



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter

Number 30

March 2017

April to June 2017

Events and Lunches:

26th April 2017: Talk by Brian Smith on Storybook Dads (& Mums)



This charity aims to keep the families of convicted prisoners together by enabling the person in prison to read and record stories for their children

"Every year in the UK, over 200,000 children suffer the trauma of parental imprisonment. We help to maintain the vital emotional bond between parent and child by enabling parents to make bedtime story CDs, DVDs and other educational gifts for their children. 50% of all prisoners lose contact with their families. Those that maintain contact are up to 6 times less likely to re-offend"

"By sending a bedtime story disc to their children, imprisoned parents can provide comfort and reduce the trauma caused by the forced separation. Doing something positive and tangible for their child increases their self-esteem and belief in themselves as a valued parent.

As reading to children is the most important thing a parent can do to help with their education, the story discs also give imprisoned parents the opportunity to make a positive impact on their children's social and learning outcomes.

For many families, these story discs are a lifeline, helping to heal rifts and enabling imprisoned parents to maintain or build vital relationships with their children. Prisoners that keep in contact with their families are up to 6 times less likely to re-offend."

<http://www.storybookdads.org.uk/about.html>

We meet from 12noon at the Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton Street, Exeter EX4 1DY, for lunch, the talk begins at 2pm

Contact Ian to book your place at

Webmaster@exeterbranch.org.uk or euexeterbranch@gmail.com or Tel: 01626 867363

May 24th 2017 Visit to Coldharbour Mill, Uffculme – one of the oldest woollen mills in the UK.

Meet at the Mill at 2 pm. Some members will be having lunch from 12 noon at Halfway House, Willand.

"Coldharbour Mill is one of the oldest woollen mills in the UK having been in continuous production since 1797.

Originally owned by world-renown textile producers Fox Brothers the Mill took fleece from all over world and transformed it into yarn, cloth and textiles. Today the rich heritage lives on as one of the finest working wool museums where visitors are not just able to relive the sights and sounds of the industrial revolution but also see crafts people making traditional textiles, beautiful knitting yarn and hand woven rugs."



Directions:

Coldharbour Mill is only 5 minutes by car from Junction 27 of the M5. Follow the signs to Willand (B3181), then the brown tourist signs saying 'Working Wool Museum' to Uffculme.

Time and place for lunch:

(for those wanting lunch or a drink)

12 noon at **Halfway House Pub**, Willand, EX15 2RF.

The pub is located on the B3181, a quarter of a mile north of the roundabout with the B3440 (if coming from the south), or a mile south of M5 Junction 27

Book your place with Louise Clunies-Ross at louisecluniesross@btinternet.com or telephone 01884 242606

June 21st 2017

Visit Totnes and meet at the Elizabethan House Museum

There is a small entry charge at the museum (£3, £2.50 concessions).

The museum is located on the south side of Fore Street just below the East Gate Arch and is one of the finest restored Tudor houses in the country. One room is devoted to Charles Babbage, the grandfather of modern computing.



We shall then have a brief guided tour of the nearby Guildhall before going to lunch. Entry to the Guildhall is by donation. Our guide will be Nick Nicholson.

Directions:

Totnes railway station is on the main line to Paddington.

If coming by car, the most convenient place to park is the long-stay Council car-park in North Street. Then walk down the High Street. If that car-park is full, head for the Heath Nursery car-park off Heath Way. From there, walk along South Street. Parking will cost £3 for four hours, or £6 for all-day parking.

Lunch:

1 pm at the Royal Seven Stars Hotel at the bottom of Fore Street. We shall eat in the Old Library at the hotel. Pre-ordering is not required. We can purchase drinks when we come in, and settle the food bill at the end.

Further Information:

The hotel's website is: www.royalsevenstars.co.uk/

A Totnes map and town guide can be downloaded from www.totnesinformation.co.uk/town-map.php

Our local organiser is Robina Brand.

Book with Peter Wingfield-Digby, (10392 424781 or Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk) by 14 June.

Exeter University Club Annual Reunion June 27th, 28th & 29th 2017

Dear friends

We invite you to join us at the EUC reunion in June. It is important that you support EUC major events, such as this reunion near Banbury in Oxfordshire, to demonstrate that we want our Club to continue to flourish. Please do your best to support us. This year the Reunion is mid week, we could not book suitable accommodation for a weekend in June.

The Annual Outing is to Canons Ashby (NT) on Wednesday June 28th. This is being organised by Rolf Holstein, you may have seen details about this in Branch Lines. Rolf will send out more information about the outing in due course.

Derek Smith and Ann Paddon are organising the Wednesday evening dinner, accommodation and events on Tuesday and Thursday. All of you are welcome to attend everything or just one or more of the events during the reunion. It is a really friendly occasion, come to meet old friends or to make new ones.

Annual Outing Dinner, Wednesday June 28th

At The Holt Hotel, Steeple Ashton, Oxon on the A4260 near the junction with the B4030. We have booked a private room and look forward to seeing lots of you there. We suggest we meet in the bar at 6pm for dinner at 6.30. The cost of a two-course meal will be around £20. We will send out menus, much nearer the time, to those who have told us they would like to attend.

Accommodation

We have arranged to stay at The Holt Hotel, Oxford Road, OX25 5QQ www.holthotel.co.uk 01869 340259. It is a comfortable hotel, based round an old coaching inn, with plenty of car parking. We used it a few years ago and particularly appreciated the lounge areas. Since then the beds have been replaced and many rooms have been updated. We have made a provisional booking for single and double rooms for the nights of 27th, 28th and 29th, which will be held until the end of April however we do recommend that you book soon, particularly if you want a ground floor room.

The Bed and Breakfast rate we have negotiated is £45 per person per night plus £20 per night single supplement. It is best to phone reception to make the booking quoting "Exeter University Club Reunion". The booking will be held for you on the provision of a card number and contact details. Pay on arrival. For bookings made direct with the hotel, cancellation without charge is possible until 11am on the day before arrival.

A number of us will stay for three nights but you choose how long you want to stay.

Tuesday June 28th Visit to Rousham Gardens

Website www.rousham.org

Rousham is near the hotel so you could visit before or after you check into the hotel. The parkland was designed in the 18th century by William Kent. It still has many of its original features and is grazed by long horned cattle. The walled garden features herbaceous borders as well as a small formal parterre backed by a stone dovecot. This visit would be relaxed and informal and the gardens are open from 10am to 4-30pm. Read Trip advisor reviews from last summer to get a flavour of the place. You can picnic but there is no tearoom or shop. There are loos by the car park close to the garden entrance. Tickets are available at the Hotel and at Rousham. Have £6 cash.

Thursday June 29th Visit to Broughton Castle

Website broughtoncastle.com

Broughton Castle is 11 miles from the Holt Hotel and you should allow 30 minutes to travel there. The Castle is a moated and fortified manor house near Banbury. Set in parkland and built of the local Hornton Ironstone it was selected by Simon Jenkins as one of only twenty to be awarded five stars in his book *England's Thousand Best Houses*. We recommend this visit and we have arranged a private viewing of Broughton Castle (£9pp) starting at 11am with coffee on arrival (£2pp) including a guided tour of the Castle from 11-30am. The tour takes about 75 minutes, after which you are free to visit the garden. Please note that there are loos near the car park, but not in the Castle. Lunch is available at the Castle or in the local village.

We look forward to meeting you in late June

Best wishes

Ann Paddon and Derek Smith

Please turn to the last page (8) of this Newsletter for booking details.

Event Reports

Monday 16th January 2017 - Leisurely lunch at The Barn Owl



On a grey January day a cheerful, chatty group of more than a dozen EUC friends met for lunch at this popular pub on the outskirts of Exeter. This proved to be a happy way to welcome in the New Year and it was especially nice to see some of our members who have not come along for some time.

As chance would have it, some of our group also knew people lunching at the table next to us! We thought the menu was extensive and varied, the staff were most welcoming and helpful and we would consider visiting again sometime.

Louise Clunies-Ross

Exeter University Club visit to the Met Office on 11th February 2017



Ten members met at the Met Office on a cold, damp day with a few flakes of snow for a visit arranged by Peter Wingfield-Digby. We got the usual jokes about seaweed and crystal balls over early and were met by Martin Young, a senior forecaster, who then showed us what a large, scientific, complicated and international organisation the Met Office has become. The Office moved from Bracknell to the impressive modern building on A30 at Sowton in 2003. The changeover of operations took two very demanding days with both sites working in parallel to ensure continuity of output. Exeter is now the centre of operations with satellite offices in various parts of the UK and is responsible for all issued forecasts.

We were fortunate to be taken to the hub of the Office, the Central Forecasting Room, which is not usually shown to visiting groups. In the centre is the Central Forecast Guidance Unit, wherein sits the Chief Forecaster, which ensures consistency of output from all the individual forecasters and its interpretation by satellite offices. Forecasts are primarily produced by computer modelling using a model devised by the Office but taking account of results from the models of other foreign offices. These models interpret a vast volume of data received from ground observation stations, buoys at sea and satellites. However, the final result is modulated by a human forecaster, using his or her expert knowledge. The Met Office produces worldwide forecasts and is regarded, together with an office in Kansas, as one of the principal forecasting offices in the world. Around the Central Unit are specialist forecasting desks producing aviation, commercial, national and local forecasts. A recent speciality is flood forecasting in conjunction with the Environment Agency. Solar forecasting of flares is an important speciality.

We were allowed to peer through glass doors at one of the three supercomputers dispersed through the building. These enormous machines, which demand more electricity than the local suppliers can provide, have their own generated supply and are among the most powerful in the World. Their computing method is based on dividing the surface of the Earth into areas of 17 Km side and calculating the values of parameters such as pressure, temperature and wind velocity at various altitudes at the corners of these areas. A finer resolution is used for UK forecasts.

Finally, we were taken out to see the array of measuring instruments on trial for use by meteorologists worldwide. Some are little changed from the times when observations were made by humans, but most are more sophisticated and are designed to operate automatically.

This was an informative and enjoyable visit. Thanks are due to the Met Office for allowing us to visit and especially to Martin Young who guided us in his own time. *George Garner*



At the entrance with Peter, our organiser



Leading to the Met Office

Exeter University Club Annual Reunion Booking Details

June 27th, 28th & 29th 2017

Ann Paddon and Derek Smith

36 High View Road
Farnborough, Hants GU14 7PT
01252 543023
janpaddon@aol.com

1 The Dell, Otterbourne Road
Shawford, Winchester Hants
SO21 2DE 01962 713182
dgsmith104@btinternet.com

Please send us the following information: either by email (to both) or by post to Ann. Please send a SAE A5 size for the menu if you do not have email. Please print your details and ensure you keep a record of your bookings.

I/ we are coming to the Reunion. Name(s)

Tel.no.

Email address if relevant

I/we will attend the dinner on Wed evening No:_____

I/we are staying at the Holt Hotel for _____nights YES/NO

I/we intend to visit Rousham Gardens on Tuesday pm YES/NO

I/we will join the private visit to Broughton Castle on Thursday YES/NO



*Commemorating a very popular Exeter University Chancellor
Baroness Floella Benjamin*