



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION (UERSA)

The Annual General Meeting of the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association was held on Friday 14th October 2016 at 6.30 pm in The Henderson Room, Xfi Building, Streatham Court, University of Exeter

Those present at the meeting

There were 37 members of the Association present at the meeting (list with the minutes on file).

Apologies

25 apologies were received (list with the minutes on file).

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 2nd October 2015

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

2. Chair's Report by David Batty

David welcomed Members to the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the University's Retired Staff Association. He reported a healthy number of 337 members, 14 of whom joined as a result of the recent voluntary severance scheme. The Association makes a presentation to the University's annual preparing for retirement session and he hoped these presentations would result in further new blood for the Association. He asked those present at the meeting to spread the word and encourage new members.

David continued his report with several thank-you's. He was grateful to members of the Executive Committee who met regularly throughout the year. Most of these members are happy to carry on for a further year; however Rachel Kirby has retired after six years as Newsletter Editor and her dedication to this role has been much appreciated. Tony Wragg has finished his period as Immediate Past President, offering much sage advice in that role. David also thanked the organisers of the various events held by the Association for the general membership, such as the monthly coffee mornings, trivia quiz, summer party and Christmas lunch, as well as those who continue to organise the successful special interest groups. The recently formed Cinema Group has attracted good support but, on the other hand, the Opera Group is still seeking a co-ordinator.

He reported that two general interest outings this year took members to Sherborne and Wells & Glastonbury. The Committee is intending to continue this sort of activity, deeming it acceptable to incur a small financial loss on such trips. Given the healthy nature of our finances, the Committee might also consider an occasional, more heavily subsidised, outing for the general membership. We have received a number of suggestions for trips next year and will communicate to the membership in the New Year what is being proposed for 2017. However, any further suggestions will be welcomed. This year's Summer Party attracted almost 100 members to the new pavilion at the Exeter Cricket Club – all glass and metal and quite a contrast to the traditional wood fittings of the old, now demolished, pavilion. The venue, with its splendid balcony view over the cricket ground and the hills beyond, seemed to be appreciated by members; some concern over the quality of catering is likely to be addressed by recent changes in this respect at the Club itself.

David continued by congratulating the University on its continuing position as a top 10 university in the country. It continues to invest in new initiatives, most strikingly the Living Systems Institute. He hopes very much that a UERSA visit to this new building will be possible and will allow us to learn about the Institute's work as a collaborative research community aimed at revolutionising the diagnosis and treatment of diseases.

The next event for the general membership is the Christmas lunch on 15th December, held as usual at the Devon Hotel. The new UERSA President, John Carroll, will be delivering his only speech of the year and liquid refreshment will be provided courtesy of the Association. He hoped to see many of the members there.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

David Smith confirmed that his Treasurer's Report for 2015/16 had previously been circulated to all UERSA Members with the agenda for the Annual General Meeting (report filed with the minutes). He talked the meeting through the various entries and noted that a healthy balance remained in the Association's account.

4. **To confirm the subscription fee for 2016/17**

The Members present at this year's AGM unanimously agreed that the subscription fee for 2016/17 should remain at £6 per person/couple.

5. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2016/17**

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

John Carroll will become **President** for a year from the AGM 2016

Sue Odell will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2016

David Batty (Chair)

David Smith (Treasurer)

Julie Orr (Secretary)

Chris King (Membership Secretary)

Susan Cousins (Social Co-ordinator)

Linda Hale (Committee Member)

Roger Coles (Committee Member and Website Editor)

Ann Corbin (Committee Member)

Robin Turner (Committee Member)

The following member of the Executive Committee confirmed at the previous Committee meeting held on 24th August that she would be stepping down from the Committee at the Annual General Meeting on 14th October 2016:

Rachel Kirby (Newsletter Editor) since 2010

The UERSA Committee proposed the following nominations to the Meeting:

***Election of President-designate 2016/17**

Frankie Peroni

***Executive Committee member**

Chris Austin

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

6. **Special Interest Groups**

Anne Mayes reported another successful year for the **Garden Group** and she thanked Roger Coles for posting reports and photographs of the various visits on the website.

John Carroll reported that the **Wine Tasting Group** is still thriving and had several enjoyable visits throughout the year.

Trevor Preist reported that there are presently around 20 members of the **Table Tennis Group** who meet regularly.

The Walking Group continues to be popular and the two-day trip to Ilfracombe had been very enjoyable.

The Cinema Group continues, although there had been few meetings over the summer.

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

A proposed trip to the theatre in Plymouth had not come to fruition because of a lack of interest. It was suggested that the Northcott Theatre might attract more interest because of its proximity. An offer to run square dancing classes had been welcomed and the first session was to be held in early November.

8. **Any other business**

Jan Reynolds reported that the last coffee morning at the Imperial had found that the furnishings in the Nutters Bar had been changed to high tables and chairs which were deemed generally unsuitable for the Association's members. She was going to try and ask for another more suitable area to be provided.

There was also a query about whether parking at the cricket club might still be available to those wishing to leave their cars whilst on Association trips. The Chair undertook to discuss the matter with Bruce Coleman.

At the end of the meeting, the Chair was thanked for his leadership of the Association.

After the AGM, wine and nibbles were available for members