

**UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER**
**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)**

The Annual General Meeting of the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association was held on Friday 7th October 2011 at 6 p.m. in the Queen's Building (Lecture Theatre 1).

1. **Those present at the meeting**

There were 51 members of the Association present at the meeting (list attached to Minutes in file).

2. **Apologies**

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

3. **Chairman's Report**

Alan Leadbetter welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said he hadn't much to add to the information given in his report in the recent Newsletter (No. 22 issued in September), other than that UERSA has had another successful year and continues so. The Groups are very well supported. He also thanked all the Committee Members and Group Organisers for their contribution during the year; and asked those UERSA Members present at the meeting to consider putting forward their names to serve on the UERSA Committee (as and when needed in the future).

Alan mentioned that although **Peter Corbin** had been nominated as our next President Elect he was now unable to take over this post due to ill-health. (Alan reported that Peter wishes to remain quiet for the time being until he is well enough to receive visitors.)

Alan was pleased, however, to report that **Mary Banks** has now agreed to take over the post of **President Elect**.

4. **Treasurer's Report and Confirmation of Subscription Fees for 2011/12**

A copy of the Treasurer's Report for 2010/11 had previously been circulated to those members via email and copies were also available at the AGM for those unable to receive emails. Wojtek confirmed that the Report showed a credit balance of £6,036 being carried forward to 2011/12. The comparing figure transferred to 2010/11 at last year's AGM was £5,532.

The Members at this year's AGM unanimously agreed that the Subscription Fees for 2011/12 should remain at £6. Wojtek confirmed that cheques should be made payable to The University of Exeter.

5. **Minutes of the Previous AGM – held on 15th October 2010**

It was noted that the Minutes of the previous AGM had been typed, agreed and filed in the Minute Book. The Chairman confirmed that at a previous AGM it has been unanimously agreed that the Minutes should not be circulated; but were available on the UERSA Website should any Member wish to read them.

Jan (Secretary) mentioned that several hard copies of last year's AGM Minutes were available at this AGM just in case anyone wanted to take away a copy.

6. **Election of Committee for 2011/12**

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

Wojtek Krzanowski (Treasurer)

Jan Reynolds (Secretary)

Judy Mead (Membership 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)

To confirm that **Anne Mayes** will become **President of UERSA** for 2011/12

Laurie Burbridge will serve a further year on the Committee as **Immediate Past President**

Bruce Coleman leaves the Committee, having completed his term as **Immediate Past President**.

It was confirmed that the following Officers are now stepping down:

Alan Leadbetter (Chairman) having served three years
Alastair Logan as a **Committee Member**

The following nominations have been received by the Committee and are proposed for approval at this meeting:

Chairman: Alastair Logan
Committee Member: Linda Hale.

Unanimous vote in favour of these nominations

7. Election of President Elect – 2011/12

The Committee proposed that **Mary Banks** should be nominated as **President Elect for 2011/12**.
Unanimous vote in favour of this nomination.

*At this juncture, Alan presented Jan (Reynolds) with a lovely bouquet of flowers (much to Jan's surprise!) in recognition of her long continuous service as Secretary on the Committee (since UERSA's inauguration in October 2004).

8. Presentation by Laurie Burbridge (President for 2010/11)

The President thanked Alan for his three year's service on the Committee as Chairman.
He also thanked **Bruce** for his service on the Committee and also his efficient/brilliant 'car parking duties' at the Exeter Squash Club premises when UERSA members were parking their cars on the site while taking part in various UERSA coach trips during the year. **Alan** presented Bruce with a couple bottles of wine as a 'thank you' on behalf of the many UERSA members concerned!
Laurie welcomed **Alastair Logan** as our new Chairman, **Linda Hale** as a new Committee Member, and **Mary Banks** as our new President Elect.

9. Reports on the Activities of the Special Interest Groups

GARDENS GROUP

Anne Mayes (Leader of the Group) said that there were no visits planned for the Winter session. However, she did report on its last visit to Hillrise (Sidmouth) on 6th September. Unfortunately when the members arrived at Hillrise there was no-one there to greet them. It turned out that the owners of the property were delayed on return from their holiday in Venice due to Hurricane Irene. When Anne received an apology from the owners of Hillrise (on their return) they were not happy with Anne's suggestion that should a future visit be arranged, the members should be given a 'free visit', or charged half price.

*A member present at the AGM said he had previously paid a visit to Hillrise and it hadn't been worth it!

WALKING GROUP

Trevor Preist (Leader of the Group) thanked the other members of the Group who had taken their turn in leading walks as well. He also reported that a member of the Group (Barbara Philipson) has broken her leg and unfortunately would be unable to take part in any walks for six months or so. It was agreed that a 'get well' card should be sent to her with UERSA's best wishes.

OPERA GROUP

Helen Pope (Leader of the Group) mentioned that due to a cancellation by two members there were now two tickets available for the La Boheme show on Tuesday 22nd November.

RESTAURANT GROUP

Frankie Peroni (Leader of the Group) mentioned that **Alastair Logan** has organised a visit to the Rendezvous Wine Bar in Southernhay, Exeter on Thursday 27th October.

10. Suggestions for Future Activities/Events

Trip to London – Bruce brought everyone at the meeting up to date about the possibility of planning a trip to London. He had worked out a costing of £120 for the day trip (which included the day return train fare, a Theatre visit, etc. and felt that it was a non-event due to the anticipated cost and many of the members at the AGM agreed.

Trip to the Jurassic Coast – Centred on Charmouth and Burton Bradstock

Bruce suggested this trip, to take place in early April and will involve a visit to the exhibition, probably a talk and then a visit to the beach and crumbling cliffs where the fossils are found. There is also said to be a very good fish restaurant just above the beach. Bruce has offered to look into this possibility.

A Trip to Stratford

Someone suggested a trip to Stratford in the Spring but many of the members felt that it would entail quite a long coach journey (some two and a half hours each way). However, Bruce offered to make enquiries about this proposal and will report back.

Theatre Trips

A suggestion was put forward for trips to be organised to Theatres. Susan Cousins (and possibly assisted by Sue Odell) offered to look into this proposal. This was unanimously agreed by the members at the AGM.

UERSA Christmas Lunch at the Devon Hotel, on Wednesday 14th December 12-30 for 1 p.m.

Susan Cousins confirmed the final details of this event. The price will be £20 per person (which will include a three course menu choice, with a glass of mulled wine on arrival at the Hotel. Susan will be sending all members a detailed Menu for them to return details to her of their choices. As previous years, UERSA would provide complimentary table wine.

Restaurant/Wine Group

Sue Guy put forward the idea of a combined Restaurant/Wine event. A previous event took place at a venue in Topsham (which proved popular). Other possible venues suggested were: Michael Caine's Abode (which had been visited about a year ago); also a visit had taken place at The Rodean Restaurant in Kenton (costing c £46 each person). Laurie pointed out that such events were likely to cost in the region of £60 per person, and a Group Leader would be needed!

11.

Any Other Business

Bruce mentioned that some of our UERSA members may be interested in a forthcoming meeting of the University's Freedom Society (a student society) and the speaker is Professor Tim Congdon, academic economist, journalist and (Bruce thinks) former member of the Monetary Policy Committee. Tim will be talking about aspects of the present financial and economic crisis. The venue is Queen's Building, LT 1, at 7pm on Wednesday 12th October.

Alan closed the Annual General Meeting at 6.40 p.m. and confirmed that wine and nibbles were available for everyone in the Queen's Building Café.