

Future of the Old Palmerians' Association

In recent years it has become obvious to the Executive Committee that the future of the Association is hanging in the balance and is in danger of having to be wound up. The main reason for this situation is the make-up of the Committee. In the last 12 months 3 Committee meetings were not in quorum (6) which meant, according to OPA rules, no proposals could be legally voted on. The attendance at committee meetings generally has been poor for some time.

The main problem is age, a number of the members are over seventy-five and four are over eighty! With the best will in the world the enthusiasm starts to wain with age and it becomes physically more difficult to attend the meetings. Also, the committee has not had a secretary since the death of Jackie Tidman two years ago and the Treasurer has been wanting to retire for the last three years.

Quite obviously new younger members, willing to serve on the committee and willing to agree to have their names put forward to be elected as a member or an Officer of the Association, need to come forward. Being a member of the Committee is not that onerous or time consuming; there are ten meetings plus an AGM each year. The meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday in the month and are held at the USP College, Palmer's Campus starting at 7.30 and finishing no later than 9.00pm

Any member who feels they may be able to help should get in touch with our Registration Secretary, Ruth Hunwick, by email – Rhunwick@palmers.ac.uk, or by post – USP College, Palmer's Campus, Chadwell Road, Grays, Essex RM17 5TD, or by telephone – (Thursdays only) on 01375 370121 Extn. 578. Anybody who feels they may like to get involved would obviously need to live within striking distance of the College.

The Committee is well aware of the situation and we cannot be complacent and put our heads in the sand. If it becomes necessary to close down the Association it will be done in an orderly fashion as set out in the 'Rules of the Association', clause 9, 'Dissolution'.