



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter

Number 38

<http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk>

March 2019

April to June 2019

Future events

Wednesday 24 April 2019: Lunch at the Blue Ball Inn, Sidford

The Blue Ball Inn is a handsome thatched pub, two miles from the centre of Sidmouth. Its origins date back to 1385.

Note: On arrival, join us at our reserved table. There is no need to pre-order, just order on arrival and pay for your meal stating that you are part of our EUC group; we shall then all be served at the same time.



Meet at: Blue Ball Inn, Stevens Cross, Sidford EX10 9QL at 12 noon for 12.30 lunch.

By car: The Blue Ball Inn is on the A3052 just east of Sidford, with a car park on the opposite side of the road.

By bus: Buses to Sidford leave from Exeter Bus Station and take an hour. The best bus to take would be the number 9 bus to Honiton at 10.55 am. It goes down into Sidmouth, and then goes up through Sidford. Get out at Sidford Garage at 12 noon, and it is then a five-minute walk to the pub.

To book: Please contact Louise Clunies-Ross (louisecluniesross@btinternet.com or 01884 242606) by 17 April.

Monday 13 May 2019: Visit to Buckfast Butterflies and Otter Sanctuary

Enjoy travelling on the South Devon Railway, a 7-mile former GWR branch line from Totnes to Buckfastleigh built in 1872, which runs along the stunning valley of the River Dart. After lunch we shall visit the lovely Butterfly House, full of exotic butterflies and moths, and the Otter Sanctuary, home to three species of otter: the native British one, the playful Asian otter, and the large North American river otter. Feeding time is at 2 pm. Bring your camera!

The plan is to take the South Devon Steam Railway from Totnes to Buckfastleigh, and then visit the Otter/Butterfly park nearby. There is a combination ticket (SDR train and park) available to members of the general public for £21.20, but we should be able to benefit from a reduced rate for clubs and groups of ten or more.

<http://www.southdevonrailway.co.uk/> <http://www.ottersandbutterflies.co.uk/>



Meet at: Totnes (Riverside) South Devon Railway Station at 11.00 am. The train departs from Totnes at 11.30 am, arriving at Buckfastleigh at 12 noon.

Getting to Totnes: Travel by car or train

By car: The problem is parking. Best to use public car parks. There is no car park at the SDR station, and parking at the mainline station is only for GWR customers.

By train: Take Great Western train from Exeter St David's at 10.18 am. It arrives at Totnes at 10.43 am. You then have a quarter of a mile walk across the river to Totnes SDR station.

Lunch: Snack lunch at the Refreshment Rooms outside Buckfastleigh Station. From there it is a two-minute walk to the Butterfly and Otter Park.

Getting back from Buckfastleigh: The SDR train departs Buckfastleigh at 3.45 pm, arriving Totnes at 4.15 pm. There is then a return train to Exeter departing Totnes at 4.51 pm, arriving Exeter at 5.22 pm.

To book: Please contact Susie Hewitt (susiehewitt@gmx.com or 01392 273895) by 6 May.

Tuesday 18 June 2019: Visit to Orchid Paradise at Burnham Nurseries, Newton Abbot

The 'Orchid Paradise' display house is an ever-changing display of the most rare and exotic orchids in their collection. Many of these orchids you won't see anywhere else in the UK and these plants are part of the nursery collection built up over 60 years. The flowers on show change from season to season. All the orchids are under cover.



Address: Orchid Paradise, Burnham Nurseries, Forches Cross, Newton Abbot TQ12 6PZ
Tel. 01626 352233 www.orchids.uk.com Open 10 am to 4 pm.

Meet: at 12.30 pm at Orchid Paradise for light lunch in the Vanilla Café.
(We shall pre-order if there are 10 or more of us)

Conducted tour: Entrance to the display house is free, but we plan to take the conducted tour, starting at 2pm. £5 per person (minimum 10 people). This includes free cup of tea/coffee, and an orchid surgery for expert free advice, and even re-potting if necessary. Bring your orchids!

By car: Orchid Paradise is situated north-west of Newton Abbot, just near the A382. Coming from Exeter on the A38, turn off at Drumbridges onto the A382 towards Newton Abbot. You will see brown Orchard Paradise signs as you approach Forches Cross. At the crossroads at the brow of the hill turn right, and the entrance is 200 yards on your left. There is ample free parking.

By bus: From Exeter, take the hourly A39 bus from Stand 3 at 10.30 am, and ask the bus driver to stop at Forches Cross, which you should reach about 11.30 am (or take the 11.30 bus arriving at 12.30). Turn right at the cross roads, and the entrance to Orchid Paradise is 200 yards on your left.

To Book: Contact Susie Hewitt (susiehewitt@gmx.com or 01392 273895) by 6 June.

Event Reports

EUC (Exeter Branch) Christmas Lunch, 6 December 2018

The Club's Christmas Lunch was again well-supported; the numbers attending would have been well over 30 but for some last-minute cancellations. Our old meeting room at Cowick Barton has now been turned into an attractive restaurant, which had been festooned with Christmas decorations. (Future meetings of the Club will normally be held in this room, but if the numbers are small we may be moved to the Monks Room.)

The food was excellent, and there was much lively discussion. Again, our thanks to Gwyneth for her highly efficient organisation of this event.



Lunch at the Red Lion, Broadclyst, 15 January 2019

This was our first club visit, at least for several years, to this country pub. It is located right beside the lovely St John's church, which contains many interesting memorials, including for two notable local families – the Aclands and the Drews. Broadclyst, incidentally, used to be the home of the famous novelist Eden Phillpotts, author of the 18 novels about Dartmoor villages, published about a century ago; Kerswell, on the edge of Broadclyst, was his home for 30 years.

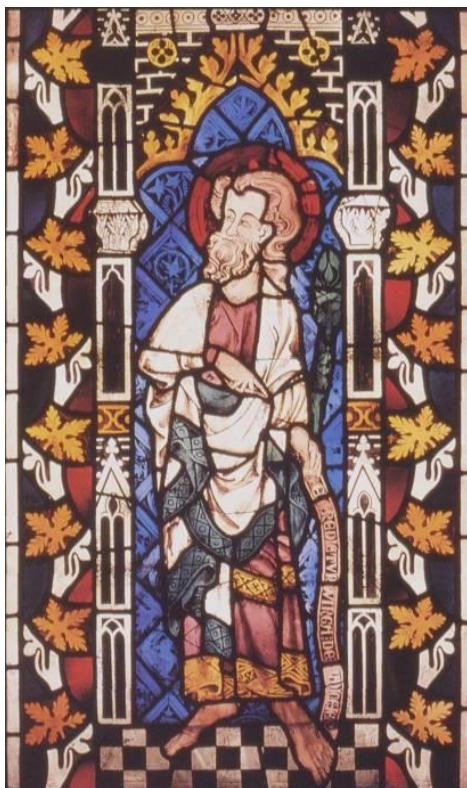
With this club lunch arranged for so soon after Christmas, we were concerned that it might not be well supported by our Club, but 15 members turned out. The pub is old-style but quite large, with low beams. Our table had been set up at the far end of the pub, and gave us an element of privacy. The food and drink were excellent, if a little pricey, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Talk by John Allan on the Medieval Glass of Exeter Cathedral, 28 January 2019

This was the first meeting to be held back in our old venue – Cowick Barton. We were expecting to meet in the small Monks Room, but the manager kindly upgraded us to the main restaurant, and it looks as though we shall usually meet in this room. Those of us who had lunch were impressed with the quality of the cuisine.

John's talk was entitled *Recent Study of the Glass of Exeter Cathedral*. For the last three years there has been scaffolding outside the east end of the cathedral. This has enabled the stonemasons to do extensive replacement of stonework high up on the outside of the cathedral. It has also allowed the experts (including John, who is the Cathedral's Archaeologist) to do detailed study and conservation of the Great East Window, which is the cathedral's finest window.

During the talk John made clear that, although some of the figures in that window date from the beginning of the 14th century, the surrounding glass often dates from a much later period. The glass has not always been located in that window since medieval times, but has often been moved from other windows in the retrochoir and the Lady Chapel. The medieval glass was removed early on in the second world war, but the surrounding glass was left there and often damaged as a result of the bomb that fell on the cathedral.



John showed us some lovely photos of the glass, illustrating the incredible detail of the different figures. He also showed how the mullions in the bottom half of the window are made of sandstone from the original Early English construction, while the upper mullions are in the perpendicular style and made of the much lighter Beer stone because that part of the stonework had failed and had to be replaced at the end 14th century. The whole window is now protected by a layer of special isothermal glazing, which is similar to double glazing, except that it allows air to enter between the two sheets of glass.

If you want to see the restored window in all its glory, John recommended that you should come on a sunny day and bring your binoculars.

Peter Wingfield-Digby

Lunch at @34 Restaurant, Exeter College, 12 February 2019

This was a return visit to the @34 Restaurant which we have enjoyed in the past. Sixteen of us sat down to lunch. The restaurant had organised an excellent seating plan, with four people on each side around a square, so that we could all see and talk to each other. The food is prepared and served by students who are studying catering at the college. The prices are incredibly low.



The food and its presentation was perhaps not of quite the high quality that we have come to expect in the past. Many of the dishes had an Asian-inspired theme, which may have posed a special challenge for young chefs who may not be familiar with this type of food. Nonetheless, we still much enjoyed this opportunity to meet and chat with other members of the club.

Peter Wingfield-Digby

Talk by Julia Neville on the Stories of Exeter's War Hospitals 1914-1919, 27 February 2019

Coming to academia late in life from hospital management, Dr Julia Neville brings a common touch to her research. She was Research Coordinator of the War Hospitals Research Group, which produced the results of its labours in 2017, in time for the centenary commemorations in 2018. Her talk was fascinating.

The hospitals in Exeter were set up and run by the Red Cross. With forward thinking, some were actually ready before the outbreak of war. The bad news from a researcher's point of view is that no records were kept by the British Red Cross, so quite a lot of the general knowledge about injuries and treatments has come from Canada. Some nurses and patients kept diaries and wrote letters, which provide useful insights.

There were eight Temporary War Hospitals in Exeter. My vision of draughty huts in fields outside the City was very soon dispelled. The first hospital to be set up was in the West of England Eye Infirmary - at that time a large building in Magdalen Road, now the Hotel du Vin, where coincidentally the Exeter University Ladies Alumnae Group usually meet. The second was the "Episcopal Modern School for Girls," better known to us as Bishop Blackall School.

Both of these were near the Central Station so when on 21st October 1914 about a hundred wounded soldiers arrived there, their journey was nearly over. As was the case throughout the war, they arrived in a poor state and were given a high standard of care by the St John's Ambulance and others who were there to meet them. The injuries they had suffered were those normally associated with war.

Another hospital of interest was "Children's Home Exeter Workhouse Heavitree Hill" Hospital no. 3 (see photo). This is the building next to Waitrose which has now been redeveloped, but the façade remains. This was built because the government had decided that children and adults should not be housed together in workhouses. After the War this became the City Hospital Heavitree, and later it became part of the Royal Devon and Exeter group of hospitals.



Dr Neville gave us a lot of insight into individual stories. It appears that there is no single website with the full report on this project, but interesting snippets about the project can be found in many places online.

George Garner our chairman proposed a vote of thanks

Frances Canning

Membership matters

The Exeter Hip: We were delighted to see that the Exeter Hip was named as Exeter's contribution to the 100 best breakthroughs at UK universities, in terms of inventions, discoveries and social interventions. Congratulations to Clive Lee, past Chairman and retiring assistant treasurer of our club.

Treasurer: Susie Hewitt has taken over from Pamela and Clive Lee as Treasurer of our club. Any queries to her at treasurer@eucexeterbranch.org.uk or 01392 273895.

Exeter's University - A History: Professor Jeremy Black has published another book about the university. It is an updated version of his coffee-table book, *The City on the Hill*, but without all the photos and in a smaller format. Copies at a special price of £18 are available at the University Bookshop.

EUC Annual Summer Outing: This year the national Exeter University Club is organising its summer outing over three days, 17-19 June 2019. Accommodation is available at the Holt Hotel near Banbury. The main event, a visit to the National Trust property of Claydon House near Buckingham, is taking place on Tuesday 18 June.

Unfortunately the day of that visit coincides with the EUC Exeter Branch visit to Orchid Paradise near Newton Abbot. If anyone wants to go on the visit to Claydon House, or needs further information about the three days, please contact Peter, our Club Secretary, at secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk or 01392 424781.