

UNIVERSITY OF  
**EXETER**  
RETIREE STAFF ASSOCIATION  
(UERSA)

**NEWSLETTER Issue 35**  
**January 2016**

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

**Editor's Comment**

Some would say I'm now living (happily) in Topsham – but I'd say I'm happily living in chaos! Nonetheless, here's the Newsletter, and I hope it contains enough to inform and something to stimulate your interest, too.

Unusually, this issue has a message from our Treasurer. I'm sure you will all want to help him with the admin.

*My usual reminder - I would like to hear any interesting news from members, especially if suitable to be included in the next newsletter. I would also like to have any comments and feedback about UERSA events you attend, so that those who didn't, couldn't (or wouldn't) can hear more about them.*

**Rachel**

*Rachel Kirby, (Newsletter Editor)*  
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**Chairman's Message for January 2016 Newsletter**

Dear Friends

A happy New Year to all! The first UERSA Walking Group outing of 2016 took us in bright sunshine on a meander out of Coplestone and it was particularly gratifying to see a number of recent recruits to the Association taking up the opportunity to join us. As reported in the previous newsletter, last year's voluntary severance scheme has brought us some new blood and I do hope these members will feel encouraged to investigate what our special groups have to offer. The most recent of these groups, the Cinema Group has got off to an encouraging start, with regular, informal visits to the Picture House; contact Ruth Preist ([preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)) or Sue Odell ([seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk)) if you are interested. Turning to events for the generality of our membership, Sue Cousins must be thanked for organising yet another very successful Christmas lunch at the Devon Hotel back in December. We are now beginning to think about the timing and location of our Summer Garden Party and the prospect of warm and sunny weather! A small group of us have also met to discuss a programme of outings for the broad membership and we hope to be inviting interest in these trips during the course of the coming months. One challenge we are having to cope with is the pick-up point for the coach. In previous years we have benefited from the generosity of Exeter Cricket Club in making parking available but the current building works there are likely to make this facility off-piste until much later in the summer. You may therefore be asked to live with some temporary inconvenience when joining these trips. We'll keep you posted.

The UERSA Committee and I are convinced that the Association continues as a lively organisation serving a much valued role. But from time to time we do need some of you to move into more active membership roles, be they on the Committee or in connection with a special interest group. If approached to take on a task, please consider saying 'yes!'; or, even better, just volunteer!

Finally, a gentle reminder about subscriptions; I'm sure that most receiving this newsletter will have already paid their subscriptions for the current year, but Chris King, our Membership Secretary, tells me that a few have still to do so. Do please contact Chris if you fall into the latter category – £6 for the year must be a bargain!

**David Batty**

**Treasurer's Message for January 2016 Newsletter**

Thank you to those who have chosen to pay their subscription by standing order or electronic transfer. It has saved a great deal of handling of cheques.

However, we cannot use this method to pay for activities within UERSA; these must still be paid in the old-fashioned way, by cheque. And please, please, please remember that all cheques should be made payable to

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER. The retired staff association does not have a bank account! This year's cheques for membership renewal revealed that there are several members still capable of the highest standards of original thought (for the payee's name), but this academic excellence was not always recognised by the bank.

**David Smith**

### **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](mailto:seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk)

*Please note that I have taken an Editorial decision to keep all of the notices short, as many are very brief, and I feel it is better to show the same respect to all. In some cases we do not have the exact date. Ed*

**Dr. Peter Gurney**, School of Education, died peacefully on Saturday 5th of September 2015 in the RD&E Clyst Stroke ward, after a series of strokes.

From Ross and Howard Gurney - Peter's sons

**Bea Schofield**, wife of Emeritus Professor Ken Schofield (Chemistry), died 11<sup>th</sup> September 2015, aged 95, in Woodhayes Nursing Home.

From Alan Leadbetter

**David (Dave) Baker** died on 17 October 2015, aged 65. Dave had been on the staff of the Engineering Department for 47 years, most recently as Experimental Officer in Engineering (CEMPS) and had retired at the end of June.

From the Express and Echo

**Brian Chadwick** formerly of the Geology Department, died late October 2015 after a short illness.

From John Bridge

**Ann Paterson**, wife of Alasdair, former University Librarian, died on 8 November 2015, aged 68, after a short illness.

From Sue Odell

**Ian Henderson**, former Council member, died in January 2016, aged 82. The 'Henderson Lecture theatre' in Xfi Building was named after him in recognition of his donations to the Business School.

From Clare Pearce

### **Reports on General UERSA Events**

#### **Christmas Lunch Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the lunch, but I did meet our President Sue Odell on a later occasion, when she promised to let me see a copy of her speech (so long as I didn't print it for you!) and assured me in an email with the copy of the text - "So here it is. I'm glad it's over – I can relax now! All went well and a good time was had by all."

#### **Coffee Mornings**

Most of you will know that they are held on the last Tuesday of most months, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Nutters Bar area (!) at The Imperial in New North Road. They are very informal (not to mention noisy on occasion!) and an average of around 30 members attend. Thank you, Jan, for keeping it going!

#### **Special Interest Groups**

**The Special Interest Group Organisers are:**

Badminton:	Jan Reynolds ( tel: 01392 271204, e-mail: <a href="mailto:janandmikereynolds@gmail.com">janandmikereynolds@gmail.com</a> )
Bridge:	Paul Ellison ( tel: 01626 867999, e-mail: <a href="mailto:p.a.ellison@exeter.ac.uk">p.a.ellison@exeter.ac.uk</a> )
Cinema	Ruth Preist (e-mail: <a href="mailto:preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk">preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk</a> ) Sue Odell (e-mail: <a href="mailto:seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk">seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk</a> )
Gardens:	Anne Mayes ( e-mail: <a href="mailto:a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk">a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk</a> )

Guided Nature Walks	Judy Mead (email: judymead@hotmail.co.uk)
Music / Opera:	<i>Hoping for a volunteer for this group!</i>
Restaurants:	Frankie Peroni ( tel: 01363 773946) Liz Smith (tel: 01363 84667 e-mail: lizsmith15@icloud.com )
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: <a href="mailto:preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk">preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk</a> )
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 contact the appropriate Group Organizer. Your contact details will be added to the relevant mailing list, and you will be sent all the information for meetings and plans as they evolve, usually by e-mail. *If you are unable to use e-mail, please make sure the Group Organiser knows this when you join the Group, so they can arrange to send the information through the post.*

If you have a suggestion for any additional group (which you would be willing to organize?), the Committee would be happy to hear from you.

**Now, 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. I have used my editorial freedom to write some of the commentaries – the reports actually sent by leaders have their name added.

### **Badminton (Jan Reynolds)**

*N.B. a few more members would be most welcome!*

### **The Bridge Group (Paul Ellison)**

Due to a drop in numbers, there have been no meetings since the last Newsletter, but it is hoped that activities will recommence later in the year

**Paul.**

### **Cinema Group (Ruth Preist and Sue Odell)**

We now have a Cinema Group, focussed on The Picture House, set up by Ruth Preist. It got off to a good start with small groups attending three or four films before Christmas. If you wish to join, contact Ruth or Sue who will put you on the Group email list.

***How does this Cinema Group group work?*** Anyone who finds a film they would be interested to go to would simply email to the group address to give the information – name of film, date, time – and ask others to reply to say if they also would intend to go. You can subscribe to the Picture House on the web to have details emailed weekly to notify you of the current films showing.

*A note from Ruth:*

The Cinema group now has nearly 30 members. It is good that just a few meet occasionally to see a film of his or her choice. At the Imperial Coffee morning this week, it seemed that its original aim had been achieved. I heard that two members, who had never met before, corresponded by email (apparently with very entertaining descriptions of themselves!) and met to see ‘The Danish Girl’. That was exactly the kind of informal companionship that I had hoped would occur – mission accomplished!

### **Garden Group (Anne Mayes)**

The last visit of 2015 took place in September, and the Group has now returned to the potting shed!

*Anne Mayes*

*Friday 25th September - Hauser and Wirth Somerset, and Midney Gardens*

*Note from the editor* - This 2-venue outing was the last visit of the year, and enjoyed the usual weather conditions for the Garden group – ‘gorgeously sunny and hot!’ From Anne’s description on the Garden group’s web page, the first garden was more impressive, but the second was less formal and they were able to sit out in the sun for both lunch and tea. Do go to the web page to get the full feel of the trip and to see the lovely photos.

### **Music/ Opera Group**

As was reported last Autumn, Alastair has now stepped down as the organiser of the UERSA Music/Group. When I asked him if there was any information for the Newsletter, he replied :- “I am not really involved in any UERSA musical activity at the moment (no response to my plea re the Music/Opera group), so nothing to contribute.”

The Committee is still hoping that someone (or more!) will step forward to take on this role.

### **Nature Walks (Judy Mead)**

The Group holds meetings for outdoor nature study at different venues around the Exeter area, and we look at all aspects of the ecology including birds, plants and insects.

### **Restaurant Group (Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith)**

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.

Liz and I have been organising the restaurant group for a number of years now so we thought it would be a good idea to have some feedback to see if there are venues that people might be keen to revisit. Please email if you would like a list of venues we have attended in the last four years.

### **Table Tennis Group (Ruth Preist)**

This is a thriving and very happy group which meets fortnightly. Everyone leaves after a morning of much activity and lots of laughter – it can be very gentle or very fierce!

New members always welcomed – we generally have 12 to 16 at each meeting.

*Ruth*

### **Theatre and Shows: (Sue Cousins)**

There were no events in the Autumn

### **Walking Group (Trevor Preist)**

Another year and another opportunity to act on that resolution to walk more often. Six different leaders offer walks of varying distances and none are over-demanding. DO GIVE ONE A TRY!

*Trevor January 2016*

**Tel: 01392 – 259740 Mobile 07948740644**

A report and summary of the Autumn walks is available on the UERSA website along with archival descriptions of previous walks. There are a lot of photos and interesting descriptions too. If you think you might like to go for a walk with a sociable group of people, look at these and the new programme for Winter/Spring and choose one (or more!) to join. (Check with Trevor!) Walks are of various lengths, so there’s something for everyone.

### **Wine Tasting Group (John Carroll)**

Our final tasting in 2015 was a tasting of wines for the festive season at Majestic Wines given by Paul their new manager. He had selected some interesting and unusual wines, several of which proved quite popular, as well as providing some tasty nibbles. But once again I must apologise to those of you who came for the lack of available seating and I will check that any events not at 21 The Mint in future are providing seating or a warning if not.

While we have not yet developed our programme for next year (and as usual I will soon be asking for any suggestions), we do still have one more tasting scheduled.

## **NOW, LOOKING TO THE NEXT FEW MONTHS!**

### **All Events Calendar for January 2016 – June 2016**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Group</b>
<b>2016</b>			
Thu 7th Jan	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Wed 13th Jan	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Wed 13th Jan		Copplestone 5 miles	Walking Group

Wed 20th Jan	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Thu 21st Jan	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Tue 26th Jan	10:00 – 12:00	Imperial	UERSA coffee
Tue 26th Jan		Feniton 8 miles	Walking Group
Wed 27th Jan	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Wed 3rd Feb	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Thu 4th Feb	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Sat 6th Feb	11.00 Exmouth	Stuart Line Bird Watching Cruise	Nature Group
Mon 8th Feb	10.40 Barnstaple station	Barnstaple - Instow 3.5 or 7 miles (3.5m - stop at Fremington Quay)	Walking Group
Wed 10th Feb	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Tue 16th Feb	12:00 for 12:30	The Redwing in Lypstone	Restaurant
Tue 16th Feb	19.00 at 21, The Mint	Reisling & Pinot Noir	Wine
Wed 17th Feb	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Thu 18th Feb	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Tue 23rd Feb	10:00 – 12:00	Imperial	UERSA coffee
Wed 24th Feb	10.30 Otterton Church	Otterton 5.5 miles	Walking Group
Wed 24th Feb	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Wed 2nd Mar	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Thu 3rd Mar	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Mon 7th Mar	10.00 Wellington Sports Centre car park	Wellington 4-5 miles	Walking Group
Wed 9th Mar	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Tue 15th Mar	10.30 car park at Parke	Parke, Bovey Tracey 7 miles	Walking Group
Wed 16th Mar	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Thu 17th Mar	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Wed 23rd Mar	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Tue 29th Mar	10:00 – 12:00	Imperial	UERSA coffee
Wed 30th Mar	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Wed 6th Apr	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Thu 7th Apr	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Wed 13th Apr	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Wed 20th Apr	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Thu 21st Apr	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Tue 26th Apr	10:00 – 12:00	Imperial	UERSA coffee
Wed 27th Apr	11.00 – 12.00	Sports Hall	Badminton Group
Fri 6th May	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Thu 19th May	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Tue 31st May	10:00 – 12:00	Imperial	UERSA coffee
Thu 2nd Jun	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Thu 16th Jun	10.30 – 12.00	Sports Park Studio 3	Table Tennis Group
Tue 28th Jun	10:00 – 12:00	Imperial	UERSA coffee

### **FORTHCOMING GENERAL EVENTS (UERSA)**

Apart from the Coffee Mornings, there are no UERSA General Events booked. This does not mean that the Committee (amongst others) is not busy planning events, but these would be most likely to be after Easter. Two or three people are huddling together to try to make progress with organising a couple of outings. They are still open to suggestions, and are considering a Tamar cruise, (visiting Calstock and Cothele, but only available during the summer months) and the possibility of a visit to Wells in the spring.

**So, if you** have any suggestions for future UERSA events we would love to hear them. Also, if the suggestions above appeal, let us know. Please send comments and suggestions to David Batty ([D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk)) or to me, Rachel Kirby (*contact details on the Committee Page*) and I will pass them on to the Committee. If you can offer help with organisation of any trips, we'd be very grateful.

..... *However there are some popular events which we hope will definitely be on the calendar in due course*

**Trivia Quiz** Jan is planning her popular Quiz, to take place in May 2016

**Summer Garden Party and The Cricket Club** – Tony Wragg has told us that the new cricket clubhouse would be up and running early in 2016 and would provide a first floor room overlooking the cricket ground. He

would probably be able to arrange a viewing in February. We are keeping our fingers crossed that we might return there this summer for the Garden Party.

**Shakespeare trip to Stratford** (early September 2016) **Bruce Coleman** reported to the AGM that 'all being well' he hoped to organise another trip to Stratford. Details would be circulated later on.

### **Coffee Mornings - Imperial Hotel, New North Road, Exeter**

Coffee Mornings (arranged by Jan Reynolds) are held on the last Tuesday of most months, from 10:00 to 12:00 in the Nutters Bar area (!) at The Imperial in New North Road. They are very informal (not to mention noisy on occasion) and an average of around 30 members attend. (Some recent research indicates that coffee is good for the memory!)

*(If you haven't been to a coffee morning before, do go along and introduce yourself – I'm sure you'll be made very welcome. ... Ed)*

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.

Dates for Meetings in 2016 will be :

2016 - 26<sup>th</sup> January 23<sup>rd</sup> February 29<sup>th</sup> March 26<sup>th</sup> April 24<sup>th</sup> May 28<sup>th</sup> June

None in July or August - Resume again in September

*From Jan Reynolds at [janandmikereynolds@gmail.com](mailto:janandmikereynolds@gmail.com): Tel 01392 271204*

### **FORTHCOMING GROUP EVENTS**

#### **Badminton (Jan Reynolds)**

The Badminton Group currently 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.

*Dates to April 2016 (all Wednesdays):*

January 13,20,27 February 3,10,17,24 March 2,9,16,23,30 April 6,13,20,27

For further details, or if anyone is interested in joining, please contact Jan Reynolds. New members are always welcome.

*Jan Reynolds at [janandmikereynolds@gmail.com](mailto:janandmikereynolds@gmail.com): Tel 01392 271204*

#### **Bridge: (Paul Ellison)**

**Paul** reported that he had been unable to organise any Group meetings due to lack of numbers.

*Paul Ellison (e-mail: [P.A.Ellison@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:P.A.Ellison@exeter.ac.uk))*

#### **Gardens Group: (Anne Mayes)**

Gardens Group 2016 - The programme for the first half of the year will be circulated as soon as it's done! Many websites haven't yet updated to 2016 and the Yellow Book isn't out and I'm still pondering. The early part of the year is going to be interesting as so many plants are as confused as we are. I visited the Hillier Gardens in Hampshire on New Year's Eve to find a display of camellias, rhododendrons, magnolias in bud, iris and daffodils, some of which had already gone over, as well as what you would expect to find in December. Looking forward to seeing old and new members, possibly from March onwards (i.e. not February!).

#### **Stop Press!!**

**Provisional visits for 2016** (newly arrived on the Garden's website)

Tuesday 15th March - Rosemoor

Thursday 14th April - Tregrehan and Charlestown.

Wednesday 18th May - Thorn

Tuesday 21st June - Hestercombe

Friday 29th July - The Garden House and Wildside

Details will follow in due course.

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

#### **Guided Nature Walks (Judy Mead)**

For our winter outing I am planning to make a group to join one of the Stuart Line Bird Watching Cruises from Exmouth on Saturday February 6th at 11am. The cruise in the Exe Estuary is led by experts and there is a commentary on the birds we see and their feeding behaviour. It lasts for around 3 hours and the cost will be £12.50 per person. (All the places I reserved are taken.)

*Judy Mead at [judymead@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:judymead@hotmail.co.uk)*

#### **Music / Opera:**

*No plans for the Autumn – awaiting a volunteer to lead the group*

### **Restaurants (Frankie Peroni and Liz Smith)**

**Tuesday 16th February, 12:00 for 12:30** at the **Redwing in Lympstone**

This is a return visit to the Redwing in Lympstone, which can be reached by train or bus. The lunch is booked for 12 for 12.30. Please could you confirm if you are intending to come to the lunch as provisionally we are up the maximum of 26. I need to know if there are likely to be any spare places if there is additional interest now that the menu is available.

**March** - the March lunch has had to be postponed so I am urgently looking for alternative offers to organise a lunch in mid to late March. I am sorry about the short notice.

*Frankie Peroni ( tel: 01363 773946)*

*Liz Smith (e-mail: lizsmith15@icloud.com )*

### **Table Tennis (Ruth Preist)**

*Session dates for Spring/Summer 2016:*

The usual day, time and place; Thursdays as before – except for 6th May

10.30 – 12.00, Sports Park, Studio 3. All equipment supplied.

Come along and start the new year right with a FREE SESSION on January 7th!

The Spring sessions will then be five before Easter at the usual charge - £10 if paying for the term or £2.50 for individual mornings.

The following dates have been booked (all Thursdays except 6th May):

7th, 21st January	4th, 18th February	3rd, 17th March	7th, 21st April
6th May FRIDAY	19th May	2nd, 16th June	

*Ruth (preist.exeter@blueyonder.co.uk)*

### **Theatre and Shows: (Sue Cousins)**

*Early notice* - Guys and Dolls will be coming to Plymouth directly from the West End at the beginning of June 2016. Sue is keen to organise a trip and will email members of the Group to gauge interest to attend a Wednesday or Thursday matinee. (If you are interested, please make sure you have joined the Group)

*Sue Cousins. E-mail: [scousins@talktalk.net](mailto:scousins@talktalk.net). Tel: 01392 432309*

### **Walking (Trevor Preist)**

*Events for January – March 2016*

Dates:

Wed, 13 January	Tues, 26 January	Mon, 8 February
Wed, 24 February	Mon, 7 March	Tues, 15 March

***The Walking Group section on the UERSA website links to details of the walks and how to get there.***

### **Forthcoming Meetings**

*I'm sorry that the January meetings are past rather than forthcoming! I have included a brief summary for them so you know what you have missed. Ed*

*10.00am Wed, 13th January Coplestone 5 miles*

A circular 5 mile walk from Coplestone through mid Devon redlands to Newbuildings. The walk along Devon Lanes can be undertaken after rain. On a clear day we are promised fine views and a glimpse of Devon 300 years ago.

*10.30am Tues, 26<sup>th</sup> January Feniton 8 miles*

***PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED***

*led by Mike and Suzanne*

Start : Old Feniton Village Car Park ( Grid Ref. SY 108993 ).

Terrain : Lanes and footpaths, with a steady climb of 320 feet from Curscombe Cross to Penscombe. Some of the paths could be muddy so waterproof footwear is recommended and sticks could be useful on some of the stonier paths.

Route : Old Feniton Village ~ Sowton ~ Buckerell ~ Jenirens Farm ~ Curscombe Farm ~ Curscombe Cross ~ Higher Curscombe Farm ~ Penscombe ~ Lower Cheriton – Curscombe Cross ~ Old Feniton Village.

*10.40am Mon, 8<sup>th</sup> February Barnstaple - Instow 7 miles (Short option 3.5 miles)*  
***PUB LUNCH OR SANDWICHES*** *led by Tom*

Train to Barnstaple (9.21 from Central, 9.27 from St Davids, 9.38 from Crediton) arriving at 10.38.

We will take the (flat) Tarka Trail to Instow and **there is a short option (3.5 miles) to Fremington Quay** where there is a café and a convenient bus back to the railway station.

The walk will continue to Instow and end with lunch at the Wayfarer Inn for those who wish. (See <http://www.thewayfarerinn.co.uk/> for lunch menu.)

This is the safe option since it is likely to be cold and windy and I plan to return by bus (every 15 minutes) in time for the 15.43 train from Barnstaple to Exeter. (The next is at 17.13 reaching Exeter at 18.38.)

For those preferring to eat a sandwich there are frequent return buses from the stop outside the Wayfarer.

Tom

10.30am Wed, 24th February                      Otterton                      5.5 miles                      led by Edward  
*PACKED LUNCH REQUIRED*

Start from Otterton church. Distance about 5.5 miles, so bring a packed lunch.

The walk starts at Otterton, goes down the west bank of the Otter until White bridge, then down the east bank to the coast. Then we follow the coast path in a north easterly direction to Chiselbury Bay, before returning inland to Maunders Hill down into Otterton. The only steep bits might be along the coast path, but nothing serious.

Refreshments if required afterwards can be had at Otterton Mill or The Kings Arms.

10.00am Monday, 7th March                      Wellington                      4 – 5 miles                      led by David & Tina

Circular walk from Wellington to Holywell Lake and back (easy walk, between 4 and 5 miles)

Meet 10am at Wellington Sports Centre car park (ST 1312 2070 on Explorer 128, Corams Lane, Wellington, Somerset TA21 8LL). Suggest park at the far left end of the car park

The walk will follow the Westford Stream to Pinksmoor, cross a slight hill to Holywell Lake and return along the route of the Grand Western Canal, with a second slight hill into Westford and the start.

The earlier than usual start is suggested as there is no really good place for lunch on this short walk, so the option is there for (a) picnic by the industrial remains near the Sports Centre; (b) lunch at a pub in Wellington; with either followed by (c) drive to the Wellington Monument for a short stroll.

10.30am Tuesday, 15th March                      Parke, Bovey Tracey                      7 miles                      led by Jan

Meet in the car park at Parke, Dartmoor National Park Headquarters, Bovey Tracey.

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

### **Wine Tasting (John Carroll)**

While we have not yet developed our programme for next year (and as usual I will soon be asking for any suggestions), we do still have one more tasting scheduled.

*Next UERSA Wine Group Event 19.00 at 21 The Mint on 16th February 2016*

Alan Leadbetter will be giving a tasting of Riesling and Pinot Noir wines on 16th February 2016 at 21 The Mint (so at least we know there will be enough chairs for this one). If you would like to join us, please complete the slip below and send it to me, with a cheque made payable to the University of Exeter, as soon as possible and to arrive no later than Tuesday 9th February. I look forward to seeing you there.

John Carroll (e-mail: [carroll595@btinternet.com](mailto:carroll595@btinternet.com)) (01392) 876048

### **Reminder for all Groups**

#### ***N.B. IMPORTANT FOR ALL GROUP ACTIVITIES***

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.

### **UNIVERSITY SNIPPETS**

*Selected by Rachel from UofE Weekly Bulletins*

A fantastic example of our 'community' value in action is on the news website this week. Gabriella Giannachi, Professor in Performance and New Media in the department of English, PhD student Will Barrett, 31 undergraduate student interns and the Digital Humanities team are working with Exeter City Football Club and Supporters Trust to create a web archive called Grecian Archive. It has proved very popular, with researchers receiving enquiries from club supporters from all around the world as well as offers of artefacts.

Our Medical School has received a £1 million donation from The Dennis and Mireille Gillings Foundation, towards its pioneering work in genetic disorders. This generous donation will fund new staff and allow the

Medical School to expand its research and improve patient care in the NHS and beyond. You can read about this fantastic news on our webpages.

The University has been named as one of the top 200 employers in Britain for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender staff. Exeter is ranked 185th in the Workplace Equality Index, published by Stonewall. Construction of the Living Systems Institute continues and in a milestone development, the building made contact with the Physics building for the first time yesterday as the framework for the bridge that will link the two venues was put in place.

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