

CAMBRIDGE ARCHAEOLOGY FIELD GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held
at 7.30 p.m. on 4th April 2012 at the
McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Downing Street, Cambridge

President, Dr P Spoerry, in the Chair

25 members and guests were present.

Apologies for absence were received from Alex and Melanie Benn, Colin Shaw and Anthony Titley.

1. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

Copies of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 6th April 2011 had been circulated and were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the President.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The chairman reported on another busy year for the Group: the wide range of fieldwork periods and types summed up the Group's current standing, evidenced by feedback from the University and the County Council. In particular the post-doctoral researchers were supportive and appreciated the Group's lectures.

He had represented the Group at meetings of the BBC's Hands on History project, which had promoted recognition of the Group. Although the Group would not be directly involved in this year's project, it had received considerable support last year and he had been able to report to the BBC some 1800 visitors to the Wimpole excavations. He recommended members to keep an eye on events: the big regional event was to be in Bury St Edmunds.

The chairman thanked Peter Cornelissen in particular, together with others, for the development of the website; and commended the new workshops for fieldwalkers, which had been suggested by a new member. He also commented on the link to Jigsaw.

However, the chairman apologised that he had failed to do something about a memorial to John Alexander. He would try in the next month or so, but felt that this must be something smaller than the full day conference envisaged earlier.

He proffered his thanks to all.

The President expressed his thanks to Barrie Fuller for his work and for pushing forward the administration of meetings. It was good that the Group was so busy: local archaeology was burgeoning in this area.

3. SECRETARY'S REPORT

The secretary's report on the business and activities of the Group during the past year had been circulated and was accepted on the proposal of Robert Skeen, seconded by Terry Dymott. The secretary added that the new registration system for members to access finds mapping and approved committee minutes on the website should be live within the next few days; and also reminded members of the proposed monthly workshops on fieldwalking finds, to start on 18th April.

The President commented on the range of activities shown by the report and offered the assistance of Oxford Archaeology East in finds recognition.

The report is appended to the minute book copy of these minutes.

4. **FIELD OFFICER'S REPORT**

The field officer's report on fieldwork during the year had been circulated and was accepted on the proposal of Colin Coates, seconded by John Waterhouse. The President remarked on the broad spread of periods covered and offered his congratulations to all: it was pleasing that enthusiasm was not waning.

The field officer further reported that the flint from Oily Hall was with Lawrence Billington of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit for initial assessment. Early comments were that more than 50% looked Mesolithic: this was similar to assemblages the Unit was finding on the west side of the Fens and they were enthusiastic about it. It was hoped the Unit would carry out a full survey of the flint: the Group had been awarded a grant of £200 from the Cambridge Antiquarian Society towards such a survey and it was hoped the National Trust would be able to make up any difference. Craig Cessford, also of the CAU, had examined pieces of college plates found at Brook Farm, Haslingfield in the 1990s and a report was to be published on the website. Already on the website was Colin Coates' report on the various Mr Ratfords of Wimpole, which showed the value of documentary research.

Members were advised that Peter Edwards, whose stroke had been reported at the previous lecture, was now home.

On the forthcoming summer activities, the field officer reminded members of the test pitting project in Haslingfield in June: Rob Atkins of OAEast was keen to explore the archaeology of the village and support was being given by Jigsaw and the Village Society. A meeting was to be held in the Methodist Hall on the 14th April to explain the project to residents, and members were invited to come if they possibly could. It was hoped that some pits would be dug by the residents but there were already a number of offers of land if the Group could dig. Paul Blinkhorn was to come on the Sunday of the dig to look at pottery. He had already looked at the Group's fieldwalked pot, some of which had proved to be Bronze Age.

The Group had excavated at Wimpole Hall for the last 13 years, but, the field officer apologised, it had not yet been possible to agree with Angus Wainwright, the NT archaeologist, whether there should be any digging this year. Angus was anxious to ensure completed reports for digs undertaken and their deposit with the HER. The field officer was hoping that there might be the opportunity for test pitting and survey but, if not, he suggested that the Group make itself available to help on other digs, such as the Fen Edge Archaeology Group dig at Cottenham or any by OAEast. He would like to see members have the opportunity to dig: many had been introduced to digging at the Wimpole excavations.

The president thanked Mike Coles for his efforts and expressed his confidence that, between the various options, members would have the opportunity to dig.

The report is appended to the minute book copy of these minutes.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bill Hughes had examined the accounts, so those circulated were final, and the

treasurer commented with pleasure that, despite changes in detail, the overall difference in the balances between the beginning and end of the year was £2. On the proposal of Terry Dymott, seconded by Barrie Fuller, the accounts were accepted.

The certified copy of the accounts is attached to the minute book copy of these minutes.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

On the recommendation of the committee, and by a show of hands with none against, it was **RESOLVED** that subscriptions for 2012/13 (from 1st April 2012) be increased to:

£9 for individual membership
 £12 family membership
 Entrance to lectures for non-members £1 (no change)

7. BURSARY FUND

The committee was recommending that the Val Whittaker Memorial Prize fund should be topped up in order to maintain the capacity to offer bursaries since, at the rate of two bursaries a year, it would otherwise be exhausted in four years. The ability to offer bursaries was seen as valuable for the standing of the Group. The President offered his support to the maintenance of the fund by careful management and the chairman stated that, although he had had reservations, he now supported the recommendation and felt that Val would appreciate this approach. Several of the winners had gone on to university.

By a show of hands with none against, it was **RESOLVED** that a policy be adopted of topping up the Val Whittaker Memorial Prize fund in order to maintain the capacity to offer bursaries for longer; the policy to be reviewed in 2 years or sooner should circumstances require it.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

As all officers and committee members were prepared to stand again and no further nominations were received, it was **RESOLVED** by a show of hands that the following be elected to the offices indicated for 201/13:

Chairman	Barrie Fuller, 47 Queens Edith's Way, Cambridge, CB1 4PJ
Secretary	Susan May, 94 High Street, Great Shelford, Cambridge, CB22 5EH
Treasurer	Dudley Pusey, 45 St Laurence Road, Foxton, Cambridge, CB22 6SF
Field Officer	Mike Coles, 44 Cantelupe Road, Haslingfield, Cambridge, CB23 7LU
Committee	Colin Coates, 14 Humber Drive, Yaxley, Peterborough, PE7 3QB
	Peter Cornelissen, 4 St Albans, Fordham Road, Newmarket, CB8 7AJ
	Terry Dymott, 26 Barrons Way, Comberton, Cambridge CB23 7EQ
	Robert Skeen, 2 Malton Lane, Meldreth, Royston, SG8 6PA
	John Waterhouse, 22 Topcliffe Way, Cambridge, CB1 8SH

9. MEMORIAL FOR DR JOHN ALEXANDER

The chairman added to his earlier apologies that, with hindsight, the aim of a conference was ambitious and nothing had come together. He suggested that a more realistic aim was either a half day event or a special lecture, perhaps with wine and nibbles beforehand, unless another member was willing to take on the organisation of a whole day conference. Something must be done this year, but the chairman was disappointed that no-one in the University appeared to be doing anything.

Richard Cushing asked if it might be possible to add something to the CAS Conference, especially given that Dr Alexander had been their director of fieldwork. The chairman thanked Richard and commented that he had spoken to the organiser about the Autumn conference. Graham Vincent queried the cost implications for the Group: the chairman hoped there would be no cost but suggested the sale of tickets if there was. The President undertook to try to help.

The chairman offered his thanks to the President for his work and support behind the scenes

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....