



University
of Exeter



University of Exeter Retired Staff Association



UERSA NEWSLETTER 57

MAY 2023

Cover picture: 'Chilly Bed' by Simone Romaine the winner of the winter photography competition.

Letter from David Batty, Chair of UERSA 2022-2023

Dear Friends

Writing this note in the early part of May, and as those of you who watched the recent Coronation will have observed, Summer only just seems to be emerging from a largely cool and cloudy Spring, but I hope that by the time you receive this newsletter, the sun will be out sufficiently frequently to encourage you to take advantage of outdoor UERSA activities. Both the Walking and Garden Groups will have attractive outings over the next couple of months, while the outside world is a natural attraction for the Photography Group. The Table Tennis Group seems not yet to have ventured outside to the tables in the Heavitree Pleasure Grounds, but a chance to explore more widely in that district of Exeter comes with a walk around Heavitree on 14 June organised in collaboration with the Heavitree Local History Society. Details have already been circulated to members but a reminder is included later in this newsletter.

A particular annual highlight of the UERSA calendar is the Summer Party. This is scheduled for Thursday 22 June at 3 pm at the Exeter Cricket Club pavilion and details, already circulated separately, about registering your attendance are included later in this newsletter. Do join us for an afternoon of conversation and a traditional English tea.

One former member of staff who maintained his UERSA membership was Sir David Harrison, Vice-

Chancellor from 1984 to 1994. Following his recent death at the age of 92, I was glad to see many affectionate tributes from colleagues about his time at Exeter, many of which referred to his willingness to listen as well as to lead, a quality greatly appreciated within the University community. The recent deaths of other former colleagues, John Carroll, Jeff Stanyer and Bill Tupman have been additional occasions for sadness but also for shared memories of conviviality and collegiality both on and off the campus.

I look forward to meeting up with many of you at UERSA events over the coming months.

David Batty

STOP PRESS

Summer has at last arrived, we haven't had rain for a month and our gardens are now short of water!

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A student in a philosophy class was taking his first examination. On the paper, there was a single line that simply said, "Is this a question? — Discuss."

After a short time, he wrote, "If that is a question, then this is an answer." The student received an "A" on the exam!"

WHAT HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY?

COFFEE MORNINGS

Our monthly coffee mornings continue at the pavilion of Exeter Cricket Club. Dates and times will be announced by email.

WHAT A RUBBISH VISIT!

On a couple of Tuesdays in March two groups of UERSA members visited Devon County Council's Exeter Energy from Waste plant, the large landmark building on the Marsh Barton Trading Estate where black bin bag rubbish from the doorsteps of residents in four districts of Devon (Teignbridge, Mid Devon, Exeter City and East Devon) is incinerated at temperatures nearing 1000°C to produce electricity which can power around 5000 homes. The visit comprised a very comprehensive presentation on the recent history of rubbish collection and its treatment, advice on how we might improve our own rubbish disposal and an inspection of the site itself. Much of the actual machinery was hidden from view, perhaps not surprising given the temperature of the incinerator itself, though a camera in the control room showed a fiery scene within, while a large mechanical grabber, reminiscent of Toy Story 3, also caught our attention. The visit offered much food for thought, and also some incredulity at what people included in their black bag rubbish including oxygen cylinders and large metal vices.



WINE GROUP



Photo: Wine tasting at Majestic Wines in March

The wine group met on May 11th at St David's church Exeter. Rebecca Mitchell gave a tutored tasting of Alsace wines. Rebecca is a professional wine taster and sommelier.

The group tasted 6 wines from the Alsace. The white were the stars coming from very prestigious wine producers. A "Classic Reisling" from Hugel and a Pinot blanc from Trimbach. As we tasted the wines the quality of each shone through. A Crement d' Alsace was a first for most of us and an excellent summer sparkler we all agreed.

We will have a break over the summer and plan our next tasting in the autumn on Spanish wines.

John Jacob

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Customer: "Waiter, I'd like a bottle of wine."

Waiter: "What year, sir?"

Customer: "Well, I'd like it right now."

RESTAURANT GROUP

The Restaurant Group (co-ordinated by Frankie Peroni) had a lunch on February 9th at the Linney in Coffinswell.



The group were given a private room and the food was very good.



There was also a trip to SAVEUR in Exmouth on Thursday 16th March.

Although the group was split across two (adjoining rooms) but was still a most enjoyable occasion with excellent food.

Frankie has organised for a lunch at Redwing at Lympstone for Tuesday July 4th for which they are putting on a menu especially for us. Although they are no longer taking group bookings they are making an exception for us.

Suggestions of venues and offers to organise events are always welcome.

If you would like to join the Group, please tell the UERSA Membership Secretary who will add your name to the circulation list.

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The husband and the wife were having dinner at a fancy restaurant

A few minutes later, the dinner was served.

Husband: The food looks great. Let's eat.

Wife: But honey, you always say a prayer before eating at home.

Husband: That's at home, sweetie. I'm sure the chef here knows how to cook."

GARDENS GROUP

We had a very successful visit in April to Stonelands followed by a visit in May to Blundell's - reports on the UERSA web page - and the next two visits have been arranged. Rosemoor Thursday 15th June and Lustleigh Thursday 13th July.



Members at Stonelands.

Anne

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Someone suggested I put horse manure on my strawberries.

Well, I'm never doing that again...

I'll just stick to whipped cream."

WALKING GROUP

Our Winter Programme covered January February and March and this year we had quite a wide ranging programme with only one cancellation because of abominable weather! We also had one change because of flooding.

Our walk in February around East Budleigh common and Squabmoor reservoir had us picnicking in great weather and as you will see - there was quite a crowd on that day!



We also had an interesting walk around the perimeter of Exeter reminding us that we don't really have to go that far to have a long country walk with superb views.

The Teign Gorge is always a delight at any time of year and can push us a bit harder.

On one of our walks, the leaders generously offered soup and pudding at the end of the walk which was gratefully accepted by quite a few!

We welcome new members - please give us try.

Judy and Jan

=====||=====

"I chose the road less travelled and now I don't know where I am."

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

The Table Tennis group has continued to meet during the Winter and Spring at the University Sports Hall. There have been some good games, laughter and plenty of fun. With (hopefully) better weather coming, we are now going to meet outside at Heavitree Pleasure Grounds until October. If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact Anne Dinan (e.a.dinan@exeter.ac.uk).

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Ping Pong: 10% of the time hitting a ping pong ball, 90% of the time chasing the ball around the room!

CINEMA GROUP

We have only managed one film since January: in March, four of us attended the Picturehouse in Exeter for the film Allelujah, based on Alan Bennett's play of the same name and starring Jennifer Saunders, Judi Dench and David Bradley among others. It wasn't the most uplifting of films, being set in the geriatric ward of a hospital that the powers-that-be were trying to close, but there was an interesting twist to the plot at the end.

I am always hoping that other members of the group will suggest a film that takes their fancy, as that was the idea when the group was first set up. Please feel free to do so! We meet for tea or coffee beforehand."

Sue Odell

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I watched a movie about Stockholm syndrome.

It captured me even though I didn't like it at first, but by the end I absolutely loved it.

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

The Winter photography competition attracted 21 amazing submissions. The winner was 'Chilly Bed' by SImone Romaine (see Newsletter cover photo).

Entries for the 'Spring' competition are now all in.

- Photos will be judged in our usual way by photo group members and contributors

- The top 3 photographers will receive prizes!! Don't forget that the photography group competitions are open to all UERSA members.

All photographs are published on the website. Please have a look at the stunning autumn entries.

Sue Milward

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"I bought Fifty Shades of Grey in the hopes it would help me understand white balance – I was very wrong."

FROM THE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Rise in international university league table



We're delighted to share the good news that Exeter has been ranked 39th "most international university in the world" by the Times Higher. We rose seven places from last year. The table is compiled using the international student score, the international staff score, the international co-authorship score and the international reputation metrics collected annually by the publication.

Exeter wins award for widening access to higher education



The University has won the NEON HE Institution of the Year Award for widening access to higher education (HE). NEON's vision is that access to and success in HE should not be related to social background and the awards celebrate the "transformative power" that HE can have, while recognising key achievements in widening access. Congratulations to everyone involved who contributed to this award.

Philanthropic donation to fund innovative new building



We are excited to announce that we have received a philanthropic pledge from His Highness Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, the Ruler of Sharjah, to co-fund the construction of a new development on our Streatham Campus. The proposed building will extend from the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (IAIS) which Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lisa Roberts said: "I wish to extend my utmost gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Sultan. This extraordinary act of philanthropy is transformational for our students and colleagues, and its scale and ambition form the centrepiece of our 2030 Strategy.

Exeter graduate nominated for BAFTA



Will Nicholls, an Exeter graduate, has been nominated for a BAFTA for his work filming a nature documentary. Will filmed cheetahs in Tanzania for the TV series *Predators*, narrated by actor Tom Hardy, and it was broadcast on Sky Nature in the UK, and Netflix in the USA and Canada. Will studied Zoology at the Centre for Ecology and Conservation at our Penryn Campus. He said: "It has always been a goal of mine to get a BAFTA nomination for cinematography, and I'm thrilled that it was for a show like *Predators*."

Newsletter Quiz:

Purely for fun here is a general knowledge quiz

1. In which part of your body would you find the cruciate ligament?
2. What is the name of the main antagonist in the Shakespeare play Othello?
3. What element is denoted by the chemical symbol Sn in the periodic table?
4. How many of Henry VIII's wives were called Catherine?
5. What was the most popular girls name in the UK in 2021?
6. What is the name of the 1976 film about the Watergate scandal, starring Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman?
7. In what US State is the city Nashville?
8. What is the currency of Denmark?
9. Which Tennis Grand Slam is played on a clay surface?
10. In which European country would you find the Rijksmuseum?
11. How many films have Al Pacino and Robert De Niro appeared in together?
12. What was the old name for a Snickers bar before it changed in 1990?
13. Who was the head of state in Japan during the second world war?
14. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
15. Who wrote the novels Gone Girl and Sharp Objects?
16. Which legendary surrealist artist is famous for painting melting clocks?
17. Which football club plays its home games at Loftus Road?
18. Continental United States has 4 time zones, can you name them?
19. What was the Turkish city of Istanbul called before 1930?
20. Name the Coffee shop in US sitcom Friends.
21. How many human players are there on each side in a polo match?
22. In what year did Tony Blair become British Prime Minister?
23. How many times has England won the men's football World Cup?
24. What is the capital of New Zealand?
25. Street artist Banksy is originally associated with which British city?
26. From what grain is the Japanese spirit Sake made?

Answers appear on the last page of the newsletter.

Future events:



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

(UERSA)

SUMMER PARTY 2023

Exeter Cricket Club's pavilion is once more the venue for this year's UERSA Summer Party, to be held on Thursday 22 June between 3.00 and 5.00 pm. We hope for fine weather to enable UERSA members to enjoy the pavilion's balcony and view while enjoying sandwiches and a cream tea. Do please join us for this always very sociable event.

As in previous years, there is no charge to members for the tea – all part of your subscriptions. After last year's glitch and to celebrate summer, we are hoping that glasses of Pimms will be on sale at the pavilion bar.

Car parking will be available on the Cricket Club surrounds, accessible from along the left-hand side of the Squash Club.

As on previous occasions, we shall be inviting voluntary contributions at the party in support of a needy charity, to be advised at a later date. Please be generous on the day.

For catering purposes it's important that we have accurate numbers of those attending, so please complete and return the form below to me at The Old Coach House, North Street, Topsham, Exeter EX3 0AP or reply by e-mail, **no later than 8 June**. If you have to drop out thereafter for any reason, do please tell me ASAP.

The UERSA Executive Committee looks forward to welcoming you on 22 June.

David Batty

Chair

To: David Batty, The Old Coach House, North Street, Topsham, Exeter EX3 0AP

(D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk)

I/We should like to attend the UERSA Summer Garden Party on Thursday 22 June at 3.00 pm at the Exeter Cricket Club pavilion.

Name(s): _____

E-mail: _____

Telephone: _____

HEAVITREE HAS A HISTORY!

Arranged specially for UERSA members, come for a short stroll on Wednesday 14 June around historic Heavitree. You will hear from the Heavitree Local History Society about the 280 million year-old Heavitree Stone, medieval archery grounds, executions, the parish church and its yew tree (named as one of Britain's 50 iconic trees), breweries and pubs, stories of brothels and murder and of the first tourist guide to Spain. The walk will be on firm ground, mainly pavements.

Meet at 10.30 am – there is some car park and street parking in the area – by the Park Life Café in Heavitree Pleasure Grounds (off Whipton Lane at its Heavitree Fore Street end). The Café is open from 9 am for those who wish for a pre-walk drink and cake. The walk which will last about an hour and a half and will also end at the Café.

To make it manageable, numbers on the walk are restricted to 20. If you would like to join it, please contact David Batty (email: D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk).

The weekly programme of Exeter Forum talks for June through August 2023.

Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings. The talks start at 10:45am, while coffee is available from 10:15am. Full descriptions of talks and speakers appear in the weekly newsletter sent to Forum members and on the Exeter Forum website. Visitors are welcome subject to a small charge for each talk. Any programme changes will be shown on the Exeter Forum website at: www.exeterforum.org

<p>Wednesday 7 June</p>	<p>Peter Wingfield Digby</p>	<p>Exeter Cathedral Memorials Historian, author and Cathedral Guide Peter will give a fascinating insight into the different memorials that can be seen in Exeter Cathedral including their origins and the stories connected to them</p>
<p>Wednesday 14 June</p>	<p>Derek Gore</p>	<p>The Vikings in the West Country This talk is the follow up to Derek's story about the Kingdom of the Dumnonia. He will show how the Scandinavians, mostly Danes first came to Britain by sea in search of portable wealth. The long coastline with many estuaries was ideal for their highly manoeuvrable, shallow draught ships. As their raids increased, they sought land and power. This had important effects on the West Country and the Saxon city of Exeter. Derek Gore is a historian and archaeologist from the University of Exeter</p>
<p>Wednesday 21 June</p>	<p>Alan Pewsey</p>	<p>Dartmoor Search and Rescue Alan is a volunteer with Dartmoor Search and Rescue working with the Ashburton team. He will show the many different ways that they help people in difficulties on Dartmoor and the roles they perform. His talk will also cover how they work with search dogs. Alan will explain the importance of training, and how a rescue is organised and co-ordinated.</p>
<p>Wednesday 28 June</p>	<p>Lisa Tame</p>	<p>Farms for City Children Farms for City Children is a charity that enables children from disadvantaged communities to experience the adventure of working together on farms. It was co-founded by Sir Michael and Lady Morpurgo. Lisa's talk will look at the development of this important charity, and how its work has benefitted children from our major cities. The charity has its base near Exeter, and one of their main centres is Nethercott House near Iddesleigh. Lisa is Grants Development Manager for Farms for City Children.</p>

Wednesday 5 July	Angela White	Chinese Festivals Angela will draw on her experience of living in Hong Kong for 14 years to provide an insight into a 12-month run through of festivals in the Chinese Zodiac. She will explain some of the symbolism and customs of celebrating showing many of the colourful banners and ornaments used.
Wednesday 12 July	Julie Owen	Devon Loves Dogs Devon Loves Dogs is a local organisation for those who own dogs or go on walks with friends and family who have dogs. It sets out to inform dog owners and walkers about how they may impact on wildlife. It also provides a way to represent the needs of dog owners to landowners and managers. Julie is the co-ordinator for Devon Loves Dogs. She is often seen at work with her Cocker Spaniel x Labrador Maisie and on Waggy walks locally.
Wednesday 19 July	David Brandreth	Jane Austen's Purse - History in Coins from the Restoration to the Great Recoinage of 1817. What coins would have been in your purse in the time of Jane Austen? Why were coins needed? Why was a recoinage necessary after the Napoleonic wars? David's talk will give a general overview of aspects of our coins, with some interesting anecdotes from this historical period.
Wednesday 26 July	Graham Forshaw	The work and challenges of the Exeter Port Authority Exeter Port Authority Harbour Master Graham Forshaw will look at his day-to-day work that covers Exeter, the Canal and the Estuary, and describe some of its many challenges.
Wednesday 2 August	John Davidson	Slips, slides, slumps, flows and falls – the story of landslides. Devon and Dorset have spectacular landslides which appear in the news from time to time. John's talk will look at why landslides occur along the Jurassic Coast and elsewhere in the world, and what, if anything, we can do about them
Wednesday 9 August	Robert Hesketh	Smuggling in Devon – The truth behind the fiction Devon has a long history of smuggling, and many stories have been told about the battles between the smugglers and the revenue men. Following his talk on castles in Devon, photographer and author Robert will show how smuggling became a huge industry in Devon from 1700 onwards and the various romantic and more brutal stories that were told about these illegal activities.

Wednesday 16th August – Wednesday 30th August

No Meetings The Forum will be taking its Summer Break

Wednesday 6 September

Talks Programme restarts. September programme details to be confirmed later

Matford Open Gardens in aid of Hospiscare

Sunday 11th June 2-5pm

Matford Avenue, Leighdene Close in St Leonards, Exeter

Entry by voluntary donation (one donation gives access to all 6 gardens)

Teas, cake stall and plant stalls.

Newsletter Quiz Answers:

1. Knee
2. Iago
3. Tin
4. 3
5. Olivia
6. All the President's Men
7. Tennessee
8. Krone
9. The French Open (Roland Garros)
10. Netherlands
11. Four (The Godfather Part 2, Heat, Righteous Kill, The Irishman)
12. Marathon
13. Emperor Hirohito
14. Mercury
15. Gillian Flynn
16. Salvador Dali
17. Queen's Park Rangers
18. Pacific, Mountain, Central, Eastern
19. Constantinople
20. Central Perk
21. Four
22. 1997
23. Once (1966)
24. Wellington
25. Bristol
26. Rice