

## SUSS-EX CLUB

### **Minutes of the 10th Steering Group meeting Friday 31 October 2008 at 5 pm, DARO Meeting Room, Bramber House**

Present

Yvette Ashby, Bob Benewick, Sue Bullock, Sir Gordon Conway (chair), Jackie Fuller, Charles Goldie, Arnold Goldman, Nancy Holmes, Adrian Peasgood, Jennifer Platt, David Smith, Mike Tribe, Ken Wheeler.

- 1 Apologies were received from Steve Pavey and Willie Lamont.
- 2 The minutes of the 9th meeting of the Group on 13 June were approved.
- 3 **50th Anniversary**

The chairman introduced Saphie Deacon, Head of Corporate Events, who said that the Vice-Chancellor had set up a group comprising Julia Somerville, Michael Farthing, Allan Spencer, Phil Harvey, Dominic Tickell, Fred Gray, Paul Layzell, and Persephone (Saphie) Deacon to prepare for the 50th Anniversary Year from September 2011 to Graduation 2012. The aims would be to reach out to the community and business, advertise research, raise funds (e.g. for scholarships), and look both back and forward. A book would be edited by Fred Gray and perhaps a film made by Julia Somerville.

During a wide-ranging discussion, the meeting suggested that the following could be included.

- (a) Reminiscences from Asa Briggs, Michael Lipton, Maurice Hutt, Rod/Carol Kedward, Angus Ross, Michael Jamieson, Geoff Lockwood.
- (b) References to a complete set of staff obituaries.
- (c) How specifically Sussex innovations affected the intellectual life of the country.
- (d) Acknowledgment of people in the community who had contributed to the development of the University.
- (e) References to Associated Colleges, IDS, Medical School, Associated Units e.g. Nitrogen Fixation, the Gardner Arts Centre.

It was hoped that Suss-Ex could be involved, where appropriate, as plans are developed.

#### 4 **Christmas Party** at lunchtime on 17 December

This would be organised in the same way as last year by Jennifer Platt, in cooperation, as before, with USPAS; she gave notice that she was not prepared to organise the party in 2009.

The charge would be £6 for individuals and £9 for couples.

Gavin Ashenden would be invited free of charge.

#### 5 **City College Dinner.**

The meeting thanked Jackie Fuller for organising this and for the discussion note on dinners already held and dinners in general, that she had circulated. As she had to leave early consideration of her paper was deferred to the next meeting.

## 6 Activities in Spring Term

(a) Jennifer Platt would organise a theatre party for *Swan Lake* and possibly other events not yet advertised.

(b) Nancy Holmes suggested that the Club book a tour led by Geoff Mead of the Friends of the Royal Pavilion. The cost would be £5 per head with a minimum charge of £30 and a maximum capacity of about 20 people. She would make further inquiries about possibilities and arrange a date, probably a Sunday afternoon/evening in April or May 2009.

(c) Bob Benewick said that the talk by Pauline Grant in the *Life after Sussex* series was excellent; the food was good but the turnout was poor. He agreed to arrange a further meeting, probably in March, with Valerie Cromwell as speaker. Other speakers suggested as reserves, or for another time, were Nigel Llewellyn, Margaret Sharp, Julian Le Grand, Mary Kaldor, Helen Wallace, Robert Whittle and Brian Spratt.

(d) Jennifer Platt would ask Trevor Beeforth to arrange a date for a visit to the Greyhound Races.

## 7 Library Policy

Jennifer Platt said that the Library had disposed of a number of sociology books. There had been consultation with the subject group but she had not heard of it. She asked whether this was a general problem. It was agreed that members' attention should be drawn to the need to check that they appeared on appropriate mailing lists for such matters.

## 8 Mailing Lists

Charles Goldie reported slow but significant progress on updating mailing lists. The Suss-Ex web site had also been updated.

## 9 Newsletter

Adrian Peasgood agreed to edit a newsletter for November to include: details of the Christmas party, invitations to proposed theatre visits, a *Life after Sussex* meeting, the Royal Pavilion walk, and the evening at the dog track.

## 10 Keeping in Touch

It was easy to circulate information to members by email but more difficult when it had to be sent by post. Charles Goldie agreed to write to widows/widowers of people who had died. It was agreed that they should be included in mailings and invited to events.

## 11 Next Meeting

This was fixed for 30 January 2009 at 5 pm in the DARO meeting room.

The meeting closed at 6.30 pm.

David Smith