

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 10:30 A.M. ON SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2015
AT THE SOCIETY, 12, SOUTH BAILEY, DURHAM

MINUTES APPROVED AT 2016 AGM

Present

Mark Rowland (Chairman)
Elizabeth Archibald (Principal)
Sharon Richardson (Vice-Principal)
Bill Block, Ted Baldry, Jean Bryson, Neil Bryson, Danni Collingridge Moore, Greg Collingridge Moore, Barry Fildes, John Hamilton, Andy Keen, Barbara Keen, Patrick Kiely, Douglas Matthews, John Newton, Anthony Palmer, Derrick Phillips, Harriet Rawet, Keith Reed, Peter Reid, Bernard Robertson, Richard Root, Sean Sexton, Mel Shiels, Peter Sibley, Millie Tanner, Phillip Willey

Item 1: Apologies for absence

Tony Bailey, Alex Baulf, Tony Crook, Ed Fetherston-Dilke, Matthew Glover, Robert Hedderly, Albert Hodgson, Cressida Peever, Richard Peralta, Derek Robbins, Victoria Silcock, Simon Stanley, J. Keith Wright, Nick Wright.

In the absence of Secretary Alex Baulf, Derrick Phillips again agreed to take the minutes.

Item 2: Welcome and introductions

The Principal, Elizabeth Archibald, welcomed everyone to the Society and to the AGM, which would be considering some extremely important items regarding the Association's future plans. The Chairman, Mark Rowland, also welcomed everyone to what would be the last meeting he would be chairing, as he would not be standing for re-election. Harriet Rawet, the 2015-2016 Sabbatical Development Officer, who had succeeded Cressida Peever, and Richard Root, the 2015-2016 JCR President, were introduced. Harriet was keen on regional gatherings, a programme of events and a more structured relationship between Society and Association.

Item 3: Minutes of the last AGM

It was agreed that the word "family" should be substituted for "parents" in line 4 of paragraph 3 in relation to the tragic death of Luke Pearce in 2014. The meeting then approved as a true record the Minutes of the last AGM held on 5th July 2014.

Item 4: Matters Arising

Paragraph 3 – The Chairman reported that he had, as agreed at the last meeting, sent a cheque for £100 to 'Search and Rescue', in memory of Luke Pearce. The Chairman apologised to the meeting for the delay in sending the cheque.

Item 5: Chairman's Update

The Chairman reported as follows – the paragraphs refer to the minutes of the last meeting.

Paragraph 15 - Ranald Michie was duly appointed a Freeman of the City of London in recognition of his international standing as a scholar in respect of the history of financial markets. He had been proposed and seconded by Association members Simon Stanley and Michael Izza, both having the necessary status as liverymen. Mark Rowland accompanied Ranald and his family during the ceremony in June.

Paragraph 15 - Simon Stanley is continuing his research for a memoir of Cuthbertsmen known to have died in the First World War and the plan was still to publish it to coincide with the anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Nearer the date, a decision would be considered on the Association underwriting publication, depending on costings.

Paragraph 17 - The inclusion of the names of the World War One Cuthbert's fallen on the memorial plaque in the garden should be considered.

Paragraphs 20, 21 - Michael Izza, Chief Executive of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, had confirmed that there would be no charge for using the lecture theatre at Accountants Hall, Moorgate but that the Association would have to meet the cost of refreshments and other hospitality (as it would expect).

The question of naming the lecture or series of lectures after the late Michael Aris, a brilliant Cuthbert's academic, would need to be cleared with his family, specifically his sons. The Chairman had written to the University about their possible involvement but had received only a lukewarm response. The Principal said that, while the University would doubtless be willing to publicise the event, they would not agree to further involvement.

Paragraph 22 - Mark was progressing Bernard Robertson's History of the Society. He would go over the text again and earmark subject areas which would benefit from

visual support. He would then get in touch with Harriet Rawet who could then see what might fit the bill from the Society's collection. The Association would be underwriting the cost of publication of the book to the tune of £3,000, this sum to be offset (hopefully) with revenue from sales.

Paragraph 23 - It was agreed that the excellent production of 'Cuthbert's Chronicle' meant that it would be unnecessary to produce a separate Association magazine, with its editorial workload, costs and distribution elements. The Association should liaise with Harriet with a view to making significant contributions to future editions. The Cuthbert's website was up and running and was a better than print at conveying advance information and hard news.

Paragraphs 24 and 25 - The Principal said that, in her view, the Association should not continue to maintain its own database of names and e-mail and postal addresses of alumni, but should rely on the more extensive University database. While the University would not give ex-student contact details to the Association, it would make sense for the Association to feed any changes to the University and not maintain a duplicate set of details. The Chairman made the point that the Association's own list for issuing communications was small but qualitative in that most of the names were of regular event attenders and organisers, ex-Society Presidents and others known to committee members. Such a list was always likely to produce a far greater response per target. It had played an essential role in the 125th anniversary dinner at the Lansdowne Club.

Events. The Society had held a successful drinks evening at the Gherkin in London. Hopefully, there would be similar events held in the regions.

Item 6: Principal's Update

The Principal congratulated Millie Tanner on being elected President of the Durham Students Union, following her successful term as President of the Society's JCR; and Richard Root, newly elected JCR President. Elizabeth reported on the academic (fourth in the University for firsts) and sporting successes of the Society, links with research centres; and highly successful events like the 'blindfold' culinary dinner, the Shakespearean fancy dress evening, a lecture of Renaissance Italy by Sarah Dunant, the Dancing in the Dark event and a visit by the Chancellor, Sir Thomas Allen. The SCR was flourishing.

At last there was real progress on the construction of a new student building. Given that a new building in the grounds on No. 13 was deemed not feasible by the

St. Cuthbert's Alumni Association

The alumni association of St. Cuthbert's Society, Durham University

University, it had been agreed that construction would go ahead on the Society's Parsons Field site, where there was space. There would be a multi-storey building providing accommodation/seating facilities for 100 students. The University had pencilled in autumn 2017 for completion and use.

The Principal reported that funds were being sought for awards for postgraduates to attend conferences etc. and for the renovation of the Bailey bar. Donors would be rewarded with named plaques to be put up.

Endowments were planned to place students at St. Cuthbert's re. the University's Military Scholarships. On 28th April, the scholarship plan was formally announced at the Cavalry and Guards Club, London, accompanied by a general appeal for funds. Scholarships are designed to support members of the armed forces who have become injured, wounded or sick, and are consequently honourably discharged, to undertake further study to support their return to civilian life. The turnout was splendid, with the Cuthbert's spectrum, other Durham graduates, friends of Durham, and representatives of military charities attending in large numbers to show their support.

The focus was on one undergraduate (any degree programme) and one postgraduate (an MSc in the Durham Global Security Institute) scholarship. Tom Wilde, the first Military Scholar at Durham who had just completed his BA, aided by private support from an ex-Cuthbertsman, said the Scholarship had allowed him to enjoy fully the degree that would change the course of his life. The Principal and another senior professor had spoken in support of the scholarships. Lord Dannatt, formerly the Army's most senior soldier, addressed those assembled, outlining the cost required to support the scholars, and urging those present to spread the word to other potential donors.

Elizabeth invited the Association to consider ways funds could be raised. An autumn event was planned, possibly featuring the Durham Light Infantry.

Alumni Survey. Elizabeth and Mark commented on the useful ideas thrown up in the responses to the Alumni Survey. There were valuable pointers for the Association to follow up on terms of meeting alumni expectations on what the Association should do to create more interest from alumni in participating in Association affairs. A high proportion of responses were from those who had served on the JCR Exec and had attended Society events. Referring to website and social media, staying in touch with

friends and visiting Durham under their own steam were high on the list of what people did and wanted to do.

Three in ten did not consider themselves much involved with the alumni community but would like to be. There was a notable interest in regional events, year and sports group reunions. Around half would welcome a printed newsletter and would be prepared to pay subscriptions, providing funds were spent to the JCR's advantage.

Elizabeth spelled out the objectives of the Cuthbert's Angels project, which aimed at mentoring and matching alumni with commercial people and employment and preparing them for the workplace. The Cuth's project was a pilot within the University's Angel projects in the various colleges. Employability was the University's watchword. However, those signing up for the Society's scheme would be dealing only with Cuthbert's alumni. Those volunteering would be accorded honorary membership of the Society's SCR. Dr Bill Block offered to be contacted.

Item 7: Treasurer's Report

The Chairman presented the Treasurer's Report in the absence of Victoria Silcock. Copies were circulated. Mark reported on the extreme difficulties he and the other cheque signatories had had with Virgin Money in their attempt to change and update the signatories. Having succeeded in getting the existing signatories to visit the bank and complete all the necessary paperwork and having been assured that all had been done satisfactorily, the bank had written to say that it all had to be done again, without explaining why. Bernard Robertson said he could ask his son, who was an Associate Director of the bank, to intervene and try to expedite the whole transaction. This offer was gratefully accepted.

There had been a similar problem with the HSBC account which had still not been resolved in respect of new signatories. At least, Mark had been accepted as the formal addressee; and he and Alex Baulf could sign cheques.

Mark drew the meeting's attention to the details in the circulated paper of income, expenditure, current assets and liabilities. It had been a low activity/low spending year. Outgoings had been on website and mailing services and income entirely from Virgin Money interest. The Association had had over £19,300 in hand at the end of August of which £3,000 was earmarked for Bernard's book. With no subscription income coming in, the Association still had to be very careful about depleting its capital.

Peter Sibley proposed that the Treasurer's Report be adopted and SCR Secretary Peter Reid seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

Item 8. JCR President's Update

Richard Root announced the establishment of a new International Committee. He reported on various sporting, social and cultural events, the Welfare Committee, the Postgraduate Committee, his plans for the creation of better facilities for students and the Cuth's choir. The Boat Club had been particularly successful. There had been a very successful Cuthbert's Day celebration. The Michaelmas Ball and the Feast of St. Cuthbert had both attracted 300 people. There was now a Feminist society within the JCR; some had taken part in the Durham Pride parade. He announced that the JCR would in future be an incorporated instead of an unincorporated charity – a development which would relieve trustees of being financially liable for the JCR's affairs. They would soon be in search of external trustees.

Item 9: Election of Association Officers for 2015-16

Chairman - Derrick Phillips proposed Richard Peralta as the new Chairman and this was seconded by John Hamilton. Derrick spoke of Richard's many achievements – in addition to having been Society President he has been a very active member of the Association's committee, had organised the launch of the new website and taken a full part in organising events. He continued to coordinate the Association's social media presence on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. He had prepared extensive plans to discuss with the committee, should he be elected, covering the establishment of representatives and groups on a regional or year group basis around the UK and globally to promote gets together of alumni. He is interested in utilising audio/visual for future AGMs and meetings and intends to investigate new means of funding the Association, which currently lacks subscription income.

Richard Peralta was unanimously elected Chairman for ~~the coming year~~ a three year term [corrected at 2016 AGM].

Secretary - Proposed by Bernard Robertson, seconded by Mel Shiels, Danni Collingridge Moore, research fellow at Lancaster University, was unanimously elected Secretary for ~~the coming year~~ a three year term [corrected at 2016 AGM].

Treasurer - ~~On a proposal from the Chair, Victoria Silcock was unanimously elected as Treasurer for the coming year~~ will continue into the second year of her three year term [corrected at 2016 AGM].

Committee members - On the proposal of John Hamilton, seconded by Sean Bryson, the following were elected to serve for the coming year: Alex Baulf, Matthew Glover, Derrick Phillips, Mark Rowland and Nick Wright.

Item 10: Relationship between Association and Society.

Arising from motions contained on the agenda sheet, it was agreed that the committee should conduct a review on this matter and report back. In particular the Committee should review databases, targeting and increasing electronic communications. This should facilitate a plan on how the Association should work more efficiently and effectively with the Society. (This item was closely linked with the following one).

Item 11: Association's Constitution

It was agreed that the Constitution, which is supposed to be reviewed every few years but had not been so reviewed, consequently included inconsistencies and needed clarification. It was agreed that it needed updating and Danni Collingridge Moore, as the new Secretary, was charged with reviewing it and putting draft proposals to the committee by June 2016. A suggestion by John Hamilton was agreed that the committee's proposals should be widely circulated to members of the Association for comments before final proposals were brought before the next AGM.

Item 12: Any Other Business

The 125 years version of the CD of Memories of Cuthbert's - Derrick Phillips said that he had given a few remaining unsold copies to Harriet Rawet (and John Hamilton would be sending her a few more). These could be purchased at cost price of £5 each. Derrick suggested that Harriet encourage alumni who had not sent in their 'Memories' for inclusion on the CD, to do so. These could be 'added' to the Master Copy.

Funding - Mel Shiels said he was opposed to subscriptions but suggested that ex-Cuthbert's people were circulated with an appeal for funds.

Bill Block felt some consideration be given to paying someone to work on the Society's extensive archives.

Votes of thanks and good wishes - The immense contribution to the Association by Cressida during her year as Sabbatical Development Officer was thanked

St. Cuthbert's Alumni Association

The alumni association of St. Cuthbert's Society, Durham University

unanimously. Best wishes were expressed to Harriet, her successor, for a successful year.

Another unanimous vote of thanks was also passed for Mark Rowland for his outstanding leadership of the Association for many years during often difficult times.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

St. Cuthbert's Alumni Association

The alumni association of St. Cuthbert's Society, Durham University

Actions arising

Action Ref.	Section	Details	Owner
AGM-2015-01	Minutes of the last AGM	Substitute the word "family" for "parents" in line 4 of paragraph 3 in relation to the tragic death of Luke Pearce in 2014	Secretary
AGM-2015-02	Chairman's update	Advise status of the WWI memoir	Simon Stanley
AGM-2015-03		Consider Association funding for the WWI memoir re. underwriting publication, depending on costings	Treasurer
AGM-2015-04		Consider inclusion of the names of the World War One Cuthbert's fallen on the memorial plaque in the garden	Association Committee, Simon Stanley
AGM-2015-05		Consult Michael Aris' family re. naming the proposed lecture series after him	Mark Rowland
AGM-2015-06		Proofread Bernard's Robertson's History of the Society, including identifying sections which may benefit from photos etc. from the archives	Mark Rowland
AGM-2015-07		Source potential photos from the archives for Bernard's Robertson's History of the Society	Harriet Rawet
AGM-2015-08		Coordinate Association articles for the Cuthbert's Chronicle	Association Committee
AGM-2015-09	Principal's update	Publicise appeal for funds for postgraduates to attend conferences etc. and for the renovation of the Bailey bar	Harriet Rawet
AGM-2015-10		Consider ways funds could be raised for the Military Scholarships	Association Committee
AGM-2015-11		Consider feedback provided by the alumni survey	Association Committee
AGM-2015-12	Treasurer's report	Liaise with Bernard Robertson's son re. bank account signatories	Treasurer
AGM-2015-13	Relationship between Association and Society	Create a plan on how the Association should work more efficiently and effectively with the Society	Association Committee
AGM-2015-14	Association's Constitution	Review constitution for circulation and discussion in June 2016	Secretary
AGM-2015-15	AOB	Advertise remaining 125th Anniversary CDs	Harriet Rawet, Association Committee
AGM-2015-16		Consider ongoing funding of the Association	Treasurer, Association Committee
AGM-2015-17		Consider paying someone to work on the Society's extensive archives	Harriet Rawet, Secretary
AGM-2015-18	Other	Review, amend (if necessary) and approve 2015 AGM minutes	Secretary