



University
of Exeter



University of Exeter *Retired Staff Association*



UERSA NEWSLETTER 58 SEP 2023

Cover picture: 'Nesting' by Sue Milward the winner of the spring photography competition.

Letter from David Batty, Chair of UERSA 2022-2023

Dear Friends

We were fortunate that the UERSA Summer Party preceded the largely cool and dismal July weather! On a sunny late June afternoon, around 50 of us gathered at the Exeter Cricket Club Pavilion for this annual event and at which folk seemed very much to enjoy themselves, catching up with former colleagues and appreciating the high standard of catering with, for some, a welcome glass of Pimms. I am grateful that this good cheer spilled over to the retiring charity collection, which raised the splendid sum of £274.70 for St Petrocks, Exeter's charity for people who are homeless or vulnerably housed. Looking ahead, the weather shouldn't impact detrimentally on an upcoming tour (open to all) on 12 October of Downes, the Buller house near Crediton. Numbers are limited, but in case you haven't seen them the visit details are attached to this newsletter.

In between the showers and general dullness of the latter part of the summer, some of our special interest groups have struck lucky with the occasional day of good weather. I was one of a dozen or more members of the Walking Group which ventured onto Dartmoor on an August day when there was barely a cloud to be seen and the temperature was in the mid 20s. Rarely have I seen the Moor looking so inviting, though it was hot work walking the ups and downs beyond Haytor to Becka Brook and the Greater Rocks! One special interest group that has been moribund in recent years is the Bridge Group, but Jeremy Child is keen that it's resurrected – see his note later in this newsletter.

We return to the Cricket Club Pavilion on Thursday 19 November for the Association's AGM; agenda papers will be circulated in due course. The Executive Committee appreciates that many members prefer daytime engagements to those held on an autumn or winter evening, so we have brought forward the start time to 2.30 pm. After the, hopefully, brief business part of the meeting, refreshments of tea and cake will bring the occasion to a close. Do please come and support UERSA through your attendance at the AGM.

Christmas still seems a long way off, but we are nearing the time when you should start thinking about attending the UERSA Christmas lunch, to be held on Monday 11 December at the usual venue of the Devon Hotel. We shall be welcomed by a glass of fizz and then enjoy a carvery lunch of seasonal fayre, with wine provided courtesy of UERSA. And, good news, the price per person is no more than last year! Judy Mead is again kindly organising the event and has provided preliminary details included in this newsletter.

David Batty

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*I got a rejection letter from the origami university today,
I'm not sure what to make of it.*

WHAT HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY?

COFFEE MORNINGS

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

WINE GROUP



The wine group had a summer gathering in our garden at the beginning of July. Along with some nibbles we sampled, Cremant de Limoux , Chateaux Greffiere Macon, Xinomavo (Greece) and Umanu Rose (Corsica) and had a thoroughly pleasant evening in the sunshine.



The next meeting will be in November, topic still to be decided, either a port tasting or South African wines.

John Jacob

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I drank so much wine last night that when I walked across the dance floor to get another glass, I won the dance competition.

RESTAURANT GROUP

The Restaurant Group made a return visit to Redwing at Lymptone in July.

This was a very well supported event. With good access by train and bus our previous visits have been in the winter as very accessible by bus or train.



It had to close down at the end of the summer as the family running it moved to Somerset. The plan is for the building to continue to be run as a restaurant. In the future this may provide a good place to try.



Suggestions of venues and offers to organise events are always welcome.

Frankie Peroni

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A friend has bought an old aircraft, taken the wings off, and turned it into a restaurant beside the airport terminal. I don't think it will take off.

GARDENS GROUP

The Group has kept to its monthly visits and maintained its dry record. First was a visit to RHS Rosemoor in June the month of their Rose Festival. Oh boy was it hot! We walked slowly - to admire the roses you understand - from one shady bench to the next. The roses were spectacular. We had to use a team effort to secure a table for lunch - never underestimate us!



July saw us at Willowrey near Lustleigh. A real gem, one of the best gardens we've visited. It was very well attended and we behaved so well that our hostess has invited us to make a return visit. Do read the full report on the Uersa website.



August was to another new entry in the Yellow Book, Middlewood at Starcross. Unfortunately I was struck

down by a bug and couldn't go. Those who did reported an amazing display of fruit and veg in an old market garden. Again, very welcoming hosts who clearly enjoyed showing our Members round their patch.



The next visit will be to Dunley House Tues Oct 10th. Details on the web, do join us.

Anne

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Man, to florist: 'I'd like a bunch of flowers, please.'

Florist: "Certainly, sir. What flowers would you like?"

Man: "Err ... I'm not sure ... Ummm .."

Florist: "Let me help you, sir — what exactly have you done?"

WALKING GROUP

The Spring and Summer programmes for the Walking Group has fielded approximately 10 walks. A varied and well attended selection. We started in April with a lovely walk around Tavistock, further than we usually go for a walk but well worth it.



We visited Dartmoor and Sidmouth - where we were happily rewarded with tea and scones at two of our generous walkers' home.



We have also been to Musbury and finally in June we tackled Golden Cap on a very warm day - glorious views!

Closer to home we have walked from Colaton Raleigh - a delightful walk

We have also visited Dawlish and sampled the ice cream and in the same area attempted some of the testing coast path near Maidencombe!



Our very hot Dartmoor walk at the end of August was beautiful but just a bit longer than anticipated! However - enjoyed by all with great visibility.



Taking the train to Barnstaple and walking to Instow via the Tarka trail was a great day out with some spectacular scenery across the Torridge Estuary. This was a very hot day so once again - ice cream at the end was very welcome!

I have given details of just some of our walks - all were well led and interesting and it is always fascinating to see the difference a change of season can make to a well known walk.

Join us!

Judy and Jan

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"What comes after two straight days of rain on Dartmoor?"

Monday morning.

TABLE TENNIS GROUP

The Table Tennis group has been meeting outside at Heavitree Pleasure Grounds over the Summer months, weather permitting. There have been some good matches, and plenty of laughter and fun, occasionally interspersed with coffee from the nearby cafe. We will be returning to the Sports Hall to play indoors from October to December.

If anyone is interested in joining the group, please contact Anne Dinan (e.a.dinan@exeter.ac.uk).



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Never date a table tennis player

Love means nothing to them!

CINEMA GROUP

Unfortunately the Cinema Group has been inactive since last March.

I am always hoping that other members of the group will suggest a film that takes their fancy, as that was the idea when the group was first set up. Please feel free to do so! We meet for tea or coffee beforehand."

Sue Odell

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A guy sits down in a movie theatre and notices that the man in front of him has brought his dog and it's sitting in the seat next to him.

He thinks it's unusual, but he likes dogs so he decides that as long as it's not a distraction he won't mention it.

The movie starts and pretty soon there's a funny part. The dog makes some low woofing sounds that seem like laughter. In a little while there's a sad part and the dog appears to be weeping. This continues throughout the film and the man sitting behind the dog is astounded.

When the lights come up he taps the dog's owner on the shoulder and tells him, "I gotta say, and I know it sounds weird, but it seemed like your dog really enjoyed this movie."

The dog owner looks at the dog and nods. "I know, it really is weird," he says, "because he absolutely hated the book."

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

We had 22 excellent submissions for the Summer photography competition. Voting is currently underway and the results will be posted to the website soon. Just to remind everyone that the seasonal competitions are open to all members, and if you are not a 'formal' member of the group, you will be invited to vote if you submit one or two entries.

The UERSA committee have kindly agreed to continue to sponsor the competitions with book token prizes for the top 3 entries.

Three members of the group met for a lovely lunch in Newton Abbot where we reminisced about our University days and discussed our photography experiences. I hope to arrange another event in advance of the Autumn competition.

Sue Milward

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My wife said if I took one more photo of her she'd leave me.

That's when I snapped!

BRIDGE GROUP

Can you play bridge?

- If so, would you be interested in playing regularly?

If not, would you like to learn?

One of our newer members, Jeremy Child, is looking to resurrect the Bridge group, and to teach the game to any member who wishes to learn.

Jeremy is Lead Director and Teacher of the Exeter Bridge Club, and vice chair of the Devon Bridge Association with special responsibility for teaching.

If you already play, or have played in the past and would like to restart,

please get in touch with Jeremy (details below).

If not, why not try learning it?

Bridge is an excellent game that will give you many years of pleasure. It's:

- Fun
- Mentally Stimulating
- Sociable
- Playable at any level
- Endlessly Fascinating
- Inexpensive

If you want to find out what all the fuss is about, contact Jeremy for more details.



Jeremy can be contacted on:
jeremy.m.child@gmail.com, tel: 07969 297 633.

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Giving a man his physical, the doctor noticed several dark, ugly bruises on his shins, so he asked, "Do you play hockey, soccer, or some physical sport?"

"No," he answered. "I play bridge with my wife."

FROM THE UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER

Environmental economics journal edited at Business School ranks highest in world for impact



An academic journal edited at the Business School has been officially recognised as the leading environmental economics journal in the world. The journal *Environmental and Resource Economics* (ERE) was given an ISI Impact Factor of 5.9 in ranking figures. It means the journal, which is edited by researchers at the Land, Environment, Economics and Policy Institute (LEEP), has overtaken top US titles and overhauled many high profile mainstream economics journals. The achievement reflects the Business School's commitment to environmental sustainability and is testament to the hard work of LEEP colleagues and the journal's long-standing Chief Editor, Professor Ian Bateman OBE.

Rise in Complete University Guide rankings to 15th



We are pleased to announce that the Complete University Guide have revised their 2024 edition and we have climbed four places up to the 15th spot. No other University has moved more than one spot in the league. This now means we are in the top 15 in all UK league tables, a brilliant result. Our overall improvement on last year's ranking has been driven by a large increase in our Student Satisfaction (sourced from the National Student Survey 2022) and Academic Services rankings.

We are runner-up in prestigious University of the Year award



We have been named as runner-up in the prestigious University of the Year award for the second successive year, in the influential *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2024*. We also saw a rise in our overall rankings, moving up two places to 11th place nationally. *The Times* and *The Sunday Times Good University Guide* is made up of a number of indicators including student satisfaction with teaching quality and their wider student experience, research quality, graduate prospects and entrance qualifications held by new students.

Ukrainian refugee who won Exeter scholarship nominated for Student of the Year



A student who fled war-torn Ukraine before embarking on her studies at our Business School has been nominated for the AMBA Student of the Year Award 2024. Kateryna Halkina was nominated for the Association of MBAs award by her tutors on the Exeter MBA, who described her as someone who stands out for “exemplifying exceptional leadership, strong teamwork, goal-orientation and innovative thinking”. Kateryna came to the UK as a refugee under the Homes for Ukraine scheme, settling in Dawlish near Exeter with a host family.

Newsletter Quiz:

Purely for fun here is a general knowledge quiz

1. What name was given to the soldiers who protected Roman emperors?
2. Which two metals is pewter made from?
3. What was Louis Armstrong's chosen form of music?
4. Name the port of Rome.
5. Paul Newman ate fifty eggs in which film?
6. Don Alfonso is the lead role in which opera?.
7. Which city does the River Lagan flow through?
8. Who sang about being an eggman and a walrus?
9. What takes place in Hong Kong's Happy Valley?
10. Which country does the sport of pelato come from?
11. Born in the 16th Century in Devon, England, his career was linked to tobacco and potatoes, and he was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Who was this?
12. I'm called thick when close to the ground, but people smile when I'm high. What am I?
13. Who created the animation for Monty Python?
14. Who, in 1806, became King George's favourite potter?
15. In the long-running British TV series *Coronation Street*, what was the name of Minni Caldwell's cat?
16. What is painter and sculptor Michelangelo's full name?
17. Name the artist who was born in Milan in 1571 and was described during his lifetime as the most famous painter in Rome, despite having had a death warrant issued against him by the Pope.
18. Whereabouts in London is the Stock Exchange?
19. What is the world's biggest spider?
20. Info.cern.ch is famous for being what?

Answers appear on the last page of the newsletter.

Future events:

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER RETIRED STAFF ASSOCIATION

GROUP VISIT TO DOWNES, CREDITON THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER AT 10.30 AM

Join us on Thursday 12 October for a guided tour of Downes (<https://www.downesestate.co.uk/>), the family home just outside Crediton of the Buller and Parker Family. It is still occupied by the current generation of the family – Henry and Susan Parker and their children, Redvers and Stroma. The attraction of Downes is the way it brings together aspects of the history of our country (particularly as the home of the famous General Buller) and the history of a family home, loved by its owners, some 300 years after it was first built. Visitors will see wonderful portraits and paintings, together with items relating to General Sir Redvers Buller, GCB, GCMG, VC, famous for winning a VC in the Zulu War of 1879 and relieving Ladysmith from the Boers in 1900.

Built in 1692, the house is Grade II* listed and sits in rolling parkland. Originally constructed of red brick, the property was faced with Beer Stone in 1794 before undergoing extensive changes in the 19th century.



Cost

This will be a group visit laid on specifically for UERSA members. You will need to arrive in time for a 10.30 am start, with the visit likely to last for a couple of hours. Admission to the tour is £7 per person, payable on the day at the House either by credit card or in cash (correct amount, please).

Getting There

The entrance to the Downes Estate is situated on the right-hand side of the A377 shortly before reaching Crediton; there is plentiful parking. The post code, should you need it for sat nav purposes, is EX17 3PL. Alternatively, the Stagecoach bus service no. 5 runs from Exeter to Crediton with a bus stop adjacent to the entrance to the Estate. The current timetable suggests that a convenient service leaves Exeter bus station at 09.45.

Registration

There will be a limit of 24 for the visit, so registration will have to be on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email David Batty (D.F.Batty@exeter.ac.uk) no later than 4 October if you are interested in joining the tour, with the name of any other UERSA member whom you wish to register for the visit.

UERSA Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch will be held once more at the Devon Hotel. The date is Monday 11th December.



The cost will be the same as last year at £30 per person. A booking form with the menu choices will be sent out nearer the date.

We look forward to seeing you there.

The weekly programme of Exeter Forum talks for October through December 2023.

Meetings take place in the Mint Methodist Church, Fore Street, Exeter, EX4 3AT on Wednesday mornings. The talks start at 10:45am, while coffee is available from 10:15am. Full descriptions of talks and speakers appear in the weekly newsletter sent to Forum members and on the Exeter Forum website. Visitors are welcome subject to a small charge for each talk. Any programme changes will be shown on the Exeter Forum website at: www.exeterforum.org

Wednesday 4 October 2023

Dr Jenny Moon

Just Going Fishing (2000 miles away) - 1590 - Exeter and the Newfoundland Cod trade.

Jenny will look at the trade in salted, dried cod, fished in Newfoundland, which operated from as early as the 1500's, mostly from Devon and Dorset ports. She will show the many hazards the fishermen and sailors faced, including fog, storms, illness, crude clothing and pirates. Jenny worked in Higher Education (Exeter and Bournemouth and Cardiff Universities) in health and educational development, writing and running professional development workshops across the world. She is now a writer and storyteller.

Wednesday 11 October 2023

Vikki Ritchie

The training and work of Police Dogs

The Police Dogs in Devon and Cornwall include the traditional German Shepherds alongside other breeds trained specifically to sniff out illegal substances, explosives and digital devices in the fight against crime and terrorism. Vikki will talk about the training and roles of Police Dogs in Devon and Cornwall.

Wednesday 18 October 2023

Robert Guyver

The American adventure of Lady Harriot Acland and her military husband, John Dyke Acland

Robert will look at John Dyke Acland's involvement on the British side in the American War of Independence and Lady Harriot's determination to go with him, even behind enemy lines to nurse him after he was wounded. She was an Earl's daughter, hence her title. Their remarkable but tragic story will take us from the West Country to North America.

Wednesday 25 October 2023

David Brandreth

Jane Austen's Purse - History in Coins from the Restoration to the Great Recoinage of 1817.

What coins would have been in your purse in the time of Jane Austen? Why were coins needed? Why was a recoinage necessary after the Napoleonic wars? David's talk will give a general overview of aspects of our coins, with some interesting anecdotes from this historical period.

Wednesday 1 November 2023

Dr Martin Grossel

Andrea Angel - Local hero

Andrea Angel grew up in Exeter, attending Exeter School. He won an Open Exhibition to study Chemistry at Christ Church Oxford, graduating with a First in 1899. In the First World War, he was Chief Chemist overseeing the manufacture of TNT at the Brunner Mond factory in Silvertown, London when it caught fire. He showed great heroism in saving many of the workforce before the factory exploded. He was awarded the Edward Medal of the First Class, the highest award for civilian bravery, equivalent to today's George Cross. Dr Martin Grossel is a tutor of Chemistry at Christ Church and has researched the life of Andrea Angel from his time in Exeter to the events of World War One.

Wednesday 8 November 2023

Ian Aspinall

Exeter WW1 Hospitals

To coincide with Remembrance week, Exeter City Redcoat Guide Ian Aspinall will show the vital role of Exeter's eight World War One War hospitals which treated over 35,000 wounded, under the direction of their redoubtable administrator Georgiana Buller.

Wednesday 15 November 2023

Mike Richards

Royalty in Exeter

Exeter Forum member and Redcoat Guide Mike Richards will tell the story of the many Royal visitors to Exeter, from the time of Alfred the Great to Queen Elizabeth II showing how some visits were more gracious and regal than others.

Wednesday 22 November 2023

Roy and Lesley Atkins

Everyday Life in Jane Austen's England

Roy and Lesley make a welcome return visit to the Exeter Forum to set the world of Jane Austen's fiction alongside the real lives of ordinary people at the time. They will cover forced marriages, selling wives in marketplaces, children toiling down mines, convivial dinners, strange medical remedies, dentures, bodysnatching, shoplifting, punishments, reading, writing, and the fear of revolution. Roy and Lesley are husband-and-wife historians and writers, whose books include Eavesdropping on Jane Austen's England, Jack Tar and When There Were Birds. They talked about Jack Tar during the Heritage Harbour Festival.

Wednesday 29 November 2023

Jon Bell

The Golden Age of Cinema in Exeter

Exeter Redcoat Jon Bell will tell the stories of the different cinemas and picture houses that existed in Exeter from the 1900s onwards, the films they showed, and their characteristics and peculiarities.

Wednesday 6 December 2023

Dr Pereira Grey and Dr Kate Sidaway-Lee PhD

Seeing the same doctor: does it make a difference?

Continuity of doctor care can be defined as repeated consultations, over time, between a patient and a particular doctor. This walk, postponed from 2020, will cover the potential benefits of continuity of care, to patients, doctors, and the NHS as a whole. Potential adverse effects and whether continuity is possible in modern general practice will also be discussed.

Professor Sir Denis Periera Gray OBE HonDSc FRCP FRCGP Hon FFPH FMedSci was the first Professor of General Practice at the University of Exeter and the Chairman and later President of the Royal College of General Practitioners. He was the first GP Chairman of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges of Great Britain and Ireland. The citation for his knighthood in 1999 was for quality assurance in general practice. He is currently Patron of the National Association for Patient Participation.

Dr Kate Sidaway-Lee PhD did her BSc and PhD in Biosciences and now works as a Research Fellow at the St Leonard's Research Practice. She has co-authored various academic articles on the subject of continuity and on other general practice-related topics.

Wednesday 13 December 2023

To be confirmed

Musical Christmas related event - details to follow

Wednesday 20 and 27 December

No meeting

Christmas break

Wednesday 4 January 2024

Exeter Forum restarts after Christmas break

The programme from January to March 2024 will be published in November 2023

Newsletter Quiz Answers:

1. Praetorian Guard.
2. Tin and lead.
3. Jazz.
4. Ostia.
5. Cool Hand Luke.
6. Cosi Fan Tutte by Mozart.
7. Belfast.
8. The Beatles.
9. Horse racing.
10. Spain.
11. Sir Walter Raleigh.
12. A cloud.
13. Terry Gilliam.
14. Josia Spode.
15. Bobby.
16. Michelangelo di Lodovico Buonarroti Simoni.
17. Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio.
18. Paternoster Square.
19. Goliath birdeater tarantula.
20. The world's very first website.