



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

## **EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter**

**Number 28**

**SEPTEMBER 2016**

**October to December 2016**

### **Events and Lunches:**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016:**

**Talk "The Normans in Devon" by Sarah Obermuller-Bennett at The City Gate Hotel.**

In this talk Sarah Obermuller-Bennett will investigate how the Normans imposed their rule on Devon after 1066. We will look at the impact of Anglo-Saxon resistance and the Exeter Siege of 1067 before considering the ecclesiastical and military architectural legacy the Normans left in the county in the form of castles, churches and, of course, Exeter Cathedral.



Lunch from 12noon, join the talk at 2.00 pm.

Please book with Ian Thomson

(01626 867363 or [eucexeterbranch@gmail.com](mailto:eucexeterbranch@gmail.com)) by 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

## **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016:**

**Talk by our member, George Garner, entitled “Carry on up the Jebel” or “How I rocketed World Heritage Sites in Oman”.**

George writes:

“My talk in November will be about my experiences in Oman in 1957 while flying for the RAF and while seconded to the Sultan of Muscat's army on the ground during Britain's support for him against rebellious tribesmen.”



Venoms at Sharjah



Sultans Army

Venue: The City Gate Hotel, Exeter.

Lunch from 12noon, join the talk at 2.00 pm

*Please book with Gwyneth Garner (01392 881330 or [gbvgarner36@btinternet.com](mailto:gbvgarner36@btinternet.com) )*  
by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

## **December 8<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**EUC Christmas Lunch at the Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton EX5 5NB.**

Your Committee has decided on a change of venue for our Christmas lunch this year. As you are aware, for the past few years this has been held at Reed Hall, on Exeter University campus. Access and parking there have become increasingly difficult recently.

We held our A.G.M. at The Ruffwell Inn, near Thorverton, in July. All who attended and stayed on for lunch afterwards were well satisfied with both the food and the service, and consequently we have booked to hold our Christmas lunch there on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

There are several advantages to the Ruffwell:

A large level car park, which is adjacent to the entrance.

No steps to negotiate in the building – toilets are on the ground floor.

The Ruffwell is on the main A 396 between Exeter and Tiverton.

The No 55 bus from Exeter to Tiverton stops right outside The Ruffwell.

We hope for the usual good turnout for this event, and that holding it at The Ruffwell will make attending easier for some of you.

Gwyneth Garner



<http://www.theruffwellinn.co.uk>

The number of diners needs to be fixed and full payment made by 7 November.

Please book with Gwyneth Garner (01392 881330 or [gbvgarner36@btinternet.com](mailto:gbvgarner36@btinternet.com) )

See Page 7 for more details and on Page 8 you will find a menu and a booking form.

***Advance Notice: January 2017 - Lunch at the St George and Dragon, Clyst St George***

*Please book with Louise Clunies Ross (TBC)*

## **Reports**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

**Visit to the SS Great Britain in Bristol**

With impeccable timing, seven members of Exeter and Bristol branches met at Temple Meads Station within moments of each other, before making our way to the dry dock where this famous steamship now lies. The waterfront alongside Bristol's Floating Harbour has been redeveloped in recent years with much new building, but fortunately the original dry dock, in which this massive ship was built, still remains.

Waiting for us under a sun umbrella beside the Dockyard Café was the eighth member of

our group and we soon joined her with a selection of meals and snacks as we chatted over a sociable lunch.

Then it was time to go on board. What an amazing afternoon we had, exploring this huge vessel, designed by Brunel and launched in 1843 as the world's largest iron-hulled ship. She had three lives – first as a passenger liner to the USA and Australia, then as a windjammer sailing ship plying between America and England and finally as a cargo vessel transporting coal to and wheat from the USA west coast. Storm damaged at Cape Horn in 1886, she limped into the Falklands, where she remained, until a remarkable salvage operation brought her back to Bristol in 1970.



On deck the SS Great Britain

Since then a transformation has taken place. Her fragile iron hull, rusted through in places and still pin-holed in many areas, has been repaired and preserved in a dry atmosphere to halt progress of the rust and the ship is now held upright in the dry dock. The interior decks have been faithfully reconstructed, so we were able to go into the richly decorated dining saloon and sit where the first class passengers had sat, we peered into the tiny first class cabins, looked with concern at the cramped bunks of the steerage passengers and saw with interest, how the food was prepared in a central galley with big stoves, all giving out a lot of heat and no apparent air circulation. We were amused to watch a realistic animation of rats running around in the food storage areas and see the ship's cat ready to pounce! Low ceilings and low light brought home to us the difficult conditions experienced by those on board – especially on the long journey to Australia. It was a relief to go up on deck into the sunshine and fresh air! Here we heard the unmistakable sound of a cow mooing and chickens clucking – reminders of the need for some fresh food during the long voyage and the enterprising solution – to keep some livestock up on deck in suitable housing.

The wonderful dockyard museum deserves a second visit, with its powerful sound effects and remarkable archive film of the vessel at sea together with its interactive displays and information boards, so also does the well-stocked shop and the Brunel Institute next door. After a welcome cup of tea, we split up to make our various ways home; strolling along the dockside, taking the harbour ferry or the bus to Temple Meads or the cross-harbour ferry into central Bristol. Thank you, Gwyneth, for proposing and leading such a fascinating trip.

*Louise Clunies-Ross*

June 2016





Two Anchors

**The 85<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held at the Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016.**

**The following Committee was elected for the coming year 2016/17:**

Chairman:	Clive Lee
Vice-Chairman:	Susie Hewitt
Secretary:	Peter Wingfield-Digby
Treasurer:	Pamela Lee
Committee members:	Gwyneth Garner (Immediate past Chairman)
Elisabeth Thomson	
George Garner	
Ian Thomson (Newsletter Editor)	
Louise Clunies-Ross (Representative on Finance Group of former EUC)	

The Committee arranged a meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August at the City Gate Hotel, Exeter to plan the programme for the year ahead. Several useful suggestions were made at the AGM, and a request was made for members to suggest a particular talk, visit or lunch venue and to contact the Secretary with any proposals.

Peter Wingfield-Digby  
 pwdigby@btinternet.com  
 Tel. 01392 424781  
 (M) 07890 141189

We also took the opportunity of thanking our retiring Secretary, Mike Aspray, for his long years of service to the EUC (2007 to 2016), both at local and National level club level where he still represents regarding the EUC funds.

He was presented with a photo album and some red wine to commemorate the occasion.

*Peter Wingfield-Digby*

**Monday July 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Visit to the National Trust's Tyntesfield organised by Louise Clunes-Ross**

(Here four Exeter EUC branch members met up with four members of the Bristol branch.)



Assembled outside Tyntesfield House



The Rose Garden

Bristol Branch started with a traditional picnic, but we were in sunshine for a change. And the theme of the conversation was "stories of dentists" since our organizer bravely drove from her home near Exeter after extensive treatment at that type of surgeon, but she is made of stern stuff, managed to drink some water through a straw, then later had tea and some food.



View of Tyntesfield House



Studying in the Library

We had a great day out with lots of conversations, as well as walking or bussing around the site.

It was just a good gathering lots of FUN and a change from political discussions, a wee break.

*Maria Henderson (Bristol Branch)*



*Morris Minor Rally at Tyntesfield*

### **Note from our new Secretary**

The AGM of our Club was held at the Ruffwell Inn on 5 July 2016. At that meeting, our long-standing Secretary, Mike Aspray, stood down, and I was elected to succeed him. We then had a very useful Committee meeting at the City Gate Hotel on 9 August, under our new Chairman Clive Lee, during which we planned a draft programme of talks, visits and lunches for next year. It promises to be an exciting programme, and we hope to finalise the details before the end of the year.

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

## **EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB - EXETER BRANCH CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**TO BE HELD At The Ruffwell Inn, Exeter Road, Thorverton EX5 5NB**

**12.15 FOR 12.45**

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

1. Please put your initials next to your choice on the menu
2. Please return this menu/booking form **with your cheque**, made out to:  
**E.U.C (Exeter Branch)**  
**to Mrs G. Garner, The Garden House, Bradninch, Exeter EX5 4NL**
3. Closing date for booking is **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016**
4. **Refunds** – please note, if you have to cancel your booking, E.U.C cannot refund your payment after **24<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

**Please make a note of your choices!**

## MENU AND BOOKING FORM



*Homemade Tomato & Basil soup, served with crusty bread & butter*

*Smoked Salmon parcels served with mixed salad leaves & a citrus & dill mayonnaise  
drizzle*

*Duck and Orange pate*

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*A Carvery choice of roast turkey, beef and gammon ham is carved for you, and help  
yourself to steamed vegetables*

*Grilled Salmon fillet with a Dill Hollandaise sauce*

*Chicken breast with a smoked bacon & leek sauce*

*Seasonal fruit and nut roast*

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*Christmas Pudding*

*A choice of delicious desserts*

*Choice of ice creams*

*All served with clotted cream and brandy butter*

**2 courses £18.50   3 courses £23**

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### BOOKING FORM

NAME

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PHONE

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E-MAIL

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