

Queen Mary

University of London

Hon Secretary
Miss S Fenn
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QM FORMER STAFF ASSOCIATION

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www.qmul.ac.uk/alumni/formerstaff

Hon Treasurer and Social Secretary
Mrs B Paine
50 Tudor Road
East Ham London E6 1DR

September 2014

Dear Member

It's good to be able to start our Newsletter with two happy occasions.

A good time was had by all at the celebration lunch held at the Kingsway Hall Hotel in Holborn on 2nd September for Beryl Paine's 90th birthday. Twenty-eight people attended and enjoyed a three course meal with wine and tea/coffee. Afterwards, Beryl was packed home in a taxi. We had anticipated that she would have many gifts as well as the flowers to carry and it was impossible to imagine her travelling on the underground with them.



Also, congratulations to Veronica and John Bush, who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary recently. Flowers were sent to them with good wishes from the Association.

It is always good to hear news of members and we would encourage you to write in to give us some up-to-date information about yourself – where you are living now, how you spend your time, the organisations you belong to, etc. Sometimes we are asked to remove members from our mailing list and this has been the case with Suzanne Emmery, ex Laws, whose son has been in touch to say that his mother is now in a care home. Having been in touch with Mr Emmery, we subsequently sent an artificial flower arrangement to Suzanne (pictures herewith) at his request. He said that artificial arrangements are more welcomed in the home than fresh flowers as this makes the work of the carers easier.



BERYL RYAN writes: Thames Boat Trip from Westminster Pier to Hampton Court on Wednesday 11th June 2014: Our last boat trip to Hampton Court was very wet, but today the sun shone, which made it so much more enjoyable, especially as we were able to sit on the top deck.

This trip took us from the heart of town near Big Ben, wending our way out of the hustle and bustle of London to the picturesque outskirts to the West. We travelled up river through the locks at Richmond and Teddington and the journey took about three and a half hours, with some passengers alighting at Kew Gardens and Richmond.

This would have been the same route taken King Henry VIII on the royal barge to Hampton Court Palace many years ago.

We passed many of the areas which would have been flooded in February, now looking quite idyllic once again, but those floods must have changed many minds of those who previously would have loved to live close to the Thames.

The trip was enhanced by a lively and interesting commentary given over the PA by the skipper of the boat. Obviously, he was a closet scholar of history, politics (the cynical kind!), architecture and also something of a comedian. He gave us fascinating information concerning prominent buildings, landmarks, memorials, parks and other riverside features. Far from being intrusive, his lively banter made the trip interesting and gave added value.

When we reached our destination we took ourselves off to the tea rooms for a welcome cup of tea/coffee, before making our way back to London by train.

A really great day out. Many thanks to Beryl for making all the arrangements.



Beryl Paine's 90th Birthday Celebration Lunch, 2nd September 2014: Twenty-eight members of the Former Staff Association and guests attended a luncheon at the Kingsway Hall Hotel in Holborn to celebrate the (unbelievable) 90th Birthday of Beryl Paine.

Apart from this being her birthday it was a very special occasion also because Beryl, who is our Social Secretary and Treasurer, was one of the founder members of the Association, which was formed in 1985. Everyone present, including the staff of the Hotel, joined in applauding Beryl on her arrival. Photographs were then taken with everyone gathered around the table which displayed her birthday cake, flowers, a helium balloon with 90 on it and cards and gifts from the Association, its members and guests. Before commencing with the meal and after taking our seats, Dave Pank gave an excellent speech telling of Beryl's achievements as Treasurer and Social Secretary and also of her time at QMW, followed by a toast to our very special guest.

The waiting staff proceeded to serve up a very nice three course lunch, followed by the cutting of the cake which was then served up with our coffee.

The Hotel staff were most patient, kind and thoughtful throughout the proceedings making the experience even more memorable. One of them even sang Happy Birthday along with guests. This gathering was a very happy occasion and I feel sure all those present had a really pleasurable and memorable time.

Beryl

BERYL PAINE WRITES: Way back in May, having been asked by a friend what I was going to do to celebrate my birthday, I thought – “Yes, I suppose being 90 is a landmark”, so began making tentative plans for a small get-together. However, I was told in no uncertain terms by our Secretary, Sheila, to forget it – “It’s all taken care of”.

All I knew was that we were having lunch, so to say I was totally overwhelmed to find 28 of you had made the journey into town to celebrate my big day with me is putting it mildly. You gave me a day that will long live in my memory, much better than the one I had in 1939, which I also remember but for a very different reason. I was in a village which to me, as a Londoner, seemed like the middle of nowhere, having been evacuated with school the day before, so no cards, no presents as nobody knew where I was.

Thank you so much for the gifts, the cards (55 in all) and all your good wishes, which having no immediate family of my own mean a lot to me.

Now down to earth and practical matters. I have made a provisional booking to see the musical “Dirty Rotten Scoundrels” at the Savoy Theatre for the matinée at 3 pm on Thursday 23rd October, starring Robert Lindsay and Katherine Kingsley. “Be transported to the French Riviera and the decadent underworld as two seasoned swindlers attempt to hoodwink a millionaire heiress.” This is a very popular show, so I hope it appeals to you. The cost is £29.50 per person (normal price £67.50). Please complete the attached reply slip and return it to me, together with remittance and self-addressed envelope – stamp not necessary, to reach me no later than 29th September.

Beryl

There are now new staff in the Alumni Office and they say that they will be happy to update information about the Association on the website, so let’s hope that this will bring about more enquiries and new members.

Our Annual General Meeting will take place this year at College on Tuesday 14th October, 10.30 am for 11.00 am. Further details and the agenda will follow. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at this event.

I hope you have enjoyed our summer of varying temperatures and that the present run of pleasant weather continues.

And, to end, a quotation given to Dave Pank by Anna Gruber at Beryl’s lunch, which you might like:

“Beautiful young people are accidents of nature, but beautiful old people are works of art.”
(Eleanor Roosevelt, US Diplomat (1884-1962)).

Yours sincerely



Sheila Fenn
Hon Secretary

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QM FORMER STAFF ASSOCIATION – REPLY SLIP FOR RETURN TO:

Mrs B Paine, 50 Tudor Road, East Ham, London, E6 1DR

Please make cheques payable to QM Former Staff Association

**“DIRTY ROTTEN SCOUNDRELS”
SAVOY THEATRE
THURSDAY 23rd OCTOBER 2014 at 3 pm**

NAME

NUMBER OF TICKETS AT £29.50

TOTAL ENCLOSED £

Please return, together with cheque and self-addressed envelope, to reach me no later than 29th September.