



## Retired Staff Association (UERSA)



Dear Friends

A little late, I know, but may I offer to all members of UERSA my best wishes for the New Year? I write this shortly after returning from a UERSA Walking Group hike from Exeter Quay down to Powderham under an almost cloudless sky. As well as much needed exercise over the seven miles involved and the enjoyment of terrific river views, there was much sociable banter between the 12 of us on the walk (expertly led by Edward Maunder, by the way), an important element of any UERSA event!

Writing of sociable events reminds me that over 50 of us came together for the annual Christmas lunch in December held, once again, at the Devon Hotel. This was the last such occasion to be organised by Susan Cousins and I must thank her for arranging this lunch over a good number of years. I always look upon this event as a most convivial start to the festive season. A challenge for the UERSA Committee is now to identify someone willing to take Susan's place! Any offers ..... please?

One issue recently discussed by the Committee in response to a member's enquiry were the pros and cons of whether in future we should charge a higher subscription rate for those members with spouses and partners who are also registered as members. After considerable thought, the Committee agreed to keep current arrangements as they are for the moment on the grounds (a) to maintain convenience and simplicity for accounting, and (b) that nearly all the activities which members participate in require each individual to pay for participation, so partners do not benefit monetarily in any way. The only such perks that members enjoy are the summer party, the wine at the Christmas lunch, and the refreshments at the AGM. If any members have further views about this issue, then do please get in touch.

Beyond the regular events of the summer party and Christmas lunch and the activities of our special interest groups, the Committee is still considering what suggestions to put forward (once the weather gets better) for this year's events for the generality of members. I hope that we'll be able to circulate some details in a month or so's time and that there will be events that will attract your attention.

*David Batty*

## GROUP NEWS and FORTHCOMING UERSA EVENTS

UERSA general events are found on the [website](#). If any member would like to advertise their forthcoming event in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the newsletter editor [Sandy Day](#)

A quick reminder of some of the UERSA and [special interest groups](#) booked events for 2019:

### Cinema Group

Members of the cinema group attended seven films at the Exeter Picturehouse in 2018. The latest being *The Favourite*, in which Olivia Coleman won a Golden Globe Award for best actress.

There are several films coming up that may be of interest to group members. Please note members are free to suggest a film, with date and time (usually Silver Screen on a Thursday) and invite others to come along. If you would like to join the cinema group please contact Sue Odell at [seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk)

To join the Exeter Picturehouse Silver Screen Club for discounted tickets (aged 60+) and a free tea or coffee, please contact the cinema direct. You can subscribe to the Picturehouse on the web to have details emailed weekly to notify you of the current films showing (also free).

**Coffee Mornings** are held on the last Tuesday of most months, from 10:00 to 12:00 at The Imperial in New North Road. They are very informal (not to mention noisy on occasion) and an average of around 30 members attend. A reminder about parking charges: If you pay for parking and show the 'parking receipt' this amount will be refunded at the bar on your purchase of coffees etc.

### Table Tennis Group

Thank you to all the very happy players who make this group such a success!

There are always three or four tables in action. The group commenced with two trial sessions in autumn 2013 and began as a definite group in December of that year. I just can't believe how long we have been going!

We have a lovely very enthusiastic group of players (of mixed standard!) and would welcome anyone who would like to try to regain their youthful skills in the game. The feel-good factor at the end of each session is so good – until you try you don't know what you are missing!

We meet fortnightly on Thursday mornings in Studio 3 of the Sports Park. We play from 10.30 – 12.00 and there is a small charge to cover the cost of tables.

It is very much a relaxed group – even to the extent of sitting around and drinking coffee etc in the room which you may purchase or bring if you wish!

The emphasis of this group is on FUN! No doubt you also realise that it is a very healthy activity and good for both body and spirit of mind! If you want to give it a try (free!) do contact me regarding the dates of the coming sessions.

Ruth Preist  
tel: 01392464736  
email: [preist.exeter@gmail.com](mailto:preist.exeter@gmail.com)

### Walking Group

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February  
Snowdrop Valley, Exmoor. 5/6 mile walk with a short walk to view the valley (1 mile each way) followed by lunch in the village.

### Walking Group

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2-5pm

A visit to Bickham House, Kenn. EX6 7XL to see the snowdrops.

## **UERSA Walking Group**

**Do you feel tired and restless?  
Do you feel that life is passing  
you by?**

Why not get some healthy exercise while  
chatting to  
old colleagues and  
new friends.

**Give it a try and JOIN THE UERSA  
WALKING GROUP.**

The group meets twice monthly but not on  
regular or specified days.  
The programme is determined on a three  
monthly basis which is circulated in advance  
and also appears on the UERSA website.

Walks are in the 5 – 7 mile range  
and usually include a picnic lunch  
en route.  
Occasionally we finish at a café  
or hostelry.

**Do join us.**

Trevor Preist preist.exeter@gmail.com

## **Restaurant Group**

Tuesday 26th February

A lunch is being arranged at The Redwing,  
Church Road, Lymptone. Further details will be  
available on the UERSA website.

## **Wine Group**

The wine group meets three to four times a  
year. It is an informal group with an interest  
in wines usually with 20 -28 attendees.

In 2018 we explored, "wines in a bag" and  
wines from Chile and Portugal. "Wines in a  
bag" was fun and showed the wide variety  
and increased quality now available. Lauren,  
from Regency wines, gave us an introduction  
to the history of vines in Chile and followed it  
with a tasting combined with different foods.  
Portuguese wines impressed with the  
different grape varieties and good value for  
money.

2019 sees us trying a new venue, St David's  
Church, opposite Exeter College. This will be  
more accessible with disabled access, kitchen  
and toilet facilities, on street parking,  
proximity to Central and St David's Station  
and several bus routes.

The first tasting of the year will be on  
Languedoc/Rossillon wines on March 19th.

New members are always welcome, email me  
on [dijohnjacob@msn.com](mailto:dijohnjacob@msn.com)

## **Wine Group**

### **Launguedoc -Rousillon wines**

St David's Church (opposite Exeter College)  
Tuesday March 19th  
7.00pm.

Laurie Burbridge is presenting the wine tasting at  
our new venue.



## RECENT UERSA EVENTS

Gardens Group

Plaz Metaxu

27<sup>th</sup> September 2018



Alasdair Forbes, Art Historian, has developed the 32 acre garden since 1992, with the aid of only one gardener. An interest in poetry, mythology, psychology, and both eastern and western philosophical traditions underwrite the garden, and it was a rare treat that we were allowed to visit.



Set in a valley, surrounded by sheep pastures, the garden included a lake, canal, walled garden, two courtyards, orchard, woods, arboretum, extensive lawns and many sheltered walks and enclosures.



Alasdair was a generous host, guiding us around the gardens for 3 hours, followed by a welcoming tea, coffee and plentiful cake selection. Everyone was 'blown away' by his passion and creativity, especially when he mentioned they created the lake in 7 days!





### **UERSA AGM**

**Henderson Room, Xfi Building**

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm

The AGM was well attended by 38 members, followed by wine and nibbles. For those of you, who were unable to attend, please find the AGM minutes [here](#)

### **Wine Group**

25<sup>th</sup> October 2018



Members were treated to a very informed and enjoyable Portuguese wine tasting evening, with 10 varieties of red and whites provided, varying in price from £6.25 to £14.50. John Jacob presented interesting slides to accompany the wines explaining the different regions and grape varieties,. A good time was had by all – especially after 10 wine tastings !



### **Walking Group**

**8<sup>th</sup> October and 6<sup>th</sup> November**

(Images courtesy of David Smith)



Along the River Teign



Woodland stream



Caratacus stone (further information can be found [here](#))



**Garden Group**  
**Lukesland, Ivybridge**  
31<sup>st</sup> October



For the last garden visit of the season nine garden group members visited the 24 acre woodland gardens, with flowering shrubs, trees including cornus, acers, enkianthus and ginkgo and a wealth of wild flowers. Lukesland was selected for the array of autumn colours and although it was raining in the morning the afternoon weather didn't let us down – we even had some sunshine !



**Restaurant Group**  
**Belluno, Newton St Cyres**  
13<sup>th</sup> November



A number of UERSA members treated themselves to an a la carte or set lunch menu at the authentic Italian restaurant. Many thanks to Frankie Peroni for organising

**UERSA Christmas Lunch**  
**Devon Hotel, Regency Room**  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December  
(Images courtesy of David Smith)



The annual Christmas lunch was attended by approx 50 members, who were treated to a welcome drink on arrival and a delicious meal in excellent surroundings. Many thanks go to Sue Cousins for organising this popular event.



## UNIVERSITY OF EXETER NEWS

The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019 has ranked **The University of Exeter** in first place in the South West, overtaking The University of Bath. (The Sunday Times, September 2018)

The BBC and Observer film critic Mark Kermode has been appointed as an Honorary Professor at **The University of Exeter**. (DevonLive, October 2018)

Horses see obstacles differently to humans and cannot distinguish between as many colours as humans. Research at **The University of Exeter** funded by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) and Racing Foundation show that horses adjust their jump angles when orange is not used, with white tending to produce a longer total jump distance. Horse racing authorities have now agree to try fluorescent yellow and white markers to aid visibility. (BBC Sport, October 2018)

Works on a huge 1,182 bedroom student flats development at East Park on the **University of Exeter's** Streatham Campus has been approved by Exeter City Council. Works are due to commence in early 2019 with the new accommodation set to open in two phases from September 2020 and September 2021. (DevonLive, October 2018)

Why older men are healthier than older women. Scientists at the **University of Exeter** have revealed going through the menopause causes women to accumulate genes evolved to benefit males, which are bad for female health. Because men can remain fertile long into old age, their bodies do not suffer the same decline when they pass middle age and they feel better for longer. However, women are still likely to live longer – in the UK their life expectancy is 82.9 years while men's is 79.2. (DailyMail Online, November 2018)

Worms being fired into space on one of billionaire Elon Musk's SpaceX rockets are now thought to be too old for **University of Exeter** research after a launch delay. The University had been relying on the space worms to help boost their understanding of ageing muscle loss and help improve treatments for diabetes. (DevonLive, December 2018)

A fire broke out and students were evacuated from a new student block, The Barn in Cheeke Street, owned by **University of Exeter** and their partners Fresh Student Living. The flats only opened its doors earlier this year and the fire which started on the unoccupied 7<sup>th</sup> floor is being investigated by police as arson. (DevonLive, December 2018)

A team of pioneering researchers including **Professor Tamara Galloway, Professor Brendan Godley and Dr Ceri Lewis**, from the **University of Exeter**, Plymouth University and Plymouth Marine Laboratory won the Societal Impact category and overall prize in the Natural Environment Research Council's (NERC) 2018 Impact Awards. The accolades recognise their efforts to bring the causes and effects of plastic pollution, and in particular microplastics, to the attention of policy makers, industry and the general public globally. (NERC, December 2018)

Following a major review into racism by the **University of Exeter**, the Bracton Law Society, which was founded in 1965, and one of the largest student societies on campus has been disbanded. It is to be replaced with by a "new, distinct law society", the university said. (BBC, December 2018)

The severely obese need a far higher dose of radiation during X-rays than people of normal weight. Researchers from the **University of Exeter** concluded that the overall risk of cancer caused by the extra radiation was two and a half times that of an average weight person. (The Independent, December 2018)

Third year Drama student Laura Jackson, 21, of the **University of Exeter** has founded a month-long campaign encouraging women to grow out their body hair. Januhairy wants ladies to "love and accept" their natural hair while raising money for charity. Ms Jackson hopes to raise £1,000 for charity Body Gossip's education programme, which teaches young people about body image. (BBC, January 2019)

Anne van Geysel, former Vice-Chancellor's Secretary, who died in 2017, has left a legacy of £1,000 to the **University of Exeter** to support the maintenance of the grounds and as a result 25 new trees have been planted at Birks Grange.

## JUST FOR FUN Where am I in Devon ?

1.



2.



3.



## NOT EVERYONE WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU

It has recently been brought to our attention that some committee members/UERSA members have inadvertently 'replied all' on group emails rather than responded to the individual concern. Please take a few moments to check the Bcc and Cc boxes before you press 'send', to ensure we don't spam the entire membership with unnecessary emails.

UERSA Committee Members

## REMINDER

UERSA committee members list can be found [here](#)

## NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES

End of May  
End of September  
End of January

## NOTICES

### Deaths:

Dr Jack Priestley, has recently passed away. Dr Priestley wrote the history of St Luke's College in 1978 (the year it was merged with the University) and left in 1991 to become Principal of Westhill College. Subsequently, he returned to the School of Education in an honorary position.

Dr Priestley's life was commemorated at a service of thanksgiving at The Mint Methodist Church on the 19<sup>th</sup> December.

Myrddin Jones, former senior lecturer in English at the University, died on 11 December.

Hilary Tolley, of History & Archaeology from late 1970's to late 1990's. Passed away on 8<sup>th</sup> January, after a long struggle with Alzheimer's.



## KELLY MINE

Kelly Mine is a Devon iron mine situated on Dartmoor near Lustleigh. It has been restored and is maintained by the Kelly Mine Society.

There are indications that there has been mining at Kelly since the late 1700's, but Kelly closed in 1951. It is fortunate that at closure, Kelly was left essentially as it had been when the last miners departed and it retains much of its original equipment. For further information about the mine, its history and equipment please see the website link below.

Kelly is open to visitors most Wednesdays and Sundays, and a self guided walking route is indicated on the map provided at entry, although a KMS volunteer may also be available to guide you. Please note there is no visitor access down the mine. If you would like to visit (admission is free but donations are welcome) please check opening hours and parking on the [Kelly Mine website](#).

## TORQUAY MUSEUM SOCIETY LECTURES

The annual lecture programme may be of some interest to UERSA members. The most recent Spring (Feb-April) lecture programme is published on the Museum Society [website](#) and you may find some of the planned lectures stimulating.

Lectures are on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and are open to Society members, and for a £5 fee, to members of the public. The lectures cover an array of topics and interests, but UERSA members may be interested that a **University of Exeter** PhD student, **Lowell Mills**, is presenting The Cuckoo Project on Tuesday February 12<sup>th</sup> and **Dr Peter Riley**, **Lecturer of American Studies** at Exeter is presenting The Embodiment of Walt Whitman on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March.

## THE EXETER FORUM

The Exeter Forum is a friendly social group for retired people, which has been presenting interesting and entertaining talks by local figures, experts and enthusiasts for nearly 50 years.

If you cast your mind back to May 2018, Issue 42 of the Newsletter, Martin Sorrell gave a talk on his memoir entitled 'Paulette: French by birth, English by chance', so if you missed it, there is another opportunity on March 6<sup>th</sup> at The Mint.

For further information on Martin's talk and other forthcoming lectures and social events, please see the entry at the foot of the newsletter or visit [The Exeter Forum website](#)

## DEVON AND EXETER INSTITUTION LUNCHTIME LECTURES

The Library, by gift and purchase, has reached a size of some 40,000 volumes. These include long runs of nineteenth century journals, many early scientific books, the works of local authors, maps and a great deal of printed historical source material.

The DEI 2019 programme of lunchtime lectures have been publicised, are free and open to all. Doors open 1pm for 1.10pm and lectures are approximately 45 minutes finishing by 2pm.

A list of forthcoming lectures until July 2019 can be found on the [DEI website](#).

### Answers to Where am I?

1. Royal Terrace Gardens, Torquay Seafront
2. Devonport Leat, Dartmoor
3. Devon County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter

## SOME 2019 LOCAL EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

### February

Feb 1- March 9	Khnum : Michael Storrs White Moose Art Gallery, Barnstaple <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
Feb 6	Mario Bakuna and Edmundo Carneiro Churston Golf Club, Brixham <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
Feb 6	Henning Wehn Exeter Corn Exchange <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
Feb 8	RAMM Lates (6.30pm-10pm) Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
Feb 10	Miranda Sykes 'Behind The Wall' Tour Kingskerswell <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
Feb 12 and 13	Rambert 2 Northcott Theatre <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
Feb 22 and 23	The Marriage of Figaro University of Exeter Opera Society St David's Church, EX4 4HR <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>

### March

March 1	Others From The Other Side Cygnet Theatre, Friars Gate, Exeter <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
March 5 - 9	Rita, Sue and Bob Too Northcott Theatre <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
March 6	Three Men in a Boat Cygnet Theatre, Friars Gate, Exeter <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
March 16 -17	Canonteign Falls Open Weekend Christow EX6 7RH Half price for locals with proof of postcode EX, TQ and PL <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>

### April

April 10	An Audience with Paul Martin Northcott Theatre <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
April 12 -13	Dartmoor Spring Foraging Courses inc 2.5 hr walk The Cleave, Lustleigh <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
April 14	Duruflé Requiem/ Jenkins Requiem Dartington Great Hall <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
April 24 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Brixham Fish Market Tours The Quay, Brixham <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>

### May

May 3-4	Toby Buckland's Garden Festival Powderham Castle <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
May 4-6	Exeter Festival of South West Food and Drink 2019 Northernhay Gardens, Exeter <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
May 6-11	The Mousetrap Northcott Theatre <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
May 10-12	Dart Music Festival Dartmouth <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
May 16-18	Devon County Show Exeter <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
May 21 and 24	Macbeth Northcott Theatre <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>

### June

June 1-2	Torbay Air Show <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
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### July

July 1	Sir Ian McKellen 80th Birthday Solo Tour Northcott Theatre <i>For further details please click <a href="#">here</a></i>
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For further updated information please visit the UERSA [website](http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html) :  
<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html> (Web Editor: Roger Coles)



#### INVITATION TO THE EXETER FORUM

The Exeter Forum is a friendly social group for retired people which has been presenting interesting and entertaining talks by leading local figures, experts and enthusiasts almost every week for nearly 50 years. We also have walks, visits and book and music groups. Our membership has always included a number of retired university staff and you should find some familiar faces.

We would very much like to invite you and any retired friends to meet us and come to any of our talks you may be interested in. They are at the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter on Wednesday mornings with tea/coffee from 10.00 and the talks are from 10.45 to 12.00.

The programme for February to April 2019 is:

Feb 6th Nick Earle, IKEA Exeter Store Manager *IKEA comes to Exeter*;  
Feb 13th Donna Kehoe, Agent, Bank of England *A View of the Economy*;  
Feb 20th Emma Laws *Winnie the Pooh: Exploring a Classic*;  
Feb 27th Professor Christopher Southgate *Rethinking the Relationship between Science and Religion*;  
Mar 6th Professor Martin Sorrell *Writing a Memoir: "Paulette, French by Birth; English by Chance;"*  
Mar 13th Dr Julia Neville *The Learned and Literary Ladies of Exeter's Suffrage Movement*;  
Mar 20th Cathie Hartigan *Postcard Stories*;  
Mar 27th Frances Grigorey *The History of Fire*;  
April 3rd Mike Rendall *Robinson Crusoe and the Story Behind the Story*;  
April 10th Dr Clare Maudling *Phoenix Rising: The Rebuilding of Exeter After the Blitz*.  
April 17th and 24th No meetings.

Admission is £3 per talk, free for members. Membership from January to March 2019 is £7.50. You will be very welcome. All enquiries to [exeterforum@btinternet.com](mailto:exeterforum@btinternet.com) Tel 01392 273732.

I look forward to meeting UERSA friends. Best wishes. David Oates (Chairman, Exeter Forum)