

FIFE FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK (FFAN)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 22nd August 2019

Present: Anne Campbell, Joe Fitzpatrick, Veronica Laing, Roy Marsden, John Marshall, Lynn Marshall, Bob Nicolson, Joy Nicolson

Apologies: Eric Franz

Minutes approved by John, seconded by Lynn.

Matters arising

1. **FFAN Website:** the FFAN website is now publicly accessible on Digital Fife. Thanks was expressed to Joy for all her work getting the site and content ready. It was suggested that more information about FFAN site visits, especially any photos of group activities or site descriptions, would be welcome additions. At the moment only Joy has editing permissions for uploading content, but Lynn, Roy and Anne volunteered to act as additional contributors to upload web content where appropriate. Joy has offered to demonstrate the editing process to anyone who would like some input. **Action:** Joy to grant editing permissions to Lynn, Roy and Anne for the website.
2. **Archaeological Digs:**
 - **East Lomond:** East Lomond 2019 finds are currently being processed. The Falkland Centre for Stewardship Board has agreed a schedule for a Strategic Partnership agreement with Historic Environment Scotland to share results from recent HES survey work on East Lomond, alongside the Centre for Stewardship excavation results. Joe Fitzpatrick and Dr Oliver O'Grady will deliver a presentation on the 2019 excavation strategy on East Lomond at this year's TAFAC conference in Glenrothes on 2nd November.
 - **Pittarhie Farm:** the Pittarhie History Exploration event will take place over the weekend of the 31st August and 1st September. Patrick Bowden-Smith has identified some interesting stonework adjacent to the castle at Pittarhie, lying out-with the scheduled monument area. The aim is to clear back surface vegetation around this, and to log, photograph, measure and record everything carefully and accurately. The emphasis is on taking a measured and professional approach to initial investigation that might support any future grant application for further archaeological exploration on the site. 20+ volunteers are taking part, and approximately 8 members from FFAN with extensive excavation experience will be present to provide support for the archaeological experience. There are also plans for metal detecting, geo-phys exploration, drone flying, field walking and other associated activities on the day.
3. **SCAPE erosion monitoring:** The training course has been confirmed for Saturday 19th October at the Harbourmaster's House in Dysart. This will be an all-day event, and will require participants to bring a digital device such as a phone, tablet or iPad, with the coastal erosion survey app pre-installed. This will be used to upload the results of the practical training exercise on the day. Participants must pre-book and register on the shore update survey site beforehand. Spaces on the course are limited, and due to the enthusiastic response, the event is almost fully booked. Anyone interested in applying for one of the remaining places should contact John directly at jrmarsall365@gmail.com . **Action:** John to circulate detailed instructions from SCAPE for the training course to participants beforehand.
4. **Equipment:** A 50m tape, and 2m ranging poles have been costed at approximately £37. It was agreed to go ahead with purchasing these, using Past Horizons as the preferred supplier. In addition to the existing kitty, committee members agreed to contribute a further £5 each to

cover costs. **Action:** John and Lynn will order the equipment, with monies from committee members being collected at the next meeting.

5. **Inter-group liaison:** Bob and Corrie from the group Perthshire have been added to the FFAN group email list.

Future Site Visits

- Joe suggested that best way to contact Edwina Proudfoot to discuss suggestions for possible sites of interest to visit in the area might be to contact her in person at her office premises in the Bonnygate in Cupar. As local residents, Roy and Bob would be happy to do this. **Action:** Joe to pass on contact details to Roy and Bob to enable a personal visit.
- Sue Hampstead has indicated she would be happy to lead another tour of additional caves around the Fife Coastal Path that are not SWACS related.
- A small assemblage of archaeological finds found as a result of many years of recreational walking on West Lomond has been donated to the Falkland Centre for Stewardship. Joe proposes organising a walkover of West Lomond to explore sites identified as being associated with the finds.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Thursday, October 24th 2019 at the Lomond Hotel, Freuchie.