



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Issue 11, February 2008

To begin with an apology: owing to illness Newsletter 11 is rather later than advertised, but we hope that you will all still have time to decide which events to support, and get your applications in.

So – firstly, a very Happy New Year to you all, and welcome to another year of interesting and enjoyable UERSA activities.

General Notes

Annual General Meeting: the AGM was held on 12th October 2007, with 46 Members in attendance. At the AGM some changes to the membership of the Executive Committee and the Officers were made:

(a) **Mary Ravenhill** has been elected as the **President Elect for 2008/9** (the new President for 2007-8 is Barrie Behenna)

(b) **Sandy Simpson** (Membership Secretary) and **Dennis Lane** (Committee Member) have resigned.

The new occupant of the post of Membership Secretary will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Sue Odell has been elected to serve on the Committee in place of Dennis Lane.

Coffee Mornings: over 40 people have been attending our Coffee Mornings at the Imperial Hotel, New North Road, Exeter. These will continue to be held for the next few months, on the last Tuesday in the month, as before. Do come along.

Personal Notes

We sadly have to report the deaths of two ex-colleagues: **Professor Mark Blacksell** and **Ruth Albonico**. Mark was for many years a member of staff of the Geography Department and his large genial presence was well-known throughout the University. Latterly he moved to a professorship at Plymouth University. Ruth Albonico was for many years the vital head of the support staff in the Department of Chemistry, maintaining the laboratories and issuing the required chemicals etc.

Reports on General Events

Trivia Fun Quiz, held on 9th November at the Isca Centre. This new venture (for UERSA) was well-attended and proved great fun. There will be another Trivia Quiz at the end of February – see application form at the end of this Newsletter

Christmas Lunch at the Devon Motel, Matford, was a great success; good food, good service and good venue.

Bath Christmas Markets. The second visit to Bath was again very enjoyable, in good weather and after a comfortable journey, with a break!

Reports on Group activities

Message to all Group Members from Laurie Burbridge:

Many Members have registered for one or more of our special interest groups and enjoyed the various events arranged by the Group Leaders. However, some Members have found that, having registered, circumstances have meant that they have been unable to participate in their chosen Groups. Circulating information to our Members, particularly by post, takes time and money and we would urge you to let us know if you no longer wish to be included in any Group. You can find out in which Group or Groups you are registered by contacting Laurie Burbridge, preferably by email to L.Burbridge@exeter.ac.uk or by telephone on 01392 668833. Thank you in advance.

Badminton Group: Badminton is still continuing on Monday mornings at 11-12 noon (not Fridays as it was during last autumn), at the University Sports Hall. If there are any other Members who would like to join they would be most welcome. Please contact JanReynolds@freeuk.com., or telephone 01392 271204.

Restaurant Group: Members paid a return visit to the ever-popular Dartmoor Inn at Lydford – another excellent meal, and to the recently opened Blue Fish in Queen Street – a slightly eccentric venue on multiple floors (navigating to the loos is quite an adventure!), but good food nevertheless. The Culm Valley Inn, though rather unprepossessing outside, proved to be a most pleasant venue for good pub food and interesting wines.

The first meeting of the New Year will be in Topsham in early March, a joint dinner and wine tasting for the Restaurant and Wine Groups. Details of this and of the first couple of Restaurant Group lunches will be circulated shortly.

Opera/Music Group: The Group went to *Carmen* at the Bristol Hippodrome, performed by the Ukrainian National Opera Company, a well-sung traditional performance which was much enjoyed; to the Cathedral for a concert of works by Bernstein, Janacek and Rutter, performed by the Exeter Festival Chorus with their customary excellence; and to the Theatre Royal, Plymouth for a thoroughly enjoyable and beautifully sung performance of Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore*. The programme for Spring 2008 includes Mozart's *Requiem* and Macmillan's *Seven Last Words from the Cross* in the Cathedral on March 14th at 7.30; Verdi's *Falstaff* (Welsh National Opera) at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth on 17th April at 7.15. Contact John Sandall for further details. John Sandall has now taken over this Group from Alan Leadbetter; his contact details are: John Sandall, 7 Pennsylvania Close, Exeter EX4 6DJ, tel: 01392 244560, email: John_sandall@yahoo.co.uk.

Wine Group: The Wine Group is having a break from tastings for a few months. However, a dinner/wine tasting is being arranged for early March in Topsham – details to be sent to Members of both Groups shortly.

Walking Group: here are four dates for your diaries: Monday 4th Feb., 10.00a.m. Haytor Down (6 miles); Friday 22nd Feb. 9.45 a.m. Countess Wear and River Exe Country Park (3 miles); Friday 7th March Budlake and Sprydun (3-4 miles); Wednesday 26 March, 10.00 a.m. Shillingford and Ide (8 miles). Full details are on the UERSA website, or can be obtained from the Group Leader Trevor Preist (Tel. 01392 259740, mobile 07948740644, email preist.Exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)

Anyone for chess? Patrick Dillon has just joined the Association and is looking at the possibility of forming a Chess group. If you are interested in Chess, please contact Patrick (Tel: 01395 232522 or E-mail: P.J.Dillon@exeter.ac.uk).

Forthcoming General Events

Trivia Fun Quiz: another Quiz, following the popular event in November, will be held in the Isca Centre on 26th February. Come along and test your memory, nothing difficult, just remembering what we have read in the newspapers and books, or seen on TV or films. It will be run in teams of four, so either bring your team with you or join in with others.

Eden Project: one of UERSA's first trips was to the Eden Project three years ago and proved very popular. So we are organising another trip on 10th March, when the spring bulbs are in flower.

Visit to Cardiff: as Spring advances we have decided to go abroad to Wales for the Day, to Cardiff on 30th April. There Members can take tours to the Wales Millennium Centre and the Millennium Stadium, eat and/or drink at the cafes and bars of the Mermaid Quay, visit the Craft in the Bay, home of the Makers Guild, see the Castle and its gardens, and of course go shopping.

Forms for all these trips are attached to this Newsletter, so sign up and come and enjoy yourselves.

TRIVIA FUN QUIZ

Tuesday 26th February at 7.30 p.m.
Isca Centre, Summer Lane
(a very pleasant venue with plenty of parking)

Cost: £5 per person
(which includes a light supper; drinks can be bought at the bar)

Please note: The closing date for receiving applications is Wednesday 20th February. If you do not hear from Mary Banks following your application you can assume that you are going. If your application is unsuccessful your cheque will be returned to you.

Please complete the slip below and send it to Mary Banks, Social Secretary,
8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE (Tel: 01392 669239).

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I/We would like to come to the Trivia Fun Quiz on 26th February

Name(s).....

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Address(es).....

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Tel..... E-mail.....

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

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Please remember that if you are booking more than one event we need a separate cheque for each event

EDEN PROJECT VISIT

Monday 10th March

Cost: £10 per person.

The coach will leave the University at 8.30 a.m. from the usual place opposite the Northcott Theatre, returning at about 6.30 p.m.

Please note: the closing date for applications is Friday 29th February. Tickets for the trip will not be issued. If you do not hear from Mary Banks you can assume you will be going. If your application is unsuccessful your cheque will be returned to you

Please complete the slip below and send it to Mary Banks, Social Secretary,
8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE (Tel: 01392 669239).

I/We would like to come on the trip to the Eden Project on 10th March

Name(s).....

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Address(es).....

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Tel..... E-mail.....

Number attending.....

I/We enclose a cheque made 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

VISIT TO CARDIFF

Wednesday 30th April

Cost: £15 per person.

The coach will leave the University at 8.30 a.m. from the usual place opposite the Northcott Theatre, returning at about 7.00 p.m.

Visits to the Wales Millennium Centre and the Millennium Stadium are not included in the cost of the trip, and you will need to book in advance if you would like to go on either of these tours.

Wales Millennium Centre: conducted tours every hour, cost £5.

For information and tickets ring 0870 040 2000.

Millennium Stadium: conducted tours every hour, cost £4.50.

For information and tickets ring 02920 822228

Please note: the closing date for applications is Friday 18th April, and there are only 40 seats available. Tickets for the trip will not be issued. If you do not hear from Mary Banks you can assume you will be going. If your application is unsuccessful your cheque will be returned to you

Please complete the slip below and send it to Mary Banks, Social Secretary,
8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE (Tel: 01392 669239).

I/We would like to come on the trip to Cardiff on 30th April

Name(s).....

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Address(es).....

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Tel..... E-mail.....

Number attending.....

I/We enclose a cheque made 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