

West Essex Archaeological Group – Sixty Second Annual General Meeting

8th March 2021

Chairman's Report 2020 -2021

Shortly after last years AGM the impact of the Coronavirus struck the world and for all of the last year the bulk of activities have had to be suspended due to the national restrictions put in place to combat the spread of the virus.

While the Research and Excavation Committee has suspended meetings until clear guidance on restarting group work is provided, the main committee has continued to meet via zoom on a regular basis and has been able to move forward with a number of projects.

Last year I reported on the progress on the publication of Norah Carlin's book on 'Old Copped Hall'. This project has continued to progress with Colin Mann working closely with Norah to finalise the text and to obtain copyright permissions for all the images (a herculean task in its own right). Ian Hunter has produced an index for the publication which after 10 years is now nearly ready for publication. Hopefully at the next AGM we will be in a position to report on the publication and launch of the book.

Perhaps the most impressive achievement of WEAG over this past last year has been the switch from our programme of in person lectures to the delivery of the lecture programme via zoom, and indeed it is thanks to zoom that we are able to hold our AGM on the 8th March. While many societies have had to suspend their lecture programmes, thanks to the brilliance of Alex and Vicky, since September we have been able to host a full programme of talks and thanks go to all of our speakers who have provided a fascinating range of subjects. While virtual lectures do not suit everyone, they have allowed us to attract new members and maintain engagement. We were even able to have a virtual Christmas meeting, with a challenging quiz provided by Alex.

A new look website for WEAG has also been under development and John Avis is progressing this and work on it should be completed soon.

I would like to thank all of the committee members for their support and the huge amount of work they undertake on behalf of the group.

Finally, now that there is a roadmap to return to normal life by the summer, I look forward over the coming months to working with colleagues to plan for the resumption of in-person activities later this year.

Tony O'Connor BA FSA