



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Issue 13, September 2008

We do hope that Members managed to get out of the relentless rain over the summer – bolting to the Continent or the Caribbean must have seemed the only possibility on occasions. However perhaps we shall have an Indian Summer for our September outing to Hartland Abbey. We have a programme of events, including the Annual General Meeting, planned up to Christmas (see the end of this Newsletter for details and application forms).

General Notes

AGM: Here are details of the next AGM, as promised in the last Newsletter:

Date:	Friday 17 th October
Time:	6 p.m.
Venue:	Xfi Building, Streatham Court (University Campus)
Agenda:	attached to this Newsletter

UERSA has now been in existence for four years and the AGM is a chance for Members to hear what has been going on during the past year, to continue to shape the future of UERSA, and to have a glass of wine and nibbles with friends and past colleagues; you can also pay your subscription for 2008/9 here (see below under Subscriptions). After the business of the AGM is finished, Peter Mouland of the Sports Hall will give a short talk (c.15 mins.) about the facilities available at the Sports Hall. We shall be very pleased to welcome as many Members as can make it.

Subscriptions: the annual subscription for 2008/9 will become due on 1st October, 2008. The charge remains the same as last year, at £6.00 for a single or double subscription. To save Members' time and effort in sending cheques to the Membership Secretary by post, we are quite prepared to wait until 17th October when all attending the AGM can pay in person. Cheques should be made out to the The University of Exeter and either sent to the Membership Secretary Judy Mead at Trenton, Matford Road, Exeter EX2 4PE (email: judymead@hotmail.co.uk) , or given to Judy at the AGM. A subscription form is attached to this Newsletter and should be completed by all renewing Members.

Membership: our membership has now risen to 328, and our bank balance is correspondingly healthy. However, we are always on the look-out for new members so please encourage your recently retired University friends to join UERSA

Websites: in the last Newsletter we gave Members the email address of a University website listing forthcoming events such as meetings or lectures which might be of interest: www.exeter.ac.uk/news/whatson/shtml.

There is also another website which covers similar functions, that of the Alumni Services; this is at www.exeter.ac.uk/alumni. From this we have selected the following two events:

1. Exhibition of Honorary Graduate Alan Cotton's paintings in London at Messum's Fine Art, Cork Street, starting on 17th September. The University has many of Alan's painting on its walls, especially in Queen's Building.
2. "From desert to wetland" – a weekend conference in honour of Professors Bryony Coles and Valerie Maxfield on their retirement, September 27-28, in Lecture Theatre A, Streatham Court, University of Exeter. To register an interest and request details and enrolment form please contact Derek Gore in the School of Geography, Archaeology and Earth Resources at email: d.a.gore@exeter.ac.uk.

Talking about websites, the UERSA Committee is actively looking for a replacement for Laurie Burbridge in his role as maintainer of the UERSA website. Surely we must have a computer-literate Member who would be prepared to undertake this not very onerous task. Get in touch with any member of the UERSA Committee if you are interested.

Personal Notes

Sadly we have to report the deaths of four University staff:

Glencairn Balfour-Paul, Research Fellow in the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, died on 2 July 2008. He had a most distinguished diplomatic career, spent mostly in the Middle East and ending up as British Ambassador to Iraq (1969-72), and subsequently to Jordan and Tunis. When he left the Diplomatic Service to live in Devon, he spent his time as a Research Fellow at Exeter in writing and travelling, producing among many other works a book of poetry and his autobiography.

Dr M.D.May ("Mick"): Senior Lecturer at St Luke's, died 1 August 2008. His doctorate was in Zoology, and shortly after receiving it he emigrated to Canada, from which he returned in 1972 to take up his post in St Luke's.

Peter Carpenter, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Warwick from 1990 and before that lecturer for 17 years at the University of Exeter, died 21 April 2008. A researcher with broad interests in his field of fluid mechanics, he was also interested in biomechanics with research on dolphins and butterflies.

Professor Maurice Goldsmith, inaugural Professor of Political Theory at Exeter from 1969 and subsequently Head of the Department of Politics and Dean of Social Studies in the 1970s, died in June 2008 in New Zealand where he had been living for some years. His colleague Ian Hampshire-Monk writes: "older members of the University will remember appreciatively his demanding scholarship, cheerfully iconoclastic style and warm hospitality".

Professor John Usher, Head of the School of Law, passed away on Saturday 13 September 2008. Professor Usher returned to the University of Exeter on 1 August 2004 - 37 years after beginning his career here - to become Head of School and Professor of European Law, having held the Salvesen Chair of European Institutions at the University of Edinburgh for the previous nine years. John's funeral will be for family and close friends and will be held on Monday 22 September in Exeter. A memorial service will follow at a later date. Family flowers only. Donations if wished for The Exeter Leukaemia Fund or Traidcraft c/o Le-Roy Funeral Service, 10 Alphington Road, Exeter, EX2 8HH.

Reports on General Events

The Summer Garden Party was held for the first time at the Exeter Cricket Club/Devon and Exeter Squash Club on Prince of Wales Road, a venue with fine views over Exeter and a comfortable clubhouse. The former were unfortunately obscured by rain but the latter proved a very congenial place in which to serve the excellent teas provided by the Squash Club. In spite of the wet, those attending had a really good time.

There are three general UERSA events during the autumn: the AGM on 17th October, a trip to IKEA and Cribb's Causeway on 26th November and the Christmas Lunch on 16th December.

Reports on Group Activities

Restaurant Group:

- **The Exshed**, in the new city centre development, is bustling and informal but (perhaps surprisingly) good at cooking (the Eton Mess pudding was out of this world! Ed.). The slight downside was the noise in the area in which we ate, the fault of hard flooring and lack of curtains.
- **Carney's Bistro** in Crediton: The restaurant sits in an old building at the corner of Dean Street in Crediton, opposite the parish church. Jim and Rose Cairney welcomed 17 UERSA members on July 2nd and quickly accommodated two extra guests who had not been expected. The Group had the restaurant to itself as Cairney's is not usually open at lunchtime. Diners sat at one big table to enjoy the delicious food, and some lucky members went back to Celia and John Boyle's garden for tea on the lawn!

The autumn programme includes visits to the **Globe at Topsham** (scene of a memorable evening last winter) and **Rendevous 10**, 38-40 Southernhay East, Exeter, a popular wine bar.

Gardens Group: the Group's luck unbelievably held and the two visits in July and August did *not* take place in pouring rain. In July the Group went to **Killerton**, to see not only the garden but the house. In August they went to **Yonder Hill** in Colaton Raleigh, a comparatively new (1992) fascinating garden divided into "rooms" with many unusual plants. It was also reported that it was "hot", but that may have been to do with excitement generated in the plant sales section, full of tempting goodies. After the last planned visit to **The Rock Garden** at Chudleigh the Garden Group will go into hibernation until next spring.

Music Group: the Group has a most interesting programme for the autumn, with two operas and a concert proposed. In Bristol Verdi's *Otello* is being performed by the Welsh National Opera in November; also in November there is a concert performance of Balshazzar's Feast by Walton in the Cathedral; and in December the Glyndebourne Touring Company are performing Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* in Plymouth. Some tickets still available.

Walking Group: the Walking Group is busy planning its next five walks during the next three months with enthusiasm undimmed and a number of new leaders; the first one starts at **New Bridge**, near Ashburton on 24th September.

Badminton Group: The Group finished playing badminton for a couple of months in the Summer and resumed play again for the Autumn Term (Wednesdays - 11 a.m. until 12 noon) from Wednesday 10 September until 10 December) at the University Sports Hall. The Group members enjoy the badminton games, and follow on with a welcome cup of coffee and chat. Additional members would be welcome - please contact Jan Reynolds (tel.No. 01392 271204).

Coffee Mornings at The Imperial, New North Road, Exeter on the last Tuesday of each month

After a couple of months' break, the **Coffee Mornings** are recommencing again on **Tuesday 30 September** from 10.15 a.m. until noon. Jan (Reynolds) reports that these coffee mornings are proving to be very popular and between 30-40 members have been turning up for a coffee, which is very pleasing. Everyone is welcome!

**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER RETIRED STAFF
ASSOCIATION**

Annual General Meeting

**Friday 17th October 2008 at 6 p.m.
in the Xfi Building**

AGENDA

1. To note the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of UERSA held on 12th October 2007
2. **Chairman's Report**
3. **Treasurer's Report**
4. To confirm the **subscription rates** for 2008/9
5. **UERSA Constitution – (Item 5: Executive Committee)**
It is proposed by the Chair, seconded by the President, that 5(a) '*two general members of Committee*' be changed to '*four general members*'.
6. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2008/9**
The following Officers of UERSA have agreed to serve for a further year:
TREASURER: **Keith Blanshard**
SECRETARY: **Jan Reynolds**
SOCIAL CO-ORDINATOR: **Mary Banks**
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY: **Judy Mead**
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: **Sue Guy**
The following Members of the Executive Committee have agreed to serve for a further year:
Bruce Coleman (President Elect 2009/10), **Peter Corbin**, **Anne Mayes**, **Sue Odell** and **Tony Wragg**.
The following Officer and Committee Member are standing down:
CHAIRMAN: **Eddie Abel**
COMMITTEE MEMBER: **Laurie Burbridge**
7. **Election of a new Chairperson to serve on the Executive Committee:** the Committee wishes to propose **Alan Leadbetter** for the post of **Chair**.
8. The election of **President Elect, 2009/2010**. The Committee wishes to propose **Bruce Coleman** as **President Elect**
9. **The Social Co-ordinator** Mary Banks would like to receive nominations from three other Members of the Association to help with the organising of trips/events for UERSA Members.
10. Report on the activities of **Special Interest Groups**
11. Suggestions for future activities and events
12. Any other business

When the business of the AGM is finished, Peter Mouland will give a short talk on the availability of facilities at the Sports Hall; followed by wine and nibbles for all Members attending.

**UNIVERSITY OF EXETER RETIRED STAFF
ASSOCIATION**

Subscription for 2008-2009

Subscriptions are due on 1st October, but those wishing to pay in person at the AGM on 17th October may do so.

Please renew my/our subscription to the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association. A cheque for £6, made payable to The University of Exeter, is enclosed.

1/We no longer wish to be members of the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association.

(Please delete as appropriate)

Name(s).....

.....

Address(es).....

.....

In the interests of minimising our administrative costs we strongly encourage members to use email. Please indicate whether you are prepared to receive all future UERSA information by email:

YES/NO *(delete as appropriate)*

If YES, your email address is.....

Please return this form to the UERSA Membership Secretary, either in person at the AGM or by post to:

Judy Mead,
Trenton
Matford Road
Exeter EX2 4PE

TRIP TO IKEA AND CRIBB'S CAUSEWAY

Wednesday 26th November, 2008

Cost: £10 per person

The coach will leave the University at 8.30 a.m. from the usual venue opposite the Northcott Theatre, and will return between 6.30 and 7.00 p.m.

The plan is to spend the morning in IKEA (it is a good place to eat lunch) then go over to Cribb's Causeway for a couple of hours.

Closing date for booking is Friday 21st November

Please complete the slip below and send it to Mary Banks, Social Co-ordinator,
8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE (Tel: 01392 669239).

.....

1/We would like to go on the trip to IKEA and Cribb's Causeway on Wednesday 26th November.

Name(s).....

.....

Address(es).....

.....

Tel..... E-mail.....

I/We enclose a cheque payable to The University of Exeter for

.....

Please remember that if you are booking more than one event we need a separate cheque for each event

UERSA CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2008

**Tuesday 16th December, 12.30 for 1.00p.m.
at the Devon Hotel, Matford**

Cost: £19.50 per person

(to include a welcome drink and wine or soft drink at the table)

This is for a three-course traditional Christmas lunch (with choices) or a vegetarian option. Although it seems ridiculously early to think about Christmas we need to let the Hotel know what we are likely to want, so we include a copy of the menu for you to make your selection and send it to Mary with your cheque

Closing date for booking is Monday 17th November.

Please complete the slip below and send it to Mary Banks, Social Secretary,
8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE (Tel: 01392 669239).

I/We would like to come to the Christmas Lunch at the Devon
Hotel, Matford, on December 16th

Name(s).....

.....

Address(es).....

.....

Tel..... E-mail.....

Number attending.....

I/We enclose a cheque made payable to The University of Exeter

for.....

**Please remember that if you are booking more than one event
we need a separate cheque for each event**

Christmas Lunch Menu 2008

Please tick your choices

Starters

Prawn and crayfish tail platter with Marie Rose sauce, served with brown bread and butter

Ardennes paté with oat biscuits flavoured with plums and brandy

Winter vegetable broth with rosemary croutons

Fanned cantaloupe melon with winter berries and raspberry coulis

Chilled fruit juice

Person 1 choice.....

Person 2 choice.....

Main Courses – from the Carvery

Roast Devonshire turkey with traditional herb stuffing and Chipolata sausage

Roast Devonshire beef served with Yorkshire pudding and creamed horseradish

Filo pastry parcel filled with spinach, mushroom and cauliflower flavoured in a creamy mascarpone and brie sauce

Poached salmon fillet dressed with a white wine and chive sauce

Accompanied by a selection of seasonal vegetables and potatoes

Person 1 choice.....

Person 2 choice.....

Desserts

Traditional Christmas pudding with clotted cream

Cranberry and almond tart with clotted cream

Double Belgian chocolate gateau

Tropical fresh fruit salad

Duo of local cheeses served with biscuits

Person 1 choice.....

Person 2 choice.....