



ANNEX 2

Academic Staff Common Room Committee Report 2009-10

After the challenges of the previous year's redecoration and refurbishment work, we have enjoyed a relatively quiet time over the past 12 months. Replacement light shades have been manufactured and fitted, handrails secured, blotchy paintwork sealed, and a budget agreed for the purchase of new sofas. We are lucky to have some delightful paintings in the Housman Room, and a folder is being produced that will contain short descriptions and background information for each piece.

Chartwell continue to manage catering and bar facilities in the Housman Room. The ASCR committee is represented on the UCL Catering Users Group and the ASCR Manager has regular meetings with the Refectory Manager. During the year we also had a meeting with the Chartwell regional manager at which various problems were aired and changes agreed. The chef has improved the quality and variety of hot food, and a new trolley has ensured it now arrives from the kitchen at an appropriate temperature. The bar staff have a real challenge around one-o'clock and when large groups arrive for lunch, but they generally keep the queues moving. Two real ales should always be available on hand-pump, although with limited space for stillage the system does falter occasionally. One of the beers is changed each month, and tasting notes will soon be available.

Three events were organised since the last AGM: in March, Michael Worton gave the 12th Haldane Talk entitled "Going Global – what does it mean?" with an exhibition of photographs by Martin Butcher. In June, the 3rd John Klier event, entitled "Shakespeare in Song", was presented by Mosaic, one of the foremost chamber choirs in south-east England. And in October, Martin Butcher gave the 13th Haldane Talk on "The work of the Crabtree Foundation: Joseph Crabtree – Myth, Man and Polymath". We are grateful to our speakers for the time and effort they have put in to providing us with such excellent and entertaining events and to Jane Spender for organising these events behind the scenes and producing such professional booklets.

The committee has met five times this year to discuss matters relating to the fabric of the Housman Room, catering and beer, events, and rules of membership. And in January the Provost joined us for lunch to see the results of the refurbishment. There has been a membership drive to increase the proportion of UCL staff choosing to join ASCR, and the committee have carried out membership checks during at least one week each term. Volunteers also provide holiday cover, watering plants and laying out newspapers and journals. Underpinning the whole operation is the ASCR Manager, Jane Spender, who runs the ASCR on a day-to-day basis with such quiet efficiency – thank you, Jane.

