

DURHAM UNIVERSITY RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

24 JUNE 2020

Owing to the 2020 Covid-19 pandemic it was not possible to hold the AGM as a physical meeting. The business was therefore conducted by email. All members were circulated with the Agenda and invited to email the Secretary if there was anything in the Agenda to which they objected or in relation to which they wished to raise substantial points requiring general discussion by members.

Apologies for absence were not requested as every member was involved online.

Minutes

54 Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4 June 2019 were deemed approved as no emails which expressed disapproval or raised queries were received,

55 Matters arising from the Minutes

The Secretary received no emails which raised any matters from the minutes.

56 Annual Report

Received: the following Annual Report

1. The suspension of DURSA's activities.

The Committee has reluctantly taken the decision to suspend DURSA's activities for 12 months following this AGM.

The background to this decision.

Owing to the restrictions arising from the COV-19 pandemic several of the events in the 2019-20 programme had to be cancelled and there still is great uncertainty about the future. It might well be months before it is possible to meet again and begin to organise a programme of events. In any case, when all the restrictions are lifted, it is by no means certain that Departments and outside organisations will be receptive to a visit from DURSA. They are likely to be focussed on trying to re-establish a new pattern of their everyday

activities. It is therefore impossible to plan a DURSA programme for 2020-21. at this point.

It is also the case that the committee will be depleted. Three members are standing down.

It is however the Committee's firm intention, when circumstances permit, to re-launch DURSA in a confident and positive manner, and we look forward to that event.

2. Acknowledgements

The Committee again wishes to record its gratitude for all the help received from the staff of DARO especially Tristram Alltimes and, most particularly, Steph Osborne for handling the Association's records and bookings and for distributing news and circulars to members. The work this year has been made more onerous by the pandemic and the consequent need for cancellations of events and reimbursements, while staff have sometimes been working from home.

3. The Committee

The composition of the Committee has been as elected at the Annual General Meeting in 2019 with the addition of Dr Alan Kenwright who was co-opted during the year. Dr Alan Heesom's 3 year term as Chairmen ended in June 2019, but he has continued for a further year, as acting Chairman, because a replacement had not been found.

It is a concern that finding a replacement Chairperson and new committee members is not proving to be easy.

The Committee met regularly and arranged a programme for the year.

4. Membership

The current number of members is 507 (482 last year). There is one Honorary Member, Bill Bryson.

5. Accounts

The accounts show a satisfactory picture. The Treasurer's report will be circulated later.

6. Events During the Year

This year the programme has been seriously affected by the pandemic with many events in the later part of the year having to be cancelled. This severe disruption was entirely beyond the control of the Committee: our decisions conformed fully to all the University and national guidance and instructions.

There were however many events which did take place and all were found to be interesting and informative by those attending.

All the hosts have been welcoming and have frequently gone to a great deal of trouble to make DURSA's visit successful. We are most grateful to them.

The events held are listed below with the number of members and guests attending shown in brackets:

2019

16 October	Ryhope Engines Museum. (18)
13 November	Cameron's Brewery, Hartlepool (12)
4 December	Pre-Christmas Reception, Croxdale Community Centre. (18)
9 December	JDR Cables. Hartlepool (9)

2020

22 January	Department of Classics and Ancient History (18)
12 February	Department of Psychology (14)
11 March	Centre for Process Innovation's National Formulation Centre, at NETPark (13)

At this point the programme was disrupted by the pandemic.

20 April	The DURSA Lunch, Hotel Indigo. CANCELLED
13 May	HMS Trincomalee, Hartlepool. CANCELLED
17 June	Archaeology dig, Auckland Castle. CANCELLED
24 June	AGM and Reception, at the Business School. CANCELLED, but the essential business will be conducted by email.

In addition to the above events there were monthly **Drop-Ins** at the Botanic Garden Café until they were cancelled owing to the pandemic. The Drop-Ins were enjoyed by those attending but typically there was only a small number of members participating.

7. The 2020-21 Programme and beyond.

The 2020-21 programme has now been suspended but, for the record, members might like to know that the Committee had been actively developing a programme of visits including:

- Nissan. (repeat visit)
- The School of Modern Languages and Cultures.
- The Law Department.
- The University Sports Centre.
- The Police Headquarters (repeat visit).
- The Department of Earth Sciences (repeat visit)
- County Durham and Darlington Fire Service Training Centre.

In addition consideration was being given to running some of the cancelled events from the 2019-20 programme.

Looking further into the future the Committee has a list of other possible visits. Namely:

- South Shields Ferry. An evening cruise.
- Palace Green Library (repeat visit).
- Oriental Museum (repeat visit)
- New University Buildings e.g. a new College/TeachingBlock.
- Bowes Museum.
- PBSA (Private build student accommodation).
- Hartlepool Nuclear Power Station, Seaton Carew.
- Spanish Gallery and Research Centre, Bishop Auckland.
- HMS Calliope. Royal Navy Reserve Unit, Gateshead
- Cathedral specialist tour e.g. geology or architecture.(repeat visit).
- JDR Cables, Hartlepool (repeat visit).
- 'Cherryburn'. Thomas Bewick Birthplace Museum.

57 Accounts

Noted. The Association's accounts were not available owing to delays in processing transactions caused by the pandemic, as indicated in the Agenda. They will be circulated to members in due course.

58 Membership of the Committee

Reported: that Prof. J.H.Anstee, Dr A. J. Heesom and Dr R, B. Thomas were stepping down from the Committee, and that Mr T.C.Doloughan and Mr F.W.Pritchard reached the end of their term but were eligible to stand again.

Resolved: that, in the absence of other nominations the following, who had been duly proposed and seconded, be deemed elected.

To serve till 30 June 2023: Mr T. Clive Doloughan, Mr Francis W. Pritchard (Secretary), and Ms Sharon Mavin.

To serve till 30 June 2022: Dr Euan J. F. Ross

To serve till 30 June 2021: Dr Alan M. Kenwright.

NOTE: The composition of the Committee for 2020-21 is therefore as follows:

Elected until 30 June 2021

Mrs M. Allison

Mrs K. Fall (Treasurer)

Dr A. M. Kenwright

Elected until 30 June 2022

Dr K.J.Orford

Dr E. J. F. Ross

Vacancy

Elected until 30 June 2023

Mr T. C. Doloughan

Mr F. W. Pritchard (Secretary)

Ms S, Mavin

Noted: A Chairperson has not at this point been elected.

59 AOB

The Secretary received no emails raising any other business.