



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

## **EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter**

**Number 36**

<http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk>

**September 2018**

**October to December 2018**

### **Membership matters**

1. Our Christmas lunch will be held at The Cowick Barton on Thursday 6th December. The menu and booking form are included at the back of this newsletter (on pages 11 and 12). The deadline for booking is 8th November.
2. Members attending the Annual General Meeting this year agreed a new membership structure for the Club, which will greatly facilitate the work of our Treasurer.
  - a) The annual membership fee has been raised to £10 per person.
  - b) In future there will be no charge for members attending Club events.
  - c) Visitors will normally be charged £5 for attendance at any club event, but they will not be charged for their first attendance if accompanied by a member.
  - d) A new category of membership – Associate Member – was created (£5 per year) for those who do not want to attend club events but wish to keep in touch with the club.
  - e) All members will automatically receive the quarterly newsletter free of charge by email. There will be an additional charge of £5 per annum for those wishing to receive hard copies of the newsletter.

Please arrange to pay your subscriptions, preferably by standing order, in the three-month period from July to September each year.

3. Members attending the AGM requested that the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports be included in the Club's Newsletter. You will find them on pages 6 to 9.
4. The Club's Privacy Policy, prepared in line with the new General Data Protection Regulations, is included on page 10.

5. The 2018/19 committee consists of the following members:

Chairman: George Garner

Vice-chairman: Frances Canning (appointed by the committee)

Secretary: Peter Wingfield-Digby

Treasurer: Pamela Lee (until Dec 2018), Susie Hewitt (from Jan 2019)

Members: Susie Hewitt, Mike Aspray, Madge Tomasevic, John Slate

Co-opted: Louise Clunies-Ross (Rep. to EUC Finance Group)

## Future events

### Friday 19 October 2018: Talk by the National Coastwatch Institution

The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) is an entirely voluntary organisation keeping a visual watch along UK shores. Each station assists in the protection and preservation of life at sea and around the UK coastline.

Currently 50 NCI stations are operational and manned by over 2,000 volunteers keeping watch around the British Isles, from Rossall Point in the North West, through Wales, to Wearside in the North East. Our nearest station is at Exmouth.

We shall hear from the President of NCI or his representative about this valuable work.



The talk will take place at 2pm at the Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton Street, St Thomas, Exeter EX4 1DY. Do join us if you can for lunch at the pub from 12.15 pm.

To book, please contact Susie Hewitt ([susiehewitt@gmx.com](mailto:susiehewitt@gmx.com) or 01392 273 895) by 12 October.

### Thursday 1 Nov 2018: Lunch at the Highwayman's Haunt, Chudleigh

The Highwayman's Haunt is a thirteenth-century inn, situated just outside Chudleigh. It nestles in the heart of beautiful Devon countryside with rolling hills, farmhouses and stately homes nearby – a view that has hardly changed over the centuries. A dwelling has stood on this site since Saxon times, and the farmhouse was converted to an inn in 1957. There is a fine selection of lunchtime dishes to choose from



**Meet at:** The Highwayman's Haunt Inn, 12 noon for 12.30 lunch. Further information is available at [www.thehighwaymanshaunt.co.uk](http://www.thehighwaymanshaunt.co.uk)

**By car:** The pub is a mile north of Chudleigh, on the old Exeter Road. From Exeter, take the A38 towards Plymouth. Turn off onto the B3344 towards Chudleigh. The pub is on the left-hand side after a quarter of a mile. There is plenty of parking space at the pub. They recommend that you do not use Sat Nav when you get near the pub, or you will land up in a farmyard.

**By bus:** The 39 bus provides a bus service from Exeter to Chudleigh every hour (on the half hour), and it stops at the pub. The journey takes just under half an hour.

**To book:** please contact Phil and Rosy Larkin ([p.larkin119@btinternet](mailto:p.larkin119@btinternet) or 01626 854 632) by 25 October.

## Monday 19 November 2018: Talk on 'Railway Resilience'

Is the south west rail network fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Can we be sure that rail resilience projects like the Dawlish sea wall and Cowley Bridge Junction will go ahead? Do we need a diversionary route to Plymouth via Okehampton? Will rail investment in the South West keep pace with the demand for rail travel?

There could not be a better person to talk about these issues than Richard Westlake, who is a member of our club. His father had been Station Master at Okehampton, and Richard began as a fireman on steam trains at the age of 15. He went on to take charge of inter-city trains running from Paddington to Cornwall in a career which spanned more than 40 years. In recent years he has been a councillor on Devon County Council. In 2010 he was awarded an MBE for his services to public transport and the community in Devon.



His talk will take place at 2 pm at The Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton Street, St Thomas, Exeter EX4 1DY. Do join us if you can for lunch at the pub from 12.15 pm.

*To book, please contact Susie Hewitt ([susiehewitt@gmx.com](mailto:susiehewitt@gmx.com) or 01392 273 895) by 12 November.*

## **Thursday 6 December 2018: Christmas lunch at Cowick Barton**

Like last year, our club is holding its Christmas lunch for all members at the Cowick Barton inn. Gwyneth Garner has kindly agreed to be the organiser again. Full details are given at the back of this newsletter. Please get your bookings in to her as soon as possible.

## **Event reports**

### **Cruise on the Jurassic Coast, 17 July 2018**

Thirteen members joined a Stuart Line cruise at 11.00 am on a warm, sunny day with a calm sea and enjoyed sailing from Exmouth to a turning point off Ladram Bay and back. Outbound we sailed some distance off-shore and gained a good general impression of the brown, iron-bearing cliffs of this part of the Jurassic Coast and their layered formation. On the way back we sailed as close as possible to the shore and saw details of eroded cliffs, caves and sea-stacks.

The commentary given by a crew member was informative and just sufficiently detailed without being overwhelming and continuous. We were given a brief history of the formation of the cliffs and an explanation of the characteristics of the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous layers.

Some of us sampled a delicious Devon cream tea on board (cream then jam on top!). After exactly two and a half hours (just as it said in the brochure) we returned to the Quay at the end of a most enjoyable trip.



*George Garner*

### **Lunch at Heathfield Inn, Honiton, 8 August 2018**

Exeter Branch took over the restaurant at this characterful pub as 17 people sat down to enjoy a leisurely lunch. Those who had arrived early took the opportunity to have coffee in the welcoming lounge bar, where we all gathered to make our meal choices. Soon we were invited to move to the restaurant area where during our meal conversation flowed, interspersed with laughter and reminiscences. It was nice for local Honiton members to have an event close to home and we were also pleased to meet up again with Anne Stuart who had left Exeter several years ago to live near Honiton.

We have the late Cliff Wadey to thank for recommending this inn – quite an unusual location for a 15th century thatched stone-built farmhouse as it is now surrounded by a modern housing estate. However, approach roads named Old Elm Road, Chestnut Way and Walnut Road are reminders of its once rural past.

*Louise Clunies-Ross*

## Talk by Professor Jeremy Black, 10 September 2018

In the familiar surroundings of Reed Hall – now transformed into an elegant events venue – Alumni Development Manager Clare Pearce welcomed Exeter Branch members on a sunny September morning. Also joining us was a large group of alumni friends from across the UK and overseas who were holding their annual reunion at Exeter, organised by Sheila and John Morgan. We were looking forward to a talk given by Prof. Jeremy Black, based on issues covered in his book *'The City on the Hill'*, published to celebrate the University's Diamond Jubilee in 2015. Professor Black proved a forceful and incisive speaker, highlighting many of the changes that had taken place and the challenges faced by those who governed and administered our University from its early days.

We heard about Exeter's struggles to expand in a mainly rural region that lacked wealthy benefactors. Exeter received its University Charter in 1955 and at this time there were few buildings on the Streatham Estate and some lectures still took place in the city centre. However, the 1960s saw a big expansion of student places and Exeter's campus developed considerably at this time, although university life remained relatively unaffected by the extremes of student activity experienced elsewhere in the country.



*Looking forward to the talk*

With security of tenure for lecturers, university life drifted along comfortably during the 1970s and 1980s but by the 1990s Vice-Chancellors and Registrars could see the need to raise standards and bring in research money in order to support university departments if they were to survive.

Thus the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century at Exeter witnessed a sea change as governance, teaching, research, academic structures and members of staff all experienced major upheavals. Whole departments were closed and many staff made redundant while administration and governance were streamlined.

As a result of this radical action, Exeter today has excellent standards of teaching and research across four campuses in Devon and Cornwall, efficient and effective governance, and it ranks as one of the top ten universities in the UK. Constant work is required to maintain this position, achieved under the strong leadership of Vice-Chancellor Sir Steve Smith. Financial challenges continue, however, as resources and needs are so finely balanced in today's fast-changing world.

After his talk there was a welcome opportunity to speak informally with Prof. Black, to look through his book *'The City on the Hill'* and to chat when he joined us for lunch in the Woodbridge Room.

*Louise Clunies-Ross and Mike Aspray*

## Clara Nielson: Exeter University Club's Sports Scholar, 2017/18



Clara Nielson is the 2017/18 Exeter University Club Sports Scholar. In addition to her academic studies, Clara is a member of the University's women's 1st rugby team.

Following Professor Black's talk to us on 10th September Clara told us of her work as a marine biologist, work that had recently taken her to the Arctic, where in Svalbard she had conducted research into microplastics and acidification of the oceans. She is about to start her third and final year studying for a PhD.

Clara also told us of her experiences as a member of the University's women's rugby team, which this year had won the BUCS Rugby Final at Twickenham, something that she will never forget. She also plays for a team in Bristol, and with all her training she still finds time to coach at training sessions at Exeter College and Paignton RFC. She hopes to work with other local clubs next year.

Clara's presentation ended with an expression of thanks and appreciation to members of Exeter University Club for the financial support given through her Scholarship.

*Mike Aspray*

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### EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB – EXETER BRANCH 2018 Annual General Meeting

Monday 2 July 2018

11.00 am at the Royal Oak, Okehampton Street, Exeter

#### Secretary's Report

Hello everyone, I would like to comment on several aspects of our activities over the last 12 months.

#### **Membership**

The size of our membership has held up fairly well over the last year, but we could do so much better. At present we have just over 70 members, but most of us are not exactly 'spring chickens', and while our hearts are often willing to participate in club activities, our bodies are not always so cooperative. Also, in many cases we have other responsibilities, such as caring for partners or visiting grandchildren or engaging in voluntary activities, which may prevent us from attending particular events staged by our EUC branch.

Over the past year it has become much easier for me to get a clear idea of exactly who our members are. This has been especially helped by the fact that the Treasurer now maintains a list of members and passes over to me a list each quarter showing who has renewed their membership. I still think we could do much more to spread word about our club, and I would urge you to try to enlist as members any of your friends who have a connection with the university. Do tell them about our website which shows our programme of activities.

## **Club events**

We have had a very good range of activities over the last 12 months. Our six meetings have covered the following topics: 50 years on, the Streatham campus then and now; The Vikings in the West Country; Dialect stories and songs of Jan Stewer; The Anglo-Zulu Wars; A Passage through Indigo; and a talk on Mercy Hospital Ships.

In addition, we have had club lunches at the Victoria Hotel in Sidmouth, the City Gate Hotel in Exeter, and the @34 Restaurant at Exeter College, as well as our special Christmas lunch at Cowick Barton.

Our club outings have taken us to the University's Penryn campus in Cornwall (this visit being arranged in conjunction with the Alumni Office), to Quicke's Cheese in Newton St Cyres, to the Devon Heritage Centre here in Exeter, to the Norman Lockyer Observatory in Sidmouth, and to St Germans Church and Port Eliot country house just the other side of Plymouth.

In terms of numbers attending our events, we often have difficulty in getting 20 people to attend our meetings, while outside events usually attract about a dozen members. Please do support your Club's activities. If you can spare some time to serve as a Committee member, that would be most helpful. This year our Chairman organised the distribution at Christmas time of a special information card which listed all our club activities for this year.

## **Venue and timing of meetings**

Concerned at the low attendance at meetings, our Chairman sent out a short note asking why members came to so few events and what events they would prefer instead. She even suggested that, if attendance figures did not improve, one option might be to close the Exeter Branch.

There was an encouraging response from 19 members to the Chairman's circular. First, it needs to be made clear that many people were happy with the current programme, and certainly did not wish to see the club fold up. Reasons given for not attending a particular meeting were as one might expect: too far to come, poor public transport links to venue, medical conditions, lack of interest in subject matter of the talk, away from Exeter at the time, date clash with some other event, demands of grandchildren, duties as a carer, etc.

Here are some of the suggestions made:

1. Location – Return to Cowick Barton. Or move to a venue on the outskirts of Exeter. Or hold meetings in a more respectable location, not a pub.
2. Date and timing of meetings - Vary the day of the week. Consider evening or weekend meetings. For afternoon talks, a 2.30 pm start might be more convenient than 2 pm, for those with a lunchtime engagement elsewhere. Should not cancel meeting, even if there are only 12 people expected to attend. Should welcome people to attend, even if they have failed to book in advance.
3. Membership – Get Alumni Office to promote the club in the area. Contact St Lukes Teacher Training College alumni.

Your committee will need to consider whether to implement these and other suggestions.

## **Website**

Our new website [eucexeterbranch.org.uk](http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk) has proved a great success. It is easy to keep it up-to-date. It gives full details of forthcoming events and contains reports on events already held. There is a Stop Press space at the top for showing urgent messages. Our club newsletters are

stored online, and there is a panel on the Homepage where rolling photos are displayed of club members at different events.

The quality of our website has caught the eye of other groups. The London branch has been in touch, to see whether our website designer can develop a similar website for them.

### **General Data Protection Regulations**

The new GDPR system came into force on 25 May this year, and many organizations have been battling to make sure that they are compliant. At the moment we are not compliant, but your committee needs to take steps to make sure that we become so in the near future. In particular, we need to prepare a Privacy Policy that sets out what data is held about members, what it is used for, and who has access to it.

The only action we have taken so far is to allow our Website Administrator to put a general Cookies Notice up on our website, which covers some of the issues to do with GDPR.

*Peter Wingfield-Digby (Secretary)  
2 July 2018*

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## **Exeter University Club – Exeter Branch**

### **Financial report – AGM July 2018**

#### **1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018**

*The Treasurer and Assistant present their apologies for not being at the AGM, they are on a cruise and are scheduled to be in Kirkwall, Orkney Islands on the day of the AGM*

This report covers the last financial year for the Club. It should be noted that the “Subscription Year” differs from the financial year – the subscription year runs from 1 July to 20 June the following year. Any subscriptions received between 1 April and 31 June will count as a subscription for the following year, provided that the member’s subscription for the current year is in place.

#### Membership and Newsletters

Membership numbers have remained nearly constant, the Club currently has 72 paying members and 2 honorary members. Subscription income was £185.00 this year (£182.50 last year). Three Newsletters were produced during the year and distributed to most members by e-mail, saving the Club a large amount of money on postage and printing. Ten members paid £5 each to have a hard copy of the Newsletter sent to them by post. The two honorary members received the Newsletter free of charge. The cost of postage and printing gave rise to a loss for the Club, the loss was deemed acceptable to the Club auditors.

#### Talks, lunches and visits

There were 6 talks given to the club during the year, with members paying £2 for every talk they attended. Talk income was £222, some speakers chose to donate their fees to charity, the Club also made separate donations to charities. Fees taken by speakers amounted to £134, fees donated to charities by speakers and the Club amounted to £160. Speakers fees are continuing



to increase and this will have to be addressed by the Club for next year. Of the six talks given to the Club, four showed a loss (£12, £10, £8, £8) and two showed a profit (£2, £4). There were five visits to places of interest organized by the Club, these were self-financing with no income or expenditure made by the Club. There were three lunches organized by the Club that were also self-financing.

#### Christmas lunch

A very successful Christmas lunch was organized by Gwyneth Garner at the Cowick Barton, attended by 28 members. Total income was £502, total expenditure was £512.60 including a 10% gratuity. Further income of £22 from a late payer will mean that a small profit of £11.40 will go to the Club.

#### Miscellaneous

The Club has a website, the domain and hosting charges amounted to £47 for the year and was deemed very good value for the Club.

During the year, the Club produced a small flyer with details of Club activities for the whole of 2018. The flyer was distributed to members and it is hoped that this programme flyer can be continued next year.

Secretarial and other expenses amounted to £133.82, details of expenditure can be seen in the Club Accounts.

#### Conclusion

Overall, the Club made a small loss of £84.28 over the year.

There is a Proposal to be put before the AGM today that a flat rate membership charge of £10 per year be agreed. This charge would cover attendance at all meetings by members and replace the current charge of £2 per member per talk attendance. The treasurer wishes very strongly to recommend this change, it would lessen the workload of the treasurer and address the potential deficits on talks, leaving the club in a stronger financial state.

It is recommended that all members pay the membership fee by setting up a Standing Order with their bank (we cannot deal with Direct Debits). Details of the Club bank account are as follows: Nat West Bank, Tiverton (A) Branch. Sort Code: 52-30-17. Account name: Exeter University Club – Exeter Branch. Account number 10016821

Detailed Accounts are available at the AGM if any member wishes to see them.

*Pamela F Lee (Treasurer)*

*A J Clive Lee (Assistant)*

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## **General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

### **PRIVACY POLICY**

In the UK a new Data Protection Act (DPA 2018), in line with the EU's General Data Protection Regulations, came into force on 25 May 2018.

The Exeter University Club (Exeter Branch) is committed to safeguarding the privacy of our members, and we explain in this Privacy Policy how we will handle your personal data. The information held for each member and normally only available to Club officers and committee members is as follows:

Name, Postal address, Telephone number, and Email address (where applicable).

These details were supplied to us when you first joined the Exeter University Club. Your personal data is held securely in a file that is password-protected, so that outsiders cannot gain unauthorised access to it. Your data will normally be deleted from our records if membership ceases.

Your personal information will only be used for communicating directly with you. The information will only be passed to outside organisations or individuals if you have given your express consent for us to do so.

Please note that where newsletters or notices of Club activities are circulated to members, they are always sent by using bcc ('blind carbon copy'). In this way, your email details are not revealed to other members of the Club. A member wishing to contact another member may address their query to the Club Secretary at [secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk).

EUC (Exeter Branch) Committee  
13 August 2018



**Cowick Barton**  
PUB & DINING

***EUC (Exeter Branch) Xmas Lunch 2018***

***Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> 12.30 for 1p.m***

***Two courses... £20.00 Three courses... £22.00***

***N.B. For Smaller Appetites: 2 courses £18.00 3 courses £20.00***

**Starters**

Game terrine, plum and cranberry chutney, toasted ciabatta, baby leaf  
Roast parsnip soup, toasted almonds, pea-shoots (*ve*)  
Goat's cheese, walnuts, balsamic roasted red onion, salad  
Home cured lemon and lime salmon gravlax, hovmästarsås (*dill and mustard sauce*),  
rye bread

**Main Courses**

Hand carved roast turkey, sage and apple stuffing, goose fat roast potatoes, pig in  
smoked streaky blanket, seasonal vegetables  
Roasted sea bass fillet, chorizo, white wine reduction, buttered vegetables, garlic and  
olive oil roasted new potatoes  
Slow roast beef brisket, red wine gravy, mushrooms, silver skins, goose fat roast  
potatoes, seasonal vegetables  
Wild mushroom and chestnut risotto, thyme, truffle oil (*ve*)

**Desserts**

Christmas pudding, brandy sauce  
Amaretto and almond bread and butter pudding, custard  
Deep filled cheesecake, brandy-soaked cherries, coulis  
Belgian chocolate and orange zest tart, clotted cream  
Strawberry daiquiri sorbet (*ve*)

**Devonshire Cheeseboard sharer** – Devon Oke Cheddar, Sharpham Brie, Devon Blue.  
Served with oatcakes, walnuts, celery, chutney and grapes...  
£8.95 per person (supplement £5pp for 2/ 3 course menu)

EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH  
THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2018  
**BOOKING FORM**

NAME .....

PHONE NO: .....

E-MAIL .....

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

1. Please put your initials next to your choice on the menu
2. If you require the Smaller Portion option, please underline “Smaller Appetites” at the top of the menu
3. Please return this menu and booking form **with your cheque** made out to **E.U.C (EXETER BRANCH) to Mrs G. Garner, The Garden House, Bradninch, Exeter EX5 4NL**
4. Closing date for booking is **Thursday November 8<sup>th</sup> 2018**
5. **Refunds** – Please note that if you have to cancel your booking EUC cannot refund your payment after Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018