



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

Issue 6, April 2006

Looking back at the five previous UERSA Newsletters, among the various topics occurring regularly one seems to stand out: preparations for, participation in, and reports of, our social activities, either all together or in Groups. In other words our willingness, even determination, to enjoy ourselves.

This might, however, be the moment to reflect that UERSA should have an additional function, that of offering sympathy, support and companionship to Members who may be going through difficult times, particularly after a bereavement. By its very nature as a retirement organisation UERSA will expect to hear occasionally of the deaths of fellow Members. Usually the University authorities inform the Committee of such sad events, but it would be appreciated if Members could let us know of any deaths which do not seem to have been generally reported to the University.

Membership

In spite of the occasional difficulty in getting Members to renew their subscriptions, our membership now stands at 299. As the University's Director of Human Resources has now agreed to include an introductory letter from UERSA in the information sent to all University retirees, and as the Chairman of UERSA has been invited to attend seminars for potential retirees, we should expect an influx of new members in the autumn. Spread the word to your retiring colleagues, Members!

General notes

E-mail addresses: University policy is not to release personal e-mail addresses to people outside the University; this includes most of our Members, as only those with University of Exeter e-mail addresses can use the University's online e-mail directory. However, if any Member wants to send an e-mail to a member of the University and does not have the address he/she can contact Postmaster@exeter.ac.uk or get in touch with Sandy Simpson, our Membership Secretary on Sandy@buntline.freemove.co.uk

E-mail address changes: Many of our Members receive information by e-mail and we encourage this as it is by far the most cost-effective method of keeping Members fully informed. However, we have had a number of instances when members have changed their e-mail addresses and not let us know. This causes us quite a lot of inconvenience and of course the information does not get delivered to the person concerned. So PLEASE let us know if you decide to change your e-mail address. Contact Sandy Simpson, UERSA Membership Secretary on 01392 213506 or e-mail Sandy@buntline.freemove.co.uk

Proposed regular coffee mornings

It has been suggested that it would be pleasant if Members could get together on a regular basis for morning coffee. After some research by Jan Reynolds, our Secretary, the Isca Centre in the Arena in Summer Lane, Pinhoe has been put forward as a possible venue (our ex-President Eddie Abel endorses this choice). Members would have to share the lounge-bar area with others, but this does not get

busy in the mornings and would accommodate quite a few Members. The parking is free and surprisingly there is plenty of it! Members would pay for what they consumed, but not for the accommodation. It is suggested that the coffee mornings could be held once a month on a specific day, for example every 3rd Thursday. If Members are interested in this idea Jan Reynolds would appreciate hearing from them so that she can go ahead with bookings. Please contact her by phone (01392 271204) or e-mail (janreynolds@freeuk.com).

Reports on general events

The Wine and Buffet Party on 2nd February to celebrate the opening of the exhibition about the building history of the Streatham was attended by a small but select group of some 23 Members, plus several other colleagues from the University, and proved to be a very enjoyable evening.

Frank Letch gave a most interesting talk in Reed Hall on 15th February on behalf of the charity REACH which represents aid for children with hand or arm deficiencies. As Frank is himself disabled (he has no arms) this gave an added dimension to the talk, showing how such a disability can be coped with.

The visit to the Plymouth Gin Distillery on 28th February had to be cancelled owing to the lack of interest among the membership: only 10 Members indicated their intention to come and this number would not have covered the cost of the coach.

Group News

Garden Group: after a long and horribly cold winter, during which the Garden Group wisely hibernated, Anne Mayes has come up with a most interesting programme of events for April, May and June. In April there will be a visit to Knightshayes on Friday 28 at 11 a.m. On Monday 22 May at 2 p.m. the Group will visit Docton Mill Gardens, near Hartland. On Friday 16th June a visit has been arranged to Athelhampton House and Gardens in Dorset; this will be a journey by coach and is to start at 9.30 a.m. from the University; cost £12 per head. If you wish to go on any of these trips, particularly the last-mentioned, please contact Anne Mayes ASAP, at SOBE, Streatham Court, University of Exeter EX4 4PU or e-mail a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk.

Music and Opera Group: the 2006 season is already well under way with visits in March to Bristol for *The Flying Dutchman* by Wagner, and in April to Exeter Cathedral for Mozart's *Great Mass in C Minor*. In June the Group are going to Plymouth for *Tosca* (fully booked). In November Glyndebourne Touring Opera are coming to Plymouth to perform *Die Fledermaus* by J. Strauss, *Così fan Tutti* by Mozart and *The Turn of the Screw* by Britten (if last year's performance of *The Marriage of Figaro* is anything to go by this should be a treat not to be missed - Editor). Also in November the choir from Bad Homburg (twinned with Exeter) will sing Hayden's *Creation* in the Cathedral. Contact Alan Leadbetter for more information at 01392 254855 or on e-mail aandbleadbetter@onetel.com

Photography Group: this Group no longer functions since the resignation of its leaders Brian and Rachel Kirby. However, we would welcome the emergence of another leader - please contact Sandy Simpson, Membership Secretary, on Sandy@buntline.freeserve.co.uk

Restaurant Group: the Group has had two excellent meals at the Nobody Inn and at the oddly-named Agaric Restaurant in Ashburton. A visit to the Drewe Arms, Broadhembury, is planned for 27th April. For more details contact CorbinPFCORBIN@aol.com or 01392 256887.

Walking Group: the intrepid walkers are going to the Hawkerland Valley on Tuesday 25th April (a circular walk including the River Otter and Harpford Common). On 12 May it is intended (red flags permitting) to walk on Dartmoor starting and finishing at Belstone, via Steeperton Tor and Cosdon Hill. For more details contact Trevor Preist on 01392 259740 or e-mail preist.exeter@freeuk.com.

Wine Group: the Group continues to flourish and our regular venue of 21 The Mint has proved to be popular. Three events are planned for the summer on 12th May, 15th June and 20th September. For details of events contact Laurie Burbridge (e-mail: L.Burbridge@exeter.ac.uk).

Forthcoming events

The Committee has planned an interesting programme of events for this summer, starting with a visit to Longleat in May, a garden party at the beginning of June, and an afternoon tea party in July. If you want to come to any or all of these events please complete the forms attached to this Newsletter. We are also hoping to visit the Tremough Campus in Falmouth this summer, but have not yet finalised the arrangements – we will get in touch with details at a later date.

Longleat The visit on Wednesday 10th May costs £22.50 per person and includes transport by coach, a Day Passport which allows entrance to the House (guided tour), the Safari Park (not the monkey enclosure), and all the other attractions. Coach departs from the Streatham Campus Security Parking Bay at 9.15 a.m. (please arrive not later than 9.00) and leaves Longleat at 5.00 p.m., getting back to Exeter around 7.15-7.30.

Reed Hall Garden Party This will take place on Wednesday 7th June, in the Woodbridge Room and on the lawn (weather permitting). For £8 per head you will get a Bucks Fizz Reception Drink at 3.30 p.m. followed by High Tea at 4.00p.m. On this occasion UERSA members will be joined by members of the Historical Association who are holding their summer field trip at Reed Hall, with a talk on the house and gardens by Dr Bruce Coleman to which UERSA members are cordially invited.

Afternoon Tea Party This will take place on Tuesday 4th July at Holland Hall, one of the newest buildings on the Streatham Campus. For £8 per head you will get a Bucks Fizz Reception Drink in Holland Hall Bar at 3.30 p.m., a guided tour of the new building and its facilities, and High Tea.

GARDEN PARTY

Reed Hall, Wednesday 7th June,

3.30 p.m. – 6 p.m., Woodbridge Suite

The cost is £8 per person.

Please complete the slip below and send it to **Cynthia Ransome**, Social Secretary, 4 Cheriswood Close, Exmouth EX8 4DZ by **Monday 22nd May**.

I/We would like to come to the Garden Party on 7th June

Name(s).....

Address(es).....

.....

Tel.no..... E-mail

Number attending.....

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

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AFTERNOON TEA PARTY

Holland Hall, Tuesday, 4th July,

3.30 p.m. – 6 p.m.

The cost is £8 per person.

Please complete the slip below and send it to **Cynthia Ransome**, Social Secretary, 4 Cheriswood Close, Exmouth EX8 4DZ **by Monday 19th June.**

I/We would like to come to the Holland House Afternoon Tea Party on 4th July

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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LONGLEAT HOUSE AND SAFARI PARK VISIT

Wednesday 10th May

Departure: 9.15 a.m. from Streatham Campus Security Car Park
(please assemble by 9.00 a.m.)

Return: 5.00 p.m. from Longleat, arriving Exeter 7.15-7.30 p.m.

The cost is £22.50 per person.

Please complete the slip below and send it to **Cynthia Ransome**, Social Secretary, 4 Cheriswood Close, Exmouth EX8 4DZ **by Monday 21st April.**

I/We would like to come to Longleat on Wednesday 10th May

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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