



## RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION (UERSA)

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **University of Exeter Retired Staff Association** was held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 6.30 pm in Lecture Theatre 1, Queen's Building, University of Exeter

### Those present at the meeting

There were **38** members of the Association present at the meeting (list with the minutes on file).

### Apologies

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

#### 1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017

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

#### 2. Chair's Report by David Batty

In welcoming members to the meeting, David was glad to report that membership of the Association had been maintained at previous levels; indeed, the current 226 paid subscriptions showed a slight increase on last year. This was despite the ongoing problem of not being able to identify recent retirees from the University because of data protection constraints. If members did meet any such potential recruits, they were encouraged to mention the benefits of UERSA and refer them to its website. In this context, the May edition of the newsletter had reported that the UERSA Executive Committee had adopted and published a data protection policy. The regulations also impacted elsewhere on UERSA's internal workings, hence the need for members this year to complete formal membership renewal forms.

One successful development during the year had been Sandy Day's revamping of the UERSA newsletter which now included photographs, university news, a local events diary and a picture quiz column. David was grateful to her for so successfully taking on the role of newsletter editor, as he was to Roger Coles, the long-standing web editor, for co-ordinating the contents of the website. It was important that the two external facing sides of UERSA remained up-to-date and attractive.

David wanted to draw attention to the well-attended summer tea party which, after an initial hiccup three years ago, now seemed well established at Exeter Cricket Club's attractive pavilion. The splendid weather this year was the icing, so to speak, on the excellent standard of the tea itself. Bruce Coleman had been instrumental in ensuring the good relations UERSA had with the Club for which there was much appreciation.

The long, sunny summer days this year were a boon to the outside special interest groups. Even the gardens group visit in March to Carhays in Cornwall attracted dry weather, though the expected blooms were not much in evidence following the cold and snowy spell earlier that month. The 'inside' groups had also blossomed, with the restaurant group especially visiting some interesting and enjoyable venues. As on previous occasions, David thanked all the interest group facilitators for their hard work and commitment in managing this much appreciated element of UERSA.

The UERSA Committee had sought to maintain links with the University through the latter's Global Engagement and Development Section. A guided visit to the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum and a concert by the University Chapel Choir were two very enjoyable events, while UERSA's President and Chair attended the Vice-Chancellor's annual garden party at Redcot. Disappointment over the cancellation of a proposed trip to the University campus at Penryn would not dampen the intention to include University-based events in the social calendar.

David was grateful to all members of the Executive Committee for their various contributions to ensuring the ongoing vitality of UERSA. Two were retiring this year. Susan Cousins had for a number of years acted as social co-ordinator, in particular taking the lead in organising the successful Christmas lunch, this year scheduled for Thursday 13 December by the way, and organising the room and refreshment arrangements for the AGM. Linda Hale was the second person leaving the Committee. Her shoulders carried a wise head in the discussions and amongst other activities, she had provided strong support to Jan Reynolds in the organisation of the annual trivia quiz. The Committee was very grateful to both Linda and Susan. Their departure left two vacancies on the Committee and David would urgently welcome expressions of interest in filling these gaps.

Finally, another somewhat sadder area where support would be welcomed, not necessarily from a Committee member, was in the notification of the death of UERSA members. Sue Odell had recently undertaken this role but was now standing down from it. Readership of the *Express & Echo* or its death & obituary website would be an advantage and perhaps, too, a memory of colleagues over the years.

In conclusion, David wished members the very best for the coming year and he looked forward to seeing many at UERSA events over the months ahead.

3. **Treasurer's Report**

**David Smith** confirmed that his Treasurer's Report for 2017/18 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 2018/19**

The members present at this year's AGM unanimously agreed that the subscription fee for 2018/19 should remain at £6 per person/couple.

5. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2017/18**

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

**Alastair Logan** will become **President** for a year from the AGM 2018

**Frankie Peroni** will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2018

**David Batty (Chair)**

**David Smith (Treasurer)**

**Julie Orr (Secretary)**

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

**Robin Turner (Committee Member)**

**Chris Austin (Committee member)**

**Sandy Day (Newsletter Editor)**

The following members of the Executive Committee confirmed at the previous Committee meeting held on 9th August that they would be stepping down from the Committee at the Annual General Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018:

**Sue Cousins, Social Co-ordinator since 2010**

**Linda Hale, Committee Member since 2011**

The UERSA Committee proposed the following nomination to the Meeting:

**\*Election of President-Elect 2018/19**

**Judy Mead**

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

It was noted that there are still two unfilled vacancies on the Executive Committee.

6. **Special Interest Groups**

Frankie Peroni reported that the **Restaurant Group** was still going strong and had enjoyed many lunches over the past year, with another one planned for the following week. Members at the meeting also paid tribute to Anne Mayes who has enthusiastically run the **Gardens Group** for the last 14 years (and is happy to continue in this role) and to Trevor Priest who continues to run the **Walking Group** over a similarly lengthy period.

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

There were no specific suggestions for future events. David Oates, Chairman of the Exeter Forum, extended a warm welcome to any UERSA members who wished to attend the Forum's regular talks and he handed round programmes to those who were interested. Bruce Coleman invited any interested UERSA members to attend talks by the Historical Society. The Chair indicated that information about both groups could be included in a future edition of the UERSA newsletter.

8. **Any other business**

At the end of the meeting, the Chair thanked the retiring members of the Committee.

It was noted that the new venue for the AGM in the Queen's Building seemed to work well for members as parking was close by.

**After the AGM, wine and nibbles were available for members**