

TRINITY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting
April 23rd 2024
Botany Theatre, Trinity College.

The Annual General Meeting was preceded by an address from the Provost, Dr. Linda Doyle which drew particular attention to her interest in interactions between College and its retired members of staff and how these could be enhanced for our mutual benefit.

Annual General Meeting

Apologies: Charles McQuigg, Yvonne Bellew-McQuigg, Tim Foster, Mike Nowlan, David John, Lena John, Ann Gallagher, Anne Fitzgerald, Ronnie Creighton, Jim Malone, AnneMarie Keoghan, Mike McKillen.

56 members were in attendance.

Remembrance: of three of our members who died during the last year. Petros Florides, Brian McMurry and Ann Battersby.

Chairman's report: Attached

Treasurer's Report: Attached

Secretary's Report: Attached

Nominations for Committee membership:

The Chairman reported that two committee members were retiring: Denise Leahy and Mike McKillen and he thanked them for their sterling service to the Association.

One new member had been nominated - Tom Merriman - and was elected by a show of hands .

The remaining members of the Committee had gone forward for nomination and were deemed re-elected by a show of hands.

Election of Officers.

The Hon Secretary, Jean Whyte, was retiring after four years on the job and Monica Alcock was elected to take her place. James Lunney was remaining as Chair and Claire Laudet as Treasurer. They remain in post for the coming year. All nominations were duly proposed and seconded.

AOB. The members present were invited to make suggestions for future activities to be organised by the Association on cards which were made available and were then collected.

A request was made to hold events on days other than Tuesdays and Wednesdays

A request was made to investigate the possibility of croquet in Herbert Park.

The issue of Public Liability Insurance was raised. Various routes to obtaining this were suggested. The cost could possibly be covered in part by a slight increase in annual subscriptions. The Executive Committee will investigate and report back to the membership.

The meeting closed at 4.40 and all those present were warmly invited to attend the celebration of the Association's 10th Birthday in the Pavilion.

TRA Chairman's report 2024.

- In the year since April 2023 the TRA has continued with a full programme of events, including lectures, walks, visits to College buildings and art galleries.
- There are now 243 paid-up members.
- The management and administration of the association is done through the Executive Committee. The committee operates in a very co-operative manner and members are always willing to seek out and manage new events.
- Two members of the Committee are leaving this year. Denise Leahy has served for 7 years. As Events Secretary she maintained a spreadsheet of proposed and scheduled events which was very helpful in terms of managing the programme. Mike McKillen will also leave the Committee. He has been particularly active in suggesting and organising events and keeping a photographic record.
- We would like to see more ordinary members making suggestions for potential events to the Committee, who will provide the necessary guidance and help.
- We organised a mix of in-person only and hybrid lectures. Since we have to avail of a variety of College venues it is sometimes challenging to make all the lectures hybrid.
- The monthly coffee morning in the Pavilion on the last Thursday of each month commenced in early summer last year. It is an enjoyable social occasion, though the attendance is lower than we expected.
- The annual network meetings of the University Retired Staff Associations have resumed after a break during the COVID pandemic. On April 8 Denise Leahy attended a meeting in Maynooth University.
- The College allows us to use College venues free of charge. We liaise with the Pensions Office to attend the pre-retirement courses. However, I think there is still room to develop a stronger connection with College.
- The Provost asked Prof Rose Anne Kenny and Dr Catherine Elliot O'Dare to canvass views on Age Related Culture of Trinity College. There was a strong response on a wide range of issues. Then, following a discussion at a Fellows meeting, sub-groups were established to consider the issues raised under the following themes:
 - Attitudes
 - Academic
 - Infrastructure
 - Retirement Process.

I am a member of the Retirement Process theme.

TRINITY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Secretary's Report to AGM 2024

23 April 2024

As Hon Secretary I do the traditional things that Hon Secretaries do ; but I'm not in charge of coordinating events.....I succeeded in outsourcing that to another member of the Committee Denise Leahy who does a fantastic job and will be reporting to you after I've said my piece.

So what do I do? I keep a record of the business transacted at Committee Meetings and send it out to members of the Committee. The record is corrected if necessary at the subsequent meeting.

I also send out the Agenda as agreed with the Chair, before each meeting and organise the documents for the AGM

That all sounds very straightforward and even boring, but I can assure you that it is far from being straightforward and definitely not boring. So I'd just like to tell you about some of the details that I deal with in the normal course of events.

The Committee met on ten occasions during the past academic year. We take a break in July and August. We usually agree the dates of the meetings - on the third Tuesday of each month - at the beginning of the year. We usually meet in the Alumni Room in East Theatre. This has to be booked by me well in advance so I usually book for the whole year at the same time. It can actually be very difficult to find a room for a meeting especially during term, but I think we have it more or less under control now.

Booking venues for other events is sometimes done by me, sometimes by the committee member in charge of the event and sometimes by the person speaking at the event. It seems to work. Just to give you a foretaste of the variety of our activities, we were fortunate for example in obtaining the use of the Bodley Theatre in the music department for our Drumming session which was greatly enjoyed by two groups for about 1.5 hours each. We were in the Long Room Hub for Gilbert Carr's presentation about an Austrian in London at the time of Queen Victoria.....and so on.

I had charge of organising the Coffee and Chat mornings on the fourth Thursday of each month from 11 - 12.30 in the Pavilion. Once again, it was more economical in terms of time and general stress to do a block booking instead of having to remember to do a separate one each month. The nice people in the pavilion have been very welcoming and in fact we are going there again after this meeting for our 10th birthday celebration. Coffee and chat will continue on the fourth Thursday - apart from this coming Thursday - in May and June, so put it in your diaries now.

I've also had the pleasure of organising a Trip to Tuscany for our members which will take place in June.

As. Hon Secretary I must say that this Committee is a total pleasure to work with - everyone chips in and each individual takes responsibility for at least two or maybe more events during the year -

inviting the speaker or leader of the activity, with the agreement of the Committee, agreeing the date, time and place, arranging for payment when that is necessary and for thank-yous to speakers and presenters, preparing a notice for the website and the registration form, notifying the committee member in charge of uploading material onto the website and sending out emails and providing them with the necessary material and liaising with them on the numbers when they are known, organising refreshments for some events and also making sure that there is at least one member of the committee present at each event and activity who will take charge.

There have been several occasions, like visits to the National Gallery and Butler's the chocolate factory, when the available places were booked within hours of the registration opening and a waiting list started to form. The organiser then had to decide whether to try and organise a second group, whether to have it on the same day- depending on other factors - how to publicise it etc. Myra who is in charge of the website bookings has devised a waiting list strategy which gets around some of the difficulties that arise in this situation.

So you see, there is a lot of work needed to put the programme together and everyone plays a part to keep the show on the road. I think we have a great team working for the Trinity Retirement Association - long may it continue to be so!

TREASURER'S REPORT - TRINITY RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2023

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Balance at bank on 1st January 2023	6,791
Receipts: year to 31st December 2023	
Memberships Stripe	3,276
Memberships Bol	220
Primrose Hill gardens	114
Wine Tasting	468
Moli visit	320
Dublin Bay cruise and lunch	1,219
National Botanic gardens	163
Butler's chocolate factory	319
Christmas commons	412
Lavery on location	219
Hand drumming	77
Lunch for retiring executive members	511
Total receipts	7,318
Payments: year to 31st December 2023	
Zoom	218
Website maintenance	420
SSL certificate	139
Stationery and postage	37
Gift tokens	358
Bank fees	82
Catering	497
Wine tasting	275
National Gallery Turner tour	480
Primrose Hill gardens	96
Dublin Bay cruise	550
Lunch after cruise	728
Moli visit	338
Butler's chocolate factory tour	305
Botanic Gardens tour	135
Christmas Commons	415
Trinity Catering (Lunch for retiring exec members)	491
Stripe refunds	106
Lawn bowling	32
Total payments	5,702
Balance at bank on 31st December 2023	8,407
For information, balance at bank on 31st March 2024	9,353

To the members of Trinity Retirement Association,

I have reviewed, without carrying out an audit, the Association's Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2023. The Receipts and Payments Account has been prepared on the appropriate accounting basis, and is in agreement with the Association's accounting records.

Gerard McHugh FCCA

Chartered Certified Accountant, 23rd April 2024.