



## RETIREE STAFF ASSOCIATION

### NEWSLETTER

Issue 20, January 2011

Belated New Year greetings to all. May you have happiness, health – and possibly even prosperity - in 2011.

This is my first Newsletter, and Sue's sterling work is a very hard act to follow. This first letter will be briefer and less informative than hers as I haven't discovered all the sources of information, but otherwise I shall try to follow her template as far as possible.

One of the main aims of the Newsletter is to keep you up-to-date with UERSA activities. For those of you who are on-line, our website at <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html> is very well-managed by Roger Coles who has efficiently added all new information (almost before it is written!) and has made it very easy to use; you will find lists of forthcoming events and the old newsletters etc. About 65 members cannot access the web and so we shall still compile a regular printable version to be sent out with the Committee and Organisers' information included. We can be contacted by telephone and ordinary post, and details of contact information can be found at the end of the newsletter.

May I invite you to put forward suggestions or to comment freely? I would be very interested to have information about yourself and others that you think will interest the Association as well as information about activities of the various constituent groups. I hope to be able to write first-hand about some of the groups after a few months, though not all of the activities are up my street:

Rachel Kirby – newsletter editor – [r.m.Kirby@ex.ac.uk](mailto:r.m.Kirby@ex.ac.uk), 01392 273536.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Forty-six Members were present at the AGM held on Friday 15 October.

Elections for the Committee, to replace those members standing down, resulted in changes in the composition of the Committee as follows:

Laurie Burbidge will be our new President for 2010/2011 in place of Bruce Coleman who will serve a further year on the Committee, as Immediate Past President.

Susan Cousins is replacing Mary Banks as Social Co-ordinator and Rachel Kirby replaces Sue Guy as Newsletter Editor (but fortunately, Sue Guy has been co-opted for a few months to help with the newsletter). Frankie Peroni and John Carroll have replaced Sue Odell and Tony Wragg as Ordinary Members of the Committee.

Anne Mayes has been unanimously elected as President Elect for 2010/2011.

#### **A revised list of Committee Members with contact details is enclosed with this Newsletter.**

The current membership fee is still held at £6 per person/couple for 2010/11. Judy Mead (Membership Secretary) confirmed that the current membership of the Association was 369 at that time.

All the suggested amendments to the UERSA Constitution were approved by the AGM. The most important change affecting ordinary members means that Jan Reynolds can continue her great work as Secretary of UERSA for the coming year.

The Chairman finished the AGM by thanking all the Committee members for their work during 2009/2010 and commending "our splendidly clear and comprehensive website which is designed and kept bang up-to-date by Roger Coles. This also contains full information about all aspects of UERSA, including archival material and photographs."

## Personal Notes

It is with great sadness that we have to report the deaths of:

- **Beryl Straw**, wife of (Emeritus) Professor Allan Straw, on September 7th 2010;
- **Emeritus Professor John Ashford**, on 18th November 2010;
- **Dr JS (Stan) Whitehurst**, retired Senior Lecturer in Chemistry, in January 2011, aged 91.

## Hot off the press! Suggestions for future activities.

As well as suggestions put forward at the AGM, such as visits to Stourhead, Bath, the new Olympic Site in London, and the Houses of Parliament; we have had two separate suggestions for a Dancing Group from UERSA members, both well thought out and sounding very exciting. It is possible that they could combine together, but this would be for the organisers to consider later.

Here is a short summary of each of the proposals:

1. From Bernard and Lyn Pearson who are keen Ballroom, Latin and Sequence dancers. If there is enough interest in (learning or doing) ballroom dancing they might be persuaded to organise a 'regular' tea dance in Exeter. There are already regular tea dances around Exeter for sequence dancing, but B and L would look into the possibility of hiring dance teachers and halls for a UERSA group to do all the above dances so that members could have some instruction (for the nervous ones) and/or just dance, and socialise over tea-and-biscuits. A secondary role for the interest group might be to get up parties to go to the existing afternoon tea-dances together, or to the Saturday evening dances in and around Exeter, or to book group dancing holidays at Bournemouth, Blackpool or such places, or to arrange parties to see the national and international championships.

2. From Ruth and Brian Bradford who are American Square Dance enthusiasts. Their Club (ISCA Allemanders, currently at Kennford) is in danger of folding for lack of new members. They are suggesting a beginners' class to get people interested, and thought there might be some UERSA members who would like to take part. They point out that square dancing is an ideal pastime for all ages as long as you are reasonably fit and they would ideally need four or five squares e.g. 32/40 people.

So, two different suggestions for dance groups, from enthusiastic people, who are eager to organise new activities for UERSA members. Anyone who may be interested or would like further information should make direct contact with

Bernard Pearson ([B.R.Pearson@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:B.R.Pearson@exeter.ac.uk)) tel. 01363773201) and / or

Ruth Bradford ([ruthmary@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthmary@btinternet.com)) tel. 01392 433469)

## Reports on General Events

**Christmas lunch.** This was the first time that I have taken part in this, or indeed any other, General Event, and I hope that my enthusiasm will encourage others to join in. It was beautifully organized by Mary Banks and Sue Cousins, even to being given the list of items we had each chosen from the menu (necessary for many of us!) and there was a tremendous turn out for it. My fear that I wouldn't know anybody was dissolved rapidly, since conversation flowed freely, partly catching up with what people had done since retiring but more so in learning about what they are doing now. Slippers by the fire, the crossword and a little light gardening has been replaced by a variety and energy of activities that might shame some of those who have not yet retired. Distant travel featured now that many members had time available for it. Some sailors had got to formidably distant shores – and excited us with their accounts of the problems they had faced. These confirmed my own feeling about sailing – 'scared stiff, frozen stiff, and (but certainly not in their case!) bored stiff'. It was good that our member supporting the Royal National Lifeboat Institute wasn't in on this conversation - but then again, he might have been able to extract an augmented donation from them. Others with more homely pursuits seem to have gone into almost industrial scope in the volume of produce. Between these two ends of the continuum of activities was a heartwarming number of members who were quietly involved in an enormous range of social activities for all age groups and in support for the more vulnerable parts of society. (And most of that was gleaned just from our neighbours at the table!) My husband Brian who is helping with the newsletter added this rather puzzling comment :- "Oh, and the story about the brothel will have to wait until there's

not much news". I didn't get to hear the story myself!

### **Reports on Group Events**

(reported to the Committee Meeting Dec 2010)

**Badminton** Jan confirmed that the Group still had 9 members and everyone seemed to enjoy the activity, followed by a chat/coffee afterwards!

**Bridge**. As a member of the Group, **Wojtek** reported that at present the Group use a room in the University's Clayden building, for which there is an annual charge. Members of the Group have agreed on a small "pay to play" fee in order to cover this charge.

**Gardens**: The Group is in hibernation during the winter months! **Anne Mayes** (Group Leader) has confirmed that she is happy to carry on organising visits for the time being, but at the same time the Committee should bear in mind that a new Leader should be sought for the future.

**Music**: Last year's outings - a performance of The Monteverdi vespers in the Cathedral with the Exeter Festival Chorus in June, and the Glyndebourne Touring Opera production of The Coronation of Poppaea by Monteverdi, in Plymouth last November – were arranged by **Helen Pope** (Group Leader), assisted by **Alastair Logan**.

**Restaurants**: **Frankie Peroni** (Group Leader) confirmed that she was in the process of organising visits, and these would be included in the next Newsletter.

**Walking**: as usual the Group is still very buoyant. The most recent walk was a three mile trek undertaken by 30 members, and ending up with an enjoyable lunch at the Thorverton Arms. (Five additional members, who were unable to take part in the actual walk, joined the others for the lunch!).

**Wine Tasting**. **Laurie Burbridge** (Group Leader) confirmed that an event had been arranged where 37 members were expected to attend! Laurie confirmed that he is prepared to carry on as Leader until the Spring, but in the meantime a replacement Leader should be sought.

### **Dates for UERSA Spring 2011**

*The Badminton Group* will commence play again on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. until 12 noon at the University Sports Hall from the 19th January until the end of March.

*The Bridge Group* continue to meet once a month apart from July and August, and are always happy to welcome new players. (Hopefully more details from Paul)

*The Wine Group* has no definite dates at present, but Laurie is hoping to reschedule postponed meetings from the autumn.

Wed 19 Jan	Walking Group	10.30 a.m.-3.30 p.m.	Meldon
Tues 25 Jan	UERSA Coffee Morning	10.0-12.noon	Imperial Hotel, Exeter
Tues 01 Feb	Walking Group	10.30 a.m.-15.00p.m.	Chagford
Thur 17 Feb	Walking Group	10.30 a.m.	Raddon Hills
Tues 22 Feb	UERSA Coffee Morning	10.0-12.noon	Imperial Hotel, Exeter
Wed 23 Feb	Restaurant Group	Lunch	Puffing Billy, Exton
Wed 09 Mar	Walking Group	10.30 a.m.	Cox Tor
Wed 09 Mar	UERSA:The Merry Wives of Windsor	7.30 p.m.	The Studio, Roborough Bldg. Univ.of Exeter
Mon 21 Mar	UERSA Trivia Quiz	7 p.m.	Isca Centre
Thur 24 Mar	Walking Group	10.30 a.m.	Haddon Hill
Tues 29 Mar	UERSA Coffee Morning	10.0-12 noon	Imperial Hotel, Exeter
Wed 06 Apr	Opera Group "Die Fledermaus"	7.15 p.m.	Plymouth

## **Forthcoming General Events**

**Drama Department performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by Shakespeare:** this by now almost traditional visit will take place on Wednesday 9th March, at 7.30 p.m. in the Roborough Studios (as before). If this performance is anything like the previous ones, we are in for a treat. The performance is free, though you will be asked to contribute something towards the charity being supported by the players. Further details will be circulated soon, together with a form for seats.

**UERSA Trivia Quiz:** another of these popular events will take place on Monday 21st March, in the Isca Centre, at 7 pm. The cost will be £5.50 per person (which includes light refreshments). Drinks can be bought separately at the bar. See form at the end of this Newsletter.

**Visit to Bath and the Roman Baths:** join us for a trip to Bath and the Roman Baths on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011. The coach will depart from the Exeter Squash Club Car Park at 8.30 a.m. (stopping for a VERY brief comfort break on the journey). The visit to the Baths should be about 90 minutes – they say that audio guides are available free of charge. We aim to leave Bath at about 4 p.m. hoping to arrive back in Exeter at about 6 p.m. The cost will be £23 per person (which includes: Coach, Entry to the Roman Baths and tip to Driver). See form at the end of this Newsletter.

**Coffee Mornings:** The monthly UERSA Coffee Mornings will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Exeter, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon on the last Tuesday of each month throughout the year.

## **Forthcoming Group Events**

*(If you are not already a member of a group and you are interested in joining, please contact membership secretary Judy Mead or the group leader.)*

### **Badminton Group:**

Meetings will be every Wednesday (from the 19<sup>th</sup> January until the end of March) in the Sports Hall at the University between 11 and 12 noon (followed by coffee and chat). Please contact: [janandmikereynolds@gmail.com](mailto:janandmikereynolds@gmail.com): Tel 01392 271204 if you are interested in joining.

**Bridge Group:** No programme yet. New members welcome. Contact Paul Ellison on [P.A.Ellison@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:P.A.Ellison@exeter.ac.uk).

### **Garden visits**

Group leader Anne Mayes has “nothing concrete yet for the Garden Group, i.e. I have ideas but have not firmed anything up yet. I shall send a newsletter out to those on the Gardens List when I do.”  
[A.C.Mayes@ex.ac.uk](mailto:A.C.Mayes@ex.ac.uk)

**Music Group:** The Music/Opera Group's next venture will be to The Welsh National Opera's production of Johann Strauss's 'Die Fledermaus', at 7.15 on Wednesday, 6th April, at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth. Members will be circulated. For more details contact Group Leaders: Helen Pope: on [helen.pope@talktalk.net](mailto:helen.pope@talktalk.net) or Alastair Logan on [a.h.b.logan@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:a.h.b.logan@exeter.ac.uk) : Tel. 01392 434715

### **Restaurant Group:**

The first of the Spring events will be a lunch at the Puffing Billy in Exton on Wednesday February 23rd. The group has been there before but it is under new management. Only a sample menu is available at the moment. Contact Liz Smith on email [geoffandlizsmith@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:geoffandlizsmith@yahoo.co.uk) or Frankie Peroni on [F.Peroni@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:F.Peroni@exeter.ac.uk) :Tel. 01363 773946 for further details.

**Walking Group:** Four more walks (two in January already gone) are planned for the Winter and Spring: the longer ones will require a packed lunch. Contact Trevor Preist for further details:  
[preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk): Tel. 01392 259740

10.30 am Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> February Chagford      10 miles (led by Tom)

Chagford (park in swimming pool car-park GR 707885), Rushford Bridge, Westcott Farm, Little Weeke, Week Down, Thorn, Bovey Castle, Hele, Lettaford, Yellands, Meldon Common, Chagford.

10.30 am Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> February      Raddon Hills      8 miles (led by Mike and Suzanne)

Start : Thorverton Car Park ( Grid Reference SS 923021      Route : Thorverton - Berrysbridge - Heathfield

- Yendacott Manor - Efford - Raddon Hills - Chapel Farm - Thorverton.

*10.30 am Wednesday, 9th March            Cox Tor            7.5 miles (led by Pete)*

Meet Cox Tor Car Park (OL28 SX 531 751)    Cox Tor - Combe Tors – Stephen’s Grave – White Tor –  
Langmoor Standing Stone and Stone Circle – Roos Tor – Staple Tors – Cox Tor.

*10.30 am Thursday, 24th March Haddon Hill, Haddeo Valley and Wimbleball Lake 8.75 miles with  
shorter option, 6.25 miles (led by Roger)*

Start at Haddon Hill car park (SS969285) five miles north of Bampton. Haddon Hill - hamlet of Bury -  
riverside in the Haddeo Valley - Wimbleball Lake reservoir – up Haddon Hill.

**Wine Group:** Unfortunately, the last wine tasting planned for December had to be postponed due to the  
bad weather. Laurie is in the process of rescheduling this tasting of Spanish wines for early March, and  
also hoping to reschedule the cancelled tasting of Bordeaux wines. He is looking into the logistics of a  
tasting of a number of single-malt Whiskys. So, no definite dates at this stage. If you wish to join this  
group, please contact Laurie Burbridge :[L.Burbridge@Exeter.ac.uk](mailto:L.Burbridge@Exeter.ac.uk);) tel 01392 668833

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**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION  
(UERSA)**

**Contact details for Members of the UERSA Executive Committee 2010/11**

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UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**  
RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION  
(UERSA)

TRIVIA FUN QUIZ

Monday 21st March 2011

at

The Isca Centre, Summer Lane, Exeter  
(a very pleasant venue, with plenty of parking)

Cost: £5.50 per person

(which includes light refreshments – drinks can be bought separately at the bar)

**Please Note:** the closing date for receiving applications is 7th March.

Please complete the slip below and send it to Jan Reynolds, (Secretary)  
77 Rosebarn Lane, Pennsylvania, Exeter, EX4 5DG Tel.No. 01392 271204

.....

I/We would like to come to the Trivia Quiz on Monday 21 March

Name(s) .....  
.....

Address(es) .....  
.....

Tel. .... E-Mail .....

I/We enclose a cheque payable to **The University of Exeter** for £ .....

**Please remember that if you are booking more than one event we need a separate cheque for each event.**



**VISIT TO BATH AND THE ROMAN BATHS**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011**

The coach will depart from the Exeter Squash Club Car Park at 8.30 a.m. (stopping for a VERY brief comfort break on the journey).

The visit to the Baths should be about 90 minutes – they say that audio guides are available free of charge.

We aim to leave Bath at about 4 p.m. hoping to arrive back in Exeter at about 6 p.m.

**Cost: £23 per person**

(Which includes: Coach, Entry to the Roman Baths and tip to Driver)

**Please Note:** the closing date for receiving applications is 5<sup>th</sup> May.

Please complete the form below and send it to Nancy Scattergood, 56 Rosebank Crescent, Exeter, EX4 6EH.

.....

I/We would like to join the trip to Bath/Roman Baths

Name(s) .....

.....

Address(es) .....

.....

Tel. .... E-Mail .....

I/We enclose a cheque payable to **The University of Exeter** for £ .....

**Please remember that if you are booking more than one event we need a separate cheque for each event.**