



NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO 50, JANUARY 2021

Chair's message

Dear All

So we are still locked down and I do hope you are finding ways to fill the hours. I am now at the top of the list for a hip replacement so that will be a diversion of sorts!

Sandy has found you a number of diversions in this newsletter and I may see you on a zoom presentation some time soon.

Those of you with an Exeter email account need to be aware of new security arrangements being established for ALL users as Covid has meant many more staff using email at home and not behind the University firewall. The item from Pete Hodges in this newsletter provides some more information and David Batty has kindly agreed to review the information you will see when the changes happen and to liaise with the University. Pete assures us there will also be dedicated help desk staff to help if necessary.

I do so hope that there will be better news soon as we all get our vaccines and we can then move onwards and upwards!

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

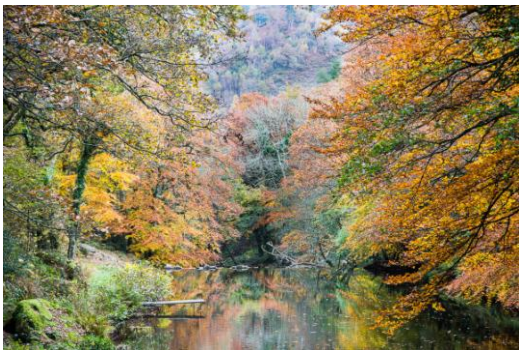
Please note that due to the current coronavirus restrictions, planned events may be cancelled. Please check with the group organiser.

Photography Group

The photography group continues its weekly competition and has to date been running for 34 weeks, with 34 winning photos. We have also been trying to master Zoom and have had some interesting and informative conversations about our photographs and how to improve them. We would welcome new participants - please contact Sue Milward if you are interested. In the meantime, here is a selection of our winning photos to enjoy.



Photography group/Continued



INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE EXETER IT ACCOUNT

Essential IT Security: your University of Exeter account

In early 2021 the University will be making it easier to add more security to your University of Exeter IT account: they will be adding a new feature called multi-factor authentication (MFA).

MFA is a simple two step verification process, giving you the option to verify your identity using an app, phone call or text message when you login to an online application. You may be familiar with MFA already: like when Amazon, Google or your bank send you a code to check you're you.

Once you've setup MFA you'll only need to authenticate every 60 days, unless you use a new device or logout of your account.

The University will be making MFA available to all University of Exeter accounts, including retired staff. We will provide more information in the next newsletter, but in the meantime you can find out more [online](#).

Pete Hodges

Change Manager – Digital Transformation
University of Exeter

JUST FOR FUN

Where Am I in Devon?



1.



2.



3.

Answers to Where Am I in Devon.

1. Granite Trough in recess 27 metres from Trough Lane, Bovey Tracey. SX 82010 78590
HISTORY: Apart from a legend no definite historical information is known regarding this holy well. In common with many wells, the early history of St Mary's Well, Bovey Tracey is based on speculation. Its position within the Anglo-Saxon settlement known as Boffa suggests that it would have been utilised from this date, but the form of the original structure and whether the well had pre-Christian significance or was first established for domestic purposes only is not known. The nearby church is now dedicated to St Peter, St Paul and St Thomas but was previously dedicated to St Mary. The legend surrounding the well states that the priest of the parish church (St. Mary's as it was then) returned home to find a visitor. The pious priest and his wife shared their meagre supper with the visitor (St Mary), ensuring she was cared for and sheltered. In return for his kindness, she bestowed good fortune on the priest and his family for generations to come and by way to remind them she turned the frogs in the spring golden coloured.
(Text from Historic England)
2. Prayer Cairn, Sidmouth seafront
3. Remains of Lidwell Chapel in the Parish of Dawlish accessible from Haldon. SX 92411 76098.
Lidwell Chapel supposedly dates back to at least the 14th century and is built on the site of a holy well dedicated to "our Ladye", hence the corruption over time to Lidwell. There are two versions of the [legend of Lidwell Chapel](#) if you are interested further.

WALKING FOR EXERCISE

Some useful links to walks in your area or for when we can explore further!



[Braunton](#)

[Budleigh Salterton](#)

[Crediton](#)

[Devon National Trust](#)

[Exeter](#)

[Explore Devon](#)

[Falmouth](#)

[Newton Abbot and Dartmoor](#)

[Plymouth](#)

[Sidmouth](#)

[South Devon](#)

[Torbay](#)

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER IN THE NEWS

The UK's policy for shielding older adults from COVID-19 overlooks 7.3 million adults aged 60-69, placing them at increased risk and death. These are the findings from new study from researchers at Imperial College London and the **University of Exeter**. Currently, the UK government's age threshold for isolation is 70 years and over. But the researchers say that while this group is at a lower risk of severe illness compared to those aged 70 years or older, their risk is still considerable. Writing in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, they highlight that data from countries including China and Italy show that people aged 60-69 years are also at high risk of complications and death from the virus. The authors conclude that where no government guidance is in place, people in their 60's can make their own informed decisions on how to minimise their risks of COVID-19. This could include isolating themselves in a similar manner to that recommended in the UK government for people aged 70 and over. (Article text: Imperial College London News, April 2020)

Spending time in the garden is as good for wellbeing as living in a wealthy neighbourhood, according to a study conducted by **Dr Sian de Bell** of the **University of Exeter** and the Royal Horticultural Society charity. The findings, published in Landscape and Urban Planning, were based on nearly 8,000 people. (The Telegraph, 6 May 2020)

Men should be screened for 'Celtic gene' as a study finds it increases liver cancer risk tenfold, **Professor David Melzer** and **Dr Janice Atkins** at the **University of Exeter** urge. Haemochromatosis, a common genetic disorder, causes sufferers to absorb too much iron from their diets. (The Telegraph, 24 November 2020)

Both **University of Exeter** freshers and members of **Estate Patrol** were injured after security was called to break up an illegal gathering, which was against Covid rules. The incident involved around 20 people at Holland Hall in November 2020. According to multiple eyewitnesses, a student was allegedly pushed to the ground and kicked by security. However, the University denies these claims. According to students, multiple students proceeded to jump from a three story balcony to escape fines. (TheExeterTab, Nov 2020)

The Pattern Book of a Wool Merchant with Connexions to Exeter, created by Exeter merchant Claude Passavant and containing 2,475 pieces of Devon made fabric in the 1760s has been discovered in the London Metropolitan Archives. Professor **Catherine Rider** from the **University of Exeter** stated that it is "the greatest archival discovery for Devon in a generation." **Dr Todd Gray** hopes it will be on public display in Exeter in 2022. (BBC, 13 January 2021)

Dr Sariga Wagley and her team from the **University of Exeter** and Scientists have discovered how bacteria commonly responsible for seafood related stomach upsets can go dormant and then 'wake up'. (Twitter, 22 January 2021)

The University has submitted a planning application for the development of the Clydesdale, Nash and Birks Village Halls of Residence off Stocker Road. The proposals see the demolition of the existing Clydesdale and Nash Grove accommodation and could deliver an additional 1,500 bedrooms. (DevonLive, 22nd January 2021)

NOTICES

Dr Robin Chapman, Senior Lecturer in Mathematics passed away unexpectedly in October 2020.

Dr Richard McGrady, formerly Head of the Department of Adult Education passed away on the 14th October

Judith Wragg, widow of the later Professor Ted Wragg, passed away unexpectedly on 21st October 2020. Having lived in Exeter for 48 years she never lost her Yorkshire accent and many of you will have fond memories of her friendship.

John Hurst passed away in December 2020. He was a well respected senior member of staff who, from the 1960s to the 1990s, worked at the Department of Extra-Mural Studies. While spending some time at the Department's then base at St. Luke's, his main focus was on the Department's work in Cornwall on adult education and similar matters.

Dr Henry Shaffer passed away on the 16th December, aged 90. Henry was formerly a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Psychology. He is best known for his work on highly skilled motor performance, initially with typists, and subsequently with pianists, and its implications for theories of attention and skilled performance, leading to work about the psychology of musical performance. Famously, he managed to install a concert grand piano in the Washington Singer building and had every string and hammer monitored by photocells – for subsequent analysis, concert pianists would come into the laboratory to perform pieces.

Mary Ravenhill, a former UERSA President (2008-9) and widow of Professor Bill Ravenhill deceased, died peacefully in hospital aged 92 after suffering a serious stroke on 1st January 2021. Mary's funeral is on Wednesday 27th at 11.30am in the St Peter Chapel at the Crematorium, although we are unable to attend due to Covid restrictions there is a webcast of the service. Please contact Alastair (A.H.B.Logan@exeter.ac.uk) who is taking the funeral for the link.

Gerda Perrott, widow of David Perrott (Law) passed away on 7th January 2021 at the age of 84.

EXETER FORUM ZOOM TALKS

The Exeter Forum would like to invite UERSA members to their lockdown programme of fortnightly Zoom talks and weekly email Newsletters.

The next talk is on "The Fenland Floods of 1947" by Mike Petty, MBE, at 10.30 am for 10.45 am on **Wednesday 3rd February**.

In March 1947 one man, W. Martin Lane, photographed a flood that devastated areas of fenland around Ely. Over the last 50 years Mike Petty has shared his pictures with those whose families were involved to compile a compelling and personal account of the impact on a farming community

The Newsletters are sent to everyone on the Forum's email list and contain details of the talks and the Zoom links. To receive them, please email msmith6507@gmail.com with a request to be included on the Exeter Forum's email distribution list. Until the Forum is able to resume normal meetings there will be no charge.

We look forward to seeing you.

David Oates
Exeter Forum Chairman

Programme of Talks February-March 2021

Wednesday 17 February

Brian Banks (title to be announced)

Wednesday 3 March

Dragonflies and Damsel Flies
David Jenner

Wednesday 17 March

Wacky weather phenomena
John Davidson

Full details of the talk and the link to join the Zoom meeting will be included in the Exeter Forum News prior to the talk and a separate reminder with the link will be emailed on the day before the talk.

Using Links to Zoom Meetings and Recordings

We have found that on some devices and systems it is not possible to just click on the link provided to join Zoom meetings and on these you may have to use one of the following methods.

- 1. Copy and paste the link into your browser.*
- 2. If you are using Windows mail you may find that the link is shown in grey rather than blue and when you click on the link it displays a message saying it cannot open the link. If this happens you can try the following :
(a) Launch the Zoom app. Click on the home icon and click on JOIN. Enter the meeting ID.
OR (b) Make Microsoft Edge your default browser. Restart your device.
This should have fixed the problem and if you don't like Edge as your default browser you can change the default back to the one you want and restart the device.*

VIRTUAL LECTURES AND TALKS

As we are all confined to our homes, I have researched some lectures, talks and events that are online from February. I hope some of these may be of interest to members. Just register in advance, and when the time for the talk comes around – grab your favourite beverage, get comfy and enjoy.

Virtual Observing evening

[Abingdon Astronomical Society](#)

2nd February at 8pm.

Abingdon Astronomical Society (AAS) is the largest amateur astronomy society in Oxfordshire serving Oxford, UK and the surrounding region. They promote public interest in astronomy in southern and western Oxfordshire through a varied programme of meetings and observing evenings for all experience levels. Their closeness to both the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (Oxfordshire's "Space Centre") and to the University of Oxford ensures a steady stream of high-quality lectures. A full programme list can be found [here](#). It costs £10 per annum to join the society

Baroness Hale: This is Your Life

By UCL Faculty of Laws

2nd February at 6-7.15pm

Professor Dame Hazel Genn will explore with Baroness Hale the highlights of her career to date and her thoughts on the future. Baroness Hale taught Law at Manchester University for 18 years, specialising in family and social welfare law. In 1984 she became the first woman to serve on the Law Commission retired in early 2020 as President of the UK Supreme Court, the United Kingdom's most senior judge. Please note this is a FREE Zoom Webinar event. Please register your interest [here](#)

Barnard Castle: Centuries of Colourful History at St Mary's Parish Church

By DigVentures

3rd February 6-7pm

The first in a series of talks about the history, heritage and culture of the small market town of Barnard Castle and its medieval church. Please note this is a FREE Zoom Webinar event. Please register your interest [here](#)

Holocaust Memorial Day Devon 2021

Every year 27 January reminds us of the unparalleled horrors of the World War II Holocaust, as well as subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. This year's theme is, 'Be the light in the darkness'. Devon Faith and Belief Forum's public ceremony in Exeter Cathedral has been cancelled due to Covid restrictions but a number of free evening Zoom talks are being held:

- Wed 3 February 7.30pm [Anastasia Somerville-Wong: Genocide in Cambodia, when the darkest side of our nature prevails](#)
- Wed 10 February 7.30pm [Helen Fry: Jewish refugees in North Devon during the Second World War](#)

An Impression of Bystock

Devon Wildlife Trust

8th February 7.30-9pm

An illustrated talk on DWT's Bystock Pools nature reserve looking at its habitat and wildlife. This free online talk is held on Zoom. Please book [here](#)

Sidmouth's Coast - What's going on?

Sid Vale Association

10th February 2.30-3.30

This free online talk is held on zoom, please register your interest [here](#)

Book Club with Margaret Atwood

11th February at 7pm

Lisa Allardice, The Guardian's chief books writer talks to Margaret Atwood. This is a "pay what you can" event from £5.72 depending on whether you also wish to purchase the Oryx and Crake (2003). Please view booking details [here](#)

Rocks Rule! Why the geology makes North Devon so special!

17th February at 7.30pm

Braunton Countryside Centre

Ken Rutherford has a BSc and MSc in geology from the University of London and is Chair of the North Devon Environmental Trust which manages the Braunton Countryside Centre. Tickets cost £3.83 with the online event delivered via Zoom. Please book [here](#)

120 years of farming in Prawle, South Devon.

South Devon AONB

23rd February 7-8pm

Free online talk. Please book [here](#)

Beavers for the Culm

Connecting the Culm

25th February 5-6pm

Jake Chant, Beaver Field Officer for Devon Wildlife Trust, talks about England's first colony of wild beavers and what that means for Devon. Click [here](#) to register for this free talk.

The Private Life of Sigmund Freud

By Freud Museum London

26th February 3-4pm

Professor Brett Kahr will explore the intricate details of Freud's daily routine from early morning until bedtime, taking us on a journey through the intimate moments of the life of the father of psychoanalysis. This is a "pay what you can" event with a suggested donation of £10 to help support the museum. Please view booking details [here](#)

Romans in the South West

Devon Heritage Centre 7.30-8.30

Presented by Professor Stephen Rippon, University of Exeter.

This is a three ticket event, from £5

Please view booking details [here](#)

Plant based for the Planet

by ConservationChat UK

8th March at 7pm

This talk provides an overview of how a plant based diet may benefit biodiversity and reduce your environmental impact. Simply pay as little or as much as you wish. Please register your interest [here](#)

What's the Story? The job of directing character-led action films by Marc Jobst

Live on 11th March at 5.30pm on YouTube by Insights Virtual Lectures

Marc Jobst, writer and director, graduated from Newcastle University in 1983. He began his career in theatre, and then worked as producer and director at the BBC for 10 years.

To view on YouTube click [here](#)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2021

Please note that due to coronavirus restrictions, planned events may be cancelled or postponed.

30 April – 1 May

TOBY'S GARDEN FESTIVAL

Powderham Castle

Visit tobygardenfest.co.uk for further information and tickets

18 June

TOM JONES A Celebration Tour

Plymouth Hoe

Visit tomjones.com for further information and tickets

2, 3 and 4 July

DEVON COUNTY SHOW

Westpoint, Exeter

Visit devoncountyshow.co.uk for further information and tickets

17 and 18 July

BRITISH SAILGB

Plymouth

Visit plymouth.resurgam for further details

30 July – 6 August

SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL

Sidmouth

Visit sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk for further information and tickets

5 and 6 September

TOUR OF BRITAIN

Penzance to Bodmin on the 5th

Sherford to Queen Street, Exeter on the 6th

Visit tourofbrtain.co.uk for further details

For further updated information please visit the UERSA [website](#)

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

(Web Editor: Roger Coles)