



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)

NEWSLETTER Issue 29

January 2014

UERSA website <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html> - for those on the internet

Editor's Comment

It's that time of year again!

Fully recovered from all the delights - and, yes, some of the excesses - of the Festive Season, we are now truly into the New Year. Let's hope no members of UERSA have been blown or washed away by the seemingly endless rain and high winds. Anyway, here for your delectation is a whole New Year awaiting you of promising UERSA events that I hope will raise your spirits. I'm sure you will notice that our two new groups – Nature Walks and Table Tennis – are up and running, and have their own pages on the UERSA website. If your interests lie that way, please do support them, and of course, all our other groups.

I hope some of you may be interested to read rather more erudite reviews of cultural events than we have had before, (my arm-twisting technique has been improving!) but don't forget to look at the website to see descriptions of last year's group events, I can only include a small part in the newsletter.

If you are new to UERSA or up to now you haven't taken part in anything then give it a try by joining in what's available or let any member of the Committee know what you'd like. Don't be bashful - you will find all the various groups delighted to see new faces and happy to be approached if you want to find out more about what they do. I personally have had great pleasure from my involvement with the Committee, and from the group I regularly attend, largely from getting to know people better.

Anyway, fed up with the current British weather and having put the newsletter in capable hands, I'll be venturing to foreign parts for a month. I hope you will enjoy the programme or, like me, get some winter respite either at home or abroad.

Belatedly, but sincerely, a Happy & Prosperous New Year to you all

Rachel

Rachel Kirby, (Newsletter Editor)

3 Pennsylvania Crescent, Exeter EX4 4SF

Tel: 01392 273536 E-mail: r.m.kirby@exeter.ac.uk

Chairman's Message for January 2014 Newsletter

Well that's another year gone, one full of unexpected events and surprises, as usual. Perhaps it's just as well we cannot predict the future with any degree of precision. Looking back and being reminded of programmes like Tomorrow's World, it's fascinating to see how far it got things wrong, although sometimes it did get it right, often as regards technology, a classic driver of change. Our world seems to change ever more rapidly, particularly as regards the internet and social media: who could have predicted that ten years ago? But even for technophobes like me there are some advantages. I don't Tweet or use Facebook, but I do find Skype a godsend for keeping in touch with family, far and near, especially at this time of year. As we get older, family and roots seem to become ever more important. Indeed issues involving a sense of identity, of who we are, where we came from and where we are going, may well loom larger in this coming year which will see a referendum on Scottish Independence and EU elections in which ultra-nationalist parties may do alarmingly well. As regards our Exeter identity, it was the University of Exeter which brought us all together to this part of the world from so many varied places and countries, and that variety is one of the nice things about UERSA. Yet despite the variety, what continues to unite us is our past experience of the University and its location in Exeter and Devon. But we cannot just live in the past and on past memories: we still have something to say to the University about where it is going and I hope that in 2014, as the University plans for its future, it may be willing to listen to us who helped shape its past and present. A hopeful sign of this is the recent invitation to UERSA, after a bit of a gap, to send two representatives to two planning-for-retirement sessions to speak about what we do and what we offer. We are a lively organisation with a wide and growing range of activities, but, all

the same, it would be nice if more members got more actively involved. A happy and challenging New Year to you all!

Alastair Logan

Personal Notes

We are sorry to record the deaths of several people who were, or were known to, our members. If you receive any such notification, please pass it on to Sue Odell – email : seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk

Dr Joan Rees died on 28 August 2013, at the age of 89, just 12 days after her husband David (reported in newsletter 28). Joan was a Lecturer at the Department of Mathematics between 1965 and 1984. She was also a talented painter of watercolours. After her retirement from the Maths Dept she concentrated on her painting and exhibited at the University and at the RD&E amongst other venues.

From Anne Mayes 28th August and Peter Vamos

Mrs Mary Steiner, wife of Dr. Erich Steiner, died in October. Mary was well known among the academic community, and I would be grateful if this information could be relayed to all UERSA members.

From: [Edward Abel](#), Tuesday, October 15, 2013

Ann Whiley nee Ridgwell Members of UERSA will be sorry to hear that Ann Whiley, better remembered in Exeter by her maiden name Ann Ridgwell, has died. She taught in the Classics dept. from 1961 until 1963, when she left to get married. She was thus Jackson Knight's successor, and was replaced by John Glucker.

After she left Exeter she taught in various schools from Tunbridge to Cardiff. Sadly she'd been suffering from Alzheimer's these last few years.

From David Harvey (25th October 2013)

Mrs. Kati Vamos, wife of Peter Vamos, died peacefully at home, November 22nd 2013

From Sue Odell

Professor Paul Doe died on 15 December at the age of 82. He was Professor of Music from 1971 until 1991. He had apparently been seriously ill in hospital since August.

From Alan Leadbetter.

Mrs. Kathryn Ashcroft Dr Stan Ashcroft (Engineering) has let me know that his wife Kathryn died at Exeter Hospice on Boxing Day, 26th December. He says that members of Engineering will have known her, as will some of the UERSA Walking Group.

From Sue Odell

Reports on General UERSA Events

Trip to Stratford-on-Avon, Thursday 12th September.

For the longest trip yet undertaken by UERSA, a party of 21, presumably the Association's cultural elite, met at the Squash Club for an 8.15am start. The journey proved to be a smooth and comfortable one, thanks to the good road links between Exeter and Stratford and to the helpful and efficient driver provided by Otter Coaches.

After a halfway comfort break, we were in Stratford around 12.20. Though we had met rain on the way, we had a fine afternoon in Stratford that allowed most of us to have a snack lunch alongside the Avon by the Memorial Theatre. The matinee performance of Hamlet produced more mixed reactions. The recent revamping of the main theatre's auditorium has produced a more intimate lay-out in the circles, though the audience in the stalls perhaps has some problems with the new-style thrust-stage in their midst. The production itself, directed by David Farr, had received some critical reviews, even the more favourable ones allowing it was something of a 'curate's egg'. The main problem lay with Jonathan Slinger's interpretation of the central role. He offered a 'roaring boy' characterisation of Hamlet, a study in emotional incontinence at odds with the more traditional picture of a man tortured by introspection and indecision. It rather overbore other performances, particularly the female ones of Gertrude and Ophelia, and only Greg Hicks as a suavely menacing Claudius and Robin Soans as a pedantically over-insistent Polonius (his killing was almost a relief) escaped the effect. The faster action late in the play was handled better, but, overall, the best one could say was that the production jerked a classic out of any rut of over-familiarity. The general feeling in the party, though, was that the performance might be memorable more for wrong reasons than right ones.

We had a brief opportunity for wandering along the river before meeting the coach for a 6.00 pm departure. We were back at the Squash Club on the dot of 9.00 pm. It had been a long day but one that most of us felt had been a positive experience. The feeling seemed to be that UERSA might venture another trip to the Memorial Theatre in a couple of years.

From Bruce Coleman 21:12:13

Coffee Mornings (arranged by Jan Reynolds) were held regularly on the last Tuesday in each month (apart from July/Aug/Dec.) from 10 a.m.-12noon.

A reminder 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.

The Steam Museum of the Great Western Railway - Friday 18 October 2013

Sadly this had to be cancelled because of insufficient numbers.

UERSA Annual General Meeting held on 11th October 2013

Once a year there's an opportunity for all members to have their say about UERSA. Fortunately, most members seem satisfied with what their Committee is doing for them (or do they keep quiet because criticism might expose their flank resulting in rapid election to the Committee?)

It's good to know the Association is vibrant, functioning, financially sound and filling a gap in the lives of members - though talking to many members makes one wonder whether retired people do actually have any gaps in their busy lives.

Points from the Minutes (which are available on the web under Newsletters and Archives) :

Subscription Fees for 2013/14 It was unanimously agreed that they should remain at £6 per person/per couple. Cheques to be made payable to The University of Exeter

Changes to the Committee for 2013/14:

Alan Leadbetter will become **President** of UERSA for a year from the AGM 2013.

Mary Banks will become **Immediate Past President** for a year from the AGM 2013.

(**Anne Mayes** will leave the Committee, having completed her term as **Immediate Past President**.)

Tony Wragg has been voted as **President Elect** of UERSA for 2013/14.

Christine King takes Judy Mead's place as **Membership Secretary** as from the AGM 2013.

Christmas Lunch held on 10th December 2013, at the Devon Hotel

The run-up to the Festive Season fills rapidly with lunches and other gatherings. It's good, as the days draw in and outdoor activities decrease, to have other activities. The Christmas Lunch is one that brings together people from every section of UERSA, a good chance to catch up with people you haven't seen for some time and learn what they're up to. Numbers were a little down this year but it made circulating that bit easier, with no detriment to the conversation before and during the lunch. Those of us who often attend pre-Christmas lunches from a sense of duty look forward with pleasure to UERSA's lunch as one where there's a good chance of knowing most people either personally or because paths crossed in our working days; but, above all else, it's the conversation - such a remarkable collection of people with equally remarkable diverse interests. There's no stumbling to find topics because just listening is very fascinating. Well, now we will have to wait until the, hopefully, balmy days of summer for the enjoyable summer event.

From Brian Kirby

Special Interest Groups

The Special Interest Group Organisers are:

Badminton:	Jan Reynolds (tel: 01392 271204, e-mail: janandmikereynolds@gmail.com)
Bridge:	Paul Ellison (tel: 01626 867999, e-mail: p.a.ellison@exeter.ac.uk)
Gardens:	Anne Mayes (e-mail: a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk)
Guided Nature Walks	Judy Mead (email: judymead@hotmail.co.uk)
Music / Opera:	Helen Pope (tel: 01392 860159, e-mail: h.pope174@btinternet.com) Alastair Logan (tel: 01392 434715, e-mail: a.h.b.logan@exeter.ac.uk)
Restaurants:	Liz Smith (tel: 01363 84667, e-mail: lizsmith15@icloud.com) Frankie Peroni (tel: 01363 773946)
Table Tennis	Ruth Preist email: preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk
Theatre and Shows:	Sue Cousins (e-mail: scousins@talktalk.net)

Walking:	Trevor Preist (e-mail: preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)
Wine:	John Carroll (tel: 01392 876048, e-mail: carroll595@btinternet.com)
Membership Secretary:	Chris King (tel: 01392 255533, e-mail: chrisandmikeking@gmail.com)

Reports and News from Special Interest Groups:

If you can get on the internet, all this information can be found on the UERSA website (<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>) 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, Chris King. 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 Chris by telephone or via her e-mail address above. Or you can download an application form, in pdf format, from the Membership forms page.

Reports on Group Activities

Here are some of the highlights of our special interest group activities over the last few months, gleaned either directly from the organisers, or from browsing our website :-

The Bridge Group (Paul Ellison)

“My general member email had a positive effect and we have two or possibly three extra players (at the time of writing this report - early December). As well as looking for more evening players, I had been asked to enquire if anyone wanted to play in the afternoon. There was only one positive reply for afternoon Bridge, so I doubt that that idea will develop, but I will hold the existing name and wait to see if any more positive responses arrive in my in-box!”

Garden Group (Anne Mayes) – “from some lovely accounts (with photos) on their web page of last year’s visits I have picked on the last two – the fascinating and ancient Forde Abbey with tour of both the house and gardens (the photo highlights a stately pile and a (modern) fountain) and Andrew’s Corner, a charming sounding and welcoming place on a smaller scale, with tea and cakes provided!”

Music/ Opera Group Autumn 2013

“The Rape of Lucretia” by Glyndebourne Touring Opera, at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth

In Benjamin Britten’s centenary year Helen Pope chose his chamber opera “The Rape of Lucretia”. It was written for Kathleen Ferrier and Peter Pears who appeared in the first production at Glyndebourne in 1946. This is not one of Britten’s most popular operas and is rarely performed, so this was a good opportunity to see it both for lovers of Britten’s work and also for other opera lovers who wanted to see something new. I count myself among the latter category but others in our group were firmly in the former. It was a most successful evening and I believe that everyone returned home pleased to have participated. All of us, I am sure, would agree that the opera is not an easy one to appreciate fully at first hearing, but that the performances of singers and musicians were superb. Where we would disagree I think is in our eagerness, or lack of it, to make an effort to see it again in the near future!

The meal in the View restaurant opposite the theatre was eclectic, providing a wide range of Japanese, Chinese, Thai and Indian foods of quality and value, as much as one desired and cheerfully served.

The major disappointment was the low attendance by UERSA members. Unfortunately, the event did not prove to be very popular and after reserving our usual 40 seats we ended up with only 20 takers - of whom half were not UERSA members, although none-the-less welcome for that, so we must hope that Puccini’s ‘Manon Lescaut’ next Spring proves more popular, otherwise the continuation of this group may be open to question.

From Alan Leadbetter

Nature Walks (Judy Mead)

The new Nature Walks group started in January. The first series of 6 walks are fully subscribed and we are looking forward to some interesting outings over the months until June. The plan is to meet for 2-3 hours once per month and a local naturalist, Nigel Pinhorn, will lead us on an informative walk in a different venue near Exeter each month. A total of 16 nature enthusiasts have signed up for the course of 6 monthly walks.

Our first venue was at Bickley on the River Exe on January 8th - just after 3 or 4 weeks of rather heavy rain and floods! We donned our wellingtons for a very interesting (but muddy) amble through the woods filled with lichens, fungi, mosses and bird song. Nigel Pinhorn, our naturalist leader, was very informative and enthusiastic

and soon had us turning over logs to search for springtails and beetles and tickling webs hoping to surprise the resident spiders.

Restaurant Group (Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith)

Over the Spring and Summer the group enjoyed lunches at five new venues – The Cote in Cathedral Yard, The Galley in Topsham, Nessies's Bistro in Crediton, The Railway Inn Honiton, and the Huntsman Inn at Ide. We also made a welcome return visit to the Lamb Inn at Longdown. In the Autumn there were two more new venues for the group - The Salty Pigeon in Exeter and Exeter Catering College. Both events were very well supported. While the group appreciates good food the lunches have also proved to be very enjoyable social occasions. Our thanks to all those involved in organising the different visits.

If anyone has any NEW venues they would like to suggest please let us know. We are always looking for suggestions - and for people to host the lunches.

Table Tennis Group (Ruth Preist)

Introductory sessions held in October and November had a total of 24 different people showing interest and four tables were used in both months. Many thanks to the UERSA Committee for feeling that it was worth supporting. We have now set up an official group which met in December. Several keen players were not able to come but 10 enjoyed many laughs and lots of bending and stretching to recover the balls.

Anyone interested in joining the table tennis group please contact Ruth Preist (preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)

Walking Group (Trevor Preist)

A taste of what walkers have enjoyed last Autumn is best seen by visiting their web pages where there are accounts (with photos) of all their walks. All seem to have been successful, mostly with good weather and views, in varying locations and countryside. Many appeared to be focussed on food (Exmouth Cake Walk, picnic with a view, annual Lunch Walk) but then that is part of the fun of walking!

Wine Tasting Group (John Carroll)

The Wine Group has had another two excellent events: the first was Wines for the Festive Season arranged by Di and John Jacob at Majestic Wines on 29-Oct (Lauram, the manager, gave us a very good and informative presentation); and the second was Wines Off the Beaten Track arranged and presented by Rachel and Brian Kirby at 21 The Mint. They certainly found some interesting and different wines for us to try.

Now, looking to the next few months!

All Events Calendar for January - March (and beyond)

Date	Time	Activity	Group
Fri 3rd Jan	10.00	The Exe, from The Quay	Walking Group
Wed 8th Jan		Guided walk 1/6	Nature Walks
Wed 22nd Jan	10.30 Bovey Tracey	Yarner Wood & Templar Way	Walking Group
Thu 23rd Jan	10.30 – 12.00	Studio 2 Sports Park	Table Tennis
Tue 28th Jan	10.30 – 12.00	Imperial Hotel	UERSA coffee
Thu 30th Jan	19.00 – 22.15	21 The Mint	Bridge Group
Wed 5th Feb	19.00 - 22.15	The Mint (Alsace wines)	Wine Group
Wed 5th Feb		Guided walk 2/6	Nature Walks
Tue 11th Feb	19.30 Plymouth	The Lion King, Plymouth	Theatre Group
Tue 18th Feb	10.30 Ideford Common	Ideford Common (SX902790)	Walking Group
Thu 20th Feb	10.30 – 12.00	Studio 2 Sports Park (University)	Table Tennis
Tue 25th Feb	10.30 – 12.00	Imperial Hotel	UERSA coffee
Tue 25th Feb		Salutation, Topsham	Restaurant
Tue 25th Feb	19.00 – 22.15	21 The Mint	Bridge Group
Wed 5th Mar		Guided walk 3/6	Nature Walks
Tue 11th Mar	10.45 at Cred station	Crediton area	Walking Group
Thu 13th Mar	10.30 – 12.00	Studio 2 Sports Park (University)	Table Tennis
Tue 25th Mar	10.30 – 12.00	Imperial Hotel	UERSA coffee
Wed 26th Mar	19.00 – 22.15	21 The Mint	Bridge Group
Wed 26th Mar	10.00 old station	Thorverton	Walking Group
Fri 28th Mar	19.15 Plymouth	“Manon Lescaut” Plymouth Lyric	Music Group

Wed 9th Apr		Guided walk 4/6	Nature Walks
Thu 10th Apr	10.45 Lydford Village Car Park	Lydford Castle guided tour	Walking /UERSA
Mon 28th Apr	19.00 – 22.15	21 The Mint	Bridge Group
Tue 29th Apr	10.30 – 12.00	Imperial Hotel	UERSA coffee
Wed 7th May		Guided walk 5/6	Nature Walks
Tue 27th May	10.30 – 12.00	Imperial	UERSA coffee
Thu 29th May	19.00 – 22.15	21 The Mint	Bridge Group
Wed 4th Jun		Guided walk 6/6	Nature Walks
Thu 5th Jun	Tour starts at 14.00	Newton House, Newton Surmaville	Gardens/ UERSA
Tue 24th Jun	10.30 – 12.00	Imperial Hotel	UERSA coffee
Tue 24th Jun	19.00 – 22.15	21 The Mint	Bridge Group

FORTHCOMING GENERAL EVENTS (UERSA)

Newton House, Newton Surmaville, Yeovil 14.00 hrs 5th June

This is a house and garden visit, originally arranged for the gardens group by Anne Mayes, but open to all UERSA members. Anne has written :-

“I managed to go this year, I was thinking of it as a garden trip, but the price included a guided tour of the house and I thought that would appeal to the wider membership.

The house is not normally open, they have only opened to groups last summer and next because they are raising monies for two breast cancer charities following their daughter's diagnosis at the age of 22. You may have seen her on Spotlight and in The Times recently talking about her blog. They bought the estate in 2007 and spent the following years renovating and restoring both house and gardens. It was finished in 1612 and remained in the same family until 2007. There were many links with nearby Montecute - and as our tour starts at 14.00 hrs it is possible to visit Montecute in the morning. It is rare to find an estate of this size still in private ownership and both the house and the gardens are well worth seeing.

Coaches are out so it will be self-drive; it's less than 50 miles from Exeter. The cost is £15 to include the guided tour of the house, self-tour of the gardens and cream tea. We need at least 20 but no more than 50.

Obviously it's too early to ask for firm intentions, but it would be helpful to have expressions of interest. I had to book this early, as the availability is very limited.

I already have 40 expressions of interest from those on email, perhaps those who are not, but would like to be kept informed, could ring me on 01647 252603?”

Anne Mayes (e-mail:a.c.mayes@Exeter.ac.uk)

Walk and Tour - 10.45 am Thurs 10th April 2014 Lydford Castle

This is an item from the Walking Group's programme. Trevor is happy for it to be open to all UERSA members.

Bob Higham (Archaeology) will give a guided tour of a nearby castle as part of the walking group programme. The tour is open to other members, simply contact Trevor Preist (preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk) to let him know you wish to attend and then turn up at 10.45 am at the car park in Lydford village.

Lunch is available at the local pub (or bring a picnic). There will be a walk in the gorge (2 pm) so do join in if you wish.

Coffee Mornings - Imperial Hotel, New North Road, Exeter

(Last Tuesday in the Month - 10.30-12 noon) :

UERSA's Coffee Mornings will resume again at the end of January. Dates booked until June are:-

28th January, 2014	25th February	25th March
29th April	27th May	24th June

*(None in July or August)

* Resume again in September

Suggestions for future events

Events under consideration include:

- a visit to Agatha Christie's house "Greenway" in the Spring of 2014
- a guided walk around the St. Leonards area
- a guided walk in The Close

- (d) a trip to the Minack Theatre at Porthcurno
- (e) a Summer coastal cruise from Exmouth to Brixham (possible stop-off at Torquay on the way?)
- (f) a Jurassic Coast cruise.

FORTHCOMING GROUP EVENTS

Badminton: (Jan Reynolds)

The Badminton Group meets on Wednesday mornings for a game of badminton at the University's Sports Hall. Sessions run from 11:00 till 12:00, with time for a coffee and a chat afterwards.

The following dates have been confirmed :

15th, 22nd, 29th January 2014

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th February 2014

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March 2014

2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd April 2014 (Not 30th)

None in May

4th, 11th June 2014 (not 18th or 25th).

For further details, please contact: Jan Reynolds at janandmikereynolds@gmail.com: Tel 01392 271204

Bridge: (Paul Ellison)

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.

The dates for Bridge sessions for the new year are as follows:

Thurs 30th Jan Tues 25th Feb Wed 26th March

Mon 28th April Thur 29th May Tues 24th June

Please remember that we'll be meeting at 21 The Mint. If you do not know the procedure for entry to the Mint, or for any other query, please contact me. I hope to see you there in January. *Paul Ellison*

(e-mail: P.A.Ellison@exeter.ac.uk)

Gardens: (Anne Mayes)

Newton House, Newton Surmaville, Yeovil 14.00 hrs 5th June 2014

The Gardening Group programme is still in its infancy but I have made a special booking for Newton House. As it might appeal to the wider membership, I am offering it as a general UERSA outing. Please see the 'Forthcoming **General** Events' for details.

For all visits please let me know by email first.

Anne Mayes (e-mail: a.c.mayes@Exeter.ac.uk)

Guided Nature Walks (Judy Mead)

Our next 5 walks will be held at different venues and we will be studying the changing seasons and the developing plant and animal life. If additional UERSA members would like to take part in future courses, please contact Judy Mead (email: judymead@hotmail.co.uk) so they can be added to the mailing list.

The walks are on the following Wednesdays :-

2/6 - 5th Feb ; 3/6 - 5th Mar; 4/6 - 9th Apr ; 5/6 - 7th May; 6/6 - 4th Jun

Music / Opera: (Helen Pope)

Manon Lescaut by Puccini 28th March, 2014, at 7.15

Welsh National Opera Company at Theatre Royal Plymouth - Lyric Theatre.

Cost :- £44.00 Circle seat, £24.50 Upper Circle seat.

£13.99 for supper (if required) at The View Pan Asian Restaurant, opposite the theatre

£9.00 for coach leaving from the Devon and Exeter Squash and Cricket Club.

Please note that the performance begins at 7.15pm.

Payment is requested by 3rd February, please. Cheques should be made payable to The University of Exeter. In case of any problem please contact Helen or Alastair:-

Helen Pope, 3 Silver Street, Thorverton, Exeter EX5 5LT

Telephone 01392 860159 h.pope174@btinternet.com

Alastair Logan 168 Pennsylvania Road, Exeter EX4 6DX

Telephone 01392 434715 a.h.b.logan@exeter.ac.uk

Restaurants (Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith)

Tuesday 25th February at the Salutation Inn in Topsham – the first lunch of the year, organised by John Carroll. Two courses £22.50 –starter + main or main + dessert. Details, plus time, will be confirmed. If you would like to come to this event please email: John carroll595@btinternet.com

Further email to follow but any queries in the meantime please let me know.

Liz Smith (tel: 01363 84667, e-mail: lizsmith15@icloud.com)

Frankie Peroni (tel: 01363 773946)

(I understand that Frankie and Liz and other group members are working on the rest of the new programme, after wide discussions and consultations on which restaurants to choose. Ed)

Table Tennis (Ruth Preist)

The next three dates are on Thursdays:

23 rd January	20 th February	13 th March
Location: Studio 2 Sports Park		Time: 10.30 – 12.00

There will be a charge to cover hire of tables.

Theatre and Shows: (Sue Cousins)

"The Lion King" at the Plymouth Theatre Royal on 11th February 2014

Sue Cousins. E-mail: scousins@talktalk.net. Tel: 01392 432309

Walking (Trevor Preist)

10.30 am Wed, 22:01:14 **Yarner Wood & Templer Way 7 miles**

Led by Pete **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Details of the start point in Bovey Tracey will be circulated in the reminder.

10.30 am Tue, 18:02:14 **Ideford Common** **8 miles**

Led by Mike and Suzanne **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Start : Ideford Common Car Park (SX902790). *(From Exeter take the A380 Torbay road, and in Haldon Forest, at Ashcombe Cross, turn left on Colley Lane, signposted to Teignmouth, continue straight ahead at roundabout and in 1/2 mile take the first road on the right. This is a minor unmarked road which leads straight to the Car Park.)*

Mixed terrain, includes steep climb (100m) and uneven, stony tracks

Route : Ideford Common Car Park ~ Haldon Lane ~ Ideford Park ~ Longford Cottage ~ Orchard Lane ~ Underhays ~ Well Covert ~ Ideford Mill ~ Hillcrest ~ Luton ~ Town's End ~ Ideford ~ Tower Hill Lane ~ Ideford Common Car Park

10.45 am Tue, 11:03:14 **Crediton area** **7 miles (~ 3.5 hrs)**

Led by John B **PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED**

Travel options: Train	10.17 Central station	10.27 St David's
Bus station	9.55 (No 50)	10.15 (No 315)

Parking available at Crediton Station

From Crediton Station along lanes up to Oldridge, down a bridlepath to Venny Tedburn, up a bridlepath to Posbury and back along lanes to Uton and then along a footpath to the station, with tearoom. This is about 3.5 hrs and hopefully when the primroses will be out.

10.00 am Wed, 26:03:14 **Thorverton (old railway line)** **6 miles (~3 hrs)**

Led by Roger

Start at 10.00 at (old) Thorverton Station (OS114, map ref: 933017) just past cricket ground.

From Thorverton Station, follow the old railway line to Fortescue Farm, on to Bramford Speke, across the river to Stoke Canon, return along the Exe Valley Way. Roger hopes to arrange a short talk about Fortescue Farm and to visit the tiny chapel at Nether Exe. There will be an opportunity to have lunch at the Thorverton Arms for those wishing to do so.

(Parking is possible in a large lay-by on the right hand side, just past our starting point towards Thorverton.)

10.45 am Thu, 10:04:14 **Lydford Castle**

Bob Higham (Archaeology) will give a guided tour of a nearby castle as part of the walking group programme. The tour is open to other members, simply contact Trevor Preist (preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk) to let him know you wish to attend and then turn up at 10.45 am at the car park in Lydford village.

Lunch is available at the local pub (or bring a picnic). There will be a walk in the gorge (2 pm) so do join in if you wish.

Trevor Preist (e-mail : preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)

Wine Tasting (John Carroll)

7pm on Wed 5:02:14 at 21 The Mint - Alsace Wines by Lesley and Jeremy Noakes

We have this one event scheduled so far for this spring. If you would like to join us, please complete the slip at the end of the newsletter, and send it to John Carroll, with a cheque made payable to the University of Exeter, as soon as possible and to arrive no later than Wednesday 29th January.

John will be organising a planning meeting early in the New Year and if anyone would like to attend and help select a programme for 2014 please let John know.

John Carroll (e-mail: carroll595@btinternet.com)

N.B. Important for all groups

Full details of the activities 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, so that you will get any postings and updates from that group.



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

UERSA Wine Group

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UERSA Wine Tasting: 7 pm Wednesday February 5th 2014

From: _____

I/we would like _____ tickets (£10 each) for **Alsace Wines by Lesley and Jeremy Noakes**
7pm on Wed 5:02:14 at 21 the Mint

I/we enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to the University of Exeter.

Please return as soon as possible and to arrive no later than Wednesday 29th January to:

John Carroll
8 Tophayes
Elm Grove Road
Topsham
EX3 0BW

Contact details for Members of the Executive Committee of UERSA

PRESIDENT 2013-14	Alan Leadbetter 23 Hillcrest Park, Exeter EX4 4SH Tel: 01392 254855 E-mail: leadbetter.a@sky.com
PRESIDENT ELECT 2013-14	Tony Wragg 2 Wallace Avenue, Whipton, Exeter EX4 8DB Tel: 01392 466 129 E-mail: wraggster1@hotmail.co.uk
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Mary Banks 8 Saint Hill Close, Exeter EX2 9JE Tel: 01392 669239 E-mail: alanandmary@blueyonder.co.uk
CHAIR	Alastair Logan 168 Pennsylvania Road, Exeter EX4 6DX Tel: 01392 434715 E-mail: a.h.b.logan@exeter.ac.uk
TREASURER	Wojtek Krzanowski 3 Lark Close, Pennsylvania, Exeter EX4 4SL Tel: 01392 426945 E-mail: W.J.Krzanowski@exeter.ac.uk
SECRETARY	Jan Reynolds 77 Rosebarn Lane, Exeter EX4 5DG Tel: 01392 271204 E-mail: janandmikereynolds@gmail.com
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Chris King 19 Hillcrest Park, Exeter EX4 4SH Tel: 01392 255 533 E-mail: chrisandmikeking@gmail.com
SOCIAL CO-ORDINATOR	Susan Cousins 21 Chantry Meadows, Alphington, Exeter EX2 8FT Tel: 01392 432309 E-mail: scousins@talktalk.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR	Rachel Kirby 3 Pennsylvania Crescent, Exeter EX4 4SF Tel: 01392 273536 E-mail: r.m.kirby@exeter.ac.uk
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Frankie Peroni Franklyn, 4 Belle Parade, Crediton EX17 2AA Tel: 01363 773946 No E-mail at home :
COMMITTEE MEMBER	John Carroll 8 Tophayes, Elm Grove Road, Topsham EX3 0BW Tel: 01392 876048 E-mail: carroll595@btinternet.com
COMMITTEE MEMBER	Linda Hale 39 Howard Close, Exeter EX4 2LX Tel: 01392 210498 E-mail: linda39howard@blueyonder.co.uk
COMMITTEE MEMBER and Web Editor	Roger Coles 38 Higher Kings Avenue, Exeter EX4 6JP Tel: 01392 270151 E-mail: roger.coles4@btinternet.com