

# ASSOCIATION OF OXFORD UNIVERSITY PENSIONERS

## MINUTES OF THE 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held in Lecture Room 1, Department of Engineering Science  
At 2.15 p.m. on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018

**Present** – Carlos Ruiz (President), Gilliane Sills (Chairman); the following members of the committee: Jan Allen, David Bicknell, David Carpenter, Geoff Clough, Rodney Eatock Taylor, Laurence Reynolds, Rosemary Williams John and Gaynor Woodhouse; and over 185 members.

**Welcome** – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Apologies were received from Jim Briden and Wendy Claye.
2. **Minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting, held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017** – 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 on behalf of the *Newsletter* editors to the staff of the University Offices Print Studio, the Publications Section and the Post Room for their much-appreciated assistance with the preparation and distribution of the AOUP *Newsletter*. She thanked the Committee for their contributions and hard work this year on the programme of events.

Professor Sills said that new committee members were welcome, potential members should let her know if they would like to be co-opted to see whether they would enjoy it. She mentioned that there were four meetings a year and some organization in between.

She went on to say that it had been another good year, thanks to all the members who had enthusiastically participated in events and that made it rewarding to organize them.

**Outings in the past year** – The statistics for the Summer 2017 and Winter 2017/18 were displayed on the screens, and are given below:

<b>Summer Programme 2017</b>			
Month	Visit	Number of applicants	Number offered places
April	Portsmouth Historic Dockyard	109	106
May	Hatfield House	122	106
May	5-day visit to Chester	59	53, plus 2 taking cancellations
June	Royal Ascot	89	All
July	BBC Birmingham/Silver Quarter	109	All
August	Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway/Stanway House	119	108, plus 2 taking cancellations

<b>Autumn and Winter Programme 2017/18</b>			
September	Kings Cross/Foundling Museum	69	53, plus 6 taking cancellations
October	Oxford Castle	121	All
November	Pitt Rivers	124	All
December	Christmas lunch	147	All
January	Viridor Energy Recovery	114	All
February	Liz Woolley Walk	127	All
March	University College with Alastair Lack	177	All

The Chairman said that summer visits were constrained by the number of coach places (53 x 2) and that almost always both coaches were full.

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

<b>Association of Oxford University Pensioners - Annual Accounts Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2017</b>		
<b>Income</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
University Contributions	14,000	13,500
Subscriptions	5,590	5,530
Trips	41,914	36,327
Christmas Lunch	4,695	4,520
Bank Interest	139	202
Other - Donation	31	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,369</b>	<b>60,079</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Outings and Functions	43,250	36,751
Committee and Admin Expenses	771	415
Newsletters OU	11,872	7,737
New Members Evening OU	934	896
Lecture Fees and Refreshments OU	1,097	1,401
Christmas Lunch	5,958	5,474
Honoraria	700	700
Miscellaneous	10	33
Insurance	253	232
Advance payment for trips	1,019	2,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>65,864</b>	<b>56,324</b>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<b>505</b>	<b>3,755</b>

<b>Balance Sheet</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Accumulated Fund Balance at 1st January 2017	32,517	28,762
Surplus on year	505	3,755
	<b>33,022</b>	<b>32,517</b>
Barclays Bank: Community Account	369	292
Barclays Bank: Premium Account	11,762	16,761
Skipton Building Society	20,891	20,753
less creditor Christmas Lunch	0	(5,289)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2017</b>	<b>33,022</b>	<b>32,517</b>

The Treasurer started by offering his sincere apologies for any confusion or distress caused by the email sent to all members regarding unpaid subscriptions. In future we will endeavour to email reminders only to those who haven't paid. Thanks to all our Social Members for their continuing support. Subscriptions keep increasing year on year. Social outings continue to be very popular and we generally provide two coaches for each destination. The 5-day trip to Chester was full. We look forward to the Isle of Man trip in May this year. The Christmas Lunch at Exeter College was filled to capacity.

We are grateful for the vital support from the University covering the Newsletter, Winter Lectures and the Newcomers Reception. In 2017 the grant income has matched expenditure. Historically accounting has not always kept pace with events. We are up to date on Newsletter printing costs. Postage costs however have been incorrectly allocated within the University accounts. As a result, we are holding a surplus of £7k. When postage arrears and other outstanding costs are considered we will have an overspend of £375. We do have an excellent relationship with Jan Killick, the University Pensions Manager, and I am hopeful that the University will continue to support us.

If we deduct the surplus University grant from our balance sheet total, the accumulated fund balance would be just under £26k.

**Appointment of Independent Examiner** – Geoff Clough said that current Accounts Inspector, Tim Croft, had reviewed the accounts and was willing to sign them off if approved by the meeting.

The meeting **approved** the accounts *nem con*.

Geoff Clough said that Tim Croft was willing to be reappointed for 2018 and proposed that he be reappointed. This motion was put to the meeting and **agreed** *nem con*.

**6. Secretary's Report** – The Secretary reported membership statistics as follows: Membership Statistics as at 21st February 2018 (Figures for 2017 in brackets):

Social Members	457 [481]	Single Members
	702 [706]	Joint Members

**Total Social Members** 1,159 [1,187]

Non-Social Members 4,191 [4,273]

**Overall Membership** 5,350 [5,460]

The Secretary reported that social membership of AOUP continues to thrive, with 78 new members joining this year. There had been a good response to the Reception for Newly Retired members held at the Divinity School in November, 73 people accepted the invitation to attend, a similar number to last year. A number of applications had

come in for social membership from those attendees and continue to do so (31 to date).

Once again this year the Secretary had provided a slot in the Preparing for Retirement Workshops run by the Oxford Learning Institute to talk about AOUP. Many people have not heard of our organization but are pleased to know about the range and diversity of our talks and trips, right on their doorstep and enabling them to continue their social links with the University. Feedback from the workshop attendees earlier this month indicated that they will consider joining when they come up for retirement and some people already have. Some were college members and were pleased to know how they too could join.

There was an overall deficit in the figures above (110), caused by two major factors this year. Firstly the Pensions Office undertook an exercise to check pensioner deaths over the last two years and quite a large number of AOUP pensioner deaths came to light. Secondly where subscriptions for Social membership remained unpaid, membership reverts from 'Social' to 'Ordinary' membership after the 31<sup>st</sup> January deadline for payment, quite a few subscriptions were still outstanding!

The Secretary paid tribute to the support the Committee receives from the Pensions Office, led by Jan Killick, Head of Pensions, David James and Marie Hough, the Pensioner Visitor and thanked Marie for her collaborative support throughout 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 Damian Murphy, Catering Manager at Baxter Storey. She finished by paying tribute to the AOUP Chairman, Gilliane Sills, who continues to provide huge input and leadership to the Association and to the rest of the committee who continue to be a pleasure to work with.

**7. Committee Elections** – Jim Briden, David Carpenter and Rodney Eatock Taylor were co-opted to the Committee during the year, had agreed to stand for election and had been nominated by the committee. **Carried** *nem con*.

**8. President** – The Chairman said that for her, AOUP was always associated with Carlos Ruiz who had been Chairman before her and had gone on to become a splendid President, very much involved with the activities of AOUP. She was glad to say that although he was stepping down as President, he would continue to play a role in the Carol Service and the Christmas Lunch and she thanked him, on behalf of the committee, for all his efforts over many years.

She was pleased to be able to announce that Sir Brian Smith, whom she had known for a long time, former Master of St. Catherine's, had agreed to become President. Brian said that he was honoured to be taking on this role and that he looked forward to meeting members.

**9. Programme for 2018** – The Chairman noted that the programme for summer 2018 was in the Newsletter that had been sent out the previous day.

**10. Any Other Business** – Nothing was raised.

**Talk following the AGM – Malcolm Graham, *The History of the Oxford Covered Market***