

SUSS-EX CLUB
Notes of the 58th Steering Group meeting
Friday 3rd September 2021 at 4.30 pm, online

1. Welcome

Paul Tofts chaired the virtual meeting up to midway through item 7, when Arnold Goldman took over. Charles Goldie hosted the session using Suss-Ex's Zoom subscription. Also present were Ross Dowsett, Colin Finn, Jackie Fuller, Charles Goldie, David Smith and Helen Walker.

2. Apologies for absence

Sara Hinchliffe, Steve Pavey.

3. Minutes of the 57th Meeting, of 4th June 2021

Approved.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere

None.

5. Finance

Jackie reported that the Ridgeview visit was self-financing and the picnic cost-free.

6. Recent events

(a) Ridgeview visit 23rd July

Colin, and Judith Finn, were thanked for a good repeat visit. It turned out to be of the vineyard only but included more detail about viticulture than when the winery was included. The open-air light lunch under shade was well judged, with a tutored tasting of three Ridgeview sparkling wines.

(b) Picnic 26th August

Thanks to **Ross** for organising and for virtuoso cake-baking. Suss-Ex filled two picnic tables. We should expect to make this an annual event.

7. Future events

Jackie circulated an updated list of all Suss-Ex's past events.

(a) Guided walk The Buildings of Lewes on Friday 1st October

Thanks to **David** for comprehensive plan. Agreed to post flyer and booking form straight away on Suss-Ex's website and Facebook site, with later inclusion in Newsletter. Steering Group members to consider delaying booking until others have had a chance, as the guide's limit of 10 is firm. If exceeded, a repeat walk can immediately be arranged for the following week. The booking form solicits payment only by cheque, but anyone asking about payment by bank transfer will be referred to **Ross** who will make that method available.

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

Agreed to ask **Sara**, advised by **David**, to explore possibilities for a hybrid in-person/Zoom talk, with the alternative of a pure Zoom talk. The former will depend on availability of a University room for booking, preferably with a public tea-bar nearby that will be open at the time; a conflicting consideration is that parking is charged for until 5pm in term-time. Likely date Friday 12th November or soon after, as the speaker has more availability then. Under DARO's sponsorship we do not pay for room hire.

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(c) Fishbourne Roman Palace

Ross reported that Fishbourne is again open, and all year as the site is under cover. A booked private tour does start with an introductory talk, and is otherwise as reported in Minute 57.8. Best time is 2pm plus or at a weekend, to avoid school visits. Fishbourne station on the West Coastway Line is nearby and there is ample parking. Agreed to consider a spring visit.

(d) The Dome building project

Helen will continue to monitor possibilities. Consider for next spring.

(e) Shoreham Harbour and Rampion Windfarm

Steve will continue to monitor possibilities. Consider for next summer.

(f) Online quiz

Ross is keen to re-launch the quiz and we would not wish her work for it wasted. Consider for January to help Suss-Ex members get through that month.

(g) Christmas Party

We will welcome a joint occasion with USPAS, as up to two years ago, if USPAS goes ahead with the event this year. Agreed to ask **Steve** to liaise with administrator Tracey Llewelyn.

(h) Tour of Palmeira Mansions, Hove

Recommended by **Jackie**, this visits a well preserved Victorian ‘nouveau-riche’ interior. The guide Jackie Marsh-Hobbs expects to re-start private tours when Covid restrictions ease. Tours are fitted around the needs of the language school that occupies the premises.

(i) Drop-in Social

Suggested by **Ross** with support from **Sara**, who will look for a suitable pub bar or private room, this would be for everyone while in particular welcoming new members. It could substitute for the Christmas Party if that does not come off this year, and beyond that could be a regular event, perhaps quarterly. Noted that pubs often now charge for a private room rather than relying on sales, but our funds could cover such a cost in the first instance.

(j) Further possibilities

Two further ideas, mentioned but not discussed, were a Wine Tasting, hosted by James Hirschfeld, and a talk on the *Kindness* research and campus initiatives, which have been in the news. The idea of a Book Group, mentioned at the end of the last meeting, also merits further thought.

8. Newsletter

The subgroup led by **Ross**, with members **Jackie**, **Charles** and **Sara**, has started work on the next Newsletter. The main photo will be one from the recent Ridgeview visit. We agreed that for a *Spotlight on ...* item the subject should be someone who has done something different after their Sussex University employment.

9. Membership

(a) Mailing list

Charles reported 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 now has 118 members. It is not a problem if they don't join the mailing list, as they receive our Newsletters and invitations through Facebook.

10. Other business

Helen suggested that during the Heritage Open Days (10th–18th September) members of the Steering Group should keep their eyes open for possible Suss-Ex visits.

11. Next meeting

Friday 29th October 2021 at 4.30 pm via Zoom; **Charles** will set it up.