SUSS-EX CLUB
Notes of the 55th Steering Group meeting
Friday 18th December 2020 at 5 pm, online

1. Welcome
   Paul Tofts chaired the virtual meeting, hosted on Zoom by Ross Dowsett. Also present were Colin Finn, Jackie Fuller, Charles Goldie, Arnold Goldman, Sara Hinchliffe, Steve Pavey, Adrian Peasgood, David Smith and Helen Walker.

2. Apologies for absence
   None.

3. Minutes of the 54th Meeting, of 30th October 2020
   Approved.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere
   Steve undertook to draft a paragraph for the next Newsletter on what might be substituted for the Suss-Ex/USPAS Christmas Party that the pandemic had this year prevented.

5. Finance
   Jackie reported the credit balance, recalling that it had built up from small surpluses on paid-for events. Agreed that the aim in future should be to limit the balance to one (normal) year’s turnover, when that could be determined.

6. Our cancelled quiz
   Organiser Ross was not clear why there were not enough takers to allow the event to go ahead, though it was perhaps that early December tends to be busy with other pre-Christmas events, and members may themselves have been busy with preparations for an unprecedented Christmas. She had gained useful experience and was willing to make another attempt at hosting an online quiz. Members noted that breakout groups of 4–6 people, randomly chosen, make for interesting and enjoyable social interaction. Heartfelt thanks to Ross, assisted by Jackie and Paul, for all the work put in.

7. Future events
   (a) Zoom talk by Dr Alexandra Loske, with discussion
      We plumped for Thursday 28th January at 7 pm, with topic The Moon in Science and Art. Steve to chair the online session, with Ross as Zoom host. Agreed that the Zoom link could be given out in our Newsletter as well as to our Facebook Group.
   (b) Bees
      Sara to look at our hosting this event in the spring. We discussed timing, with some preference for a 5 pm or 6 pm start. This was left in Sara’s hands, for negotiation with the speaker(s).
   (c) A medical or medico-social talk
      David reported that his speaker continued to be tied up with extra work in the NHS. He will reopen the matter when appropriate.
   (d) Further possibilities
      Agreed to discuss those we have in mind, including the renewed possibility of a Quiz, at our next meeting.

continued …
8. Membership
   (a) Mailing list
   Charles will contact recent recruits to our Facebook Group to invite them also to
   join the mailing list.
   (b) Facebook Group
   Jackie reported that the Group now has 98 members. Agreed that the Group is
   a good place to publicise new books and other ventures by members, where of general
   interest.

9. Christmas Greeting for our Facebook Group
   Ross captured our Zoom screen in order to introduce us to the Facebook Group
   members.

10. Next Newsletter
    Copy should reach Adrian in time to publicise the January talk.

11. Other business
    Charles noted with regret the death of Mike Land FRS, a former member of the
    Steering Group.

12. Next meeting
    Provisionally fixed for Friday 5\textsuperscript{th} March 2021 at 5 pm; Charles to set up the Zoom
    meeting.