



**EUROPEAN MOVEMENT SUSSEX BRANCH
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MONDAY 21 JANUARY 2008
AT THE BRIGHTHELM COMMUNITY CENTRE, BRIGHTON**

1. **Present:** Twenty five members were present and seven sent apologies.
2. **Minutes of the previous AGM.** The minutes of the previous AGM on 4 December 2006 were approved.

Chairman's report. Sarah Leigh said that the Committee had met 8 times during the year. The main event had been the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome at Goodwood which had been a roaring success. She thanked Stephen Quigley for his work in organising the conference and the Duke of Richmond for his hospitality. This had replaced the usual Brinsbury seminar. There had been a dinner for the German Presidency at Gatwick and a lunch for the Portuguese Presidency in Chichester; both had been very successful thanks to the organisational skills of Kate Evans. As regards the study days, there had been a good one on Turkey but in view of the low turnout the following event had been cancelled. However, she had continued to organise monthly meetings of the Steyning U3A "Understanding Europe". In spite of the work put in, it had proved impossible to organise either a Speak Up Europe event for West Sussex or the proposed commemorative event for François Duchêne as part of the Brighton Festival. She drew attention to letters to the press members of the branch had written. These, with reports of all our doings, are on our website, which continues to be excellent, thanks to the efforts of Chris Jones.

Educational work continued to take up a lot of time. Sarah mentioned in particular the Schools Council day in December 2006, the Europeers planning session in February 2007, the Do you speak European event in Chichester in June and the AER Citizenship Forum in Chichester in October when five members of the committee ran workshops.

Turning to the programme for 2008, Sarah mentioned the following:

- participation in the West Sussex Citizenship Teachers conference in March followed by a trip to Brussels in July for a group of teachers and citizenship advisers to be organised by the Branch;
- a joint 3-day study meeting with the Aumühle Branch of the EM in April (subsequently moved to June);
- a conference to be jointly organised with the Sussex University European Institute in honour of François Duchêne in June
- the Slovenian Presidency dinner and French Presidency lunch.

She thanked Margaret Tuccori and Geoff Pullen (who were not standing again) for their work for the Committee and concluded by the need to recruit more members for both the Branch and the Committee.

- 3. Treasurer's report.** Chris Jones said that the assets of the Branch had increased by £475 in the course of the year. There were two main differences by comparison to previous years. The EU50 conference which replaced Brinsbury had shown a profit, while the national office had been unable to pay the capitation grant. In general the activities of the Branch were self-financing, which meant that any new project such as support for citizenship teaching in schools would require new sources of finance.

The accounts were approved. On a proposal from the Committee it was agreed that the accounting year will in future end on 31 August, i.e. between the summer programme and the autumn presidency lunch, which will be more convenient. This means that the 2007/8 accounting year will only be ten months.

- 4. Election of the officers and members of the Committee for 2007/8**

The following were elected:

Chairman:	Sarah Leigh
Secretary:	Martin Toomey
Treasurer:	Chris Jones
Members:	John Goss, Illa Hayward, Oliver Hayward, Kate Evans, Martin Vasey

- 5. Appointment of the Assessor of Accounts**

Marilyn Dodd was reappointed.

- 6. Any other business.** None.

After the meeting concluded Richard Laming of the National Council spoke and answered questions on the revival of the European Movement after the recent constitutional reforms.