



LEWES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Lewes Archaeological Group will be held in the **Lecture Room, Lewes Town Hall**], from about **8.45pm on Friday 21st November 2025**, following the lecture given by Simon Coleman and Rebecca Welshman on Relocating the Battle of Hastings (this will start at 7.30pm as usual).

Any nominations for Officers and/or Committee members should be sent to Lewes Archaeological Group, to reach us seven days prior to the meeting, with an intimation that the nominee is prepared to stand for election. Nominations may be sent to: Fiona Marsden, 13 Lansdown Place, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 2JT or emailed to Martin Cohen at docmartincohen@yahoo.co.uk.

The following Officers and Committee members are willing to stand for election or re-election:

Chairman
Vice Chair
Hon. Secretary
Hon. Treasurer
Committee

Martin Cohen

Brian Phillips
Anne Locke
Paula Stanyer
Sabrina Harcourt-Smith
David Gregory
Fiona Marsden
Chris Greateorex

(Chris is an ex-officio member in his role as Assistant County Archaeologist)

AGENDA

Apologies for absence

1. To approve the Minutes of the AGM held on 15th November 2024.
2. To appoint an Independent Examiner of the accounts. (**Sheila O'Sullivan** is willing to continue in this role)
3. To receive the accounts and the Hon. Treasurer's Report.
4. To receive the Chairman's Report.
6. To elect the Officers of the Group: Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer.
7. To elect up to nine Committee members.

Any other business, proper to an Annual General Meeting

We would also welcome offers of help with our events or activities, which could either be through joining or being co-opted to the committee and/or taking on some specific task like minute taking or organising a summer event or fieldwork project – advice and support would be available. If you think you might like to get more involved please do get in touch with me at docmartincohen@yahoo.co.uk , even if you can't make the AGM or don't see yourself as a committee person.

Martin Cohen acting Chairman

LEWES ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
15 November 2024, Lecture Room, Lewes Town Hall

Those present: Sue Berry (Chair), Wendy Muriel (Hon. Secretary) Brian Phillips (Hon. Treasurer), Paula Stanyer, Fiona Marsden, Anne Locke, Chris Greateorex (Committee Members).

Jane Vokins, Keith Dance, Richard Stanyer, Bryan Creer, Katy Skelton, John Skelton, Davina Williams, Angela Colburn, Dianne Marquess, John Woollard, Cathy Lovell, Linda Lamont, David Kemp, Don Richardson, Jo Miller (Members).

Apologies: David Gregory, Christine George, David Rudling, Dee O'Connell.

- 1) **The Minutes** of the AGM held on the 17 November 2023, previously circulated, were approved. There were no matters arising.
- 2) **Appointment of the Independent Examiner for the accounts:** Sheila O'Sullivan has agreed to continue as the independent examiner of accounts and she was duly re-appointed. She had examined and accepted the accounts for 2023-2024. Sue gave her thanks to Sheila.
- 3) **Treasurer's Report:** Brian distributed copies of a spreadsheet setting out income and expenditure for the year 31 October 2023 to 31 October 2024. He reported another financially strong year, with over £2,000 remaining in the bank. LAG did spend £337.90 more than we accrued but this was partly to reduce our balance constructively so we donated £100 to the Culver Archaeological Project, Barcombe Roman villa, when it was short of funds. For the first time in a while, LAG was able to pay for the hire of the Lecture Room for the whole season ahead, thanks to Sue's bargaining skills, as well as for the last season during this reporting year. We were also able to replace our projector at a modest price of £319, without strain.
Brian said he couldn't remember there being so many paid-up members by the first lecture of the season and it had been better attended than last October's. Attendances have increased since lockdown, which has helped our finances. LAG has kept up its affiliations, supporting other bodies in archaeology and history. The cost of hiring the lecture room has soared; mitigated by shortening our booking times, but if the charges rise steeply again next year, we might have to consider other venues. We may also have to pay our speakers an increased fee in the future and this could affect the subscription and entry charges for next season, but at present our finances are secure. Sue thanked Brian.
- 4) **Amendment to LAG's Constitution:** It had been decided at a recent LAG Committee meeting to simplify the categories of membership. Junior, Student and Senior categories would be abolished thus removing the age differential for admission charges. Currently anyone 25 years old or under is admitted for free so the Junior and Student categories are largely redundant anyway. The proposal was that the membership should consist of just Ordinary Members and Honorary Members (free admission is awarded to Honorary Members who in the opinion of the Committee have achieved a standing in archaeology that merits such an award, or whose past endeavours on behalf of the Group are such as to merit their admission as an Honorary Member). This change to the Constitution required the approval of the Membership. There were no objections from the assembled Members when asked therefore the proposal was accepted.
- 5) **Chair's Report:** Sue said last winter's talks programme planned by Paula and the Committee had been well received. She had organised this winter's series, largely based on personal contacts, and hoped it would give numbers a boost to help LAG to continue. However, she said it is now difficult to find speakers that do not overlap with other organisations. If the Membership prefers to hear talks about archaeology given in person, then it is important that the LAG Committee are notified to help them decide what to do in the future. The alternative is on-line talks from the Sussex School of Archaeology and History, for example. The committee urgently needs new people to join or for members to suggest names and contacts of speakers they would like to hear giving a talk. Ideally, next autumn's talks need to be lined up by Christmas. The LAG Committee will be holding a meeting to decide how to resolve the lack of speakers for the next season (October 2025). Sue announced that as she has other commitments and pressures she will be standing down as Chair after the current season; she appealed again for help to find speakers and a new Chair.
- 6) **Election of Officers:** No other nominations for the offices of Chair, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer had been received and there being no objections the current incumbents were re-elected unopposed *en bloc*.
- 7) **Election of Committee Members:** As there were no other nominations and the existing committee members were all willing to stand again, there being no objections they were re-elected unopposed *en bloc*.

Any Other Business

Chris Greateorex queried whether there had been any progress in introducing field work opportunities for LAG members. Wendy reported that a member had recently contacted her with details of a presentation and field walk event at Saddlescombe Farm organised by Gary Webster as part of the NT's Changing Chalk project which might interest members. Unfortunately, it was too short notice to advertise at that time but, when contacted, Gary said he would be willing to repeat the event for LAG members at a time of our choosing. A committee member was willing to take this forward. Paula said that the Landport/Malling Ouse Crossing project had not been entirely abandoned and it was hoped to resume investigations at some point. **Sue closed the meeting by reiterating any offers of help with our events and activities would be welcomed, either by joining the committee or taking on a specific role, and she urged anyone interested to contact her personally. She thanked fellow committee members for the support they have given to LAG and she thanked the members who had stayed to attend the AGM.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at approximately 9:15pm. **W. Muriel, LAG Hon. Sec. Nov 2024**