

SUSS-EX CLUB
Notes of the 59th Steering Group meeting
Friday 29th October 2021 at 4.30 pm, online

1. Welcome

Paul Tofts chaired the virtual meeting, hosted by Charles Goldie using Suss-Ex's Zoom subscription. Also present were Ross Dowsett, Colin Finn, Jackie Fuller, Arnold Goldman, Sara Hinchliffe, Steve Pavey and Helen Walker. We wished **Steve** a further and complete recovery from Covid-19.

2. Apologies for absence

David Smith.

3. Minutes of the 58th Meeting, of 3rd September 2021

Approved.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

None.

5. Finance

Jackie reported that the credit balance after paying the annual Zoom subscription £143.88.

6. Recent event: *The Buildings of Lewes* guided walk (8th October)

Thanks to **David** for organising a really excellent event. The limit of numbers to 10 was well judged. Participants expressed their thanks to the guide, Marcus Taylor, by cash donations for the Lewes History Group.

7. Scheduled events

(a) Talk How Do Surgeons Think? by surgeon Jan Nawrocki

Sara has secured the Seminar Room of the campus's Genome Building, bookable because it is not a University teaching room, which however means that it does not yet have the full AV equipment of such rooms. It holds 50–60 maximum. Agreed after discussion to hold the talk as our first hybrid event, which if need be **Sara** will stream from her laptop, but it will be better, if possible and successfully trialled in advance, for her to use a camera with attached microphone. We discussed buying one as recommended by IT Services for £160, or seeking a grant to do so, but in the end decided to hire or borrow one; **Steve** will seek to do so, and **Sara** and **Ross** will experiment with it.

Agreed that numbers present in the room will be limited to 30, allowing social distancing, and that it be recommended to wear masks. Those attending will need to supply an e-mail address in case a Covid warning results. The event will be free but the speaker will be asked if there is a charity for which he would like to receive donations.

(b) Drop-In Social

As a partial substitute for the Christmas Party (see below), **Ross** and **Sara** will host a Drop-In Social for all Suss-Ex, welcoming new members in particular, provisionally at 7pm on Thursday 9th December at *Station*, the pub next to Hove Railway Station. The pub will reserve us several tables, which in case of low numbers is preferable to a private room. **Ross** will also invite some Facebook contacts who are not members of Suss-Ex but are eligible to join.

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8. Winter events

(a) *Christmas Party*

Steve: not this year, as there is again to be no USPAS event.

(b) *Online quiz*

Ross will hope to re-launch the quiz in January.

(c) *Wine tasting*

Ross will discuss with James Hirschfeld the possibility of his hosting a Wine Tasting in a campus room.

9. Events for Spring or later

(a) *Repeat of Lewes guided walk (Helen)*

(b) *Fishbourne Roman Palace (Ross)*

(c) *The Dome building project (Helen)*

(d) *Shoreham Harbour and Rampion Windfarm*

Steve reported that a visitor centre and café is a-building, expected to be open from March.

(e) *Tour of Palmeira Mansions, Hove (Jackie)*

(f) *Talk on Kindness*

This should await publication. **Ross** and **Steve** will contact the leaders of the project.

(g) *New campus developments*

Sara will enquire of Estates about a possible tour, or failing that a talk.

(h) *Campus boundary walk*

Repeat of the walk led by Martyn Stenning, if available. Noted also the possibility that David Streeter might again lead a nature walk, on campus or elsewhere.

(i) *Lewes Railway Land Wildlife Trust*

Steve reported that tours are run, with good guides.

(j) *Historic Shoreham*

Steve suggested a tour, led by a guide associated with the Sussex Archaeological Society's Marlipins Museum, or by Geoff Mead.

10. Membership benefits

Ross's note of her correspondence with Marina Pedreira-Vilarino, Director of the University's Development and Alumni Office, was attached to the Agenda. It appears unlikely that DARO can help us access (paid for) Zoom. Marina is checking whether the licences that underpin certain alumni benefits can apply to Suss-Ex members. **Steve** will exhume old documents concerning Library and Language Centre access.

11. Newsletter

The subgroup led by **Ross**, with members **Jackie**, **Charles** and **Sara**, will work on the next Newsletter. **Steve** will contact an individual with a view to a *Spotlight on ...* piece about her. **Arnold** withdrew his suggestion for the subject of a *Spotlight on ...* item, as it was based on a misconception concerning what they do.

12. Membership

(a) *Mailing list*

Charles reported as last time that new members continue to come in, hearing about Suss-Ex on leaving Sussex University employment.

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(b) Facebook Group

Jackie reported that the Group has one more member, making 119.

13. Other business

None.

14. Next meeting

Friday 14th January 2022 at 4.30 pm via Zoom; **Charles** will set it up. **Paul** may ask someone else from the Steering Group to chair the meeting, wishing the task to rotate.