

Statement for The Sussex Archaeological Society

Annual General Meeting – 23rd October 2021

Joe Sullivan

For the last six years, I have enjoyed the pleasure and privilege of being an active Trustee of the Society. I am a senior lawyer at the Government Legal Department and a part-time Deputy District Judge sitting in Sussex. I endeavour to contribute my broad legal experience to my role as Council member and throughout my tenure, I have enthusiastically contributed my expertise at every opportunity.

Over the years, I have been consulted on an extremely diverse range of legal issues on an ad hoc basis and have advised on issues ranging from personal injury, public and occupiers' liability, commercial contracts, property matters, employment law, regulatory, compliance and company law. I have found this challenging but enormously rewarding and I hope to continue in this role for the next three years.

In addition to general advice, I have also represented Council in relation to several staffing matters: together with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, I sat on a dismissal appeal board; I have advised in relation to a further dismissal; I have sat on a recruitment panel for a proposed employee; drafted Instructions to, and liaised with, a specialist employment lawyer in relation to a number of legal concerns that have arisen; and have given talks and written advice to Council on a range of legal issues.

I am a passionate supporter of both the museums and research elements of the Society, both of which are vital to its reputation and financial well-being. It is my hope that the former will, ultimately, facilitate greater investment in the latter. I am no Archaeologist, but I do have a degree in history and a life-long interest in all matters historical.

In summary, I have to date been honoured to act, in many respects, as the Society's legal 'trouble-shooter'. The Society has endured a turbulent period, but I am now highly optimistic that we are entering a more stable and expansive phase. Whilst this may mean that hopefully my services will be less in demand going forward, I will continue to contribute and support the Chair and Executive to the best of my ability.