



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)**

**NEWSLETTER Issue 38
January 2017**

UERSA website <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>

Change of Editor

As members will know, Rachel Kirby has decided to relinquish the editorship of our Newsletter after six years, and we thank her very much for all her work on it. For one year only, I have offered to take her place, while we find another willing volunteer to carry it on. Because of my lack of technical expertise, I have simplified the format and hope members will bear with me! Julie Orr, our Secretary, has kindly agreed to deal with the distribution, taking over from Jan Reynolds – thank you to both, and also to Linda Hale for her continuing help. *Sue Odell*

Chair's New Year Message

Dear Friends

I've just returned from a very convivial time at UERSA's annual Christmas lunch, held as usual at the Devon Hotel. There was much banter and good humour amongst the 60 of us who sat down for our meal and it's good to know that many of us so enjoy renewing regular contact with former colleagues from all areas of the University – it's very much what UERSA is all about. For those with next year's diaries to hand, you may like to know that Sue Cousins, our Social Secretary, has already booked the date for the 2017 Christmas lunch at the same venue: Thursday 14 December.

With the New Year fast approaching, there was some discussion at the recent UERSA Executive Committee meeting about outings for the general membership to supplement those promoted by our Special Interest Groups. One visit I would really like to get off the ground with the University's assistance is a tour of the new Living Systems Institute building on the Streatham Campus. Having visited it recently, I can report that it has all the makings of a very impressive initiative. Hopefully, a UERSA visit can be arranged for February or March. And then as the days grow longer and the weather kinder, we have in mind a vineyard visit, a trip on water and perhaps taking a coach to the Cardiff Royal Mint. Other suggestions from members would be welcome.

Finally, I am grateful to Sue Odell for taking on the role of Newsletter Editor for the coming year. Effective communication with members is an important aim of the UERSA Committee and, via the newsletter and our website (managed by Roger Coles), I hope you will feel well informed about what we are up to on your behalf. In the meantime, can I wish you the very best for 2017?

David Batty

GENERAL UERSA EVENTS

Christmas Lunch

As David has mentioned, this was held at the Devon Hotel on 15 December. As usual, a splendid meal was served and a good time was had by all. Our President, John Carroll, gave the traditional speech and proposed a toast to the Association's members.

Coffee Mornings

Jan Reynolds continues to arrange our monthly coffee mornings, held on the last Tuesday of most months at the Imperial, New North Road. They are attended by about 30 people, not necessarily the same ones each time. If you haven't been along, why not give it a try – just follow the noisy chatter on arrival! The next one will take place on Tuesday 31 January, 10-noon.

Forthcoming Events

See David's message for mention of the Committee's plans for general visits/outings in the coming months. Other suggestions always welcome.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

The organisers of these groups are set out below. If there are any groups that you have not yet joined and would like to, you should ask our Membership Secretary, Chris King, to add you to the appropriate list. Her details appear at the end of the list.

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)
Cinema:	Sue Odell (e-mail: seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk)
Gardens:	Anne Mayes (e-mail: a.c.mayes@exeter ac.uk)
Guided Nature Walks	Judy Mead (email: judymead@hotmail.co.uk)
Music / Opera:	<i>Seeking volunteer organiser(s)</i>
Restaurants:	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)

Badminton Group (Jan Reynolds)

The Badminton Group meets on Wednesday mornings at the University's Sports Hall. Sessions run from 11:00 till 12:00, with time for coffee and chat afterwards. Dates to April 2017: January 11,18, 25; February 1, 8, 15, 22; March 1, 8,15, 22, 29; April 5,12,19,26.

Bridge Group (Paul Ellison)

Owing to a drop in numbers attending, there have been no recent meetings, but it is hoped that activities will recommence at some point.

Cinema Group (Sue Odell)

This 'loose' group was set up by Ruth Preist and is focused on the Picturehouse in Exeter. Any member who finds a film of interest simply sends an email to the group address giving name of film, date and time (usually a Silver Screen showing on a Thursday afternoon) and asks others to reply to say if they would also like to go. Small groups have met up for a cup of tea or coffee before or after the film. (Information about films being shown may be found on the Picturehouse website.)

Gardens Group (Anne Mayes)

Visits run from March to September, with the most recent being to Byes Reach in August 2016 and Burrow Farm in September 2016. Illustrated accounts may be found on the UERSA website.

Music/ Opera Group

Is there anyone out there who would be willing to lead this group? Two people maybe? Traditionally, there have been coach excursions to the Theatre Royal Plymouth for the opera and meal beforehand, but it doesn't have to be Plymouth, and it doesn't have to be just opera! Alastair Logan would be happy to provide more information.

Nature Walks (Judy Mead)

The Group holds meetings for outdoor nature study at different venues around the Exeter area, and looks at all aspects of the ecology including birds, plants and insects. No events are currently planned.

Restaurant Group (Frankie Peroni)

This autumn the restaurant group made a very welcome return to The New Inn at Sampford Courtney. This was followed by a fine dining experience at Rob's 'Pop Up Restaurant' held at Hanlons in Half Moon. On both occasions the food was very good and the chatter most enjoyable. Liz Smith has been joint organiser for some years but has stepped down and Frankie would be pleased to know if there is anyone interested in succeeding Liz.

Table Tennis Group (Ruth Preist)

This is a thriving and very happy group which meets fortnightly on a Thursday, from 10.30 to 12 noon. Everyone leaves after a morning of much activity and lots of laughter – it can be

very gentle or very fierce! New members always welcomed. Sessions to June 2017: January 5, 19; February 2, 16; March 2, 16, 30; April 20; May 4, 18; June 1, 15.

Theatre/Shows Group (Sue Cousins)

Attempts to arrange for a group to see *Guys and Dolls* in Plymouth last summer did not succeed, as numbers weren't great enough.

Walking Group (Trevor Preist)

A report and summary of the Autumn walks is available on the UERSA website, with photos and interesting descriptions. If you think you might like to walk with a sociable group of people, have a look at the new programme for Spring 2017 once it is available and choose one or more to join. Trevor has let me have brief details of what is in view for the next three months: Friday 6 January Exeter Riverside Park, 4 miles; Monday 30 January Penstone (nr Coleford), 8 miles; Tuesday 14 February Harpford, 7 miles; Thursday 23 February Newton St Cyres, 5 miles; Monday 6 March Holcombe Rogus, 6 miles; and Friday 31 March Exebridge, Exmoor, 5/6 miles. He adds that the group has just had its 250th walk, the total number of walkers attending exceeds 4,000 and the number of people-miles walked is almost enough to circle the Earth!

Wine Tasting Group (John Carroll)

The final tasting of 2016 was an excellent presentation on South African wines on 17 November, organised by Laurie Burbridge. The next event will be a return visit from Lauren Hodgkins from Regency Wines, early in the New Year.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

The ***Diamond Jubilee celebrations*** were rounded off with a Diamond Jubilee Finale Concert, jointly organised by the University and the BSO, on 25 November 2016.

A new fundraising campaign, ***Making the Exceptional Happen***, was launched by the University on 15 December. It aims to raise £60m in philanthropic income and secure 60,000 volunteer hours from 6,000 volunteers by 2020.

An *a capella* group of singers called Semi-Toned, whose members are students at the University, won ***The Choir: Gareth's Best in Britain*** competition on BBC 2, the final being broadcast on 6 December.

NOTICES

Exeter University Club (EUC) activities are open to alumni, their immediate families, as well as retired members of staff of the University of Exeter. The Exeter Branch of EUC meets in various locations throughout the year. Details of activities may be found on the EUC website at <http://www.exeterconvocation.org/exeter/> or by enquiry to the address below. Members of UERSA would be most welcome at our events. Mike Aspray, EUC Exeter Branch member: mikeaspray@hotmail.co.uk

Psychology Research Project – Maximising Your Memory. Third-year Psychology students in the Centre for Research in Ageing and Cognitive Health (REACH) are looking for participants over the age of 60 to help with their project on memory. Participants would be asked to visit the University to participate in a study which would last approximately 90 minutes and consist of brain-training-type games and questionnaire completion. Further information from Dr Julia Teale, telephone 01392 722907, email J.Teale@ex.ac.uk. The Centre's website may be found at: www.exeter.ac.uk/psychology/reach.

Deaths: Jim Penman, former member of what is now the Centre for Energy and the Environment, in September 2016; Lilian Muriel Davies, aged 93, on 27 September 2016, widow of Professor D R Davies, Applied Mathematics; Helen Pope, widow of Geoffrey Pope, former Chair of the University's Council, on Christmas Eve 2016 (funeral details not available at the time of writing); Professor Tom Daveney, Emeritus Professor of Extra-Mural Studies, on Christmas Day 2016, aged 94.

Contact details for Members of the Executive Committee of UERSA, 2016-17

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