

ASSOCIATION OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY PENSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held in Lecture Room 1, Department of Engineering Science
at 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday 17th February 2016

Present – Carlos Ruiz (President), Gilliane Sills (Chairman); the following members of the committee: Caroline Carpenter, Geoff Clough, Susan Greenford, David Mills, Andrew Moss, Laurence Reynolds, Rosemary Williams, John and Gaynor Woodhouse; and over 100 members.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Wendy Claye, Eileen Iredale and Anne and Raymond Reed (Members)

Welcome – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Minutes of the 29^h Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday 18th February 2015** – copies of the minutes had been displayed on the screen and circulated, and they were **accepted as a correct record** *nem con*.

3. **Matters** arising – None were raised.

4. **Chairman's** Report

Thanks – Professor Sills started by expressing thanks to the Committee and the University, the latter including Jan Killick and Marie Hough from the Pensions Office, and all those involved in the Newsletter production and distribution: Jean Butler, Andrew Harvey and Anne Brunner-Ellis for the Newsletter, Bob Malloy in Reprographics and Sandra Dyson in the post room.

Outings in the past year – The statistics for the Summer 2015 and Winter 2015/16 were displayed on the screens, and are given below:

Summer Programme 2015			
Month	Visit	Number of applicants	Number offered places
April	Bletchley Park	124	106 initially
May	Warwick and Charlecote Park	86	All
June	Eltham Palace and Thames Barrier	162	106
July	British Library and Magna Carta Exhibition	89	All
August	President's Garden Party	92	All
September	Hampstead Village and Kenwood	126	106 initially, then 8 more
Winter Programme 2015/16			
October	OUP	137	All
November	Oxford Town Hall	169	All
December	Christmas lunch	147	All
January	Trials of Galileo	85 then 124	All
February	Christ Church	162	All
March	Literary Oxford walk with Alastair Lack	128	All

The Chairman said that, two coaches were now run as a default for outings. Eltham Palace had been oversubscribed and may be run again.

Altogether she said that this had been a very successful year for the Association in terms of trips and visits, and she expressed thanks to the members of the Committee who had arranged and led the visits.

The AOUP Website – Gilliane expressed thanks to Rosemary Williams, who had taken on the role as webmaster this year. The expanded email list ensured that messages got out quickly, particularly last minute changes to visits. Members were urged to add their email address using the link on the website if they have not already done so.

She mentioned that there was a need to be aware of expenditure and to this end members could opt for an on-line version of the Newsletter.

5. **Treasurer's Report** – The Treasurer had provided the following tables, which were displayed on the screens.

Association of Oxford University Pensioners - Annual Accounts		
Income for the year ended 31 December 2015		
	2015	2014
	£	£
University Contributions	11,235	15,984
Subscriptions	5,300	4,871
Trips	37,491	36,403
Christmas Lunch	4,480	3,940
Bank Interest	178	203
Total	58,684	61,401

Association of Oxford University Pensioners - Annual Accounts		
Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2014		
	2015	2014
	£	£
Outings and Functions	40,464	39,762
Committee and Admin Expenses	516	346
Newsletters OU	6,516	6,245
New Members Evening OU	930	973
Lecture Fees and Refreshments OU	2,874	1,253
Christmas Lunch	5,641	4,714
Honoraria	700	775
Miscellaneous	20	0
Insurance	204	186
Irish visit advance payment	2,045	933
Total	59,910	55,187
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(1,226)	6,214

Balance Sheet		
	2015	2014
Accumulated Fund Balance as at 1st January 2015	29,987	23,773
(Deficit)/Surplus on year	(1,226)	6,214
Total	28,761	29,987
Barclays Bank: Community Account	200	603
Premium Account	8,007	9,003
Skipton Building Society	20,554	20,381
Balance at 31 December 2014	28,761	23,773

Treasurer's Report -The Treasurer remarked that Association was grateful to the University for its continuing support for AOUP. A grant of £11,235 was received for 2015 and £10,320 was expended on associated costs. (In 2014 in addition to the grant, reimbursement of claims for prior years was received.) There seemed to be a significant delay in receiving invoices for the production of the Newsletters. Currently £4,574 was held to meet the cost of the Autumn 2015 Newsletter. Gilliane and Geoff had met Rob Williams and Jan Killick recently to discuss the grant going forward. AOUP was quite properly being challenged to contain costs as much as possible, but had received assurances about the commitment of the University to AOUP.

Subscription income had increased, £429 up on the previous year. Social Members paying by standing order now pay on 1 January of the year after they join, and this led to a low subscription income for the previous year and accounts for some of the increase.

We paid for 149 Christmas Lunches in 2015. The result was a subsidy of £1,161 or £7.80 per head.

The coach trips continued to be very popular with two coaches available. Overall subsidy was £3,126 (£2,814 paid during the year plus £312 deposit paid in 2014).

The accounts were prepared on a receipts and payments basis which does not take account of any items paid in advance. As a result, the deficit for the year did not reflect the true situation. Deposits are received for the long trips in advance of our year end for example.

The Treasurer estimated the running costs of AOUP as:

Admin	£1,500
Christmas Lunch subsidy	£1,250
Outings subsidy	£3,250
Total	£6,000

He remarked that for the time being retained reserves could be used to meet the gap in funding, but cautioned that the subscriptions may need to be increased within the next few years.

The accounts were put to the meeting and **approved** nem con.

Appointment of Independent Examiner – Geoff Clough said that current Auditor, Tim Croft, was willing to be reappointed for 2016 and proposed that he be reappointed. This motion was put to the meeting and **agreed** nem con.

Finally, the Treasurer thanked Gilliane Sills and Caroline Carpenter for their hard work associated with the trips, and Jan Allen for her work in managing the membership data and collecting subscriptions.

6. **Secretary's Report** – Jan Allen reported membership statistics as follows:
Membership Statistics as at 16th February 2016 (Figures for 2015 in brackets):

Social Members	420 [493]	Single Members
	294 [331]	Couples
Total	714 [824]	

Non-Social Members 4069 [3842]

She remarked that while 'Ordinary Membership' had risen over the past year, numbers for Social Membership had fallen slightly from the figures reported for 2015. Reasons

for this included the Treasurer's reconciliation of Social Members on the Membership database who have not paid their subscriptions for the year, together with a number of members' deaths and members moving out of the area during the year. Members were encouraged to pay by standing order to avoid forgetting to renew.

The Secretary said that the AOUP Committee was extremely fortunate in the support it received from the Pensions Office, led by Jan Killick, Head of Pensions. David James had been most helpful in providing a continuous flow of information on changes of address, changes of circumstances, deaths, etc. She also paid tribute to the valuable work done by Marie Hough, the Pensioner Visitor and thanked her for her collaborative support during the year. She thanked staff of the Engineering Department where Committee meetings and the lectures are held. In particular, Sara Downs, the Receptionist, Sukarni Wheeler who arranges room bookings; and Darren Sprague, Catering Manager at Baxter Storey who had taken over provision of catering. Most of all, she paid tribute to the Chairman, Gilliane Sills, who continued to provide huge input and leadership to the Association and had been a great support during the year. Finally, she added her thanks to the previous incumbent, Caroline Harding, for her unfailing encouragement and support throughout the year.

7. **Election of Committee Members** – David Bicknell, David Mills and Rosemary Williams had agreed to stand for election to the Committee. The proposal was put to the meeting and **carried** *nem con*.
8. **Programme for 2016** – A list of events proposed for summer 2016 was displayed on the screen, and briefly outlined, and the Chairman mentioned that full details would be included with the forthcoming Spring Newsletter. The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the **2016 Carol Service and Christmas Lunch** will take place on **Wednesday 14th December 2016**.
9. **Any Other Business** – Nothing was raised.

Talk following the AGM – Muir Gray, Author of *Sod 70*