

ALG

Archaeological Leather Group

Minutes

of the AGM held at 12.30pm on the 28th May 2018 at the Museum of Leathercraft, Floor 2, Grosvenor Centre, Northampton NN1 2EW

Present: Yvette Fletcher (Chair), Quita Mould (Secretary), Sue Winterbottom (Editor), Roy Thomson (Treasurer), Angela Middleton (Meetings Co-ordinator), Dominique Mathieu, Theresa Emmerich Kamper, Pieta Greaves, Jackie Keily, Anne Lama, Pat Thomson and Barbara Wills.

1. Apologies: Lucy Skinner, June Swann, Diana Friendship-Taylor, Mike and Susan Redwood.
2. Minutes of previous meeting: Approved. Sue Winterbottom proposed, seconded by Jackie Keily. These will be available on the Members' Area of the website.
3. Matters arising: None
4. Chair's report

The Chair was happy to report that the membership has continued to grow in the last year. The Autumn Meeting, a day seminar entitled *The Enigma of Japanese White Leather*, was held at the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers Hall in central London and was attended by 37 participants. The Chair was delighted that Yuko Nishimura, a social anthropologist, and Shoji Nobi, a tanner and historian, travelled from Japan to speak on the day and that representatives of NPO Tatsuno Leather also joined us. The Worshipful Company of Leathersellers were thanked for providing the spectacular venue. We are looking to publish the keynote presentation and also papers presented at the day conference *Colouring Leather: it's not all brown!* The committee members were thanked for all their hard work over the year, particularly the Secretary for her help and guidance.

5. Treasurer's report including membership

The Treasurer provided accounts for the financial year ending 31st December 2017 and accompanying notes. The group made a planned deficit of £655.16 during 2017 resulting in a year end cash balance of £4796.46. The planned deficit included final expenses of £162.45 associated with the cost of the Leather in Warfare Conference and a loss of £877.70 on the Japanese Leather Seminar. In 2017 membership increased again to 83 from 16 countries, including the UK. At 28th May 2018 the Group has a cash balance of £5425.58.

6. Editor's report

The last two newsletters were well received, No. 46 with 17 pages and No. 47 with 14 pages included a wide range of articles. The new Questions and Answer feature, summarising some of the

responses received to enquires previously circulated to the membership, proved popular and will be repeated in future issues. The Autumn issue, scheduled for September 2018, has two contributions so far: book reviews from June Swann and an account by Franklin Pereira of a seminar on gilt leather held in April at the Museum of Decorative Arts in Madrid. More contributions are always welcomed. Copy deadline 7th September.

7. Election of Committee

Ordinary Member: Vivi Lena Andersen has come to the end of her final term. Secretary to pass on our thanks for her help and support whilst serving on the Committee particularly in view of the travelling involved. Pieta Greaves was elected as an Ordinary Member, proposed by Yvette Fletcher, seconded by Angela Middleton.

Meetings Co-ordinator: Angela Middleton comes to the end of her first term and is willing to continue in the role for a second term, proposed by Barbara Wills, seconded by Quita Mould.

The Treasurer, Roy Thomson, and Editor, Sue Winterbottom, were reappointed for a further year.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Updates to the constitution, last revised May 2017. It was noted that it has been the practice in recent years for Ordinary Members to serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in office and, after discussion, it was agreed to update the constitution to reflect this. The following update was proposed, to be circulated in the next newsletter and put to the membership at 2019 AGM:

Section 4 Committee, Ordinary Members shall serve a 2-year term, insert 'and will be eligible for immediate re-election, serving for a maximum of 2 terms (4 years) with a lapse of one year before becoming eligible to seek re-election as an Ordinary Member'.

8.2 The most appropriate place to publish the keynote paper from the Japanese Leather Seminar by Yuko Nishimura was discussed. ALG happy to make it available on the website but the author wished it to go into a peer reviewed journal. Angela Middleton has contacted The Journal of the Society of Leather Technologists and Chemists (a subscription journal) who will publish it and give access to members for £80 per page- this thought expensive. Mike Redwood to be asked to tell the author about the costs quoted and Dr Anne Lama volunteered to investigate the situation further.

8.3 Lucy Skinner has suggested that a glossary of leather terms was needed specifically for archaeologists, conservators and those handling archaeological and historical material. It was agreed that a sub-committee, under the direction of Roy Thomson, would be formed to take this idea forward with a view to eventual publication. Barbara Wills and Theresa Emmerich Kamper volunteered for the sub-committee, Mike Redwood and Lucy Skinner to be invited to join.

8.4 It was agreed that a donation of £120 be given to the Museum of Leathercraft in thanks for their providing the AGM venue and supplying refreshments.

The meeting closed at approximately 1.30pm

Quita Mould

Secretary