

DURHAM UNIVERSITY RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

4 JUNE 2019

Present: Dr Alan Heesom (Chairman), Mrs Margaret Allison, Professor John Anstee, Mrs Patricia Barber, Professor David Clark, Dr Peter Dodds, Mr Clive Doloughan, Mrs Kath Fall, Miss Joan Kenworthy, Mr John Lumsden, Mrs Margaret McAdam, Miss Margaret McCollum, Dr Martin Morant, Dr Keith Orford, Mr Francis Pritchard, Professor Peter Rhodes, Dr Euan Ross, Dr Ian Stewart, Dr William Telford, Dr Barry Thomas, Dr Josephine Tudor and Professor Anthony Unsworth.

In addition to the members of DURSA there were present as observers Mrs Angela Anstee, Mrs Denise Dodds, Mr Michael Fall, Mrs Janet Flecher, Dr Ruth Morant, Mrs Pamela Stewart, Dr Andrena Telford and Mrs Jill Unsworth.

Minutes

47 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Bill Bryson, who sent his good wishes to all, and from Dr John Charters and Dr David Whan.

48 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 June 2018 were approved.

49 Matters arising from the Minutes

- i) Re Minute 42 Accounts

Reported: by the Chairman, that there has been a significant improvement in the system of financial reporting. The Treasurer is now able to access more accurate information relating to income and expenditure. Two other important and welcome developments are that (a) DARO made a one-off payment of £400 to DURSA as reimbursement for the VAT payments which DURSA had to pay in the past and of which it was unaware, and (b) DARO has agreed that any end-of-year surplus can be carried over, and these will be paid into DURSA's Barclays Bank account.

- ii) Re Minute 43 The Future Organisation of DURSA

Reported: by the Chairman, that he had had contact with Ms Jennifer Sewel, the University Secretary, and was able to clarify a number of misunderstandings on her part (such as the fact the University, not DURSA, holds the Association's database and cost centre). In light of these clarifications and the positive changes in the financial arrangements the Committee decided not to pursue the idea of setting up its own database,

50 Annual Report

a) Received: the following Annual Report

1. Acknowledgement

The Committee again wishes to record its gratitude for all the help received from the staff of DARO especially Deborah Wood and, most particularly, Steph Osborne for handling the Association's records and bookings and for distributing news and circulars to members.

2. The Committee

The composition of the Committee has been as elected at the Annual General Meeting in 2018. It has continued to meet regularly and believes that a successful pattern of activities has been established.

3. Membership

The current number of members is 482. There is one Honorary Member, Bill Bryson.

4. Accounts

The accounts show a satisfactory picture as indicated by the Treasurer's report. (*See AGM Agenda item 4 below, and there has been a major improvement in financial reporting, see AGM Agenda item 2 i) above.*)

5. DURSA Home Page

There have been two versions of the Home Page, one operated by DARO and one by DURSA. The two pages had different sets of information and this has been a source of considerable confusion for those members who were unaware that two different Home Pages existed. There is now a single Home Page (<https://www.dunelm.org.uk/dursa/home>), operated by DARO, containing all relevant information.

6. Events During the Year

A number of events has been arranged during the year which those attending have found interesting and informative. All the hosts have been very

welcoming and have gone to a great deal of trouble on DURSA's behalf. We are most grateful to them.

The number of members and guests attending the event is shown in brackets:

2018

- 9 October Visit to Durham Cathedral Open Treasure Exhibition and specialist guided tour by geologist Brian Young. (20)
31 October Plant tour of Nissan. (15)
11 December Pre-Christmas Reception and Get-together at which Ian Stewart kindly provided a film of the University in the 1950s. (18)
23 January Visit to the Chemistry Department. (22)

2019

- 13 March Visit to the History Department. (21)
3 April Annual Dinner at Le Nouveau Restaurant, New College. (26)
4 June AGM and Afternoon Tea.

Further events in the 2018-19 programme are:

- 19 June Visit to the Archaeology excavation at Auckland Castle.
3 July Visit to Houghall College.

We have also held monthly Drop-Ins in the Botanic Garden Café. These events have become a little more popular. Attendance is often in up to 15 or more.

It is most unfortunate and regrettable that there have been two cancellations of events this year. Both cancellations were attributable to the hosts.

- i) A proposed visit to the Hendon Sewage Treatment Plant in February had to be withdrawn from the programme owing to our failure get confirmation of final details from the organisation after months of correspondence.
- ii) A second plant tour of Nissan, in May, for which 24 members and guests had registered, was suddenly cancelled by the company at a very late stage. We were told "...that due to operational reasons ... production tours have been suspended until further notice". They apologised "for any inconvenience caused by the late cancellation" and said they would be delighted to welcome us on a future occasion if tours re-start.

7. Events planned for 2019-20

Dates in brackets are provisional.

- Oct 2019, Ryhope Engines Museum.
(Nov 2019) Cameron's Brewery, Hartlepool
(Dec 2019) JDR Cables. Manufacturers for high performance subsea & power cables. *Hartlepool.*

Dec 2019	Pre-Christmas Reception provisionally arranged at Croxdale Community Centre.
(Jan 2020)	Department of Classics and Ancient History.
(Feb 2020)	Department of Psychology.
(Mar 2020)	Centre for Process Innovation's National Formulation Centre, at NETPark.
(Apr 2020)	Spanish Gallery and Research Centre, Bishop Auckland.
(May 2020)	HMS Trincomalee, Hartlepool.
(Jun 2020)	Binchester Roman Fort
(Jun 2020)	AGM

8. Possible Events for the future beyond 2019-20.

Nissan. A tour of the entire plant (approx 3½ hours) if tours are resumed.
Hitachi.
Teikyo University.
South Shields Ferry.
Beamish Museum.
Bowes Museum.
School of Modern Languages and Cultures
Law Department

Possible repeat visits
Harrison Organ works
Palace Green Library
Oriental Museum
Earth Sciences Department
Police Headquarters

b) Chairman's remarks

In presenting the Annual Report the Chairman emphasised the Association's gratitude to DARO staff and in particular to Deborah Wood and Steph Osborne. He noted the departure of Deborah Wood, wishing her well in her new post at Liverpool University, and welcomed Tristan Alltimes (Deputy Director for Alumni Engagement and Regular Giving) as our new principal DARO contact.

He drew attention to the fact that we now have a single Home Page and thanked those who have supplied photographs of events which can be posted on the web page.

The general success of the 2017-18 programme of events was noted and he reiterated the Association's thanks to all the hosts.

In relation to the 2019-20 programme **it was agreed that the Pre-Christmas Reception should be held at the Croxdale Community Centre.**

In reviewing possibilities for future visits the Chairman noted that further suggestions, in addition to those listed in the Annual Report, were:

Catterick Garrison
HMS Calliope, Royal Navy Reserve Unit, Gateshead
'Cherryburn'. Thomas Bewick Birthplace Museum

Members were invited, at any time, to suggest further possibilities for visits, especially if they had contacts with the organisation. There was general approval for the idea of repeat visits.

51 Accounts

Received: the Association's accounts for the period 1st August 2018 to 30 May 2019. A copy is attached to these minutes.

52 Membership of the Committee

Reported: that the retiring members of the Committee were Prof. J.H.Anstee, Dr K.J.Orford and Miss M.S.McCollum.

All were eligible for re-election but Miss McCollum did not wish to stand again. The Chairman thanked her for her contribution to the Committee and for her willingness to undertake some work in arranging a future event even though she is stepping down.

Resolved: that, in the absence of other nominations, Prof. J.H.Anstee and Dr K.J.Orford, who had been duly proposed and seconded, be declared elected to serve for three years from 1 July 2019.

NOTE: The composition of the Committee for 2019-20 is therefore as follows:

Elected until 30 June 2020

Mr T.C.Doloughan
Mr F.W.Pritchard
Dr R.B.Thomas (Secretary)

Elected until 30 June 2021

Mrs M. Allison
Mrs K. Fall
Dr A.J.Heesom (Chairman)

Elected until 30 June 2022

Prof. J.H.Anstee
Dr K.J.Orford
Vacancy

Noted: Dr Heesom's term as Chairman ends on 30 June 2019.

53 AOB

The Annual Dinner

Reported: The Committee had reviewed the 2019 Annual Dinner at Le Nouveau Restaurant, New College, Durham. It was aware that many people felt strongly that main course of food was of an unacceptably poor standard and the Committee therefore proposed to seek a new venue in future.

In discussion there was widespread agreement that the food was of an inferior quality, though there were some comments indicating mild satisfaction. It was noted that in the two previous visits the problem had not arisen and that this year's menu might have been too ambitious. It was also noted that the ambience of the restaurant was good and there was adequate parking.

Some suggestions for alternative venues were made including:

Ushaw College.

St Cuthbert's College. Their food offering was praised but there are parking difficulties.

St John's College and St Chad's College as venues independent of Event Durham.

Homer Hill Farm.

Van Mildert College.

The more general question of 'What kind of event is desired?' was raised for consideration at some point in the future.

DURSA Accounts 1st August 2018 to 30th May 2019

		Income	Expenditure	Net Gain
DARO Reimbursement		£400.00		£400.00
Cathedral Tour 20@ £13.00		£260.00	-£158.33	£49.67
	VAT on Payments		-£52.00	
Nissan Tour 15 @ £10.00		£150.00	-£90.00	£30
	Vat on Payments		-£30.00	
Christmas Reception 22 @ £12.50		£270.00	-£233.19	-£17.19
	VAT on Payments		-£54.00	
Annual Dinner 26 @ £27.95		£726.70	-£530.58	£50.78
	VAT on Payments		-£145.34	
Nissan Tour 24 @ £10.00		£240.00	-£240.00	£-
	To be refunded in full			
AGM 33@ £12.50		£412.50	-£321.75	£8.25
	VAT on Payments		-£82.50	
			Estimate	
			Estimate	
Totals		£2,459.20	-£1,937.69	£521.51

These Figures are my best estimate of the accounts as they stand at 31st May 2019. I have requested a refund of £111.00 from DU for VAT I believe they have charged twice. (I have accounted for this in the figures above).

