

Archaeological Leather Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held on 26th April, 2012 at 12.45pm at Abington Park Museum, Northampton

Present: Barbara Wills (Chair), Diana Friendship-Taylor, Roy Friendship-Taylor, Jackie Keily, Dominique Mathieu, Jean Mathieu, Angela Middleton, Quita Mould, June Swann, Pat Wallace, Sue Winterbottom.

1. Apologies for Absence

Susanna Harris, John Parrott, Alan Raistrick, Mike Redwood, Roy Thomson, André Veldmeijer, Marquita Volken, Serge Volken.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the last AGM were adopted, having been circulated previously.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Report

The Chair, Barbara Wills (BW), reported that it had been another very successful year for the Group.

- Meetings: The 'Why Leather?' meeting was excellent and it had been very good to work in collaboration with University College London. There had been a good mix of papers and plans were afoot for their online publication. June Swann pointed out that it was expensive for individuals to print out online publications. All agreed but the cost to the Group of paper publication would be very large. BW also pointed out that there are online companies that will print on demand and who did not charge enormous fees for the service. BW expressed many thanks to Susanna Harris for organising the conference and to Diana Friendship-Taylor and Jackie Keily for helping with the organisation.
- Publication: *Leather Tanneries: the archaeological evidence*. There had been some very good reviews of the book and it was felt that it appealed to a broad range of people, both those involved with leather and those not. Thanks were expressed to the editors, Quita Mould and Roy Thomson.
- Newsletter; a pdf version was now available and most people really liked it, although Sue Winterbottom (SW) pointed out that some people had experienced a problem with the font size.
- To sum up, BW felt it had been a very good year for the Group. Looking forward, plans were being made for a number of future meetings. Diana Friendship-Taylor reported that she was having problems contacting the people at Salston, Cambridgeshire, the potential location of the next meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer' Report and balance sheet had been previously circulated and Treasurer, Roy Thomson had sent an email update (as he was unable to attend the AGM):

- As of 22nd April, membership stood at 46 (paid) and 13 (not paid).
- The balance for the year ending December 31st 2010 stood at £3483.33.
- At April 22nd 2012, there was £3996.38 in the Building Society.

The meeting formally adopted the Treasurer's report.

Proposed by Sue Winterbottom; seconded by Jackie Keily

6. Editor's Report

- The Editor, Sue Winterbottom, reported on the reaction to the pdf version of the Newsletter. Only one complaint had been received about not being able to read it easily due to the double column format. Most members present at the AGM said that they printed it out to read so did not feel that this was a problem.
- Over £100 had been saved in printing and postage costs on the last issue due to the pdf version; 15 members still like to receive the paper edition. SW reminded all that the pdf version was not just available on the website but that she also emailed it out to individual members.

7. Committee Members

A number of posts were due to become vacant: the Chair of the Group and also two more Ordinary members (note: when JK, an Ordinary member, agreed to be nominated as Chair, this increased to three). BW thanked all the officers and members of the Committee for their excellent work in keeping the Group running so well.

Chair: Jackie Keily nominated by Sue Winterbottom; seconded by Barbara Wills

Secretary: Susanna Harris nominated by Barbara Wills; seconded by Quita Mould

Meetings secretary: Diana Friendship-Taylor nominated by Sue Winterbottom; seconded by June Swann

Ordinary member: Quita Mould nominated by Jackie Keily; seconded by Diana Friendship-Taylor

Ordinary member: Lucy Skinner nominated by Barbara Wills; seconded by Jackie Keily

Ordinary member: Dominique Mathieu nominated by Barbara Wills; seconded by Sue Winterbottom

8. Message Board

Discussion of the message board was postponed until the next committee meeting.

7. Any other business

There was nothing to discuss.

The meeting closed at 1.15 pm.

(Jackie Keily on behalf of Susanna Harris)