



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)**

The Annual General Meeting of the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association was held on Friday 11th October 2013 at 6.30 p.m. in the Queen's Building (Lecture Theatre 1).

1. **Those present at the meeting**

There were 43 members of the Association present at the meeting (list attached to Minutes in file).

2. **Apologies**

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

3. **Chairman's Report**

A copy of the Chairman's Report is attached to these Minutes.

4. **Treasurer's Report**

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for 2012/13 had previously been circulated (with the AGM Agenda) to members via UERSA's Newsletter No. 28 (Copy of Report attached to these Minutes). Wojtek confirmed that the Report showed a credit balance of £6,519 being carried forward to 2013/14. The comparing figure transferred to 2012/13 at last year's AGM was £6,594.

Wojtek commented that this year's credit balance was £75 lower than last year's, due to our Summer Garden Party showing an overspend of c £75 (i.e. 75 members putting their names down to attend, but on the actual day only 50-60 turned up, so consequently there was an overspend on food ordered.).

5. **To confirm the Subscription Rates for 2013/14**

The Members at this year's AGM unanimously agreed that the Subscription Fees for 2013/14 should remain at £6 per person/per couple. Cheques to be made payable to The University of Exeter.

6. **Minutes of the Previous AGM – held on 12th October 2012**

It was noted that the Minutes of the previous AGM had been typed, agreed and filed in the Minute Book. However, it was noted that approved Minutes of Annual General Meetings are available on the UERSA Website for those interested in reading them. Hard copies can be requested from the Secretary.

7. **Election of Committee for 2013/14**

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

Alastair Logan (Chairman)

Wojtek Krzanowski (Treasurer)

Jan Reynolds (Secretary)

Susan Cousins (Social Co-ordinator)

Rachel Kirby (Newsletter Editor)

Roger Coles (Committee Member and Website Editor)

Frankie Peroni (Committee Member)

John Carroll (Committee Member)

Linda Hale (Committee Member)

Judy Mead is stepping down as **Membership Secretary**

The following nomination has been received by the Committee and is proposed for approval at this meeting:

Christine King (Membership Secretary)
Unanimous vote in favour of this nomination

To confirm that :

Alan Leadbetter will become **President of UERSA** for a year from the AGM 2013.
Mary Banks will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2013.

(**Anne Mayes** will leave the Committee, having completed her term as **Immediate Past President**.)

8. **The Election of President Elect 2013/14 with effect from the AGM 2013**
The Committee proposed **Tony Wragg** as **President Elect of UERSA** for 2013/14.
Unanimous vote in favour of this nomination.

9. **Reports on the Activities of the Special Interest Groups**

Walking Group

Trevor Preist (Group Leader) raised the following question for discussion at the Annual General meeting:

Can anyone join UERSA's walking group without being a University of Exeter retired staff member? This enquiry has been received from someone who has worked for many years in Civil Engineering at the University of Surrey at Guildford, and will be moving to Exeter towards the end of September and is keen to join a walking group.

After discussion at the AGM, it was agreed that non-UERSA members can partake in any of UERSA's groups as an Associate Member for a yearly subscription of £6.

The following verbal reports were received at the AGM:

Gardens Group

Anne Mayes (Leader of the Group) gave an illustrated report on some of the visits which had taken place during 2013, and that all events had been well supported:

Venn Cross Railway Gardens; Hidcote; Forde Abbey; Andrew's Corner; Haldon Grange; Trewidden.

A copy of Anne's detailed Report is available on the UERSA Website (<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/>).

Music/Opera Group

Helen Pope, Group Leader, reported that a proposed visit to see **The Rape of Lucretia on 6th December at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth**, would probably be cancelled due to lack of support.

Theatre Group

Susan Cousins confirmed that 20 members had booked tickets to see **The Lion King at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, on 11th February 2014.**

10. **Suggestions for Future Activities/Events**

Visit to Stratford Upon Avon -

It was reported how successful the trip to **Stratford Upon Avon on the 24th September** had been.

1) A suggestion was put forward that a trip to the **Minack Theatre at Porthcurno, Penzance**, might be a good idea.

***Bruce Coleman** suggested the following two trips, and offered to investigate if members were interested :

2) A summer **Coastal Cruise from Exmouth-Brixham** (possibly with a stop-off at Torquay on the way?).

3) **A Tour of the Jurassic Coast.**

11. **Any Other Business**

(1) Vice-Chancellor's recent overview (30/09/13):

Alastair (Chairman) gave a summary of the V/C's Review to Members present at the AGM, as follows:

- (i) u/g admissions: 600 extra to add to target of 4,000 (more than half of new entrants got AAA or better at A-level);
- (ii) staff recruitment: 26% increase in staff numbers over the next 5 years;
- (iii) planned growth: to a maximum ceiling of 22,000 students allowing a sustainable balance between teaching and research (no date given);
- (iv) financial situation: from a predicted deficit of £5 million, to a surplus of £3.6 million (not enough to trigger a bonus – the target was £7 million!);
- (v) Research Excellence Framework (ex RAE), which determines the amount of research grant the uni receives from 2015 on: submission date 29th November, result December 2014. The V/C thinks Exeter will be in a strong position among the 20 leading research universities (Russell Group etc.);
- (vi) University of Exeter Medical School: this year saw the first cohort of students of the UofE Medical School established last year following the demerger of the Peninsula Medical School of Medicine and Dentistry, with a building programme at St Luke's to provide new facilities for the Medical School and other students and staff;
- (vii) Other new building project: the Living Systems Building between Geoffrey Pope Building and Physics, to be completed by March 2016;
- (viii) Staff feedback: The V/C sees another major focus as on values, workloads, communication and feedback. I think this arose as a result of the rather negative feedback to the staff questionnaire. The Professional Services Review he claims is making strong progress.

(2) Stop press:

Alastair confirmed that he had just received an email to say that the University has agreed to pay the Living Wage to all relevant employees.

The Meeting closed at 7 p.m. and the Chairman confirmed that wine and nibbles were available for everyone in the Queen's Building Café.

UERSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013

Chairman's Report

Welcome to you all. It's good to see such a turnout. Since you have all had the latest Newsletter you will know what has been going on recently, so I do not need to remind you. I will content myself with a few comments. This past year has been fairly uneventful compared with last and its royal visit to open the Forum. Activities have gone on much as before, if we have had fewer trips (having again had to cancel the Swindon outing, which we have tried to book twice, for lack of support), and a rather disappointing turnout for the Garden Party. But we had good support for the visit to the new buildings on the campus. The membership total has kept up well and we have had two suggestions for new activities: Nature/Wildlife rambles (Judy Mead) and table tennis (Ruth Preist). Our finances remain pretty healthy. The university has again deigned to recognise our existence, inviting myself as Chair and our President to the V/Cs summer Garden Party, including me in the V/Cs email overview of the latest situation and future prospects for the university, and only recently inviting me as chair and a recent retiree to speak to a retirement course in December, something we used to do on a regular basis. But unfortunately the session is on the morning of Tuesday 10th December, just before our Xmas lunch! However I have managed to have our slot moved earlier.

Finally may I take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee for their support, interest and dedication over the year. Special thanks are due to two people who are standing down, first Judy Mead, who is stepping down as Membership Secretary, having served the maximum term of 6 years, and to Anne Mayes who is stepping down as Immediate Past President. Thank you both very much. We shall miss your contributions to our meetings. But I am delighted that Tony Wragg has agreed to be proposed as President Elect for 2013-14, and that we have a candidate for Membership Secretary in Christine King. May I thank all the Group organisers for their efforts over the year and end by urging everyone to consider volunteering to serve on the Committee. It's good fun and not too taxing.

Alastair Logan