



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)

NEWSLETTER Issue 32
January 2015

UERSA website <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html> - for those on the internet.

Editor's Comment

New Year – New Start! Since the last Newsletter we have had the AGM with the changes that brings to the Committee (report later). The main change is that we have a new Chair, and I am sure that you will all join me in welcoming **David Batty** to this important UERSA post. You can read his first Chairman's message after this preamble.

For various reasons, I have run out of time for writing a useful comment, so I am going to copy in a paragraph from the last Newsletter, as I still hope to get some feedback or news!

Just a reminder that I would like to hear any interesting news from members, especially if suitable to be included in the next newsletter. I would also like to have any comments and feedback about UERSA events you attend, so that those who didn't, couldn't (or wouldn't) can hear more about it.

Here's wishing us a glorious Spring!

Rachel Kirby, (Newsletter Editor)

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Chairman's Message for January 2015 Newsletter

Dear Friends

A happy New Year! And it is a fresh start for me as the new Chairman of UERSA – I'm very glad to have this opportunity of involving myself with the Association in such a capacity. I have inherited an excellent set of Committee colleagues from Alastair Logan whom I should like to thank for his sterling efforts as Chairman over the last three years.

Many of us got together at the annual Christmas lunch at the Devon Motel to see the old year out. This lunch always strikes me as a very happy occasion, one to meet up with old friends for convivial conversation and hospitality, and I'm grateful to Sue Cousins for organising the event. And joining the walking group's recent first outing of 2015 – a gentle meander from Lypstone to Topsham – reminded me that we also owe a debt to the leaders of UERSA's various special interest groups in ensuring there is a range of activities to keep our members in touch with each other. If you have not already done so, do investigate one or more of these groups: you can find details in this newsletter and on the UERSA website.

The recent Research Excellence Framework results have enhanced the University's reputation and are a tribute to the committed work of our many colleagues still 'in harness' at the University. The University is not always so visible but can still be capable of making a real impact in other arenas. One of the most striking elements of ITV's second series of *Broadchurch* (starring David Tennant and Olivia Colman) is the use of the Forum as the County Court building; it looks most impressive! Do any of you have recall of any other occasions when Exeter's premises have been used for a major TV or film setting?

2015 marks the 60th anniversary of the awarding of the University's Charter and it is understood that the principal celebrations will take place towards the latter part of the year. Associated with these will be the publication of Jeremy Black's new history of the University which should make a fascinating read for many UERSA members and possibly a controversial topic for conversation amongst us!

Finally, a plea as I start my 3-year term as Chairman. Membership of the UERSA Committee is not static as colleagues (quite rightly) decide to move on after making a valuable contribution to its business. We do need new blood from time to time – please consider joining us!

David Batty

Personal Notes

We are sorry to record the deaths of several people who were, or were known to, our members. If you receive any such notification, please pass it on to Sue Odell – email : seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk

Please note that where the individual notice is very short, this is due to a lack of information and not of respect. I have taken the decision on this occasion to keep all of them short Ed

Brian Clapp died in Cheltenham September 22nd 2014. He was a member of the Economic History Dept with Walter Minchinton, Stephen Fisher and Mike Havinden. He wrote a History of the University and was a keen chess player.
From Anne Mayes

The Revd Michael Moreton who died on 25 September 2014 aged 97, was Lecturer in Theology from 1957-86.
From Barrie Behenna

Hugh Stubbs, Lawyer and Judge, died on 31 January 2014 aged 67. He was for some years a member of the University Council (travelling to Exeter from London, where he lived) and also a graduate of the University. There was a Service of Thanksgiving in London, attended by the Vice-Chancellor.
From the University's magazine for alumni and supporters, Oct 2014

Margaret Lorenz Hon LLD, who died 28 October 2014, was Pro-Chancellor from 1987-99 and Chairman of Council from 1994-99.
From Sir David Harrison (former VC Exeter)

Prof. Patrick Meares, who died peacefully at his home in early December, was an Honorary Fellow in Exeter's Chemical Engineering Dept. His field of study was Colloid Science and Membrane Technology.
From Robin Turner

John Dunford died in December 2014. He was formerly Lecturer in Agricultural Economics, AEU, Department of Economics.
From Keith Howe

Prof Bob Leaper died 22nd December 2014. His University work in Social Administration, as well as his work on behalf of the elderly with local charities, and with the churches, will be remembered by many.
From Alan Leadbetter

Prof John Webster died peacefully in his care home on 27th Dec. 2014. John came to Exeter from Sheffield, and was Founding Head of the Department of Biological Sciences in 1969. Although he was an internationally-known mycologist, he used to take groups on his "fungus forays".
From Robin Turner

John Balding died in the early morning of Tuesday 13th January after a short illness. John was a Senior Lecturer in the School of Education and later Director of the Schools Health Education Unit. His work extensively mapped over recent decades the health behaviour of young people.
From Dr. David REGIS, Research Manager, SHEU

The Revd Canon John Thurmer has died aged 85. He was Lazenby Chaplain at the University for ten years in the 1960s and went on to be Chancellor at the Cathedral until his retirement in 1991.
From: Anne Mayes

Reports on General UERSA Events

Points from the AGM 10th October 2014

There were several important changes in the Committee:

Chair - David Batty has taken over as **Chairman** from **Alastair Logan** who has stepped down after a hard-working 3 years.

Presidents - Tony Wragg is our new President, **Alan Leadbetter** is Immediate Past President and **Sue Odell** is President Elect for 2014/15.

Committee members - Ann Corbin is one of our new Committee Members to replace **Frankie Peroni**. n.b. Since the AGM, **Robin Turner** has taken over as a new Committee Member to replace **John Carroll**.
The full list of Committee Members is listed as usual on the last page of this Newsletter.

Subscription Fees for 2014/15 The Members present unanimously agreed that the fees should remain at £6 per person/per couple. Cheques to be made payable to The University of Exeter.

Amendment to UERSA's Constitution approved

Item 2 Membership :

(b) **Associate Membership** is open to those who have retired from a university other than Exeter and are resident in or near Exeter. Associate members may participate in any of the activities of the Association but may not hold office or vote at General Meetings.

Associate Membership Subscription Fees will be the same as UERSA Membership.

Christmas Lunch Thursday 11th December at the Devon Hotel

Sadly, your Newsletter Editor was unable to attend this year, so I am unable to report any interesting gossip first-hand. However, all reports I have heard suggested a very enjoyable event, so many thanks to Sue Cousins for arranging it.

UERSA Coffee Mornings (arranged by Jan Reynolds) are held on the last Tuesday of most months, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Nutters Bar area (!) at The Imperial in New North Road. They are very informal (not to mention noisy on occasion!) and an average of around 30 members attend. (Some recent research indicates that coffee is good for the memory!) *from Jan Reynolds*

Special Interest Groups

The Special Interest Group Organisers are:

Badminton:	Jan Reynolds (tel: 01392 271204, e-mail: janandmikereynolds@gmail.com)
Bridge:	Paul Ellison (tel: 01626 867999, e-mail: p.a.ellison@exeter.ac.uk)
Gardens:	Anne Mayes (e-mail: a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk)
Guided Nature Walks	Judy Mead (email: judymead@hotmail.co.uk)
Music / Opera:	Alastair Logan (tel: 01392 434715, e-mail: a.h.b.logan@exeter.ac.uk)
Restaurants:	Liz Smith (tel: 01363 84667, e-mail: lizsmith15@icloud.com) Frankie Peroni (tel: 01363 773946)
Table Tennis	Ruth Preist email: preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk
Theatre and Shows:	Sue Cousins (e-mail: scousins@talktalk.net)
Walking:	Trevor Preist (e-mail: preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)
Wine:	John Carroll (tel: 01392 876048, e-mail: carroll595@btinternet.com)
Membership Secretary:	Chris King (tel: 01392 255533, e-mail: chrisandmikeking@gmail.com)

Reports and News from Special Interest Groups:

If you can get on the internet, all this information can be found on the UERSA website (<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>) where it is kept up-to-date, and is easy to navigate (thanks to Roger Coles).

If you are interested in participating in any of these groups, please apply to the Membership Secretary, Chris King. Several of the groups' events are arranged interactively, mostly by e-mail.

It is particularly important if you are unable to use e-mail, as information and updates on group activities are sent by ordinary mail only to members of that specific group who require it.

You can contact Chris by telephone or via her e-mail address above. Or you can download an application form, in pdf format, from the Membership forms page.

Here are some of the highlights of our special interest group activities over the last few months, gleaned either directly from the organisers, or from browsing our website. I have used my editorial freedom to write some of the commentaries – the reports actually sent by leaders have their name added.

Badminton (Jan Reynolds)

The Badminton Group meet once a week (Wednesday Mornings from 11 a.m.-12 noon) at the University's Sports Hall. At present there are 7 members but a few more members would be most welcome!

The Bridge Group (Paul Ellison)

The Bridge Group is now meeting at Cornwall House in Practice Room 7 of the Music Section. Sadly, Paul had to cancel the Christmas meeting (Dec 18th), due to lack of numbers.

Garden Group (Anne Mayes)

17th Sept - Holcombe Court was the last visit of the season. Here are snippets from Anne's report. Those who arrived early took the chance to visit the adjacent church which has an intriguing set of monuments, adults lying prone but a row of children standing one behind the other, 8 daughters, very moving. Kathy, the Head Gardener, told the group about the development of the garden, and showed off her potting shed, a real 5* shed beautifully equipped with some wonderful wooden fittings - no plastic allowed!. Among the various areas, the walled garden is particularly impressive, imaginatively laid out and packed with fruit and vegetables. Refreshments were served on a very sunny terrace, soft drinks and Duchy biscuits – very welcome. I think we could all have happily dozed off in the sun! from Anne
(As usual, I urge anyone interested to look at her web page - you really need to look at the descriptions and the glorious colour pictures on the web! Ed)

Music/ Opera Group (Alastair Logan)

23rd November - Thirty-nine members of the group attended a performance by Glyndebourne Touring Opera of Verdi's perennially popular La Traviata at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. After a rather sticky(!) start caused by an unforeseen parking problem at the Squash Club, we got to Plymouth in good time and the majority enjoyed an all-you-can-eat meal at the View Pan Asian restaurant. I think we all very much enjoyed the splendid singing with a superb Violetta and excellent Alfredo and Germont père, but were rather less impressed by the set.

From Alastair Logan

Nature Walks (Judy Mead)

As noted in the last Newsletter, the autumn walks had to be cancelled because there were not enough takers who booked in time. A new programme has been arranged for the New Year.

Restaurant Group (Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith)

This is a social bunch who enjoy the food, wine and chatter. Since the last Newsletter, there have been two lunches, on Thursday 9th Oct at Brookside Cafe, Bovey Tracy and on Tuesday 11th Nov, at The Redwing in Lypstone. Thanks to everyone involved in organising the different visits.

Table Tennis Group (Ruth Preist)

The fortnightly sessions seem to be appreciated! More are planned for the next few weeks.

Theatre and Shows: (Sue Cousins)

There were no events in the Autumn

Walking Group (Trevor Preist)

A report and summary of the 6 Autumn walks is available on the UERSA website along with archival descriptions of previous walks. There are a lot of photos and interesting descriptions too. If you think you might like to go for a walk with a sociable group of people, look at these and the new programme for Winter and choose one (or more!) to join. Walks are of various lengths, so something for everyone.

Wine Tasting Group (John Carroll)

On Thursday 6th Nov, we had a very enjoyable and informative Sherry Tasting hosted by Laurie Burbridge at 21 The Mint. Many thanks to Laurie for that event.

John Carroll

(I enjoyed this event, too, and it was fun to go through such a large selection of sherries. Although we very much liked one or two of the sherries offered, I'm not sure that the sherry bottle will return once again to our sideboard cupboard to be brought out regularly at social events. (Perhaps a special bottle will be hidden away!) Ed)

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NOW, LOOKING TO THE NEXT FEW MONTHS!

All Events Calendar for January - June

| <b>Date</b>              | <b>Time</b>                     | <b>Activity</b>                          | <b>Group</b>       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Thu 15th Jan             | 10.23 Teignmouth Station        | River Teign – 6 miles                    | Walking Group      |
| Wed 21st Jan             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Thu 22nd Jan             | 19.00 – 22.00                   | Cornwall House Music Practice Rm 7       | Bridge Group       |
| Thu 22nd Jan             | 10.30 – 12.00                   | Sports Park, Studio 3                    | Table Tennis Group |
| Tue 27th Jan             | 10:00 to 12:00                  | Imperial                                 | UERSA coffee       |
| Wed 28th Jan             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Tue 3rd Feb              | 10.30<br>(SY058898 )            | Circular, from Joney's Cross – 7 miles   | Walking Group      |
| Wed 4th Feb              | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Thu 5th Feb              | 10.30 – 12.00                   | Sports Park, Studio 3                    | Table Tennis Group |
| Tue 10th Feb             | 19.00                           | Vuelta a España (21 The Mint)            | Wine Group         |
| Wed 11th Feb             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Sat 14th Feb             | 10.00 – 12.30                   | University Grounds                       | Nature Walks Group |
| Tue 17th Feb             | 12.00 for 12.30                 | The Salty Pigeon, 29 Magdalen Rd, Exeter | Restaurant Group   |
| Wed 18th Feb             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Thu 19th Feb             | 10.30 – 12.00                   | Sports Park, Studio 3                    | Table Tennis Group |
| Tue 24th Feb             | 10:00 to 12:00                  | Imperial                                 | UERSA coffee       |
| Wed 25th Feb             | Details TBA                     | Exe Valley (10th Anniversary walk)       | Walking Group      |
| Wed 25th Feb             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Thu 26th Feb             | 19.00 – 22.00                   | Cornwall House Music Practice Rm 7       | Bridge Group       |
| Wed 4th Mar              | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Thu 5th Mar              | 10.30 – 12.00                   | Sports Park, Studio 3                    | Table Tennis Group |
| Wed 11th Mar             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Fri 13 <sup>th</sup> Mar | 11.00 at Car Park entrance      | Killerton                                | Gardens Group      |
| Wed 18th Mar             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Thu 19th Mar             | 10.30 – 12.00                   | Sports Park, Studio 3                    | Table Tennis Group |
| Wed 25th Mar             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Thu 26th Mar             | 19.00 – 22.00                   | Cornwall House Music Practice Rm 7       | Bridge Group       |
| Tue 31st Mar             | 10:00 to 12:00                  | Imperial                                 | UERSA coffee       |
| Wed 1st Apr              | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Wed 1st Apr              | 16.00 coach from squash club    | "The Magic Flute" Theatre Royal Plymouth | Music Group        |
| Wed 8th Apr              | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Wed 15th Apr             | 11.00 at entrance               | Coleton Fishacre                         | Gardens Group      |
| Wed 15th Apr             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Wed 22nd Apr             | 11.00 – 12.00                   | Sports Hall                              | Badminton Group    |
| Thu 23rd Apr             | 19.00 – 22.00                   | Cornwall House Music Practice Rm 7       | Bridge Group       |
| Tue 28th Apr             | 10:00 to 12:00                  | Imperial                                 | UERSA coffee       |
| Sat 9th May              | 10.00 – 12.30                   | University Grounds                       | Nature Walks Group |
| Fri 15th May             | 14.00 Sutton Mead entrance      | Moretonhampstead Gardens                 | Gardens Group      |
| Tue 26th May             | 10:00 to 12:00                  | Imperial                                 | UERSA coffee       |
| Thu 28th May             | 19.00 – 22.00                   | Cornwall House Music Practice Rm 7       | Bridge Group       |
| Thu 25th Jun             | 08.00 – 20.00 by coach if poss. | Longstock Water Gardens and Mottisfont   | Gardens Group      |
| Thu 25th Jun             | 19.00 – 22.00                   | Cornwall House Music Practice Rm 7       | Bridge Group       |
| Tue 30th Jun             | 10:00 to 12:00                  | Imperial                                 | UERSA coffee       |

## FORTHCOMING GENERAL EVENTS (UERSA)

### Coffee Mornings - Imperial Hotel, New North Road, Exeter

Coffee Mornings (arranged by Jan Reynolds) are held on the last Tuesday of most months, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Nutters Bar area (!) at The Imperial in New North Road. They are very informal (not to mention noisy on occasion) and an average of around 30 members attend. (Some recent research indicates that coffee is good for the memory!)

*(If you haven't been to a coffee morning before, do go along and introduce yourself – I'm sure you'll be made very welcome. ... Ed)*

A reminder about parking charges:- If you pay for parking and show your 'parking receipt' this amount will be refunded at the bar on your purchase of coffees, etc.

Dates for Meetings in 2015 will be

Jan 27<sup>th</sup>, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>, Mar 31<sup>st</sup>, April 28<sup>th</sup>, May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 30<sup>th</sup>

From Jan Reynolds at [janandmikereynolds@gmail.com](mailto:janandmikereynolds@gmail.com): Tel 01392 271204

**Feb 25<sup>th</sup> - Walking Group - celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first walk (25<sup>th</sup> February, 2006).** *Not strictly a General UERSA event, but Trevor thought that people might be interested in his Anniversary Walk, so I am copying the details in here. If you are not a member of the walking group, and would like to join, please let Trevor know.* Ed

This will be a short walk in the Exe Valley (details as yet unclear) ending at The Ruffwell for a lunch and a drink to lubricate the nostalgia. See Walking Group programme for more details

### Suggestions for future events

The Committee discussed various ideas for future trips – as follows:

Ask Bruce! Favourable comments were received from many of the Committee Members about the trips arranged by Bruce Coleman – most recently the Exmouth/Brixham Cruise on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2014. In fact Bruce has recently mentioned to Jan that he would be willing to undertake another outing for UERSA members, so let's hope!

A repeat of the successful trip which took place a few years ago (5<sup>th</sup> June 2010) Along the Tamar, including a Visit to Cotehele by Mary Ravenhill and Nancy Scattergood .

Look again at a Trip to Swindon - planned for last year, but never materialised, and also a planned visit to Greenway (Agatha Christie's former Home) which was postponed.

Other suggestions - trip to Wells? Salisbury (+ Magna Carta 800 anniversary exhibition) ? Bristol?

David Batty said that if UERSA Members put forward other ideas for a trip he would perhaps organise one of them.

**So**

if **you** have any suggestions for future UERSA events we would love to hear them. Also, if any of the suggestions above appeal, let us know. Please send comments and suggestions to me, Rachel Kirby (*contact details on the Committee Page*) and I will pass them on to the Committee. If you can offer help with organisation of any trips, we'd be very grateful.

## FORTHCOMING GROUP EVENTS

### **Badminton: (Jan Reynolds)**

The Badminton Group currently meets on Wednesday mornings for a game of badminton at the University's Sports Hall. Sessions run from 11:00 till 12:00, with time for a coffee and a chat afterwards.

Jan

Badminton for the Spring Term - start Wednesday (14th January) until the 22nd April.

### **Dates (all Wednesdays) are:**

Jan 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>; Feb 4<sup>th</sup> 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>; March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>; April 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>

For further details, please contact: Jan Reynolds at [janandmikereynolds@gmail.com](mailto:janandmikereynolds@gmail.com): Tel 01392 271204

### **Bridge: (Paul Ellison)**

We start playing about 7pm, stop for a drink and biscuits about 8.30pm then finish playing as soon as a natural break occurs after 10pm. To cover hire of the room we make a **charge of £2 per evening per player**. We play rubber bridge if we are 4 (occasionally 8), but normally we play the Chicago 4-deal version. This allows us to cut for new partners every four deals and ensures that everyone plays as often as possible during

the evening. We are serious about our bridge but not fanatical, so if you can play but feel that you could improve (don't we all!), then we would be most happy to see you. If something exciting has happened to a member, the mid-evening break can extend considerably as we rate the social element of the evening quite highly!

**Dates in 2015** 22nd Jan 26th Feb 26th Mar 23rd Apr 28th May 25th June

All the above dates are on a Thursday. The location in Cornwall House is in the Music Section of Cornwall House, Practice Room 7. It is reached via a side door to Cornwall House (next to the outdoor swimming pool), and is the first room on the right in the corridor. The outside door will be open till about 11 pm each day; the door to the practice room is on an electronic code (which I (Paul) have been given, so I'll make sure it is open by 7.00 pm). Parking on campus is not charged after 6.00 pm.

*Paul Ellison (e-mail: P.A.Ellison@exeter.ac.uk)*

### **Gardens: (Anne Mayes)**

Happy New Year to you all! I'm currently housebound and trying to use the time to arrange this season's programme. An added complication is continued uncertainty over the availability or otherwise of parking at the Cricket Club for our coach trips. I had hoped to be able to use the Toby Arms at Middlemoor as some other Exeter based groups do, but they too are losing part of their car park and are cutting back even on existing users. Does anyone have any bright ideas where 15-20 cars could park all day? The University these days tends to fill up very early and if there's an Open Day or event then parking is restricted anyway. M5 Services would cost £12.50.

**Stop Press** Anne has just sent out details of 4 meetings she has arranged :-

Friday 13th March Killerton, EX5 3LE OS192 978001

Tuesday 15th April, Coleton Fishacre TQ6 0EQ OS202 910508

Friday May 15th is Moretonhampstead Gardens TQ13 8PW OS

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June Longstock Water Gardens and Mottisfont House and Garden

If you are a member of the group, you will have the details already. If not, please get in touch with Anne to let her know you are interested.

*Anne Mayes (e-mail:a.c.mayes@Exeter.ac.uk)*

### **Guided Nature Walks (Judy Mead)**

Thank you for responding to my email earlier this month - we now have a sizeable group who are interested in natural history events.

Two Saturday walks have been arranged, on 14<sup>th</sup> Feb and 19<sup>th</sup> May. If anyone has ideas of other nature related sessions, I would be delighted to hear them.

**Saturday February 14th** 10am - 12.30pm A nature walk (more like a slow potter) in the university grounds (Streatham Campus), will be lead by Nigel Pinhorn, a local naturalist. We will be looking at various aspects of winter wild life including birds, plants and insects. No previous knowledge will be expected.

*The February walk is almost full. If anyone wants to join in at the last minute then they should email me or telephone. 01392 425571*

Numbers will be limited to 15 so it will be on a first come first served basis.

The cost of the 2.5 hours session will be £10 per person and I will collect the money on the day but by reserving a place this will be a definite commitment to pay.

I will notify the starting point shortly.

**Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>** 10am – 12.30pm. The May walk may cover some of the same ground on the Streatham Campus but will be looking at late spring/early summer wildlife. More details of the May walk in April.

Please let me know if you have any queries.

Judy Mead [judyhead@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judyhead@hotmail.co.uk)

### **Music / Opera: (Alastair Logan)**

**The Magic Flute, by Mozart performed by Welsh National Opera,**

**The Theatre Royal, Plymouth, Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015, at 7.15pm (Good Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>)**

This event is now fully booked, but I am including details of the event as a reminder for those who have places.

A Circle seat will cost £45.50 and an Upper Circle seat £25.50. Supper is booked at the View Pan Asian Restaurant again. You can eat as much as you like for £14.99, but you are, of course, free to book your own.

Travel is as usual by coach from the Devon and Exeter Squash and Cricket Club. Hopefully there should be no problem about car parking. We will leave Exeter at 4.00pm. The cost of the coach will be £8.50.

**N.B. Payment is requested by 16<sup>th</sup> January**, please, as the Theatre Royal has to be paid in full by 6th February and cheques should be made payable to the University of Exeter.

In case of any query or problem please contact:

*Alastair Logan, 168 Pennsylvania Road, Exeter EX4 6DX*

*Telephone 01392 434715 a.h.b.logan@ex.ac.uk*

### **Restaurants (Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith)**

**The Salty Pigeon, 29 Magdalen Road, Exeter, Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February (12.00 for 12.30)**

As the last UERSA lunch there was much enjoyed, Peter and Rita Preece have arranged to go back to the Salty pigeon. If you are intending to come please book in with Peter. (email [p.f.w.preece@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:p.f.w.preece@exeter.ac.uk) or tel 01392 271432)

Price: £15.00 for two courses and £19.95 for three courses.

There will be a charge of £5.00 for anyone not turning up who did not cancel at least 48 hours beforehand.

Drinks to be paid for, preferably by cash, at the bar before lunch.

Lunches and any coffees taken to be paid as you leave (cards acceptable).

*Liz Smith ( tel: 01363 84667, e-mail: lizsmith15@icloud.com )*

*Frankie Peroni ( tel: 01363 773946)*

### **Table Tennis (Ruth Preist)**

Remember the old saying ‘Laughter is the best medicine’? Come and join us at table tennis – you will find that there is a lot of laughter! I hope that some of the original players who came only to the trial sessions of October and November in 2013 will again venture to join us. You will be more than welcome.

We meet on Thursdays, 10.30 – 12.00, Sports Park, Studio 3. -- All equipment supplied.

The following fortnightly dates have been booked for the Spring – all are on Thursdays.

22 January    5 February    19 February    5 March    19 March

The charges will be £10 for the five sessions (22 January onwards) or £2.50 for an individual session.

Also please check the UERSA web site picture archive lovingly tended by Roger (pages 5 and 7 – our first meeting, Dec 2013, and our meeting last month one year on).

*Ruth (preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)*

### **Theatre and Shows: (Sue Cousins)**

No events are currently planned.

*Sue Cousins. E-mail: [scousins@talktalk.net](mailto:scousins@talktalk.net). Tel: 01392 432309*

### **Walking (Trevor Preist)**

This is a short two-month programme reflecting the current difficulty in planning too far ahead. I hope that the next will cover the four months March – June and I have two offers for the eight walks needed to keep up our two per month pace!

#### **Any more offers?**

**The mini-break in June** is likely to be in the Prawle Point area. I will give more information when I have completed some exploration.

The short programme will finish with a bang to **celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our first walk (25<sup>th</sup> February, 2006)**. This will be a short walk in the Exe Valley (details as yet unclear) ending at The Ruffwell for a lunch and a drink to lubricate the nostalgia. **Do join us.**

*I'm sorry that Newsletter publication and walk programming dates don't match. If you want to know about future walks this season, you need to join the walking group, so that details are sent to you. I'm afraid you've missed these 2 walks*

|            |                                       |                             |                  |           |
|------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|-----------|
|            | <i>Wed, 7<sup>th</sup> January</i>    | <i>Exe Estuary Cycleway</i> | <i>3 miles</i>   |           |
| <i>and</i> | <i>Thurs, 15<sup>th</sup> January</i> | <i>River Teign</i>          | <i>6 miles )</i> | <i>Ed</i> |

**The Walking Group section on the UERSA website links to details of the walks and how to get there.**

Forthcoming Meetings

**10.30am Tues, 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb                      Circular walk from Joney's Cross                      7 miles**  
**PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED                      led by Mike and Suzanne**

**Start :** Joney's Cross Car Park ( SY058898 ) adjacent to Aylesbeare Common Nature Reserve on the A3052 to Newton Poppleford. **Route :** Joney's Cross ~ East Devon Way to Southerton ~ Venn Ottery ~ Tipton St. John ~ Harpford Bridge ~ Newton Poppleford ~ Hawkerland Valley ~ Joney's Cross  
**Terrain :** Paths and lanes, with no major climbs, but could be muddy.

**10.30am Wed, 25<sup>th</sup> Feb Exe Valley (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary walk) 3 / 4 miles**

**This will be an easy walk in the Exe Valley ending at The Ruffwell at the junction to Thorverton on the road to Tiverton.** Details of the start time and location with public transport details will be circulated later.

*Trevor Preist (e-mail : preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)*

### ***Wine Tasting (John Carroll)***

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2015** Vuelta a España (21 The Mint)

John Carroll

There are no more events booked for 2015 yet and I will be asking for any thoughts and ideas for events at the meeting on 10th February (if you are unable to attend please let me have any thoughts by email). Also if anyone would like to join the (very informal) committee of hosts and helpers please also let me know.

*John Carroll (e-mail: carroll595@btinternet.com ) (01392) 876048*

### ***N.B. IMPORTANT FOR ALL GROUP ACTIVITIES***

Full details of the activities and, importantly, updates or changes can be seen on the UERSA website <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>. For those who do not use the internet, organisers can be contacted either by mail or telephone - listed in this Newsletter - and I recommend that you join any group in which you are interested, so that you will get any postings and updates from that group.

## **UNIVERSITY SNIPPETS**

*Selected by Rachel*

### **University of Exeter Weekly Bulletin**

From 27<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015, the University of Exeter's all staff newsletter is now a Weekly Bulletin – replacing the monthly News in Brief

**Research Assessment Framework 2014** The University is ranked 16th nationally when you take account of the proportion of staff submitted. 98 per cent of our research is of international quality – up from 82% in 2008. The University REF results website has full details and fascinating impact case studies.

**Living Systems Institute** The University has received a £2m gift to support the establishment of the Living Systems Institute. The gift is the largest award made by The Wolfson Foundation in 2014 and is the latest milestone in a long history of key contributions from the charity towards the advancement of science at Exeter. The Living Systems Institute will bring together 200 cell and molecular biologists, mathematicians, physicists, biomedical scientists and engineers to investigate the fundamental cellular processes underlying human and plant disease. With a state-of-the-art building currently under construction on Streatham Campus, the £52.5 million project is the largest single investment in science in the history of the University.

**Professor Paul Webley**, the former Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter, has been awarded a CBE for Services to Higher Education in the 2015 New Year's Honours list. Professor Webley, who is now Director of SOAS, University of London, received the award in recognition for his work as the leader of a renowned specialist institution, an eminent economic psychologist, a member and chair of many influential bodies in higher education and as an unstinting champion of specialised research and of freedom of speech.

**Contact details for Members of the Executive Committee of UERSA, 2014 – 2015**

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