



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO 49, SEPTEMBER 2020

Chair's message

Dear All

I do hope we are all finding ways to cope with these strange times. It has been lovely to see some of you at events that have been able to happen and I am sure we have appreciated the chance to get out and about a bit more, even if socially distanced. The AGM will obviously need to be virtual this year with papers circulated for comment. I am awaiting nominations but hope to circulate the agenda this month.

You will find an article from the Treasurer later in the newsletter explaining that the University is no longer able to accept cheques, so we will all need to adapt. The membership renewal form attached asks for subscription payment to be made electronically by BACS. If you are not using internet banking yourself, then one possibility is to pay a fellow member and get them to make the BACS payment on your behalf. The mechanism is explained on the form. I have already arranged to include a payment for a friend along with my own in this way. I am sure that we can all help to make this work.

Keep smiling!

Chris Austin

GROUP NEWS AND FORTHCOMING 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

Please note that due to the current coronavirus restrictions, planned events may be cancelled. Please check with the group organiser.

Garden Group

14th July – Shutelake, Butterleigh

On arrival our group of seven members were greeted by our hosts who told us a little history of the property and accompanied us on the first part of the tour. We were then able to wander freely around the gardens, sculptures, lake and wooded areas. It was lovely to be able to meet and maintain social distancing in the current situation and the garden visit felt like a special treat! Thanks go to Anne Mayes for organising the trip under the current circumstances.



Walking Group

Wednesday 5th August - 7 miles

Northeast fringe of Exeter

The group has been very active and managed 4 walks since lockdown, eased with good weather and numbers from 8-12, all with the appropriate social distancing rules in place of course.



Taken nr Poltimore, note the bumble bee in front of the rear wheel.



A welcome respite from Lockdown with a deer friend near the fort on Stoke Hill

Walking Group

Tuesday 18th August – 7.5 miles

Circular walk via the River Otter, lunch above Ladram Bay returning along the river and coast path to Budleigh seafront. The honorary member is Daisy, a French poodle, who was shy of the camera!



Table Tennis Group

The group has been meeting informally at Heavitree Pleasure Ground (two tables available), weather permitting since early June.

The following photos show a wet day on the 18th June. Cohabiting couples are allowed to play doubles otherwise singles.



Still smiling despite the soggy weather!

The sun came out on the 25th June! The games were action packed and followed with cake and a chat.



Photography Group

After 15 weeks of voting for our favourite photographs, 7 members of the group finally met in person at Darts Farm on 28 July. It was lovely to meet friends old and new and to walk around Topsham taking pictures together. We were led by Deborah Welland who found lots of interesting topics for us, and we finished the day with a socially distanced lunch at Darts Farm.

We all agreed that our weekly competition is great fun and we will keep going so long as there is interest. We arranged another meeting at Exeter Quay on 8 September with the resulting photos from both events found [here](#).



Some of our members at the Quay on 8th September.

If anyone would like to join our friendly group, please contact Sue Milward at milwardsue@gmail.com

Here's a small selection of our weekly winning photos:



St Pancras – Simone Romaine



Burrator – Steve Grange



Teignmouth – Deborah Welland



Snow – Paul Sandy

Newsletter item from the UERSA Treasurer

IMPORTANT

From now on, UERSA will no longer be using cheques for payment to the University of Exeter.

Why? Like many organisations, the University has moved almost entirely to electronic banking. All banks are trying to reduce the use of cheques. Indeed a few years ago, the major banks announced that they wanted to cease the use of cheques quite quickly. That action is on hold at present.

What does this mean for UERSA? This year's membership forms ask you to pay directly into the UERSA account at the University. Please follow the instructions there; they ask you to use a reference code which identifies the payment as going to the UERSA account and identifies you, as the member, paying for membership. Those codes are important. Please double-check that you have entered them correctly, either when you pay online or when you ask your bank/building society to pay.

What about activities and events? When we are allowed to arrange activities and events, each one will give instructions about means of payment. Generally, we will ask you to pay directly into the UERSA account at the University, and send a booking form to the organiser. The UERSA Treasurer and the organiser will liaise about the finances of the event or activity. You will be asked to use exactly the same codes as for membership.

Could UERSA avoid all this kerfuffle? Well, no and yes. Cheques are being phased out in the UK. Even if we tried to avoid it in 2020, this is going to happen before very long. Because of the manner in which our finances have been set up, we are in some thrall to the University Finance Office and cannot avoid it this year. To some members, this may sound like the tail wagging the dog. We could, by making significant changes to the UERSA constitution, set up a bank account of our own. This is no longer a straightforward process for informal clubs and societies such as UERSA, and, in the long run, even such a bank account would be expected to work without cheques.

David Smith (UERSA Treasurer)

IMPORTANT

Christmas Buffet Reed Hall Thursday 10th December

Sadly we will not be able to hold our annual UERSA Christmas lunch which we had planned this year. It is uncertain that groups greater than six in number will be able to gather indoors this winter and the university has decided to cancel all bookings for parties for the rest of 2020. Let's hope for better news next year and we can resume our partying.

Judy Mead

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER IN THE NEWS

Dr Olivia Champion, who is a former research fellow at the **University of Exeter**, took part in Channel 4's Covid Can You Avoid It, aired back in March. In the show, the importance of regular hand washing was stressed and Dr Champion said this is something which still remains important in stopping the transmission of Covid-19. (Channel 4, March 2020)

A faulty gene linked to dementia doubles the risk of developing severe Covid-19, according to research by scientists from the universities of **Exeter** and Connecticut. The research found a high risk of coronavirus among people of European ancestry who carry two faulty copies of the APOE gene. (Sky News, 26 May 2020)

Blackbaud, one of the world's largest cloud computing providers, was hit by cyber criminals in May 2020 and the data of **University of Exeter** alumni was compromised. The global data breach affected more than 20 universities and charities in the UK, US and Canada. Blackbaud notified the universities on July 16 who then, in turn notified their staff, students, alumni and partners. (DevonLive, 10 August 2020)

Adilia Warris, Professor of Paediatric Infectious Diseases at the **Exeter University** has challenged the findings from Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and Mass General Hospital for Children (MGHfC) in the US, who suggest their findings indicate children may play a larger role in the community spread of the virus than previously thought. "The study was performed in children presenting and/or admitted to hospital, which we know is different from children presenting to community practices, and therefore the conclusions and translations the authors make with respect to schools is in my opinion too far-reaching, and is not supported by the data they present." (DevonLive, 20 August 2020)

The **University of Exeter** has signed a contract with Halo, a private company, to buy thousands of coronavirus tests for students and staff. They will be offered to anyone showing symptoms or who is deemed at high risk. The saliva-based tests will give results within 24 hours, it is claimed. (BBC, 10 September 2020)

Anger as students complain of partying until 3am and ignoring Covid rules by students living in the most expensive halls – Streatham Halls. Groups of 300+ gathered again after security staff moved them back to their rooms then left. Photos emerged on DevonLive. A **University** spokesperson stated "The University, police and local authorities are sharing information and coordinating their response based on any reports received." (DevonLive, 15 September 2020)

Journalist and activist Caroline Farrow had been invited to a freshers' week Zoom debate by the **University of Exeter** to oppose the motion of 'sex work is real work'. The day before Friday night's debate, Ms Farrow, 46, an opponent of gay marriage, received an email from the society abruptly 'disinviting' her from the event. Ms Farrow complained to the university authorities, pointing out that its event management policy was 'committed to the protection of freedom of speech'. The debating society which tried to 'cancel' the conservative Catholic author was forced into a humiliating climbdown by its own student union. (Daily Mail, 19 September 2020)

The UCU at **Exeter University** is calling for face-to-face teaching to be stopped immediately because of the risk to the health of students, staff and the community. If face-to-face teaching continues, it says it will consider industrial action. (DevonLive, 21 September 2020)

PLACES TO VISIT

VEITCH LAMP POST TRAIL EXETER



The trail takes you through an area of the city where the Veitch nurseries, orchard and family home were. It is an easy walk and takes about an hour and a half to complete. There are 17 restored and painted historic cast iron lamp posts on the trail which were under threat of being removed. The plants are significant Veitch garden plants and painted by botanical illustrator Kate Wilson. The 17th lamp post in Bystock Terrace is a garlanded Garton & King civic lamp painted by signwriter Mark Hill. Thanks for the lamp post trail go to the residents of St David's and St James' who secured funding for their restoration.



If you would like to download the trail leaflet for your personal use please visit [Veitch Lamp Posts](http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html)

THE BOX PLYMOUTH

The Box is Plymouth's new museum, art gallery and cultural centre. It is open to the general public from the 29 September with free general admission with advance, timed tickets only. Please note to visit the Mayflower 400 exhibition, it is free for Plymouth residents and £5 for 18+ non residents. In line with government guidance, face masks are mandatory. For further information and to book tickets please visit [The Box](http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

A civic party led by the Lord Mayor with representatives from the Fire Service, Army, Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Police, Sea Cadets and **University** will lead a Service of Remembrance on **Sunday 8 November 2020**. The service is conducted at the City's War Memorial in Northernhay Gardens, Exeter. The Lord Mayor's Chaplain will conduct the service which commences at 10.50 am, with the Exeter Salvation Army Band accompanied by the **University of Exeter's Chapel Choir**.

Due to the possibility of future Covid restrictions many of the planned future events and performances are being rescheduled to new dates or cancelled. For this reason I have decided not to include any Local Events for your Diary in this issue.

Sandy Day

For further updated information please visit the **UERSA website**
<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>
 (Web Editor: Roger Coles)



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

(UERSA)

Membership renewal for 2020/21

Please note: the university finance office is no longer accepting any payments by cheque, so is requiring all payments to be made by bank transfer (BACS).

To renew your UERSA membership from 1st October 2020 till 30th September 2021 please complete the form below and send it to me – either electronically to W.J.Krzanowski@exeter.ac.uk or by post to Wojtek Krzanowski at 3, Lark Close, Exeter EX4 4SL. Alternatively, simply email me the relevant information directly. If any of your contact details should change during the year, then please let me know immediately so that I can keep the records up to date. (To see the UERSA Data Protection and Privacy Policy, go to <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/>)

The annual fee is unchanged at £6 (including a named partner/spouse), but new members who joined after 1st April 2020 do not have to pay again until next year. Please make your payment as soon as possible, but **by 1st December at the latest**.

Please also note: I am aware that some members may not be able to pay by BACS, so I will accept payment on their behalf by a fellow member. See below for details.

Payment by BACS

Please use the following bank details and **please also make sure to send me a completed form separately, as indicated above, or send me your contact details in a separate email**. This will let me know that you have paid; otherwise it may be a couple of months before this information gets to me via the bank and Northcote House! **If you are also paying on behalf of a friend or friends, please use your own reference in the BACS payment but send all their names and contact details to me either on completed forms or in a separate email.**

Account name: University of Exeter
Account Number: 00724890
Sort Code: 60-08-06
Reference / Description / Narrative: UERSAX10-??????????

So that we can match up your payment to your name, **replace the NINE characters ?????????? by your initial followed by your surname**. For example, Jane Rogers becomes UERSAX10-JROGERS. If your surname is more than eight characters long please omit any vowels as well as any further letters beyond the 9 characters total. Thus, Wojtek Krzanowski becomes UERSAX10-WKRZNWSK while Henry Whitton-Smythe becomes UERSAX10-HWHTTNSMY. This reference element is very important to identify you, so please **only use your initial and surname, and nothing else** (e.g. numbers or partner's name).

Wojtek Krzanowski (Membership Secretary)

Please renew my/our subscription to the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association for 2020/21. I/we consent to the following details being held by the Association. Payment has been made by BACS.

Name(s)

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Tel e-mail.....