SUSS-EX CLUB
Notes of the 64th Steering Group meeting
Friday 13th January 2023, online

1. Welcome
   Steve Pavey chaired the virtual meeting, hosted by Charles Goldie using Suss-Ex’s Zoom subscription. Also present were Ross Dowsett, Colin Finn, Jackie Fuller and Helen Walker.

2. Apologies for absence
   Sara Hinchliffe, Tony Moore and Paul Tofts.

3. Minutes of the 63rd Meeting, of 7th October 2022
   Approved.

4. Matters arising not covered elsewhere
   None

5. Finance
   Jackie reported that the credit balance remained at the same level after credits and debits in connection with the Christmas Party.

6. Recent events
   • Ross and Steve hosted a drop-in Social on Friday 18th November at the Lord Nelson pub, Trafalgar Street, Brighton. A successful event despite short notice, as 15–16 people came and went, including three, who had not been to a previous event, who later came to the Christmas Party. There was space for the Suss-Ex party away from the main pub. The timing, 3–6 pm, would better have been 4–7 pm.
   • The Christmas Party, held jointly with USPAS in the Bramber House conference suite on Friday 16th December, was a complete success. Thanks to Steve for getting the University’s subsidy restored, to Ross for circulating the invitations, and to Ross and Steve for organising on the day and beforehand. Liaison with Diz of Sussex Food was excellent, resulting in care over crucial details (seats in the drinks room for those who needed them, provision for those with special dietary needs, . . .). The short speeches made a good sequence: Paul for Suss-Ex, Chris Cook (Chair of USPAS trustees) for USPAS, Pro-VC Kelly Coate for the University, our Patron Sir Gordon Conway. This is arguably our flagship event, important in reminding the University of our existence.

7. Future events
   • Agreed, to maintain momentum, to aim to mount one event before the summer, one of
     • a talk (plus meal?),
     • a film at the Depôt in Lewes, followed by coffee and cake there,
     • a pub social.
   Steve will propose which. An invitation can go out via the mailing list and the Facebook page, without needing to be part of a Newsletter.
   • Agreed that for early summer our intention is to offer a tour of one of
     • Fishbourne Roman Palace (Ross),
     • Shoreham Harbour, Rampion Windfarm, The Port Kitchen café (Steve),
     • Lewes Railway Land Nature Reserve (Steve).

continued …
8. Questionnaire to members
We discussed Jackie’s draft and she will circulate a second draft including Ross’s suggested addition and the various comments. Jackie, Helen and Ross will agree in what form the final version should be circulated and responded to, consulting DARO who will send it out. Alternatives suggested were (a) SurveyMonkey, (b) a Word document which a recipient can edit and return as an e-mail attachment, or print and fill in by hand, returning by post or by scanning and attaching to an e-mail, (c) an e-mail, to be replied to with gaps filled in.

9. Newsletter
Postponed for later consideration. Any event we put on can be advertised to members by a circular to the mailing list plus a Facebook announcement.

10. Membership
(a) Steering Group
Charles, who was thanked by the Group for his work for it, is willing if the Group wishes it to continue with (i) agendas, minutes and hosting meetings, and (ii) obituaries, but would like by October to relinquish (iii) being mailing list membership contact person and (iv) the website.

For (iii) the duties are minimal: welcoming new members in, and passing their applications on to DARO. The contact signs a confidentiality agreement with DARO, allowing access to members’ address details.

For (iv) a volunteer is needed who will update the code, currently Hypertext Markup Language as originally defined in 1993, and maintain it.

(b) Mailing list
Nothing to report.

(c) Facebook
Currently 137 members.

11. Other business
Charles has been offered a newsletter article by a former student, who asks to receive our Newsletter. Agreed that he is welcome to join our Facebook Group (and his article will be welcome). Steve raised the possibility that we might admit ‘Friends of Sussex University’ (in some sense) into Suss-Ex.

12. Next meeting
Friday 21st April 2023 at 4.30 pm via Zoom; Charles will set it up.