

SUSS-EX CLUB

Steering group meeting no. 34

Friday 27th March 2015, at 17.15 hrs in Pevensey III, 5C11

NOTES

Present: Sue Bullock (SB), Colin Finn (CF), Jackie Fuller (JF), Charles Goldie (CG), Arnold Goldman (AG), Adrian Peasgood (AP), Jennifer Platt (JP, acting Chair), David Smith (DS), Paul Tofts (PT)

1. Minutes and next Agenda: CG.
2. Apologies: Gordon Conway (GC), Steve Pavey (SP).
3. The Minutes of meeting 33 were approved.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes: all are covered by other items below.
5. Reports:
 1. JP reported that *Arcadia* at the Theatre Royal attracted the largest theatre group to date, which ensured a good social occasion. Views of the production were mixed.
 2. JF reported that 58 came on the visit to The Keep, our highest attendance save for the House of Lords Dinner in 2007. Minor problems were (a) difficulty for some in hearing the speakers in the introductory talks with which the visit started, and (b) some problems in organising our party, the largest the Keep had so far accommodated, into groups to tour the various parts of the building. However the effort put in by the staff and the current intern to tailor the visit to a UoS group was much appreciated, and the visit counts overall as a major success.

Noted that for all events we need if possible to circulate an e-mail reminder two weeks in advance, with that content only and with the booking form again attached. On this occasion almost half the bookings came in in response to the reminder.
 3. Finance: JF reported general health. For the Keep visit, making a small charge in order to discourage no-shows had proved a good idea.
6. Records of retired staff. The response to DS's enquiry was that HR does keep records, but off-site and so subject to delayed recall.
7. Future programme.
 1. The possible visit to the Attenborough Centre is left to SP to pursue.
 2. Speaker (Nick Tucker) with meal: AG and JF to take forward.
 3. Ideas for further speaker meetings included having two or three speakers, with an active chairman, on research in 'retirement', plus a buffet, or supper after.
 4. AP and CF to progress with Charles Dudley the possible tour of campus new buildings. [Post-meeting note: under way.]

5. Theatre (JP): held over, as the current Theatre Royal programme is not attractive enough. A group visit to the Chichester Festival Theatre was felt not to be viable, as Suss-Ex could not add enough to what individuals can organise for themselves.

8. Recruitment. Contacts were reported with the University Administration at several levels, with a view to the University engaging more with Suss-Ex, but it was not clear which if any contact would lead to the desired outcome.

Agreed that our Newsletter could usefully ask recipients to try to recruit to Suss-Ex.

CG's enquiry about the promised replacement for the cancelled lunch for emeriti with the VC (which followed the reconfiguration of Court, excluding emeriti) had met with no response.

9. Pre-retirement course. The target audience is reachable only with HR's co-operation. JP will attempt to pursue the matter with HR at a senior level.

10. DS agreed to edit the next issue, to appear late April or at the start of May, provided there is then at least one event to book for.

11. AOB: none.

12. Next meeting: Friday 19th June at 17.15; GC expects to be able to attend. CG will book 5C11, or if necessary somewhere else.