



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)**

The Annual General Meeting of the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association was held on Friday 15 October 2010 at 6 p.m. in the Queen's Building (Lecture Theatre 1).

1. **Those present at the meeting**

There were 46 members of the Association present at the meeting (handwritten list attached to Minutes in file).

2. **Apologies**

31 Apologies were received (list filed with the minutes).

3. **Bruce Coleman (President for 2009-10) opened the meeting as 6 p.m.**

The President welcomed everyone present to the meeting. On behalf of UERSA he particularly thanked all the members of the Committee; the Leaders of UERSA's Special Interest Groups; **Mary Banks** for co-ordinating the many trips/events during the past year (with the help of other members who assisted with some of the trips).

Roger Coles for the efficient upkeep of the UERSA website; **Sue Guy** for the presentation of our Newsletters; **Tony Wragg** for his help in organizing the booking of the venue (Exeter Cricket Club Pavilion) and also the hire of crockery, for the Annual Garden Party. Bruce also mentioned how popular the monthly Coffee Mornings at Exeter's Imperial Hotel had proved. Although he is retiring as President he will continue on the Committee for a further year as Immediate Past President and maintain his great interest in the Association.

4. **Chairman's Report**

Alan Leadbetter welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Bruce Coleman for his term as President of the Association for 2009/10. A copy of the Chairman's report is attached to these minutes.

5. **Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting (16 October 2009)**

It was noted that the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting held on 16 October 2009 had been typed and were filed in the Minute Book. However, several copies of these Minutes were available for those members present at the meeting if they wished to take one away with them.

At this point the Chairman mentioned that since the inauguration of UERSA it had not been the policy to circulate to each of the members a copy of the minutes after each AGM and he was interested to hear whether the members at this AGM were happy with this decision. The clear majority vote was that the AGM minutes should not be circulated.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

Wojtek circulated to the members present a copy of his report for 2009/10 (copy filed with these minutes). The report showed a credit balance of £5,532 in the UERSA account.

Wojtek mentioned his appreciation of the University's Finance Office Staff for their services in holding UERSA's accounts and arranging for their auditing each year. He also confirmed that it was imperative that the account were never allowed to go into deficit. The Annual Financial Report was accepted by the AGM.

7 **Membership Subscriptions for 2010/11**

The Chairman confirmed that the Committee members at their last meeting had agreed a proposal that the current membership fee of £6 per person/couple should continue for 2010/11. This proposal was agreed by the UERSA members present at the Annual General meeting.

Judy (Membership Secretary) confirmed that the current membership of the Association was 369

8. **UERSA Constitution**

The Chairman confirmed that some amendments to the Constitution with regard to Committee Membership, Finances and AGM had been proposed by Bruce Coleman and seconded by himself (copies of proposed amendments had been circulated with the Agenda to the UERSA members). These amendments had been discussed and agreed by the UERSA Executive Committee, subject to approval at the AGM. A unanimous vote in favour of these amendments was given by the UERSA members at the AGM.

9. **Election of Committee for 2010/11**

It was confirmed by the Chairman that this matter had been discussed at the previous Committee meeting and the following members of the Committee agreed to serve for a further year:

Alan Leadbetter (Chairman)

Jan Reynolds (Secretary) (subject to modification of the Constitution by the AGM)

Wojtek Krzanowski (Treasurer)

Judy Mead (Membership Secretary)

Roger Coles (Committee Member)

Alastair Logan (Committee Member).

To confirm that **Laurie Burbridge** will become **President of UERSA** for 2010/11.

Bruce Coleman will serve a further year on the Committee, as **Immediate Past President**.

Mary **Ravenhill** leaves the Committee having completed her term as **Immediate Past President**.

It was confirmed that the following two Officers and two Committee Members are now standing down:

Mary Banks (Social Co-ordinator)

Sue Guy (Newsletter Editor)

Sue Odell (Committee Member)

Tony Wragg (Committee Member).

It is proposed that **Sue Guy** be co-opted onto the Committee for a few months to provide overlap for her successor.

The following nominations had been received by the Committee and are proposed for approval at this meeting:

Social Co-ordinator: Susan Cousins

Newsletter Editor: Rachel Kirby

Committee Member: Frankie Peroni

Committee Member: John Carroll

Unanimous vote in favour of these nominations.

10. **Election of President Elect – 2010/11**

The Committee proposed that **Anne Mayes** should be nominated as **President Elect for 2010/11**. Unanimous vote in favour of this nomination.

11. **Report on the Activities of Special Interest Groups**

WALKING GROUP

Trevor Priest, Leader of the Group, confirmed that it was still a very thriving, friendly group (between 50-60 members during the year). He particularly thanked all those who had volunteered to help him with the walks throughout this year. He said that since the group was formed in 2004 the number of individual walks by members was now more than 1600 and the total miles walked by the participants amounted to 10,000 miles. Trevor particularly thanked Roger Coles, for his valuable help in reporting on the activities of the Special Interest Groups, and also Sue Guy for her (sometimes humorous) reports in the UERSA Newsletters.

The Chairman also commented that from his own experience the Group was very popular.

Charity Walk (In Aid of Hospiscare at Exeter)

The UERSA Charity Walk took place on Wednesday 5th May, and raised £1,100. Just over 50 members participated in the Walk. Very enjoyable and ‘friendly chat throughout’!

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNINGS

Still very popular with members and invariably between 30-35 turn up for their coffee and chatter.

WINE TASTING GROUP

As **Laurie Burbridge**, Leader of the Group, was unable to attend this meeting, Alan (Leadbetter) gave a short account on the group and confirmed that after a break, Laurie had resumed his role as Leader. Two successful meetings have taken place: the first at Laurie’s home on July 1st and the second on 30th September at Geoff Bowen’s vineyard at Ebford, with tasting and tapas in Topsham. The following events have also been arranged:

- (i) Tasting of Bordeaux wines on Thursday, 21st October at 21 The Mint (unfortunately this was later cancelled because of insufficient numbers).
- (iii) Tasting of Spanish wines on Thursday, 2nd December, led by Richard Kocik of Vinifera Wine Courses.

BADMINTON

Jan Reynolds confirmed that at present there were nine members of the group who meet on Wednesday mornings between 11 a.m. and 12 noon, at the University Sports Hall. It is a very friendly group, and a pleasure to meet up with weekly.

BRIDGE GROUP

In Paul Ellison’s absence, Wojtek (a member of the group) confirmed that there were between 5-8 members who played ‘rubber bridge’. The group was willing to accept more members.

GARDENS GROUP

Anne Mayes, Leader of the Group, reported that they had enjoyed several visits to gardens over the past few months, as follows:

Prospect House, Axminster
High Garden and Nursery at Kenton
Marwood Hill
Antony House
Little Ash Bungalow
Kilver Court and Wells.

Anne added that although she is to become UERSA’s President Elect for 2010/11, it is her intention to carry on with the Leadership of this Group for the time being – unless anyone else volunteers to take over.

RESTAURANT GROUP

No report was received for this Group.

OPERA GROUP

Helen Pope, Leader of this Group (assisted by **Alastair Logan**) reported on the wonderful performance of The Monteverdi Vespers enjoyed by members in the Cathedral in June and the forthcoming visit to Plymouth to see Glyndebourne Touring's production of The Coronation of Poppea on 25th November.

12. **ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS TAKEN PLACE DURING 2009/10**

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – held at the Devon Hotel on 15th December 2009.
As usual, very well supported and enjoyed by 72 members.

TRIVIA QUIZ – held at the Exeter Arena on 30th March 2010. Over 30 members enjoyed this very popular annual event.

TRIP ALONG THE TAMAR AND A VISIT TO COTEHELE on 5th June 2010, organised by Mary Ravenhill and Nancy Scattergood. A very spectacular event for all who took part, even the weather was wonderful! Mary also mentioned her thanks to the many volunteers who helped out on this trip.

UERSA's ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY was held on 30th June 2010, in the Exeter Cricket Club's Pavilion once again. For a change the weather was exceptionally good. This year's Garden Party was celebrating 'almost 6 years of UERSA's existence', and Susan Cousins organised a special 'Birthday Cake' as part of the event. Mary thanked all the volunteers who helped out. Mary also commented that the 'glasses of Pimms' went down well with the members who attended!

13. **SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

The Chairman confirmed that volunteers were needed to assist with future activities and events.

The following suggestions were put forward:

A visit to **STOURHEAD**

A visit to **LUDLOW** (adverse comments were made regarding this idea, particularly 'too far a journey'.)

Susan Cousins suggested a possible visit to the new **OLYMPIC SITE IN LONDON** – to take place in early 2012 – with a stay overnight in London. She confirmed she would make enquiries.

Trevor Preist suggested a possible visit to the **HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT** (London!), together with other venues in London i.e. Art Exhibitions, the Globe Theatre, etc.

Bruce Coleman mentioned that at the moment British Rail were offering cheap rail tickets.

It was suggested that UERSA members could email any of the Committee Members with other ideas which they may come up with.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

After the meeting had finished, the members were then able to enjoy a complimentary glass of wine and nibbles in the Queen's Building Café.

UERSA AGM 2010 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

First let me add my welcome to you all and, on behalf of all members, express our thanks to Bruce Coleman for carrying out the role of President with his usual flair and gravitas -but of course with his new hip he ends his year much sprightlier than he began it! He will remain on the Committee for a further year as immediate Past President. We welcome also our next President - that ubiquitous figure in UERSA - Laurie Burbridge, a founder member and past Chairman. Mary Ravenhill now returns to the ranks with our thanks, having finished her stint as Immediate Past President.

We have now enjoyed a highly successful 6 years, with a current membership of 369, a healthy bank balance and a vigorous programme of well-supported events and activities. Both the general events and the activities of the Special Interest groups are described in our excellent quarterly Newsletter produced by Sue Guy and also in our splendidly clear and comprehensive website which is designed and kept bang up-to-date by Roger Coles. This also contains full information about all aspects of UERSA , including archival material and photographs.

This year there will be a major turnover of Committee Membership, as you will have seen from the Agenda. Officers retiring are Sue Guy, who has Edited the Newsletter with humour and efficiency since UERSA was founded in 2004, Mary Banks who has done a tremendous job as Social Coordinator since 2006 during which time we have enjoyed numerous hugely successful and enjoyable events. Committee members leaving are Tony Wragg who has served since 2006 and played a major role in organising our series of glorious garden parties and Sue Odell who has served since 2007 and volunteered for the important, if not glamorous, job of informing the Membership about the deaths of colleagues. Both of these good people will, I believe, carry on with these roles, at least for a while, despite leaving the Committee. I ask all four of the retiring members now to come down to the front and receive our thanks and some small tokens of our appreciation of all their work on behalf of UERSA.

It is important at this point to comment on the question of the important role of the Secretary of UERSA. The role has been filled superbly by Jan Reynolds ever since our foundation and she has now served two full terms of 3 years which is the maximum possible under the present Constitution. It has not been possible to find a replacement but Jan is more than willing to continue, and we are certainly very happy that she is prepared to do so. We will therefore propose a modification to the Constitution to make this possible.

Here I want to record our thanks to Jan for her wonderful service up to now and for her willingness to continue in the future.

I am both happy and relieved to announce that four members have been identified who are eager and willing to allow their names to come before the AGM for election to replace those departing from the Committee. It would be even better if we had more volunteers, even though we would then need to have an election, but no other names have been proposed and we are actually very fortunate to have four nominees of such quality.

Finally I thank on behalf of the membership all the members of the Committee, together with the organisers of the Special Interest Groups who, by their imagination and hard work, have contributed so much to our successful and enjoyable 6th year . We also owe our gratitude to those other, often anonymous, members who help behind the scenes in a variety of capacities to help UERSA run smoothly and efficiently.

ALAN LEADBETTER