# Friends of the Royal Asiatic Society Hong Kong Branch, London

# Chairman’s Annual report 2018

Fraternal greetings to the society in Hong Kong.

As of April 2018, 52 people were members of the Friends for this year compared with 70 last year but the final total will likely go up as people pay their subs, so we soldier on. We have had seven talks in the past year since the 2017 AGM and continue to meet at the RAS in London on a Saturday afternoon after lunch at a nearby restaurant. We also have a lunch for Chinese New Year and were pleased to welcome your chairman, Michael Broom, this year.

At our AGM on 14 April 2018, Bernadette Mackenzie-Ross stood down as treasurer after many years and was replaced by Florence Cantle. I thank Bernadette for her great work on the books in recent years and am grateful to Florence for stepping in.

I attempted to stand down as chairman but no one was willing to replace me so I have agreed to carry on; my wife Kirsty Norman will assist in organising events.

Here in brief is a list of our events in the past year:

18 March David Bellis on further revelations from his Hong Kong photographic collection on www.gwulo.com.

1 April Our AGM with a talk by Frances Wood on her book **Betrayed Ally: China in the First World War on the subject of the Chinese Labour Corps.**

3 June Mark O’Neill on Robert Hart, the head of China’s customs up to 1911.

5 August Neil Sinclair on his book about his missionary ancestorMarion Young in Japanese-occupied China.

23 Sept Robert Bickers on his book **Out of China: How the Chinese ended the era of foreign domination.**

28 Oct Roger Croston on the expulsion of the Chinese Army from Tibet in 1911.

25 NovemberPatricia O’Sullivan on her book **The Irishmen who Policed old Hong Kong.**

17 Feb 2018 CNY lunch

10 MarchPeter Humphrey with the harrowing tale of his arrest, detention and deportation from China over his work as a corporate investigator.

14 Apr Our AGM and talk by Brian McElney on his book **Collecting China.**

Hong Kong members are most welcome at our events.

I would like to thank Mary Painter for continuing to produce our newsletter, Eric Coskry’s work as secretary, and Kirsty Norman for organising excellent meals to accompany all of our events.

Paul Bolding, April 2018