



## **RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION**

### **NEWSLETTER**

Issue 23, January 2012

Yet another year is well underway but to all of you every good wish for 2012. I can't offer either Health or Prosperity but let's hope some of the items will bring you some Happiness.

One of the main purposes of the Newsletter is to remind you about and to keep you up-to-date with our activities. You will see the comprehensive range brought to you by the hard-working organisers of the respective groups.

Full details and, importantly, updates or changes can be seen on the UERSA website <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>. For those who do not use the internet, organisers can be contacted either by mail or telephone - listed in this Newsletter - and I recommend that you join any group in which you are interested.

It's your UERSA and your Newsletter so let's have your suggestions and your news. Our new Chairman, Alastair Logan, urges those who subscribe but don't participate to take the plunge - we're a friendly lot. Look through this Newsletter and if there's not already an activity or group you like then let us know and we can use the Newsletter to sound out the interest of others.

#### **A Message from our Chairman**

As incoming Chairman on the retirement of Alan Leadbetter after his 3-year stint, I would like first to thank him for the splendid job he did with such good humour and efficiency. Committee meetings under his leadership were always great fun. Since joining the Committee I have been struck with the quality of its members, several cajoled by him to serve. Voluntary bodies like ours do find it very difficult to attract good committee members, but Alan did a fine job. It is my hope to continue Alan's good work and prove a worthy successor. As he did, may I too warmly thank all the members of the Committee, as well as those who run the various groups, for their keenness and hard work, and look forward to an equally successful new year, with all sorts of events and opportunities. The Committee is considering various initiatives, some of which you will be able to read about in this newsletter, but we always welcome feedback and new ideas.

At this time of year we also inevitably look back, recalling those members who died in 2011, all of whom made their distinctive contribution to the University. We particularly remember those who were deeply involved with UERSA, such as Peter Corbin, who with his wife Ann ran the Restaurant Group for several years and was to have been our President. It is people such as Peter and Ann who make UERSA such a special body.

May I conclude first by acknowledging, like Alan, the many members who feel happy to pay their annual subscription without getting more actively involved – we appreciate your continuing interest and support, if gently encouraging you to consider taking a more active part. Then can I, again like Alan, encourage newer members to consider volunteering for the Committee – your UERSA needs you!

Alastair Logan

## Notes from the Annual General Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Fifty-one Members were present at the meeting.

Elections for the Committee resulted in changes in the composition of the Committee as follows:-

**Anne Mayes** will become President of UERSA for 2011/12 in place of **Laurie Burbridge** who will serve a further year on the Committee as Immediate Past President

**Mary Banks** has been unanimously elected as President Elect for the following year. **Alastair Logan** will be Chairman in place of **Alan Leadbetter** who is stepping down having served three years

**Linda Hale** has been elected to replace Alastair Logan as Ordinary Member of the Committee.

*A revised list of Committee Members with contact details is enclosed with this Newsletter. It can also be found on the UERSA website (Executive Committee) at*

*<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/>*

*together with the Minutes of the AGM (Newsletters and Archives)*

The Subscription Fee of £6 per person/couple has been held for a further year. Judy Mead (Membership Secretary) confirmed that so far 361 members had renewed their membership for 2011/12. *(If anyone has not yet renewed their membership, Judy would appreciate their cheques made out to University of Exeter asap.)*

## Personal Notes

Sadly, we have a longer list of deaths to report than we have had for some time. Some of the people will have been well known to many members, several only to a few.

**Thomas J Barling**, died on 22nd September 2011 at the age of 99. He was Senior Lecturer in Education (French) 1949-77, at the University's Department of Education at Thornlea, before the merger with St Luke's. There is a full account of his life and career, with photo, on [www.abgs.org.uk/FormerPupils/TomBarling/tjb.html](http://www.abgs.org.uk/FormerPupils/TomBarling/tjb.html).

**Dr John Alderson CBE QPM**, Chief Constable of Devon and Cornwall 1973-82, died on 7th October aged 89. Dr Alderson was awarded an Hon LLD by the University of Exeter in 1979 and after his retirement advised Bill Tupman in his work at the Centre for Police and Criminal Justice Studies.

**Professor Wilfred Fishwick**, peacefully, aged 93 at Spiers House, New Malden, on Friday 14th October 2011

**Lady Vera Cook**, widow of former Vice-Chancellor Sir James Cook, died on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 at Exmouth.

**Peter Corbin**, B.A., PhD., died on 21st November 2011 in Exeter. He was a member of the School of English Studies, University of Exeter for 34 years and was a Leader of our Restaurant Group for several years.

**Sandy Simpson** died Dec 3rd 2011 after a long illness. She was our Membership Secretary for three years until 2007, during which "her helpfulness and efficiency were much appreciated". (UERSA newsletter 10)

**Mike Wendon**, former Assistant Director of Finance, died December 13th 2011.

**Dr Richard Orme**, died Jan 7th 2012. He was a consultant paediatrician at the RD&E but also held a joint appointment as a Lecturer in the University.

## Reports on General Events

**Round Robin Trip** which took place on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011. John Carroll, who organised the trip, confirmed that it was a very successful event. No one got lost!

**Annual General Meeting.** It was confirmed that 51 members attended the meeting and several commented how friendly and enjoyable this yearly event is.

### Christmas Lunch

66 UERSA members attended the Christmas Lunch on 14 December 2011 which took place in the Regency Room, Devon Hotel. We were able to have the carvery again this year and getting everyone served went very smoothly. The only slight disappointment was that the mulled wine didn't keep flowing as speedily as we would have liked and some people had to wait for their winter warmer. It was a very happy occasion and an excellent start to the Christmas season. The carvery and the Regency Room have been booked for next year on Tuesday 11 December 2012.

### UERSA Coffee Mornings at the Imperial Hotel

Coffee Mornings (arranged by Jan Reynolds) were held regularly on the last Tuesday in each month from 10-12, with an average attendance of around 35. Newcomers might like to know about parking charges:-

If you pay for parking and show your 'parking receipt' this amount will be refunded at the bar on your purchase of coffees, etc.

## Special Interest Groups

### The Special Interest Group Organisers are:

Badminton:	Jan Reynolds ( tel: 01392 271204, <i>e-mail</i> : janandmikereynolds@gmail.com)
Bridge:	Paul Ellison ( tel: 01626 867999, <i>e-mail</i> : p.a.ellison@exeter.ac.uk )
Gardens:	Anne Mayes ( <i>e-mail</i> : a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk )
Music / Opera:	Helen Pope ( tel: 01392 860159, <i>e-mail</i> : h.pope174@btinternet.com ) Alastair Logan (tel: 01392 434715, <i>e-mail</i> : a.h.b.logan@exeter.ac.uk )
Restaurants:	Liz Smith ( tel: 01363 84667, <i>e-mail</i> : Geoffandlizsmith@yahoo.co.uk ) Frankie Peroni ( tel: 01363 773946, <i>e-mail</i> : F.Peroni@exeter.ac.uk )
Theatre and Shows:	Sue Cousins ( <i>e-mail</i> : scousins@talktalk.net )
Walking:	Trevor Preist ( <i>e-mail</i> : preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk )
Wine:	John Carroll ( <i>e-mail</i> : J.C.Carroll@live.co.uk )
Membership Secretary:	Judy Mead ( tel: 01392 425571, <i>e-mail</i> : JudyMead@hotmail.co.uk )

## Reports and news from Special Interest Groups

I am including a bit more information than usually appears in the Newsletter, as there may well be new members of UERSA who are not on the internet, and who would like to find out more. If you can get on the internet, all this information can be found on the UERSA website where it is kept up-to-date, and is easy to navigate (thanks to Roger Coles).

If you are interested in participating in any of these groups, please apply to the Membership Secretary, Judy Mead. This is particularly important if you are unable to use e-mail, as information and updates on group activities are sent by ordinary mail only to members of that group

You can contact Judy by telephone or via her e-mail address above. Or you can download an application form, in pdf format, from the Membership forms page.

Other groups originally proposed when UERSA was started, included Art, Cinema, Golf, Keep Fit, Photography and Reading. We have been unable to find anyone to organise any of these groups. If you are interested in taking on that role, or if you have a suggestion for any additional group (which you would be willing to organise?), the Committee would be happy to hear from you. Please contact any member of the Committee.

We are pleased to be able to tell you that we have one new group – the Theatre and Show group – here is a note from Sue Cousins who has agreed to organise it.

### **New Theatre Group**

Sue confirmed that in accordance with a request made by several members at the AGM she is willing to organise a Theatre Group. The first event she has decided to arrange for members to see is the 'Phantom of the Opera' at the Theatre Royal in Plymouth on 14th March 2012. After circulating a note to UERSA members about the forthcoming Show, she has received 22 applications for tickets. The Theatre has said there would be no special discounts available for group(s) bookings as it is expected to be a very popular show. If there is anyone who isn't already but would like to be included on the e-mailing list please let Sue know

**Reports on other group activities** over the last few months, gleaned either directly from the organisers, or from browsing our website :-

### **Gardens Group**

8 outings were arranged last year, to Snowdrop Valley, Trelissick, Chevithorne Barton, Delamore, Kingston Lacey, Hill House Nursery, Whitstone Farm, Hillrise, and looking at the reports on the Gardens group page, all except the last were very successful. They ranged from early spring to autumn, and the gardens themselves were very varied. *(There are lovely photos and descriptions on the website. Rachel)*

### **Opera Group**

48 members of the **Opera Group** had a very enjoyable outing to see La Boheme.

### **Restaurant Group**

In 2011 two of the group's venues were in Exeter itself with the other seven circling the city. We are a social bunch who enjoy the food, wine and chatter. Our thanks to everyone involved in organising the different visits.

### Walking Group

There are reports on 6 walks of various lengths with various leaders which took place from Oct – Dec last year. *Having read the reports, it seems to me that they were all blessed with good weather, good companionship and good humour as well as wonderful scenery. Occasionally there were mentions of 'very wet under foot', or other trifling problems, but otherwise, the participants obviously enjoyed them. Do try to look at their website, there are some great photos and comments. Rachel*

### Wine Tasting Group

This is now being organised by John Carroll who has collected a group of five members to take over the arrangements for future wine tasting events. They already have several ideas!

### Now, looking to the next few months!

#### All Events Calendar for 2012

Date	Group	Time	Activity
<i>every Wed</i>	<i>Badminton</i>	<i>11-12</i>	<i>Sports Hall 11.0 – 12.0</i>
<i>last Tue of month 10-12</i>	<i>UERSA coffee</i>	<i>10-12</i>	<i>Imperial Hotel 10 – 12</i>
Thu 26th Jan	Bridge	7	Clayden
Tue 31st Jan	UERSA	10-12	Coffee morning at Imperial
Thu 2nd Feb	Walking	10.30	Compton and Dainton <i>6 miles</i>
Tue 21st Feb	Restaurant	12.15	Redwing, Lypstone 12.15 for 12.45
Wed 22nd Feb	Walking	10.30	Bennett's Cross <i>9 miles</i>
Tue 28th Feb	UERSA	10-12	Coffee morning at Imperial
Wed 29th Feb	Bridge	7	Clayden
Sat 3rd Mar	UERSA	6 pm	King John (Drama PG production) Alexander Building, Thornlea
Mon 5th Mar	Walking	10.30	Coleridge Way, Holford <i>9 miles</i>
Wed 14th Mar	Theatre	7.30 curtain	The Phantom of the Opera – Theatre Royal Plymouth
Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar	UERSA	7.0	Quiz Evening at Isca Centre
Tue 20th Mar	Walking	10.30	Cothelstone, Quantocks <i>8 miles</i>
Thu 22nd Mar	Restaurant	Tba	Roedean, Kenton
Tue 27th Mar	UERSA	10-12	Coffee morning at Imperial
Tue 27th Mar	Wine	7 pm	Old v New World Wines (J. Carroll), 21, The Mint
Thu 29th Mar	Bridge	7 pm	Clayden
Sat 31st Mar	Music	7.30	St.Matthew Passion – Exeter Cathedral
Wed 4th Apr	Music	7.15 curtain	Béatrice et Bénédict – Theatre Royal Plymouth
Tue 24th Apr	UERSA	10-12	Coffee morning at Imperial
Wed 25th Apr	Bridge	7 pm	Clayden
Thu 10th May	Wine	7 pm	German Wines (J. Noakes), 21, The Mint
Thu 24th May	Bridge	7	Clayden
Tue 29th May	UERSA	10-12	Coffee morning at Imperial
Tue 26th Jun	UERSA	10-12	Coffee morning at Imperial
Wed 27th Jun	Bridge	7	Clayden

## **Forthcoming General Events (UERSA)**

### **Coffee Mornings**

These are held on the last Tuesday of the month from 10-12 noon at the Imperial Hotel where the 'Nutters Bar' area is reserved for us. They are very informal, and an average of around 35 members attend. *(I still haven't managed to get to one of these, but I shall really try this session! Rachel)*

There will be a break for the summer after the June meeting

### **Drama Department performance of *King John* by Shakespeare**

Jon Primrose of the drama department wrote

'The performance of 'King John' takes place in the Alexander Building, Thornlea, New North Road at 6pm on Saturday 3rd March. Maximum seating capacity is 50, of which around 25 could be allocated to UERSA. '

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. Rachel

*See form at the end of this Newsletter.*

### **Quiz evening**

UERSA Trivia Quiz: another of these popular events will take place on Monday 19th March, at the Isca Centre, Summer Lane, at 7 pm. The cost will be £5.50 per person (which includes light refreshments). Drinks can be bought separately at the bar.

*See form at the end of this Newsletter.*

### **Other events being considered for this year include:**

Jurassic Coast (early April)

Stratford (Spring)

a pub skittles evening

a tour of the University's new buildings *(when/if they are finished!)*

a visit to the RNLI at Poole

a visit to the Railway Museum at Swindon *(+/- shopping centre!)*

'Get Together' of Interested Members of UERSA to Reminisce about the 'Olden Days/War Years' (suggested by member John Boyle)

*If any of these particularly appeal, please let me or a committee member know of your support – we'd be even happier if you could offer help with arrangements.*

Rachel

## **Forthcoming Group Events**

### **Badminton:**

This present Term, meetings will be every Wednesday (from the 18th January until the end of March) in the Sports Hall at the University between 11 and 12 noon (followed by coffee and chat!). Please contact: Jan Reynolds

[janandmikereynolds@gmail.com](mailto:janandmikereynolds@gmail.com): Tel 01392 271204 for further details.

### **Bridge:**

We tend to play Chicago most evenings, but occasionally are able to play rubbers. We start at 7.0 pm, stop for coffee/tea and biscuits mid-session, and aim to finish around 10 to 10.15pm. To be able to access Clayden, we have registered as 'Music Associates' and have bought a small batch of Associate cards. The evenings are very enjoyable as a mix of playing and socialising. Occasionally, other rooms in Clayden are being used for Music practice, so the music can add to the evening.

The schedule for 2012: Thu 26th Jan, Wed 29th Feb, Thu 29th Mar, Wed 25th Apr, Thu 24th May, Wed 27th June.

I hope to see all the regulars and a few new faces. I will bring coffee/tea etc. If anyone wants to talk to me about joining, then I can be phoned on 01626 867999

Paul Ellison

### **Gardens:**

The Spring Programme will be circulated to group members shortly, i.e. when I've arranged it! I'm afraid other things have taken up my time recently.

*(I'm sure you will have noticed that Anne Mayes is also UERSA President this year! Please make sure you have joined the Gardens Group if you want to get the news. R)*  
Anne Mayes ( e-mail: a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk )

### **Music / Opera:**

#### ***Breaking news from Helen! Jan 25<sup>th</sup> 2012***

*I have tickets left for both the opera and the Passion, but have to pay the theatre bill before or on 6th February. If anyone still wished to go to Beatrice and Benedict after 1st February it would be possible, but they would have to act quickly and get a cheque to me very promptly. I have a further week to pay for the tickets for the St. Matthew*

*There is always the possibility, after the theatre bill is paid, of buying one's own theatre seat but travelling and eating with the group. The coach costs £8.55 for the return journey and the supper at La Tasca will be £11.95, should anyone wish to take advantage of the group rates.*

***Béatrice et Bénédict*** – Wednesday 4th April, 2012 . Hector Berlioz's operatic masterpiece will be performed by Welsh National Opera)

Unfortunately, booking and payment are required by **1st February, which is before the newsletter is distributed**. I'm sorry to give you so little time to consider this, but the theatre is asking for the bill to be paid by 6th February.

All the arrangements for *Beatrice and Benedict* are now firm. Supper at La Tasca, costing £11.95, is on offer, or members are welcome to go elsewhere should they prefer to do so.

The cost of the whole package with a circle seat (£42.50), coach (£8.55) and supper at La Tasca (£11.95) is **£63.00** and with an upper circle seat (£22.50), is **£43.00**

***The Passion According to St. Matthew- J.S. Bach***, Exeter Cathedral, Sat 31st Mar. 20 tickets in the front section of the nave in the cathedral are being held for us for the Bach's *The Passion According to St. Matthew* on Saturday, 31st March. The Exeter Festival Chorus under the direction of their conductor, Nigel Perrin, will be supported by the professional orchestra *Music for Awhile*, led by Margaret Faultless.  
Helen Pope ( tel: 01392 860159, e-mail: h.pope174@btinternet.com )

### **Restaurants:**

Planning of 2012 events are at an early stage but venues have been arranged for lunches in February and March.

Tuesday 21st February REDWING in Lympstone (12.15 for 12.45)

Thursday 22nd March RODEAN in Kenton

For further information: on **Redwing** contact Frankie Peroni  
email [F.Peroni@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:F.Peroni@exeter.ac.uk) or tel. 01363 773946;  
on **Rodean** contact Eric Luffman on 01392 277493

### **Walking:**

**10.30 am Thursday 2nd February Compton and Dainton 6 miles**

*Led by David and Lorna* **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Meet at 10.30 at the Bickley Mill Inn, Stoneycombe. (OS202 / Explorer 110: 864665)  
Take the A380 to the Pen Inn roundabout. Continue towards Torquay and turn right after 1  
mile. The Bickley Mill Inn is signposted from this point. Park in the car park at the end away  
from the buildings.

*This walk takes us along footpaths and sunken lanes past Compton Castle and through  
Dainton village to Stoneycombe Quarry. The Bickley Mill will be open on our return.*

**10.30 am Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February Bennett's Cross 9 miles**

*Led by Pete* **PICNIC LUNCH REQUIRED**

Meet at the car park on the road to Postbridge just west of Bennett's Cross (OL29:  
680817). *The walk is easy and a shortcut which reduces the 9 miles to 7.5 miles is possible.*

**10.30 am Monday, 5th March Coleridge Way, Holford 9 miles**

*Led by Tom* **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

9 miles, great views and all on good tracks.

Turn off the A39 by the Plough Inn, signed Combe House Hotel, to Holford, past the  
church, bear right at the signpost to Hodder's Combe and the large car park is on the  
left. (OS140: GR 155410). After a long but gentle climb south through woods to Great  
Bear much of the rest of the walk is along ridges, Macmillan Way West joining the Coleridge  
way at Bicknoller Post, then a gentle descent back to Holford skirting Alfoxton Park.

**10.30 am Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> March Cothelstone, Quantocks 8 miles**

*Led by Roger* **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Meet at Cothelstone (OS Landranger map 181, ref: 183319) 10.30.

The route starts at Cothelstone Manor - Cothelstone Park - West Bagborough - Lydeard Hill  
-Aisholt - Luxborough farm -Birches corner - Park End - Cothelstone Hill and back to  
Cothelstone

Trevor Preist ( *e-mail*: [preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk) )

### **Wine:**

We have now got the first two dates for the wine group.

Tue 27-Mar Old v New World Wines (John Carroll)

Thurs 10-May German Wines (Jeremy Noakes)

Both at 21 The Mint.

Other events planned:

Wines of the Loire (Rachel and Brian Kirby) late June

Wines of Southern France (Alan Leadbetter) Sep/Oct

T.B.D (John Jacob) late November.

John Carroll ( *e-mail*: [J.C.Carroll@live.co.uk](mailto:J.C.Carroll@live.co.uk) )

### **Theatre and Shows:**

The Theatre Group has started well. A group of 22 will be going to "The Phantom of  
the Opera" on 14 March at Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Plenty of other people have  
expressed an interest in the group but couldn't make the 14th. Now the group has got

off the ground I am asking anyone who hasn't already and would like to be included on the e-mailing list to let me know.  
Sue Cousins

## **News from around the University**

The building works continue, and still look far from finished to the amateur (and perhaps jaundiced) eye. As a near neighbour, (the University campus used to act as a huge back garden for us) and with other work on student residences going on close by, I shall be very happy to see it finished. We look forward to having a tour of the new buildings.

You may be interested (and perhaps saddened?) to hear of the proposal to separate the component parts of the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry to the Universities of Exeter and of Plymouth.

### Contact details for Members of the UERSA Executive Committee 2011/2012

PRESIDENT 2011-2012	Anne Mayes E-mail: A.C.Mayes@exeter.ac.uk
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**UERSA**

**TRIVIA FUN QUIZ**

Monday 19th March 2012

at

The Isca Centre, Summer Lane,  
Exeter

(a very pleasant venue, with plenty of parking)

Cost: £5.50 per person  
(which includes light refreshments - drinks can be bought  
separately at the bar)

Please Note: the closing date for receiving applications is 10th March.

Please complete the slip below and send it to Jan Reynolds, (Secretary)

77 Rosebarn Lane, Pennsylvania, Exeter, EX4 5DG Tel.No. 01392 271204

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I/We would like to come to the Trivia Quiz on Monday 19th March

Name(s).....

Address(es).....

Tel..... Email.....

Number attending.....

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.



**UERSA**

**KING JOHN**

**by**

**William Shakespeare**

Performed by the students of the Drama Department,  
Alexander Building, Thornlea, New North Road  
University of Exeter  
at 6pm on Saturday 3rd March 2012

**Although the performance is free, donations would be appreciated.**

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**If you would like to book seats for the performance (and in order to let the Drama Department know how many seats to reserve), can you please contact Rachel - before Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February.**

**Rachel Kirby can be contacted by:  
e-mail ... [r.m.Kirby@ex.ac.uk](mailto:r.m.Kirby@ex.ac.uk)  
or by Telephone 01392 273536**

Note – I am away until Feb 6th