



## RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER Issue 22. September 2011

#### Editor's note

Welcome to all our members, old and new. I hope you have all had a good summer and now you are raring to get your teeth into the 2011/2012 season's events.

This is the first Newsletter for the new University year. There is important information about the AGM (at 6.00 pm on October 7th), to which we hope many of you will find time to come. It is your opportunity to make suggestions and contribute, the Association exists for you so we need your input. *Please note that members can put forward nominations for vacancies for the Committee other than those suggested by the Committee. These should be submitted before the AGM to the Chairman (together with the proposer and seconder) for consideration at the AGM. (Details in the AGM agenda)*

There are many special interest groups, all of which would welcome new members and ideas for future events. The Newsletter reports on past events to give you a flavour of what goes on, and usually provides a calendar and brief details of what is to come. In this issue we can only outline some of the new programmes, because the Newsletter has to be sent out well before the AGM, and not every group has finalised its programme. For those who do not have access to the internet, this is one of your main links to what is going on in the Association - a good reason for you to read not only this, but all future editions!

You may notice that there are references to "the UERSA Website" – you will find this at <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/> This is quite one of the best websites I know, and definitely worth a browse!

#### Chairman's message for September Newsletter

This will be my last Chairman's message as my 3 years of office will end at the AGM in October. The most important thing is to express, on behalf of the membership, my warmest thanks to all members of the Committee together with the organisers of General and Group Activities who have served over the last 3 years. It is their excellent efforts which have ensured that our Association continues to be an outstanding success and as I often describe it to outsiders "the best club imaginable."

The various posts in the Committee and as Activity organisers appear to be filled for at least the coming session but thereafter we will begin to need new blood. I do not apologise for returning yet again to this theme, because the continuing health of our Association really will depend on finding people to accept these roles. So I appeal to all members, but especially to those who have joined us in the last year or two to consider putting off total retirement to take on one of these immensely rewarding jobs. I promise you that not only will you enjoy it but that it will be good for you!

Finally, a word about the relatively large number of members who, while rarely participating in our activities for whatever reason, nevertheless keep up their membership year after year. Clearly they value the contact this gives them with what is going on among fellow retirees and in the University, so if you are such a member please be assured that we do value your continuing membership.

#### Personal notes

Sadly we report the deaths of four former members of staff at the University :-

On 23 June, peacefully in hospital, of **Martin Hughes** who was a member of staff in the School of Education for many years, before moving to the University of Bristol in the late 1990s.

On 28 June of **Emeritus Professor Joyce Youings**, Department of History, after a long illness. As you may know, she was the first woman to hold a Chair at the University of Exeter and also the first woman to serve as Head of Department.

Professor **Friedemann Golka**, Lecturer in Old Testament in the Theology Department ca 1970-1989, died at his home in Bremen in late June. He would have been well-known to many UERSA members.

**Helen Muirden**, a member of UERSA and a retired member of the University Library staff, in early August.

### Reports on General Events

#### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May - Conducted Tour of Tucker's Hall**

Bruce Coleman arranged for UERSA to share this tour with the Exeter branch of the Historical Association, to whom we would like to express our thanks. It was indeed a very enjoyable and interesting occasion.

#### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Bath & the Roman Baths**

Nancy Scattergood, who was a member of the party, reported :- 'Time spent viewing the refurbished Roman Baths was most interesting. With the aid of audio guides we were able to enjoy it all at our own pace, which gave us a valuable insight in to Roman life of that era. There was time later for lunch, shopping and some members enjoyed a Bus Tour of the City, so altogether a memorable day. Feedback overall was very positive.'

#### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July - UERSA Summer Garden Party**

On July 7<sup>th</sup>, a welcome fine day, some 60 or so members assembled at the Exeter Cricket Club for a glass (or more!) of Pimm's. The cream teas arrived - traditional scones, with strawberry jam, thick clotted cream, and served with cups of tea. The Exeter Cricket Club was an admirable venue for such an enjoyable event. Thanks to Bruce Coleman for organising the ample parking and to the energetic band of helpers!

#### **Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September - Round Robin trip**

This trip to Paignton, Kingswear, Dartmouth and Totnes sounds really exciting, but I can't report on it as it won't take place until after the newsletter has been sent out. John Carroll (organiser of the trip) confirmed that so far 28 members had booked and paid up.

### Reports on Group events

#### **Badminton and Bridge**

*These two groups had regular meetings during the last year. As both groups are continuing for the coming year (see Forthcoming Events below) we can safely assume they are keeping the membership happy. Ed.*

#### **Gardens Group Anne Mayes (Group Leader)**

"As another successful year nears its end – our season closes with a visit to Hillrise at Sidford on 6<sup>th</sup> September – we can look back on a series of very enjoyable visits. We started with a dry, but very muddy underfoot trip to the Snowdrop Valley, then Trelissick and Truro, the hidden delights of Chevithorne Barton, an "arty" visit to Delamore, a house and garden trip to Kingston Lacy, then an amble round Hill House Nursery and most recently, our visit to the gardens at Whitstone Farm who are building up the National Eucryphia Collection (they currently hold the title "Provisional" until the collection is a little more mature). It is the only eucryphia collection. With all bar the first visit, we managed to combine a little refreshment; after all what better than to sit on a sun soaked terrace and chat to friends with a cup of tea and a piece of home made cake?"

More details, including photographs, are to be found on the UERSA web pages. New associates to the group always welcome."

#### **Music and Opera Group Helen Pope (Group Leader)**

"I haven't anything new to report for the Music/Opera Group. There was insufficient support for me to make a group booking for the Exeter Festival Chorus's performance, in the Cathedral, of 'Cantos Sagrados', though individual members did attend what proved to be a very stimulating and interesting evening, but a party of 50 people will be going to Plymouth on 22<sup>nd</sup> November to see Puccini's 'La Boheme'. This has obviously proved extremely popular with our members."

#### **Restaurants Group Frankie Peroni & Liz Smith (Group Leaders)**

"We have enjoyed a full summer programme with visits to: St Olaves in Exeter; the Deer Park, at Weston, near Honiton; the Lazy Toad at Bramford Speke; and Tobias in Budleigh Salterton. Not only are we able to enjoy good food in convivial surroundings but come across interesting areas or out of the way villages that some of us have not visited before. Future events are being planned for October and November."

### **Walking Group Trevor Preist (Group Leader)**

“We are still offering two walks a month thanks to our enthusiastic leaders. The generally good weather has resulted in very good turn-outs for our walks which have included Shobrooke Park, local bluebells, Newton Abbot (open prison optional), Ludwell Valley, Bleak House (Lydford), Branscombe, Tiverton Canal, Lustleigh and Newton St. Cyres.

We had a record attendance (36) for a guided tour of Okehampton Castle led by Bob Higham, formerly of the Department of Archaeology, bringing to life what it was like for the locals in Norman times.

The summer trip this time to Purbeck, Dorset, with the promise of easier walking, produced a record response (17) for the mini-break and a great time was had by all. Customer reports for this and many other walks appear on the website.

There is a walk at Fingle Bridge on September 23rd. Details of this and the October – December programme will be posted on the UERSA website. “

### **Wine Group Laurie Burbridge (Group Leader)**

“The usual (*how can it be "usual" when held at such a wonderful venue?*) summer event took place at The Hermitage on Wednesday, 22nd June, starting at 7.00 p.m. at which we sampled 5 red wines and 5 white wines ranging in price from less than £5 to over £20, without knowing what the wines were. We were then asked to comment on and rate the wines (and prices) - the most expensive wines didn't always win on enjoyment.

For the past two years this event has apparently been marked by heavy rain, but this year we were able to make it into the garden and enjoy a summer evening's tasting.”

*Many thanks to Laurie and Pauline for holding this event at their own home. ed.*

### **Calendar of events Sept - Dec 2011**

Tue 13th Sep	UERSA Round Robin trip	Paignton, Kingswear etc
Fri 23rd Sep	Walking Group	Fingle Bridge
Tue 27th Sep	UERSA Coffee morning	Imperial Hotel 10 - 12 noon
Wed 28th Sep	Bridge Group	Clayden 7-10- p.m.
Fri 7th Oct	UERSA AGM	6 p.m Queens Building Lecture Theatre 1
Tue 25th Oct	UERSA Coffee morning	Imperial Hotel 10 - 12 noon
Thu 27th Oct	Bridge Group	Clayden 7-10 p.m.
Tue 22nd Nov	Music Group	"La Bohème" Plymouth
Tue 29th Nov	UERSA Coffee morning	Imperial Hotel 10 - 12 noon
Wed 30th Nov	Bridge Group	Clayden 7-10 p.m.
Wed 14th Dec	UERSA Christmas Lunch	Devon Hotel 12.30 p.m. for 1 p.m.
Thu 15th Dec	Bridge Group	Clayden 7-10 p.m.

### **Forthcoming General events**

#### **Coffee Mornings**

The first Coffee Morning of the season will be on Tuesday 27th September at the usual venue i.e. Imperial Hotel, Exeter, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, and thereafter on the last Tuesday of each month.

The Imperial Management have now introduced 'parking fees' and this includes members attending the 'Coffee Mornings'. However, Jan (Reynolds) has an assurance from the Management that we will be refunded for any parking fees paid, when purchasing coffees etc. and showing appropriate 'parking receipts' at the Bar. (There was a mention in the Express and Echo that one had to spend a minimum of £5 per visit to obtain a refund, but Jan was assured this didn't apply).

**Annual General Meeting Friday 7th October at 6 p.m** The AGM will be held in the Queens Building Lecture Theatre 1. The Agenda for the meeting is attached to this Newsletter. As usual, after the meeting ends, members can meet in the Queen's Café just outside the Lecture Theatre 1 for wine and nibbles. Members attending the AGM have permission to park at the Reed Hall car park for free, but will need an

EXIT code to leave – this will be announced at the meeting. (In order to estimate numbers for the refreshments, please complete the form at the end of the Newsletter, signalling your intention to be present.)

### **UERSA's Christmas Lunch 2011 - Wednesday 14th December at the Devon Hotel.**

The Christmas Lunch has again been booked at the Devon Hotel, on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 12.30 for 1 p.m. This year we will have use of the Regency Room on the Ground Floor. The main course will be available at the Carvery, but starters and desserts will need to be selected in advance (as per usual). Glasses of mulled wine will be given to members on their arrival at the Hotel, and table wine will be provided during the lunch. As soon as full details are available, a booking form will be circulated to everyone.

### **Trip to be arranged before Christmas?**

It is hoped to arrange a general trip before Christmas - several ideas have been put forward and they are being investigated.

### **Forthcoming Group events**

*Membership Secretary - Judy Mead ( tel: 01392 425571, e-mail: JudyMead@hotmail.co.uk )*

*If you are interested in participating in any of these groups to which you do not already belong, please apply to the Membership Secretary, Judy Mead, via her e-mail address or her telephone number (as above). Or you can download an application form, in pdf format, from the Membership forms page of the UERSA website.*

### **Badminton – Group Leader: Jan Reynolds**

The Badminton Group currently meets on Wednesday mornings (until mid December) for a game of badminton at the University's Sports Hall. Sessions run from 11:00 till 12:00, with time for a coffee and a chat afterwards.

New members are always welcome and if anyone is interested in joining, please contact Jan Reynolds on 01392 271204.

### **Bridge – Group Leader: Paul Ellison**

The Bridge Group is currently meeting in a Music practice room in Clayden, which is the building to the rear of Knightley. The meetings are monthly, and start at 7:00 pm with the evening ending at about 10:00 pm. There is a short break at around 8:30 for tea or coffee.

Paul hopes to see all the regulars and a few new faces next year. If anyone wants to talk to him about joining, or if you need further information then please contact him on 01626 867999 or email P.A.Ellison@exeter.ac.uk

Wednesday, 28th September

Thursday, 27th October

Wed, 30th November

Thur, 15th December (Mince pie evening!!)

Meeting dates in 2012 will include: Wed 25th Jan, Thur 23rd Feb, Wed 28th Mar, Thur 26th Apr, Wed 30th May, Thur 28th June.

### **Gardens – Group Leader: Anne Mayes (email: a.c.mayes@Exeter.ac.uk)**

*The Autumn programme is still in the planning stage.*

**Music and Opera – Group Leaders: Helen Pope (Helen.Pope@talktalk.net) Tel 01392 860159 and Alastair Logan (a.h.b.logan@Exeter.ac.uk) Tel. 01392 434715.**

Tue 22nd Nov "La Bohème" - Plymouth

**Restaurant – Group Leaders: Frankie Peroni Tel.01363 773946 and Liz Smith geoffandlizsmith@yahoo.co.uk.**

*The Autumn programme is still in the planning stage.*

### **Walking – Group Leader: Trevor Preist**

There is a walk at Fingle Bridge on September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Details of this and the October – December programme will be posted on the UERSA website. Contact: Preist.Exeter@blueyonder.co.uk Tel 01392 259740

**Wine** – Group Leader: Laurie Burbridge.

“The next event is planned for 3rd November when we will be tasting wines from Bordeaux. This will be led by Roger Camble, a local wine enthusiast who has attended several UERSA events. Unless someone comes forward and offers to organise more tastings, the November event may well be the last tasting for some time, as I need a break and I have been unable to persuade anyone to take on the leadership of the group.” (Offers to Laurie Burbridge ([L.Burbridge@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:L.Burbridge@exeter.ac.uk)) Tel. 01392 668833

### **University News of interest to members**

Many members may already get University News but for those who don't, it is good to know the University stands high in the various tables in terms of Research and student satisfaction. By now most will have heard the Vice Chancellor has been knighted, not too surprising with all he has done here in Exeter and his contributions both nationally and internationally. In his latest message he gives the exciting news that fund-raising not only covers the extensive developments going on but has exceeded even these expectations.

Building work will be coming to an end and in due course UERSA hopes it will be able to arrange visits for former staff

### **Other groups which may be of interest to members**

#### **The Historical Association (Exeter Branch)**

The Historical Association (Exeter branch) programme for the autumn term has four meetings, all starting at 5.30pm. UERSA members are very welcome to attend any talks that interest them. For further details, including confirmation of venues, please contact Bruce Coleman ([bruce.i.coleman@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:bruce.i.coleman@exeter.ac.uk)).

Thursday 13 October: Dr Richard Huzzey (University of Plymouth), 'The Decoy Elephant? British Anti-Slavery and the Scramble for African Empire'. (Amory Building, room to be confirmed)

Thursday 3 November: Professor Valerie Maxfield (University of Exeter), 'River and Desert; the Frontiers of Roman Egypt'. Joint meeting with Exeter branch of the Classical Association, refreshments afterwards. (LT 1, Queen's Building)

Thursday 17 November: Professor Eric Evans (University of Lancaster), 'A Victorian "Big Society"? The age of laissez-faire revisited'. (Exeter School)

Thursday 8 December: Dr Laura Sangha (University of Exeter), "'The proper armes for this holy warre": Angels and Belief in Reformation England'. (Amory Building, room to be confirmed)

### **University of Exeter's Events Office (from Mr R A Court, Sales & Marketing Coordinator)**

Events Exeter, which represents the portfolio of venues and hospitality at the University, would like to offer members of the retired staff association benefits of their promotions, for instance 2 for 1 lunches at the beautiful Reed Hall, discounted rates for Bed and Breakfast on campus for family and friends and discounted rates for UERSA members should they wish to host a function or party at the University.

To be kept informed of the latest news, events and offers from Event Exeter, please email us at: [eventexeter@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:eventexeter@exeter.ac.uk) asking to be added to our mailing list and stating that you are a member of UERSA.

If you decide receiving the newsletter is not for you, you can unsubscribe at any time.

Visit our website at [www.eventexeter.com](http://www.eventexeter.com) or contact us on 01392 215566. You can also join us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/#!/eventexeter>.



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Friday 7th October 2011 at 6 p.m.  
In The Queen's Building (Lecture Theatre 1)

AGENDA

1. To note the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of UERSA held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010

2. Chairman's Report

3. Treasurer's Report

4. To confirm the subscription rates for 2011/12

5. Election of Officers and Committee for 2011/12

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

**Wojtek Krzanowski** (Treasurer)

**Jan Reynolds** (Secretary) (*Jan has agreed to serve again as Secretary unless other nominations are forthcoming at the AGM.*)

**Judy Mead** (Membership Secretary)

**Susan Cousins** (Social Co-ordinator)

**Rachel Kirby** (Newsletter Editor)

**Roger Coles** (Committee Member and Website Editor)

**Frankie Peroni** (Committee Member)

**John Carroll** (Committee Member)

To confirm that **Anne Mayes** will become the **President of UERSA** for 2011/12

**Laurie Burbridge** will serve a further year on the Committee, as Immediate Past President

**Bruce Coleman** leaves the Committee having completed his term as Immediate Past President.

The following Officer and one Committee Member are now standing down

**Alan Leadbetter** (Chairman)

**Alastair Logan** as a Committee Member

To Elect new Chairman and one new Committee Member with effect from the AGM

The Committee has received and agreed that the following nominations should be put forward for approval by the AGM. Should any additional nominations, together with proposer and seconder, be received by the Chairman after this Agenda has been circulated, these will also be put forward for consideration by the AGM:

**Chairman: Alastair Logan**

**Committee Member: Linda Hale.**

6. The election of President Elect, 2011/12

To confirm that **Peter Corbin** will become the **President Elect of UERSA** for 2011/12

7. Special Interest Groups

To receive a report on the activities of the Special Interest Groups (many of which are included in the September Newsletter).

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 Building Cafe.



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Friday 7th October at 6 p.m.  
In the Queen's Building, Lecture Theatre 1**

**And afterwards in the Queen's Café for wine and nibbles**

In order to ascertain numbers for the wine and nibbles after the Meeting, please complete the form below and return it to Susan Cousins:

Either by post to: 21 Chantry Meadow, Alphington, Exeter, EX2 4PE or email at: [scousins@talktalk.net](mailto:scousins@talktalk.net)

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I/We intend to come to the AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> October

Name(s).....

Address(es).....

Tel..... Email.....

Number attending.....



**RETIREE STAFF ASSOCIATION**

**Subscription Fee for 2011/12**

The UERSA Committee at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2011 discussed Subscription Fees for 2011/12 and agreed it should remain at £6 per person/couple, subject to the approval of the AGM. The Committee decided that the agreed fee could be paid by members at the AGM, or as soon as possible thereafter, and definitely not later than 1<sup>st</sup> December!

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Please renew my/our subscription to the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association. A cheque 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