



DRAFT MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 17:30 P.M. ON SATURDAY 28TH OCTOBER 2017
AT NEW STREET GRILL, LONDON

MINUTES TO BE APPROVED AT 2018 AGM

Present

Richard Peralta (Chair) (RP), Matthew Glover (Events Manager) (MG), Elizabeth Archibald (Principal) (EA), Andrew Tibbs (Acting Deputy Principal) (AT), Catriona May (JCR President) (CM), Harry Lewendon-Evans (Development Officer) (HLE), Greg Dodwell (GD), Derrick Phillips (DP), John Hamilton, Matthew Kane (MK), Adam Muckle (AM)

Item 1: Welcome and introductions

AGM was opened at 17:30 with a welcome and introduction by RP and EA. Both thanked those in attendance.

Item 2: Apologies for absences

Danni Collingridge-Moore, Leo Turner, Mel Shiels, Alex Talbot-Rice, Megan Croll, Christopher Somerville, Mervyn Drage

Item 3: Approving minutes from last meeting, and matters arising

Minutes from 2016 AGM were passed.

RP talked through the table of matters arising included in the appendix.

Completed:

1. New bank account with Barclays has been opened. RP and MG are official signatories.

Ongoing:

1. Location map of alumni (HLE)
2. Names and inclusion of World War One Cuthbert's fallen on the memorial plaque in garden of 12 South Bailey (Simon Stanley).
3. Updated history of Cuth's written by Bernard Robertson is being edited by Mark Rowland. EA noted that Bernard Robertson was in poor health and urged the project to be completed.
4. Proposed lecture in London.

See appendix for further details



Item 4: Reports and Updates

4.i. Chair's Report

RP updated on SCAA's involvement with Durham University alumni associations working group, which discusses issues concerning data protection, strategy, and comparisons between associations. Issue of legal status of associations is still under review, but meeting between the working group and Jennifer Sewel (University Secretary), David Williams (Head of Alumni and Supporter Engagement, DARO) and Deborah Williams (College Liaison Officer, DARO) is scheduled for November.

RP noted SCAA's goal of fundraising for a video camera for the JCR, although CM noted the current fundraising priority for JCR is with outreach projects. RP offered SCAA support in whatever way JCR saw as appropriate, including fundraising, mentoring or training.

RP thanked committee members whose terms have either ended or have stood down: Danni Collingridge-Moore (Secretary), Vixie Fetherston-Dilke (Treasurer), Nick Wright (Elected member), and Cressida Peever (Elected member).

Action: DP requested that recent Cuth's successes be advertised on cuths.org and in Cuthbert's Chronicle. HLE was actioned to identify successes in Dunelm magazine and birthday honours list

See appendix for written report.

4.ii. Treasurer's Report

RP reported that new bank account with Barclays is open and that cash flow is balanced. Thanked Mark Rowland and Vixie Fetherston-Dilke for their hard work on the accounts.

GD questioned purpose of the account surplus and RP noted support of JCR, developing alumni relations, subsidising events and funding bursaries, but also that this involved risk of depleting reserves if no income was available. GD proposed action for SCAA committee to develop strategy for spending the surplus, seconded by EA.

It was noted that the financial statement should be amended for £25.00 to be recorded as separate donation, rather than joint with subscriptions.

Action: Chair and Treasurer to develop strategy for spending reserves

Action: Treasurer to amend financial statement to highlight distinction between subscriptions and donations

See appendix for written report.



4.iii. Event Manager's Report

MG reported that there was now a recurring structured events calendar for the year was in place, which includes new initiatives such as Cuth's Christmas, Cuth's Day Lunch and the Founders' Dinner.

The attendance numbers and ways of increasing them were discussed, particularly with regard to new alumni. From this, it was discussed how to promote SCAA to current students and new alumni and various options were considered, including a Cuth's Day presence, subsidised finalist formals, SCAA attendance at JCR meetings, SCAA committee and JCR exec informal evening, or SCAA representation at memorial service. MG also noted that there has been development in recent years and thanked the Development Officer position for support.

See appendix for written report.

4.iv. Update from the Principal

Alongside written report, EA reported significant changes in college staff, with the potential for new team in place by spring. EA reported that Joyce Elliott and Ann Peart, two long-serving members of staff, would be leaving at the end of October. On behalf of the SCAA, RP thanked Joyce and Ann for their years of work.

See appendix for written report.

4.v. Update from the Development Officer

Alongside written report, HLE noted recent events for new alumni and the development of the Careers Angels mentoring scheme. More contributions from alumni for the Cuthbert's Chronicle were also encouraged.

See appendix for written report.

4.vi. Update from the President

CM reported increase in number of first-year students but decrease in postgraduate numbers. Thanked work of Freshers' Week reps and noted that more non-alcoholic events had been held. CM reported changes to the exec structure of the JCR, which included the creation of new positions. Standing orders of the JCR are undergoing revision and update, which would be verified at JCR Meeting and with JCR Trustees.



CM reported that JCR has launched outreach project with a local school to provide support to arts department.

CM reported that JCR Trustees board was now set up, with Timothy Chapman (alum) as chair. The board consists of four student trustees, the president, and three external trustees. A new external trustee is in the process of joining.

See appendix for written report.

Item 5. Discussion items (30 mins)

5.i. Durham Colleges Associations Survey

RP presented the results of the Durham Colleges Associations Survey, which looks at the different ways the various alumni associations are involved with their respective colleges. Two main points were discussed:

- (i) Governance. RP highlighted that most associations are unincorporated. The possibility of creating a trust was discussed although GD, EA and AT noted this could incur legal difficulties due to the open issue of the legal status of associations. AT raised issues concerning fundraising and data protection.
- (ii) Membership and finances. SCAA is only association which does not charge a membership fee. As has been noted before, the difficulty concerns depleting account surplus or requiring a future income. Possibility of different membership levels was raised and it was suggested that a special membership could include receipt of Chronicle or discounted rates at events. MK suggested that if donations were collected for magazine, donations should be directed towards supporting students.

Action: HLE to ensure Chronicle is distributed to all alumni via email

5.ii. University strategy 2017-2027

RP referenced the University strategy that had been circulated. There was not sufficient time for the attendees to discuss in detail.

Item 6: Election of Association Officers

6.i. Secretary

There were no nominations for Secretary

6.ii. Treasurer

One nomination: Greg Dodwell

Proposed by: HLE



Seconded by: MG

Greg Dodwell was duly elected as Treasurer for a term of three years. GD thanked Vixie Fetherston-Dilke for her work as previous Treasurer.

6.iii. Elected committee member

There were no nominations

6.iv. Social Media and Communications Manager

A new volunteer role

Rebecca Turner has volunteered for this role

6.v. Events Committee members (x3)

Three new volunteer roles to support Events Manager

Theo Harrison and Digby Walker have volunteered for these positions

EA raised possibility of online elections to encourage more participation and to reach a wider audience.

Item 7: Any Other Business

- EA reported delay of new building at Parsons Field, with support being allocated to refurbishment of colleges. St Cuthbert's Society may be fundraising for student bursaries during the 2017/18 academic year and EA noted that the Society was open to consultation with the SCAA on this matter.
- RP noted thanks to Ann Peart and Joyce Elliott on behalf of the SCAA and reported that SCAA will fund £50.00 each towards leaving gifts.
- The next AGM will be held at the 2018 Alumni Reunion Weekend in Durham, c. July 2018.

Item 8: Next meeting date

The next meeting will be during the 2018 Alumni Weekend, date TBC

RP thanked all present for discussion. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:05 on 28/10/17.

APPENDICES TO THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT 10:30 A.M. ON SATURDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2016
APPENDICES AMENDED AFTER THE MEETING TO REFLECT ACTIONS

Item 4: Matters Arising

Past AGM actions				2017 update	
Action Ref.	Section	Details	Owner	Status	Comments
AGM-2016-01	Chair's Report	Spend time on refreshing location map, and target local and regional events	Harry Lewendon-Evans	Open	New regional events held in Bristol, and effort put into building regional networks. We will try again to launch an event in Manchester. Location map to be refreshed
AGM-2016-02	Treasurer's Report	New account to be opened to receive money from Virgin Money account	Victoria Silcock	Pending closure	Account in the process of being opened
AGM-2016-03	AOB	Investigate holding next AGM in London	Danni Collingridge Moore	Closed	AGM held in London for the first (?) time in 2017. We hope you enjoy it!
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	Closed	The Association has a close working relationship with the Development Officer, and Elizabeth has attended a couple of committee meetings in 2017 when diaries allow. The termly meetings with Chair, Principal, Senior Tutor and Development Officer should be re-established
AGM-2015-04	Chairman's update	Consider inclusion of the names of the World War One Cuthbert's fallen on the memorial plaque in the garden	Association Committee, Simon Stanley	Open	To be reviewed with Elizabeth and Development Officer closer to the time of publication

Past AGM actions				2017 update	
Action Ref.	Section	Details	Owner	Status	Comments
AGM-2015-05	Chairman's update	Consult Michael Aris' family re. naming the proposed lecture series after him	Mark Rowland	Open	This is still in the pipeline, although we should be sensitive to the political situation in Myanmar [Michael was married to Aung San Suu Kyi before he died]
AGM-2015-06	Chairman's update	Proofread Bernard's Robertson's History of the Society, including identifying sections which may benefit from photos etc. from the archives	Mark Rowland	Open	Mark and Bernard have been working together to complete proofreading and editing

Item 4i: Chair's Report

Achievements and noteworthy updates

i. Colleges Associations group

The group of Association Chairs and Presidents across all Colleges has been re-energised and met a couple of times in 2017 including with the VC and David Williams from DARO at the start of April. We had a very productive discussion about the university strategy and how alumni and Associations feed into it. It was good to hear of the plans to further engage and recognise alumni, outside of a financial donor context. The group will meet the VC again in November for a follow up meeting, which will also be attended by Jennifer Sewel, University Secretary.

On behalf of the group, I prepared a summary table of the differences and similarities between our Associations, which I attach to this report as an appendix. It is a fascinating read and can act as a conversation starter for us to consider how we can improve the alumni experience whilst celebrating the differences between our colleges.

ii. Data Protection Working Group with DARO

As part of the Colleges Associations group, a few representatives have formed a sub-committee with David Williams and Deborah Wood from DARO to discuss the impact of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) requirements, which come into force across the EU in May 2018. We are focusing on how GDPR will impact Associations, DARO, and alumni more generally. We met in May and had a good discussion of the challenges. I will report back any further updates as I have them, and work with Harry and the committee to feed in any questions. This will be a key focus of the meeting in November.

iii. Alumni Association constitutions

At the AGM in 2016, we presented and passed a list of constitutional amendments to better reflect and enable our working practices as an Association. We prepared a much more extensive overhaul of the document, but this has been put on ice whilst the University conduct a review into "arm's length bodies" – organisations like alumni associations and sports groups that are a vital part of the University and alumni experience, but don't fall under direct management by the University. The University and DARO recognise our role in advancing the interests of alumni and the wider College/Society environment, but remain wary of data protection and reputational risks posed by these bodies. This is inextricably linked to the data protection conversation mentioned above, and will be a particular focus over the next months.

iv. University strategy

I attended the University strategy launch event in London in May. There are lots of exciting plans, and I have had contact from a few alumni on what this might mean in practice for the University and for Cuth's. In particular, there have been encouraging noises from alumni on the recognition of colleges and the student experience (the Durham difference), with concern about the impact of the University on the city and its full-time residents. We will discuss the challenges and opportunities as a committee - including

Harry, Megan/Cat, and Elizabeth - as well as the wider Colleges Associations group to pass on any thoughts or feedback.

Future plans

At this meeting, I would like to seek volunteers for a number of additional positions. These are aimed not only to improve the Association's reach and effectiveness, but also to offer opportunities for individuals to get involved, improve skills, and offer whatever opportunity can be garnered to enrich our CVs. In the same way the JCR offers a great spring-board to Cuths students, we too should be offering alumni an outlet for our practical skills and personal interests.

This includes the formation of an Events sub-committee to widen the number and range of occasions we get together in person (see below, as well as Matt's report); and a website manager plus social media and comms manager to build our network, our brand, and our content online. I am more than open to any suggestions you have.

Given the amount of focus on the above activities, many of the future plans presented in 2016 have yet to be mobilised. I believe the initiatives outlined last year are still as relevant and offer the most benefit, so I repeat them here:

- A cornerstone of our plan to scale up the activity of the Association is to put in year group and location reps for our alumni population. An email from a contemporary, targeted at your year group, is much more likely to garner sign-ups than emails from myself, Elizabeth or the Development Officer. National and international events have the best chance of succeeding with committed location reps anywhere we have a critical mass of alumni. There is a very interesting location analysis document which has been plotted on a map at <http://cuths.org/locations>. Get in touch if you think your details are out of date
- The mooted flagship lecture now has a potential venue in the Accountants Hall in London, courtesy of past a President, Mike Izza
- A couple of interested parties have offered to organise industry networking events. We will work with the Development Officer to roll this out
- Two important publications are being progressed with the editorial and/or financial help of the Association. Bernard Robertson's updated history of the Society, and Simon Stanley's study of Cuths WWI fallen, are both in progress

Richard Peralta
October 2017

Item 4ii: Treasurer's Report

We have long talked of a new bank account, which will offer full online access and dual authorisations for payments. The forms and identifications have been submitted to Barclays, and we are expecting this to be open by the time we meet. All Association funds are currently held in our HSBC account.

The Association remains very careful about depleting its capital with no inbound subscription money. We continue to fund overheads and the funding of the Ranald Michie Prize through a small margin on ticket sales. The website design costs we incurred were not needed this year following the launch of the new website. We pay small monthly costs for hosting and web services, and have a provision in place for the funding of Bernard Robertson's history of the Society.

Victoria Silcock, Mark Rowland

October 2017

ST. CUTHBERT'S ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Financial Statement Year to August 31st 2017

<i>Income</i>	£	£
Subscriptions/donations	25	
Founders' Dinner receipts	1001.93	
St. Cuthbert's Day lunch receipts	481.19	
Total income	1508.12	
<i>Expenditure</i>		
Website, domain and mailing services/ Thread of the Web & others		124
Hosting DU guests for College Associations meetings		31.84
Durham University Library/ Photographs for book		36
Speaker phone purchase for committee meetings		98.48
Ranald Michie Prize		150
St Cuthbert's Day lunch expenditure		75
Total expenditure		515.32
Surplus on year	992.80	

Assets

	£ (August 2017)	£ (August 2016)
HSBC Current a/c	17,570.53	17,420.90
HSBC Business a/c	66.80	66.79
PayPal ¹	909.99	66.82
Total²	18,547.32	17,554.51

Notes to the accounts

1. Note that the PayPal component of the August 2016 balance was accidentally omitted from the 2016 accounts. This has been added here
2. There is a rounding error of 1p which cannot be reconciled at this time

Future expenditure

Liabilities/provisions for 2017-18

Robertson history: design and production provision ³	3,000
Ranald Michie Prize ⁴	150
Total future liabilities (at 31/8/17)	3,150
Total assets (31/8/17)	18,547
Uncommitted assets	15,397

3. The Association is committed by Committee resolution to set aside £3,000 for the production work on the Robertson history. However, eventual book sales will be credited to the Association, at least until breakeven point
4. The Association is committed by Committee resolution to support the Ranald Michie Prize, currently for £150 a year, until further notice

Item 4 (iii): Event Manager's Report

The events calendar in 2016-17 has built on foundations set over the last few years. As the first year that we have had a dedicated Event Manager on the committee, there is always more to be learned and done.

Since the last AGM, we have held the second edition of three major events – the Founders' Dinner (today is the third annual dinner) and the St. Cuthbert's Day lunch in March, both in London; and the #CuthsChristmas series of events (London, Durham, and Cambridge). For the first time, in March, we held a Cuth's Feast in Hong Kong, to coincide with the London lunch. These are well on the way to becoming significant standing events that we hold every year as a focal point for alumni. I am particularly pleased at having welcomed a number of new faces to events.

Via Harry, there have been drinks in Bristol and an event for alumni of the last five years in London. We are also indebted Harry for his organisational abilities at the alumni reunion weekend, in its new July slot to take advantage of the good weather.

The ongoing success has been down to a more concerted effort to push events on different social media platforms at the same time, and dovetailing in more seamlessly with the communications sent by Harry and DARO. This could be assisted further with a dedicated social media and comms manager, who we hope to elect or co-opt in the very near future.

Rich has covered the proposed formation of an events sub-committee, which would allow us to devote more time and attention to putting on more events – the more people immediately involved, the bigger our network of immediate friends and contemporaries, and the more easily we turn small groups into big ones.

Our 2017-2018 calendar will be confirmed over the next few months:

Event	Location	Date	Cost
#CuthsChristmas drinks	Global	Dec 2017	Cash bar
Pub Quiz	UK (London and/or another site)	Jan 2018	Entry donation/ cash bar
St. Cuthbert's Day lunch	London	Mar 2018	c. £35-40
Cuths Day	Durham	Jun 2018	Set by JCR
Alumni weekend	Durham	Jul 2018	Depending on package
Founders' Dinner	London	Oct 2018	c. £50
#CuthsChristmas drinks	Global	Dec 2018	Cash bar
Location drinks (in addition to London and Durham)	UK: Cambridge, York, Cheltenham, Bristol, Manchester Americas: Vancouver, New York Rest of world: Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore	TBC	TBC
Flagship academic lecture	Accountants Hall, London	TBC	c. £10
Industry networking events	Various	Various	Free

Matt Glover
October 2017

Item 4 (iv): Update from the Principal

JCR

It has been a pleasure to work with this year's President, Megan Croll, and her Exec, who have maintained the tradition of energy, enterprise and enthusiasm in all their activities. It is particularly pleasing to note the work of the Postgraduate Committee led by Sarah Sheehy, who have organized an excellent PG induction programme at the beginning of the academic year and a series of activities through the year, including research fora and PG Formals.

Over 400 freshers joined us this October, a record intake which strained our spatial resources to their limits. We had to have three Formals in Freshers' Week to accommodate them all, and the stand for the Freshers' photo was alarmingly high. The Freps and the Exec provided an excellent range of activities and support, and the freshers were unanimous in their praise for the welcome offered by both students and staff.

The dining hall was absolutely packed for the Freshers' Fair which showcased the wide range of activities available; we have over 35 clubs and societies, and new ones are created every year. Last year we did particularly well in badminton, which added a number of shields and cups to the trophy case at 12 South Bailey.

Student Deaths: Chloe Holt and Jessica Cawley

Tragically, we lost two undergraduates in the last academic year. Chloe Holt, a finalist in Criminology who died in February, received a posthumous degree. Jessica Cawley, a second year Physics student who died in June, had enough marks for a posthumous diploma.

Scholarly Activities and Lectures

Over the last year we have had an excellent programme of talks and discussions, some organized by the Postgraduate Committee, some by the SCR, and some by College Officers. The annual Fellows' Lecture was given by Lord (Charlie) Falconer on 'The Future of Politics' and drew a substantial audience from Cuth's, the wider university, and Durham city, including the Mayor, the Chief Constable (an SCR member), and sixth-formers from local schools. Our Lay Chaplain, Dr Charlie Pemberton, organized a series of Difficult Dialogues on topics including living in a technocracy, the ethics of food, commemorating the Holocaust, and sports stars and celebrity. Other talks included philosopher Jules Evans on ecstatic experiences and the art of losing control; children's literature specialist Lucy Pearson on Diana Wynne Jones and Tolkien; and Gary Fildes, Director of the Kielder Astronomical Observatory, on his improbable journey from bricklaying to running an award-winning tourist attraction and receiving a Durham honorary degree.

In Michaelmas 2016 our Institute of Advanced Study Visiting Fellow, Prof Massimo Leone of Turin University, an expert on symbols and semiotics, generously spoke at a number of events, as well as giving a public lecture in the dining hall. Prof Leone made many friends among the student body and is still in touch with a number of them via Facebook; in his report on his stay in Durham, he was very complimentary about the enormous contribution that Cuth's made to the success of his time in Durham.

Prof Ted Gup, last year's IAS Fellow, returned to us in January as writer-in-residence for six months, and it was a huge pleasure to have him back. The students who attended his informal weekly sessions on non-fiction writing produced terrific work, he reported. He wrote a very complimentary essay on the strength of the humanities in Britain for the American journal *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Sept 3 2017), in effect a love-letter to Durham and Cuth's. Ted gave two talks on Trump's presidency to a lively audience of both JCR and SCR. He and I judged an essay competition on whether hate speech should be protected. He too interacted with a wide range of students, staff and SCR and was very complimentary about his experiences at Cuth's.

Next spring we shall have our first musician-in-residence, Matthew Thomas Morgan, who read Music at Cuth's from 2008 to 2011.

Formals

Formals have been well attended this year, indeed often over-subscribed. The Charity Formal showcased a new student organization supporting refugees. Among the guest speakers was Simon Bowens of Friends of the Earth at the Fair Trade Formal, which was also attended by Fiona Ellis, Chair of College Council, and the new PVC Education, Prof Alan Houston, who has joined the SCR. The Postgrad Committee had another triumph with their Inter-MCR Murder Mystery Formal, this time based on *Cluedo*; among the guests were the Chancellor and Superintendent Kerrin Wilson of Durham Police (who identified the murderer correctly). The Military/St Cuthbert's Formal was made very special by the attendance of two Refounders, Albert Hodgson and the Rev Colin Colclough. Colin (JCR President in 1949) gave a wonderful speech about his wartime service and Durham in the late 40s. Other guests included the new PVC Colleges and Wider Student Experience, Owen Adams, and two current Military Scholars, and 20 members of the Inter-Services Society were at Low Table.

The annual Shakespeare Formal induced the usual creativity at High Table. We had two gravediggers complete with spades, a skull and a rat, and both *Macbeth* and *Birnam Wood* were present; *Julius Caesar* and *Brutus* were both at Low Table. Alumna Cressida Peever devised a 'Shake or Fake' quiz with an election theme. The choir sang two Tudor songs, and Dr Patrick Gray organized a hilarious last-minute version of Stoppard's 'Two Minute Hamlet' with the help of members of Drama Soc and High Table, and sound effects by everyone in the room.

College Staff

We have faced some challenges in staffing this year. The Deputy Principal, Sharon Richardson, was on sick leave from early November until she decided to leave Cuth's, and the University, at the end of August. We

wish her well in her future activities and are grateful to her for all that she did for Cuth's, including promoting the arts through exhibitions and the artist-in-residence programme, developing the careers and personal development programme with annual funding awards for both individual and group projects, and expanding the mentoring programme. Fortunately we have been able to secure the temporary services of Andrew Tibbs as Acting Deputy Principal while she has been away; he will be with us at least till Christmas 2017.

Ann Peart and Joyce Elliott, who have worked for the Society for many decades, are both retiring on October 31st this year. They have made enormous contributions to student life and will be warmly remembered by thousands of students past and present, and also by staff and SCR members. Also leaving at the end of October is Uche Ndaji, who joined us 18 months ago as the Student Support Administrator; in her short time at Cuth's she too has made a significant contribution to student life.

I am very grateful to all who have taken on extra work as a result of staff absences over the last year.

University Strategy and Staffing

We will of course need to replace the staff who are leaving, but do not yet know exactly how this will be done. The University review Durham DOES (Developing Operational Excellence Strategy) is identifying cost-savings to be made in all parts of the University, in preparation for the proposed expansion over the next ten years (growth in successful departments and creation of new colleges, as well as the move of the two Stockton colleges to Durham City). This is naturally creating a good deal of anxiety among staff, and students too. The new Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Colleges and the Wider Student Experience, Owen Adams, is doing his best to keep cuts to the colleges' budgets to a minimum, but efficiencies need to be found and so there are bound to be some changes in the next year. We should know more about this when he has completed his own review of the Colleges Division in December. On the plus side, the University Strategy strongly emphasises the crucial role of the colleges in the Durham Difference; central to the Strategy are three areas, education, research, and the wider student experience which of course focuses heavily on colleges.

New Building and Refurbishment Plans

We had hoped to get the go-ahead very soon for the proposed new multi-purpose building at Parson's Field, but it seems probable that this will be delayed owing to the urgent need for refurbishment across the residential estate, which has long been neglected. The PVC Colleges is determined to make progress on this front; our Bailey accommodation is high on the list for attention.

Alumni Association Status

The University Secretary has still not given a clarification of the status of alumni associations and their relationship to colleges; a review is underway. The delay is very frustrating, but until we have her comments and those of the Legal Dept., we do not feel able to agree the proposed Constitution or Memorandum of Agreement.

Item 4 (v): Update from the Development Officer

I have worked with the Association to organise a number of events for alumni this year. The most recent event was **Cuth's in London: Grads of the Last Five Years**, an after-hours evening in London at the Blues Kitchen, Shoreditch for graduates from 2012-2017. The event was successful: 100 tickets were sold at a cost of £10 a head, which included a welcome drink and canapes. The event was promoted primarily through Facebook through an initial 'save the date' event page to build up interest and encouraging different friendship groups to come together, before the official invite and booking link was sent out. As well as engaging with recent alumni, the aim of the event was to introduce new alumni (2017 graduates) to the alumni community and 20 2017 graduates attended.

The **Alumni Reunion Weekend** took place in July. Invitations were distributed to specific groups as well as promoted via social media. The weekend was relatively successful in encouraging new people to attend and the final number of attendees was 30.

In March, with the help of alums Serge Chapman and Tony Crook, I organised an after-hours evening in **Bristol** for alumni based in the South West. Although the final number of alumni who attended was relatively low (seven), both those who did attend and those who did not and sent apologies expressed their gratitude for having an event outside of London or Durham. I am currently in the process of looking into another evening in Bristol although based on a suggestion by Tony, this may be combined with a Durham alumni event.

Finally, as part of the Association's Cuth's Christmas events last December, I organised an evening in **Manchester**, but unfortunately there were no attendees, with several last-minute cancellations.

The other aspect of engagement has been developing and promoting the **Careers Angels network**, which has seen a significant increase in the number of students using the scheme, as well as a moderate increase in the number of alumni who have volunteered their time to provide careers mentoring to the students, for which I am very grateful. The next step in developing this would be to build a more user-friendly and efficient webpage for the network.

I have put together two editions of the **Cuthbert's Chronicle** so far and the next one is underway. The previous editions have featured contributions from the JCR, current research activity of students, sports and societies news, and contributions from alumni (Johnny Luk, John Farrington, James Lee, Amy Hinsley, and Christopher Somerville). The previous two editions have been loosely organised thematically on entrepreneurship and travel. The next edition will focus on charity and outreach. The Chronicle is printed and made available online.

Over the course of the past year, I have promoted the alumni community to current students, particularly via the **Careers Angels** network, but also this year by actively introducing finalists to the alumni community via both communications in Easter term and London event in September.

There has been a concerted effort to improve the social media presence of Cuth's this year and the development of the St Cuthbert's Society Alumni page. Again, this has been promoted a lot to new

graduates and the page now has 793 followers. This is an effective means for communicating with alumni and sharing news and events with the community.

Finally, I am pleased to report that the renovation of the back bar on the Bailey has been completed and I would like to note my thanks and gratitude to all alumni who generously donated to this project. We have a number of name plaques for alumni who donated £100 or more, and these will be up very soon. As you know, our primary and ongoing fundraising objective is to support and facilitate student opportunities, through sports and societies, research grants, and support for outreach projects. I welcome any suggestions from the Alumni Association for future fundraising projects.

Item 4 (vi): Update from the President

This Freshers' Week saw a huge success with an outstanding team of Freshers' Week Reps helping to ensure the smooth arrival of new students. We improved on the non-alcoholic events, ensuring that there were always a variety of options for evening events featuring an acoustic night, treasure hunt, ice breaker games and an art workshop! There was also the addition of more day activities such as walks around Durham and games of sport up at Maiden Castle. The barbecue hit record numbers with 130+ people attending! With the number of freshers creeping into the 400s, it was a tough week with capacity, however our team of Freshers' Week Reps adjusted outstandingly.

This summer I reached out to local communities in order to try and establish some outreach partnerships between the JCR and other local organisations. As a result of this, the FRAMDA project has been born. Framwellgate Secondary School has recently had to make some cuts to the arts education that they offer, particularly with Drama. The aim is for Cuth's students to help bring back their school production and run a weekly drama club for students at the school. Project leaders and volunteers have been selected and once DBS checks have been completed, the project can commence! This will require some funding in order to pay for volunteer bus fares to the school however we hope that this project will continue for years to come. The Outreach Chair, Elena Martin, has also just worked to get the ever-growing pile of extra stash from events to be donated to a Refugee charity.

Last years' changes to the exec resulted in three new positions: the Facilities Manager, the Senior Welfare Officer (replacing the Female and Male Welfare Officers, who now sit below the Senior Welfare Officer) and the Communications Officer (the SU rep that previously sat on the Exec has assimilated into this new position). This has created a much clearer structure and the committee are functioning very well as a team. The Facilities manager, Chris West, is now running the Tech within the JCR and is currently establishing an official system for Technical Hire outside of the JCR. Our Communications Officer, Alex LJ, has been working hard behind the scenes with updating the website, creating new Cuth's emails and also producing the wonderful weekly newsletter to help advertise events to JCR members.

Our JCR Chair, Abbi Ford, and SRO, Alex Blackwood, have been working tirelessly to update all of the JCR Standing Orders, which have been out of date for some time. This is a big project but the Exec hope to touch up the final pieces in order to approve them in the next JCR meeting on the 6th November. We are also currently organising our Michaelmas Ball, which is to be held in Beamish hall on November 15th, and the theme is Alice and Wonderland this year! Finally, for those of you on Facebook, Team Cuth's has been revamped this year with our Sports & Societies Chair, Rishi Jindal, keeping everyone updated with the latest antics and achievements of Cuth's JCR.