

SUSS-EX CLUB

Steering group meeting no. 36

Friday 9th October 2015, at 17.15 hrs in Pevensey III, 5C11

NOTES

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

1. Minutes and next Agenda: CG.
2. Apologies: Gordon Conway (GC), Colin Finn (CF), Steve Pavey (SP).
3. The Minutes of meeting 35 were approved.
4. Matters arising from the Minutes: all are covered by other items below.
5. Reports:
 1. The group visit to Alan Bennett's Talking Heads at the Theatre Royal Brighton was enjoyed, and attracted some new participants (JP).
 2. No change to the financial situation (JF).
- 6 Relations with the University
 1. CG reported no contact with the University administration over the summer. A recently received circular had revealed the e-mails of a dozen retired colleagues who are not Suss-Ex members; CG will invite them to join.
 2. Agreed that the next Newsletter would reproduce the Chair of Council's *Staff Bulletin* article soliciting views on the process for recruiting the next VC, and offer to collate and forward any, without taking a Suss-Ex view.
 3. We discussed the possibility of arranging a meeting with the pro-VC responsible for alumni, and/or with the Chair of Council.
 4. JP discussed possible formats for a double-bill afternoon on medical aspects of retirement and ageing. She has a Medical School professor who volunteers a talk, and will discuss arrangements with him. PT's contacts with the Medical School could prove useful. Sign-up publicity should be positive. As the Medical School is a joint enterprise, the possibility of a joint meeting with Brighton University could be explored. A date in the New Year before Easter (27th March) would be aimed for, with likely venue the Chowen Lecture Theatre or smaller room in the Medical School, tea being served in the foyer.
7. Future programme
 1. The talk by Nick Tucker and ensuing meal would follow the meeting. JF thanked the group for (on request) signing up themselves and recruiting others. The now-outsourced Conference Centre imposes onerous

conditions and a very early deadline for numbers and financial commitment.

2. JP reported that the group visit to the BREMF opera in the Old Market would go ahead, with a party of 16 for which BREMF had kindly reserved a block of seats. It was hoped that a common-tapas format for the meal at a nearby restaurant would obviate the time pressure that builds up when a large table orders individually.
3. Thursday 17th December was a possible date for the Christmas Party. The group thanked SB for taking plans forward, in particular negotiating with the Finance Department.
4. Any future talk-with-meal event might better have an earlier and simpler format involving afternoon tea. In winter months, events starting before dark were likely to be more popular. A consultation with our mailing list over possible formats could be attempted.

8. Obituaries

CG reported that links to the online *Bulletin/Staff Bulletin* archive had changed over the summer. It was not difficult to restore the links in Suss-Ex's obituaries page, but an e-mail to the Head of the Web Team suggesting that an announcement might have been made, as no-one can know what webpages worldwide link to the archive, met with no response. The Suss-Ex obituaries page now covers the whole of the *Bulletin/Staff Bulletin* from the first issue in 1962, amounting to some 450 names.

9. Newsletter

AP volunteered to edit a Newsletter incorporating booking for the Christmas Party and appearing around 18-19 November.

10. AOB: none.

11. Next meeting: Friday 8th or Friday 15th January at 17.15. [Post-meeting note: GC cannot make the 8th but hopes to be able to come on the 15th, so the 15th it should be.] CG will confirm (or otherwise) that DARO continues to have no meeting room suitable for us, and then attempt to book Pev III 5C11 again.