



University
of Exeter



University of Exeter Retired Staff Association



UERSA NEWSLETTER 55

SEPTEMBER 2022

Cover picture: 'Sand' by Gina Woodcraft the winner of the summer 2022 Photography Competition.

Letter from David Batty, Chair of UERSA 2021-2022

Dear Friends

The last few weeks have been dominated nationally by the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who served as the University's formal Visitor following the granting of its charter in late 1955. A recent issue of the University's *Weekly Bulletin* reminded us that Her Majesty visited the University on several occasions during which, I know, a number of members of UERSA will have been presented to her. I did not have that special honour, but I do remember standing in for the Duke of Edinburgh at a rehearsal prior to the royal couple's visit in 1995 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the granting of the University's charter – an opportunity for me, as the Duke would have done, to put some senior academics on the spot about their research and teaching!

Earlier in the summer, I was very pleased to see so many of you at our reinstated Summer Party held at the Cricket Club Pavilion on 23 June. With lively conversation accompanying the renewal of old friendships, it really felt that we had finally emerged from the two-year pandemic. I was pleased that the catering appeared to be much appreciated; we have a good relationship with the Squash Club next door. The only slight disappointment was that the bar was not available on the day (because of illness) to supply us with glasses of Pimms! I am very grateful to those present for contributing so generously to the

retiring charity collection: £232 was raised for the Exeter Foodbank.

The Party benefited from fine weather, as have those of our special interest groups that focus on outdoor activities. Personally-speaking, I have been on several outings in glorious sunshine with the walking group during which the Devon countryside never looked better. We are very fortunate to live in this most beautiful part of the country. Let me encourage more of you to venture outside with UERSA colleagues before Winter sets in, to walk, take photographs or, even, play table tennis; sadly, the garden group is now necessarily in hibernation until the Spring.

Two more events are approaching to which I must draw your attention. The Association's AGM will be held on Thursday 3 November at 6.30 pm at the Cricket Club pavilion. We expect to complete the business side of the meeting in short order as, at 7 pm, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lisa Roberts has agreed to talk to us about the future direction of the University. With social time to follow from about 7.40, this presents us with an ideal opportunity both to meet Professor Roberts and to remind her and the University about UERSA and its value to retired staff and, potentially, to the University. Papers for the AGM will be circulated to all members in due course.

The second event is the UERSA Christmas Lunch, our first, like the Summer Party, to be held post-pandemic and for which, after some thought, we have decided to return, on Thursday 8 December, to the Devon Hotel. Do come to be welcomed by a glass of fizz and then to enjoy a carvery lunch of seasonal fayre with, as in the past, wine and soft drinks

courtesy of UERSA. In these straightened times, you will be pleased to know that the cost of the lunch has risen only marginally since that of four years ago. Judy Mead is kindly organising the event of which further details are included with this newsletter and which will also be emailed around separately. I do hope to see many of you at this occasion.

David Batty

=====||=====

A university English professor tells his students

“In English, a double negative forms a positive. But in some languages, such as Russian, a double negative is still a negative. However, in no language can a double positive form a negative.”

But then a voice from the back of the room piped up,

“Yeah, right.”

WHAT HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY?

COFFEE MORNINGS

Our monthly coffee mornings have resumed using the pavilion of Exeter Cricket Club. Dates and times will be announced by email.

WINE GROUP

The last meeting of the wine group was on March 30th at St David's Church. 19 people attended a tasting led by Ian Smith of Smith's wines in Magdalen Road. Ian brought along a selection of his good value wines 3 reds and 3 whites from around the world and kept us up to date with the world of Magdalen Road.

The next tasting will be a tutored tasting led by Rebecca Mitchell DipWSET. on November 17th at St David's Church - topic yet to be decided. Anybody with an interest in wine and having their taste buds awakened are more than welcome.

We are always pleased to welcome new members to our very friendly group.

John Jacob

=====||=====

A drunk got on a bus one day and sat down next to a priest.

The drunk stank of wine, his shirt was stained, his face was all red, and he had a half-empty bottle of wine sticking out of his pocket.

He opened his newspaper and started reading. A couple of minutes later, he

asked the priest, "Father, what causes arthritis?"

The priest replied, "Mister, it's caused by loose living, being with cheap, wicked women, too much alcohol, and contempt for your fellow man."

"Imagine that," the drunk muttered. He returned to reading his paper.

The priest, thinking about what he had said, turned to the man and apologised. "I'm sorry, I didn't mean to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?"

"I don't have arthritis, Father," the drunk said, "but I just read in the paper that the Pope does."

GARDENS GROUP



A challenging year for gardening but we were fortunate to see five very good gardens, all very different. Four were new to us - that gets to be a challenge after 17 years of visits!



We haven't been disappointed.....I'd like to thank all those who've supported the Group; some deserve a long service medal!

Anne



The July one had, unfortunately, to be cancelled because of the concern by the owners about the heat. I'd always said that we go whatever the weather but was thinking of rain not temps in the high 30s.

A highlight of any visit is the tea and the chance that gives to sit down and have a good chat.



=====||=====

With the severity of the storm last night, I'm really worried about the trees in our garden.

Mostly because we didn't have any before

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Thanks to the group for the cover picture

Our seasonal competitions (with UERSA sponsored prizes) are proving very popular with all members, not just those who are active in the photography group. The Winter competition was won by Sean Goddard and Simone Romaine won the Spring event.

The recent 'Summer' competition had 22 entries all of which can be viewed on the website. Congratulations to Gina Woodcroft, Paul Sandy and Azzie Partridge for their winning shots.

The 'Autumn' competition is now open so please send your photos to Sue Milward before 30 November.

If you are interested in joining us for a fun photography session, then please come along to one of our social meetings. With thanks to Ann Pollard for pointing this out to me, I am pleased to invite all members to meet on Thursday 6 October at 11am at Haldon Forest Park. They are hosting the 'Earth Photo Exhibition 2022' - an annual international photography project where we can view and discuss a selection of shortlisted images. There is also a good cafe and large car park (paying).

Please let me know if you are coming along so that we don't leave anyone behind!

Of course, if you wish to join the group mailing list, then please let me know.

Sue Milward

=====||=====

When Jack London had his portrait made by the noted San Francisco photographer Arnold Genthe, London began the encounter with effusive

praise for the photographic art of his friend and fellow bohemian, Genthe. "you must have a wonderful camera...It must be the best camera in the world...You must show me your camera."

Genthe then used his standard studio camera to make what has since become a classic picture of Jack London.

When the sitting was finished, Genthe could not contain himself: "I have read your books, Jack, and I think they are important works of art. You must have a wonderful typewriter."

WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group has had a good year with many excellent walks. We regularly have approximately 12 people in attendance but this dropped off a bit in the very hot weather. Luckily one of our walks included a packed lunch at Ladram Bay where the majority of the walkers took to the sea!

Two lovely edge of Dartmoor walks included Lydford and then Belstone. A recce of the Lydford walk provided this beautiful early morning photo.



We walk fairly widely, as detailed above - including Dartmoor, East and Mid Devon. Probably an hour's car journey is the furthest we will go for a good walk and recently we have been planning to include more train travel - particularly the new Okehampton link plus the train to North Devon which is a beautiful journey in its own right.

Nature walks and walks of geological interest have proved very popular - please join us with ideas or thoughts of where you would like to walk.



Photo of the walking club on Dartmoor last month

If you would like to try out our group with a couple of 'taster' walks or would like any further information, please do get in touch with either Judy Mead judymead@hotmail.co.uk or Janis Smith Janis.r.smith@gmail.com

=====||=====



TABLE TENNIS GROUP

After a break in August, this has restarted in September and we formed the group in 2013.

Its first years were in the Sports Hall and we used 2, 3 or 4 tables according to need. We played fortnightly for 1.5 hours. It thrived but then the huge hiccup arrived in the form of Covid.

However since then the group has played outdoors in Heavitree Pleasure Gardens when weather permitted and (guess what!) it became a weekly event with play possible for two hours! During the two Covid years we met well over 50 times.

Trevor and I are now happy to say we are passing on the organisation to Anne Dinan and Pam & Doug Sedge enabling us to 'just turn up'!

The group featured from time to time on the UERSA Picture gallery where Roger always had a pithy comment to make. (Pages 5,7,9,11,12,13 ... do enjoy a few memories!)



Platinum Jubilee Celebration toast for the Queen – non-alcoholic!

If you feel like joining you'll be welcomed – just notify the Membership Secretary to say you wish to join the Table Tennis Group

Ruth & Trevor Preist

=====||=====

My wife said to me, "I can think of 14 others reasons to leave you, besides your obsession with tennis!"

I replied, "That's 15 love!"

RESTAURANT GROUP

The Restaurant Group (co-ordinated by Frankie Peroni) has not had a gathering since April but Frankie hopes to organise lunches this autumn. Suggestions of venues and offers to organise events are always welcome. If you would like to join the Group, please tell the UERSA Membership Secretary who will add your name to the circulation list.

=====||=====

A man walked into a seafood restaurant and asked for a lobster tail.

The waitress smiled sweetly and said - "Once upon a time, there was this handsome lobster....."

CINEMA GROUP

Unfortunately there is nothing to report from the Cinema Group as It hasn't yet recovered from the Covid period. Hopefully things will change in the autumn.

If you would like to join the Group, please tell the UERSA Membership Secretary who will add your name to the circulation list.

=====||=====

My wife asked me, "Why don't you treat me like you did when we were first dating!?" So I took her to dinner and a movie...

Then dropped her off at her parents' house.

King Charles III becomes our new Visitor



King Charles III as the Heir and Successor of our previous Visitor Queen Elizabeth II, becomes our new Visitor. The Visitor is a role defined in the Royal Charter, which states: "We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall be and remain the Visitor and Visitors of the University and in the exercise of the Visitorial Authority from time to time and in such manner as We or They shall think fit may inspect the University, its buildings, laboratories, and general work, equipment, and also the examination, teaching and other activities of the University by such person or persons as may be appointed in that behalf."

We're runner-up University of the Year

Exeter has been named as runner-up in the coveted 'University of the Year' award in the influential The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2023; announced last Friday. The University also recorded a significant rise in the overall national ranking, moving to 13th position. High levels of student satisfaction, quality of teaching and graduate employment prospects are all highlighted as key factors in our success.

Launch of our new University structures

On 1 September our new structures officially launched, reorganising the University into three academic

faculties and eight professional services divisions. This marks the culmination of months of work and is a key milestone in creating the strong foundations on which we can deliver our Strategy 2030 goals.

New webpages have gone live for each of our faculties and divisions, and you can find organisation charts on these pages to help you navigate the new structures.

Confirmation and Clearing update

We have had a very successful undergraduate admissions round for 2022. We are currently at 100% of our UG Home target and 90% for international. Altogether, we have processed decisions for 6511 applicants. Over the past two days, we responded to more than 1,200 emails and enquires, and processed 1,500 clearing applications for an extremely limited number of places. Colleagues, along with volunteers and student ambassadors, have responded to 1,000 online chats and taken more than 1,750 calls.

Exeter moves into global top 150 in latest influential rankings

Our flourishing global reputation has been reinforced by a move into the top 150 universities worldwide in the latest influential league table. We have been ranked in the 101-150 grouping in the latest Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), released by Shanghai Ranking last Monday.

[Additional research funding for 2022/23](#)

Last Thursday, Research England announced the annual research funding allocations, known as Quality-related Research (QR) funding, for 2022/23. We're delighted that we have received a funding allocation of £36.1m, which is an increase of £10.5m from 2021, representing a rise of 41%.

Analysis shows that we have increased our overall share of national QR funding at a time when many other Russell Group universities have seen their share of the overall funding allocation decline. In their reporting, the Times Higher Education says "The University of Exeter bucked the trend among the elite institutions and added 0.26 percentage points to its market share, one of the biggest increases overall".

This is the first annual QR funding allocation to be based upon the results of the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF2021), announced in May. REF 2021 showed that the University had seen significant growth in both the quality and quantity of our research. Thank you to all colleagues past and present whose vision, hard work and contributions to our exceptional research environment have made this outcome possible.

[Subjects ranked in world top 100](#)

Our science and humanities subjects have been ranked amongst the world's best, in the latest Shanghai Rankings released on Tuesday 19 July. Eleven subjects have been ranked among the top 100 globally - with two in the top 10.

[The Exeter MBA achieves UK top five from The Economist](#)

Our Business School's MBA programme has been named the UK's 5th best full-time MBA in The Economist's Which MBA? 2022 rankings. The rankings list the top 100 full-time MBA programmes in the world, ranked using a combination of data provided by Business Schools and input from current and former MBA students.

[Our new chancellor to preside over graduation for the first time](#)

Thousands of students will finally be able to mark the end of their studies in traditional style as summer graduation ceremonies return today. Our new Chancellor, Sir Michael Barber, is presiding over the events for the first time, and today was formally installed in his role as Chancellor, the ceremonial head of the University after taking up the role in January. The events will also see awards handed to honorary graduates from the arts, sciences, music, journalism, the charity sector and law. This year, 14,334 people will be graduating during 58 ceremonies in June and July in Exeter and Cornwall. They are the first full-scale summer ceremonies to be held since 2019 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Obituaries:

Mrs Christine Harding, a past member of the University Council and a strong supporter of the University as well being a UERSA member, died on 2 September at the age of 93.



RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION
(UERSA)

Membership renewal for 2022/23

To renew your UERSA membership from 1st October 2022 till 30th September 2023 please complete the form below and send it to me – either electronically to W.J.Krzanowski@exeter.ac.uk or by post to Wojtek Krzanowski at 3, Lark Close, Exeter EX4 4SL. Alternatively, simply just email me the relevant details.

The annual fee is unchanged at £6 (including a named partner/spouse), but new members who joined after 1st April 2022 do not have to pay again until next year. Please send me your details and make your payment as soon as possible, but **by 1st December at the latest.**

Please note: the university finance office no longer accepts payments by cheque so all payments must be made by bank transfer. This can be done in one of four ways:

1. If you have access to online banking, then please make the transfer by BACS using the bank details below **and please let me know you have done so when sending me your details.**
2. Failing 1, if you are able to visit a branch of your bank then any person working there can make the transfer for you on being given the details below. **Please let me know if you have done this.**
3. Failing both 1 and 2, if a friend who belongs to UERSA can make a transfer on your behalf using their own reference then ask them to **let me know on whose behalf they are doing so.**
4. If none of the above is possible then please send me a cheque (payable to W. Krzanowski) **with the completed form** and I will make the BACS transfer on your behalf.

It is important to tell me you have paid, as I only receive information from the bank occasionally.

Bank details for the transfer:

Account name: University of Exeter
 Account Number: 00724890
 Sort Code: 60-08-06
 Reference / Description / Narrative: UERSAX10-??????????

So that we can match up your payment to your name, **replace the NINE characters ?????????? by your initial followed by your surname.** For example, Jane Rogers becomes UERSAX10-JROGERS. If your surname is more than eight characters long, please omit any vowels as well as any further letters beyond the 9 characters total. Thus, Wojtek Krzanowski becomes UERSAX10-WKRZNWSK while Henry Whitton-Smythe becomes UERSAX10-HWHTTNSMY This reference element is very important to identify you, so please **only use your initial and surname, and nothing else** (such as numbers or partner’s name).

Wojtek Krzanowski (Membership Secretary; tel 01392 426945)

Please renew my/our subscription to the University of Exeter Retired Staff Association for 2022/23. I/we consent to the following details being held by the Association:

Name(s)

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Tel e-mail.....

Please let me know immediately if anything changes, so I can keep the records up to date.

University of Exeter
Retired Staff Association

Christmas Lunch Thursday 8th December 2022 at The Devon Hotel, Regency Room
12midday for 12.30

After a two year break we are delighted to be able to organise our UERSA annual Christmas lunch once more and have decided to hold this event again at the Devon Hotel. The cost is £30 per person and this will include a welcome drink of Bucks Fizz or Sparkling Elderflower and a three course meal with wine or soft drinks.

The menu choices are as follows:

STARTER: Smoked salmon and king prawns with lime crème fraiche
 Fanned duo of galia and cantaloupe melon with winter berry and mulled wine compote
 Cream of roasted carrot and coriander soup with croutons
 Ardenne pate with soda bread and red onion chutney

MAIN COURSE: Roast Devonshire beef
 Roast Devonshire turkey
 Pan fried crumbed seabass fillet with dill and lemon butter
 Baked portobello mushroom stuffed with red lentils and spinach
(All served from the carvery with chef's selection of vegetables and potatoes along with Yorkshire pudding, chipolata and sage and onion stuffing)

DESSERT: White chocolate and orange Matchmaker cheesecake with clotted cream
 Fresh fruit salad with brandy snap basket and clotted cream
 Christmas pudding with brandy sauce
 Trio of cheese with celery, quince jelly and selection of crackers

Please return the slip below by 17th November with Your name(s) and menu choices together with a cheque

made payable to Mrs J Mead, to Trenton, Matford Road, Exeter EX2 4PE

£30 per person, or £60 per couple.

Please let me know if you have any particular dietary requirements.

.....
Name:

Name:

Starter Choice:

Starter Choice:

Main Choice:

Main Choice:

Dessert Choice:

Dessert Choice:

Contact email address:

Newsletter Quiz:

Purely for fun here is a quiz for you with questions based on each of the special interest groups in UERSA and Universities in general.

There are 24 questions in all. If you choose to use the internet and/or Google to find your answer then please indicate at the end of the quiz. There will be two winners, one who didn't use the Internet and one who did.

I should also state that the correct answer to each question is the answer I have, even though it might be wrong but this is highly unlikely!

Table Tennis Section

1 Which player won both the World's Table Tennis Championships and Wimbledon tennis champion in 1929?

Answer:

2 Why did the Soviet Union ban table tennis between 1930 and 1950?

- A. Because it originated from the UK
- B. Because there were not enough resources for this sport
- C. Because the government believed it may be harmful to the eyes

Answer:

3 In addition to Ping Pong, what is the other name of table tennis?

Answer:

Garden Section

4 The love apple is the original name for what?

Answer:

5 Which plant takes its name from the Italian phrase for beautiful woman?

Answer:

6 Often called England's greatest gardener, what is Capability Brown's given first name?

Answer:

Wine Section

7 What is the most common grape used in winemaking across the world?

Answer:

8 Which country is the leading wine producer in the world?

Answer:

9 Approximately how many grapes go into a bottle of wine?

Answer:

Walkers Section

10 Which is the UK's longest walking trail, excluding the unfinished England Coast Path?

- A. Offa's Dyke path
- B. Wales Coast Path
- C. South West Coast Path
- D. West Highland Way

Answer:

11 The Coast to Coast walk across the north of England, between St Bees and Robin Hood's Bay, was first described by which famous walker and writer?

- A. Alfred Wainwright
- B. Ffiona Campbell
- C. Nan Shepherd
- D. Robert Macfarlane

Answer:

12 You'll encounter Devil's Dyke on which UK long-distance trail?

- A. The Ridgeway
- B. The Thames Path
- C. West Highland Way
- D. South Downs Way

Answer:

Photography Section

13 Who took the official photographs of the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana in 1981?

Answer:

14 The ISO number is a measure of light sensitivity, what does the abbreviation ISO stand for?

Answer:

15 What is the name of the first mass marketed cameras introduced by Eastman Kodak in 1900?

Answer:

Restaurant Section

16 Which three sauces make up Prawn Cocktail Sauce?

Answer:

17 What is the most consumed manufactured drink in the world?

Answer:

18 Which pungent plant has its own festival held on the Isle of Wight every year?

Answer:

Cinema Section

19 Which actress starred in Bridget Jones' Diary?

Answer:

20 What movie features the line: "You can't handle the truth!"?

Answer:

21 Who is the only person ever to receive an Oscar nomination for acting in a Star Wars movie?

Answer:

Universities Section

22 Which museum in Oxford is the world's oldest university museum?

Answer:

23 What is a PPE degree, as offered by Oxford University?

Answer:

24 What's the name given to the group of universities perceived as representing the 'best' universities in Britain?

Answer:

I had to get help from the internet and Google Yes/No?

Your name:

Please email your completed quiz sheet. You may also post the quiz sheet to me David Carpenter-Clawson at 6 Manor Road, Bishopsteignton, Teignmouth, Devon TQ14 9SU. Your entry needs to be with me by the end of October. Finally I will email or post if you posted your entry, everyone who enters the competition with the answers and name of the winners in early November.