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Archaeological Leather Group

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*Minutes*

of the AGM held by Zoom at 2pm on the 11th May 2021

Present: Yvette Fletcher(Chair), Quita Mould (Secretary), Sue Winterbottom (Editor), Angela Middleton (Meetings Co-ordinator), Esther Cameron (Treasurer), Pieta Greaves from the committee and 19 other members.

1 Apologies: Roy Thomson (former Treasurer).

2 Chair's report

The Chair thanked all members for their continued support over the past year. The programme of Zoom seminars has proved popular, being well attended and providing a means by which many more of our international membership are able to join us. Our meetings survey established that there was no preference for meetings being held either during the week or at weekends and that, not surprisingly, distance and cost were the main reasons members were unable to attend meetings. In future it was hoped to arrange a mixture of 'live' meetings and 'Zoom' events to ensure we all keep in touch. The Chair thanked the committee for their hard work during a difficult year. The Chair then reported with regret that Roy Thomson had stepped down from being Treasurer during the year and thanked him profusely for the many years he had filled that crucial post and provided such sound advice on the committee. Thankfully, Esther Cameron had kindly agreed to take over the role and was introduced as the new Treasurer to the wider membership.

3 Treasurer's report including membership

The previous Treasurer had made the role appear effortless and will be a hard act to follow. Roy has made the recent transition easy for the new incumbent, unfortunately, the same could not be said for the NatWest Bank, however, the process is nearly complete. The bank account is healthy, RT had provided accounts for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 which were published in the Spring Newsletter (March 2021 53, 18). The Group made a surplus of £672.85 resulting in a year end cash balance of £6652.18. At April 2021 the group has a cash balance of £6524.72. Membership currently stands at 89 members from 16 countries including the UK, with 5 people joining in the current year to date. The Treasurer is trying to arrange for UK subscriptions to be paid by bank transfer and non-UK by PayPal in future and hopes that this will be in operation in the next few weeks. She gave the reminder that the 2021 subscription was not being charged to current members.

4 Editor's report

Once again there has been no shortage of content for the two newsletters produced in the year. This spring's newsletter has included brief reports on the Zooms meetings that had been initiated since the pandemic stopped 'live' meetings and a summary of members questions and the replies that

have been received. The Editor thanked all those who contributed to the newsletter over the past year. The next issue is scheduled for September and contributions from all members are welcomed, as ever. As so few members have elected to receive a paper copy of the newsletter the editor is now printing them in colour to provide a better product. The Chair offered for this additional expense to be covered by the group in future. The Treasurer congratulated the Editor on the high standard of the newsletters and the interesting content, while Dave Thomas thanked the editor for doing such a good job.

#### 4 Election of Committee

As the 2020 AGM had been postponed due to the epidemic, the committee had agreed to continue in post for an additional year. Consequently, this year several posts become vacant. The Secretary thanked Angela Middleton for organising so many successful and interesting meetings since 2015 and Dominique Mathieu, Pieta Greaves and Esther Cameron for their help serving on the committee as Ordinary Members.

Secretary: Quita Mould comes to the end of her final term in office. Angela Middleton was elected to the post, proposed by Esther Cameron, seconded by Liz Shaw.

Meetings Co-ordinator: Angela Middleton comes to the end of her final term in office. Pieta Greaves was elected to the post, proposed by Quita Mould, seconded by Carol van Driel-Murray.

Ordinary Members: Dominique Mathieu comes to end of her final term in office. Following an appeal in the spring newsletter for help on the committee two members have come forward to help. Jana Obrocnikova and Rosie Bolton were elected to the posts, proposed by Yvette Fletcher, seconded by Angela Middleton.

The Treasurer, Esther Cameron, and Editor, Sue Winterbottom, were reappointed for a further year.

The Chair thanked Angela and Pieta for taking on new roles and welcomed our two new ordinary committee members. On behalf of the committee, she expressed her regret that Roy Thomson was not able to join the meeting today and immense gratitude for both his work as Treasurer since 1997 and his wise words in committee. The committee took great pleasure in awarding Roy Thomson the title of Honorary President of the Archaeological Leather Group.

#### 5 Any other business

5.1 Sue Winterbottom raised the possible necessity of increasing the subscription in future years. The Treasurer and Chair regarded the Bank balance as healthy and saw no need to change the subscription rate at present.

5.2 Angela Middleton pointed out that the Fashion Museum, Bath had an exhibition 'Shoephoria', with 350 items of footwear on display, scheduled to open on 18<sup>th</sup> May when current restrictions eased. We hope to have further information on the exhibition in the next newsletter.

5.3 Elizabeth de Campenhout enquired about access to early newsletters from 1986-2012 which are available on CD only. The Editor suggested either putting it on a memory stick or transferring a copy of the CD via WeTransfer and will investigate how they could be accessed via the website, as are later copies.

The meeting closed at approximately 2.45pm and was followed by a talk 'Maritime Archaeology meets Cultural History: the Texel shipwreck BZN17 in context' by Dr Janet Dickinson

Quita Mould, Secretary