



UERSA NEWSLETTER 53

January 2022

Cover picture:

The River Culm, a picture from the UERSA Photography Group

Letter from David Batty, Chair of UERSA 2021-2022

Dear Friends

Very best wishes for 2022 in the hope that we can move back to some sort of normality in our lives sooner rather than later. The UERSA Executive Committee was reflecting at its recent meeting (live, by the way) on how the Association can extend some of its activities over the coming months that might reflect any further easing of pandemic restrictions. It was gratifying to know that some of the specialist interest groups are in operation, some for quite a while. You will have gathered from recent newsletters that Walking Group members have been out and about for much of last year, while the Table Tennis Group has been meeting, when weather allows, at the outside venue of Heavitree Park. The Gardens Group met five times in the summer. Some members may be more cautious about the idea of meeting indoors, but the Wine Group now uses the wide open space of St David's Church to good effect while the monthly coffee mornings are attracting support at the Exeter Cricket Club pavilion. The Restaurant Group may start up again once warmer weather allows meals outside.

Beyond the coffee mornings, we'd very much like to reactivate some of those traditional, long-standing events open to the generality of members. So, initially, we are thinking about the practicalities of holding a summer party

(at the Cricket Club) and a Christmas lunch, both at a stage in the year by which time we can hopefully be more relaxed about living with Covid. We'll keep you posted about these possibilities, together with news of any excursions for all.

Those of you who attended the AGM in November will have heard the appeal for new members, both for UERSA itself and for the Executive Committee. Attracting recruits to the Association remains difficult given data protection rules that do not allow the University to tell us of impending retirements, so members' recommendation by word of mouth to such staff can be very helpful.

The Committee, however, could certainly benefit from new blood amongst existing UERSA members – please think about putting your name forward and bring some fresh ideas to our discussions! In this context, we'd warmly welcome a new editor of the newsletter, the current edition of which is being guest-edited by David Smith, our Treasurer.

David Batty

COFFEE MORNINGS RESUMING

Our monthly coffee mornings have resumed using the pavilion of Exeter Cricket Club. Dates and times will be announced by email

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

UERSA's Annual General Meeting was held on 4 November at the Exeter Cricket Club. The draft minutes can be accessed via the UERSA website

(<https://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>).

Retiring members of the Executive Committee, Chris Austin, Sandy Day and Christopher Dean, were thanked for their service, while newly elected members were Anne Mayes (as President-elect) and Judy Mead (formerly Past President). Subsequent to the meeting, the Committee had agreed to co-opt Alastair Logan to membership for the current year

UERSA general events are found on the website; members may advertise events of interest to the membership in the Newsletter. The next issue is due towards the end of May; email David Batty (d.f.batty@exeter.ac.uk) who will forward such information to the Newsletter editor.

At the time of writing, many members are acting cautiously about Covid-19 risks, so any planned group events may be called off at short notice.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY?

THE GARDEN GROUP'S FINAL EXCURSION OF 2021

The group went to Cadhay Manor outside Ottery St Mary in September



The Head Gardener, Dave, gave us a very comprehensive tour of all the gardens, starting with the Community Allotments and the Manor Allotments and fruit garden, all in this magnificent walled garden. It was on to the Stew Pond and the history of that. We walked all the way round that and then on to the newest addition, another garden area.



We were particularly impressed by the borders filled with dahlias and the revelation that they are all grown from seeds collected by him at the end of the season and all looking their best. This seems to produce some unique varieties and unusual blooms.

Another Dave then guided us into the Courtyard and gave us a very informative talk on the history of the building and the families who, over the centuries, had owned it and the changes they'd made.

Finally, our cream tea eaten outside in the sun, in groups of 7 so lots of chat! The teas were very good, lovely cream, jam and scones, a choice of tea or coffee and top ups offered.

THE WALKING GROUP'S WINTER PROGRAMME

The Walking group has had a programme of mainly shorter walks during the winter. In early December, a dozen members made the lengthy drive to Ivybridge and walked from the ruins of Brunel's railway viaduct along the River Erme and on a circuit over Hanger Down. Sean Goddard pointed out the sites of medieval farming settlements to the west of the Down, an area which was extensively researched by the late W.G. Hoskins



Forthcoming walks

10.30 Wednesday 9 February 2022

Circa 5 miles

Butterleigh

Parking at the Butterleigh Inn car park, EX15 1PN, this walk around Butterleigh involves quiet minor roads, farm tracks and some footpaths over undulating farmland with about 100m change in level either side of the Burn River.

The Butterleigh Inn has agreed to car parking, and could provide lunch if required. We can

check numbers of those interested, nearer the time.

E.A.W.Maunder@exeter.ac.uk

10.30 Monday 21 February 2022

Circa 6 miles

Meet at Budleigh Town Hall public free car park from where we will walk via Dalditch, old railway line and across fields to Littleham. Then through Sandy Bay Holiday Park to return along the Coast Path to Budleigh. For the most part an easy walk except the steep, and in places uneven, climb from Sandy Bay to West Down Beacon.

Bring packed lunch.

sarastott28@gmail.com

10.30 Monday 7 March

Circa 6 miles

This walk starts at Occombe Farm in Paignton TQ3 1RN where we can park, and includes stops at Oldway Mansion (former home of the Singer family with gorgeous garden and tea shop) , a bit of a seafront Walk and then up to Cockington with more lovely grounds, a mansion and another tea shop. An easy walk with history. Bring a packed lunch

dwelland27@gmail.com

10.30 on Monday 21 March

Circa 5 miles

Coldridge to Nymet Rowland and back again.

Starting from Coldridge village square we walk west along the Taw valley and south of the Taw towards Brushford. At the first bridge we cross to the north side of the river join the Tarka Trail and then walk east to Nymet Rowland from where we return across fields to Coldridge. This walk is mainly on footpaths with some short road sections and is about 5 miles and will take about 3 hours. There is a steep road climb from the Taw up to Nymet Rowland and another climb across fields at the end of the walk as we return to Coldridge. Please bring a packed lunch.

t.w.davies@exeter.ac.uk

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Thanks to the group for the cover picture

We have managed to meet a few times since the start of the pandemic and are holding another informal get-together at Dart's Farm at 11am on 18th February (lockdowns permitting).

These are fun, friendly sessions where we have a short stroll in the area taking photos and supporting each other, followed by lunch for those who want to stay on. We would love you to join us. Please let Sue Milward (milwardsue@gmail.com) know if you would like to come along.

Also, we are holding a friendly competition open to all UERSA members. All you need to do is to take one or two 'winter' photographs and email them to me. The 'rules' are simple:

- Submit one or two photos taken this winter
- Deadline for submission (email to Sue) is 28 February
- Photos will be judged by current photo group members
- The top 3 photographers will receive prizes!!



Walking by the Grand Western Canal

WINE GROUP

The wine group has had 2 meetings last year following the relaxation of Covid rules with 17 attendees to each meeting. The first was in September, a tasting of Southern Italian wines led by Bruce Evans of the Grape and Grain in Crediton. We tasted 6 wines with an exceptional value Primitivo. Bruce is as he says a "wine gink" and the conversations spread far beyond Italian wine. Everyone enjoyed his laid-back approach. We were all comfortable being in the Nave of the St David's church with plenty of air circulating to dissipate the Covid virus. The vicar, Nigel, called in to say hello, he knew Bruce from his time at Crediton church. The quality of the wines was beyond communion level!!



In November Rebecca Mitchell, a professional sommelier, wine journalist, and wine educator, based in Exeter, led us through a selection of Pinot Noir wines. This was a very special tasting as it was the first time we have had a professional sommelier talking to the group. Rebecca's presentation was just at the level we wanted and she soon put us all at ease with a good interactive session, tasting some superb Pinots from around the world including a sparkling one from Australia. All were available from local supermarkets.

The times and content of the next tastings have yet to be finalised, but Bruce has agreed to return in Sept for a Spanish evening and, we hope, Rebecca on Rieslings in May. I am trying to arrange meetings in Feb /March and in Oct/November. These meetings will be held at St David's Church, 7.00 - 9.00pm on a Thursday but this may be varied if the church is available. St David's offer good facilities all on the level.

The numbers of attendees is down slightly on pre Covid days which I hope will pick up as people stop shielding. We are always pleased to welcome new members to our very friendly group.

John Jacob

FROM THE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Tributes paid after death of Clive Lee creator of revolutionary Exeter hip, a global success story

Heartfelt tributes are being paid to a pioneering University of Exeter engineer who co-created an implant that has revolutionised hip replacements for millions of people across the world.

Professor Clive Lee was one of the two masterminds behind the Exeter Hip, which research shows is among the world's most successful hip implants globally. He died on Tuesday following a long illness, at the age of 82.

Professor Lee created the hip alongside Professor Robin Ling, of the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Exeter, who died in 2017. Their ground-breaking design

overcame a problem of previous hip implants, which often required further surgery after they became loose.

First fitted in 1970, the simple yet effective design has been fitted globally in over two million patients, with one million happening in the last 10 years alone.

In 2018, Universities UK listed the Exeter Hip among the 100 best breakthroughs from university innovation. Its success continues to grow, with research demonstrating its longevity. Earlier in 2021, 80-year-old Devon pensioner Maureen Brown was revealed to have the longest-lasting Exeter hip replacement, at an incredible 50 years.

Lord Myners

Lord Myners, who was university Chancellor from 2016 until he stepped down last year died in early January

He was a proud Cornishman and a great supporter of the University, who presided over the graduations of 20,000 students, celebrating their successes and always encouraging them to "go out and live purposeful lives.

Having begun his working life as a teacher, Lord Myners went on to have a long career in business, finance, media and politics, where he was instrumental in the government's response to the financial crisis of 2008. He was made a CBE in 2001 and in 2003 received an Honorary Doctorate in Laws from the University. Tributes have flowed in from prominent figures including former Prime Minister Gordon Brown, the Chief Executive of Asda Stuart Rose, and Robert Peston who described him as, "One of the great City figures of the past

40 years [who] crusaded against corruption and had a powerful sense of right and wrong.”

During the five years he served as Chancellor he played a prominent role in our fundraising and alumni relations and his support and enthusiasm for students as they graduated and began the next steps of their lives, coupled with his twinkling sense of humour, was an inspiration.

He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him, and our thoughts are with his family.

We are sad to record the death of Professor Robin Turner

Robin, a great supporter of UERSA, came to Exeter from Cambridge, joining the University in 1979 as Professor and Head of the then Department of Chemical Engineering. He also held for a period the position of Dean of the Faculty of Engineering. His well-attended funeral on 26 January heard warm tributes bearing witness to Robin's many interests. We are glad that Anne intends maintaining her links with UERSA.

New Chair of University Council appointed

It's been announced that Quentin Woodley is to be the new Chair of Council and Pro-Chancellor with effect from 1 August 2022. He is an experienced board chair with a background in finance, investment and strategy. Quentin was a senior partner at McKinsey & Company, the international strategy consulting firm, for many years and has formerly served

as Vice Pro-Chancellor (Deputy Chair of Council) at the University of Leeds. He succeeds Sarah Turvill who has held the post since August 2012.

THE CAMPUS THAT NEVER WAS

UERSA member Graham Fice has

drawn attention to the website of WonkHE. He writes” The WonkHE website is essential reading for those of us who try to keep up with HE developments now the Times Higher has gone more international.”.

In particular, Graham mentioned the feature “Higher Education Postcard: University of Exeter” which shows a fund-raising postcard from the 1920s of the proposed campus buildings, complete with one lecture theatre!. The Newsletter cannot reproduce the article and picture as it is copyrighted, but any well-known search engine will find the fascinating picture and accompanying text. (And if any member has that card, or any old postcard views of campus, please share them with UERSA members.)

SOME WHAT'S ON IN EXETER

Artist Luke Jerram's touring artwork, **'Museum of the Moon'** is landing at Exeter Cathedral on 3 February and staying until 27 February.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the replica of the moon features high resolution NASA imagery of the lunar surface. At an approximate scale of 1:500,000, each centimetre of the internally lit spherical sculpture represents 5km of the moon's surface.

Over its lifetime, *Museum of the Moon* will be presented in a number of different ways both indoors and outdoors, so altering the experience and interpretation of the artwork. As it travels from place to place, it will gather new musical compositions and an ongoing collection of personal responses, stories and mythologies, as well as highlighting the latest moon science.

The installation is a fusion of lunar imagery, moonlight and surround sound composition created by BAFTA and Ivor Novello award winning composer Dan Jones.

Luke Jerram's multidisciplinary practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live arts projects. Living in the UK but working internationally for 19 years, Jerram has created a number of extraordinary art projects which have excited and inspired people around the globe. Jerram has a set of different narratives that make up his practice which are developing in parallel with one another. He is known worldwide for his large scale public artworks.

In Plain Sight: Transatlantic slavery and Devon is a major exhibition at RAMM from January 29 to May 29 exploring the museum's and Devon's links with centuries of trading enslaved African people across the Atlantic. The exhibition investigates aspects of the transatlantic slave trade that are all around us, but for some remain 'hidden in plain sight'. Since 2018, RAMM has been working with a network of researchers and experts to shed light on this hidden history.

Using the museum's collections and contemporary sources, *In Plain Sight* traces the local industries that relied on the trade and the lives of the people who benefitted from its profits. It also features a newly commissioned film which reflects on RAMM's iconic painting 'Portrait of an African' and a new commission by the acclaimed artist Joy Gregory. Gregory has worked with the museum team, the exhibition's advisory panel and local community members to create a work responding to the themes of *In Plain Sight*.

We would like to warn visitors that the exhibition includes upsetting content and contemporary accounts with language which is offensive and discriminatory. We do not believe it is possible to tell the story of the transatlantic slave trade without including such material.

Just for fun: how well do you know Exeter?

There is a common theme to these five pictures, which may help you.



Which Exeter family had this crest?
(And why do you associate a man named Nick with it?)



Who lived here?



Which terrace of houses?



Which church?



What is the name of this house?

And who is the famous Exeter woman who lived here?

IN DECEMBER THE NORTHCOTT THEATRE ANNOUNCED THAT IT WOULD BE TAKING OVER THE MANAGEMENT OF THE BARNFIELD THEATRE

The news release reads: The move, which aims to secure the future of the 1890 building as a performance space, incorporates a three step plan: to ensure the sustainability of this important cultural venue; to enhance the range of creative activities available in the city centre and broaden the range of participants engaging in the theatre's activities; and to work towards a major transformation of the Barnfield into a vibrant creative hub serving the communities of Exeter, Devon and further afield.

The takeover, which will see the Northcott operating across both its existing campus-situated theatre and from the 286 seat venue in the centre of Exeter, comes as a result of extensive work with partners and architects over an eighteen month period to explore ways in which the much-loved Barnfield can be safeguarded.

It follows an increase in the Northcott's activities at The Barnfield over the past year. These include the Northcott Young Company moving all its events to the venue, the hosting of a number of talks, events and workshops for the artists development programme under the banner Northcott Futures, using the Barnfield as a development space for new work created by Northcott's Kickstart Company of young performers, and using the venue as a base for work presented outdoors in the city centre. In addition, the Barnfield has been adopted as a rehearsal space for work presented at the Northcott and as a hub to facilitate new work by local

companies and artists. The venue has also been employed by the Northcott for a diverse range of community projects.

The Northcott assuming the management of the Barnfield will create an opportunity to further extend this activity, with the long term objectives being, to nurture local theatre talent, to act as a centre for community engagement and to maintain and extend a rich cultural mix of work available to residents of the city and beyond.

The immediate impact will be increased engagement with existing users and audiences, the improvement of the creative, participatory and consumer offer at the venue and the introduction of a range of new opportunities for young people, communities and local artists. It will include a drive to raise funds to restore the venue to include better access, new spaces and environmental sustainability.

Photo quiz answers

The common theme was the letter "B"

1. was the crest of the Baring family, (hence the crest has a bear with a ring) founders of the bank whose collapse is linked to Nick Leeson
2. the High Street house of Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of Oxford's Bodleian Library
3. Bartholomew Terrace on the city wall
4. St Boniface Church in Whipton
5. Belair, a Queen Anne house used as offices by Devon County Council, which was formerly home to
6. Dame Georgiana Buller (daughter of Sir Redvers Buller) who pioneered medical work for disabled children and adults