unanimously by the meeting. The accounts demonstrate an increase of £2692.15 from the previous year and show the Society to be in a healthy financial state.

The Treasurer reported that after a long struggle, the signatories to the Society's accounts have now been formalized with the bank with the result that all cheques are required to be signed by two of the following three signatories: the Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer.

Considerable progress has also been made on updating direct debits and chasing unpaid subscriptions. In the last year 60 members who are three years or more in arrears have been suspended, 32 members have resigned or are deceased and the Society has welcomed 40 new members. At present, there are 313 individual members and 17 institutional members.

In answer to questions, the Treasurer said that an increase in subscriptions eventually may be warranted but not for a few years. There would also be problems when cheques are phased out nationally, scheduled for next year, but in order to counter this a PayPal account has been set up for anyone who cannot or does not wish to pay via standing order, which remains the Society's preferred mode of payment.

8. Secretary's Report

The Secretary, Barry Bishop, reported that it had been yet another busy year for the committee. The 30th Anniversary Conference was a great success and work is continuing on getting the papers published, many of which will appear in *Lithics* 31. There have also been a number of well-received events and much work has gone into gaining full access to the Society's accounts and also in reviewing the membership list and subscriptions. *Lithics* 30 was published last December and *Lithics* 31 is due out shortly.

Since the last AGM there has been two committee meetings, the first at the University of Southampton in February and the second at Butser Ancient Farm in August, held in conjunction with the knapping event. There was a single mailing, released to announce this AGM. This cost £416 in photocopying and postage costs, which is unnecessarily burdensome on the Society's finances and also has environmental implications. It was therefore proposed that all future correspondence, with the exception of the distribution of *Lithics*, would be via email. To this end, we would like to encourage all members who have not already done so to provide an email address to the Membership Secretary (a.d.shaw@soton.ac.uk). Anyone without an email address will still automatically receive a paper-based mailing and any member with an email address but who feels strongly about receiving mailings by post can do so providing they inform the Secretary. The proposition was put to meeting and approved.

9. Editors' Report

The Editors, Beccy Scott and Andrew Shaw, reported that, following the great success of *Lithics* 30, "Great Prehistorians", there has been a notable influx of high quality submissions this year — again a testament to the excellent work done by Rob Hosfield. The decision to include articles from the 30th Anniversary Conference in *Lithics* 31 means we are again expecting a bumper issue. This is on track for a late December/early January distribution. Thanks were expressed, in particular to Cate Frieman, for help in editing the Conference contributions.

At the last committee meeting it was proposed to organise a special volume of *Lithics* for 2011. Special volumes have an interest beyond the immediate membership and have the added benefit of increasing membership, generating wider sales and stimulating the submission of high quality papers from researchers outside of the Society. The downside to special volumes is that they can delay the appearance of “normal” papers, which could result in a reluctance to submit papers to *Lithics*.

The issues were debated with suggestions that included: producing occasional volumes and monographs alongside *Lithics*; twice yearly editions of *Lithics*; a greater use of on-line publication which could include supplementary material such as catalogues; and instigating a “Newsletter” which could include news and introductory notes of papers that would be published in full at a later date. It was generally agreed that greater use should be made of the website in presenting news, shorter notes and general information that needs to be disseminated quickly, but that further discussion was needed to determine the viability of either producing further occasional papers or making *Lithics* biannual.

10. Events Secretary’s Report

The Events Secretary, Hannah Fluck, reported that the knapping weekend at Butser was very successful and is fast becoming a traditional event. It is popular with the management at Butser and draws great interest from the public. It will again be organised for next year and it may even be desirable to hold it more than once a year if interest is sustained. The visit to Happisburgh was also a successful despite bad weather, although this made it very atmospheric.

The Events Secretary appealed for anyone who has ideas on places or fieldwork projects to visit, or who knows of suitable speakers, to contact her.

The Events Secretary’s post will also become vacant next year and the committee would like to appeal for anyone who is interested in taking it over to contact them.

The Chair suggested that, following the success of the 30th Anniversary Conference, an annual conference may be organised. It would be too late to organise a conference for 2011 but it could be done for 2012. Meanwhile it was proposed that the Society should sponsor “Unravelling the Palaeolithic” a conference celebrating 10 years of research at the Centre for the Archaeology of Human Origins (CAHO) at Southampton University, to be held on the 28–29th January 2011. Sponsorship would result in concessions being granted to any Society members who wished to attend and also allow a platform for promoting the Society. It was proposed that £500 should be granted to sponsor the CAHO conference and this was approved by the AGM.

11. Website Editors Report

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

The Web Editor, Dave Underhill-Stocks, reported an increase in visits to the website since the back issues of *Lithics* had been uploaded, with over 10,000 page views since May.

The question of costs associated with the website was raised. A number of possible hosts are available but all charge for the service. The various options for hosting the website include the CBA, ArchLib and ADS, all of which incur various charges but also have different advantages and disadvantages. It was agreed that the committee would explore the various options over the next year but meanwhile continue with our present hosts, the CBA. Other possibilities for the website include using PayPal to sell recent editions of *Lithics* and other publications, and creating an on-line shop. It was noted that the Society now has its own entry on Wikipedia.

11. Any Other Business

No other matters were raised.

12. Date of Next Meeting.

It was agreed that the next Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 4th November 2011 at Franks House, London. The next committee meeting will be held towards the end of February 2011 at a venue to be announced.