

Minutes of a Committee Meeting of The KAS Fieldwork Committee (FWC) held on 16th October 2021 at 10am on Teams

Present: Chris Blair-Myers (CBM), Clive Drew (CD), Elizabeth Blanning (EB), Kevin Fromings (KF), Sue Oldham (SO)
Not Present: Anne Sassin (AS)

The meeting opened at 10.03.

1. Welcome

KP opened the meeting.

2. Conference Planning

November 20th Conference

CD and CBM have confirmed the arrangements for the conference. It will not be a formal event but rather one to highlight the work done this year in Kent.

Measures will be in place to conform with the University's Covid 19 protocols, i.e. wearing of masks, social distancing, reduced seating (136), 18 people in the foyer at one time. These will be included in the flyer and e-mail.

Rachel will put together a flyer and send to KAS members. The event will be free of charge to the first 116 people to apply. 12 seats will be reserved for students, and 8 for speakers. It will be imperative to book in advance due to Covid restrictions. Each attendee will be given a unique number to produce on arrival. We will have 4 students to assist with seating etc on the day.

There will be tea and coffee for 100 people at 9.30am. There will also be a pop-up flint museum.

The event will not be streamed unless the media studies school want to organise this. It was noted that attendee numbers for streamed events have increased exponentially in the past year. CD would like this to be in place next year.

2022 Conference

Kent is due to host the joint 2022 conference with CBA South East, which is usually held in November.

Ideas suggested by the FWC include Attack and Defence around the Kent coast from the Romans to 1980s, Tutankhamen Centenary, New Light on Roman Kent, Roman Villas; however it was noted that a theme focussing only on Kent may not be entirely appropriate for a SE regional audience. There would potentially be a wider audience if it is streamed. There would be 8 speakers, half from Kent, and the other half invited in from Sussex and Surrey.

EB and AS will correspond on confirmation of dates and themes.

3. Budgets, Applications and Payments

Applications

FRAG has requested funding for the shed in Folkestone, but it appears that the shed may not be available after all. The funding will not be progressed until FRAG has clarification.

2022 Budgets

Budget applications will go before council on December 5th, but can be changed subsequently for practical reasons. We as a committee have grant-giving rights.

The following budget elements were discussed

- Fieldwork Conference 2022 - £1000 which is spent in advance of income of ticket sales, working on the basis that the conference would be back to normal in 2022. The surplus is usually given to Steve Willis as a bursary for the university, as we usually do not pay for the hire of the hall.

- £3000 for FWC grants; however this may subsequently change depending on the number of applications

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- Curator's budget for a possible exhibition in Maidstone in 2023, which would be set by council
- General budget roll over of £2500 for 2022
- County pottery collection and special interest groups will need funding for sectional and high-resolution photography, which will be useful also for recording and curating other finds. Lloyd Bosworth will be asked if he would be happy to be involved with this
- GNSS equipment is also required; this costs in the region of £1600
- Funding will be needed for Lees Court excavations in April 2022. KP to give CD outline pricing for ex and post-ex work, and provision of site facilities. CD noted that we will also need some funding for Trottiscliffe, but this project is currently in its infancy. These will probably require about £20000 in total.
- EB noted that the society needs somewhere secure to keep valuable Kent-based items that we are now taking into safe-keeping. A safe would cost about £2500 and could be located in the library in Maidstone. CD will look into this.
- An acquisitions fund of £100,000 was suggested, linked with a suggestion that KAS becomes a museum in its own right. This would mean that we could legitimately become a repository for significant finds, including those from metal detecting. It would also have the advantage that we would have open access to the material, rather than being beholden to a third party. EB will look into the accreditation and costs required for this.

4. Research Group Update

No significant updates on either lithics or ceramics.

5. Grants

See agenda item 3 above

6. Fieldwork Forum

It was agreed that there should be another Forum before excavations start in 2022.

Saturday 12th March was proposed and will be announced at the conference on November 20th. CD will approach E Roberts to see if Baddlesmere would be available; otherwise decision to be made between Maidstone and Canterbury.

7. Any Other Business

Trottiscliffe – The land owner is very keen to proceed, and there have been Mesolithic, Saxon and Medieval finds within 1000m of each other. However with the DROP project still running at Otford, Trottiscliffe will not yet become a full-on project.

Dover – in 2018, human remains were found on a hillside above Dover town, together with a Bronze age beaker. This has been radio carbon dated at around 2300 BC. It was noted that there was another beaker burial found in the 1800s which was about 500m away, and another containing a Bronze age torque. The new finds will go on display in Dover.

Ash – a hoard of around 1500-2000 Roman coins have been found near Ringlemere. It was identified by a local metal detectorist and reported appropriately. On further investigation, a continuous layer of coins was unearthed, including a coarseware storage jar which had been truncated by plough damage. The hoard is now going through the appropriate treasure process.

8. Next Fieldwork Committee Meeting Date

Jan 22nd in person in Maidstone in library at 10.30am

The meeting closed at 11.30am.