

MINUTES AND FINANCES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Lithic Studies Society held on Monday 15th January 2024 7 pm via Zoom

1. Attendees

Committee: Steve Barlin (SB), Becky Vickers (BV), Tabitha Gulliver (TG), Josie Mills (JM), Anne Bojko (AB), Tabitha Paterson (TP), Freddie Foulds (FF).

Members: Julie Birchenall, Mitchen Dean, Aaron Rawlinson, Will Attard, Ana Abrunhosa, Ian Brooks, Jonathon Cope, Katarine Sprem, Dave Martin, Robert Lancaster, Jacky Sommerville, James Barnes, Becky, Yvonne, K W, Manni Kirchner

2. Apologies: Jake Rowland

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting: JM reviewed the minutes of the last committee meetings. Unanimously agreed.

4. Matters arising: None.

5. Chair's report for the year 2022–23:

- Delayed meeting from November to January to be fully prepared. Planning for next AGM to return to November.
- It has been a really difficult few years, but we have had several very successful events, including the conference and Butser.
- We are hoping to develop some new collaborations, principally with the University of York for a northern knapping event, as well as an handling event in conjunction with the Thames Discovery Project.
- We are planning on starting a monthly newsletter, which will collate news about new research and events. Members will receive an email allowing them to opt in to receive these in due course.
- The issue of storage of society publications at Franks House was raised. AB is currently housing these and steps are being made to digitise some of this material. We are also planning on reopening the online shop to make some of the books available for sale.
- We will have a presence at the upcoming PalMes24 conference, hosted by the British Museum, 11-12th April 2024. We plan to hand out leaflets containing a QR code for the sign up page on the website.
- The Festival of Lithics unfortunately did not run due to a lack of submissions.
- A committee facing calendar has been created with all committee meetings and

events in.

- We recognise that there are some concerns over the status of the journal. FF has stepped into the currently vacant Editor role in order to progress the currently outstanding issue, which is now complete and prepared for publication. Discussion has led to the realisation that the Editor role requires further support, with plans to introduce an editorial committee consisting of the Editor and Editorial Assistant roles.
- The bursaries have been reviewed, with plans in place to increase the amounts available. Those currently awaiting a decision on their bursary applications will hear outcomes on these soon.
- JM will be stepping down from the role of chair and handing over to AB.

6. Treasurer's report for the year 2022–23:

- AB has undertaken the role of Treasurer while the post is empty. As the Society is currently without a Treasurer, some things have slipped as a result.
- Current accounts relating to 2022–23 were circulated during the meeting. Accounts for the journal have been split into two separate years.
- The biggest expenditure was the conference. This did not break even, but was not expected to.
- We have purchased a Zettle card reader to allow us to make sales at events.
- We have had to move all of the publications stored at Franks House as they need the space back. We will now need to look at paying for storage for these materials. Planning to source somewhere in the Midlands, as this appears to be both cheaper and accessible for committee members.

7. Editor's report and publications for the year 2022–23:

- We have seen a number of people pass through the Editor role over the last few years. FF has been standing in as the Acting Editor for the society since February 2023.
- State of the journal when FF joined was that the last issue was *Lithics* 40, published in 2020. COVID contributed to the delay in publishing the current volume to some extent.
- FF's primary responsibility was to get the next volume prepared and published, followed by addressing the outstanding backlog. A total of 18 papers were identified as at some stage of the publication process, with the aim to publish these across *Lithics* 41 and 42. Submissions were at various stages.
- We received a further three papers in 2023, but six papers were lost (either published elsewhere or dropped by the authors) due to delays.

- Lithics 41, containing five papers, is now ready for publication and is awaiting the AGM minutes and Treasurer's Report for the back matter before it can be sent to print.
- Of the ten remaining outstanding papers, many of these were in the early stages of the publication process. Peer reviews have been organised for those that required them. Eight papers have now been processed through review, resulting in one rejection and seven acceptances. Of these, three have already been corrected and returned. Two articles are still requiring second peer reviewers to be sources.
- The journal now stands in good stead to be taken over by the incoming Editor, with a good number of articles in progress for volume 42. FF will also organise a robust handover procedure for the next Editor.
- Peer review is a constant battle. FF highlights that a broader range of specialisms is required to build a robust pool of reviewers.
- FF also highlighted a lack of short articles, especially due to delays in the bursary awards. There is also a distinct lack of book reviews and conference reports, and it would be good to promote these for inclusion in future issues of the journal. If members have any books that they would like to review, we would encourage this.
- The Committee acknowledges that the journal is very important in terms of being one of the main ways through which the Society is visible, and that the Editor role needs more support going forward.

8. Secretary's report for the year 2022–23:

- The Committee have met roughly every month, predominantly using Zoom.
- The Committee also communicate via phone where necessary and have a WhatsApp group established that allows faster communication.
- We hope to arrange an in person meeting/away day in 2024 to welcome and integrate newly elected Committee members.

9. Events Officer's report for 2022–2023:

- The conference in Colchester was of a good size and went very successfully. It was run as a hybrid conference, with both in person and online attendance. Handling tables also worked very well.
- Butser Knapping Weekend was very successful. We are planning on running two Butser weekends in 2024, with dates set for 11–12th May and 17–18th August.
- SB has started a series of discussion talks centering around a different paper each time, entitled Rock Talks. These have taken place via Zoom and have proven successful, and will be continued into 2024, with meetings taking place once a month on Monday lunchtimes and repeated on Tuesday evenings. Dates will be circulated to the membership via email in advance of each meeting.

10. Change to the Constitution:

- JM and AB proposed that the Constitution was created some time ago, and it was proposed that a Special General Meeting be held in mid-summer to review some changes that we wish to make. We thus need to take stock of the ways in which that Society has changed; for example, conducting many of our meetings online.

11. Election of Officers and Committee:

- JM has stepped down from the role of Chair and will be taking over the role of Vice-Chair from AB.
- AB has moved into the role of Chair.

12. Committee Elections:

- Becky Vickers – applying to be Secretary – proposed by Josie Mills, seconded by Ann Bojko - **Elected**
- Aaron Rawlinson and Ana Abrunhosa – applying to be Editor – proposed by Josie Mills, seconded by Ann Bojko - **Elected jointly**
- Jonathan Cope – applying to be Events Secretary – proposed by Josie Mills, seconded by Ann Bojko - **Elected**
- Tabitha Gulliver – applying to be Publicity Officer – proposed by Josie Mills, seconded by Ann Bojko - **Elected**
- Michell Dean, Frederick Foulds and Jon Baczkowski – applying to be Ordinary Member (Editorial Assistant) – proposed by Josie Mills, seconded by Ann Bojko - **Elected jointly**
- Yvonne Wolfram-Murray, Helen Hampton and Tamar Bitchashili – applying to be an Ordinary Member (Events Assistant) – proposed by Josie Mills, seconded by Ann Bojko - **Elected jointly**
- Will Attard – applying to be an Ordinary Member – proposed by Josie Mills, seconded by Ann Bojko - **Elected**

13. Any other business:

- No other business.

14. Date of next AGM meeting: Friday 8th November 2024