



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)

NEWSLETTER Issue 33
May 2015

UERSA website <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html> - for those on the internet

Editor's Comment

Another Newsletter, and I'm sitting at my computer trying to think of something to write in my comment! Fortunately for me, my desk is by the window of an upstairs north-facing room, overlooking the back garden. The timing has been perfect in that the apple, pear and flowering cherry blossom are all out and the leaves on the other trees have been opening as I watch. (Maybe you get a feeling that I am not entirely concentrating?)

The list of events this time is rather shorter than usual, partly because some of the groups shut shop over the summer, but sadly also there are several events such as walks which have fallen between Newsletters without mention, in particular the Trivia Fun Quiz (May 6th) which Jan Reynolds has organised for several years to great acclaim. Of course, she notified all members in March so you would have had the details then, but I hope no one missed it because there was no reminder.

Here is my usual reminder that I would like to hear any interesting news from members, especially if suitable to be included in the next newsletter. I would also like to have any comments and feedback about UERSA events you attend, so that those who didn't, and the organisers, can hear more about it.

Rachel

*Rachel Kirby, (Newsletter Editor)
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Chairman's Message for May 2015 Newsletter

Dear Friends

I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to 8 May when our television screens and newspapers see the back of the General Election, although after that I guess we'll still have several days, nay weeks of post-mortem! In the meantime, the sunny weather over Easter gives us hope of a fine summer in which to enjoy some of those UERSA group activities that take us outdoors. This year the Walking Group's annual trip away takes it in June to Salcombe where Trevor Priest has planned two days of walks to both the east and west of that delightful town (now so attractive that its property prices are amongst the highest in the country outside London!). Our other principal outdoor group, the Gardens Group, after outings within Devon promises us a midsummer trip, this time on 25 June to the Longstock Water Gardens and Mottesfont House and Garden – contact Anne Mayses for further details.

However, don't forget the UERSA groups that follow indoor pursuits! Writing of which, Ruth Priest asks if there might be any support for a 'Loose Cinema Group', adding an informal social element to the enjoyment of going to the cinema. See the note later in this newsletter.

One forthcoming innovation forced on us by the redevelopment of the Exeter Cricket Club pavilion is the return of the UERSA summer garden party after many years to the University where staff have been very helpful in facilitating our planning the event at Reed Hall for Wednesday 8 July. Given good weather, we should enjoy ourselves outside in the gardens that for many of us are the most attractive part of the Streatham campus. More details later, but in the meantime put this date in your diary!

And now, an appeal! Alastair Logan is giving up as the co-ordinator of the Opera Group after a number of years. Nearly 40 members enjoyed a recent outing to see the WNO production of *The Magic Flute* at Plymouth (see elsewhere in this newsletter) and it would be a shame if UERSA could not continue this pleasurable tradition. Is there anyone out there who would be prepared to take responsibility for organising the (usually) two trips a year? Please contact me or Alastair if you can help.

David Batty

Personal Notes

We are sorry to record the deaths of several people who were our members or were known to us. If you receive any such notification, please pass it on to Sue Odell – email : seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk
Please note that I have taken an Editorial decision to keep all of the notices short, as many are very brief, and I feel it is better to show the same respect to all. In some cases we do not have the exact date. Ed

Emeritus Professor Ivan Roots died in February 2015 (notified to us Feb 9th). He was Professor of History at the University. There will be a Memorial Lecture in memory of Professor Roots on 20 June in Queen's Building.

Tegwyn Roots, widow of Professor Ivan Roots, has also died, in March 2015 (notified to us March 30th)
Both from Mary Ravenhill

Dr Ian Gordon, retired member of the academic staff in the School of Psychology, died in hospital February 15th 2015

From David Batty

Professor John Fox, retired Professor of French, died 20 February 2015 aged 89.

From Sue Odell

Lorna Howe, who was for a good number of years an admissions officer in Engineering, died in April aged 67 (notified to us 23 April 2015)

From Tony Wragg

A suggestion for a new Special Interest Group

I have had a problem deciding where to put this interesting suggestion, submitted by Ruth Priest, but decided to put it near the beginning before you get lost in all the event details. I must confess that this was sent before the last Newsletter, but I 'lost' it. Apologies and thanks to Ruth.

Ed

'LOOSE CINEMA GROUP'

Ruth writes :-

UERSA has many thriving groups. I wonder if there would be any support for this less formal type of group?

Aim: To notify the group members of current films running in the Picture House.

A Group e-mail would be set up of all interested members. Group members could if they wished then circulate the group to indicate or find out if anyone is going (e.g. on a Silver Screen Thursday afternoon – reduced price, free tea/coffee & biscuit before 5 pm!). Members could then 'loosely' meet others there for a friendly outing.

Who is needed? A 'loose' leader, obviously one who enjoys films and who would send out a weekly or occasional email to the group. All could sign up for the regular notice from the Picture House of what screenings are on and would join the Silver Screen (free) aiming occasionally to visit the Cinema on a Thursday afternoon!

(Frequent film goers might even find it advantageous to sign up for membership of the Picturehouse Ed)

I'd really appreciate such info and wouldn't miss so many interesting films! So I admit it's just laziness on my part but such a group might add to the social enjoyment of UERSA which is such a lively and friendly group and has been for TEN years now! I emphasise that I am NOT volunteering – I'm hoping for someone who is keen out there among the hundreds of members

Ruth

Ruth and Trevor Preist <preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk>

(It would be interesting to get any ideas, offers and expressions of interest – please email Ruth or me, if possible before the next Committee meeting on May 13th Ed)

Reports on General UERSA Events

Since the last newsletter, Jan Reynolds has provided the only UERSA events – the **Coffee Mornings** !

Most of you will know that they are held on the last Tuesday of most months, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Nutters Bar area (!) at The Imperial in New North Road. These are very informal (not to mention noisy on occasion) and an average of around 30 members attend. Thank you, Jan, for keeping it going!

Special Interest Groups

The Special Interest Group Organisers are:

Badminton:	Jan Reynolds (tel: 01392 271204, e-mail: janandmikereynolds@gmail.com)
Bridge:	Paul Ellison (tel: 01626 867999, e-mail: p.a.ellison@exeter.ac.uk)
Gardens:	Anne Mayes (e-mail: a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk)
Guided Nature Walks	Judy Mead (email: judymead@hotmail.co.uk)
Music / Opera:	Alastair Logan (tel: 01392 434715, e-mail: a.h.b.logan@exeter.ac.uk)
Restaurants:	Liz Smith (tel: 01363 84667, e-mail: lizsmith15@icloud.com) Frankie Peroni (tel: 01363 773946)
Table Tennis	Ruth Preist email: preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk
Theatre and Shows:	Sue Cousins (e-mail: scousins@talktalk.net)
Walking:	Trevor Preist (e-mail: preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)
Wine:	John Carroll (tel: 01392 876048, e-mail: carroll595@btinternet.com)
Membership Secretary:	Chris King (tel: 01392 255533, e-mail: chrisandmikeking@gmail.com)

Reports and News from Special Interest Groups:

If you can get on the internet, all this information can be found on the UERSA website (<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>) where it is kept up-to-date, and is easy to navigate (thanks to Roger Coles).

If you are interested in participating in any of these groups, please apply to the Membership Secretary, Chris King. Several of the groups' events are arranged interactively, mostly by e-mail. ***It is particularly important to say if you are unable to use e-mail***, as information and updates on group activities are sent by ordinary mail only to members of that specific group who require it.

You can contact Chris by telephone or via her e-mail address above. Or you can download an application form, in pdf format, from the Membership forms page.

Here are some of the highlights of our special interest group activities over the last few months, gleaned either directly from the organisers, or from browsing our website. I have used my editorial freedom to write some of the commentaries – the reports actually sent by leaders have their name added.

Badminton (Jan Reynolds)

The Badminton Group regularly meets on Wednesday mornings between 11 a.m. and 12 noon for a game of badminton at the Main Campus Sports Hall. Unfortunately, we are unable to use the Sports Hall for our Badminton for six weeks (from end of April until 10th June) due to University Exams taking place in the Sports Hall. We will, of course, book a court from September onwards!

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, a few more members would be most welcome to join our friendly group!

Jan

The Bridge Group (Paul Ellison)

Due to a drop in numbers, the last three dates of this season have been cancelled. So, following discussions I have had with a couple of the regulars, I have decided to cancel all the rest of the evenings scheduled for the remainder of this academic year. During the summer, I will distribute an email giving suggested dates for the 2015/16 academic year when I would hope that we could get a quorum.

Enjoy your summer,

Paul.

Garden Group (Anne Mayes)

We've had two visits so far, the first to Killerton led by Sue Guy as I was not up to walking far. I'm told it was very enjoyable with a good display of cyclamen by the church though some preferred to start well fortified with coffee.

The second was to Coleton Fishacre on a blisteringly hot day, full report on the web.

Music/ Opera Group (Alastair Logan)

Alastair is finding arranging these events on his own has become too onerous – he writes :-

Dear Friends,

It is with much regret that I have to inform you that, because of increasing problems with parking and with organisation, I have reluctantly decided to give up as organiser of opera trips to Plymouth after the Magic Flute. I had hoped to have an assistant to spread the load and responsibility, as happened latterly under Helen Pope, and which worked well, but have not managed to find anyone. I do hope that someone will come forward to organise future opera trips, preferably with an assistant. It has been a very successful venture and it would be a pity for it to cease.

Alastair

This year's event, The Magic Flute by Mozart at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, took place on 1st of April, *Laurie Burbridge writes*

This was a rather surreal production in terms of the set and costume design, with some tenuous links to the works of René Magritte. I thought the whole production was in keeping with the plot which, even by operatic standards, is bizarre. The performance was sung and spoken in English with an effective and imaginative translation. The singing was not quite up to the standards of the Glyndebourne Touring Company, but Samantha Hay, as the Queen of the Night, made a good job of her famous and impossibly difficult aria.

Prior to the performance, the majority of our party enjoyed a supper in the "View" Pan-Asiatic restaurant – a wide and interesting variety of food and lively company. All in all, it was another thoroughly enjoyable evening.

On the coach on the way home, Alastair Logan was warmly thanked for organising not only this event but for all his work in arranging many previous events. As all UERSA group leaders know, it can be challenging to organise any group of aging academics. Alastair is now stepping down as the organiser of the UERSA Music/Opera Group and it is to be hoped that someone will step forward to take on this role.

Nature Walks (Judy Mead)

These walks always sound lovely to me, but no one has sent me a report on any of them. Is there anyone in the group who could give me a flavour?
Ed

Restaurant Group (Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith)

The restaurant group enjoyed fine dining both at Gidleigh Park and more recently at the Treby Arms in Sparkwell. The food at these Michelin starred restaurants appeals to the eye as well as the taste buds. In between the group made a well supported return visit to the Salty Pigeon in Exeter. Another much anticipated new experience for many of us is the 'Pop-up-Lunch' to be held in May at the Heart of Oak in Pinhoe. Then in June we are looking forward to lunch at the Red Lion in Broadclyst. Our thanks to everyone involved in organising our recent and forthcoming events.

Frankie

Table Tennis Group (Ruth Preist)

Table tennis – thrives with usually three tables in action. The third singles championship just before Easter was won by Gerald – the previous two were also won by men (Alan and Doug). The ladies enjoy the games very much but are obviously not taking themselves seriously enough!

Theatre and Shows: (Sue Cousins)

There were no events in the Spring

Walking Group (Trevor Preist)

A report and summary of the 3 early Winter/Spring walks is available on the UERSA website along with archival descriptions of previous walks. There are a lot of photos and interesting descriptions too.

Three walks which were not arranged before the last newsletter but which have already been walked: -

9 th March	Belstone & Taw valley	5 miles
24 th March	Bickleigh circular walk	7.5 miles
28 th April	Heddon Valley	7 miles

If you didn't know about these, but would like to have gone on them, please make sure you join the Walking Group so that you don't miss out in future! *Ed*

If you think you might like to go for a walk with a sociable group of people, check out the new programme for Summer and choose one (or more!) to join. Walks are of various lengths, so something for everyone.

Wine Tasting Group (John Carroll)

The last event was a tour of Spanish wines on Tuesday 10th February 2015 at 21 The Mint hosted by John Carroll, who hopes those of you who attended enjoyed it as much as he did!

(Shame I had to miss this one! - and the NZ wines in April – Ed)

NOW, LOOKING TO THE NEXT FEW MONTHS!

All Events Calendar for May - October

Date	Time	Activity	Group
Wed 6th May	19:00	Trivia Quiz @ The Isca Centre, Summer Lane	UERSA
Sat 9th May	10.00 – 12.30	University Grounds - meet car park A	Nature Walks Group
Tue 12th May	12:00 for 12.30	The Heart of Oak, Pinhoe	Restaurant Group
Thu 14th May	10.30 - 12.00	Sports Hall	Table Tennis Group
Fri 15th May	14:00 at Sutton Mead entrance	Moretonhampstead Gardens TQ13 8PW Sutton Mead & Mardon gardens	Gardens Group
Tue 19th May	Meet Okehampton Station at 10:30	East Okement Valley	Walking Group
Tue 26th May	10:00 to 12:00	Imperial	UERSA coffee
Thu 28th May	10.30 - 12.00	Sports Hall	Table Tennis Group
Thu 28th May	CANCELLED	Cornwall House Music Practice Rm 7	Bridge Group
Tue 2nd Jun	<12:00 for 12:15	Red Lion, Broadclyst	Restaurant Group
Wed 3rd Jun	Meet Fingle Bridge Inn at 10.30	Fingle Bridge	Walking Group
Thu 4th Jun	19:00	Sparkling wines at The Hermitage	Wine Group
Wed 10th Jun	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Thu 11th Jun	10.30 - 12.00	Sports Hall	Table Tennis Group
Wed 17th Jun	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Wed/Thu 17th/18th Jun	2 days	Salcombe	Walking Group
Wed 24th Jun	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Thu 25th Jun	08.00 – 20.00 by coach if poss	Longstock Water Gardens and Mottisfont SO51 0LP	Gardens Group
Thu 25th Jun	CANCELLED	Cornwall House Music Practice Rm 7	Bridge Group
Tue 30th Jun	10:00 to 12:00	Imperial	UERSA coffee
Wed 1st Jul	11.00 – 12.00	(If enough players) Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Wed 8th Jul	11.00 – 12.00	(If enough players) Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Wed 8th Jul	15:00	Annual Garden Party at Reed Hall	UERSA
Wed 15th Jul	11.00 – 12.00	(If enough players) Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Sun 19th Jul	t.b.a	Farr's	Gardens Group
Wed 22,29 Jul	11.00 – 12.00	(If enough players) Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Aug 5,12,19,26	11.00 – 12.00	(If enough players) Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Tue 29th Sep	19:00	Cotes du Rhone @ (21 The Mint)	Wine Group
Fri 9th Oct	t.b.a.	Annual General Meeting	UERSA
Thu 19th Nov	19:00	Reisling and Pinot Noir @ (21 The Mint)	Wine Group

FORTHCOMING GENERAL EVENTS (UERSA)

Coffee Mornings - Imperial Hotel, New North Road, Exeter

UERSA Coffee Mornings (from 10 a.m. until 12 noon) are held in the Nutters Bar area (!) at the **Imperial Hotel, New North Road (Exeter)** on the last Tuesday of each month (apart from July and August). We still

attract 30-35 Members on average, and the area we book is always full of chatter! Members who come along to join us know where to find us!

A reminder about parking charges:- If you pay for parking and show your 'parking receipt' this amount will be refunded at the bar on your purchase of coffees, etc.

Dates for Meetings this summer will be

May 26th, June 30th (Resume in September, when I'm sure Jan will send out a reminder ... Ed)

From Jan Reynolds at janandmikereynolds@gmail.com: Tel 01392 271204

UERSA Trivia Fun Quiz Wednesday 6th May 2015 at 7 p.m

As explained earlier, this will already have taken place before you receive the Newsletter.

UERSA Annual Garden Party at Reed Hall, Wed 8th July at 15:00

I'm sure that you all know that the Cricket Pavilion is sadly no more, having been flattened last month, so David Batty investigated the possibility of using Reed Hall as the venue for the summer garden party, and he and Jan Reynolds had a meeting with a member of staff there to discuss the proposal. After a bit of negotiation, a package was agreed, to include 'delicate finger sandwiches' and Devon cream tea scones plus teas and coffee. Provision of Pimms is still under discussion. Full details will be circulated to all UERSA Members very soon.

UERSA Annual General Meeting, Fri 9th Oct – early warning

***** Please put this date in your diary ! *****

(Details to be arranged.)

Suggestions for future events

As far as I know, no other UERSA events have been arranged for the summer. If there is anything in the offing, details will be sent around when they are available.

If **you** have any suggestions for future UERSA events we would love to hear them. If there is just a little hint of an idea in your mind, please work on it and send it to us, or bring it to the AGM.

I did not get any feedback about the suggestions in the last Newsletter but if any of them appeal, let us know.

Please send comments and suggestions to me, Rachel Kirby (*contact details on the Committee Page*) and I will pass them on to the Committee. If you can offer help with organisation of any trips, we'd be very grateful.

Here's a reminder of the suggestions:-

- Ask Bruce! He has organised several very successful trips in the last few years, and may be susceptible to having his arm twisted again. (Exmouth/Brixham Cruise , 2014. Visit to Stratford)
- A repeat of the successful trip (2010) Along the Tamar, including a Visit to Cotehele by Mary Ravenhill and Nancy Scattergood .
- Trip to Swindon ?- visit to Greenway (Agatha Christie's former Home)? - Wells? Salisbury ? Bristol?

FORTHCOMING GROUP EVENTS

Badminton: (Jan Reynolds)

The Badminton Group regularly meets on Wednesday mornings between 11 a.m. and 12 noon for a game of badminton at the Main Campus Sports Hall with time for a coffee and a chat afterwards

No Badminton from the end April – June 10th due to University Exams taking place in the Sports Hall.

1. **10th June until the end of August..** Badminton resumes (subject to having enough players throughout)

Dates (all Wednesdays) are:

Jun 10th, 17th, 24th, July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th August 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th.

We will, of course, book a court from September onwards!

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, a few more members would be most welcome to join our friendly group!

For further details, please contact:

Jan Reynolds at janandmikereynolds@gmail.com: Tel 01392 271204

Bridge: (Paul Ellison)

Due to a drop in numbers, the last three dates of this season have been cancelled. During the summer, I will distribute an email giving suggested dates for the 2015/16 academic year when I would hope that we could get a quorum. Between now and the late summer, I would be most happy to receive comments about how I could

change the arrangements to get more regulars.
Hope to see a few more bridge players next year
Paul Ellison (e-mail: P.A.Ellison@exeter.ac.uk)

Gardens: (Anne Mayes)

Friday 15th May - Moretonhampstead Gardens TQ13 8PW OS

There are two gardens, Sutton Mead and Mardon. Meet at 14.00 hrs at the entrance to Sutton Mead. Sutton Mead [OS191 751868] ½ mile N of village on A382, R at de-restriction sign. Mardon [OS191 757863]. From centre of village, head towards church, turn L into Lime St. Bottom of hill on R.

Parking at both, "scrummy teas at both gardens". Admission £5 for the two.

Thursday 25th June - Longstock Water Gardens, SO20 6EH [OS185 370384] plus Mottisfont House and Garden, SO51 0LP [OS185 326271]

This will be by coach, leaving Belgrave Road (unless the Squash Club is still possible) at 08.00hrs. We should be back by 19.30hrs. Coach will be £16.60; Longstock £8, group rate at Mottisfont, £9., NT members free. Please send a cheque, made payable to **University of Exeter** for £24.60 or £33.60 if not a member. Please check with me first for availability, I will then tell you where to send the cheque.

Advance dates:

July - Sunday 19th July to Fars.

August - Highcroft

Sept - Hauser and Wirth and Midney Nursery and Gardens

Anne Mayes (e-mail: a.c.mayes@Exeter.ac.uk)

Guided Nature Walks (Judy Mead)

Saturday 9th May at 10am-12.30pm. Meet in Car Park A (behind the Innovation Centre)

Our Spring nature walk will be held on May 9th starting in the University grounds and visiting the adjacent Duryard Nature Reserve. We will be looking at moths from overnight trapping and hopefully some of the emerging species of spring butterflies. A further walk is planned for the Autumn where we will be concentrating on fungi. Our walks are led by local naturalist Nigel Pinhorn who is a knowledgeable and informative leader.

If anyone would like to join the mailing list for this group, please contact Judy Mead

Judy Mead judymead@hotmail.co.uk 01392 425571

Music / Opera: (Alastair Logan)

No visits are planned for the summer, as usual.

N.B. The group is looking for a new leader (or 2 – it is easier with 2 people sharing the load) to take over from Alastair. Please don't be shy of putting your name forward, or finding someone to share it with. The Committee and Alastair are looking forward to receiving offers or suggestions.

You can contact Alastair at Telephone 01392 434715 a.h.b.logan@ex.ac.uk or email me (r.m.kirby@ex.ac.uk) or David Batty D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk (who has also put in a plea in his Chairman's message)

Restaurants (Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith)

For queries about these 2 events please contact the organisers of the event (not Frankie or Liz)

Tuesday 12th May, The Heart of Oak in Pinhoe 12 noon for 12.30, organised by David Batty.

An opportunity to experience one of Puffing Billy Head Chef Rob Dawe's dining occasions at an exclusive lunch-time event for the UERSA restaurant group. The cost will be £25 a head for a wonderful seasonal 4 course lunch, to include canapés on arrival, with coffee and petit fours to finish. Drinks will be available for purchase at the pub. Please note that Rob's pop-up menus offer no choice but he is happy to cater for any particular dietary requirements if you let David know when booking. Payment will need to be made on the day direct to Rob (cash or cheque).

Places are limited to 40. If you would like to attend, please send your name(s) no later than 1st May to David Batty who is co-ordinating the event. E-mail David on: D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk

Tuesday 2nd June, The Red Lion in Broadclyst, 12:00 for 12:15 seating and 12.30 start. - Sue Odell

A special menu has been agreed and the price (payable on the day) will be £16.50 for two courses (including main course) and £21.50 for three courses, with tea or coffee £2.00. Gratuities at your discretion. Other drinks will be extra. Contact me if you require a copy of the menu.

To join the lunch, please email me by **Saturday 26th May** at the latest, with your menu choices at the same time. I will then collate the orders and convey them to The Red Lion.

If there are any queries, please email me and I will attempt to answer them.

E-mail Sue on: seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk

Liz Smith (tel: 01363 84667, e-mail: lizsmith15@icloud.com)

Frankie Peroni (tel: 01363 773946)

Table Tennis (Ruth Preist)

Hope you have all had a good Easter and are ready for more battles and laughter!

We meet on Thursdays, 10.30 – 12.00, Sports Park, Studio 3. -- All equipment supplied.

Summer 2015 Table Tennis Dates May 14, May 28, June 11

Please pay as usual when you come. The charge for 5 sessions is £10. Individual sessions are £2.50

Also please check the UERSA web site picture archive lovingly tended by Roger

There are no meetings in July and August – (holidays of course and the sports hall is fully occupied with other activities.) They will recommence fortnightly in September at a date not yet arranged. Dates will appear on the calendar when they have been booked.

Ruth (preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)

Theatre and Shows: (Sue Cousins)

No events are currently planned.

Sue Cousins. E-mail: scousins@talktalk.net. Tel: 01392 432309

Walking (Trevor Preist)

10.30am Tues, 19th May Valley of East Okement 6.5 miles PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED led by David H

Start point: Okehampton Station GR 591944. Turn left at the traffic lights (in Fore Street, Okehampton) into George Street. At the first junction take the middle of three roads (Station Road). At the next junction (fork) take the left which is the continuation of Station Road. There is a car park at the station.

From the Station we proceed beneath Ball Hill to the Fatherford Viaduct and then follow a path alongside the East Okement (a bit rough in places due to erosion). We cross at a footbridge and make our way to Belstone diverting to some points of interest on the way. We return on minor roads and field paths to the Fatherford Viaduct and then back to the Station on a former tramway.

10.30am Wed, 3rd June Fingle Bridge 9 miles PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED led by Pete

Meet at the Fingle Bridge Inn (GR743899); parking is available on the side of the road before the Inn (but not outside) or over the bridge to the public car park.

The route will go along the river to Clifford Bridge then on to Woolbrook, Coombe Hall and Drewsteignton, downhill to the Inn for a drink. There are some ascents and a packed lunch is essential.

Wed/Thurs, 17/18 June Salcombe 9 or 10 miles per day.

The walks will take place in the Salcombe area on Wed 17 June & Thurs 18 June.

On one day we will make a circular walk from Salcombe as far as Prawle Point & back; on the other day we will walk the SW Coast Path from Thurlestone Sands back into Salcombe.

Each walk will be about 9/10 miles with a start between 11.00 & 11.30. On each day there will be about 1500 feet of descent and ascent.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE CONSIDERING PARTICIPATING AND WISH TO BE KEPT INFORMED.

Note - B&B accommodation in Salcombe is limited and hotels are expensive. Consequently it is advisable to book as soon as you are certain you wish to participate.

Trevor Preist (e-mail : preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)

Wine Tasting (John Carroll)

Wine Group events now lined up for the rest of 2015

Thu 04-June Sparkling Wines (The Hermitage) Pauline & Laurie Burbridge

Tue 29-Sep Cotes du Rhone (21 The Mint) Roger Camble

Thu 19-Nov Riesling and Pinot Noir (21 The Mint) Alan Leadbetter

Group members are notified by John before each meeting with details of venue and cost. Please make sure you join the group if you want to receive this information.

John Carroll (e-mail: carroll595@btinternet.com) (01392) 876048

N.B. IMPORTANT FOR ALL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Full details of the activities and, importantly, updates or changes can be seen on the UERSA website

<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>. For those who do not use the internet, organisers can be contacted

either by mail or telephone - listed in this Newsletter - and I recommend that you join any group in which you are interested, so that you will get any postings and updates from that group.

UNIVERSITY SNIPPETS

Selected by Rachel

Chancellor Baroness Floella Benjamin steps down after ten fantastic years 2 March 2015

Sadly, Winter Graduation 2016 in the University's Diamond Jubilee year, will be the last to be presided over by Baroness Benjamin OBE DL .

Baroness Benjamin said: "One of my main and most enjoyable duties as Chancellor has been attending graduation and being able to personally greet each and every student. During the last nine years, this has been exceptionally important to me and it has been a pleasure and a privilege to meet so many wonderful young people (*more than 35,000*) and do my best to inspire them. "

Many parents have been moved to comment afterwards. One such comment said "We wish to thank you in particular for your wonderful speech and your loving and sincere words to all the graduates. Your open welcoming arms to each and every one of the graduates from beginning to end showed them, and us, how much you cared." This personal touch has ensured her a special place in the hearts and memories of thousands of Exeter alumni.

Exeter Voted Top University For International Student Experience

The U of E has won a prestigious award for providing the best international student experience of any UK university. The institution secured the International Student Choice Category at the [Whatuni](#) Student Choice awards, held last Thursday. More than 20,000 students cast their votes, with Exeter beating competition from Oxford, Cambridge, and St Andrews to take the coveted award. To find out more, click [here](#).

Timetable changes - 3 extra 1-hour slots made available by making the standard teaching day from 0830 – 1730 and allowing 1730-1830 slots on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. All teaching begins on the half hour.

Members of the Commercial Operations team within Campus Services recently used their community volunteer days to undertake valuable work and improvements to the Crediton Girl Guide hut. The enthusiastic team carried out tasks including clearing debris, cutting back trees, repainting the hut and generally tidying the area.

Living Systems Institute (LSI) Takes Shape

The LSI building is fast rising from the ground and is on track for completion on time and on budget by the end of March 2016, with fit out and commissioning taking place over summer 2016 and an official opening planned for autumn 2016.

Latest Sculpture Reflects Cinema History Streatham Campus' newest sculpture, entitled *Reflected Vision*, has now been installed outside the [Bill Douglas Cinema Museum](#). The artwork, created by Scottish artist Kenny Munro, was inspired by items from the museum, in particular the pre-cinema objects and optical entertainments that create different ways of seeing. To find out more, [please click here](#).

Tickbox History student Matthew Morley is hoping that his online election platform, [Tickbox](#), will help voters to assess all the candidates for the upcoming General Election. Tickbox works by asking users a few questions, and then matching their answers to the political parties, and features the manifestos of all major and independent political parties from every constituency, allowing users to compare party policies

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