

SUSS-EX CLUB
STEERING GROUP

NOTES OF THE 12th MEETING
FRIDAY 3 JULY 2009, from 1715 hrs

Present: Bob Benewick (BB), Gordon Conway (GC) (chair), Arnold Goldman (AG), Ken Wheeler (KW), Adrian Peasgood (AP), Jennifer Platt (JP), David Smith (DS).

1. Apologies: Yvette Ashby, Sue Bullock, Jackie Fuller (JF), Charles Goldie, Nancy Holmes, Steve Pavey (SP).

2. Minutes of the meeting on 30 January were approved subject to minor corrections.

3. All matters arising were covered by specific agenda items.

4. DARO agreement. The University had indicated willingness to extend this beyond the initial year (now expired); this was welcomed. However, it was noted that not all the provisions seemed to have been made known to those involved within the University: **JP** would provide a full note to be the basis of discussion at the next steering group meeting, and confer with Steve Pavey about possible 'chasing' activity. The impending change of Registrar was noted as another element in the situation.

The agenda for the next meeting would be compiled – and sent to DARO for distribution – by the minute taker of the present meeting (**AP**).

Noted that Celia Alexander, office manager in DARO, was now our contact person.

5. Suss-Ex website. The new University homepage seemed not to provide any sequence of links to our homepage, though direct search by 'Suss-Ex' still worked. **AG** and others would explore further.

6. Recruitment to steering group. Few approaches to possible new members were reported, none successful. Sadly, Nancy Holmes had resigned. It was thought recruits might be most easily found among those who had attended several Suss-Ex events, and perhaps one or two former members of the steering group might return if circumstances for them had changed – they would be welcome!

7. Recent programme:

Talk. It had not been possible to arrange a talk by one speaker.

Theatre visits. 'Waiting for Godot' had attracted a party of about eleven.

Walk. Geoff Mead's walk was cancelled owing to insufficient interest.

Greyhound racing. A small party had enjoyed the evening.

8. Future possible events:

Talks. Several possibilities were discussed. A buffet meal on campus was the most likely suitable complement to such talks. NB. The convener of the talks programme, BB, indicated that he wanted to stand down from the role after

completion of the present round of arrangements; it was hoped that a successor would come forward at the next meeting.

Theatre/concert visits. Agreed **JP** should offer two Theatre Royal visits: 'Absurd person singular', in week 14-19 September, 'The hypochondriac', in week 6-10 October. **AP** would offer 'The entertainer' at New Venture Theatre in week 7-14 November. Noted that a pre-show meal together was seen as a valuable part of these outings. **JP** would also offer a BREMF concert including Indian music (late October or early November) which could be combined with an Indian meal.

Walks. **KW** to investigate a natural history walk on campus. **AP** to say to Geoff Mead that if he wanted to test a 'new' walk on a group from Suss-Ex we would welcome the opportunity. (It was thought that the walk offered in April failed to attract enough takers because many members had done it previously, under other auspices.)

Visits. Sue Bullock had suggested the De La Warr pavilion, noting the availability of a lunch plus guided tour package; this was thought to be a good option for early in 2010. The new Towner art gallery in Eastbourne was a further possibility.

Christmas party. Confirmed that even if there was little mixing between faculty and non-faculty a joint event should again be offered. Noted that **JP** had indicated she would not organise it this year. A convener would need to be found, and a date set, at the next steering group meeting.

General. The dearth of 'science' events was noted and regretted. **GC** offered a spring talk on low carbon economies, perhaps with special reference to China.

9. Finances. Received **JF**'s interim report on imperfections in the club accounts as available from DARO, and welcomed her offer to prepare a final report for the next meeting. It was hoped that **SP** could suggest how best to promote possible solutions.

10. UCU liaison. **JP** noted some common interest of Suss-Ex and UCU (formerly AUT) in contact with retired staff; it was agreed that she should accept UCU's invitation to attend occasional meetings. UCU might be contributing a short piece to our next Newsletter.

11. Pre-retirement course. **JP** had twice given a five minute presentation. (Automatic enrolment in Suss-Ex, with opt-out option, as expected from the DARO agreement, was not working.)

12. Archives. The next Newsletter should publicise the desirability of securing the future of archival material which might otherwise be lost in the forthcoming round of office moves.

13. Next Newsletter. **DS** volunteered to edit this. **JP** had received an assortment of information on publications, and there were several deaths to report.

Next meeting. Friday 9 October, 1715.