

**QMW FORMER STAFF ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 11 am IN THE ROBERT TONG ROOM, QUEEN MARY COLLEGE
ON TUESDAY 20th OCTOBER 2015**

PRESENT

Ken Coe	Angela Faley	Beryl Ryan
Jacquelyn Conner	Maureen Fry	Dave Lawrence
Joan McSweeney	Ann Glendon	Beryl Ryan
Pam Wallace	Beryl Paine	

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE received from:

Kathy Abbott	Susan Greenwood	Silvia Ranawake
Veronica Bush	Lesley Lambert	Susan Richard
Cedric Gilson	Marion Pank	Helen Thomas

CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME: Dave Lawrence welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE 2014 AGM, having been circulated, were accepted as a true record.

MATTERS ARISING:

- No suggestions or correspondence had been received from members regarding a solution to the problem highlighted by Dave Pank, ie that members living outside London should have some recompense because they are unable to participate in outings. Sadly Dave has resigned from the Association as we have not found a solution.
- Following Rose Gray stepping down as Independent Examiner, we have been fortunate in obtaining the services of Alan White.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Sheila thanked all members of the Committee for their work throughout the year, Marion Pank for her secretarial work, Beryl Ryan for taking letters into College to be printed and Pam for putting newsletters into envelopes for posting.

Three members that we know of have died this year: Eric Booth, Suzanne Emmery and John Reeve. Sheila said that she had been unable to attend the Pre-Retirement Course in February but was pleased to read a report from our Publicity Officer, Cedric Gilson, a summary of which is given below.

Ending her report, Sheila said that members' input for the newsletters would be welcomed to make them more interesting.

Summary of Publicity Officer's report: "The most significant achievement for us in the past year has been the willingness of HR at Queen Mary to include information about the Association in leavers' final documentation. To assist with this, I composed a sample letter and submitted it to the very co-operative PA to the Head of HR. She guaranteed its inclusion.

"Leavers no longer receive a 'final envelope' and the information they require is provided on line. I am certain my letter will have been substantially edited but there is no way of discovering what leavers receive unless we know of someone and ask them! However, I am confident that staff leaving Queen Mary will now at least hear of our existence automatically. It seems success in our publicity has been made possible by a radical change of personnel in Professional Services at Mile End. There does seem to be a new ethos in the way they treat former staff (well us, anyway?).

"In similar vein, we have again been invited to give our now customary presentation at the Pre-Retirement Planning Seminar in January (27th January 2016, 12-12.30 pm) and I have agreed that a representative group of us will attend.

"Through the excellent co-operation of the Alumni Office I am able to continue posting up the newsletters on the Former Staff webpages that describe the activities of the QMFSA and I will have submitted the most recent issues by the time of the AGM.

"I may have recruited some new members myself through what is called 'The Alternative Barts Alumni' that has an annual get-together and comprises mostly previous Barts College office staff, medical secretaries and others. I know for certain that two of that group have joined at my suggestion and there might be others on the point of sending in their fiver. I look forward to the opportunity to introduce them to you all when the occasion arises.

“All we have to do now is to keep information up-to-date and watch for any other openings. To our astonishment and delight, it is Queen Mary that is now providing them!”

Cedric Gilson – 11.10.15

TREASURER’S/SOCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT: Since the last AGM three members have passed away as mentioned above. We have three new members from Barts: Jackie Roe, Margaret Simpson and Diane Taylor. Current membership stands at 66. The College Finance Officer, Mr Shore-Nye, has approved a further £2,000 grant for the Association and this is being transferred to our account by BACS.

The Christmas lunch will be on 9th December 2015 at the Kingsway Hall Hotel, Holborn at 12.30 pm. We have had three successful theatre trips – ‘Dirty Rotten Scoundrels’, ‘The Play that went wrong’, ‘Sinatra’, a trip behind the scenes at the Royal Opera House, followed by tea at the Kingsway Hall Hotel and a visit to an Alpaca Farm. It was necessary to cancel the boat trip on the Thames at short notice due to problems with a lock on the river. Had it proceeded we would have been caught up in the tube strike on the way home.

Annual subscriptions were due on 1st October.

ACCEPTANCE OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS: On the **PROPOSAL** of Jacquelyn Conner, **SECONDED** by Pam Wallace, the meeting unanimously accepted the audited accounts.

APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER: The meeting unanimously appointed Alan White for the ensuing year.

COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING YEAR unanimously agreed as below:

Chairman	Dave Lawrence
Vice-Chairman	Pam Wallace
Secretary	Sheila Fenn
Treasurer/Social Secretary	Beryl Paine
Publicity Officer	Cedric Gilson
Committee Member	Jacquelyn Conner
Committee Member	Susan Greenwood
Committee Member	Joan McSweeney (new committee member)
Committee Member	Beryl Ryan

In addition, the meeting was pleased to co-opt Ann Glendon to the Committee.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- The meeting was asked to let Beryl Paine know of any shows they would like to see and she said it would also be helpful if members would indicate the maximum amount they would be willing to pay for a ticket. Beryl had obtained a brochure for shows at the Brick Lane Music Hall: there was a pantomime (for adults) during January and February and in April the programme will celebrate St George’s Day and the Queen’s Jubilee. Both shows, which are matinées, would be preceded by a three-course lunch. As the meeting thought this would be a possibility, further information would be obtained.
- Coach trips are now too expensive as there are insufficient numbers interested. Dave Lawrence had seen on the internet that certain coach companies run day trips with specific pick-up points. This might be possible if we could find a company with pick-ups in the Mile End/Stratford area or near an accessible station. Tickets would need to be purchased in advance and, of course, we would be joining with other people. Dave will look further into this.
- Maureen Fry proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for their work during the year and this was seconded by Angela Faley.

The meeting ended at 12.25 pm with several present going on to The Eagle, Snaresbrook, for lunch.