



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)**

NEWSLETTER

Issue 17, January 2010

A very Happy New Year (and Decade) to all our Members, and we hope that you have all survived the arctic weather. All those soppy songs about 'white Christmasses' are a bad joke compared to the reality for a large part of the UK. So we must all look forward to Spring and our programmes for your enjoyment.

Firstly a word of warning – Parking on the Streatham Campus

Many of you will be aware that the Streatham Campus is undergoing major new building projects. What you are not perhaps aware of is how very disruptive these are proving to be: the Campus is one huge building site, which changes from day to day. Crucially, most of the old familiar parking places are gone, even in the evenings, notably Queen's Car Park, the Stocker Road Car Parks, the Streatham Court/Xfi Car Park and the Great Hall Car Park (regularly used by the majority of patrons visiting the Northcott Theatre). The main car parks are now right at the top of the hill, near the playing fields, behind the Innovation Centre, known as Car Parks A and B. The slog down to the main campus buildings is only slightly mitigated by an occasional minibus shuttle service, which stops in the evening. For those Members who would like to park somewhat closer to the centre of things, there are small car parks at the back of the Old Library, in front of the Hatherly Building, and along Perry Road in front of the Washington Singer Building, also along the Queen's Drive as far as Queen's Building. There is no guarantee that these spaces will not be invaded by bulldozers and men in yellow jackets, but so far they are largely untouched. We hope nevertheless that Members coming to enjoy some of our events will not be put off too much by these hazards.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on Friday 16 October; there were 58 Members present. There were some elections, resulting in changes in the composition of the Committee as follows: Bruce Coleman will be our new President for 2009/10, in place of Mary Ravenhill. Keith Blanchard, our Treasurer, is replaced by Wojtek Krzanowski, and Peter Corbin and Anne Mayes (Ordinary Members of the Committee) are replaced by Roger Coles and Alastair Logan. Laurie Burbridge has been unanimously elected as President Elect for 2009/10. The subscription is held for another year at £6 for a single or joint membership. The Chairman, in his Report, was pleased to reveal that his worries about finding Members to take over the running of some Groups were laid to rest by the appearance of several Leaders: Helen Pope and Alastair Logan will take over the Music/Opera Group, Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith will take over the Restaurant Group, and Laurie Burbridge has agreed to restart the very successful Wine Tasting Group he had to close down for a couple of years. UERSA has been developing useful links with other service departments in the University, notably the Development and Alumni Relations Department, whose monthly listing of events at the University will be sent to Members, complementing the University *News in Brief* already circulated.

A revised list of Committee Members with contact details is enclosed with this Newsletter. Group Leader names and contact details appear at the end of the reports on Group activities later in this Newsletter.

Personal Notes

Roderick Ross: We are sure that nearly everybody will have heard the sad news that Roderick Ross, University Registrar (until 1954), and Secretary thereafter until his retirement in 1975, died on Christmas Eve 2009; his funeral was on 15th January. His long service through the reigns of four Principals/Vice-Chancellors was much valued, as was his leading

role in setting up the University's twinning association with Rennes University. He was a loyal Member of UERSA, and a good friend to many of our Members.

We have also to report with much sadness the deaths of **Tom Oakes**, and **Dr John Cousins**, retired member of the Department of Physics.

Reports on General Events

Apart from the AGM in October, UERSA Members have taken part in two events recently:

Coach Trip to Salisbury: on 17th November 22 Members went on a coach trip to the cathedral city of Salisbury, in fine autumn weather. Most of them took a tour of the famous Cathedral, with two intrepid Members going up the tower, which proved to be a wonderful experience.

Christmas Lunch: this annual feast was held on 17th December, in the Devon Hotel at Matford, Exeter, and was as usual a great success, with 72 people there enjoying an excellent venue, great food and good company.

Reports on Group Events

Music Group: there were two events in the autumn: Bach's B-minor Mass in the Cathedral on 19th November, with the Exeter Festival Chorus, a magnificent performance much enjoyed; and Janacek's opera *Jenufa*, in an absolutely stunning performance by the Glyndbourne Touring Opera group. In spite of its dark, not to say horrifying, story, it was a most moving and beautifully sung and staged experience.

Gardens Group: the last visit in the season was to Burnham Orchid Nurseries on 24th September.

The Garden Group has now gone into hibernation until the Spring.

Restaurant Group: the Group paid two visits in the autumn, to the Bell Inn at Thorverton, where we were treated to a delicious meal in this gastro-pub; and to Lily's, one of several eateries recently sprung up in Fore Street, Exeter. The meal was pleasant, but the arrangements were a little disorganised so some of us didn't get quite what we thought we had ordered, and there was a feeling that 25 of us put a bit of a strain on the restaurant facilities, which are really geared to smaller parties.

Bridge Group: having been ousted from Queen's, this enterprising small Group decided to move to Knightley, by kind permission of the Director of Music. Here the first meeting in their new home took place on 28th October, accompanied by the sweet tones of a singing rehearsal downstairs. Group Members are determined to stay in their warm and comfortable billet as long as they are welcome, and have bought a couple of proper card tables to celebrate.

Walking Group: after a mad summer a more peaceful autumn, with visits to Coldridge along quiet paths and lanes in deepest Devon beyond Crediton; to Manaton, round the landmarks of Bowerman's nose, Hound Tor and Haytor Medieval Village; to Eggesford, using the Tarka Train to get to the beautiful rural walks; to Exmouth, for a fascinating walk round "unknown" Exmouth; to Bickleigh Mill for an enjoyable mud-slog; to the Grand Western Canal at Tiverton for a leisurely walk, and a slightly less good experience with lunch in a "tea shoppe" in Tiverton which had a problem with staffing, leading to long delays; finally to Escot for the traditional Christmas walk round the estate with a slap-up lunch at the Coach House. Apart from a rather grey and chilly Escot, the autumn sun shone brightly on all the walkers – they bear a charmed life.

Calendar of Events, February-early May

(see below for further details about each event)

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|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Wed. 8 February | Walking Group: | Maidencombe to Babbacombe |
| Tues. 16 February | Walking Group: | South Zeal |
| Tues. 16 February | Art Lecture, | Queens Building Lecture Theatre 2, 1-1.45 p.m. |
| Tues. 23 February | UERSA: | Coffee Morning, Imperial Hotel |
| Wed. 24 February | Bridge Group: | Knightley Music Library |
| Tues. 9 March | UERSA | <i>The Tempest</i> Roborough Studios |
| Wed. 10 March | Walking Group: | Castle Drogo-Chagford |
| Tues. 16 March | Art Lecture: | Queens Building Lecture Theatre 2, 1-1.45 p.m. |

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| Thur. 18 March | Restaurant Group | Roedean Restaurant, Kenton |
| Mon 22 March | UERSA | Trivia Quiz, Isca Centre |
| Wed. 24 March | Walking Group | Stoke Woods |
| Thur. 25 March | Bridge Group | Knightley Music Library |
| Tues. 30 March | UERSA | Coffee Morning, Imperial Hotel |
| Tues. 6 April | Music/Opera Group | <i>Il Seraglio</i> , Theatre Royal, Plymouth |
| Tues. 27 April | UERSA | Coffee Morning, Imperial Hotel |
| Tues. 27 April | Bridge Group | Knightley Music Library |
| Wed. 5 May | UERSA | Charity Walk |

This Calendar is not complete: further events by the Garden Group, the Restaurant Group or the Wine Group are or may be planned in this period – see our UERSA webpage for further details or contact the relevant Group Leader(s).

If you would like to come to a Group event but are not a member of that Group, contact the appropriate Group Leader. If you want to join a Group, contact the Membership Secretary Judy Mead.

Forthcoming General Events

Drama Department performance of *The Tempest* by Shakespeare: this by now almost traditional visit will take place on Tuesday 9th March, at 7.30 p.m. in the Roborough Studios (as before). If this performance is anything like the previous ones, we are in for a treat. The performance is free, though you will be asked to contribute something towards the charity being supported by the players. Bearing in mind that seating is limited, please complete the attached form signalling your intentions, so that I can let the organisers know roughly how many will be coming.

Trivia Quiz: another of these popular events will take place on Monday 22nd March, in the Isca Centre, at 7 pm, refreshments and bar available. See form at the end of this Newsletter.

Charity Event to celebrate UERSA's Fifth Anniversary, Wednesday May 5th in aid of Exeter Hospice: this Walk is intended to be a general UERSA event, so do please come, even if you are not one of the hearties whose exploits you have been reading about in this and previous Newsletters. The route has been planned so that Members can walk as far as they feel they can comfortably manage and the sections up to 4 miles are flat. There will be a social gathering at lunchtime at the Devon & Exeter Squash Club, Prince of Wales Road, Exeter and at the Prospect Inn on the Quay late afternoon. See fuller details attached to this Newsletter. Please reserve this day in your diary and join us!

Forthcoming Group Events

Music Group: two events have been planned: Mozart's *Abduction from the Seraglio* by the Welsh National Opera in Plymouth on 6th April; and Monteverdi's *Vespers* by the Exeter Festival Chorus in the Cathedral on 26th June. For more details contact Group Leaders: Helen Pope: on helen.pope@talktalk.net or Alasdair Logan on a.h.b.logan@exeter.ac.uk.

Restaurant Group: the Group is now being led by Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith, who offer the following lunches: Roedean Restaurant, Kenton is being organised by Eric and Ruth Luffman (tel. 01392 277493); the Stag Inn, Rackenford, near Tiverton in April (organised by Alan and Brenda Leadbetter - details to be circulated later); a further lunch is being organised for the middle of May by Peter and Rita Preece. Contact the Group Leaders Frankie Peroni: tel: 01363 773946 or Liz Smith: geoffandlizsmith@yahoo.co.uk for further information.

Bridge Group: the Group will meet in their new venue in Knightley, on 26th January, 24th February, 25th March, 27th April, 26th May and 24th June. All Members welcome. Contact Paul Ellison on P.A.Ellison@exeter.ac.uk.

Walking Group: two short walks, one medium walk and three marathons are planned for the winter and spring: 14 January (short), Topsham Tea Walk; 26th January (marathon), Okehampton (includes Scarey Tor – you have been warned); 8 February (short), Maidencombe to Babbacombe; 16 February (marathon), South Zeal circular walk; 10 March (medium), Castle Drogo to Chagford; 24th March (marathon), north of Stoke Woods. Contact Trevor Preist for further details: preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk

Wine Group: although there are no firm plans as yet Members will be delighted to hear that Laurie Burbridge has agreed to restart this Group and will be in touch.

Coffee Mornings: After a break during the Christmas period, the coffee mornings will start up again on 26th January and on the last Tuesday of each month thereafter, i.e. February 23, March 30, April 27, at the Imperial Hotel as before.

Badminton Group: meeting every Wednesday in the Sports Hall at the University between 11 and 12 noon (followed by coffee and chat). Please contact janreynolds@freeuk.com if you are interested in joining.

University Events of Interest to Members

Art lectures: although the 19th January Lecture was unavoidably cancelled, Sam Smiles will be giving two further lectures in his series *Shock and Awe: Art and Controversy*, on 16th February and 16th March, 1-2 pm, Queens Building Lecture Theatre 2.

Sports Hall extended opening hours: the Sports Hall is now open in the evenings, Sunday to Friday, until 10 pm. On Saturday it shuts at 6 pm.

Contact details for Members of the UERSA Executive Committee 2009/10

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ADVANCE NOTICE OF A SPECIAL UERSA EVENT
ON
WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY

Come and join in a charity event raising money for
The Exeter Hospice

We would like as many members as possible to join in and help to support this very worthy cause.

There will be a FUN walk broken up into sections so that you only walk as far as you want, it could be one section (eg. 40 mins) or all of them - it is up to you.

This is also a social occasion, so no matter how long you choose to walk, short or long, or even if you do not choose to walk at all, you can still take part as we will meet up at the Devon & Exeter Squash Club for lunch and a little liquid refreshment.

We will be supplying envelopes for you to make your donation, maybe you could even obtain some sponsorship, but more about that and the rest of the day's details later. Please put this date in your diary and we will do a special mail out nearer the time with full details.



The Tempest

by

William Shakespeare

performed by the students of the Drama Department, in the
Roborough Studios

on

Tuesday 9th March 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

Although the performance is free, in order to let the Drama Department know how many seats to reserve, please complete this form and send it to Sue Guy, 4 Station Road, Ide, Exeter EX2 9RP, or phone Sue Guy on 01392 275907, before 1st March

1/We would like to come to the performance of *The Tempest* on 9th March:

Name(s).....

Number coming.....

TRIVIA FUN QUIZ

Monday 22nd March 2010

at

The Isca Centre, Summer Lane, Exeter
(a very pleasant venue, with plenty of parking)

Cost: £5 per person

(which includes light refreshments – drinks can be bought separately at the bar)

Please Note: the closing date for receiving applications is 12th March.

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 Quiz on Monday 22 March

Name(s)

.....

Address(es)

.....

Tel. E-Mail

I/We enclose a cheque 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.