

FIFE FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY NETWORK (FFAN)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 26th April 2019

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

Absent: Joy Nicolson

Matters arising

1. **FFAN Website:** Joy has now made the FFAN website, which is hosted on Digital Fife, and has populated most of the pages with content. There was very positive feedback from the group about the site, and Joy will now make the website live, although at the moment it remains private to FFAN members only. Joy will also forward a link to the website to the committee members when it is available. Some thought will be given to what relevant content might be added to the *Contacts* and *About* page by all. Thanks were expressed by the committee to Joy for all her efforts in bringing the website together. **Action:** Joy to distribute the URL of the live website.
2. **Wemyss Cave Tour:** the March visit by FFAN to Wemyss caves was very well received by the group. It was agreed that the guided tour by Sue Hamstead was interesting and informative as well as most enjoyable. **Action:** Anne to email thanks on behalf of the committee to Sue.
3. **Walks:** planning for future walks was reviewed:
 - **Monimail and Drumcarrow** – walking routes still to be investigated by Joy and Anne respectively
 - **Walking Between the Lomonds** – Joe has identified some interesting features for investigation in the landscape, visible on Google Earth. These are situated near the route to West Lomond. This would make a good walk with a picnic lunch.
 - **Brown and White Caterthuns** – the travelling distance to these monuments is a potential difficulty. Veronica is looking into finding out if it may be possible to have the use of the BRAG community minibus for transport to make a visit possible.
 - **SCAPE walk** – Ellie from SCAPE is very happy to lead a walk, but has suggested instead doing something more focussed in relation to ongoing coastal monitoring. **Action:** Eric and any other available committee members will chat with Ellie after the walk to Norman's Law on 28th April to find out more.
4. **Archaeological Digs:** the status of proposed future digs was discussed:
 - Joe gave the committee an overview of the preparations for the East Lomond Dig which starts on 15th May. Details are almost finalised. The excavation slots are all fully booked, with local school visits planned daily, and archaeology students from St Andrews University also participating on some of the dig days.
 - Sue Hamstead indicated during our visit that the planned Wemyss Cave dig in July is a limited initial investigation on a small scale, and therefore there is probably no scope for volunteer involvement this time.
 - Planning for the event at Pittarthie Farm in August is ongoing. Joe is still in contact about possible FFAN involvement but has stressed that this would be dependent on the involvement of a professional archaeologist. He has suggested Peter Klemen from AKD Archaeology to the organisers as a possible contact.
5. **Talks:** John still to email non committee members to gauge the level of interest for this.

Opportunities for Archaeology this summer

John has been contacted by Geoff Bailey, archaeologist with Falkirk Council, with details of a variety of archaeological events taking place in the Falkirk area this summer. Jeff has indicated that any FFAN members would be welcome to join the volunteers. John will distribute details to the committee, and anyone who wishes to follow up any of these can do so through John who will liaise with Geoff.

Date for next walk

Because of the upcoming East Lomond Dig in May, it is proposed that the next monthly FFAN walk should take place in June instead.

Roy noted that Denny might be another interesting venue for a future walk, with a broch, medieval castle and other historical monuments all in close proximity to each other.

Open Meeting

There was some discussion about giving all FFAN members the opportunity to meet fellow group members at an open meeting. It was felt that some members might welcome this as an ice-breaker introduction to the group and its activities and stimulate a wider engagement. A possible venue could be the Stables on Falkland Estate. To test out interest in the group before planning anything more concrete, Eric proposed emailing round the group in lieu of contact about a May walk to gauge interest. **Action:** Eric to email FFAN members.

The Iron Age on Benarty Hill

John has had some discussion with David Munro about possible FFAN involvement as volunteers to help with looking at recently identified evidence of an Iron Age presence on Benarty Hill. It was agreed this would be an interesting opportunity to follow up.

Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is Thursday, June 27th 2019 at the Lomond Hotel, Freuchie.