



## RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION (UERSA)

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **University of Exeter Retired Staff Association**  
was held on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019 at 6.30 pm in  
Lecture Theatre 1, Queen's Building, University of Exeter

### **Those present at the meeting**

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

### **Apologies**

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

### **1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018**

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 over the last year at previous levels, with 230 paid subscriptions and 346 actual members. It was gratifying that these statistics included a number of new representatives of the younger generation. They were very welcome and, indeed, a couple of them had agreed to stand for membership of the Executive Committee.

Only two days ago, David had given a short presentation at the University's annual Preparing for Retirement session attended on this occasion by 14 current staff, though nearly all seemed to be some years from actually leaving the University. He urged them not to forget the existence of the Association but this highlighted the difficulty he had noted in the past about UERSA not being able to target recent retirees because of data protection constraints; we just don't know when they had taken the plunge. Despite this regular contribution to this annual session, elsewhere the Association had been less successful in maintaining other contacts with the University itself, but David hoped that it can at some time reinstate the occasional campus visit to an area of interest to members.

The Committee have done its best to keep members well informed of UERSA activities, through the regular updating by Roger Coles of the website and through Sandy Day as editor of the quarterly newsletter, now resplendent online with colour photographs and short quizzes. David was grateful to both of them for their efforts. Through these and other channels, the Association continued to offer what it hoped was an attractive mix of opportunities for colleagues, both to enjoy the experiences and to continue mutual friendships. The specialist interest groups led the way here and David again thanked all the group facilitators for their hard work and commitment in managing this much appreciated element of UERSA provision.

For the wider membership UERSA offered the occasional outing, this year a summer horse-drawn barge trip in glorious weather along the canal at Tiverton and, earlier, a very successful visit to the Aerospace Bristol museum, which made some regret that they had not taken advantage of actually flying on Concorde in one of those short flights from Exeter Airport around the Bay of Biscay. In contrast later this month, some members would be paying a visit to Exeter City Football Club, both to tour the ground and to inspect the Club's new museum.

David reminded the AGM of the monthly coffee mornings at the Imperial. The occasion, on the last Tuesday of the month, was a very sociable one and the attendance by more members would be welcomed. He thanked Jan and Mike Reynolds for taking the lead in organising them, and similarly to them and Linda Hale for arranging the annual quiz. Another annual event, the summer party, continued to be well attended and he was particularly glad that the innovation

introduced three years ago of inviting those present to donate to a good cause now seemed to be well established; over £300 had so far been raised for local charities.

One innovation close to hand was a revamping of the annual Christmas lunch. Members had commented in recent years that the potential excesses of a carvery lunch could be too much of a good thing for some, while they would also welcome the chance to socialise more during the actual event. The Committee therefore asked Chris Austin to investigate the possibility of a buffet-style lunch at Reed Hall, a venue which for many had hosted opportunities in the past for happy conversation with University colleagues. Chris's negotiations with the University were not always straightforward, but details had now been settled as circulated with the latest newsletter; David hoped that many would take the opportunity of attending the lunch on 12 December.

David reported that his time as Chair of the Executive Committee would come to an end after the AGM and he expressed his gratitude to the members of the Committee for their support over the five years he had served in this capacity. If the Meeting agreed later, he would be glad to continue his membership in a less significant role. Two colleagues were stepping down, Frankie Peroni and Robin Turner and both were thanked for their contributions to the Committee.

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.

In response to David's report, two matters were raised. In response to a query about the recruitment of new members, David noted that a six-monthly reminder was included in an edition of the University *Weekly Bulletin*. On another issue, it was suggested that conversation at the crowded summer party was sometimes difficult in the acoustic of the Cricket Club pavilion; this would be brought to the attention of the Committee.

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

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

The members present at this year's AGM unanimously agreed that the subscription fee for 2019/20 should remain at £6 per person/couple.

### **4. Election of Officers and Committee for 2019/20**

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

**Judy Mead** will become **President** for a year from the AGM 2019

**Alastair Logan** will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2019

**David Smith (Treasurer)**

**Julie Orr (Secretary)**

**Roger Coles (Website Editor)**

**Sandy Day (Newsletter Editor)**

**Wojtek Krzanowski (Membership Secretary)**

**David Batty** will stand down as **Chair** from the AGM 2019 but will continue as a Committee member

The following member of the Executive Committee confirmed at the previous Committee meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> August that he would be stepping down from the Committee at the Annual General Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2019:

**Robin Turner (Committee member since 2014)**

The UERSA Committee proposed the following nominations to the Meeting:

**\*Election of Chair 2019/20**

**Chris Austin**

**\*Election of President-Elect 2019/20**

**Bruce Coleman**

**\*Election of Committee members 2019/20**

**David Carpenter-Clawson**

**Christopher Dean**

**Sue Milward**

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

It was noted that there is now a full complement of members on the Executive Committee.

**5. Special Interest Groups**

Frankie Peroni reported that it was proving difficult to find members to organise lunches for the **Restaurant Group**. Trevor Preist reported that the **Table Tennis Group** still meets fortnightly on Thursdays from 10.30 to 12.00 and usually attracts around 12 members. Trevor Preist also continues to co-ordinate the **Walking Group** which is well attended, although the walks are becoming shorter. Sue Odell reported that the **Cinema Group** continues to meet at the Picturehouse.

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

Bruce Coleman reported that a very successful visit to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford had been held a few years ago and he asked if there might be interest in a further trip. He was asked to make enquires and send suggestions to the Executive Committee for consideration at their next meeting.

**7. Any other business**

At the end of the meeting, the Chair thanked the retiring members of the Committee and the Chair himself was thanked for his five years of excellent service to UERSA.

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