

## **SUSS-EX CLUB**

### **Steering Group Meeting no. 6**

Minutes - Friday 28 September 2007  
Development & Alumni Relations Office, Bramber House

*Present:*

Sir Gordon Conway ( <i>Chairman</i> )	Charles Goldie
Yvette Ashby	Willie Lamont
Bob Benewick	Jennifer Platt
David Betts	
Jackie Fuller	

*In attendance:*

Gill Blake (DARO)

*Apologies for absence:*

Mike English  
Adrian Peasgood  
Valerie Cromwell  
Christine Glasson  
Steve Pavey  
Ken Wheeler

#### **1. Approval of minutes of 20 April 2007 meeting**

Approved – with matters arising covered below.

#### Recent Events

It was agreed that David Streeter's walk was very good, despite the weather, and a future walk in a different season would be very nice.

Wakehurst – around 15 attended a well guided tour.

There was also a theatre trip to see Donkey's Years, which about a dozen people attended and enjoyed a meal beforehand.

#### New members

Bob attended the pre-retirement meeting (as a result of which a number of new members were recruited) – he noted a question that comes up – was SussEx for all staff including non-faculty.

#### **2. SussEx Mailing List**

Although there have been several occasions where those receiving the SussEx newsletter and updates have been asked to let us know if they no longer wish to receive such communications, Gill noted that University data protection requires people to definitely 'opt-in' rather than out. Jennifer and Charles stressed the importance of having a definitive and separately accessible list which can be referred to. A separate meeting is being arranged for Charles, Gill and Mark Lennon who

manages the Development and Alumni office database, of which the SussEx constituents form part, to take this matter forward.

### **3. Membership Progress**

Various members have offered to look for new members – progress unclear. Anyone who has been an employee (and spouses) can be members.

Another category to consider is former members of Council. Charles has mentioned it to Brian Manley (who was Chair when Alasdair Smith was appointed VC). There may be others – it was agreed to extend the opportunity, but not to Court. Charles noted there is a list of ‘great and good’ in the VC office.

### **4. Programme of Events for 2007-08**

*Planned activity:*

House of Lords – Monday 29 October. There are 70 booked (the maximum), a mix of former and current, academic and non academic. Shirley Williams is the guest speaker (topic tbc), Margaret Sharpe is host (as both are Baronesses in the House of Lords). Gordon Conway noted how well it has come together and thanked Jackie.

Christmas Party – this will be managed by Jennifer. The University has been asked for funding and Greg Riley in Finance has confirmed £500 again. While the room costs will be less (as it is lunchtime), it really depends how many attend as to whether £500 will be enough to cover costs – and more people may attend a lunchtime party.

Jennifer expressed a concern with USPAS – it is starting to look as if we are doing all the organising for them. Jennifer has written to Mick Henry – trustee of USPAS - asking if someone from the USPAS side can help, to make it equally run. Jennifer also needs more help from SussEx to run the Christmas party. Gordon asked that a member of the Steering Group to help, and we will put a request for volunteers in the newsletter.

There was some discussion about whether/what to charge non USPAS members to attend – agreed to charge non USPAS £5 per person, £8 for a couple. DARO will help by organising the cheques income, as last year. Refreshments were also discussed – as his Punch went down well, Jennifer will find out if Low Thompson will do it again, if not will get recipe!

*Future activity discussed and agreed:*

Farley Farm House at Chiddingly – a talk and tour is £25 and the season runs Apr – Oct. Sue Bullock has offered to organise

Theatre trip -The Heiress at Brighton Little Theatre 11-15 Dec – Adrian Peasgood has offered to organise.

Jennifer will continue to organise one theatre trip per term post Christmas

*Other activity discussed, to be agreed:*

## Walks

### Suggestions:

David Streeter again for a walk

Jackie suggested Geoff Mead – does good historical walk around the Patcham area.

Jackie can organise but only if next year

## Talks

A number of names were suggested which will be pursued.

Jennifer suggested Jan Thole who has been an extra for Eastenders post-Sussex (former director of sports centre) – and she has now agreed to talk on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

## **5. Club structure and administration**

As Steve Pavey was due to report back from his discussions with the University, and was absent from the meeting, this item was postponed from discussion. Gordon Conway will contact Steve to find out where he has got to on this.

## **6. Items for Newsletter**

Request for Steering group members, especially non academic

### Planned activity:

Theatre trip – The Heiress at Brighton Little Theatre 11-15 Dec (Adrian Peasgood supplying copy)

Sign up to Christmas party

Request for volunteers to help with the party

### Possible future activities

Historical walk in Patcham.

Talks – if sorted out for the 18<sup>th</sup> Jan, could be included

There was a discussion about Obituaries – how to accommodate notifying of deaths? Agreed in general we need to report deaths and where possible link to obituaries in the Press. In special circumstances we will arrange an obituary ourselves, perhaps from former colleagues.

## **7. AOB**

Gordon Conway noted the group is working well as it is, however there was a discussion about broadening the Steering Group membership, and who might be appropriate.

It was hoped that the group might be broadened by recruiting former staff across the University including members of USPAS such as male technicians, and former School secretaries.

**The next meeting date was agreed – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008.**