



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, February 2005

UERSA is now well and truly under way, as the reports of the exciting new developments in this Newsletter will show. Our membership now stands at 280, including partners/spouses on joint memberships. On December 2nd we held a most successful party in the Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies; the number of Members who attended (119) took the Committee somewhat by surprise – but a very pleasant surprise. We hope to hold many more such functions (see below for details of forthcoming events)

Associate Membership of the University (Unicard)

In the previous Newsletter we promised to give an account of the facilities available to retired members of staff, following the outcome of various discussions.

1. University card

All retired staff can obtain a University Card; this is currently yellow and the category is shown as “Staff - Retired”. The card is obligatory for anyone wishing to use the Library and IT facilities. To obtain a card contact Sandy Day in the Card Office in the Main Library (tel.: 01392 263713, or E-mail: cardoffice@exeter.ac.uk or Web site www.ex.ac.uk/unicard/

2. Use of the Library

All retired members of staff may use the University Library. They can borrow up to 50 items at a time for up to a year – subject to the normal controls of recall, fine, etc. (As a comparison, non-Exeter University borrowers including bona fide scholars can only borrow 4 items at a time for one month and this limited facility costs them £70! So UERSA Members are getting a good deal). Other facilities, such as photocopying and interlibrary lending, are available at the usual unit costs.

Because most of the University Library electronic databases are licensed from commercial operators, access to them is generally limited to members of the institution, strictly defined. Retired staff are not included within this definition, with the exception of Emeritus Professors. Exeter University Library’s online catalogue, however, is freely available to all.

Contact from the Library to readers on lending issues – overdues, recalls, etc. - is usually via e-mail. However, readers may ask to have their library mail sent by post to their home address.

3. E-mail facilities

Information Services Committee has agreed to allow retired staff to continue to use University IT facilities for academic and university- related activities. All use will be subject to University Regulations and the JANET Acceptable Use Policy. To have access to IT facilities all our members will be required to obtain an Associate University card (see item 1 above).

The Director of IT Services will produce a list of IT services and facilities that retired staff may use freely, those that they may use at quiet times (e.g. out of term time and other busy periods) and those that may not be used at all (e.g. access to licensed software, electronic resources)

4. Sports facilities

Information not yet available.

Special Interest Activities

We had a good response to our proposal that Members should form special interest groups, and as a result 14 groups have been suggested. The Committee intends that all these groups should run themselves and be generally self-funding, with a self-selected “contact person” as leader to liaise with the Committee as necessary. To enable the “leaders” to contact their group members, central funding will be available for postage, stationery, etc.

Groups on the following subjects have been proposed:

Art	(leader: Thomas Revesz)	(56 members)
Badminton	(leader: Jan Reynolds)	(8 members)
Bridge	(leader: Richard Hitchcock)	(12 members)
Gardens	(leader: Anne Mayes)	(62 members)
Hiking	(leader: Trevor Preist)	(55 members)
Music, opera	(leader: Alan Leadbetter)	(56 members)
Reading	(leader: Maggie Postlethwaite)	(11 members)
Restaurants	(leader: Peter Corbin)	(33 members)
Theatre	(leader: Roger Fieldhouse)	(60 members)
Wine	(leader: Laurie Burbridge)	(33 members)
Photography	(leaders: Brian and Rachel Kirby)	(11 members)

Three other groups have been proposed but no “leader” has emerged. Any offers?

Cinema	(25 members)
Golf	(9 members)
Keep Fit	(27 members)

If Members would like to suggest other subjects, this would be most welcome. If Members, having scanned this interesting list, would like to join groups they have not already signed up for, please would they contact the Membership Secretary Sandy Simpson, address: Greenmantle, 10 Hammond Croft Way, Exeter EX2 8FZ; tel. 01392 213506; e-mail: sandy@buntline.freeserve.co.uk.

General UERSA Activities

The next general get-together will be a talk from Bob Alcock, the Director of Buildings and Estates, on new building developments in the University, including all our widely-scattered campuses. Much has been going on recently in this area, so this should be a fascinating opportunity to catch up on the latest developments. Wine will be served after the talk, to enable Members to meet and chat.

The venue, date and time are:

Speaker: Bob Alcock, Director of Buildings and Estates
Title: “New University Buildings – or how to spend £100M”
Venue: Newman A Lecture Theatre, Peter Chalk Centre
Date: Thursday 17th March 2005
Time: 7 p.m.

Cost: £4.00 per person

Booking: please complete the enclosed slip and return by 4th March, with your cheque made payable to the University of Exeter, to: Cynthia Ransome, 4 Cherviswood Close, Exmouth EX8 4DZ.

Visit to the Eden Project: Mary Banks, Assistant Social Secretary, has organised a trip to the Eden Project in Cornwall. Details as follows:

Date: Thursday 21st April

Transport: by coach, leaving the University at 9am, depart Eden 3.30pm, arrive back in Exeter at c. 5.30pm.

Cost: £15 per head

Closing date for booking: Wednesday 13th April

Available places on the coach: 53 – first come first served!

Booking: please complete the enclosed slip and return with cheque (payable to University of Exeter) to Mary Banks, 8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE.

General UERSA Activities (cont.)

A date for your diary: Wednesday 8th June: a Garden Party at Reed Hall, 4 pm - 6pm, cost £6 per person. Further details in the next Newsletter

Other general meetings proposed are:

A Buffet Lunch in September

Visits to the Met.Office, the Cathedral Library, the Norman Lockyer Observatory, the Beer Caves, and Tremough Campus.

Altogether a lot to look forward to!

UERSA Website (URL: www.ex.ac.uk/uersa)

The UERSA Website should be up and running by the end of January. It will display the UERSA Constitution, the Newsletters as they appear, and information about the Executive Committee and its members. News about the various interests groups and their events will also be given, as well as information about UERSA general activities. We are aware that many Members do not have regular access to a computer; these people should not feel that they are being bypassed – UERSA information will continue to be sent by post as appropriate. However, the new website should prove a useful and enjoyable way to keep up to date with UERSA, and indeed perhaps to encourage other retired staff to join us.

Short notes

University Newsletter “Extra”: Members of UERSA who would like to obtain copies of “Extra” should contact Stuart Franklin, Head of Press and Public Relations, who is more than happy to send copies to Members

Correction to the list of Committee Members in Newsletter 1: the Newsletter Editor Sue Guy’s e-mail address should read: s.m.w.guy@exeter.ac.uk

As mentioned in Newsletter 1, the Editor would be very pleased to receive information to include in the Personal Notices section, such as recent deaths of University members, or more cheerfully news of Members’ recent publications, honours received, etc.

Use of e-mail: A number of our members have e-mail addresses and this will be a great help in keeping everyone informed of events. A number of members who have e-mail addresses have nevertheless opted to have all information sent to them by post. Please bear in mind that this increases our administrative costs considerably – if you can opt to receive information by e-mail it will help us a lot.

UERSA LECTURE

“New University Buildings – or How to Spend £100M”

by

Bob Alcock, Director of Buildings and Estates

Thursday 17th March 2005

Newman A Lecture Theatre, Peter Chalk Centre

7 p.m.

The cost for those attending is £4 per person.

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

I/We would like to come to the UERSA Lecture on 17th March

Name(s).....

Number attending.....

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

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EDEN PROJECT VISIT

Thursday 21ST April 2005

The cost is £15 per person.

Please complete the following tear-off slip and send it to **Mary Banks**,
Assistant Social Secretary, 8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter, EX2 9JE **by**
Wednesday 13th April

I/We would like to join the visit to the Eden Project on 21st April

Name(s).....

Number attending.....

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

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