



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION  
(UERSA)**

The Annual General Meeting of the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association was held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 at 6.30 p.m. in The Henderson Room, Xfi Building, Streatham Court, University of Exeter.

1. **Those present at the meeting**

There were 45 members of the Association present at the meeting (list attached to Minutes in file).

2. **Apologies**

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

3. **Chair's Report by David Batty**

David welcomed Members to the 2015 Annual General Meeting of the University's Retired Staff Association. He reported that this year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the granting of the University's charter and he knew that some had already been reliving elements of that history through reading Jeremy Black's new account of the years since and attending the launch lecture earlier this week. From his frequent discussions with fellow members, it was clear that were the book longer, many of us would have plenty to offer to spice up even further the development of the University through some often turbulent years. But Exeter appeared to be in good heart, especially so since yesterday's announcement that the University was now ranked 93<sup>rd</sup> in the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings* which placed it, for the first time in its history, as a global top 100 university. David was sure we were all glad to be in some small way still to be associated with a thriving University community; employment may end but friendships do not.

David continued his report with a number of thank-you's. He wanted to say how much he had valued the support of the UERSA Committee over his first year as Chairman. Two long-serving members would be standing down, **Jan Reynolds** as Secretary, for over 11 years and **Wojtek Krsanowski** as Treasurer, since 2009. UERSA owes a real debt of gratitude to both, Jan for servicing our meetings so efficiently and Wojtek for simplifying our financial systems and keeping on such good terms with the University's Finance Office which held our funds. Both, he knew will keep in touch with UERSA and he was grateful to Jan that she has expressed her willingness to help continue organising the annual quiz, the monthly coffee mornings and the Badminton Group. The meeting showed its appreciation accordingly.

He was glad to report that our membership continues to be healthy, standing at 241 subscriptions in the year just ending, representing 362 members with spouses and partners included. The University's recent voluntary severance scheme was resulting in a number of new recruits and it would be good to welcome new blood to our ranks; the average age of those attending this week's monthly coffee morning at the Imperial has already been noticeably reduced! David hoped they would want to join in the range of activities supported by UERSA and he was especially grateful to those who took the lead in organising our special interest groups which were such a feature of our wider activities. Many of the groups had a healthy number of followers and Ruth Preist had recently set up an informal Loose Film Group to add to the list. However, a couple could do with assistance. The Opera Group, for instance, currently lacked a co-ordinator. If there is any member interested in taking a lead, the Committee would be especially grateful. More generally, the annual Christmas Lunch, Trivia Quiz and Garden Party were well supported, the last benefiting perhaps from its relocation, for one year at least, to Reed Hall.

Many will have read David's contribution to the recent UERSA newsletter and its appeal about your interest in general outings and activities. He would really welcome ideas that would appeal to the generality of members for days out, with a principal criterion being that we could fill the best part of a coach (or a boat!). One or two of you had already contacted him with thoughts on this subject but others were encouraged to do so.

In conclusion, David wished Members the very best for the coming year. The next general UERSA social event is the Christmas lunch at the Devon Hotel on 10 December where the seasonal carvery is particularly good value. It's a good opportunity to see the old year out with UERSA friends and a new one in and it's also the only occasion when the UERSA President addresses her troops!

4. **Treasurer's Report**

**Wojtek** confirmed that his Treasurer's Report for 2014/15 has previously been circulated to all UERSA Members with the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting. (Copy of Report is attached to these Minutes).

In doing so, **Wojtek** confirmed his decision to step down as the **UERSA Treasurer** (a position he has held since the AGM in 2009).

5. **To confirm the Subscription Rates for 2015/16**

(a) The Members present at this year's AGM unanimously agreed that the Subscription Fees for 2015/16 should remain at £6 per person/per couple.

(b) **Chris King , Membership Secretary**, mentioned at this juncture that the University of Exeter has approved the introduction of electronic payments by UERSA Members for their annual subscriptions and also for other UERSA expenditure such as trips. In order to facilitate the matching of electronic payments to members it would be necessary to include a reference code and Chris will be contacting all members with details in the next couple of weeks.

Please note: Cheques (made out to the University of Exeter) will still be acceptable for those members that prefer this method of payment.

6. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2015/16**

The Meeting approved the election of the following Officers and Members of the UERSA Committee who have agreed to serve a further year:

**Sue Odell** will become **President** for a year from the AGM 2015.

**Tony Wragg** will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2015.

**David Batty (Chairman)**

**Chris King (Membership Secretary)**

**Susan Cousins (Social Co-ordinator)**

**Rachel Kirby (Newsletter Editor)**

**Linda Hale (Committee Member)**

**Roger Coles (Committee Member and Website Editor)**

**Ann Corbin (Committee Member)**

**Robin Turner (Committee Member)**

The following Members of the Committee confirmed at the previous Committee Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> August that they would be '**stepping down**' from the Committee at the Annual General Meeting on 2nd October 2015:

**Alan Leadbetter (Immediate Past President 2014/15).**

**Wojtek Krzanowski (Treasurer) – since October 2009.**

**Jan Reynolds (Secretary) – since October 2004.**

The UERSA Committee proposed the following nominations to the Meeting:

**\*Election as Treasurer 2015/16**

**David Smith**

**\*Election as Secretary 2015/16**

**Julie Orr**

**\*Election of President-designate 2015/16**

**John Carroll**

**\*A unanimous vote in favour of all these nominations was received at this Annual General Meeting.**

7. **Future Activity**  
**Christmas Lunch** – to be held at the Devon Hotel (Regency Room on the Ground Floor) on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015, at 12.30-1 p.m.

Sue Cousins confirmed that she has now received details of the Christmas Lunch and these would be sent out to UERSA Members very soon .

8. **Special Interest Groups**

A report on the **Gardens Group** was received from **Anne Mayes**, wherein she reported that the Group had just finished its 11<sup>th</sup> season and 72<sup>nd</sup> visit. Very few of which had been on wet days!

The following venues were visits undertaken this year:

**Killerton; Coleton Fishacres; Moretonhampstead; Longstock Water Gardens and Mottisfont; Beaminster; Higheroft Gardens and Nursery; Hauser & Woth Gardens and Gallery in Bruton and Midney Gardens in Somerton.**

**Anne** also mentioned that full reports and photos are on the UERSA website.

**Paul Ellison** (Leader of the Bridge Group) reported that he had been unable to organise any Group meetings due to lack of numbers.

**John Carroll** (Wine Tasting Group) reported the following meetings:

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Wines for the Festive Season (at Majestic Wines).**

By popular demand we were returning for **another event with Lauren at Majestic wines** (more details to follow).

**February 2016 - Reisling and Pinot Noir (at 21 The Mint) with Alan Leadbetter** (more details to follow).

**Loose Film Group**

**Ruth Preist** confirmed she is willing to support the new Loose Film Group.

9. **Suggestions for future activities and events**

Although **Bruce Coleman** was unable to attend this Annual General Meeting, he reported that ‘all being well’ he hoped to organise another Shakespeare trip to Stratford for early September 2016. Details would be circulated later on.

10. **Any other business**

None.

\*After the AGM, wine and nibbles were available for Members.

# UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

## RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

### Treasurer's Report for 2014/15

The UERSA account is held within the general University financial system, and is audited as part of this system at the close of each financial year on 31<sup>st</sup> July. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Lynda Swallow of Finance Services for being such a helpful and efficient point of contact with that system.

The position at audit for the immediate past and two preceding years is given below. "Events" are those that have been advertised in newsletters for all members, while "Activities" are those held within special interest groups. It was agreed by the Executive Committee some years ago that the latter should aim to break even but the former could be supported from general funds; events that benefited in this way in 2014/15 were the refreshments after the AGM, the Christmas lunch, and the summer Garden Party. "Administration Costs" cover printing, photocopying, postal charges and general running expenses, while "Disbursements" comprise donations approved by the Committee. These were to Wonford Methodist Church, who had supplied crockery for use at the previous Garden Party, and to Exeter Cricket Club who had made available the pavilion for the Garden Party as well as parking space throughout the year for members attending events.

	31-07-15 £	31-07-14 £	31-07-13 £
<b>Surplus Brought Forward</b>	<b>6,474</b>	<b>6,519</b>	<b>6,594</b>
<b>Subscription Income</b>	1,382	1,308	1,404
<b>Administration Costs</b>	-160	-138	-333
<b>Events</b>			
- Income	1,539	2,146	1,603
- Expenditure	-2,823	-3,143	-2,438
<b>Activities</b>			
- Income	6,031	6,781	6,728
- Expenditure	-5,594	-6,820	-6,858
<b>Disbursements</b>	-180	-180	-180
<b>Surplus Carried Forward</b>	<b>6,669</b>	<b>6,474</b>	<b>6,519</b>

The surplus carried forward shows a profit of just under £200 over the year but this is illusory, as an expense of £330 under "Activities" was not met by the Finance Office until after the close of the financial year so has not been included. When allowance for this item is made, "Activities Expenditure" comes to £5924 leaving an overall balance of £6339. Thus the trend of slight annual losses has been continued this year, but our balance is still very healthy and the Committee has once again proposed to maintain the subscription at £6.

I can supply detailed information about individual transactions on request, and will be very happy to answer any questions at the AGM.

Wojtek Krzanowski (Treasurer)



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**Contact Details for Members of the UERSA Executive Committee for 2015/16**

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