



**To offer friendship through social and educational activities**

## **EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter**

**Number 43**

<http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk>

**June 2020**

**July to September 2020**

### **Message from our Chairman**

We have of course been thinking of you all and are sorry that we have not been able to meet since our lunch at Redwing Restaurant in Lypstone, which was a very enjoyable event. Fourteen of us met and enjoyed the warm atmosphere, friendly service and delicious food.

After careful consideration by the Committee, it has been decided to cancel the AGM for this year, and postpone until next year the business which would have been transacted.

All the events for the rest of this year have also been cancelled. We will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

As we will not have any news for the next few months, it would be good if you could send us any experiences of your university life that you think would be of interest to others. We will publish them in the September and December issues. The sort of thing to tell us about would include being present at the opening of an academic building, celebrity visits, being a contestant on University Challenge, being a celebrity yourself, being involved in an important research project, or having a role such as president of the Guild. These are just suggestions.

We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you all when the time is right.

*Frances Canning, Chairman*

## **Future events this quarter – all cancelled**

We hope it will be possible to restage these events next year.

### **Monday 6 July 2020: Annual General Meeting of EUC Exeter Branch**

The business of this year's AGM will be conducted at next year's AGM instead.

### **Monday 13 July 2020: Visit to Buckfast Abbey Gardens, TQ11 0EE**

On this visit to Buckfast Abbey, we had planned to have a conducted tour of Buckfast Abbey Gardens. At Buckfast there are spacious lawns and three specialist garden areas: a Lavender garden, a Physic garden, and a Sensory Garden. Everywhere there are specialist trees which give a magnificence and splendour to the grounds.



A one and a half hour conducted tour of the gardens would have been followed by lunch in the Grange Restaurant, which commands spectacular views of the Abbey and the surrounding countryside.

After lunch, members would have been free to visit the Abbey. There are also three interesting shops nearby. The Monastic Produce Shop sells items (beers, wines, jams, honeys, etc.) made by monks and nuns in Europe and beyond. The Bookshop has a wide range of religious and other books, while The Gift Shop sells other items.

**<https://www.buckfast.org.uk/>**

## **Monday 3 August 2020: Lunch at Cowick Barton Inn, 1 pm.**

This lunch for members would have followed a meeting of the Club Committee.

## **Wednesday 9 September 2020: Talk by Clive Lee on '50 Years of the Exeter Hip'**

We had planned to have a special meeting to celebrate the 50 years since the first Exeter Hip operation was performed. Our own Clive Lee was co-developer of the hip, along with the late Professor Robin Ling who was an orthopaedic surgeon. Clive used his engineering skills to design a hip stem with a profoundly different geometry to those available at the time. The innovative design has transformed hip surgery, due to its long-lasting results for patients of all ages. It is widely considered to be the 'industry gold standard', and has now improved the quality of life for about two million people around the world.



We had booked the Harrison Building on North Park Road on the Streatham Campus for this talk, since that is where Clive did much of his research. We had also decided to make this an evening meeting, because of the difficulty of getting a meeting room and parking spaces during the afternoon. We hope we can stage this event in 2021.

## **Wednesday 23 September 2020: Lunch at Belluno Restaurant, Newton St Cyres EX5 5DA**

We had been planning to have lunch at the Belluno Restaurant in Newton St Cyres. It serves high-quality, home-made Italian food. The restaurant also has a wood burner pizza oven, so it can also serve authentic Italian pizzas. The restaurant is situated in the old Crown and Sceptre building, at the bottom of the dip as you go into Newton St Cyres.

**[www.bellunonewton.co.uk](http://www.bellunonewton.co.uk)**

## Past events - missed

These are the events that we were hoping to stage last quarter. They are included here for the record. We hope it will be possible for some or all of them to take place next year, so the information provided here should be of interest.

### **Monday 20 April 2020: Visit to two Exeter jewels: The Devon and Exeter Institution and St Nicholas Priory**

We had been planning a visit to two of Exeter's best-loved buildings. Both sites are in the centre of Exeter and served by buses to the High Street and Fore Street. We planned to visit the Devon and Exeter Institution in the morning, and St Nicholas Priory in the afternoon. In between these visits, we would have had lunch at Lloyd's Kitchen in Catherine Street.

The Devon and Exeter Institution has been providing a library for its members since 1813 in a building which was adapted from the town house of the Courtenay family. We would have enjoyed savouring the atmosphere of a Real Library in the two elegant Georgian rooms with their beautiful cupolas, which have recently undergone extensive repair.



St Nicholas Priory was founded in 1087 and was home to Benedictine monks until 1536. It then became the home of wealthy merchants but later became neglected until it was opened as a museum in the 20th century. The oldest building in Exeter, it is now owned by Exeter Historic Buildings Trust

### **Thursday 21 May 2020: Visit - Moretonhampstead Motor Museum**

We had been hoping to visit this museum, which is home to a collection of over 135 vintage and classic vehicles, including pre-1920s to the 1990s. It is run by local motoring enthusiast Frank Loft, who is an Exeter graduate. The museum is housed in a newly refurbished bus depot. The collection of vehicles is complemented by motoring artefacts and automobilia, and visitors can also view the restoration workshop. We would have met for lunch at the Union Inn, 10 Fore Street, Moretonhampstead, before going on to the museum.

## **1-4 June 2020: Exeter University Club (EUC) reunion and outing**

As part of the EUC Annual Outing from 1 to 3 June, a visit had been arranged to Greys Court, a National Trust property in Oxfordshire near Henley-on-Thames. Set in the rolling hills of the Chilterns, Greys Court is a picturesque Tudor manor house, surrounded by layers of history, walled gardens and glorious wooded parklands. There have been buildings on the site since the 11<sup>th</sup> century. It was originally inhabited by the Grey family, who gave it their name.



## **Tuesday 9 June 2020: Lunch at the Three Crowns Inn, Chagford**

We had planned to have lunch at The Three Crowns in Chagford. This building is early Tudor and Grade II\* listed. It is reputed to have been the home of Sir John Whiddon who died in 1575. It became an inn in the 19th century. According to Historic England, 'the building is of immense value to the centre of Chagford, and forms part of an attractive group of listed buildings in the vicinity of St Michael's Church'.



## **Wednesday 24 June 2020: Visit to Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh -**

We were hoping to visit Ugbrooke House, which has been the family seat of the Clifford family for over 400 years. In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century the house was remodelled by Robert Adam and the gardens by Capability Brown. Both are well worth exploring. There is also a very impressive chapel that is still in use. Cream teas are available.



## **Appointment of new Vice-Chancellor**

As you no doubt will have heard, Professor Sir Steve Smith is planning to retire in August. Indeed, the name of his successor – Professor Lisa Roberts, currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Leeds – has already been announced. We include here a message that has been received from the University.

Professor Lisa Roberts will be taking up the post of Vice-Chancellor in September 2020 following the retirement of Professor Sir Steve Smith. Lisa joins Exeter from the University of Leeds where she works as Deputy Vice-Chancellor: Research and Innovation. In this role, Lisa leads the university's research and innovation strategy and has led a step change in the income, quality, and impact of world-leading research carried out at Leeds, including the recruitment and development of world-leading academics. Lisa has been pivotal in developing strong business and civic partnerships in a number of key sectors and has fostered a culture of interdisciplinarity to tackle major societal challenges.



Lisa said: “I am delighted and honoured to be appointed as the next Vice-Chancellor of the University of Exeter, and I am looking forward to building upon the considerable strengths in education and research which have been firmly established over a number of years under the leadership of Professor Sir Steve Smith. I am particularly excited about working together with the tremendously talented staff and student community across our campuses, and engaging with our civic and international partners to tackle the challenges we face collectively within the region and across the world.”

## Current Developments on Campus

There are two major new building activities going on at the Streatham campus at the moment:

**East Park.** This massive development on the east side of the campus will provide 1,182 modern bedrooms. It is aimed particularly at first-year students, for whom living on campus at the start of their time at university is a high priority. The original plan was to open 100 standard bedrooms in September 2020, and a further 170 in September 2021. There are communal kitchen/dining areas and a lounge. The bathrooms consist of an enclosed shower, toilet and sink which are shared between two students. There are also 504 ensuite rooms due to open in September 2020 (and a further 408 in 2021), which are arranged in flats of five to eight students, sharing an open plan kitchen/diner with a lounge.



*East Park – artist's impression*

**North Park.** This development, located on the site of Car Park D, aims to produce a world class research and teaching facility. The aim is to bring together core institutes and research groups to enable collaboration on innovative research methods and methodology that will drive ground breaking research. The new building will house the research activities of the Global Systems Institute, the Institute of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, the Humanities Research Institute, Astrophysics and Q-Step. Because of the Covid-19 crisis, work on this project had been paused.



*North Park*

A further planning application for this development was considered by Exeter City Council on 1 June 2020. The proposed building will be sited on the existing Car Park D east of the Amory Building. It will be a six-storey research and education building, accommodating 627 academic colleagues in six research institutes and will support 4,000 students. The application was approved, subject to certain technical points.

## **Reminiscences**

*What special memories do we have of our time at Exeter University? Is there some special person, place or event that you recall with fond memories? If so, why not drop the Secretary a line (say no more than 200 words) and we shall try to include it in a future newsletter. Here is one of Peter's memories, from more recent times.*

### **Alumni in Thailand**

The tentacles of the Alumni Office stretch around the world. I lived in Chiang Mai, Thailand for 12 years. Early in my stay there, an alumni support officer visited Chiang Mai, and she arranged a supper party for alumni at a local restaurant. I guess the hope was that we might form an alumni branch in Chiang Mai, but it never happened.

Instead, every year or two, after Steve Smith became Vice-Chancellor, the University would organise a cocktail party for alumni at the Oriental Hotel, the most famous hotel in Bangkok, taking over two large reception rooms. The Vice-Chancellor and his partner (now wife) would be there, and he would welcome guests and give them the latest news about developments at the university. Thai graduates are naturally rather shy, so I often found I had a chance to chat to the VC and Jeannie, while enjoying some canapés and a glass of wine. It is the sort of direct contact with the VC which it would be much more difficult to have if I had been living in England, even in Exeter.