

Trinity Retirement Association

The third meeting of the Executive Committee of the Trinity Retirement Association was held on 9th May 2014 in the Arts Building Coffee Dock.

Present: Ruth Potterton (chair), Mary Coffey, Vivien Jenkins (Secretary), Mike Jones, Nap Keeling, Norah Kelso, Tommy Murtagh, Kay O'Neill

Apologies: Gay Duffy (Treasurer)

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 25th April 2014 were agreed.

2. Matters arising

(a) *Membership Numbers:* The Secretary reported that the Association currently had 179 members.

(b) *Theatre sub-group:* An email had been sent to RK inviting her to a meeting of the Executive Committee but no response had been received as yet.

3. Association Activities

(a) *Guided tour of Botanic Gardens:* Forty members had turned up for the tour of the Botanic Gardens. Despite being overbooked, the group was not too big and the Director of the Gardens, Dr Jebb, provided an excellent tour. It was agreed that a thank you letter should be sent to Dr Jebb and that the Association should give a gift token of €50 to the Botanic Gardens.

(b) *Sports Centre Open Day 28th May:* To date, there was little interest in the Sports Centre Open Day with only three bookings so far. It was agreed that the Secretary should circulate information encouraging members to sign up for this event.

(c) *Walking Tour of TCD buildings:* The Walking Tour of TCD had about 18 places booked so far. It was agreed that for this tour, members should be advised that the tour would commence at 11.30am at the Campanile, and that the group would meet for tea/coffee in the Buttery from 10.45am onwards. It was agreed that Dr McParland should be given a €50 booktoken as a thank-you for providing the tour.

(d) *Other possible events:*

- It was suggested that the committee might consider organising some lectures in the Michaelmas Term. Former Provost Mitchell had already agreed to give a lecture to Association members.
- It may be possible to schedule a Dail/Oireachtas visit in September/October if there was sufficient interest
- The Committee agreed that it should plan for an association outing in July, and Wednesday 9th July 2014 was provisionally agreed. Information on the cost of coach hire had been circulated. Possible destinations included Russborough House in Blessington, Belvedere House in Meath, and Kilkenny City. Following discussion it was agreed that the Secretary should make initial enquiries concerning Belvedere and Kilkenny City and report back at the next meeting.

The Committee also agreed that in general, it would endeavour to arrange one Association event each month, with the exception of August as many people may be away.

(e) *Establishment of subgroups – theatre, bookclub, walking club:* The Committee was of the view that efforts should be made to establish subgroups in the above areas and also that a member of the Executive Committee should be on each subgroup, at least in the early stages, so that a level of co-ordination was provided and that the Executive was aware of subgroup activities. An Association member, RK, had indicated her interest in a theatre sub-group and Mary Coffey agreed to be the Committee's nominee on this group. Gay Duffy had also expressed

his interest in this group. For the proposed bookclub and the walking club, Kay O'Neill and Vivien Jenkins would be the Committee's nominees.

(f) *Titanic Exhibition, Belfast*: Norah Kelso had circulated information on the trip to the Titanic Exhibition by the DU Women Graduates Association, together with contact information and costs. The trip by the DUWGA had been very successful and it was thought that this might be an option for the TRA during the winter months.

4. Travel Abroad

Mary Coffey had circulated some information that she had received from The Travel Department and ClickandGo travel companies for travel to European Christmas markets. Quotations were given on several destinations for individual travel but neither company was in a position to give quotations for group travel as yet. The committee agreed to return to this item when quotations for group travel were available.

5. Organisational Issues

(a) *Website*: The Chairperson hoped to be in a position to report on this at the next meeting.

(b) *Mobile Phone*: It was agreed that the Association should try to get a SIM only contract for a mobile phone from September 2014. One of the committee members had a smart phone which was no longer in use and which could be used for this purpose.

(c) *'Headed' paper/ College crest*: An email from Michael McKeown had been circulated. Mr McKeown had indicated that there may be reluctance on the College's part to permit use of the crest and another option for consideration might be to use a landmark such as the Campanile. The Committee noted that several groups in the College use the College crest and felt strongly that the Association should also be permitted to use it for letterhead and also on its website. The Secretary was asked to write to the College Secretary requesting permission to use the College crest. The letter should also state that the Association was aware that the crest was used by several other groups and that its use by the TRA would be an acknowledgement that its members were still part of the College community.

(d) *Accommodation*: It had been suggested to committee members that the Association should delay making contact with the relevant College authorities until the new building is completed. Several members of the committee were uneasy with this approach as experience had shown that rooms in new buildings were usually fully allocated before the building was completed.

In the discussion, the importance of having a room for the Association was emphasised as it would provide an important focus for retired staff to drop in and perhaps meet up with former colleagues. It was felt that a shared space, with a like-minded group, should not be too much to ask of the College which should be happy to acknowledge the contribution of its pensioners. A room in College would also offer some kind of base for the Association within the College community. It was considered that accommodation off the main College campus would not be suitable.

The Secretary was asked to write to the Bursar as Chair of the Space Allocation Committee seeking shared accommodation for the Association.

6. Any Other Business

(a) *TCD Association and Trust*: The outcome of the committee's submission was awaited. It was suggested that consideration might be given to submitting a further application in the Michaelmas Term for support for IT classes and also language classes for members, as there had been fairly significant interest in these areas on the expression of interest forms.