



University  
of Exeter

## RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION (UERSA)

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **University of Exeter Retired Staff Association** was held on Thursday 3rd November 2022, 6.30 pm at Exeter Cricket Club

### Those present at the meeting

There were 32 members of the Association present at the meeting (list with the minutes on file).

### Apologies

14 apologies were received.

### 1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in November 2022

The minutes of the meeting were signed by the Chair as a true record of the proceedings.

### 2. Report on the Year 2021/22

The Chair, **David Batty**, in welcoming members to the AGM, presented a short report on UERSA's business over the previous year. He began by noting that, as with other organisations, UERSA seemed to be finally emerging from the effects of the Covid pandemic, with a marked increase in activity since last Christmas. It had been a particular pleasure to welcome a good crowd of members to the reinstated summer party at the Cricket Club pavilion when we were able to renew past friendships while enjoying a splendid tea. He thanked those present at the party for contributing so generously to the retiring collection for the Exeter Foodbank. This pavilion continued to be the venue for the monthly coffee mornings, and for the ready access to this convenient venue we should especially thank the good offices of Bruce Coleman. Our next special event for the general membership would be the Christmas lunch on Thursday 8th December at the Devon Hotel. Judy Mead had recently circulated details, and David encouraged members to support this very sociable, festive occasion.

Maintaining healthy membership numbers continued to be a concern for the Executive Committee. We could not ignore a gentle decline in membership, which had seen paid subscriptions falling in the last three years from 228 in 2019-20 to 202 last year. In the current year 180 renewals, equating to some 269 members and partners, had been received by the Membership Secretary, who was in the process of chasing up about 16 late payers. As reported to the AGM on a number of occasions, data protection constraints continued to prevent our being informed of newly retired staff at the University, therefore hampering our ability actively to encourage such individuals to join UERSA. David was currently in discussion with the Human Resources Department about how impending retirees might be better informed about the Association.

For enabling us to keep in touch with all our members irrespective of whether they were able to attend UERSA occasions, David thanked Roger Coles for maintaining the website and David Carpenter-Clawson for editing recent editions of the newsletter.

David reported that it had been gratifying to see a number of our special interest groups reinstating a full programme of activities during the past year. The website entry for the Gardens Group was particularly informative on the season's visits and the Group's luck in avoiding rain for all but one should be an encouragement to members to join next year's outings. The Walking Group had also experienced similar good fortune on most occasions; its

busy schedule normally stretched to two walks each month and, hardy as its members were, the programme extended throughout the year. Other groups had been taking to the outside, though table tennis was moving inside for the winter months. Photography group members had provided us with much evidence of their skills through the occasional competition; the group's area on the UERSA website showed some stunning photos when, again, the sun always seemed to be shining! Inside, more sedate and definitely educational were the meetings of the Wine Tasting Group while it was to be hoped that the Restaurant Group would start meeting again soon. David expressed his thanks to the co-ordinators of all these groups for their efforts in providing UERSA members with so much pleasure over recent months.

Finally, turning to UERSA's Executive Committee, David thanked members for their ongoing support for the Association. Except for Bruce Coleman whose term as Immediate Past President would now come to an end, all had expressed their willingness to continue as members of the Committee, We had one vacancy and the agenda paper included a nomination for filling that gap. The Committee would, however, welcome expressions of interest from other UERSA members who would like to serve; in this respect there was a facility for co-opting such folk.

### 3. **Treasurer's Report**

**David Smith's** Treasurer's Report for 2021/22 had previously been circulated to all UERSA members with the agenda for the Annual General Meeting (report filed with the minutes).

Although unable to attend the meeting in person, he filed a report as follows:

The accounts for UERSA continue to show a healthy balance, year on year. The amount in hand has increased slightly since this time last year. The UERSA Committee has agreed expenditure on activities; first, that the photography competitions should receive prizes paid for from our funds and second, to pay the hire charges for the room used by meetings of the Wine Group. All members are welcome to enjoy the competitions and meetings of these UERSA activities. Administration expenses cover production of the newsletter for those not on email, and miscellaneous postage for the newsletter and membership. We are grateful to the Cricket Club for hosting our meetings and coffee mornings. The Committee has agreed an ex-gratia gift which will appear in next year's accounts. With the resumption of the Christmas lunch, there will be associated expenses of this event in the coming financial year. Astute observers of the accounts may spot that the subscription income is not a multiple of £6; most members have paid the correct subscription, but not all! My thanks as always go to the members of the Committee for their support; to all members for their understanding that the University no longer accepts cheques for anything, including membership dues; and to the University Finance Office for their regular help and ability to solve problems.

The members present at this year's AGM unanimously agreed that the subscription fee for 2022/23 should remain at £6 per person/couple.

### 4. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2022/23**

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

**Anne Mayes** will become **President** for a year from the AGM 2022

**Laurie Burbridge** will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2022

**David Batty (Chair)**

**David Smith (Treasurer)**

**Julie Orr (Secretary)**

**Roger Coles (Website Editor)**

**Wojtek Krzanowski (Membership Secretary)**

**David Carpenter-Clawson (Newsletter Editor)**

**Judy Mead**

**Sue Milward**

The UERSA Committee proposed the following nominations to the Meeting:

**\*Election of President-Elect 2022/23**

**Wojtek Krzanowski**

**\*Election of Committee members 2022/23**

**Gwyneth Leonard**

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

There was a plea for any members interested in joining the Committee to come forward. As it stands, many of those elected have already served on the Committee previously.

**5. Special Interest Groups**

Anne Mayes reported that the Gardens Group had undertaken five visits instead of the planned six in 2022; one was cancelled by the hosts because of forecast excessive heat. It was a well-supported group, although some members were reluctant to travel very far, and some new venues had been found.

The Walking Group had continued to meet regularly, organised by Jan Smith and Judy Mead.

The Cinema Group, led by Sue Odell, had met to see The Lost King in October and another film was planned for November.

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

It was expected that the Summer Party and Christmas lunch would again take place in 2023 and it was hoped to hold a quiz in the early part of 2023.

**7. Any other business**

Anne Mayes raised the issue that the Squash Club may be demolished to make way for private student accommodation and that would have implications for the Cricket Club and associated parking, although it was noted that there were leases in place for 2034 and 2029 respectively.

**After the AGM, Mike Shore-Nye, University Registrar and Secretary, spoke to the meeting in place of the Vice-Chancellor who was unable to attend because of illness and he ended by answering a few questions from the membership.**

**Wine and nibbles were then made available for members**