



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

Issue 3, May 2005

As Members will see from this Newsletter, UERSA is now settling down into a fairly relaxed routine of General and Group meetings, and accounts of such events are featured on p.2. The University's Golden Jubilee is being celebrated in 2005-2006 and UERSA Members will be interested in the information given on p.3. However, there are one or two general points to start with.

Membership

Our membership now stands at 311 – an increase of over thirty on our last reported figure. However, the increase in membership will not in itself be a true measure of our success as an association if Members do not actively support the events arranged either by the Committee or by the Special Interest Groups. Obviously there will be occasions when Members cannot come, but it would be much appreciated if having signed up for an event Members would let the organisers know that they cannot after all make it. There was an unfortunate and embarrassing occasion recently when an event carefully arranged for a Group was only attended by two people.

The Committee have drafted a letter which will in future be given to all members of Exeter staff on their retirement. Hopefully this will increase our membership still further.

Associate Membership of the University

We now have information on the Sports Facilities available to Members:

All retired staff can apply for membership of the sports facilities at the normal staff rate; full information is available on the University web site. Any retired member of staff needs to fill out the application form and use their University card to access the sports facilities.. When the card is "swiped" at any reception point the membership details will be displayed on screen – so the card is essential.

Payment for events

In order to avoid confusion in the accounts please ensure that cheques sent to UERSA (for membership fees, attendance at events, etc.) are made out to The University of Exeter, not to UERSA.

Group News

Roger Fieldhouse, who was to have led the Theatre Group, finds he cannot now do so, so the position is open – any volunteers?

Personal Notes

It is with great sadness that we report that Professor Ronald Atkinson, for many years Head of the Philosophy Department, died recently of a stroke.

Forthcoming events

The next general occasion is the **Garden Party** at Reed Hall on Wednesday 8th June, 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. This should be a delightful occasion, particularly if the weather is kind, with cream teas, punch, soft drinks, tea and coffee available. The venue is the Woodbridge Suite which provides access to the lawn if fine or cover if wet. The cost is £6 per person. If you would like to come please complete the form attached to this Newsletter and return it by 24th May to Cynthia Ransome.

For your diaries: there will be a **Buffet Lunch** in Reed Hall on 16th October as UERSA's celebration of our 50th anniversary as a University. We are arranging a speaker to remind us (briefly) of some of the more famous or infamous moments of the last 50 years. The cost will be £12 including a glass of wine.

Reports on general events

Lecture by Bob Alcock on 17th March: this was a most interesting journey through the development of the University Estate, with a brief look at the Cornish dimension. Exeter has come a long way since Bob arrived to take up his position as "maintenance man" to the existing buildings and estate, and our present position owes much to his enthusiasm and ability as a "property developer".

The trip to the Eden Project was a great success. Forty Members set out by coach on a glorious day in April and were duly impressed by the great biodomes and the spring flower displays outside. Lunch in the sunshine – and Cornish ice creams – together with trouble-free transport there and back made this a day to remember, and to be repeated.

Group reports

Garden Group: Our first visit was to the Garden House near Tavistock, again in good weather. The flower meadows and shrubs in the newer part of the garden were lovely, and though some fairly radical overhauling and replanting in the original enclosed garden was underway, nothing can really spoil this superb "secret" garden with its wealth of planting among the late medieval priory ruins. The pub at Milton Combe was pretty good, too! The next visit was to Bickham House Garden and was greatly appreciated by those attending. Again the sun shone and added to the pleasure.

Badminton Group: the first session was held in late March with further sessions in April. According to Jan Reynolds, the Leader "we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves (plus the exercise was very welcome). We met afterwards in the Sports Hall Coffee Bar for a chat and a coffee".

Walking Group: this Group is well under way with a first walk circling the city of Exeter (a distance of about 11 miles). As the Leader Trevor Preist writes "a few walkers chose intermediate end points but half the original group of 18 completed the course, arriving in a minor blizzard!". More walks in March, April and May (coastal path from Budleigh, Haldon Forest and Dartmoor) have already taken place and many more are planned.

Other Groups already under way with events past and future include the Music/Opera Group and the Restaurant Group – see the Web site for details.

Our Members certainly seem to be enjoying themselves!

Golden Jubilee

The University is planning a number of events, starting on 1st October 2005. A final programme will be available in the next few months. Of particular interest to retired staff are the following:

The University is planning to produce a history of the University and its relationship with the City of Exeter. At the very least this will be published on the University's Web site; it may also be published in the conventional way, but this is by no means certain. The University would be grateful for any articles, stories or photographs relating to the history of the University and retired staff are invited to contribute. The text should be sent to Erin Allgrove (Erin.Allgrove@exeter.ac.uk) who is co-ordinating this activity.

The University is also mounting an exhibition in the City Museum relating to the fifty years of the University. Again, any stories, photographs or artefacts suitable for such an exhibition would be gratefully received and retired staff are encouraged to contribute. Contact is Erin Allgrove – see above.

If anyone has ideas for events or activities to mark the Golden Jubilee they should contact Sean Fielding (S.N.Fielding@exeter.ac.uk)

As Members were reminded in the last Newsletter, the University Newsletter "*Extra*", which will contain much more information about our Jubilee, is available from Stuart Franklin, Head of Press and Public Relations.

GARDEN PARTY

Reed Hall, Wednesday 8th June,

4 p.m. – 6 p.m., Woodbridge Suite

The cost is £6 per person.

Please complete the following tear-off slip and send it to
Cynthia Ransome, Social Secretary, 4 Cheriswood Close, Exmouth
EX8 4DZ **by Tuesday 24th May**

I/We would like to come to the Garden Party on 8th June

Name(s).....

Address(es).....

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Tel.no..... E-mail

Number attending.....

I/We enclose a cheque made payable to the University of Exeter
for

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