

## **2009 DPUK AGM Report**

Minutes of the 13th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 25th January 2009 At the Green Man - Great Portland Street, London @ 1.30pm

Those present:-John Wassell, John Gill, Allan Johnson, Stuart Galloway, Jason Wilcox, Allen Peppitt, Mike Dworetzky, Bill Beadle, Adrian Morris, and Barry Keane

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from: Les Bolland, Mark Bridger, Chris Scally, Derek Kerr, Chris Robertson, Paul Brown, Matthew Smith, Francesca Akhtar, Ian Griggs, and Mark Rowe.

Ian Griggs had given his proxy vote to the Secretary in case it was needed. It was noted that this was the very first meeting of any sort that Ian had had to miss since the Group had been established and the meeting wished him well.

### **2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20th January 2008**

The minutes of the previous AGM had been recently copied to all members in order to save review time at the meeting. They were adopted as a true record of the proceedings. Proposed: Allan Johnson – Seconded: John Wassell – agreed by all.

### **3. Matters Arising from Previous Minutes.**

There were none

### **4. Secretary's Report**

Stuart Galloway welcomed those present on behalf of the Committee. Thanks go to all the Committee and members for support given over the past year, in particular those that had contributed such excellent articles to the Dealey Plaza Echo and to Mark Bridger who had continued to act as the Editor of that very professional journal. Mark Rowe and Francesca Akhtar had both continued to operate as very effective membership secretaries in the USA and UK. Congratulations go to Francesca for having obtained a place at Canterbury Christchurch University to study American History. Thanks in particular also go to Allan Johnson who had kept the accounts very ably over the previous year.

The 2008 Canterbury Seminar last March had turned out to be a very motivating and thought-provoking event thanks entirely to our own

researchers and presenters. Trying to get a speaker to attend from the USA had turned out to be disastrous with first Debra Conway, then Walt Brown, and finally Nancy Weiford having to cancel their plans to attend. Particular thanks go to Tony Basing for having stepped in at the very last moment and for giving such an excellent presentation on Chauncey Holt (he of E Howard Hunt tramp fame), and of course to our "Auctioneer Extraordinaire", Mike Dworetsky. The list of presenters was as follows:-

John Hovland – The Speed of the JFK Lincoln

Chris Scally – Acoustic Evidence & The Great Dictabelt Mystery

Russell Kent - Bugliosi and the Single Bullet Theory

Ian Griggs – Who really found the Rifle?

Alaric Rosman – Will Fritz and the Murder of Lee Harvey Oswald

Mike Dworetsky – The Auction

Tony Basing – Chauncey Marvin Holt and the Cubans

Thanks also go to Les Bolland who has continued to provide some excellent items for auction year after year and to Peter Antill who contributed a significant quantity of items last year – Peter has proved to be a very keen member of the Group.

Bernard Wilds has done a magnificent job in establishing the new DPUK website and members are encouraged to use the resource, either as a contributor or to keep in touch with other members.

The Committee had, in a small way, formally acknowledged Les Bolland's generosity, by granting him free membership in 2009. Les has thanked us for the gesture.

Mark Rowe's tremendous contribution to the Group, and very regular attendance at Canterbury, had also been acknowledged earlier in the year when a donation of \$200 was granted to him to help with his air-fare to the UK.

It was decided that Jerry Dealey be elected an Honorary Life Member for all the work that he has done to make UK visitors to Dallas so welcome, entirely at his own expense. A formal presentation was made by Ian Griggs in Dallas in November 2008. Jerry was extremely pleased and expressed his warm thanks.

The committee had met on only two occasions – once in February and once in October. However, much of the committee work is undertaken by e-mail although it is hoped two or three more formal meetings will be held in 2009.

It must be said that we as a Group are struggling somewhat to understand exactly where we go from here – what are our aims and targets for the future? The committee has discussed the issue and several members, including Chris Robertson, have also expressed concern. This is to be an item for discussion today (See Para.8)

The Secretary thanked those present for attending and those who had sent apologies for absence.

#### 5. Treasurer's Report

Allan Johnson tabled a copy of the accounts for the year to each member present – a copy is attached to these minutes. The year had begun with £446 in the bank and had ended with £994, a very positive state of affairs. This was partly due to a very successful auction at Canterbury, and the fact that contributions towards the US Speaker had not had to be utilised. It was also pleasing to note that distribution costs of the Journal had been significantly reduced in 2008. With subscriptions already coming in for 2009 (circa £200 so far), it should not be a problem to produce three issues of the Journal again this year. It would be opportune to advertise the Canterbury Seminar widely to our USA members because the £/\$ ratio, currently, very much favours the USA.

The accounts were proposed for adoption by Allen Peppitt and seconded by John Gill – agreed by all.

It was also agreed that Membership Subscriptions be held at their existing levels in 2010.

#### 6. Membership Secretary's Report

Francesca reported that Group membership for 2008 was 51, slightly down on the 54 in 2007, but the same as 2006. Renewals are steadily coming in for 2009 – to date 18 people have re-joined. There is some concern amongst the committee that we have not been able to increase our membership.

Regarding the DPUK Group on Facebook, membership has been steadily increasing over the last few months (currently 40), especially with people from the USA, several being associated with Lancer. This is all good publicity for the Group and hopefully will generate new members. Francesca has loaded details of the forthcoming Canterbury Seminar to Facebook and a few US members have indicated that they may come over.

Mark Rowe is a little concerned that USA membership renewals are only trickling in (only 7 to date and some of these have been paid for by UK members) but he will be chasing people up in the near future.

#### 7. Journal Editor/Librarian's Report

Mark Bridger had reported that the DPUK library continues to be seriously underutilised, in fact virtually not used at all. He would like to step down as Librarian and has asked for suggestions as to what should be done with the collection of books that he is currently holding. There are in the order of 125 books/journals. The list is held on our website at the following address:

<http://dealeyplazauk.org.uk/flash/dpukbooks.html>

Mark asked that his thanks be passed on to all those who had contributed to the Journals this year.

A question was asked as to where the Journals are actually sent, apart from to each member. It is believed that copies are still sent to the Dallas Public Library and the Mary Ferrell Foundation. Should other seats of learning receiving copies? The Committee will reassess the situation and revise the distribution list if necessary.

#### 8. The Future of the Library and Open Discussion

(a) Chris Robertson had contacted the Secretary expressing concerns over the future of the Library and where we go from here as a Group. His comments formed the basis of the Open Discussion that followed. Chris felt very strongly that the Library should be kept intact as a major research tool. It would lose its strength to break up such a body of knowledge and with the 50th Anniversary of JFK's death only a few years away there is bound to be a substantial wave of interest from the media, researchers, and broadcasting companies. They will be thirsting for information on the subject. The trigger may come even sooner – perhaps even through something associated with his protégé, Obama.

It would be best to site the collection in London or perhaps Canterbury if Christchurch University was interested. Chris also referred to the fact that the Group needs a Project to work on – something to give us a sense of purpose and a direction for the future. The case is soluble and our members have a great track record where research is concerned. We need to dig ourselves out of the rut we seem to have reached and build on the inertia of what we began 10 years ago.

(b) A lively discussion followed. Should we perhaps be extending our remit as with other research bodies and including the Assassinations of Martin Luther King and Bobby Kennedy – they are after all heavily interlinked? It was suggested that we perhaps should contact UK based authors and researchers/presenters, who may be prepared to help us. Names such as Robin Ramsey, Anthony Summers, Shane O’Sullivan, and Anthony Frewin were mentioned.

We must still continue to encourage and work with those people who can authentically and sagaciously show the work of the Warren Commission to be a sham and a whitewash. It is also important to maintain contact with any witnesses and Administration Aides who are able to contribute to the overall knowledge base on the crime. It is our duty and the duty of organisations like ours to bring the truth to the people even if it is not now possible to bring the conspirators to justice.

(c) How should the multifarious conspiracy theories be challenged and championed where necessary? 80% of the population of the USA do not believe the findings of the Warren Commission. Is it because the real truth is so unpalatable and the American people are not yet willing to challenge the decency and reputation of their own Government and the many agencies that it spawns? In 1963 things were different – now it is believed people are prepared to stand up and be counted.

The political element is very important – in total contrast the Whitechapel murders in this country were much more of a social issue. If people and institutions believe that they can get away with covering up a murder or serious crime then they will continue to deceive the people.

(d) We should not assume that the status quo cannot be challenged and changed – witness the Dreyfus Affair (a political scandal in late 19th century France where a young artillery officer was baselessly accused of treason but was rightfully exonerated after extreme public pressure). The Youth of today must be kept informed of the JFK assassination and encouraged to sensibly challenge any prejudiced statements made by public bodies or governments. The JFK Assassination is almost unique in that such a wealth of information is held by so many people who are not in fact historians. We are possibly on the threshold of letting the subject slip through our fingers and this must not be allowed to happen.

(e) Mike Dworetzky suggested writing a book as part of a major project by allocating articles to be produced by Group members. The subject should be chosen carefully – possible suggestions for subject matter included “The

British Connection” and “Lee Harvey Oswald”. It was agreed that such a task would be a major undertaking but was thought feasible. It would be an excellent chance of encouraging a number of members to work together on an Assassination Project. Perhaps even involve TV? Revitalisation of the Group would be an obvious outcome.

Summary of Actions to be undertaken by the Committee: -

(i) Maintain the Library as a Research Tool and find a suitable place where it can be stored and administered – possible expansion by adding new books. Suggestions included Canterbury Christchurch University or the Senate House Library London (Mike Dworetzky).

(ii) Establish ways of encouraging use of the library by members and researchers

(iii) Select a suitable topic as a major research project

(iv) Contact members with a view to compiling a book to be written by the Group

(v) Consider trying to produce a Magnum Opus which may be of interest to TV/Documentary producers

(vi) Re-assess the distribution of the Journal – include other places of learning

(vii) Improve advertising of our aims and objectives – encourage further membership

(viii) Arrange a presentation on the Library, its contents, and its aims at Canterbury

(ix) Consider extending the remit of the Group (RFK, MLK)

## 9. Election of Management Committee

Mike Dworetzky thanked the committee for the work that they had undertaken in 2008 and proposed that each person be re-elected to the post that they held last year. This motion was seconded by John Gill and agreed by all present.

The 2009 Committee is therefore constituted as follows:-

Chairman: John Wassell

Vice-Chairman: Barry Keane

Hon. Secretary: Stuart Galloway

Hon. Treasurer: Allan Johnson

UK Membership Secretary: Francesca Akhtar

US Membership Secretary: Mark Rowe

Journal Editor: Mark Bridger

Committee Member & President: Ian Griggs

The only minor amendment is the fact that Mark Bridger is stepping down as Librarian. See Para. 7

#### 10. Update on Arrangements for the Canterbury Seminar – 18th/19th April 2009

Response to the initial e-mail has been very positive.

Between 25 and 30 people have expressed an interest in attending; Invites have been sent to a number of potential speakers and many have responded positively. The speaker from the USA is to be Dick Russell, author of “The Man Who Knew Too Much”, a book which explores the role of the deep cover intelligence operative, Richard Case Nagell, in the assassination. Dick has also had another book recently published, “On the Trail of the JFK Assassins”. Copies of this book have been ordered for members who have expressed an interest, so Dick will be signing these at Canterbury. Plans for the two days are being pulled together and discussions with Tony McCulloch at Canterbury underway. It is likely that the same formula as last year will be used with many people arriving Friday night so that the whole of Saturday and Sunday can be fully utilised.

Post Meeting Note – Unfortunately, on 9th February we learned that Dick Russell will not now be able to attend the Seminar at Canterbury.

#### 11. Annual Achievement Award.

Following the suggestion made by Barry Keane last year whereby an annual award would be made to a particular member who is deemed to have contributed most to the success of DPUK during the year, a discussion was held as to the possible recipients. Several names were proposed and the worthy winner was declared as Mark Bridger for having worked so hard through a very difficult personal period in producing another three magnificent Journals.

#### 12. Date of the Next AGM.

This was set as Sunday 24th January 2010 – please put this date in your diaries

The meeting was declared closed at 3.20pm

### **2008 DPUK AGM Report**

Minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 20th January 2008 At the Green Man - Great Portland Street, London at 1.30pm

Those present: John Wassell, Ian Griggs, Francesca Akhtar, Allan Johnson,

Stuart Galloway, Jason Wilcox, Allen Peppitt, Alaric Rosman, John Hovland, Mike Dworetsky, Tony Basing, Adrian Morris.

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Les Bolland, Mark Bridger, Barry Keane, Pierre Nau, Bernard Wilds, John Geraghty, and Mark Rowe

### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21st January 2007.

These were read out to the meeting by the Chairman and subsequently adopted as a true record of proceedings.

### 3. Secretary's Report

The Secretary thanked those present for attending the meeting and pointed out that it was 47 years to the day when John Kennedy had begun his presidency, the oath having been administered by Earl Warren, the Chief Justice, on a cold January day with much snow on the ground.

This year had been an exciting one, getting to grips with the role of Secretary, and thanks go in particular to Ian Griggs and Barry Keane for their ongoing advice and help. More importantly it had been a successful year for the Group with another superb Canterbury Seminar organised by Barry Keane and supported by over 20 members. Despite the absence of a speaker from the USA, gifted presentations had been made by Alaric Rosman, Ian Griggs, John Geraghty, Mark de Valk, and Francesca Akhtar (who stepped into the breach very late in the day)

Mike Dworetsky had again organised and conducted the auction and thanks go to him and the contributors of the items, whereby over £100 had been realised towards Group funds.

David Talbot an American author and journalist gave a presentation on 10th June on his recently published book "Brothers: The Hidden History of the Kennedy Years" The event was attended by nearly 20 members David gave us an insight into how the book is structured commenting on the tensions that existed within the Kennedy administration not only due to the Cold War, but also as a result of the personal animosities within the US national security apparatus the reader also learns much about the reaction of Robert Kennedy after the assassination of his brother. An interesting question and answer session followed.

Other regular meetings had been held in London, both during the week and at weekends, where a number of members attended to discuss the Case and

to imbibe a few pints of ale in very convivial company. On a more serious note it had been an item of discussion at committee meetings as to how we might make such meetings more available to those living outside the Home Counties. A poll of members might be undertaken to ascertain whether holding such sessions in other parts of the country would encourage others to attend.

Stuart went on to say it is important that we improve communication with the substantial number of overseas members we now have, principally in the USA. Although the provision of the Dealey Plaza Echo is an important aspect of the Group's activities, it is also essential to keep all members aware of what we are doing in other fields, along with details of our aims for the future and how we intend to achieve those aims.

To this end, plans were in hand to extend and personalise email shots and to gather and share more information about members regarding their individual interests in the case, particularly if they are currently undertaking any research.

DPUK is by its very nature a widely located group so the committee had been concentrating on how to break down the distance barriers and to better integrate members – one idea was to encourage the setting up of local subgroups.

Francesca had helped in this respect by setting up a Dealey Plaza UK Facebook Forum which already has 14 members, including Jerry Dealey. The committee had also been working to attract back previous colleagues and friends who had not renewed their membership, with mixed success.

Commenting on the forthcoming Canterbury Seminar to be held on 1st/2nd March, Stuart pointed out that it promised to be another superb event, with two speakers coming over from the USA to present to us, Walt Brown and Nancy Wortz Weiford. There was also going to be a fantastic line-up Of “home grown” speakers, talking on a wide range of subjects connected with the Case.

Thanks were due to many members of the Group, in particular to Mark Bridger who had again edited three magnificent, superbly produced, Journals during the year and who had continued to act as Librarian The Dealey Plaza Echo continues to be one of the most respected, professional, and prestigious journals on the JFK Assassination being regularly published today and the excellent input from all the contributors had been very much appreciated.

Thanks also went to Barry Keane for all his work in making Canterbury such a success and for his valued support as Vice Chairman, to John

Wassell our Chairman, to Francesca Akhtar and Mark Rowe who had undertaken the important role of Membership Secretaries (in the UK and USA), to Allen Peppitt as Treasurer, to Steven Griggs who had acted as our webmaster for over five years, and to Ian Griggs and Alan Johnson who kindly agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, Stuart thanked all the members for supporting the Group and for helping to make DPUK such a successful organisation.

#### 4. Treasurer's Report

Allen Peppitt began by pointing out that he had undertaken the role of Treasurer for 5 years and would now like to step down from the post. The Secretary thanked him on behalf of the whole Group for all the work that he had undertaken for us during that time. Allen advised the meeting that there was a residual sum of about £400 in the current account as at the end of December 2007.

Last year the figure was about £1000. The cost of producing the three journals had amounted to £707 and the cost of postage/editors expenses had amounted to £606. Income had been in the order of £1100 accrued through annual subscriptions, donations, and profit from the Canterbury auction. Outgoings had therefore apparently exceeded income by about £500. (This did not include subscriptions from the USA).

A query was raised as to whether income had included the money paid by delegates to the DPUK account at Canterbury; Bearing in mind travel expenses for a visiting speaker had not been paid. This was not known.

The cost of postage to the USA was discussed – Mike Dworetsky advised that the cheapest method was to use “Printed Matter” rate. Concern was raised as to the number of Life Members in the USA receiving journals at considerable cost but who were generating no income for the Group.

Unease was expressed as to the groups continuing solvency so a proposal to raise subscriptions was tabled (currently £18/£10 in the UK and \$30/\$20 in the USA) The motion was defeated but it was agreed that the new committee should ensure that a complete set of accounts for 2007, showing individual items of income and expenditure, was produced for submission to the membership. A budget for 2008 would also be prepared.

Mark Rowe had reported that at the end of November there was \$392 in the USA account and income is already building up nicely again due to the email request for membership renewal.

Ian Griggs added a vote of personal thanks to Allen Peppitt for all he had undertaken for DPUK as Treasurer.

It was moved and agreed that the signatories to the Group's bank account should be amended as follows:

Chairman

John Wassell – Treasurer Allan Johnson – Secretary Stuart Galloway

Cheques must be signed by any two persons from the foregoing list.

Post Meeting Note: No money (payable to DPUK) was charged to attendees at the Canterbury Conference in 2007 because it was already known that there would be no USA speaker's air fare to pay.

#### 5. Membership Secretary's Report

Francesca reported that we currently had 54 UK based members, 32 of whom had already rejoined this year. This is considerably better than this time last year, and possibly due to the email request for membership renewal. 4 new members joined in 2007 probably due to the excellent publicity that DPUK received through the article published in the Sunday Times. We have 10 Life Members, down one due to the recent sad loss of George Michael Evica.

One new member had already joined this year. Mark Rowe reported that we had 34 USA members (including life members), quite a few of whom were already renewing their membership for 2008.

#### 6. Journal Editor/Librarian's Report

Mark Bridger reported that DPUK continues to stock a very impressive library for the use of UK members, but it is still grossly underused. Is this due to the fact that people tend to buy their own books these days rather than use libraries? Mark would continue to promote the library through the Journal.

Three Journals had been published during 2007, in March, July, and November. Some fine contributions had been received from Alaric Rosman, Kim Reinholt, Francesca Akhtar, Mark de Valk, Barry Keane, and Chris Scally amongst others there would seem to be a lack of articles being sent by UK based members but hopefully this would be rectified during 2008.

A suggestion was made that if members are not using the library we should, with the permission of those people who donated the books, consider putting them up for auction/sale. Members might even be prepared to buy some, thus saving on sale costs. The Committee would address this issue.

#### 7. Election of Management Committee.

Allan Johnson had kindly offered to stand for election to the post of Treasurer, now that Allen Peppitt was stepping down. All the remaining members of the committee were willing to stand again. Mike Dworetzky

proposed that Allan Johnson be elected Treasurer and the rest of the committee be re-elected, including the two co-opted members. This motion was seconded by Allen Peppitt and carried unanimously by the meeting.

The 2008 Committee was therefore as follows:

Chairman: John Wassell

Vice Chairman: Barry Keane

UK Membership Secretary: Francesca Akhtar

US Membership Secretary: Mark Rowe

Secretary: Stuart Galloway

Journal Editor/Librarian: Mark Bridger

Treasurer: Allan Johnson

Committee Member: Ian Griggs (President)

8. Update on Arrangements for the Canterbury Seminar – 1st/2nd March 2008, 17 members had already paid to attend the event with a further 5 who are showing a considerable amount of interest. The overseas speakers have been confirmed as Nancy Weiford and Walt Brown, along with Chris Scally, Alaric Rosman, Russell Kent, and Ian Griggs

Members had been informed of arrangements by email and a Seminar booklet would be produced giving speaker notes and the timetable.

9. Call for Items to be auctioned at the Seminar

In past years the auction has been an important part of DPUK's income so it was agreed that a general request to members be put out to tap their generosity. Already quite a few items have been donated. Mike Dworetzky requested that some background information on each item be provided along with a suggested reserve price and whether the donor expected a percentage of the realised sum back or not.

10. New Website

With Steve Griggs stepping down as webmaster, Bernard Wilds, a DPUK member who lives in Rochdale, had very kindly agreed to take over the position. Bernard had worked very hard in the latter part of 2007 and had Dealey plaza UK produced a brand new website [www.dealeyplazauk.org](http://www.dealeyplazauk.org) The site contains a lot of information about DPUK, individual frames of the Zapruder Film, videos, book reviews, reports, articles of interest, etc. and members are asked to provide ongoing information to Bernard about the Group and its activities so that he can maintain an up-to-date informative site which can also be used as a valuable research tool.

11. Establishing an Annual Achievement Award

A suggestion made by Barry Keane whereby an annual award would be made to a particular member who is deemed to have contributed most to the success of DPUK during that year. Those present felt this to be an

excellent idea in that it would provide further promotion/ recognition of the work that DPUK undertakes and encourage input from members.

12. Proposed Amendment to the Constitution – Dissolution of the Group  
A paragraph relating to the disposition of DPUK assets was agreed by the meeting and it was also agreed that in the event that DPUK should be wound up as a body, the Committee of the day should arrange to pass any remaining assets to a medical or children's charity.

13. Date of the Next AGM

This was set as Sunday 24th January 2008

The meeting closed at 3.40pm

## **2007 DPUK AGM Report**

The Eleventh Dealey Plaza UK AGM was held in the downstairs function room at The Green Man pub, 383 Euston Road, London, on Sunday 21st January.

The attendees were Barry Keane, John Wassell, Francesca Akhtar, Allan Johnson, Stuart Galloway, Mike Dworetzky, Ian Griggs, Allen Peppitt, John Geraghty, Adrian Morris, Mark Bridger, Jamie Bridger (observer) and new member Jason Wilcox

2006 has been a very exciting year for Dealey Plaza

UK, with significant developments which may bring more recognition for the group and its aims

The Annual Canterbury Seminar has evolved in recent years, into the main feature in the calendar of DPUK activities. The 2006 Seminar was another well attended and enjoyable weekend. The standard of presentations was excellent, despite some technical hitches. Once again I want to thank Dr Tony McCulloch for his generosity in helping to make the Universities facilities available to us last year

Special guest from the USA Sherry Gutierrez gave two excellent and thought provoking presentations and proved a charming and gracious keynote speaker for the weekend.

The rest of the speakers were thanked for their unique contributions to the event. Namely; Ian Griggs, Mark De Valk, John Simkin, Mike Dworetzky and Barry Keane

Thanks went to all those who donated items to the seminar auction. With

Mike Dworetsky's skill with the auctioneers hammer and the generosity of the bidders, over 140 was raised. Thanks to the diligent efforts of member Chris Robertson we received some very favourable publicity in a prestigious publication. A representative selection of DPUK members and students were featured in an article in the Times Saturday Magazine on November 18th.

This article is available at:

[http://www.dealeyplazauk.co.uk/times\\_article.pdf](http://www.dealeyplazauk.co.uk/times_article.pdf)

As well as members of the group, a teacher and a 15 year old student from a school in Ipswich were featured. Stemming from this welcome publicity a number of new potential members have shown interest in the group. There has been an approach by a TV company interested in featuring the group in a documentary, which is set for the 45th anniversary in 2008. This may or not come about as it is still in the ideas stage at the moment, but nevertheless The Times article was a rare unbiased feature on the serious attempts in this country to seek the truth about what happened in Dallas on November 22nd 1963.

Treasure Allen Peppitt reported that the group's finances were good with over 1000 in the DPUK account. With the main expense being the Journal, the group had sufficient funds to continue publishing the normal print run. UK membership Secretary Francesca Akhtar reported that renewals have been slow this year. But a number of new members have joined as a result of the publicity in the Times.

US membership secretary Mark Rowe relayed that the US renewals were slow, but he expects them to pick up in the coming weeks.

## **2006 DPUK AGM Report**

The Tenth Dealey Plaza UK AGM was held in the downstairs function room at The Green Man pub, 383 Euston Road, London, on Sunday 29th January.

Present were Barry Keane, John Wassell, Francesca Akhtar, Alaric Rosman, Allan Johnson, Stuart Galloway, Tony Basing, Mike Dworetsky, Ian Griggs, Simon Smalley, John Geraghty and new member Adrian Morris

The Secretary pointed out that this was the tenth anniversary of the Inaugural General Meeting which was held on January 7th 1996

Thanks were paid to the former Secretary, Ian Griggs for his outstanding work since the group was founded and setting such high standards in his

dual role of Secretary and Journal Editor. The tribute DPUK paid him last June was richly deserved.

The Secretary reported that 2005 was a very successful year for the group. The main event of the year, the Canterbury Seminar held in June, was an outstanding success. Not only in the numbers that attended, for which there were 32, but in the quality of the presentations and in the money that was raised at the auction.

Thanks were paid to Mike Dworetzky, Tony McCulloch, Les Bolland, Alec Rosman, Barry Bullock, Mark Bridger and all the speakers, especially Larry Hancock and Russell Kent

In the absence of the Treasurer, it was relayed that the group's finances were in order, but that it may be necessary to increase subscriptions in 2007.

It was pointed out that plans are well under way for the 2006 Seminar, when our special guest will be Sherry Gutierrez.

An important meeting was held in August where we again we played host to Professor James Fetzer, this time at Birkbeck College, University of London Jim brought his unique knowledge and enthusiasm to a well attended meeting and his opinions were a source of much debate amongst those who attended.

We were represented in Dallas last November by a small, but significant contingent of UK members headed by Ian Griggs, which included John Simkin, Francesca Akhtar, Malcolm Blunt, Allan Johnson and first timer Stuart Galloway. Also present were US members Mark Rowe, Betty Windsor, Ed Sherry, Sherry Gutierrez, Gary Becker, Kathy Emberton, Russ Swickard and Jerry Dealey

Ian Griggs was congratulated on the publication of his new book "No Case to Answer" which has been well received.

The group has been approached by Rex Bradford of the Mary Ferrell Foundation, which has been set up to carry on her legacy. Rex wishes to make the back issues of the Dealey Plaza Echo available on the foundations website. So arrangements are in hand to have a complete set sent to him. I believe DPUK should be proud of our contribution to the foundation's work. Mark Bridger also received a special mention for taking over at short notice the role of Journal editor and was congratulated for his first issue, which was published on schedule.

Francesca Akhtar was praised for stepping into the breach as UK Membership Secretary replacing Barry Bullock who has done a superb job over the past six years. He reports those renewals are positive with several new members for 2006.

US Membership Secretary Mark Rowe reports that renewals for 2006 are encouraging.

The rest of the committee was elected enblock.

The 2006 Committee therefore is:

Chairman: John Wassell

Vice Chairman: Barry Keane

Secretary: Barry Keane

Treasurer: Allen Peppitt

UK Membership Secretary: Francesca Akhtar

US Membership Secretary: Mark Rowe

Librarian: Mark Bridger

Thanks also went to Stephen Griggs, for his excellent work in maintaining the group's website.

The Secretary stated that he was very optimistic about the future of DPUK and believed that the group will continue to make major contributions in the search for the truth about the death of President John F. Kennedy.

## **2005 DPUK AGM Report**

The Ninth Dealey Plaza UK AGM was held in the function room of the Green Man, Euston Road, London, on Sunday 13th February. There was a marked improvement in attendance after last year's poor turnout.

Reports of the various Officers indicate that the group continues to flourish. Financially, the group remains solvent and it was reported that no increase in annual subscriptions is felt necessary.

Membership levels in both the UK and the rest of the world have been consistent. Current membership hovers around the 90-100 mark. The group's journal "The Dealey Plaza Echo" was again published three times during 2004. It remains the group's main regular item of expenditure. As in previous years, a wide range of subjects connected to the JFK Assassination had been covered. Highlights included Alaric Rosman's trilogy on Helen Louise Markham and the individual accounts of first Dallas visits by Francesca Akhtar, Helen Taylor, Chris Robertson and Jeremy Rowbottom.

The group's website had run successfully throughout the year and thanks were expressed to Steve Griggs for his help and expertise. It had been the source of several new members.

By far the highlight of the year had been the success of the Second International Weekend Seminar at Canterbury Christ Church University College in March. The group was delighted to welcome the renowned US researcher/author Professor George Michael Evica as its star guest speaker. The 30 attendees enjoyed two days of presentations from George Michael and its own members plus the opportunity to compare notes and make valuable contacts during the social events, both official and unofficial. Most of these took place in the bar of the Pilgrims Hotel.

Plans for the 2005 Seminar are already well advanced. The star guest from America this year will be Larry Hancock and the event will be held at the same venue over the weekend of 18th/19th June. Barry Keane is in charge of organisation and arrangements.

As indicated at last year's AGM, Ian Griggs stood down from the post of Secretary, having held the post, apart from a couple of months in 1998, since the group's formation in 1996. Barry Keane was elected to the post but in view of his commitment to the organisation of the Seminar, Ian will continue to perform the more mundane secretarial duties until Barry can devote more time to the job in July.

The remaining members of the Management Committee were re-elected so the 2005 Committee is as follows:

Chairman: John Wassell

Vice Chairman: Barry Keane

Secretary: Barry Keane

Treasurer: Allen Peppitt

Membership Secretary (UK): Barry Bullock

Membership Secretary (USA): Mark Rowe

Librarian: Mark Bridger

A fuller account of the AGM will appear in the next issue of the Dealey Plaza Echo (March).

## **2004 DPUK AGM Report**

The Eighth Dealey Plaza UK Annual General Meeting was held at the University of London Student Union building, Bloomsbury, London on Sunday 4th January 2004, opening at 2.00pm

It was very disappointing that the meeting was poorly attended.

The various Officers' reports indicated that the group continues to flourish and that the year 2003 had been a successful one. The DPUK weekend seminar at Canterbury and the attendance of two dozen UK based DPUK members at the 40th anniversary of the assassination in Dallas were the obvious highlights.

The Dealey Plaza Echo had appeared on schedule throughout the year and had again featured much important research, including significant articles by Jason Wakefield (acoustics evidence) and Kim Reinholt (the Zapruder camera). The latest three episodes of Mark Bridger's valuable series on Oswald Lookalikes' had also appeared.

The 2003 Management Committee was re-elected en bloc to serve for the coming year:

Chairman: John Wassell

Vice Chairman: Barry Keane

Secretary: Barry Keane

Treasurer: Allen Peppitt

Membership Secretary (UK): Barry Bullock

Membership Secretary (USA): Mark Rowe

Librarian: Mark Bridger

Ian did, however, serve twelve months notice that he intends to stand down from the position of Secretary in 2005.

Two new Life Members were elected: Harold "Skip" Rydberg and Dr. Tony McCulloch.

A discussion on the forthcoming Second DPUK International Weekend Seminar followed and the Secretary announced that leading US researcher/author Professor George Michael Evica will be our special guest speaker, and will present two research papers. Venue will be the same as last year Canterbury Christ Church University College and the seminar will be held over the weekend of 20/21 March 2004.

IAN GRIGGS

## **2003 DPUK AGM Report**

The seventh Dealey Plaza UK Annual General Meeting was held at the University of London Student Union building, Bloomsbury, London on Sunday 19th January 2003.

The various Officers' reports indicated that the group continues to flourish and that the year 2002 was another successful one. The return visit and outstanding presentation by Matthew Smith in March had been a major

highlight of the year. Treasurer Allen Peppitt was able to report a healthy financial year with no necessity to increase subscription rates.

The Echo had been published on schedule March, July and November and continues to be highly respected throughout the research community worldwide. Several groundbreaking articles had been published, notably on the Bethesda naval illustrator "Skip" Rydberg (by Barry Keane), the history of Dealey Plaza (by Jerry Dealey) and three more parts of Mark Bridger's series on Oswald Lookalikes.

It has also been a privilege to publish the latest work of Sherry Gutierrez. It was agreed that the re-launch and refurbishment of the DPUK website had assisted in keeping the group's name to the forefront. Much discussion took place regarding the forthcoming Canterbury weekend seminar and a new DPUK Member, Tony McCulloch (Head of the American Studies Department at Canterbury Christ Church University College) outlined the facilities which would be available to us. This new venture is anticipated with great excitement.

The elected Management Committee for 2003 shows one change from before, Barry Keane replacing Sean Sweeney as Vice Chairman. The 2003 Committee is as follows:

Chairman: John Wassell

Vice Chairman: Barry Keane

Secretary: Ian Griggs

Dealey plaza UK

Treasurer: Allen Peppitt

Membership Secretary (UK): Barry Bullock

Membership Secretary (USA): Mark H. Rowe

Librarian: Mark Bridger

The official business was concluded at 3.35pm and was followed by a short room auction of JFK coinage and memorabilia (run by Mike Dworetzky). Ian Griggs then reminded members of the group's early meetings and set a trivia quiz based upon the history of the group which was won conclusively by Mark Bridger.