



**NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO 51, JUNE 2021**

**Chair's message**

Dear All

I had so hoped that delaying the May newsletter until June would allow us to bring news on new freedoms and minglings but alas not.

I have had the hip replacement so finding that my exercise regime fills some hours and I do hope that most of us can begin to creep out. It was certainly good to see so many of you at the Heathercombe Garden Group visit. Many thanks to all Group Organisers for keeping us informed of plans.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the changes for those using Exeter email accounts and these are now imminent. David Batty sent an email to outline these on 9 June. Apologies for clogging email by sending this to all members. IT had initially indicated that they would roll this out after the newsletter was published but changed the date!

Hoping for better news next time!

Chris Austin

## GROUP NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

UERSA general events are found on the website. If any member would like to advertise their forthcoming event in the newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact the newsletter editor Sandy Day

**Please note that due to the current coronavirus restrictions, planned events may be cancelled. Please check with the group organiser.**

A reminder of some of the UERSA and [special interest groups](#) booked events for 2021:

### CINEMA GROUP

Exeter Picturehouse reopened on 19 May and details of the forthcoming programme will be found on the Picturehouse website. Any member of the group who spots a good film (*Nomadland*, for example) coming up is urged to let the rest of the group know, with suggested date and time. Members will have to decide individually whether they feel ready to attend.  
Sue Odell

### WINE GROUP

The wine group will be emerging soon from the solo wine drinking of lockdown, when regulations will permit groups under 30 in no. to meet. We hope to be able to use St David's church again which will give us plenty of air and space. Yet to be confirmed is a tasting with Bruce from the Grape and Grain in Crediton or a pop up tasting of, "wines we enjoyed during lockdown," by members of the group. Once up and running again regular 3/4 monthly tastings will follow.  
John Jacob

### COFFEE MORNING

It is hoped a coffee morning could be arranged in late July if we are clear of covid restrictions for group meetings.

### GARDEN GROUP VISITS

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 14.00 hrs**

**The Garden House, Buckland Monochorum, Yelverton PL20 7LQ**

OS 201 495683

*(From Yelverton: Follow A386 from Yelverton towards Plymouth. Look out for the brown tourist sign soon after the roundabout, turn right. Follow the road through Crapstone; the garden can be found on the right before reaching Buckland Monachorum)*

[thegardenhouse.org.uk](http://thegardenhouse.org.uk)

If you're looking for an inspiring day out on Dartmoor you will love The Garden House. Stroll around the colourful, dramatic gardens and enjoy finding new views at every turn. Children love the garden trail and exploring secret pathways. Stay a while, treat yourself to a delicious homemade lunch or Devon cream tea in the wonderful tea rooms

This is an RHS Partner Garden and on Fridays entry is free for Members. Entry for non Members is £11.50.

There is a café there serving lunches and teas, also a plant shop. I suggest we meet just inside so that if people do choose to eat there they won't have to leave to meet up. Please let me know if you are coming.  
Anne Mayes

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 14.00hrs**

**Springfield House, Colyford**

£5 to include tea and coffee, details to follow on the UERSA website

### PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July**

**Darts Farm 11am**

The group will take a short stroll to the bird hide taking photos on the way before returning to Darts Farm for coffee / lunch.

## WALKING GROUP

Following 17 years of excellent Walking Group stewardship, Trevor has decided to pass the baton to Judy Mead and Jan Smith. Trevor was the Walking Group inaugural lead and is a very hard act to follow. Trevor and Ruth have provided enormous enjoyment for many walkers over his tenure - not least for the brilliant "escape few days" when they would reccy walks and locate suitable accommodation for us all. Great memories. We will try to "keep up" and with excellent input from enthusiastic walkers, aim to provide varied programmes to suit all preferences and abilities.

We offer morning rambles for those who would prefer to do no more than 5 miles - maybe finishing with a pub for lunch! And for the more adventurous - some Dartmoor walking and perhaps some steeper hills! We have nature experts within our group so there is always room for flora and fauna education along the way.



So far during the Spring Programme we have walked from Manaton, Newton Poppleford, and mid Devon as well as a lovely walk including the newly refurbished Wellington Monument.

At the beginning of July - our last walk in the Spring Programme - we will visit Dartmoor again. The Summer Walking Programme will be circulated soon.

If you are thinking of joining us - do get in touch and try us out

## WALKING GROUP

**Dartmoor from Sourton circa 7 miles with 1400 ascent**

10.30 start. Packed lunch. Parking at Sourton Village Hall SX 535 903. From Village Hall – Ice Works – Sourton Tor – Tramway which passes Gren Tor and Great Links Tor – Kitty Tor – Steng-a-tor – Shelstone Tor – Sourton Village Hall. Pete  
[petecann49@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:petecann49@hotmail.co.uk)

## JUST FOR FUN

### Where Am I in Devon?



1.



2.



3.

## UNIVERSITY OF EXETER IN THE NEWS

Exeter University sexual assaults. Three young men have been arrested after reports of two separate sexual assaults at the University of Exeter. Police were called to Streatham campus during the early hours of Saturday, March 7, to reports of two separate sexual assaults. Two men aged 20 and 21 from Exeter and an 18-year-old man from Leeds were all arrested. They are not students at the university and all three have been released on police bail. (DevonLive, 19 March)

Third year **Politics** student **Maia Thomas** saw a post on Facebook from a young woman asking for food and she decided to take action. Ms Thomas asked what she needed, put together a food package and delivered it within the hour. Others asked for help and she realised there was a large gap to fill. Within the first six weeks Ms Thomas and a team of volunteers delivered more than 2,500 food packages. Maia set up [Feed Our Community](#) to deliver food and emergency gas and electricity top-ups to people in need. Maia managed to get food donations from farmers and independent shops and has now set up deals with supermarkets to get donations and surplus stock. (BBC South West, 22 March)

More than 80 UK universities, including elite universities such as Oxford, **Exeter** and University College London, have been named on a website where students have been posting about sexual harassment, abuse, misogyny and assault. (Sky News, 15 April 21)

Famous faces from royalty, musicians, politicians to comedians who you may not realise attended The University of Exeter.

**JK Rowling** *Harry Potter* author.

**Sajid Javid**, former Home Secretary and Chancellor of the Exchequer

**Vanessa Kirby** the Oscar nominee for her role in the film *Pieces of a Woman*, but who also played Princess Margaret in *The Crown*.

**Peter Phillips**, grandson of the Queen.

**Mark Labbett**, known as *The Beast on The Chase*

**Frank Gardner** BBC security correspondent

**Dr Alex George** A&E doctor and former *Love Island* star who has recently been appointed an Ambassador for Mental Health.

**Will Young** Singer-songwriter

**Thom Yorke** *The Radiohead* frontman

**Stephen Dillane** BAFTA award-winning actor who starred in *Game of Thrones*, *The Crown* and Churchill's war drama *Darkest Hour*.

**Matthew Wright** Former journalist and TV presenter

**Emma B(roughton)** Presenter

**Steve Backshall** Naturalist

**Rhod Gilbert** comedian

**Nick Baker** TV Broadcaster and naturalist

I am sure there are many more that colleagues remember. (Devon Live, March 20)

Cult artist Jim'll Paint It surprised a student who was wearing one of his designs, a Brian Blessed t-shirt, on the front of the **University of Exeter** 2017 Prospectus, after tracking him down on social media he designed a t-shirt for Brian Blessed to wear. I recommend you read the [story](#) yourself as it could be confusing if I try and explain! (Twitter and DevonLive, 3 April)

## Ancient international trading routes between Exeter and Europe

Cutting-edge scientific techniques used to study ancient artefacts found in Exeter have revealed more about the ancient international trading routes between the city and Europe.

A five-year research project by a team of archaeologists led by **Professor Stephen Rippon** at the **University of Exeter** shows the links between merchants in Exeter and France, the Low Countries, Spain, Italy, Portugal, and the Mediterranean.

The research project *Exeter: A Place in Time*, is a partnership between the University of Exeter, Cotswold Archaeology, Historic England, Exeter City Council, the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and Art Gallery, and the University of Reading. It was funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council, Historic England and the University of Exeter.

The research is published in two books the first of which - Rippon, S. and Holbrook, N. (2021) *Roman and Medieval Exeter and their Hinterlands: From Isca to Excester* (edited by Stephen Rippon and Neil Holbrook) - is published by [Oxbow books](#).

The companion volume - *Studies in the Roman and Medieval Archaeology of Exeter* (also edited by Stephen Rippon and Neil Holbrook) - is available from [Oxbow Books](#). Both books are available as a [free](#) downloadable PDF and in print form.

(Sourced from the [University of Exeter](#) website)

## The Arts Society Exeter

The Arts Society Exeter is looking for new members ahead of its next year, which commences in October. The aims of the society are to increase a member's understanding, knowledge and enjoyment of arts in its broadest sense, and this may appeal to a number of UERSA members. In a typical October to June year there are nine monthly one-hour lectures on some broadly artistic topic, given by Arts Society accredited lecturers, two or three study days providing a more in-depth exposure of some specific topic, and two or three visits to places of interest reachable by coach within two hours of Exeter.

Full details of the society and its activities can be found at [www.theartsocietyexeter.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietyexeter.org.uk) and the contact email address for membership is [info@theartsociety.org.uk](mailto:info@theartsociety.org.uk)

### Answers to Where Am I in Devon

1. Flower display, Exe Trail, Exmouth
2. Bayard's Cove, Dartmouth
3. Staverton Station

## NOTICES

### Deaths:

**Peter Scorer**, passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020 formerly Lecturer in Russian. Peter was known more widely for possessing a magnificent bass voice which he put to good use, for instance, in the Russian repertoire including the role of the Deacon in Rachmaninov's *Liturgy of St John Chrysostom*, which he recorded twice for the Hyperion and EMI labels as well as performing it locally with the Exeter Festival Chorus.

**Lucian Nethsingha**, aged 84 on 12<sup>th</sup> February. Organist and Master of Choristers of Exeter Cathedral from 1973 to 1999. He had been in poor health for some while and latterly had been in a hospice in Cambridge, the city to which he retired.

Although not a member of our University staff, Lucian was known to many through his connections with the University's music activities including his membership of its Music Advisory Group for many years. Some past members of the University Choral Society will also recall singing in a memorable performance of Beethoven's Choral Symphony conducted by Lucian in the Cathedral with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra.

**Emeritus Professor Gar Yates**, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor of German, distinguished scholar and Fellow of the British Academy since 2002 died 11<sup>th</sup> March.

**Emeritus Professor Eddie Abel**, former Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Head of Chemistry, 19<sup>th</sup> April at the age of 84. As well as his work within the University and as the author of books on Organometallic Chemistry, Eddie held distinguished external positions including those of Chair of the Physical Sciences Committee of the old University Grants Committee and, in the late 1990s, of President of the Royal Society of Chemistry. He was awarded a CBE in 1997 for services to Chemistry.

**Lynn Hartmann**, married to Reinhard, died peacefully on 5 June. Lynn was an MPhil student at the University in her own right in the 1980s and also lectured in the History of Art.

## EXETER FORUM ZOOM TALKS

The Exeter Forum would like to invite UERSA members to their lockdown programme of fortnightly Zoom talks and weekly email Newsletters.

The Newsletters are sent to everyone on the Forum's email list and contain details of the talks and the Zoom links. To receive them, please email [msmith6507@gmail.com](mailto:msmith6507@gmail.com) with a request to be included on the Exeter Forum's email distribution list. Until the Forum is able to resume normal meetings there will be no charge.

We look forward to seeing you.

David Oates  
Exeter Forum Chairman

### Programme of Talks using Zoom

#### **Wednesday, 23rd June, 10.45am Paula Clarke will be presenting a talk titled Saving Castle Drogo**

Paula Clarke's talk will provide the latest news about the 8 years of building restoration work to protect Castle Drogo against Dartmoor wind and rain. She will look at plans for the brave new world of life in the restored, waterproof castle as the property welcomes visitors again. Paula is the Community Involvement Manager for Castle Drogo. She has been part of the National Trust team at Castle Drogo for 14 years.

Click on the following link to join the meeting from 10.30 for the talk which will start at 10.45 on Wednesday 23rd June:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82377361457?pwd=UzBybkkg4dmtLQnFPdnROZGE1N2Nidz09>

This should automatically connect you to the meeting and you should not need to enter any codes but if for any reason you are asked for the Meeting ID or Passcode they are as follows :  
Meeting ID: 823 7736 1457 Passcode: 981031

#### **Wednesday 7 July, 10.45am 20 Years of the Jurassic Coast - Dr Anjana Khatwa**

Summary: Learning and earth science specialist and TV presenter Dr Anjana Khatwa is an expert on the Jurassic Coast. As a member of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site team, she built a sustainable education programme and enabled countless members of the community to engage with this dramatic section of coast. She has appeared many times on BBC and ITV programmes talking about geology with recent appearances on BBC CountryFile. Her own TV documentaries How the Earth was Made and Fossil Detectives were highly acclaimed. Her talk will give an overview of the World Heritage Site, celebrating 20 years since its designation. She will provide insights into the geology and scenery of this amazing section of coast, supported with spectacular photographic images.

Biography: Dr Anjana Khatwa is an award-winning acclaimed Earth Scientist, engagement specialist and TV presenter. She worked for the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site for 15 years developing and managing the strategic education programme. She was awarded the prestigious RH Worth Medal in recognition of her outstanding education and engagement work in the geosciences by the Geological Society of London in 2021. She is passionate about science and inspiring those around her, particularly girls and young women, to choose science as a career. She currently works freelance as a TV presenter, writer and expert adviser for factual programmes, and is Wessex Museums Engagement Lead for the Wessex Museums Trust.

**Wednesday 21 July, 10.45am**  
**The History of Mount Batten, Plymouth - Dr Robin Blythe-Lord**

Summary: Mount Batten is a small peninsula in the Northeast corner of Plymouth Sound. It forms a natural breakwater to the Cattewater, Plymouth's original port and has a story dating from Neolithic times. Robin will take us rapidly through its history and development, pausing en-route to examine various items of interest, scandal and mystery.

Biography: Robin Blythe-Lord enjoyed a long career as a teacher, working both in the UK and abroad, finishing his teaching career as Principal Lecturer in the Faculty of Art and Design at Manchester Metropolitan University. Having been always interested in aspects of local history, he has contributed articles and papers to various journals, hosted TV and radio programmes and written books, the most recent being *The Story of Langdon Court*. Robin is now retired and living in Plymouth. He divides his time between shouting at the television, being Chairman of Plym Valley Heritage, being instrumental in getting his local green area designated as a village green, and researching the photographers of Plymouth. He is also a past Trustee of Devon Historic Buildings. Why Mount Batten? It has a fascinating history and is just around the corner from where he lives!

**Wed 4 August, 10.45am**  
**Art and the Industrial Revolution - Tony Kirby**

In this talk Tony Kirby will explore how contemporaries portrayed and reacted to the unprecedented economic and social changes that Britain experienced between 1750 and 1900. Down to the 1790s these were seen as beneficial: providing employment and illustrating man's increasing control of his environment. Industrial subjects lent themselves well to prevailing ideas of the 'sublime' and the 'picturesque'. By 1800, doubts were creeping in, particularly with the growth of industrial towns. Portrayals of industry adopted a correspondingly gloomy note. This was relieved by the coming of the railways, which were seen as an unalloyed source for optimism, only for doubts to creep in again towards the end of Victorian period with a series of disasters (notably the fall of the Tay Bridge in 1879). The talk will conclude with a quick glance at what the late Victorians thought should be the future, as exemplified by William Morris and then the Garden City Movement.

Biography: Tony is making a welcome return to the Forum programme. Until his retirement, Tony Kirby was Co-ordinator of Strategic & Curriculum Planning at Anglia Ruskin University, having previously been Principal Lecturer in History. He is a past President of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society and Chair of the Cambridgeshire Records Society, and is currently Secretary of the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History and the County Advisory Group on Archives and Local Studies. He was joint editor of *An Atlas of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire History* (2000) and is the author of *Anglia Ruskin University, 1858 – 2008: A Celebratory History* (2008). He contributed a chapter on 'Railways and Towns' to *How Railways Changed Britain* (ed David St John Thomas) (2015). He has also written several commentaries on early 20<sup>th</sup> century 25" Ordnance Survey maps for Alan Godfrey Editions, most recently, Brentwood (1916), Halstead (1921) and Forest Gate and Plaistow (both 1939). Apart from transport (especially railways) and resorts, his historical interests lie in market towns and the social history of religion in England since the Reformation.

**Wed 25 August, 10.45am**  
**The work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission - Rebecca Smith**

Summary: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is responsible for commemorating over 1.7 million men and women from across the Commonwealth who died in World War One and World War Two. With graves and memorials in around 150 countries and territories across the world, many sites were designed by world-renowned architects, sculptors and artists, and several are world heritage sites. This talk will look at the formation and development of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and its relevance in the 21st Century, using examples from different parts of the world. It will then focus on how the sites are conserved and maintained, in particular the importance of caring for the sites, including their monuments, landscapes and gardens.

Biography: This talk has been arranged by Rebecca Smith, CWGC Public Engagement Coordinator (South West). The talk will be given either by herself, or another member of the CWGC Public Engagement Team in the South West. The Commissions Public Engagement Team are responsible for working with local groups across the country to raise the profile of the work of the CWGC through school visits, talks, tours and events.

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**Using Links to Zoom Meetings and Recordings**

*We have found that on some devices and systems it is not possible to just click on the link provided to join Zoom meetings and on these you may have to use one of the following methods.*

- 1. Copy and paste the link into your browser.*
- 2. If you are using Windows mail you may find that the link is shown in grey rather than blue and when you click on the link it displays a message saying it cannot open the link. If this happens you can try the following :  
(a) Launch the Zoom app. Click on the home icon and click on JOIN. Enter the meeting ID.  
OR (b) Make Microsoft Edge your default browser. Restart your device.*

*This should have fixed the problem and if you don't like Edge as your default browser you can change the default back to the one you want and restart the device.*

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*Full details of the talk and the link to join the Zoom meeting will be included in the Exeter Forum News prior to the talk and a separate reminder with the link will be emailed on the day before the talk.*

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*Note: The programme from September 2021 onwards will be published once decisions can be made on restarting in-person talks at the Mint Methodist Church. It is hoped to let Forum members know about the Autumn programme by early August.*

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## REMINDER

UERSA committee members list can be found [here](#)

## NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION DATES

End of May  
End of September  
End of January

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY IN 2021

Please note that due to coronavirus restrictions, planned events may be cancelled or postponed.

### JULY

1	<b>TOBIAS BEN JACOB</b> The Great Lawn Sessions <a href="#">Dartington Trust</a> Free event 7.30-9.30
2,3 and 4	<b>DEVON COUNTY SHOW</b> Westpoint, Exeter Visit <a href="http://devoncountyshow.co.uk">devoncountyshow.co.uk</a> for further information and tickets
17,18	<b>BRITISH SAILGB</b> Plymouth Click <a href="#">here</a> for details
24	<b>COUNTESS WEAR EVENING CRUISE</b> Exmouth Marina There are only a few times a year when, on the highest of tides, they can sail the full navigable length of the river, up to Countess Wear. Click <a href="#">here</a> for further information and tickets
30 – 6 August	<b>SIDMOUTH FOLK FESTIVAL</b> Sidmouth Visit <a href="http://sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk">sidmouthfolkfestival.co.uk</a> for further information and tickets

### August

3	<b>IN CONVERSATION WITH JULIE ANDERSON</b> 19:00 - 19:45 <a href="#">Devon Libraries Free Online Author Event</a>
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### August

6	<b>SEATON EATS BOUTIQUE</b> An evening (4-9pm) street food market on a cliff top in the heart of Jurassic coast. Held at <a href="#">Cliff Top Gardens</a>
7	<b>FRANCIS ROSSI-I TALK TOO MUCH</b> 7.30-9.30pm Contact <a href="#">Palace Theatre Paignton</a> for tickets
7	<b>REINIS ZARINS PIANO RECITAL</b> 7.30-9pm Contact <a href="#">Wellhayes, Tiverton</a> for tickets
10-12	<b>LEGENDARY JOUST</b> Pendennis Castle 10-17.00 Click <a href="#">here</a> for further details
15	<b>OPEN AIR THEATRE</b> Shakespeare's "The Merry Wives of Windsor" Contact <a href="#">Stone Lane Gardens, Chagford</a> for further information and tickets
19-30	<b>TORRE ABBEY OPEN AIR CINEMA</b> Films to be decided closer to dates Click <a href="#">here</a> for latest information
27	<b>SIDMOUTH AIR SHOW</b> For further details please click <a href="#">here</a>

### SEPTEMBER

5/6	<b>TOUR OF BRITAIN</b> Penzance to Bodmin inc Falmouth and Penryn on the 5 <sup>th</sup> Sherford to Queen Street, Exeter on the 6 <sup>th</sup> Visit <a href="http://tourofbritain.co.uk">tourofbritain.co.uk</a> for further details
8	<b>TASTE OF SCULPTURE DAY</b> 1 day workshop Burnswood Studios, North Tawton Click <a href="#">here</a> for further details and booking
11-18	<b>INTERNATION AGATHA CHRISTIE FESTIVAL 2021</b> – celebrating 100 years Torquay Visit <a href="#">iafc 2021</a> for further information and programme
24-26	<b>THE ARMCHAIR ADVENTURE FESTIVAL</b> from Mount Edgcumbe Click <a href="#">here</a> for further details and to book

For further updated information please visit the [UERSA website](#)  
<http://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>  
(Web Editor: Roger Coles)