



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Issue 15, April 2009

As we move into the summer which, if the Easter weather was anything to go by, should be a good one, we have lots of good events and outings for your delectation (application forms at the back of this Newsletter), as well as restaurants and gardens to visit, and walks to go on, for the members of the Special Groups. A new feature, which may be of some help in planning your UERSA summer, is being introduced in this Newsletter: a brief Calendar of Events, both general and Group. Let us know if you find this useful.

UERSA Website

In the clever and experienced hands of Roger Coles our new website is now up and running and looks very good. If you have the facilities, do have a look at it. The address is <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa>

News from the Sports Hall of some indoor and outdoor activities

Bowls: On 17 April a Bowls and Buffet night was held jointly by the University Sports Centre and the ISCA Centre, designed to introduce people to the sport of bowling. Paul Moulard, of the Sports Centre, is intending to continue to offer bowling instruction as one of the facilities in the Centre, and would welcome interest shown by any Members of UERSA. Please contact him on 01392 262039.

Golf: The University Sports Park has teamed up with Dawlish Warren Golf Club to enable University staff and students (and ex-University Staff) to try their hand at golf. A 7-week beginners course is on offer with expert coaching for £5 per week. This course started on 25th April, but if Members would like to join in please contact Paul Moulard at the Sports Centre on 01392 262039. It is intended to continue to offer golf instruction via the Sports Hall.

Summer Swimming: Cornwall House Swimming Pool will open on Saturday 2nd May and be open from 8am-6pm Monday to Friday and 8am-8pm at weekends. The pool is heated and is staffed by trained Lifeguards at all times. This facility is open to all: you do not need a Sports Park membership.

Personal Notes

We have to report with much sadness the death in March of **Emeritus Professor David Mattingly**, who was Director of the Postgraduate Medical Institute from its foundation. News has also come of the death in January of **Anthony Boyle**, formerly a member of the Centre for Management Studies, and of **Trevor Booty**, in March. Trevor was a Technician in the Chemistry Department from 1971 to 1995.

We also have to report the sad news of the death of **Henryk Zienkiewicz**, on 25 April (the eve of his 84th birthday). Henryk was a former member of the School of Engineering. The funeral will be at 11 a.m. on Tuesday 12 May at St Mary's Church, Chard Street, Thorncombe, Chard, Somerset. (Thorncombe is about 8 miles inland from Lyme Regis). Patrick Kalaugher is happy for people to contact him for further details: 01395 273344.

Reports of General Events

"Much Ado About Nothing": our second UERSA visit to a Drama Department production was as enjoyable as last year's "Comedy of Errors". The young cast's talent and enthusiasm was wonderful – a most stimulating evening.

Trivia Quiz: held at the Isca Centre in February was once again very good light-hearted fun. A slight falling-off in the quality of the refreshments was noted and will hopefully be rectified in any future visits.

Devon and Exeter Institution: The relatively modest frontage of No.7, The Close gives little hint of the splendours within: beautiful rooms, domed and panelled, well furnished with comfortable armchairs (it was and is a private club), including a Jacobean parlour where refreshments are served, and a library which as well as its 19th century rather genteel holdings of theology, history and “letters” has a fine local history section which is constantly being added to, and a unique collection of old local newspapers. Pamela and Robin Wootton hosted a visit for 12 UERSA Members in April, which everyone found very interesting and informative. Another visit has been offered by Pamela Wootton, possibly on a Tuesday or Wednesday in late May or early June. If you would like to go, contact Pamela at: p.m.wootton@exeter.ac.uk or tel. 01392 275332.

Lost Gardens of Heligan: Carol Burgoyne organised a visit to the ever-popular Lost Gardens of Heligan. In spite of traffic jams on the road down to Cornwall the day turned out very well: good weather and lovely gardens. Members went on a guided tour of the formal parts of the garden and heard an entertaining history of the gardens. They also visited the “jungle” and its giant and rather sinister gunnera “forest”. The famous pineapple pits actually had pineapples growing on them – a great success story.

Reports on Group Activities

Walking Group: the admirable (fool?)hardiness of the Walking Group is breathtaking. While the molly-coddled majority were turning up the heating and cancelling unnecessary car journeys these intrepid souls were pacing the frost-hard ground under lowering skies (round **Escot**), up to their hocks in mud (in the **South Hams** and around **Moretonhampstead**), and only slightly relieved by a little sunshine round **Shobrooke** and the **Teign Gorge**. Finally it was our brains rather than our brawn which were needed to follow Bob Higham’s wonderful guided tour of the **Rougemont Castle** area – unfortunately seldom open to the public. Most people there were largely unaware of the interest and importance of the site, with its superb views from the ramparts. Bob’s easy and informative way of conveying this was much appreciated, as was Val Maxfield’s plan and guide which was most helpful for orientating us and enabling us to understand the complexities of the site.

Gardens Group: we started the year with a visit to **Caerhays Castle and Gardens** in March. As we drove over Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor the mist came down, together with drenching rain, and our coffee break at Jamaica Inn was a mad scamper through the wet from coach to Inn. However, the Garden Group’s unbelievable luck held and as we came down to the south Cornish coast to Caerhays the clouds scattered and the rest of the day passed under beautiful blue skies and sunshine, with just one brief shower. The Nash-built Castle was fascinating – still a family home and on a domestic scale, but nevertheless very elegant, finely furnished and decorated; just where many of us would like to live given a few lottery wins. The gardens were full of colour, particularly from the great range of magnolias, not to mention the vast tracts of primroses underfoot. A short stroll down to the cove below revealed the lovely views both inland and out to sea. Altogether a great day out.

Restaurant Group: the Spring Programme started in March with a re-visit to the excellent **Roedean Restaurant** in Kenton. This was a most successful visit, food of the usual high standard and friendly and efficient service. Many thanks to the proprietors Matthew and Liz Tilt.

The Lazy Toad at Brampford Speke was our next outing. This used to be the Agricultural Inn, but is now a “gastro-pub”, and very good it is. An interesting and well-executed menu, served with pleasant efficiency in a private room.

Future events, both general and group

Calendar of events, May-September

(see below for further information about each entry)

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|---|-------|--------|---------------|---|
| • | Wed. | May 13 | Walking Group | River Otter, Budleigh Salterton |
| • | Tues. | May 26 | UERSA | Coffee Morning, Imperial Hotel |
| • | Tues. | May 26 | UERSA | Visit to the Beer Caves, Seaton |
| • | Wed. | May 27 | Walking Group | Lympstone-Dawlish |
| • | Fri. | May 29 | Gardens Group | Visit to Highgrove |
| • | Fri. | May 29 | Gardens Group | Visit to Knightshayes
(alternative to Highgrove) |

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|------------------|------------------|--|
| • Thurs. June 4 | Restaurant Group | Lunch at Deer Park Hotel, nr Honiton |
| • Mon. June 8 | Walking Group | Tiverton-Bickleigh |
| • Thurs. June 18 | Garden Group | Wildside and Garden House at Buckland Monachorum |
| • Thurs. June 25 | Walking Group | Midsummer Madness Walk in North Cornwall/ |
| • Fri. June 26 | “ “ | Port Isaac-Crackington Haven |
| • Tues. June 30 | UERSA | Coffee Morning, Imperial Hotel |
| • Tues. June 30 | UERSA | Visit to Tyntesfield & also SS Great Britain |
| • Thurs. July 2 | UERSA | Garden Party, Exeter Cricket Club |
| • Wed. July 8 | Restaurant Group | Lunch at New Inn, Coleford |
| • [Tues. July 28 | UERSA | NO COFFEE MORNING] |
| • [Tues. Aug. 25 | UERSA | NO COFFEE MORNING] |
| • Wed. Sept. 2 | UERSA | Visit to Powderham Castle |
| • Tues. Sept. 29 | UERSA | Coffee Morning, Imperial Hotel |

UERSA General Events

Beer Caves: A one-hour tour of the vast underground quarry started by the Romans and worked until the early 1900s. The stone quarried can be seen in many buildings and in twenty-four cathedrals throughout the country, including Exeter Cathedral. The visitor has an insight into the methods of working and the privations suffered by the workers. There are many human interest stories and tales of the quarrymen and smugglers who used the workings.

There is ample parking (there will be no coach, Members should arrange their own transport). There is a café serving tea and coffee and cakes, but no lunches. However, Branscombe is just over the hill and the Masons Arms is very welcoming.

Application form at the end of this Newsletter.

Tyntesfield, North Somerset: This is a visit to two attractions: the glorious Gothic Revival extravaganza created by the Gibbs family, and subject to a lengthy and somewhat controversial restoration by the National Trust; and the SS Great Britain moored in Bristol Dock. The tour of Tyntesfield starts at 10.30 and lasts for about one and a half hours. There will be time to explore the gardens and the interactive exhibition about the restoration, before leaving at 2 p.m. for Bristol. The guided tour of SS Great Britain will start at 3.15 p.m. and last for c.40 minutes. There will then be plenty of time to explore the other attractions on the site, such as a descent to the glass “sea” to enjoy the ship from below, the Dockyard Museum, the Dockyard Café/Bar and the Nautical Gift Shop. We will leave at 5.30 and return to Exeter at c.7.30 p.m. Light lunch available at Tyntesfield, or bring a packed lunch to eat in the grounds.

Application form at the end of this Newsletter.

Garden Party: this will take place, as it did last year, at the Exeter Cricket Club, from 2.30-4.30, with a welcome drink and a cream tea.

Application form at the end of this Newsletter.

Powderham Castle: the visit to this local attraction will include a tour of the Castle at 11.30 lasting for one hour (there will be no coach, Members should arrange their own transport (No.2 buses are available to the Castle from the Exeter Bus Station). The Powderham Restaurant and Farm Shop will provide excellent sustenance for Members after the tour, or there are several good pubs locally, (at Kenton, Exminster, Cockwood).

Application form at the end of this Newsletter.

Group Events

Restaurant Group: **Deer Park Hotel**, near Honiton. A country house hotel set in its own grounds and overlooking the River Otter, which offers 2 courses for £15.95 and 3 courses for £18.95 (coffee included). For further information (including the maze-like instructions for getting there) contact Alan Leadbetter on 01392 254855 or email leadbetter.a@sky.com.

New Inn, Coleford: a revisit to a popular country pub which is now under new management offering medium-priced dishes, good beer and wine by the glass.

For further information contact Frankie Peroni on 01363 773946 or Celia Boyle on Celcred@aol.com

Gardens Group: Wildside and the **Garden House** at Buckland Monachorum, near Tavistock. Wildside is a new garden started in 2004 by the then Head Gardener at the Garden House. It has featured in several publications including the RHS magazine The Garden. The Garden House was the very first garden visited by the Gardens Group five years ago, and is also the place which offers loos, eats, drinks, etc. as well as one of Britain's favourite gardens, of great interest and beauty.

Visit will start at 11.00 am at the Garden House, have lunch there and depart for Wildside, arriving there at 2.15 pm. For further information contact Anne Mayes on: a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk

Knightshayes (NT): just outside Tiverton off the northbound road towards Bampton. This is one of England's finest gardens, with a marvellous woodland area, full of mouthwatering plants, a beautiful long border (tree peonies), and a tranquil pond garden complete with round pond, trailing willow and high yew hedges. Also has a good plants sales area. For further information contact Anne Mayes on a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk

Highgrove: We're going! (At last, a coachful are going). The coach is fully booked, but contact Anne Mayes for last minute drop-outs. Be aware of the stringent security requirements and draconian regulations about cameras, etc.

Walking Group: River Otter, Budleigh: 7 miles, on fairly good tracks; **Lympstone-Dawlish**, 5 miles or shorter, involving water taxi from Exmouth to Dawlish and picnic on Dawlish Warren; **Tiverton-Bickleigh**, 4 miles easy walk along Exe Valley; **Midsummer Madness Walk in North Cornwall**, over two days, **Day 1:** 8 miles, Port Isaac-Polzeath, **Day 2:** 9 miles, Bude-Crackington Haven. For further details contact Trevor Preist : email Preist.Exeter@blueyonder.co.uk.

Some local news and events of interest to Members

Art Exhibition in the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies

Michael Jory is exhibiting animal and landscape paintings, running April 23 to

May 15, Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm. For further details contact Mike Jory on www.mikejory.co.uk.

University News

The Forum Project has now been approved by the University Council with an investment of £48 million. The Forum Project will feature an extended and refurbished Library, new learning spaces, "frontline" student services, catering and retail outlets, a landscaped plaza and University reception. It will be located in the space between the existing Main Library entrance, the shops arcade and the Great Hall. Building works are due to start in earnest in January 2010, finishing around December 2011.

For more about the Project see www.exeter.ac.uk/about/vision/forumproject

WE ARE HAVING A GARDEN PARTY
the date is – **THURSDAY 2ND JULY, AT 2.30 P.M.**
AT EXETER CRICKET CLUB, PRINCE OF WALES
ROAD

The club provides lovely views over Exeter and a lovely lawn for us to enjoy our tea, but if per chance it rains we have use of the clubhouse.

The cost will be £4 per person
We have arranged to provide a cream tea & suitable
summer liquid refreshment

Please complete the slip below and return it to;
Mary Banks, UERSA Social Secretary, 8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE
by Friday 15th June

.....
I/We would like to come to the Garden Party on Thursday 2nd July

Name(s).....

Address(es).....

.....

Tel No.....

Email.....

I/We enclose a cheque **made payable to the University of Exeter for £.....**
Please note if you are booking for more than one event we need separate cheques for each event.

PARKING

Parking is available on the side of the cricket ground. Drive through the Devon & Exeter Squash Club car park (entry from Prince of Wales Road) to find the cricket ground behind it. Park there and walk across to the Cricket Clubhouse. as that will involve climbing steps to the clubhouse level, any members who want to avoid the steps could park in Prince of Wales Road opposite the Cricket Club's formal gates and, going through them, walk along the path to the Clubhouse.

You can take the bus from town, get off at the Northcote Theatre bus stop, walk down the hill to Prince of Wales Road then up to the cricket ground.

**VISIT TO TYNTESFIELD HOUSE AND GARDENS
AND
SS GREAT BRITAIN, BRISTOL DOCK**

Tuesday 30th June

**This trip is organised jointly by
Anne Turner and Susan Cousins**

**Cost: £22 per person for National Trust members
£31 per person for non-National Trust members**

The coach will leave the University at 8.30 a.m. from the University (Streatham Campus) car park above the Innovation Centre. There should be plenty of room to park your cars.

Closing date is Friday 15th May 2009

Please complete the slip below and send it to Susan Cousins, 21 Chantry Meadow, Alphington, Exeter EX2 8FT

I/We would like to come on the trip to Tyntesfield and SS Great Britain on 30th June 2009

Name(s).....

.....

Address(es).....

.....

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**

Notes on Tyntesfield

Tyntesfield is a glorious Gothic Revival extravaganza bristling with towers and turrets, created by four generations of the Gibbs family. It was saved for the nation in 2002 and, after six years of fundraising, opened its doors to the public in 2008, to experience the conservation in action project while the essential work to re-roof, re-wire and re-plumb the house got under way. Visitors will be treated to a fascinating insight into the technology of Tyntesfield and discover, with the help of the Room interpreters, how each generation of the Gibbs family influenced its architecture and collections. The gardens consist of formal terraced gardens, a walled kitchen garden, where produce can be bought, and walks through rolling parkland with stunning views of the Land Yeo Valley.

SS Great Britain

Isambard Kingdom Brunel conceived a groundbreaking combination of a screw propeller, an iron hull and a massive 1000 horse-power steam engine, to make the SS Great Britain a world first using the new technologies in ship design. She was launched in Bristol in 1843 and continued sailing until 1886, having sailed round the world 32 times and covered nearly on million miles at sea. She was finally abandoned in the Falkland Islands in 1937 and, in 1970, an ambitious salvage effort brought her back to her home in Bristol, to the dock where she was originally built.

VISIT TO POWDERHAM CASTLE, KENTON

Wednesday 2nd September 2009

The cost will be £5.50 (special rate for groups of 15 or more).

Please use your own transport (No. 2 Buses to the Castle are available from the Exeter Bus Station)

- The tour of the Castle will begin at 11.30am and will last about one hour – it is suggested that we meet about 15 minutes beforehand in the courtyard of the Castle.
- There is plenty of parking - the entrance to the Castle is a short distance from the car park.
- Refreshments – the Courtyard Tea Room provides light lunches, coffee, cream teas etc. so coffee before the tour and lunch afterwards is available.
- After the tour, walks around the grounds and views across the gardens are well recommended .
- A short distance from the castle there are shops including a food hall selling local produce, a plant centre and House of Marbles.

Closing date for booking is Friday 31st July, 2009

Please complete the slip below and send it to Jackie Andrews, 26 Stoke Valley Road, Exeter EX4 5EY

I/We would like to come on the trip to Powderham Castle on
2nd September 2009

Name(s).....

Address(es).....
.....

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 THE BEER CAVES, NEAR SEATON

Tuesday 26th May 2009

Cost: £4.25 per person

Please use your own transport.

Closing date for booking is Monday 18th May 2009

Please complete the slip below and send it to Sue Guy, 4 Station Road, Ide, Exeter, EX2 9RP

I/We would like to come on the trip to the Beer Caves on Tuesday 26th May 2009

Name(s).....

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Address(es).....

.....

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**