



## **RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION**

### **NEWSLETTER**

#### **Issue 5, January 2006**

In this first Newsletter of 2006 the Editor and Committee would like to wish all our Members a very happy new year. We were to some extent feeling our way in 2005 towards organising an appealing programme of activities and hope that we got it about right. Do please contact any member of the Committee with comments or suggestions – they are always welcome. In this Newsletter we are putting forward some ideas for 2006, starting with a general get-together at the beginning of February, to brighten up the dark days of winter (details attached to this Newsletter). Visits to Longleat (May), Tremough (University in Cornwall Campus), Eden Project and Heligan Gardens (autumn), and another Garden Party (June) are all being planned - watch this space!

#### **General notes**

The Card Office (from which UERSA Members should obtain a University Card to enable them to enjoy certain retirement privileges) has moved to the Registry in Room 153, Northcote House. The telephone number is Exeter 263713. Extended opening hours are now 9.00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., Mondays-Fridays.

#### **Annual General Meeting**

Somewhat to the surprise (and pleasure) of the Committee, the AGM was well-attended by over 50 Members. The business of the meeting was transacted rapidly and smoothly: the Treasurer's Report revealed a satisfying revenue surplus, the existing Committee was re-elected for another year, John Bridge was duly elected as President-designate for 2006-7, and the annual subscription was held at £6 for single or joint membership. To remind all Members of the names and contact details of the Committee members a full list is appended to this Newsletter.

#### **Personal notes**

It is with great sadness (and a considerable degree of shock) that we report the sudden death of Ted Wragg. He will be very much missed. His memorial service is to be held in the Cathedral on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 11 a.m.

Two other sad pieces of news: the death in November of Lady Aileen Fox, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology until 1972; and the death in December of Professor Harry Kay, Vice-Chancellor 1973-1984.

On a happier note: our President Peter Wiseman's book *The Myths of Rome* was short-listed for the prestigious British Academy Book Prize ( he was beaten to the post by his Exeter University colleague Nicholas Rodger – what a lot of talent we breed at Exeter!)

#### **Reports on General Events**

The Jubilee Luncheon on 16<sup>th</sup> October was attended by 63 Members who enjoyed good food and wine and an informative and amusing talk by Barrie Behenna on the history of the University in its early days.

The Lecture by the Vice-Chancellor was heard by over 50 Members – a thought-provoking and at times controversial view of the future development of the University.

The Christmas Carvery Luncheon was held at the Devon Hotel, Matford. 54 Members enjoyed a festive mulled wine reception followed by a traditional three-course Christmas Luncheon (with plenty of alternatives for the Yuletide-phobic) in the sumptuous surroundings of the Regency Suite. It seems to have gone down very well judging by Members' comments.

Two afternoon talks were arranged in September and November in Reed Hall, one on the Nazi Occupation of the Channel Islands by Rev. David Luce, and one entitled "Bits and Pieces" by the well-known Exeter expert Dick Passmore.

### **Groups and Group Activity Reports**

Our Special Interest Groups are now meeting on a regular basis and providing most interesting programmes of events for their members. The Groups at present cover the following (organisers in parentheses):

Badminton	(Jan Reynolds: 01392 271204)
Bridge	(Richard Hitchcock: 01392 276673)
Gardens	(Anne Mayes: 01647 252603)
Music and Opera	(Alan Leadbetter: 01392 254855)
Photography	(Brian & Rachel Kirby: 01392 273536)
Walking	(Trevor Preist: 01392 259740)
Wine	(Laurie Burbridge: 01392 668833)

For more information on any of the above activities, please contact the organiser. If you would like to join any of these Groups please contact Sandy Simpson (tel. 01392 213506 or email [Sandy@buntline.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:Sandy@buntline.freeserve.co.uk)). Please note that you must register to join a Group in order to receive information about its activities. If you are not sure which groups you have joined, please ask Sandy to update you.

In addition to reports on some Group activities in this Newsletter you will find such reports in more detail on the UERSA website ([www.ex.ac.uk/uersa](http://www.ex.ac.uk/uersa))

As yet, no one has volunteered to organise a theatre, film, books, or golf group – any offers?

Music and Opera Group: The Group went to Plymouth Theatre Royal in November to see the Glyndebourne Touring Company's performance of *The Marriage of Figaro*. This was a most lovely production, beautifully sung and equally beautiful to look at. Future pleasures include a performance of *The Flying Dutchman* (Wagner) on 24<sup>th</sup> March at Bristol, Mozart's *Great Mass* in the Cathedral on 6 April, and *Tosca* (Puccini) on 22<sup>nd</sup> June.

Restaurant Group: the Group had a very good lunch in November at Gardiners, Budleigh Salterton (not a lot of people know about Gardiners), and plans for 2006 will be circulated in early February.

Wine Group: the Group is now fully operational and has held tastings in October and December. The next tasting is on 26<sup>th</sup> January in the Mint in Exeter. Laurie Burbridge, the organiser, says: "These tastings can be enjoyed by everyone and you certainly don't need to be a wine buff to join. It's really a good opportunity to get together for a chat, share a few glasses of wine (and even learn a bit too, but that's optional)".

### **Forthcoming events**

Exhibition Opening Wine and Buffet Party: The University Fine Art Group is organising a small exhibition illustrating with maps, plans, and photographs the building history of the Streatham Estate. Some of the maps and plans are handsomely coloured and all give a fascinating insight into the projected early development of the University. The photographs are from the University Photographic Archive and show the early buildings on the estate up to 1975. The Exhibition is in the Northcote House Gallery, and runs

from 30<sup>th</sup> January until the 24<sup>th</sup> February. UERSA Members are invited to the formal opening on Thursday February 2<sup>nd</sup>, where a buffet supper and wine will be provided from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. The cost is £10 per head – see application form accompanying this Newsletter.

Plymouth Gin Distillery: A visit and guided tour of the Plymouth Gin Distillery has been organised for Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February. A coach will leave the Campus at 10.15 a.m. and the tour, lasting about 40 minutes, will start at 11.30 a.m., ending with a free drink in the Cocktail Bar. Return coach at 3.30 p.m., leaving Members time to visit other attractions of the Sutton Harbour Area of Plymouth, which include the Marine Aquarium. The cost is £12 per person – see application form accompanying this Newsletter.

Talk on behalf of “Reach”: Frank Leac, himself disabled, will give a talk illustrating the work of this charity on behalf of children with hand or arm deficiencies, on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February in the Long Lounge, Reed Hall, 3-5 p.m. If you would like to come, please contact Dennis Lane by telephoning him on Exeter 279420 or E-mail: [dlane29590@aol.com](mailto:dlane29590@aol.com).

### **Some other events of interest**

The Royal Albert Memorial Museum has mounted an interesting small exhibition to commemorate the University’s Jubilee. The Exhibition runs until 31<sup>st</sup> ~January.

The Historical Association is hosting two talks in Streatham Court A: Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February - Professor Richard Overy “*A Morbid Age? Cultural Crisis and Social Dismay in Europe of the Two World Wars*”; Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March - Professor Roger Burt “*Freemasonry and Fraternity in Late Victorian Cornwall*”. All Members very welcome.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2005-6

PRESIDENT 2005-6	<b>Peter Wiseman</b> , 22 Hillcrest Park, Exeter EX4 4SH Tel: 01392 273226 E-mail: T.P.Wiseman@exeter.ac.uk
PRESIDENT- DESIGNATE 2006-7	<b>John Bridge</b> 8 Pennsylvania Close, Exeter, EX4 6DJ Tel.No. 01392 254576 Email: jandj@bridge3768.fsnet.co.uk
IMMEDIATE PAST- PRESIDENT (2004-5)	<b>Eddie Abel</b> , 1A Rosebarn Avenue, Exeter EX4 6DY. Tel: 01392 270272. E-mail: mea.rosebarn@virgin.net
CHAIR	<b>Laurie Burbridge</b> , The Hermitage, Exwick Hill, Exeter EX4 2AQ Tel: 01392 668833 E-mail: L.Burbridge@exeter.ac.uk
TREASURER	<b>Bruce Coleman</b> , Department of History, Amory Building, University of Exeter, EX4 4RJ Tel: 01392 264323 (office) or 01392 254142 (home) E-mail: bruce.i.coleman@exeter.ac.uk
SECRETARY	<b>Jan Reynolds</b> , 77 Rosebarn Lane, Exeter EX4 5DG Tel: 01392 271204 E-mail: janreynolds@freeuk.com
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	<b>Sandy Simpson</b> , Greenmantle, 10 Hammond Croft Way, Exeter EX2 8FZ. Tel: 01392 213506 E-mail: Sandy@buntline.freemove.co.uk
SOCIAL SECRETARY	<b>Cynthia Ransome</b> , 4 Cheriswood Close, Exmouth EX8 4DZ Tel: 01395 224821 E-mail: Ransomeca@aol.com
SOCIAL SECRETARY ASSISTANT	<b>Mary Banks</b> , 8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter, EX2 9JE Tel.No. 01392 669239 E-mail: familybanks@yahoo.co.uk
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	<b>Sue Guy</b> , 4 Station Road, Ide, Exeter EX2 9RP Tel: 01392 275907 E-mail: s.m.guy@exeter.ac.uk
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>Dennis Lane</b> , 'Farthings', Barrack Road, Exeter EX2 6AB Tel: 01392 279420 E-mail: dlane29590@aol.com
COMMITTEE MEMBER	<b>Anne Mayes</b> , SOBE, Streatham Court, University of Exeter EX4 4PU Tel: 01392 263224 (office), 01647 252603 (home) E-mail: a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk

**EXHIBITION OPENING PARTY**

**Northcote House Gallery, Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February**

**6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.**

The cost is £10 per head.

Please complete the following tear-off slip and send it to **Cynthia Ransome**, Social Secretary, 4 Cheriswood Close, Exmouth, EX8 4~DZ, **by January 25<sup>th</sup>**.

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I/We would like to come to the Exhibition Opening on 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Name(s).....

Number attending.....

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

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**PLYMOUTH GIN DISTILLERY VISIT**

**Tuesday 28th February**

**Coach departs 10.15 a.m. from the parking bay opposite the Northcott Theatre**

**Return coach departs 3.30 p.m.**

The cost is £12 per head.

Please complete the following tear-off slip and send it to **Cynthia Ransome**, Social Secretary, 4 Cheriswood Close, Exmouth, EX8 4~DZ, **by February 10th**

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I/We would like to come on the Plymouth Gin Distillery visit on 28<sup>th</sup> February

Name(s).....

Number attending.....

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

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