



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Issue 16, September 2009

Looking back at my introductory note to the last Newsletter, I am afraid that my optimism about a good summer was totally misplaced. However, UERSA Members still seem to have managed to enjoy themselves at our various events, and I hope you all at least managed to get out of the rain for your summer holidays.

A message from our Chairman Alan Leadbetter

Organisers/co-ordinators of Group Activities

UERSA has enjoyed a great success since its beginning five years ago, thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of those organising the various activities, but they cannot be expected to carry on doing so indefinitely. We urgently need some volunteers to fill three vacancies for next year. The Wine Tasting Group (organised from the beginning by Laurie Burbridge) has been "resting" for some time, and organisers of the Restaurant and Music/Opera Groups (Peter Corbin and John Sandall) have indicated their wish to have a break from the end of this year. So, if these activities are to continue, volunteers must be found to help with their organisation. The responsibilities can be shared but in that case someone will be required as a co-ordinator for each Group. Therefore the Committee and I have to ask all Members to give serious thought as to what they can contribute to maintain the outstanding success so far of UERSA. If you want to help in some way please contact me or the relevant present organiser named above. Remember – if there are no volunteers then these three Groups will close down at the end of 2009, so if you value them, step up!

Annual General Meeting

The time for the AGM has come round again – our 5th (excluding the Inaugural Meeting in 2004). The AGM will be held this year in Queen's Building Lecture Theatre 1 on Friday 16th October at 6 p.m., followed by drinks and nibbles in the Queen's Café just outside Lecture Theatre 1. Since the Meeting is after 6 p.m. Members should be able to park in the Queens Car Park below Queen's Building, or on Queen's Drive. The Agenda is at the back of this Newsletter.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions have been held (for the fifth year) at £6 per couple or single person. They are due on 1st October, but for convenience they can be paid a fortnight later at the AGM, to our Membership Secretary Judy Mead. We would, however, hope to have all subscriptions in by 31st October. Cheques, made out to The University of Exeter, should be handed personally to Judy Mead at the AGM or sent to her at Trenton, Matford Road, Exeter EX2 4PE. The subscription form which must accompany all payments will be found at the back of this Newsletter.

Personal Notes

Sadly we have to report the deaths of four ex-members of staff at the University:

Emeritus Professor Frank Barlow was Head of the History and Archaeology Department from 1953 to his retirement in 1976. His honours include a CBE and an Honorary DLitt (Exon). He died on 27th June aged 98.

Pat Kirkman was Senior Lecturer in Accountancy. He died on 26th May.

Dr John Raymond Drabble (known as Ray) was Reader in Physics from the 1960s to the mid 1980s. He died on 10th May, aged 86.

Geraint Rosser, who was Reader in Geophysics, died at home in Topsham over the weekend of 5-6 September.

Reports on General Events

Beer Caves: On 26th May a very select group of about six intrepid souls turned up to go exploring in the extensive limestone galleries which provided, along with stone to build cathedrals (notably Exeter), lairs for smugglers and retreats for religious recusants. A woodpecker (Greater Spotted) added to our pleasure as we sat having a coffee in the small café in the nearby woods. The tour was expertly guided and revealed an extraordinary underground world.

Tyntesfield and SS Great Britain: This visit took place on one of the rare hot days of the summer, and was an outstanding success for the organisers Anne Turner and Sue Cousins. Tyntesfield's extensive restoration by the National Trust is well underway and allowed us to savour the atmosphere of a High Victorian house and chapel. The extensive park provided plenty of shelter for our picnics. As we dropped down into Bristol the heat intensified, and our visit to the *SS Great Britain* in the Avon Docks in stifling conditions was alleviated by air conditioning in the main Salon, where we were given a fascinating and informative talk by our guide about the rigours of early cruising. A slight breeze from the Avon River over tea in the café set us up for the return home.

Garden Party: In contrast to Tyntesfield, the Garden Party was again held in rain, in the Exeter Cricket Club Pavilion. However, around 50 members and their friends braved the elements for a good tea and chat. Let's hope next year we shall be luckier with the weather.

Reports on Group Activities

Gardens Group: we had a busy summer, with some splendid gardens, including Highgrove, Knightshayes, Wildside and the Garden House, and Holbrook, near Sampford Peverell.

The Highgrove visit finally materialised and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. I am told that the experience was made all the better by the choice of guide who, being a retired academic, was well used to coping with a coach full of wayward university visitors! Many people were regretful that this was a once-in-a-lifetime event, and would have loved to go back again.

On the same day another group, without Royal patronage, went to Knightshayes and had a sunny visit admiring the gardens and walled kitchen garden. Lunch was sandwiched in between – just: the food was in danger of running out.

In June we drove over Dartmoor to the Garden House and Wildside. The former is an old friend which never disappoints (and where the lunches are really worth having), and Wildside, less than a mile away, is a new garden under construction; this is being created by the previous Head Gardener at the Garden House. Seeing a garden taking shape – albeit with some pretty big “tools” – was fascinating. Both had exceedingly tempting plants for sale.

Cadhay House and Garden was next on our list and both were a delight. As for the tea, well, people are still talking about it! The new community allotments were of particular interest and those who had been before were pleased to see an additional garden being created near the House, from which we had a grandstand view of the birth of a calf in the meadow just over the fence!

The penultimate visit of the season was to Holbrook Gardens and Nursery. A memorable garden, well worth visiting – in the dry! This was our first wet-during-the-visit occasion, it had to happen after five years. However, we adapted, some standing under (dripping) trees, others searching for polytunnels, providing shelter and tempting plant sales.

Restaurant Group: We've had a couple of really good meals this summer, at the Deer Park Hotel and the New Inn at Coleford. The magnificent setting of the Deer Park Hotel, near Honiton, with rolling parkland and a gracious country house atmosphere, provided excellent food. And the sun shone, allowing us to appreciate it all.

The New Inn has new owners and they are certainly living up to their promise to provide delicious food, rather more sophisticated than simple pub grub.

Walking Group: This summer threatens to go down in history as the Year of the Midsummer Madness (more later). It started peacefully enough with a walk from Lymptone to Dawlish, including a ferry trip from Exmouth to Dawlish Warren. Though it started in the wet, the sun came out in the afternoon. Then there was a sunny wander through the woods and fields between Tiverton and Bickleigh on 15th June. None of this really prepared nine Group members for the rigours of North Cornwall and the coastal path from Polzeath to Bude, over two days in late June. It was hot (surprisingly), exceedingly steep in most places, but with hard-won spectacular views. In view of the wobbly knees, heavy breathing and aching muscles, Trevor Preist (the organiser) was moved to apologise to the participants for taking them “out of their comfort zone”, and promised to be more careful in future, but as he said, no one cracked up, everyone survived and the comments showed how much everyone had enjoyed it (well, it takes all sorts...ed.). Since then the walkers have, undeterred, gone for walks in the Quantocks, at Powderham, near Meldon Reservoir, and at Bennett's Cross on Dartmoor. Obviously, occasional madness in no way puts intrepid walkers off.

Calendar of events, mid-September to December

(see below for further details about each entry)

Wednesdays (until December)	Badminton Group	University Sports Hall
Tues. 29 Sept.	UERSA	Coffee Morning, Imperial Hotel
Fri. 16 Oct.	UERSA	AGM, Queen's Building
Thurs. 22 Oct.	Restaurant Group	Bell Inn, The Bury, Thorverton
Tues. 27 Oct.	UERSA	Coffee Morning, Imperial Hotel
Tues. 10 Nov.	Restaurant Group	Lily's, 153 Fore Street, Exeter
Tues. 17 Nov.	UERSA	Trip to Salisbury
Thurs. 19 Nov.	Music/Opera Group	Bach: B-minor Mass, Cathedral
Tues. 24 Nov.	UERSA	Coffee Morning, Imperial Hotel
Thurs. 3 Dec.	Music/Opera Group	Glyndebourne Opera: <i>Jenufa</i>
Thurs. 17 Dec.	UERSA	Christmas Lunch, Devon Hotel

At the time of going to print, the Walking Group's programme for the Autumn is not yet available. Group Members will be circulated with the programme shortly, non-Members can check the UERSA website at <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/> .

Future Events, both General and Group

General Events

Visit to Salisbury on Tuesday, 17th November, by coach, to see the wonderful Cathedral and Close, the Charter Market and other attractions (to see what will be available check the web site: visitsalisbury.com). The cost is £15, and the coach will leave from Exeter Squash Club in Prince of Wales Road, near the Cricket Club, where there is ample parking for Members' cars. This is because of building works

taking place on the University campus. Departure time 8.30 a.m., return about 7 p.m. Application form at the back of this Newsletter.

Christmas Lunch: this is again being held at the Devon Hotel, Exeter, on the Matford roundabout, on Thursday 17 December at 12.30 for 1 p.m. This year the main course will be available at the Carvery, but starters and desserts should be selected in advance by ticking the choices on the application form at the back of this Newsletter. The cost will be £20 per head, including a welcome drink and table wine.

Coffee Mornings: these ever-popular meetings will take place on the last Tuesday of each month, 10.15-12 noon, in the Imperial Hotel, Exeter. on September 29, October 27 and November 24.

Group Events

Restaurant Group: The Bell Inn, The Bury, Thorverton, on Thursday 22 October. Delicious home-made food in a picturesque village off the Exeter-Tiverton road, near Thorverton. The Head Chef has produced a special menu for us, four choices per course at a fixed price of £16 for two courses and £20 for three courses, including coffee. Contact Sue Odell at seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk or Liz Smith at 01363 84667 or geoffandlizsmith@yahoo.co.uk.

Lily's, 153 Fore Street, Exeter on Tuesday November 10th. Recently opened restaurant, with locally sourced ingredients. No immediately adjacent parking but try Mary Arches Car Park and walk down Fore Street.

Contact Ann Glyn Jones on 01392 874600 or Kathy Niklaus on 01392 873672 or kniklaus43@hotmail.com.

Music/Opera Group: Bach's B-minor Mass in Exeter Cathedral on Thursday November 19th. Exeter Festival Chorus conducted by Nigel Perrin. Tickets at £18.90.

Jenufa, by Janacek, Theatre Royal Plymouth on 3rd December. An exciting new production by Glyndebourne on Tour direct from the Glyndebourne Summer Festival. The event will follow the usual routine of coach from the University, supper at the Theatre, performance, and return to Exeter by coach. Final price not yet available, but seats are £41.50 in the Circle and £20.50 in the Upper Circle, the coach is £6.00 and the supper, which is yet to be confirmed, will probably be about £9.00. Contact John Sandall on 01392 255460 or john_sandall@yahoo.co.uk

Garden Group: hibernating

Walking Group: programme not yet available

Badminton Group: meeting every Wednesday until December in the Sports Hall at the University between 11 and 12 noon (followed by coffee and chat).

University events of interest to Members

There will be an exhibition of the work of Russell Frampton, 2nd November-11th December in the Northcote House Gallery, 9-5, Mondays-Fridays.

A series of art lectures will be given during the autumn and winter, on 27th October, 10 and 24 November, 19 January, 16 February, 16 March. The lecturer will be Professor Sam Smiles. and his theme will be "controversial art", though no firm titles have been decided. As soon as the programme is finalised we will circulate Members with the details.

To keep up to date with University events check the website <http://exeter.ac.uk/news/events>



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, 16th October 2009 at 6 p.m.
In the Queen's Building, Lecture Theatre 1

1. To note the Minutes of the previous AGM held on 17th October 2008
2. Chairman's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. To confirm the subscription rates for 2009/10
5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2009/2010

The following Officers and Members of the UERSA Executive Committee have agreed to serve for a further year:

Chairman: **Alan Leadbetter**

Secretary: **Jan Reynolds**

Social Co-ordinator: **Mary Banks**

Membership Secretary: **Judy Mead**

Newsletter Editor: **Sue Guy**

Committee Members: **Sue Odell** and **Tony Wragg**

To confirm that **Bruce Coleman** will become the **President of UERSA** for 2009/10.

The following Officer and two Committee Members are now standing down: Treasurer **Keith Blanshard** and Committee Members **Peter Corbin** and **Anne Mayes**

To elect a new Treasurer and two Committee Members with effect from this AGM

The Committee wishes to nominate the following for approval:

Treasurer: **Wojtek Kryzanowski**

Committee Member: **Roger Coles** (responsible for the UERSA Website)

Committee Member: **Alastair Logan.**

- 6 The election of the President Elect, 2009/10
The Committee wishes to propose **Laurie Burbridge**
7. Special Interest Groups
To receive a report on the activities of the Groups
8. Suggestions for future activities and events
9. Any other business

After the AGM, wine and nibbles will be provided for Members in the Queen's Café outside Lecture Theatre 1.



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

Subscription for 2009-2010

Subscriptions (£6 per person or couple) are due on 1st October, but those wishing to pay in person at the AGM on 16th 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.

(Please delete as appropriate)

Name(s).....

.....

Address(es).....

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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

VISIT TO SALISBURY

Tuesday 17th November

**Cost: £15 per person. Departure time 8.30 a.m.,
return c.7.00 p.m.**

The coach will leave at 8.30 a.m. from the Exeter Squash Club on Prince of Wales Road (near the Cricket Ground). There should be plenty of room to park your cars there.

Closing date is Friday 6th November 2009

Please complete the slip below and send it to Mary Banks, 8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE

.....

I/We would like to come on the trip to Salisbury on 17th November
Name(s).....

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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

Devon Hotel

Thursday 17th December, 12.30 for 1.00 p.m.

Cost: £20 per person, which includes a welcome drink and table wine

Closing date for application: Friday 20th November

Please complete the slip below and send it to Mary Banks, 8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE.

I/We would like to come to the Christmas Lunch on 17th December 2009

Name(s).....

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Address(es).....

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

Number attending.....

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

for.....

The main course is selected at a carvery, but the Hotel asks if we could make a choice in advance for starters and desserts to help them with their preparations. Please put a tick against your preferences.

Starters

Smoked fish and prawn platter.....

Vegetable soup.....

Chicken liver and mushroom pate.....

Fanned melon.....

Desserts

Christmas pudding.....

Advocaat and lemon tart.....

Mint choc chip cheesecake.....

Fresh fruit salad.....

Cheese and biscuits.....

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