

Note from the Troika

RadStats relies on the efforts of all its members. The Troika would like to keep the membership informed about what it is doing, so we are reviving the idea of having a regular section in 'Radical Statistics' about the Troika's activities. Comments, and especially offers of help, are always welcome. Email us at troika@radstats.org.uk

Before the 2005 Annual General Meeting the Troika consisted of: Mike Quiggin, Janet Shapiro, Geoffrey Rendle and Shailen Nandy. Our administrator, David Symes, regrettably had to resign but promised to continue in post and help us until the AGM in March 2006. The Troika had the task of appointing a new administrator and of helping the editors through a crisis of delayed publications. This involved a flurry of emails and telephone calls, and a few face-to-face business meetings.

Fortunately Alistair Cairns volunteered to be our administrator. As Alistair lives in Edinburgh, a long journey from Troika members, Russell Ecob, who lives in Glasgow and has Troika experience, interviewed Alistair to check that he understood all the implications of the post. Alistair has now been in the post since January 2006, with David taking responsibility until our meeting at Hathersage Youth Hostel. All of the Troika wish to thank David Symes for his considerable contribution to RadStats and we hope he will keep in contact.

The editors have also changed. Lee Williamson has been a very hard-working editor and she stepped down in December 2005. She has been replaced by Alan Marshall, also from Manchester, who will help Ivan Rappaport. Mike Quiggin was guest editor in 2005 for the Labour Market Statistics issue and this year David Byrne is our guest editor for an issue on housing. However hard-working our editors, the schedule for publication continues to be a problem. There is no shortage of critical issues, but editors get few articles submitted. We urge members to put pen to paper. The e-mail list carries a lively discussion; many of these comments could be written up in more detail for inclusion in the journal. Get your opinions into print!

Mike Quiggin announced his resignation from the Troika at the AGM in March 2006, and Lee Williamson was welcomed onto the Troika. Shailen had done a great job in organising the conference papers which left Janet free to arrange the food and accommodation. This was a very enjoyable and sociable conference as many were able to stay at the hostel. Hathersage is placed in magnificent walking country, and was enhanced by the snow-fall. Find photographs to prove this on the website.

Shailen is editor of this conference issue of the journal and Mike continues to help store our archive of back issues.

Before the 2006 AGM there was a meeting of the Troika on 25th June at Janet's house in London at which the topics included: the newsletter, replacing the administrator, the essay competition, conference preparations, dealing with enquiries and creating a digest of email discussion and recruitment. Another meeting on 14th November was hosted in Sheffield by David Symes who was also able to give Geoffrey and Janet a quick tour of the moor close to the venue of the 2006 AGM. The topics dealt with were: appointment of the administrator, membership, subscriptions, the Announce email list, subgroups, funds, the newsletter, RadStats website and conference preparations. Shailen Nandy made a special visit to London on October 16th to meet Geoffrey and Janet as he was unable to attend the other meetings.

Geoffrey and Janet undertook to complete the editing of issue 90 'Marking 30 Years'. They live near one another in London and met several times in October for this task.

On May 7th the editor, Ivan Rappaport, visited Geoffrey's home for an informal meeting that Janet attended as Ivan had been unable to attend the AGM. Janet met the incoming editor, Alan Marshall, on May 15th in Blackpool. She gave him background information about editing Radical Statistics to help him prepare for the work ahead. They went on to indulge in the best of Blackpool's fish and chips.

The most recent Troika meeting, hosted by Janet, was on July 15th attended by Alistair Cairns and Lee Williamson. We covered much ground including: a report on the essay competition, future newsletters, membership, implementing the rise in subscription, preparations for the AGM 2007, the new publicity leaflet and useful ways of reaching potential new members.

The Troika would welcome ideas for increasing local activity and putting members in touch with one another. Do come forward if you can help.

Janet Shapiro