



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)**

**NEWSLETTER
Issue 21, April 2011**

What an odd year this is. Who could have imagined such a late Easter followed by May Bank Holiday and a Royal Wedding too. For most people working, a delightful break – specially with the lovely weather we have had in the South-West. On the other hand it has had a disruptive side for us oldies bringing unprecedented numbers, and duration, of visits. You can't have it right for everyone.

Even the University has had to modify the lengths of last term and now the current one.

Needless to say it means this Newsletter doesn't fit neatly into the package but you will see the organisers have come up with a remarkable range of different activities providing something for almost everyone. If it doesn't then let us know and we will enrol you to fill the breach!

As you know, there are several items on the calendar labelled UERSA and aimed at all members, not just for specific interest groups. I would be very grateful for feedback on any event that you have joined – I would like to be able to include comments for the next newsletter, so that others can know what they missed. It would be best for you to email me as soon as possible after the event, before you have forgotten all the good feelings you had about it!

All best wishes for the summer

Rachel (newsletter editor)

email r.m.kirby@ex.ac.uk.

A Message from our Chairman:

This year membership numbers appear to have levelled off at around 350, the same as last year. Our finances and activities continue to be strong and the Association remains in a state of healthy vitality. This will continue in the future only with the continued supply of enthusiastic members to come forward to serve on the Committee and organise the various Activities - and the enthusiastic participation of members in these activities. So far this has happened and this year we have a new President Elect, Social Coordinator, Newsletter Editor and two Committee Members, and the transitions have all been successful. Moreover, all the General Events and Special Interest Groups continue to attract good support to the excellent programmes arranged by those responsible, so my thanks and congratulations to all concerned both those new to their tasks and those already established.

At the halfway point of our year we must consider the question of continuity of personnel. Like my predecessors as Chairman I have decided that one term of three years is the right period to serve so I will be standing down, but the Committee have identified a successor who will be its nominee at the AGM in October (it must however be emphasized that this does not exclude other nominations being made for this or any other post!) All other Committee members who are eligible to continue are at this time happy to do so, but we will be seeking the next President Elect and one new Committee member for 2011/12. Happily also, so far as I am aware at present, all the Group organisers are willing to continue but this cannot and should not mean that we do not need volunteers to help and some eventually to take over, so please - especially our newer and younger members - consider what you can do to promote the continuing success of our quite splendid Association, and step forward !

Personal Notes

It is with great sadness that we have to report the deaths of two former members of staff at the University of Exeter:

- Geoffrey Keene, aged 88 years old, died March 31st 2011 after suffering a long illness. Geoffrey was a former Senior Lecturer of Philosophy.
- Dr Tommy Revesz, aged 88 years, died suddenly of heart failure on 7th April 2011 whilst visiting a friend in Belgium. Tommy was formerly in the Geography Department

Reports on General Events

The Merry Wives of Windsor, by Shakespeare

Every now and again you come across something exciting you didn't know existed. Thanks to Sue Guy we went to see Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor" produced by the talented postgrads of the Drama Department. In Shakespeare's terms it is a light-hearted comedy which, in spite of its convolutions, is funny but at the same time makes penetrating social comments just as relevant to 21st century as when it was written.

All of this came over in an immensely entertaining production. The puns, the heraldic references and the social comment came over superbly – even for us, non-Shakespearean scholars.

Yet another example of the University's rich cultural offering brought to us via UERSA. (comment from member Brian Kirby!)

The Trivia Quiz at the Isca Centre

The Chairman reported that again it was a successful and hugely enjoyable evening thanks to Jan Reynolds' excellent organisation and our splendid quizmaster Nick Maquire (a member of UERSA). This has become a regular and greatly enjoyed annual event -long may it continue!

Reports on Group Events

Gardens Group: Anne Mayes

We enjoyed a pre-season visit to the N Devon Snowdrop Valley in February, a muddy but wonderful sight, followed by tea in the village hall (some started with lunch in the pub too!).

The first main event of the season was our coach trip to Trelissick Gardens and Truro at the end of March. We had a difficult start (parking-wise!), but then we were fortunate to be shown round the garden by a very friendly and informative gardener. The garden was in fine form and we had the advantage of being given insights into the various plans, changes and new ventures such as the apple orchard. An hour and a half in Truro gave us time to wander round and find somewhere for afternoon tea, the Cathedral Refectory was a popular choice.

Music/Opera Group: Helen Pope and Alastair Logan

On 6th April - the Music/Opera Group had a very successful visit to see "Die Fledermaus" at the Welsh National Opera at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. It was a light-hearted, colourful production, well sung and with interesting sets.

Restaurant Group: Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith

Our recent luncheon venues included a return to the Puffing Billy at Exton, now under new management, and a very enjoyable visit to the Drewe Arms in the beautiful setting of Drewsteignton. Many of you may have visited the pub in its previous more eccentric form when Mabel was there. Now good food is very much on the menu.

Walking Group: Trevor Preist

Editor's note – I'm afraid there is no way I can do justice to the excellent reports from the walking group, you should go to their UERSA web page for the amusing accounts and their delightful photos. Suffice it to say that they have had several, mostly delightful walks in the first 3 months of the year! (see UERSA website : [HTTP://Groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa](http://Groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa) and choose Special Interest Groups / walking from UERSA home page)

Wine Group: Laurie Burbridge

Judith Wragg kindly made her house available for our March event, at which we had a delightful commentary and tasted a number of Spanish wines from Vinifera Wines Ltd. (*I went to this, and was very impressed with the setting and Judith's hospitality, as well as with the arrangements for the tasting – a very good occasion! Ed*)

Calendar of Events, May-July

(see below for further details of each event)

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|---------|---|---------------------|
| Tues 3 May | Walking | 10.45 | Newton Abbot <i>packed lunch required</i> | 7 miles |
| Wed 11 May | Garden | | The Delamore Estate, Cornwood | |
| Tues 17 May | Restaurant | Lunch | St. Olaves in Exeter | |
| Tues 17 May | UERSA | 6.30 pm | Tuckers Hall conducted tour, Fore Street, Exeter. | |
| Thur 19 May | UERSA | 8.30 am | Visit To Bath And The Roman Baths | <i>Booking form</i> |
| Tues 31 May | UERSA | 10-12 | Coffee Morning | |
| Tues 7 June | Walking | 10.30 | Ludwell Valley (short) | 4 miles |
| Tues 14/Wed 15 June | Walking | 2 days | Dorset Delights | 2x10 miles |
| Thur 16 June | Garden | | Kingston Lacy by coach | |
| Wed 22 June | Wine | | "Disguised" wine tasting | |
| Thur 23 June | Restaurant | Lunch | Deer Park, at Weston, near Honiton | ; |
| Tues 28 June | UERSA | 10-12 | Coffee Morning | |
| Tues 28 June | Walking | | East Devon | (short) |
| Sat 2 July | Music/Opera | 7.30pm | "Cantos Sagrados" | Exeter Cathedral |
| Thur 7 July | UERSA | 3 pm | The Annual Garden Party | <i>Booking form</i> |
| Fri 12th Aug | Gardens | | Whitstone Farm Bovey Tracey | |
| Tues 13 Sept | UERSA | | Round Robin trip | <i>Booking form</i> |
| Tues 22 Nov | Music/Opera | | Touring Glyndebourne's production of La Boheme Plymouth | |

Forthcoming General Events

Conducted tour of Tuckers Hall in Fore Street, Exeter,

6.30pm Tuesday 17th May - this is being organized by the local branch of the Historical Association. The Association branch expects to have some places on the visit spare and would be delighted to welcome members of UERSA to join them. There is a small charge of £2 per head but light refreshments are provided. Anyone interested should contact Bruce Coleman on 01392-254142 or 263294 or via his e-mail address (bruce.i.coleman@exeter.ac.uk). If interest exceeds the ceiling on numbers, first come, first served. Incidentally, in case anyone doesn't know, Tuckers Hall has been from 1471 the Guild or Livery Hall of the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen and is one of the few late-mediaeval livery halls outside London to survive complete.

Bath (including a visit to the Roman Baths). (N.B. Deadline for booking is May 5th).

Thursday 19 May. 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)

The Annual Garden Party

3pm Thursday 7th July. The party will be held at the Cricket Club - afternoon tea provided! Parking will be available at the Cricket Club. See booking form at the end of this Newsletter for details.

Round Robin Trip -

Tuesday 13th September. The Round Robin trip (voted "Number 1 Day Out in the UK" by the Sunday Times!) starts with views of a stunning stretch of coastline and countryside between Paignton and Kingswear on board a steam train (30 minutes). This is followed by the foot passenger ferry between Kingswear and Dartmouth (7 minutes). There is plenty of time to explore Dartmouth (which includes restaurants, pubs, cafés and food shops for lunch). After lunch discover Devon's most secret landscapes on a mellow cruise between Dartmouth and Totnes (75 minutes), finishing off with a bus trip from Totnes back to Paignton (25 minutes).

Full details on the Round Robin web site <http://www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk/>

Concessionary fare £19.00 (less 10% for groups of 20+) = £17.10

Not included: train from Exeter St David's to Paignton (off-peak day returns from around £4)

Booking form at end of newsletter.

Coffee Mornings: The monthly UERSA Coffee Mornings (10 a.m. until 12 noon) at the Imperial Hotel, Exeter will be held on: Tuesday 31st May, 28th June. (Note - NOT July and August - holiday time for many, or perhaps grandchildren-sitting!).

Forthcoming Group Events

Badminton Group: Jan Reynolds

The Group can only play for six Wednesday mornings during the present Summer Term due to the University Sports Hall not being available. However, courts have been booked for each Wednesday from 11 a.m. until 12 noon (followed by coffee/chat!) from the beginning of September until Christmas.

Bridge Group: Paul Ellison(from the web page)

meetings at Clayden on

Thursday 26th May

Tuesday 28th June

We will stop for July and August, and restart in September

Music/Opera Group: Helen Pope and Alastair Logan

Our projected expeditions so far are

Sat 2nd July: "Cantos Sagrados"

On Saturday, 2nd July at 7.30 the Exeter Festival Chorus will be performing Cantos Sagrados in the cathedral. The programme comprises several interesting works as well as James MacMillan's Cantos Sagrados, settings of poems on political repression in Latin America interspersed among traditional religious texts in Latin.

We will book for a party at a reduced rate, if there is enough interest.

Tues 22nd November: Touring Glyndebourne's production of La Boheme

We have 40 seats booked for La Bohème, at the Theatre Royal Plymouth, for Tues, 22nd November, 2011, 20 in the Circle (£44.50) and 20 in the Upper Circle (£24.50).

As last year, the theatre will be unable to provide us with supper and we propose making a provisional booking for 20 people (max size) at Chloe's Restaurant (French) just above the theatre, 27 Princess Street, @~ £20. The places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. La Tasca, the Spanish tapas bar, and other nearby restaurants, such as La Bella Italia, are happy to serve small groups.

Please note Helen's new e-mail address h.pope174@btinternet.com

Gardens Group: Anne Mayes <a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk>

Our next visit is to the **Delamore Estate, Cornwood, on May 11th**

June 16th will see us at Kingston Lacy (by coach).

Restaurant Group: Frankie Peroni & Liz Smith

Members enjoy finding new venues and tasting contrasting styles of food. Our future programme includes:

*a visit to **St. Olaves in Exeter on May 17th**;

***Thursday 23rd June**. we are returning to the Deer Park in its beautiful setting at Weston, near Honiton;

*as a contrast, **in August there will be a light bistro lunch at Tobias in Budleigh Salterton**. A venue for July has yet to be arranged.

For more details contact Frankie Peroni - tel. 01363 773946 e-mail F.Peroni@exeter.ac.uk OR Liz Smith - tel 01363 84667 e-mail geoffandlizsmith@yahoo.co.uk

Walking Group: Trevor Preist preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk

Again, this is a much-edited version of the walks information. Further details on the group's superb webpage. (*Choose Special Interest Groups / walking from UERSA home page*)

10.45 am Tuesday, 3rd May Newton Abbot 7 miles *Packed Lunch Required*
(David and Lorna)

Newton Abbot - East Ogwell - Denbury - West Ogwell - Morley Bridge - Newton Abbot. After a short initial climb the walk is gently downhill, on lanes and footpaths. Muddy if wet.

10.30 am Tuesday, 7th June Ludwell Valley 4 miles
(Trish)

Park in the roads around the Tally Ho pub, Countess Wear. GR940904

This moderate walk takes us around the scenic Ludwell Valley with panoramic views over both Exeter and the Exe estuary towards Exmouth. There will be an optional lunch at the Tally Ho Inn.

Tues / Wed, 14th / 15th June Dorset Delights Each walk will be about 9/10 miles
(Trevor)

On one day, walk from Corfe Castle along the Purbeck Way to Ballard Down north of Swanage and then back into Swanage.

On the other day, we will walk another section of the Purbeck Way from a point near Worth Matravers to the South West Coast Path at Chapman's Pool and then along the path to Swanage via Durlleston Head.

Tuesday, 28th June East Devon (short)
(Alan)

This will be a shortish walk, followed by a pub lunch.

Wine Group: Laurie Burbridge

Our next event is a wine tasting on **Wednesday 22nd June** when we will be sampling a number of red and white wines ranging in price between £5 and £25. The wines will be suitably disguised and all you need to do is to say how much you would be prepared to pay for each wine. Full details will be sent to members of the Wine Group in the near future. Meanwhile, if you need more information, please contact Laurie Burbridge (L.Burbridge@exeter.ac.uk) or visit the UERSA web site.

Having organised wine events for more than 6 years, Laurie is still seeking someone to take over the leadership of this group

University News of Interest to Members

Members will be delighted to know that the University continues to remain in the forefront of national and international ratings despite all the building disruptions, and as the academic year draws to a close, many students and staff continue with high achievements.

As student numbers grow apace, let us hope the dust settles and the new building has its final growth spurt and is sufficient for the requirements. There will still be closures of buildings and areas through the summer.



RETIREE STAFF ASSOCIATION (UERSA)

VISIT TO BATH AND THE ROMAN BATHS

Thursday 19th May 2011

Please Note: the closing date for receiving applications is 5th May. This is a copy of the booking form from the last newsletter. If you would like to join this trip, please phone Nancy to see if this is still possible. 01392 274399

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 complete the form below and send it to Nancy Scattergood, 56 Rosebank Crescent, Exeter, EX4 6EH . Telephone 01392 274399.

.....

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.



UERSA ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

**Thursday 7th July at 3 pm
at the Exeter Cricket Club,
Prince of Wales Road**

The Summer Garden Party will again be held at the Exeter Cricket Club, Prince of Wales Road. The club provides views over Exeter and a lovely lawn for us to enjoy our traditional afternoon tea (after a suitable welcome drink), but if it happens to rain, all is not lost as we have use of the clubhouse.

There will be no charge for this event.

Please complete the slip below and return it to;
Susan Cousins, UERSA Social Secretary,
21 Chantry Meadow, Alphington, Exeter. EX2 8FT. Tel.No:01392 432309.
Email: scousins@talktalk.net
by Friday 24th June

.....
I/We would like to come to the Garden Party on Thursday 7th July

Name(s).....

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

Tel No.....Email.....

PARKING

Parking is available on the side of the cricket ground. Drive through the Devon & Exeter Squash Club car park (entry from Prince of Wales Road) to find the cricket ground behind it. Park there and walk across to the Cricket Clubhouse. As that will involve climbing steps to the clubhouse level, any members who want to avoid the steps could park in Prince of Wales Road opposite the Cricket Club's formal gates and, going through them, walk along the path to the Clubhouse.

You can take the bus from town, get off at the Northcott Theatre bus stop, walk down the hill to Prince of Wales Road then up to the cricket ground.



RETIREED STAFF ASSOCIATION (UERSA)

Round Robin Trip - Tuesday 13th September 2011

Voted "Number 1 Day Out in the UK" by the Sunday Times!

The Round Robin trip starts on board a steam train (30 minutes) with stunning views of coastline and countryside between Paignton and Kingswear. This is followed by the foot passenger ferry between Kingswear and Dartmouth (7 minutes). After time to explore and have lunch in Dartmouth, cruise between Dartmouth and Totnes (75 minutes), finishing off with a bus trip from Totnes back to Paignton (25 minutes).

Full details on the Round Robin web site http://www.dartmouthrailriver.co.uk/

Concessionary fare £19.00 (less 10% for groups of 20+) = £17.10

Not included: train from Exeter St David's to Paignton (off-peak day returns from around £4)

Provisional itinerary (including suggested trains to/from Exeter):

- 09:16 Exeter St David's to Paignton (arrive 10:10)
10:30 Steam Train from Paignton to Kingswear
Ferry from Kingswear to Dartmouth (arrive approx. 11:30)
15:15 River Cruise from Dartmouth to Totnes (arrive approx. 16:30)
17:20 Bus from Totnes to Paignton (arrive approx. 17:50)
18:35 Paignton to Exeter St David's (arrive 19:21)

To book please complete the following form and return it to : John Carroll, 39a Sylvan Road, Exeter, EX4 6EY:

I/We would like to book on the Round Robin Trip on Tuesday 13th Sept 2011

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.