



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)**

**NEWSLETTER Issue 40
September 2017**

UERSA website: <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html> (Web Editor: Roger Coles)

Newsletter Editor: Sue Odell

Chair's Message

Dear Friends

One of my missions over the past year as UERSA Chair has been to seek closer links with the University. Three of us from the UERSA Executive Committee were invited recently to a focus group meeting organised by the University, but led by an independent facilitator, to develop a better understanding of how it engages with alumni and former staff. What became clear from the discussion was that communication with both groups could be enhanced – indeed, I think it was accepted that the University maintains no formal communication at all with its former employees! There was some emphasis at the meeting on the mechanics of fundraising (especially around the University's current *Making the exceptional happen* campaign), but we suggested that the assistance of UERSA members might be better sought in terms of time and experience rather than just cash. It will be interesting to see the headlines emerging from the facilitator's report.

However, as an organisation we have been making some welcome progress in working more closely with the University, in particular in collaborating over the organisation of campus visits for UERSA. Following the success of the Living Systems Institute visit earlier in the year, and despite some threatening weather, 26 members recently joined a couple of very enjoyable afternoon tours arranged with the University of sculptures on the Streatham Estate, some outside, some inside. You can see photos on the UERSA website. The tours were led by Naome Glanville, the University's Arts and Culture Co-ordinator, who was very happy to receive information on the spot about the history of some of the longer-standing exhibits which had been lost somewhat in the mists of time, an example of where UERSA memories can be helpful! I'm hopeful that you can look forward to other campus events over the coming year.

Other recent events for the general membership were a river trip on the Dart and the traditional summer party. The former, organised so efficiently by Chris Austin, saw good weather, splendid scenery and was much appreciated by all those who participated. Although attendance at the summer party, again held at Exeter Cricket Club's new pavilion, was lower than last year, there was a unanimous view that the catering was much improved. Conversation was both cheery and noisy, as you might expect when former colleagues get together. One innovation was a retiring collection, in this instance for Hospiscare, which raised £103.20. Our next general social events will be the annual quiz, to be held on 18 October (details attached), and the Christmas lunch, this year scheduled for 14 December at the usual venue of the Devon Hotel (details to be circulated in due course).

Finally, can I urge you to attend the AGM on Thursday 28 September (for which papers are attached)? As well as a chance for a little early-evening socialising, it's the principal opportunity for you to have your say on UERSA and its activities; or even put your name forward for membership of the Executive Committee! I look forward to seeing a good crowd of you there.

David Batty

GENERAL UERSA EVENTS

Recent Events

River Cruise on the Dart

New Committee member Chris Austin organised a delightful return cruise from Totnes to Dartmouth on 13 June, attended by about 30 members. The weather was kind to us, and there was ample time on arrival in Dartmouth to find somewhere for lunch and a short walk round the town before boarding a smaller boat for the return cruise, which was extremely relaxing.

Summer Party

This took place on 29 June at the Cricket Club and was attended by about 60 people. The catering was excellent and a good time was had by all. Thank you to David Batty and Sue Cousins for the organisation.

Sculpture Walk on Streatham Campus

David liaised with the University's Global Engagement and Development team to arrange two afternoon tours on 2 August, led by Naome Glanville, the Arts and Culture Co-ordinator.

Forthcoming Events

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 30 people on average, 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 26 September, 10-12 noon.

Quiz

Another event being organised by Jan will be the UERSA Quiz, this year taking place on Wednesday 18 October at 7 pm at the Isca Centre, Summer Lane, Exeter. ***Please see form attached to this newsletter.***

AGM

This year's Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 28 September at 6.30 pm in the Henderson Room, Xfi, on the Streatham Campus, followed by drinks and nibbles in the café area in the same building. ***The agenda and papers (including a proposed amendment to***

the Constitution) are attached to this newsletter. Please note that your UERSA membership renewal for 2017/18 is now due (by 1 December latest) and the fee will remain at £6. ***Please see the attached form for details of how to renew your subscription, which may be paid by cheque or electronically.*** We do ask that members follow the instructions carefully to ensure electronic payments are matched up with individual member records. If you have any questions relating to the renewal process please email Chris King at chrisandmikeking@gmail.com. (Note: Chris is standing down as Membership Secretary but has kindly agreed to prepare the renewal documentation containing her name and details pending the announcement of the name of her successor.)

Christmas Lunch

The date of the Christmas Lunch 2017 is Thursday 14 December, 12 for 12.30 pm, at the Devon Hotel. Further details will be circulated in due course by Sue Cousins.

Other events are in preparation and we shall keep you informed.

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, or her successor, to add you to the appropriate list. Chris's 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. No sessions are currently booked.

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 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.) The group has been less active during the summer, but it is hoped that viewings will resume soon.

Gardens Group (Anne Mayes)

Visits run from March to September. Since the last newsletter, Anne has arranged visits to: South Wood Farm, Cotleigh; Hawkern, Otterton; Streatham House, Exeter (by kind invitation of members Helen and Roger); and Tiverton Castle. Still to come is Castle Drogo (National Trust) on Wednesday 20 September at 11.30 am. In all cases, Anne likes to know if you are planning to attend.

Music/Opera Group

We are still looking for one or, preferably, two members to look after this group. 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)

Over the summer, the restaurant group made welcome return visits to Rodean in Kenton and the Three Bells at Clyst Hydon. In October, a lunch has been organised at the Ring of Bells in Cheriton Fitzpaine. This is a new venue for the group, with a menu that includes smaller portions for those with smaller appetites.

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, Sports Park, Studio 3. All equipment supplied. 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 December 2017: 14 and 28 September, 12 and 26 October, 9 and 23 November, 7 and 21 December.

Theatre/Shows Group (Sue Cousins)

Nothing currently planned.

Walking Group (Trevor Preist)

This Group celebrated its 12th anniversary in February. A report and summary of past walks is available on the UERSA website. Walks that have taken place since the last newsletter are as follows: 24 May – Fingle Bridge; 12 June – Somerset Space Walk; 30 June – Newcourt Circular; 4 July – Crediton; 14 July – Dunsford; 25 July – Kennick Reservoir to Steps Bridge; 16 August – Bickleigh to Butterleigh; 4 Sept – Part of Green Circle. Still to come is a walk from Bennett's Cross, Dartmoor, on Thursday 21 September. Thanks to all the leaders involved.

Wine Group (John Carroll)

The next event will be held at 21 The Mint on Tuesday 10 October – Bordeaux: Appellations and Classifications by Roger Campbell. Booking for these events is necessary.

There are delightful descriptions and photos of many of our general and group events on the UERSA website.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Gold Standard in TEF Award

The University has been awarded the Teaching Excellence Framework gold rating. Rankings are made based on factors including graduate employability, teaching and education, and student satisfactions.

Higher Education and Brexit

Vice-Chancellor Sir Steve Smith, Chair of the UUK Policy Group negotiating the shape of relationships with European academic staff after the UK leaves the EU, is reported to have expressed serious concern about the impact of Brexit on our HE institutions and currently cannot see a clear picture of what will emerge. 17% of academic staff in UK universities are from other EU countries and there are more than 125,000 EU students at UK universities. The UK is also a major participant in EU research programmes.

Building Award

The University's Living Systems Institute, visited by some of our members earlier this year, has received awards for Building of the Year and Education Project of the Year, at the 2017 Michelmores Property Awards.

Dementia Research Grant

The Alzheimer's Society has awarded £2m to the University's Centre of Excellence in Dementia Care Research, to improve the quality of life for people with dementia, and care in advanced dementia. The funding will be used for a national collaboration led by Professor Linda Clare at Exeter.

Northcott Theatre

Dame Judi Dench has agreed to be the Theatre's patron for its 50th anniversary year, which will begin with a gala on Sunday 12 November. Lady Studholme, Chair of the Theatre, has expressed pleasure and pride about Dame Judi's involvement.

NOTICES

Deaths

Robert Orr, on 25 May.

Dr Martin Underwood, retired Senior Lecturer, School of Education, on 9 June.

Olive Rosser, on 19 June.

Emeritus Professor Keith Atkinson, former Director of Camborne School of Mines, Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Cornwall Provost, on 2 August.

Gordon Newton, retired Foreman of the University's Glasshouses, on 24 August.

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

PRESIDENT	John Carroll 8 Tophayes, Elm Grove Road, Topsham, EX3 OBW Email: carroll@bcs.org Tel: 01392 876048
PRESIDENT ELECT	Frankie Peroni Franklyn, 4 Belle Parade, Crediton, EX17 2AA Tel: 01363 773946
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT and NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Sue Odell E-mail: seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk
CHAIR	David Batty The Old Coach House, North Street, Topsham, EX3 0AP Tel: 01392 874719 E-mail: D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk
TREASURER	David Smith 25 Matford Avenue, Exeter, EX2 4PL Tel: 01392 275159 E-mail: davidandtina@endfield.org.uk
SECRETARY	Julie Orr 6 Hammond Croft Way, Alphington, Exeter, EX2 8FZ Tel: 07974 665643 E-mail: julie.orr@blueyonder.co.uk
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Chris King 19 Hillcrest Park, Exeter, EX4 4SH Tel: 01392 255533 E-mail: chrisandmikeking@gmail.com
SOCIAL CO-ORDINATOR	Susan Cousins 21 Chantry Meadows, Alphington, Exeter, EX2 8FT Tel: 01392 432309 E-mail: scousins@talktalk.net
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Chris Austin 2 Otter Court, Ingsdon, Newton Abbot, TQ12 6NW Tel: 01626 821453 E-mail: chrisaustin@btinternet.com
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Ann Corbin 6 Mansell Copse Walk, Exeter, EX2 5GU Tel: 01392 966749 E-mail: CorbinPFCORBINA@aol.com
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Robin Turner Farfield, Church Stile, Exminster EX6 8DF Tel: 01392 832301 E-mail: robinturner_1930@hotmail.com
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Linda Hale 39 Howard Close, Exeter, EX4 2LX Tel: 01392 210498 E-mail: linda39howard@blueyonder.co.uk
COMMITTEE MEMBER and WEB EDITOR	Roger Coles 38 Higher Kings Avenue, Exeter, EX4 6JP Tel: 01392 270151 E-mail: roger.coles4@btinternet.com



RETIREE STAFF ASSOCIATION (UERSA)

Subscription Fee for 2017/18

Your UERSA membership renewal for 2017/18 is now due (by 1 December latest) and the fee will remain at £6. Note: For members who have only recently joined we do not expect you to pay again until next year.

If you choose to pay by cheque please make it payable to 'University of Exeter' and send it to Chris King at 19 Hillcrest Park, Exeter EX4 4SH with the bottom of this page completed.

However, if you prefer, you can pay your UERSA membership electronically. Note: If you pay electronically there is no requirement to complete the slip at the bottom of this form.

Account name: University of Exeter
Account Number: 00724890
Sort Code: 60-08-06
Reference / Description / Narrative: UERSAX10_??????????

In order for us to match up your payment to your name the NINE characters ?????????? should be used to enter your initial followed by your surname.

For example, Christine King becomes UERSAX10_CKING. If your surname is more than eight characters long please omit any vowels (and also any letters which would take you beyond the 9 characters total). For example Christopher Saxon-Smythe becomes UERSAX10_CSXNSMYTH or Harry Fotheringham becomes UERSAX10_HFTHRNHG

As you can imagine, with over 300 members the reference element is very important as an identifier for us so please do get in touch with Chris King if you have concerns in this regard.

If any of your details have changed please notify Chris King at chrisandmikeking@gmail.com. In particular it is important to notify Chris King of any changes to your email address so she can ensure you continue to receive UERSA communications.



Please renew my/our subscription to the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association. A cheque made payable to the University of Exeter is enclosed. Do not complete this form if paying electronically.

Name(s)

Address.....

Please return this form with your cheque to the UERSA Membership Secretary:

Mrs Chris King
19 Hillcrest Park
Exeter
EX4 4SH

UNIVERSITY OF
EXETER
RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

TRIVIA FUN QUIZ

**Wednesday 18th October 2017
at 7 p.m.**

**The Isca Centre, Summer Lane,
Exeter**

(our usual very pleasant venue, with plenty of parking)

Cost: £5.25 per person

(which includes light refreshments)

i.e.pasties (in halves), variety of sandwiches, selection of crisps and salads

*(drinks -including teas and coffee - can be bought
separately at the bar)*

Please Note: the closing date for receiving applications is Wednesday 4th October 2017.

Please complete the slip below and send it to Jan Reynolds,
77 Rosebarn Lane, Pennsylvania, Exeter, EX4 5DG Tel.No. 01392 271204

I/We would like to come to the Trivia Quiz on Wednesday 18th October 2017

Name(s).....

Address(es).....

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

Number attending.....

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

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



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday, 28th September at 6.30 pm, Henderson Room, Xfi Building, University of Exeter

AGENDA

1. **To note the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting of UERSA held on 14th October 2016**
2. **Chair's Report**
3. **Treasurer's Report (attached)**
4. **To confirm the subscription rate for 2017/18** – it is proposed that the rate should remain the same, ie £6.
5. **Amendments to the Constitution**
To approve the attached amendments to the Constitution as recommended by the UERSA Executive Committee
6. **Election of Officers and Committee for 2017/18**
The following Officers and Members of the UERSA Committee have offered to serve a further year:
Frankie Peroni will become **President** for a year from the AGM 2017
John Carroll will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2017
David Batty (Chair)
David Smith (Treasurer)
Julie Orr (Secretary)
Vacancy (Membership Secretary)
Susan Cousins (Social Co-ordinator)
Vacancy (Newsletter Editor)
Linda Hale (Committee Member)
Roger Coles (Committee Member)
Robin Turner (Committee Member)
Chris Austin (Committee Member)
Vacancy (Committee Member)
(**Sue Odell's** term as **Immediate Past President** will cease at the AGM while **Ann Corbin** and **Chris King** are not seeking re-election to the Committee)
The following nominations have been put forward and agreed, for approval at the Annual General Meeting on 28th September 2017:
Alastair Logan be elected as **President-designate** for 2017/18
Sandy Day be elected as **Newsletter Editor**
7. **Special Interest Groups**
To receive any reports 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 available for Members

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
Treasurer's Report for 2016/17

The UERSA account is held within the general University financial system, and is audited as part of this system at the close of each financial year on 31st July. I am extremely grateful to Mrs Lynda Swallow of Finance Services for being such a helpful and efficient point of contact with that system.

The position at audit for the immediate past and three preceding years is given below. "Events" are those that have been advertised in newsletters for all members, while "Activities" are those held within special interest groups. It was agreed by the Executive Committee some years ago that the latter should aim to break even but the former could be supported from general funds; events that benefited in this way in 2016/17 were the refreshments after the AGM, the Christmas lunch, and the summer Garden Party. "Administration Costs" cover printing, photocopying, postal charges and general running expenses, while "Disbursements" comprise donations approved by the Committee. These were to Wonford Methodist Church, who had supplied crockery for use at previous Garden Parties, and to Exeter Cricket Club who had made available the pavilion for the Garden Party as well as parking space throughout the year for members attending events. A donation for the summer 2017 garden party will appear in the 2017/18 accounts

	31 07 17	31-07-16	31-07-15	31-07-14
			£	£
Surplus Brought Forward	6421	6,669	6,474	6,519
Subscription Income	1386	1355	1,382	1,308
Administration Costs	-63	-114	-160	-138
Events				
- Income	1772	2126	1,539	2,146
- Expenditure	--3222	-3487	-2,823	-3,143
Activities				
- Income	2002	2026	6,031	6,781
- Expenditure	-1564	-2154	-5,594	-6,820
Disbursements	-60		-180	-180
Surplus Carried Forward	6672	6421	6,669	6,474

Our balance is still very healthy and the Committee has once again proposed to maintain the subscription at £6. Members will note that membership income has remained steady for the last four years

I can supply detailed information about individual transactions on request, and will be very happy to answer any questions at the AGM.

David Smith (Treasurer)

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

The UERSA Executive Committee recommends approval of the following amendments to UERSA's constitution. The intentions are to:

To include the Website Editor as a named member of the Executive Committee (which will increase the size of the Committee by one).

To regularise the election of members to the Committee, including clarifying terms of office.

Replace under section 6 (Executive Committee):

(a) The Business of the Association will be conducted by the Executive Committee consisting of the Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Membership Secretary, the Social Secretary, the Editor of the Newsletter, four General Members, and the President ex-officio.

(b) The above officers will be elected by the Annual General Meeting and will serve for a three-year term which may be extended for a further term of three years. The General Members will be elected annually for one year, renewable for up to four years.

with:

(a) The business of the Association will be conducted by an Executive Committee comprising the Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Membership Secretary, the Social Co-ordinator, the Newsletter Editor, the Website Editor, the President (ex-officio) and four general members.

(b) The members of the Committee will be elected by the Annual General Meeting. Save for the President, they will serve for a three-year term at a time and be eligible for re-election on completion of a term. Members may resign from the Committee at any time on notification to the Secretary.