



**RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION  
(UERSA)**

**NEWSLETTER Issue 39  
May 2017**

**UERSA website:** <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html> (Web Editor: Roger Coles)

**Newsletter Editor:** Sue Odell

**Chair's Message**

Dear Friends

I've just come in from a great day out on Dartmoor with members of UERSA's walking group, with a 7-mile hike led by Judy Mead in marvellous weather from Newbridge. This has been one of the many opportunities already this year when members have had plenty to occupy themselves on UERSA initiatives. Tours of the new Living Systems Institute on the Streatham Estate and of Totnes castle and town were notably successful, with the former the result of closer collaboration with the University's Global Engagement and Development Office; and we owe thanks to Dr Bob Higham for leading the Totnes trip. A number of members will be returning to Totnes on 13 June for Chris Austin's river outing down and up the Dart. This activity, of course, is on top of the continuing activities of the special interest groups, many of which are active throughout the year, though the Gardens Group blossoms in the warmer months (and has already visited several gardens including Bowood House and Gardens in the last week or so). To remind you, there's a timetable of all future UERSA events on our website (see: <http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/events.html>).

Looking ahead, the Summer Party returns to the Exeter Cricket Club pavilion, this year on Thursday 29 June – see the attached details. I do hope that many of you will join us for this very sociable occasion; please respond to Sue Cousins as indicated. Later, on a date to be confirmed in late July/early August, there's an intention to organise a guided sculpture tour on the Streatham Campus on which quite a number of new works of art have appeared over the last year or two; watch for more details in due course.

Further ahead will see the Annual General Meeting at the end of September (date tbc). I hope that previous exhortations about the need for newcomers on the Executive Committee have not totally fallen on deaf ears, but with the forthcoming retirement of several current Committee members, the need is becoming more pressing. You will appreciate that UERSA cannot run without such support, so do please think seriously about whether you can offer some time as a potential Committee member.

Enjoy the summer!

*David Batty*

## **GENERAL UERSA EVENTS**

### **Coffee Mornings**

Jan Reynolds continues to arrange our monthly coffee mornings, held on the last Tuesday of most months at the Imperial, New North Road. They are attended by 30 people on average, not necessarily the same ones each time. If you haven't been along, why not give it a try – just follow the noisy chatter on arrival! The next one will take place on Tuesday 30 May, 10-12 noon.

### **Recent Events**

There have been a number of general events organised for members in recent months, including the opportunity to see round the new Living Systems Institute building on the Streatham Campus, organised by David Batty, and a guided visit to Totnes Castle courtesy of Dr Bob Higham.

### **River Cruise on the Dart**

The list is now closed for this day out on Tuesday 13 June, organised by new Committee member, Chris Austin. Those who have signed up will sail for about nine miles along nearly all of the navigable part of the beautiful River Dart between Totnes and Dartmouth and back.

### **Summer Party**

This will be held at Exeter Cricket Club Pavilion on Thursday 29 June 2017, from 3-5 pm. There will be no charge (unless you wish to purchase a glass of Pimms) but please let Sue Cousins know if you are going to attend, for catering purposes (form attached to this Newsletter).

### **AGM**

The date of this year's Annual General Meeting is still to be confirmed, but is likely to be held in late September or early October. The agenda and papers will be circulated with the next Newsletter (due out in late August/early September), but the AGM date should appear earlier than that on our website.

### **Christmas Lunch**

For those who *really* like to plan ahead, here is the date of the Christmas Lunch 2017: Thursday 14 December, 12 for 12.30 pm, at the Devon Hotel.

## **SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS**

The organisers of these groups are set out below. If there are any groups that you have not yet joined and would like to, you should ask our Membership Secretary, Chris King, to add you to the appropriate list. Her details appear at the end of the list.

Badminton:	Jan Reynolds ( tel: 01392 271204, e-mail: janandmikereynolds@gmail.com)
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Bridge:	Paul Ellison ( tel: 01626 867999, e-mail: p.a.ellison@exeter.ac.uk )
Cinema:	Sue Odell (e-mail: seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk)
Gardens:	Anne Mayes ( e-mail: a.c.mayes@exeter.ac.uk )
Guided Nature Walks	Judy Mead (e-mail: judymead@hotmail.co.uk)
Music/Opera:	<i>Seeking volunteer organiser(s)</i>
Restaurants:	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 )

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

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

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

Owing to a drop in numbers attending, there have been no recent meetings, but it is hoped that activities will recommence at some point.

### **Cinema Group (Sue Odell)**

This 'loose' group was set up by Ruth Preist and is focused on the Picturehouse in Exeter. Any member who finds a film of interest simply sends an email to the group address giving name of film, date and time (usually a Silver Screen showing on a Thursday afternoon) and asks others to reply if they would also like to go. Small groups have met up for a cup of tea or coffee before or after the film. (Information about films being shown may be found on the Picturehouse website.) Recent films viewed have included: *La La Land*, *Jackie*, *Lion*, *Denial*, *Viceroy's House* and *Their Finest*.

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

Visits run from March to September, so we are well into the season now. So far, Anne has organised trips to: Wood Barton, Kentisbeare, Castle Hill Gardens, South Molton, and Bowood House and Gardens, Calne, Wilts. Still to come are South Wood Farm, Cotleigh, on 22 June, and July, August and September visits still to be arranged.

### **Music/Opera Group**

We are still looking for one or, preferably, two members to look after this group. Alastair Logan would be happy to provide more information.

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

The Group holds meetings for outdoor nature study at different venues around the Exeter area, and looks at all aspects of the ecology including birds, plants and insects. No events are currently planned.

### **Restaurant Group (Frankie Peroni)**

Since the last Newsletter, this group has enjoyed lunches at: the Digger's Rest, Woodbury Salterton, Lloyd's Kitchen, Exeter, and the Rodean, Kinton. On 6 June, a lunch has been arranged at the Five Bells, Clyst Hydon. Frankie is still looking for another member willing to help her co-ordinate the Group.

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

This is a thriving and very happy group which meets fortnightly on a Thursday, from 10.30 to 12 noon. Everyone leaves after a morning of much activity and lots of laughter – it can be very gentle or very fierce! New members always welcomed. Sessions to June 2017: May 18; June 1, 15.

### **Theatre/Shows Group (Sue Cousins)**

Nothing currently planned.

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

This Group celebrated its 12<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February and its 250<sup>th</sup> walk has taken place! A report and summary of the Spring walks is available on the UERSA website. They included: Exeter riverside, Penstone, near Coleford, Harpford Common, Holcombe Rogus, Newton St Cyres, Peak Hill and Newbridge, Dartmoor. Walks planned are as follows: 24 May – Fingle Bridge; 12 June – Somerset Space Walk; 30 June – Newcourt Circular; 4 July - Crediton. No mini-break is planned this summer.

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

Unfortunately, the May event was cancelled owing to insufficient numbers but two more events are planned: 20 July – South American Wines, and 10 October – Bordeaux: Appellations and Classifications.

There are delightful descriptions and photos of many of our general and group events on the UERSA website.

## **UNIVERSITY NEWS**

In this year's issue of the University's magazine for alumni and supporters, the Vice-Chancellor describes 2016 as having been an exceptional year in which universities like Exeter have responded to major policy announcements from the Government, including a far-reaching White Paper which will see fundamental changes to the regulation of HE and the introduction of a Teaching Excellence Framework which will recognise and reward excellent learning and teaching by allowing universities that do well to increase tuition fees. He also refers to the UK's vote to leave the EU, which will fundamentally reshape many aspects of university life. He says that throughout this period of flux Exeter has been ranked a UK top

10 university in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide. It was also named Sports University of the Year 2015-16. In 2016, too, it was the highest ranked in the Russell Group and best in the South West in the National Student Survey for overall student satisfaction. 2016 was the year of the University's Diamond Jubilee, with more than 30 events being held, and also saw the installation of the new Chancellor, Lord Myners of Truro. In 2017, a fundraising campaign – Making the Exceptional Happen – had been launched.

## NOTICES

### **St Leonards Open Gardens, Exeter, Sunday 4 June** 2pm-5pm

Four delightful gardens in Matford Road and Matford Avenue, St Leonards, are opening to the public, in aid of Hospiscare. One of the gardens is owned by UERSA member, Judy Mead. A fifth garden will be serving cream teas and there will also be a plant stall. Entry is by voluntary donation. Free street parking.

### **Writing Retreat in Portugal, 8-12 June**

Another UERSA member, Emeritus Professor of Leadership Studies, Jonathan Gosling, wonders if you are keen to get on with some writing, in the company of others who want to concentrate but appreciate bouncing ideas about and sharing a good meal at the end of the day. He is organising a 'writing retreat' for just this purpose, in the hills above Porto, from 8 to 12 June this year. Details may be found at [www.writingretreat.org](http://www.writingretreat.org). If this notice is too late but you are interested for next time, he asks that you let him know at [jonathan.gosling@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:jonathan.gosling@exeter.ac.uk).

**Exeter University Club (EUC)** activities are open to alumni, their immediate families, as well as retired members of staff of the University of Exeter. The Exeter Branch of EUC meets in various locations throughout the year. Details of activities may be found on the EUC website at <http://www.exeterconvocation.org/exeter/> or by enquiry to the address below. Members of UERSA would be most welcome at the Club's events. Contact Mike Aspray, EUC Exeter Branch member: [mikeaspray@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mikeaspray@hotmail.co.uk)

**Deaths:** Don Munro, formerly of the Department of Sociology, on 14 January; Anne van Geyzel, Secretary to Vice-Chancellors Sir David Harrison and Sir Geoffrey Holland, 1984-95, on 24 February; Emeritus Professor Christopher Holdsworth (History) on 1 April; Tony Jaffey, former Senior Lecturer in Law, on 5 April; Sir Geoffrey Holland, Vice-Chancellor, 1994-2002, on 20 April.

Two memorial events will be held for Christopher Holdsworth in Exeter on Saturday 1 July: 10.30 am Meeting for Worship at the Friends' Meeting House, followed by coffee, and 2 pm Celebration of his Life at the Guildhall, High Street, followed by refreshments.

## Contact details for Members of the Executive Committee of UERSA, 2016-17

PRESIDENT	<b>John Carroll</b> 8 Tophayes, Elm Grove Road, Topsham, EX3 OBW Email: carroll@bcs.org Tel: 01392 876048
PRESIDENT ELECT	<b>Frankie Peroni</b> Franklyn, 4 Belle Parade, Crediton, EX17 2AA Tel: 01363 773946
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT and NEWSLETTER EDITOR	<b>Sue Odell</b> E-mail: seodell@bavent.eclipse.co.uk
CHAIR	<b>David Batty</b> The Old Coach House, North Street, Topsham, EX3 0AP Tel: 01392 874719 E-mail: D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk
TREASURER	<b>David Smith</b> 25 Matford Avenue, Exeter, EX2 4PL Tel: 01392 275159 E-mail: davidandtina@endfield.org.uk
SECRETARY	<b>Julie Orr</b> 6 Hammond Croft Way, Alphington, Exeter, EX2 8FZ Tel: 07974 665643 E-mail: julie.orr@blueyonder.co.uk
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	<b>Chris King</b> 19 Hillcrest Park, Exeter, EX4 4SH Tel: 01392 255533 E-mail: chrisandmikeking@gmail.com
SOCIAL CO-ORDINATOR	<b>Susan Cousins</b> 21 Chantry Meadows, Alphington, Exeter, EX2 8FT Tel: 01392 432309 E-mail: scousins@talktalk.net
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**SUMMER PARTY 2017**

Exeter Cricket Club's pavilion is again the venue for this year's UERSA Summer Party, to be held on Thursday 29 June between 3.00 and 5.00 pm. We are hoping for fine weather to enable UERSA members to enjoy the pavilion's balcony and view while enjoying sandwiches and a cream tea. Also available for viewing will be the downstairs meeting room where the photographs on display show a number of UERSA members in their younger years and wearing their cricket whites! Do please join us for this always very sociable event.

As in previous years, there is no charge to members for the tea. Glasses of Pimms – always a sign of summer – will be on sale at £3.50 a glass. The pavilion now has different caterers from those used last year and the UERSA Committee is confident that there will be a marked improvement in standards of service.

Car parking will be available on the Cricket Club surrounds, accessible from along the right-hand side of the Squash Club.

As an initiative this year, and knowing that a number of our members have had experience within their families of the great benefits of Hospiscare, the UERSA Committee will be inviting voluntary contributions at the party in support of the charity.

It's important that we have accurate numbers of those attending. So please complete and return the form below to me at 21 Chantry Meadow, Alphington, Exeter EX2 8FT or reply by e-mail, **no later than 15 June**. And if you then have to drop out thereafter for any reason, please tell me ASAP.

The UERSA Committee looks forward to welcoming you on 29 June.

Susan Cousins

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To: Susan Cousins, 21 Chantry Meadow, Alphington, Exeter EX2 8FT  
(scousins@talktalk.net)

I/We should like to attend the UERSA Summer Garden Party on Thursday 29 June at 3.00 pm at the Exeter Cricket Club pavilion.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_