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QM FORMER STAFF ASSOCIATION

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Dear Member

Where did 2012 go? Under water, I think. Please 2013, 'bring us sunshine', as Morecombe and Wise used to sing.

Some snippets of news from members:

Ken Coe was looking through his 'archives' and found an advertisement in a London University Gazette for Queen Mary College, dated 18th August 1941. At this time QMC was based in Cambridge because of the war. The Principal was Major General Sir Frederick Maurice. Degree courses were offered in Arts, Science and Engineering; 1st MB and pre-medical courses for London Hospital Medical College. Tuition fees a session - £25.2.0d, residence from £65 per session. How QM has changed over the past 72 years, and to think that I worked in the Library for 37 of those years!

Chris Marigold (Student Union Manager) has retired from her current job and hopes to meet up with QM friends at future outings.

Peter Newman moved to Banbury before Christmas. He had a fall in a shop but luckily didn't break any bones. We wish him happiness in his new home.

We heard in November that, sadly, Mary Elmslie had died after a short illness. At the request of Mary's niece, a donation was sent to CAFoD (Catholic Fund for Overseas Development). Donations were also sent to the Alzheimer Society in memory of Dr Mansfield (Nuclear), John Harris (Domestic Bursar) and Bill Simms (Electrician).

Please find attached minutes of the AGM held on 7th November 2012.

BERYL PAINE WRITES: Twenty-three of us enjoyed a good Christmas lunch at The Green Man in the City; the food was excellent and the venue easy to get to. I wonder if you preferred it to The Red House?

I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and look forward to seeing you some time during 2013. This year I hope to be able to arrange a river trip, which is always popular, and at least one coach outing. Meanwhile, we are booked to see "Top Hat" at the Aldwych Theatre on 15th January and "Birds of a Feather" at the Cliffs Pavilion on 13th March. If you have booked for the latter, please let me have your remittance of £23.50 each by the end of January. Please enclose an addressed envelope (no stamp needed).

I'm afraid I also have to remind you that subs of £5 per annum were due on 1st October 2012, so if your name is on the enclosed list, I should be grateful if you would send your remittance for one or more years as soon as possible.

Many thanks and a happy New Year to you all.

Beryl

BERYL RYAN WRITES: Visit to the Houses of Parliament – 9th October 2012: A good size group attended this tour and after going through security we were greeted by the College's own Lord Peston, who had very kindly made the arrangements for this tour, and joining him was Professor Peter Hennessy. We were introduced to our tour guide who proved to be excellent, making the tour really very interesting.

Our first port of call was Westminster Hall, where the lying-in-state of monarchs and consorts traditionally takes place. Two famous Heads of State, notably Churchill and Gladstone have also lain in state here. We then moved on to St Stephen's Hall, with its beautifully painted walls depicting important events in British history and either side of the Hall are statues of famous parliamentarians.

After leaving St Stephen's Hall we made our way to the Central Lobby of the Palace. This is a very impressive large octagonal hall and is the centrepiece of the Palace. This is where members of the public wait if they wish to see (or lobby) their MP. From the Central Lobby we were taken to the House of Commons' Chamber and then on to the House of Lords' Chamber. It was quite something being able to sit in the seats in the House of Commons' Chamber which are usually occupied by our Members of Parliament. There is a public gallery where members of the public can enter during Parliamentary Question Time.

We then made our way to the Ceremonial Rooms: the Queen's own Robing Room and Royal Gallery, used for the State Opening of Parliament. The Royal Gallery is used by both houses to meet together to hear addresses by visiting Heads of State or Government.

After our tour we made our way back to Westminster Hall where we had coffee before making our way to the Jewel Tower which is situated across the road from the Palace of Westminster. This is a very small building and houses an exhibition about the British Parliamentary System. There is also an exhibition on the Westminster area and another on weights and measures. There was a small shop but not much else. The spiral staircase could prove a bit of a challenge to some visitors.

This was a really great place to visit and I am sure everybody enjoyed the experience. Our thanks to Lord Peston for arranging this visit and also to Beryl.

Beryl

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you all a happy and healthy 2013.

Yours sincerely



Sheila Fenn
Hon Secretary