



The Fane Road Archaeology Group (FRAG)

Minutes of Fifth Annual General Meeting

Monday, 4th April 2022

1. Welcome:

In the absence of the Chairman, Nick Coneybear, Rex Gibson welcomed those present and thanked them for attending. He expressed the Committee's pleasure at the level of interest in FRAG as activities have resumed.

2. Apologies:

Nick Coneybear, Tony Camplin

3. Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting:

Approved and signed off.

4. Chairman's Report:

You will no doubt wonder why we are having this AGM in April when we had the last one in September last year. You will be glad to hear that this is just a short AGM and is really intended to bring us back in to our pre-covid schedule, so as most of the business was dealt with last time this is just to bring you up to speed.

Regarding the possibility of an excavation at Sacrewell Farm, either on the Roman villa site and maybe as part of the road widening plans. I am still in contact with the GM, and though they still have bigger concerns he is still open to the project, so I am still hopeful for a positive result.

For those who put their names down for the visit and talk around the mosaic in the dairy. In talks with the family, this is looking likely to be on 18th June and will be guided by Dr. Stephen Upex, but it is not confirmed just yet so keep fingers crossed.

We are still looking at the visit to Chester Farm and the Roman excavation with the idea that this will take place when they are digging, so we are just waiting on dates from them.

As you know we have been able to put together a nice line up of talks to take us through 2022, however we are looking for something or somebody for November, so if you know of a speaker we would be interested in or if there were something you would like us to try and arrange, then please let one of the committee members know the details and in December we plan to have another open mic night but this time with hopefully festive nibbles, so if you want to give us 10 minutes of that which interests you then please let know.

I have asked the current officers if they are all happy to stay in post and at this time, we all are. However, I have to ask if there is anybody who feels they would like to take more of a role in the running of the group. It is not onerous, and the perks and expenses package are very generous. Seriously though, we will need new ideas to help keep the group current and active and that only comes with new blood as it were. If you rely on only the seven incumbents, you will get their continued dedication, but you slowly but surely lose any variety and we need to keep fresh ideas coming in to keep the group alive.

So, if you are interested then please speak to one of us, ideally the person in the role you fancy and then maybe see about becoming the assistant in that role. It is not hard – look at me, if I can do this with two jobs anybody can.

5. Treasurer's Report:

Thanks were given to Amanda Bettany for auditing the accounts. As the previous audit was carried out for the September 2021 AGM (late due to Covid), this report covers the period from September 2021 to March 2022.

The majority of members have returned following Covid disruptions and, as of 31st March 2022, paid up membership stands at 9 joint and 46 single members. A total of 64 members. Further applications have been received and are awaiting payment.

The bank balance as of 31st March 2022 stands at £2,437

6. Field Officer's Report

Volunteers returned to the Fane Road villa site between 8th and 12th October 2021. Three trenches were opened. A wall, probably a continuation of that located in May 2019, was found, with a possible hinge socket. Attempts to pinpoint the N-S wall were unsuccessful as were those to find an Iron Age ditch

7. Election of FRAG Officers

All serving officers agreed to be re-elected. There being no other candidates, Ian Lockwood-Hall proposed that all current committee members be duly re-elected, seconded by Jean Bowers. A vote was taken, and all were unanimously returned.

The committee therefore remains as:

Position	Member
Chairman	Nick Coneybear
Secretary	Nick Coneybear
Treasurer	Sue Deoraj
Field Officer	Phil Hill
Assistant Field Officer	Kevin Redgate
Safeguarding Officer	Sue Deoraj
Assistant Safeguarding Officer	Janice Gibson
Minutes Secretary	Janice Gibson
Communications Officer	Rex Gibson
Committee member	Wendy Gamble
Auditor	Amanda Bettany
Committee Member	Wendy Gambol

8. Programme for 2022

Mon 9th May

Peterborough Cathedral

Speaker: Stuart Orme, Curator of the Cromwell Museum & former Director of Operations at Peterborough Cathedral

Mon 6th June

The Uluburun Shipwreck & Late Bronze Age Mediterranean Trade

Speaker: Michael W Olney

Mon 5th September

The Saxon Settlement Excavations at Buckden

Speaker: James Fairbairn, Project Officer, Oxford Archaeology East

Mon 3rd October

Newstead by Stamford Priory

Speaker: Nick Sheehan, Local Historian and Author

Mon 7th November

To Be Advised

Mon 5th December

Open Mike

9. AOB:

- RG gave details of the two outings to take place over the summer.

Saturday, 18th June - Visit to Milton Hall to view the Roman

Mosaic in the Dairy. Led by Stephen Upex who will also give a talk on Edmund Artis.

Saturday, 27th August – Visit to the excavations at Anchor Church Field by
Newcastle/Leeds Universities. Led by archaeologist Duncan Wright.

- Suggestions for a talk for November were invited.
- A reminder was given that the next meeting will be at the Paston & Gunthorpe Community Hall.

10. Next Committee Meeting:

Monday, 9th May at the Paston & Gunthorpe Community Centre 20.30