



University
of Exeter



University of Exeter Retired Staff Association



UERSA NEWSLETTER 56

JANUARY 2023

Cover picture: 'Autumn Mist' by Sue Milward the winner of the autumn 2022 Photography Competition.

Letter from David Batty, Chair of UERSA 2022-2023

Dear Friends

Let me start this January message by wishing you all a very happy 2023. I much enjoyed catching up with many of you at the AGM in November and the Christmas lunch in December. However, there could always be larger numbers at such events and one welcome development over the coming year would be an increase in the UERSA membership. Sadly, the University appears still to be in the position of not being able to take more active steps to promote the Association to newly retiring staff, so we must rely on word of mouth to relay the benefits of membership. If you come across any such potential retirees, do please tell them about UERSA and direct them to our website for further information.

While our special interest groups should be one attraction to aspiring members, we are making efforts to reintroduce events for the general membership. One such, very different visit is coming up in March. You will find attached to this edition of the newsletter information about an opportunity (two, in fact) to visit in March the Exeter Energy from Waste plant, the large landmark building on the Marsh Barton Trading Estate where black bin bag rubbish from the doorsteps of residents in four districts of Devon (Teignbridge, Mid Devon, Exeter City and East Devon) is incinerated at temperatures nearing 1000°C to produce electricity which can power around 5000 homes.

Numbers are limited, so don't delay if you are interested!

An old favourite returns the month before, when we shall be holding a quiz in February. Previous events had been held in the evening at the Exeter Arena, but we have taken the decision to change both time and venue to encourage those who'd otherwise prefer to stay in on a winter's evening! Do come and join the quiz at 2.30 pm on 23 February at the Exeter Cricket Club Pavilion. A modest entry fee will give you tea, cake and a load of interesting and possibly tantalising questions. More details come later in this newsletter.

If you have any suggestions of events which could be of interest to fellow members, do please tell me. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy what UERSA has to offer during the early part of this year.

David Batty

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Two professors were at an award ceremony.

An interviewer approached them.

"Sorry to ask but everyone has been wondering, which one of you is cleverer?"

The first professor smiled modestly.

"I don't want to boast. But i also don't want to be dishonest...."

The second professor interrupted

"And yet you've managed to do both!"

WHAT HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY?

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

UERSA's Annual General Meeting was held on 3 November at the Exeter Cricket Club. The draft minutes can be accessed via the UERSA website (<https://groups.exeter.ac.uk/uersa/index.html>). Anne Mayes will serve as President for the current year, while the meeting appointed Wojtek Krzanowski as President-elect (to serve as President from the next AGM). Gwyneth Leonard joined as a new member of the Executive Committee. At the conclusion of the formal business, members welcomed Mike Shore-Nye, University Registrar and Secretary who spoke and answered questions about the University's current position and future strategy.

COFFEE MORNINGS

Our monthly coffee mornings continue at the pavilion of Exeter Cricket Club. Dates and times will be announced by email.

WINE GROUP

12 members came to the last meeting of the year 2022 on November 17th. at St David's church The focus was on Italian wines for the Autumn and Christmas. It was hosted by Rebecca Mitchell Dip WSET. A total of 6 wines were tasted, one prosecco, 2 whites and 3 reds. Everyone agreed they were a good selection ranging in price from £12.95 to £17.95. The Giol Prosecco Treviso D.O.C an organic wine from Veneto was particularly delicious full of white peach aroma and flavour a cut above the average supermarket product. The final wine was a superb accompaniment to blue cheeses, Cantina Negrar, Recioto

della Valpolicella DOCG made from sweet, semi dried grapes ,very appropriate for Christmas.

Our next tasting is planned to be held at Majestic in Exeter when we will taste a selection of their fine wines. The date is still to be decided but probably the first week of March. Our summer tasting is planned to be on Alsace wines in May /June.

John Jacob

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I bought a bottle of wine and I was worried I might drop it on the way home so I decided to drink it.

It's a good thing I did; I fell of my bike 8 times.

RESTAURANT GROUP

The Restaurant Group (co-ordinated by Frankie Peroni) has organised for a lunch on February 9th at the Linney in Coffinswell.

Frankie hopes to organise a lunch for the 2nd half of March. 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.

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My girlfriend and I went to the restaurant for the first time in ages.

The waiter said, "I am sorry but we are very busy tonight." Would you mind waiting for a bit?"

I said, "No problem."

He said, "Good, now take these drinks to table 7."

GARDENS GROUP

In a state of rest at the moment but the programme is being developed and members will be notified of forthcoming visits. In the meantime we can - peering out through the rain - take comfort from the emergence of snowdrops, daffodils and, in my case, the first camellia flower.



Anne

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*So my neighbour sees me kneeling
down, busy in my garden and asks
what I'm doing*

*"I'm putting all my plants in
alphabetical order"*

*"Really?! I don't know how you find the
time!"*

"It's right next to the sage"

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Thanks to the group for the cover picture

Don't forget that the photography group competitions are open to all UERSA members. The next competition for 'Winter' photographs closes on 28 February 2023. All you need to do is email Sue Milward by the closing date with a photograph taken by yourself this winter. Book tokens kindly provided by UERSA will be awarded to the top 3 entries.

If you submit a photo you will also have the opportunity to vote (alongside photography group members) for your favourite picture (unfortunately you cannot vote for your own!)

All photographs are published on the website. Please have a look at the stunning autumn entries.

Sue Milward

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*We all have photographic memory.
Just some of us are lacking the film."*

WALKING GROUP

Our Autumn Programme of walks covered October, November and December. The first walk of the programme was from Manaton and very wet! But we dried out and had a late lunch in the sunshine at the Cricket Pavilion back in Manaton. Enjoyed by all!



Our Chudleigh walk was beautiful and the Haldon walk a little wet but good to be out! The rest of the programme included a postponement and a substitution because of weather and various ailments but we have high hopes for the winter programme which is varied and interesting.

The first walk of our Winter Programme was coast path plus inspecting the works in the Otter Estuary at Budleigh Salterton - very interesting and a beautiful day. So much so that one of our group decided a coffee time lie down in the sun was the order of the day!



The UERSA Walking Group continues to flourish and welcomes new members. 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.

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One day, three men were out hiking in a remote area of the Highlands and came upon a violent, raging river. They had to get to the other side, but had no idea how to do so safely.

Being a very devout person, the first man dropped to his knees and prayed, saying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river." In a blinding flash of light, God gave him big, strong arms and legs and he was able to swim across the river - almost drowning a couple of times on the way.

Seeing this, the second man thought he'd do something similar, saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools to cross this river." In a second blinding flash of light, God gave him big, strong arms and legs and a rowing boat, so he too was able to cross the river - almost capsizing the boat a couple of times on the way over.

The third man was amazed at how this had worked for his pals and he also prayed saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools and the intelligence to cross this river."

In a third blinding flash of light, God turned him into a woman! She looked at her map, hiked a couple of hundred yards upstream and walked across the bridge!

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

Just before Christmas the table tennis group stopped playing outdoors and Ruth and Trevor handed over responsibility for the group to Anne Dinan - photo of the official handover below,



Ruth is still in charge of the cash but handed over the equipment and the records from when the group began in 2013.

The table tennis group is now meeting indoors at Studio 2 in the University Sports Hall.

Some successful sessions took place leading up to Christmas, and there are several sessions planned up till Easter.

Please contact Anne Dinan (e.a.dinan@exeter.ac.uk) if you wish to join the group.

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How many table tennis players does it take to screw in a light bulb?...

"What do you mean it was out, it was in!!!"

CINEMA GROUP

The group has had two visits to the Exeter Picturehouse.

In October six of us saw "The Lost King". This was an excellent film which tells the story of an amateur historian defying the stodgy academic establishment in her efforts to find King Richard III's remains.

Then in November ten of us saw the film "Living". Again an excellent film that told the story of a humourless civil servant who decides to take time off work to experience life after receiving a grim diagnosis.

Prior to the films we met upstairs beforehand for a tea or coffee.

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

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I taught my kids about democracy tonight by having them vote on what movie to watch and pizza to order

And then I picked the movie and pizza I wanted because I'm the one with the money.

FROM THE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Business School wins THE Business School of the Year in industry “Oscars”



The Business School has been named Business School of the Year in the 2022 Times Higher Education Awards, known as the “Oscars” of higher education. The accolade recognises the Business School’s commitment to addressing the climate crisis. The School has made sustainability a major focus of its strategy and mission through research, education and partnerships, in line with its strong belief that business has a crucial role to play in tackling the global climate emergency.

Exeter strengthens top 150 position in latest influential rankings



We have strengthened in place in the top 150 worldwide in the latest influential league table, published last Wednesday. Exeter is ranked 137th in the world in the latest Times Higher Education World University Rankings – a rise of six places – reinforcing our increasing global reputation in recent years. We have also retained our position in the top 20 in the UK in the league table, remaining 19th.

Economic impact of the University unveiled in new report



Our University contributes more than £1.5 billion of output in the UK economy, generates £900 million towards UK Gross Domestic Product and supports 15,500 jobs through its economic activities and the impact of student and visitor spending. These are among the headline figures from our newly published independent economic impact study that looked at our activities in 2020/21 and explains the multiple ways in which they are realised nationally and in the region.

Impact award for digital platform that can reduce A&E waiting times



Researchers from the Business School, led by Professor Navonil Mustafee, have received a prestigious award for their work on an app and digital platform that provides live waiting times for A&E departments and other centres of urgent care. The researchers were awarded the Lyn Thomas Impact Medal for their work on decision-making and patient flows in healthcare facilities that was instrumental in the design and development of the NHSquicker app.

Future events

UERSA VISITS TO THE EXETER ENERGY FROM WASTE PLANT

TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2023 AT 10.00 AM

and

TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 AT 10.00 AM

Come and see how our rubbish is managed to generate heat for up to 5000 homes!

Devon County Council welcomes visits by groups to Exeter Energy from Waste plant. This large landmark building on Marsh Barton Trading Estate on the edge of Exeter is where black bin bag rubbish from the doorsteps of residents in four districts of Devon (Teignbridge, Mid Devon, Exeter City and East Devon) is incinerated at temperatures nearing 1000°C to produce electricity which can power around 5000 homes.



These visits are free of charge and there is parking available on site, although car sharing and use of public transport is recommended; the plant is easily accessible via the M5 and A38 and more locally by bus

The Visit

We shall be met on arrival, signed-in to the visitor book and shown to the Visitor Room where tea and coffee will be served. There is no charge for this. The group will then move to the Education Room where there will be a safety briefing, a discussion of the work of Recycle Devon, wider waste issues and an introduction to the Energy from Waste process, pitched at a suitable level for the group; following this there will be a comfort break before a short tour of the site. The site tour includes a visit to the control room and viewing platform. A visit will take about two hours though technical groups (the engineers among you!) may need longer as staff are always happy to answer questions during the tour.

Health and Safety

- Every precaution has been taken to ensure the safety of visitors, who will receive a health and safety briefing at the start of their visit.
- All visitors must wear long sleeves, trousers and sensible enclosed footwear; any visitors not wearing the required clothing will not be able to take part in the site tour.
- The organisers ask to be informed prior to the visit of any group member who has any mobility or health issues (e.g: a pacemaker or respiratory issues).
- The Lead Waste Education Officer reserves the right to end a visit at any time if they feel that any health and safety considerations have been breached.

Joining a Visit

If you would like to join one of the two visits, please email David Batty no later than 28 February, indicating clearly who will be attending (and noting the health and safety advice above) and which of the two dates is your preference. Each visit allows a strict maximum of 20 attendees, so it may be necessary to institute a waiting list (on a first come, first served basis) if numbers are exceeded.

Contact: D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk

UERSA QUIZ

Come and test your knowledge at the reinstated UERSA quiz, to be held on Thursday 23 February at 2.30 pm at the Exeter Cricket Club Pavilion. Questions will be set by Stuart Martin, the expert question-master of our pre-pandemic quizzes; members will recall that they cover a wide range of topics and, on a positive note, generally avoid soaps and popular culture! From past experience, there should be plenty of opportunity for laughs and banter in a friendly competitive spirit.

Tables of 4 to 6 folk will be made up on the day. Coffee/tea, cake and biscuits will make up a refreshment break during the course of the afternoon, and for which a small charge of £3 per person will be made. Although folk can turn up on the day, it would help over the provision of refreshments if those intending to come to the quiz would contact Linda Hale by 16 February. Please bring the £3 charge in cash to pay on the door.

Contact: Linda Hale (linda39howard@blueyonder.co.uk)

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.

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!

Photography Section

1. An iconic and famous photo of Albert Einstein taken on his 72nd birthday features the famous scientist doing what?
2. The word 'photography' comes from the Greek 'photos' and 'graphé', which literally means what?
3. What contribution did Johann Heinrich Schulze make to the field of photography in the early 1700s?

Restaurants Section

4. An Indian meal which included 'masoor' would have what ingredient?
5. 'Black Krim', 'Green Zebra' and 'Yellow Pear' are all varieties of which salad ingredient?
6. Which came first: McDonalds or KFC?

Wine Section

7. What type of wine is 'Sekt'?
8. 'Breede River Valley' is a wine-producing region in which country?
9. From which country did Merlot wine first originate?

Gardens Section

10. What common name was "dianthus barbatus" given to honour the Duke of Cumberland's victory at the Battle of Culloden?
11. And, in contrast, what name do the Scots sometimes call the weed, noxious ragwort also in memory of the infamous Duke?
12. Who designed the Blue Peter Garden in 1974?

Walking Section

13. Which English King ordered the first Perambulation of Dartmoor Forest?
14. Is Postbridge on nearly the same longitude as Valencia, Madrid or Seville?
15. 'Jay's Grave' near Hound Tor. What was her first name?

Table Tennis Section

16. In what country did table tennis originate?
17. How many competitive players take part in competitions worldwide?
18. On a typical paddle, what is the name of the layer between the blade and the rubber?

Cinema Section

19. The film the 'War Horse' was made in Devon and foreign parts. Where did the real 'War Horse' and its owner live?
20. What real-life on-again off-again Hollywood power couple starred in the film "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf"?
21. Who played Juror Number 8 in "12 Angry Men"?

Universities Section

22. Which animal myth did the University of Plymouth successfully disprove in 2003?
23. How many honorary degrees from British universities were bestowed at the same time on Nelson Mandela in July 1996?
24. Which university has the greatest number of ducks per square metre?

Answers appear on the last page of the newsletter.

The Exeter Forum Programme of Talks – 1 February to 29 March 2023

The weekly programme of Exeter Forum talks and presentations from 1 February to 29 March 2023 is listed here. Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT from 10.45 to 12.00 each Wednesday. Refreshments are available from 10.15.

All welcome. £3 admission if not a Forum member.

Full descriptions of talks and speakers appear in the weekly Forum email and on the Exeter Forum website at <https://www.exeterforum.org/talks.html>

Any programme changes are always updated on the Exeter Forum website.

Date	Speaker	Title
Wednesday 1 February	Mike Richards	A History of Exeter Hospitals Exeter Forum member Mike Richards will look at the long history of hospitals and medical care in the city of Exeter from Mediaeval times to the present day. He will outline how some of the main establishments evolved and detail some of the local characters. He will also show the important part Exeter has played in introducing significant medical procedures.
Wednesday 8 February	Dr John Salvatore	What the Romans did for Exeter! Archaeologist and Roman historian Dr John Salvatore will provide an overview of how the Romans shaped the development of Exeter as a city, from water supply and baths to roads and villas.
Wednesday 15 February	Charlie Courtenay, The Earl of Devon	Exeter and the Earls of Devon – frenemies for a millennium Charlie Courtenay, the Earl of Devon, will tell the story of the relationship between the Earldom and the City of Exeter over the last 1000 years, recounting the good times and bad that helped shape our historic community.
Wednesday 22 February	Professor David Gore	The Kingdom of the Dumnonia Historian David Gore from the University of Exeter will describe the Kingdom of the Dumnonia in the South West and how it evolved after the Romans left. He will show how recent excavations, stone sculpture inscriptions and pottery finds are helping to provide a clearer picture and explain how an organised church and trade, high status activity and some fabled kings feature in this still mysterious period.
Wednesday 1 March	Professor John Bryant	Human Genetics – what's Ethics got to do with it? Rapid developments in human genetics are raising very important questions about privacy, testing, confidentiality and genetic therapies. Professor John Bryant will make a welcome return to the Exeter Forum to look at the ethical issues associated with the developments in human genetics.

Wednesday 8 March	Salli Carr Griffin	A La Ronde, Exmouth A La Ronde is a fascinating, unique house on the edge of Exmouth owned by the National Trust. This talk will focus on the transformational A la Ronde project which includes the conservation of the internationally important Shell Gallery. The project also incorporates working with the local community and partnerships in a new way and will set the direction of how A La Ronde will continue to develop in future years.
Wednesday 15 March	Robin Thomas	The Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen and Tuckers Hall 400 years ago, a Royal Charter granted by King James 1 allowed the Weavers Fullers and Shearmen of the City to become an Incorporation, based at Tuckers Hall. Robin's talk will look at the history and development of the Incorporation and its present role. He will also show the importance and historical significance of Tuckers Hall in Fore Street, Exeter.
Wednesday 22 March	Leigh Edwards	Human Microbiome Part 2 Leigh makes a welcome return to the Forum to give his talk on the Human Microbiome Pt2. The Human Microbiome is the ecological community of microorganisms that literally share our body space. This talk focuses primarily on the gut microbes and the link between our immune systems, our brain, and our gut, and how it affects our general health.
Wednesday 29 March	Robert Hesketh	Devon Castles Devon has a fascinating array of castles and historic fortifications. Photographer and author Robert will explain how they were developed and altered over the centuries to meet the changing military, political and domestic needs of the people who used them. Examples from every major period from the Iron Age to England's newest castle, Castle Drogo will feature in the talk.
5 April	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>Easter break</i>
12 April	<i>No meeting</i>	<i>Easter break</i>
19 April		<i>Exeter Forum restarts after Easter break. The programme from April to August will be published in February 2023.</i>

Newsletter Quiz Answers:

Photography Section

1. Sticking out his tongue.
2. Drawing with light.
3. Discovering that silver salts darkened when exposed to light.

Restaurants Section

4. (Red) Lentils.
5. Tomato.
6. McDonalds (First opened in 1940, first Kentucky Fried Chicken Franchise opened in 1952).

Wine Section

7. German sparkling white wine.
8. South Africa.
9. France.

Gardens Section

10. Sweet William.
11. Stinking Billy.
12. Percy Thrower.

Walking Section

13. Henry III in 1240 by the "Sheriff of Devon and twelve lawful knights of the County".
14. Madrid – almost the same at 4° West (Valencia is 1°W, and Seville is 6°W)
15. Kitty

Table Tennis Section

16. England: table tennis started to become popular in England in the 1880s.
17. Over 40 million as well as the unknown numbers of those who play for fun.
18. Sponge. The thickness of the sponge greatly influences the characteristics of the paddle: thicker sponge provides more speed while thinner sponge provides more control.

Cinema Section

19. Isle of Wight (Mottistone Manor - the horse – 'Warrior' died of old age in 1941 and had an obituary in The Times)
20. Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton.
21. Henry Fonda.

Universities Section

22. A goldfish has a three-second memory.
23. Eight.
24. University of York.