



University  
of Exeter

## RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION (UERSA)

The **Annual General Meeting** of the **University of Exeter Retired Staff Association** was held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 2.30 pm at Exeter Cricket Club

### Those present at the meeting

There were 43 members of the Association present at the meeting (list with the minutes on file).

### Apologies

28 apologies were received.

### 1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in November 2022

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

### 2. Report on the Year 2022/23

**David Batty**, Executive Committee Chair, opened his report for the year by commenting that he had been glad to welcome members, both old and new, at several events over the past 12 months as UERSA returned to normal activity following the two years of the Covid pandemic. The Christmas lunch last December, expertly organised by Judy Mead, was well attended, while through the initiative of Linda Hale, the annual quiz was reintroduced and much enjoyed in February. Another event for the general membership comprised two visits to the Exeter Energy from Waste plant at Marsh Barton; it was not often that an appropriate response to an enquiry about a visit you had been on could be described as 'rubbish'! Later, in June, 20 members joined a walk around Heavitree, discovering much about this surprising suburb of Exeter. Only earlier in October, another 20 members had travelled out to Crediton for a private tour of Downes, the home of the Buller family and their descendents. Nor should the annual Summer Party be forgotten which benefited both from the fine summer weather in June and the generosity of those attending in raising £274 for the St Petrocks charity.

As ever, UERSA was grateful for the contributions during the year of the organisers of the special interest groups, such a distinctive feature of the Association. The quirks of the English summer did not always sit kindly on those groups whose activities focused primarily on the open air, but the beautiful weather in May and June was at least of benefit to the Gardens, Photography and Walking Groups as could be seen from some of the photos posted on the UERSA website. But even the dismal weather of July and much of August did occasionally give way to the sun, including one especially hot day on Dartmoor when Walking Group members found it almost too much of a good thing! And the Table Tennis Group had exchanged the University Sports Hall for the Heavitree Pleasure Grounds, at least until the temperatures turned colder. Even the Wine Tasting Group ventured outside for one event through the generosity of John and Di Jacob though, as with the Cinema and Restaurant Groups, being inside was usually best! The AGM's attention was also drawn to the note by Jeremy Childs in the last newsletter about resurrecting a Bridge Group; members were encouraged to contact him soon if they were interested.

David would like to think that the varied activities supported by UERSA were a recruitment incentive. Membership had stayed steady over the last year, with numbers – 200 paid

members, equating to 297 when including spouses and partners – very much the same as the previous year. The lack of support the University was able to provide in the recruitment area because of data protection concerns was well known, so word of mouth remained a principal means of attracting new faces. Members were also reminded that folk who had retired to the area having had jobs in other universities qualified for associate membership and were very welcome to join. UERSA's website was a major source of information to which newcomers could be directed, with the newsletter another one, with thanks to Roger Coles and David Carpenter-Clawson for their editorial roles in these two areas.

On a positive note, the financial position remained healthy and it was pleasing that subscription income was able to support some of the special interest groups in their activities as well as more general events such as the Summer Party. One of the other social occasions that similarly benefited was the Christmas lunch and members were urged to support this festive meal at the Devon Hotel on Monday 11th December: Judy Mead would be circulating details shortly.

As ever, David was grateful to the Executive Committee for its support during the year, especially to the long serving Treasurer and Membership Secretary, David Smith and Wojtek Krzanowski. Current Committee members were willing to continue serving over the coming year but interest from new blood would be welcomed.

David observed that UERSA should extend its thanks to the Exeter Cricket Club for providing it with access to the Club's very comfortable pavilion for the monthly coffee mornings and other events such as the AGM, and to Bruce Coleman in particular for facilitating use of this space in so many capacities.

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

### 3. Treasurer's Report

**David Smith's** Treasurer's Report for 2022/23 had previously been circulated to all UERSA members with the agenda for the Annual General Meeting (report filed with the minutes). He explained some of the entries on the report to the meeting and noted that some special interest groups had benefitted from amounts of money donated to support their activities. It was noted that UERSA relied on the cricket club to host their meetings and the Executive Committee would review the amount given to the club for use of its facilities at their next meeting. He reported ongoing issues with the University Finance Department and data protection restrictions. Having served as Treasurer for some time, David concluded his report with the hope that another member would come forward soon to take his place.

### 4. Election of Officers and Committee for 2023/24

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

**Wojtek Krzanowski** will become **President** for a year from the AGM 2023  
**Anne Mayes** will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2023  
**David Batty (Chair)**  
**David Smith (Treasurer)**  
**Julie Orr (Secretary)**  
**Roger Coles (Website Editor)**  
**Wojtek Krzanowski (Membership Secretary)**  
**David Carpenter-Clawson (Newsletter Editor)**  
**Gwyneth Leonard**  
**Alastair Logan**  
**Judy Mead**  
**Sue Milward**

The UERSA Committee proposed the following nomination to the Meeting:

**\*Election of President-Elect 2023/24**

**Linda Hale**

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

Laurie Burbridge had stepped down from the Executive Committee following his year as Immediate Past President. He was thanked for his service on the Committee. There was a plea for any members interested in joining the Committee to come forward. As it stands, many of those elected have already served on the Committee previously.

**5. Special Interest Groups**

(a) Anne Mayes reported that the Gardens Group had enjoyed a number of very enjoyable and varied visits during 2023.

(b) Sue Milward pointed out that entries for the Photographic Group competitions were open to all, not just members of the group.

(c) Frankie Peroni reported that the Restaurant Group had held three successful lunches in 2023. She asked for offers to organise further lunches in 2024 and indicated that she would be willing to assist.

(d) The Walking Group, organised by Judy Mead and Jan Smith, had continued to meet regularly during the year, offering varied walks which usually attracted 14-15 participants. For the first time, a short residential break in Somerset had been organised and was a great success.

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

It was hoped to hold a quiz once more in 2023.

**7. Any other business**

There was no other business.

**After the AGM, Professor Levi Roach spoke to the meeting, giving a very interesting talk about his recent published work on the Normans**

**Tea and cake were then made available for members**