



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

## **EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter**

**Number 31**

**June 2017**

**June to September 2017**

### **Events and Lunches:**

#### **Wednesday 21 June 2017: Visit to Totnes**

**Meet at the Elizabethan House Museum at 11.15 am.**

There is a small entry charge (£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.



#### **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. After lunch, members are free to explore the town on their own.

**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 carpark is full, head for the Heath Nursery carpark just off Heath Way. From there, please walk along South Street.

Parking will cost £3 for four hours, or £6 for all-day parking.

**Further Information:**

The hotel's website is: [www.royalsevenstars.co.uk/](http://www.royalsevenstars.co.uk/)

A Totnes map and town guide can be downloaded from [www.totnesinformation.co.uk/town-map.php](http://www.totnesinformation.co.uk/town-map.php)

Our local organiser is Robina Brand.

*Book with Peter Wingfield-Digby, (01392 424781 or [Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk)) by 14 June.*

**Monday 3 July 2017: Annual General Meeting and Members' Lunch**

**Meet at 11.00 am. This year the AGM will be held at The Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton Street, St Thomas, Exeter EX4 1DY. The meeting will be followed by lunch at 1.00 pm**



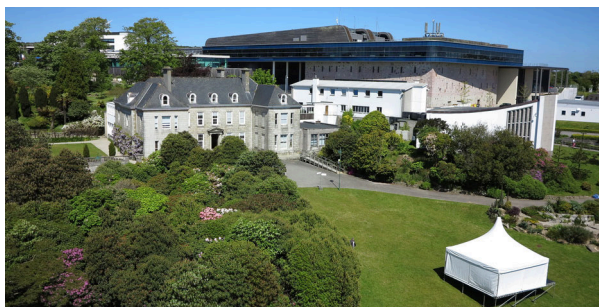
If you have suggestions for an interesting talk in next year's programme, or an outside visit or a good venue for a club lunch, please come to the AGM. If you are not able to come, please pass your suggestions to a member of the Committee. If you would like to take an active part in your Club by joining the Committee, please come and put yourself forward for election.

The agenda for the AGM is included at the end of this newsletter; **please bring your copy to the meeting.** Also included are the minutes of last year's AGM for your information.

**Directions:** The pub can be reached easily by means of public transport. Many buses stop close to St Thomas Station; from there it is a three-minute walk to the pub. For those coming by car, there is parking beside the pub. If the pub carpark is closed for any reason (perhaps because of the ongoing work on Exeter's flood defences), there is a public carpark just after the pub, where parking costs only 50p an hour.

*Please contact Peter Wingfield-Digby ([Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk) or 01392 424781) by 25 June 2017 to indicate whether you are able to come to the AGM.*

## Tuesday 25 July 2017: Visit to Penryn Campus



This is a special visit, which does not appear in our original programme. We have been invited by the University's Alumni Office to visit the Cornwall Campus at Penryn, which provides facilities for about 4,000 students. In particular, the campus is at the forefront of research into the solutions to problems of environmental change.

The campus is shared with the University of Falmouth. The detailed programme has not yet been finalised, but at this stage we need to get an idea of numbers, to help us in planning the visit. Several members have already indicated their interest in going.

### Travel

The plan (for those of us living near Exeter) is to depart Exeter St David's at 09.33, and arrive at Penryn Station at 12.34. The Alumni Office will arrange our transport from the station to the campus and back again, and we would have a university guide throughout our visit. The return journey from Penryn will be at 17.04, arriving back in Exeter at 19.48. The current cost of a return ticket is £13 return with a concession card, or £19.70 without a card. For those travelling to Penryn independently, we would ask you to arrive at the campus by 12.45. A light lunch will be provided soon after our arrival.

This trip will give us a wonderful opportunity to have a guided tour of our Penryn campus, and to meet some staff and students.

*If you would like to join this tour of the Penryn Campus on 25 July, please contact Peter Wingfield-Digby (01392 424781 or [Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk)) as soon as possible. On the day, Peter will have his mobile phone with him (07890 141189).*

## Wednesday 16 August 2017: Lunch at the Royal Oak, Exeter, following the Committee meeting

The newly elected Committee of the Exeter Branch will meet at The Royal Oak at 11.00 am to agree an outline programme for 2018.

This will be followed by lunch at 1.00 pm, to which all members are welcome.

*Please contact Peter Wingfield-Digby ([Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk) or 01392 424781) by 9 August with your ideas for events and to book for lunch.*

## Wednesday 22 August 2017: Quicke's traditional Cheese Tour



<https://www.quickes.co.uk>

*“At Quicke's, we understand that great cheesemaking is an art. We have been nurturing the family's land at Home Farm for 14 generations, crafting the very finest flavours we can from this idyllic corner of Devon. We carefully manage these ancient pastures, feeding our specially-bred cows on lush grass year-round so that they give us the very best milk, its subtle shifts in flavour a true expression of the landscape from which it came.*

*“Every morning we collect this milk and use time-honoured methods, passed down through the generations, to create our magnificent cheddar. Each truckle is handmade, cloth-bound and slow-matured to perfection in the cool quiet of our ripening rooms.*

*“We're passionate about what we do, and proud of every award-winning cheese we make. “Whilst our Buttery Cheddar reaches perfection in as little as three months, we're happy to let Quicke's Vintage develop for a full two years, making it the country's longest-matured clothbound cheddar. After all, you can't rush greatness.”*



9.30: Meet and greet in Quicke's Farm Kitchen

9.30-10: Tea and coffee in the safari tented farm Kitchen with an introduction to the farm, its long history and how it is run today.

10.00-12noon. Tour of farm and cheese dairy, including the dark cool of the millennium store, main cheese store and the milking parlor. A chance to say hello to some of the cows and their young calves

12.00-12.15: Cheese tasting in Quicke's Farm shop – always a highlight, and you can collect your free Quicke's goodie bag.

Cost is £15 per person.

Meet at Home Farm, Newton St Cyres EX5 5AY at 9.30 am prompt.

Parking is available. The No 5 Exeter-Crediton bus stops right outside the farm.

Contact: Susie Hewitt ([Vicechairman@eucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:Vicechairman@eucexeterbranch.org.uk) or 01392 273895) by 10 August to book your place.



## 1-5 September 2017: Visit to Exeter by a group of alumni

A group of about 25 Exeter University alumni are organising their annual visit to Exeter, and have invited any of our members to join them if they wish. The highlight of their stay is likely to be the visit to Greenway (and probably Coleton Fishacre as well) on Saturday 2 September. The cost of travel by coach is likely to be around £20.

*Anyone interested in joining them for this day out or any of their other activities, please contact Sheila Morgan (02476 411716 or [johnandsheila@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnandsheila@hotmail.co.uk)) as soon as possible.*

## Thursday, 14 September 2017

### Talk - '50 years on: the Streatham campus then and now'

This talk will be in the nature of an exercise in group-recollection. Peter Wingfield-Digby has a number of photos of the Streatham campus taken in 1967, and he will compare them with photos taken recently. He will lead the discussion, but hopes that others will share their memories and (if possible) photos, to highlight the changes that have taken place on the campus over a period of about 50 years – a period of time that has seen a dramatic 10-fold increase in student numbers.

We meet for lunch from 12.15 at The Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton Street, Exeter EX4 1DY, and the talk begins at 2 pm.

*To book, please contact Peter Wingfield-Digby ([Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk) or 01392 424781) by 5 September 2017. Also, if you have some interesting photos to show, please tell Peter.*



## Wednesday 27 September 2017: Lunch at the Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth

Sidmouth rose to prominence when coastal bathing became popular in the Regency and Victorian periods. The Victoria Hotel was opened in 1903, and was the very first purpose-built hotel in Sidmouth.



We shall meet in the Victoria Bar from 12 noon. Lunch will be in the White Room at 12.30 pm. This is a new restaurant with crisp contemporary décor. There is a special lunchtime rate: £17 for two courses or £22 for three courses, which includes coffee and mints.

There is an excellent half-hourly bus service (No. 9) from Exeter to Sidmouth via Newton Poppleford. For those driving, the entrance to the hotel is in Peak Hill Road. Extensive parking is available in the hotel grounds.

*Please book with Peter Wingfield-Digby ([secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk) or 01392 424781) by 20 September.*

## Reports:

### Talk by Mark Baker, Canal Manager of the Grand Western Canal Country Park and Nature Reserve on Wednesday 22nd February 2017

Mark told us a little about the canal's history. It was originally part of a plan to join the Bristol Channel at Bridgwater to the English Channel at Topsham, thereby avoiding the long and perilous journey around the Cornish peninsula, and enabling the passage of goods, including coal from South Wales, into the heart of Somerset and Devon. This grand scheme was never fully completed, and parts of the canal that were built have fallen into disrepair or are derelict.

The section linking Tiverton with the limestone quarries at Westleigh was actually the first to be built, in 1814, even though it was mostly a branch from the original planned route. The intention was that the limestone trade would provide an immediate profit, financing the rest of the scheme. Waterlily harvesting took place in the first half of the twentieth century, and Mark showed a number of interesting photos of the canal in its earlier times.



Stone being loaded onto barges at Whipcott Wharf.

The canal became a country park in 1968, and is now owned and managed by Devon County Council. The towpath was resurfaced in 2003. A team of rangers look after the park, tending to its rich and vibrant variety of flora and fauna, and ensuring that its many users can pursue their activities – kayaking and boating, cycling and walking, fishing and nature-watching, the horse-drawn barge – safely and without conflict.

There is much physical maintenance to be done, from weed cutting to keeping culverts clear of sediment. A particular problem in recent years has been water-soldier, which is sold as an ornamental plant for ponds but has become an invasive weed; the canal has a new boat specially suited to deal with this.



The dramatic event of recent years came on 21 November 2012, following torrential rain, when the canal overflowed and the bank collapsed near Halberton, flooding the nearby fields. The rangers, along with emergency services, moved swiftly to block off that section of the canal, and a subsequent operation rescued many of the thousands of fish that had spilled over into the fields. The Council decided on a complete repair, which was completed by March 2014, in time for the canal's bicentenary. Mark showed spectacular pictures of the breach, and of the celebratory reopening.

Recent years have seen around 308,000 visitors per annum. Reflecting the canal's increasing popularity and profile, in 2013 local Olympic athlete Jo Pavey opened a new Canal Visitor Centre at the Tiverton basin.

Mark clarified how the canal is financed. Revenue costs are some £172K per year, of which 72K come from Devon County Council and 45K from mid-Devon District Council. The rest is covered by income from diverse sources including parking, fishing and boat permits. Capital costs are mostly covered by DCC with occasional other funding when available. Mid-Devon funding is not assured, and at one stage the council officers were inclined to cut funding; councillors, however, remain strongly supportive of the canal.

We were each given a Visitor Guide to the canal, jointly published by DCC and Mid Devon DC, covering wildlife, ways of exploring, fishing, Code of Conduct and maps of the area. I recommend collecting a copy from Tourist Information!

*Hilary Noakes*

## **Talk by Paul Rendell, on The Industrial Archaeology of Dartmoor: 22 March 2017 at The Royal Oak, Exeter**

Paul's illustrated talk could well have been entitled 'Dartmoor's industrial secrets' as we were treated to a whistle-stop tour of the many activities on the moor that have taken place since man first set foot in the region.

Much of the original stunted oak woodland was used for fuel. In the Bronze Age, settlers who found cassiterite ore in Dartmoor streams used wood to heat the crushed stone in order to extract the liquid tin. From the 1600s a thriving tin industry grew up on Dartmoor with the aid of waterpower, and trade centred on the stannary towns of Chagford, Tavistock, Ashburton and Plympton, which grew wealthy on the proceeds of tin that was assayed, taxed and traded in these four towns. Ore was extracted from seams that were traced far underground, along shafts and tunnels all worked by hand; miners led a hard life and few reached the age of 50. Much of the tin was used to make pewter, which was widely used for mugs, cups and plates throughout Europe at this time. Once the good quality seams were exhausted mines became uneconomic and by the 1800s many were abandoned, leaving relics of stone buildings that can still be seen today – as well as some hazardous mineshafts!

Over the centuries other industries have included peat cutting (no longer are there any commoners' rights for this activity), mining for railway ballast at Meldon until 2008, a glassworks producing green bottle glass in the 1920s, granite quarrying for pavement and building stone and in localised pockets lime kilns were built to produce lime mortar and most importantly lime for use in farming to improve the soil.

Relics of these activities can be seen on the moor with old quarry sites, the granite tramway at Stover and the rails near Haytor.



*Granite Quarry at Haytor*

There was once a paper mill at Ivybridge that produced the paper for all the UK's postage stamps and banknotes. Gunpowder for use in the old tin mines was made at a site on the moor between Two Bridges and Postbridge that still bears the name 'Powder Mills'. Another intriguing feature consists of the gentle mounds that can be seen in various parts of the



moor – these are artificial rabbit warrens, built up to create dry sites suitable for rabbits to burrow into and breed as rabbits were a major food source for the mining communities on the moor for many years.

From the 1850s, china clay was first extracted from south Dartmoor, leaving huge spoil heaps across the landscape and today a tungsten mine has just opened on an old site but using modern mining technology to extract this valuable mineral. Also today, while tourism brings people to the area, small-scale hydro-power sites make use of the region's natural resources at Mary Tavy and Morwellham.

Next time you are on the moor, keep your eyes open for some of the many signs of its intriguing past – there are many to see!

*Louise Clunies-Ross*

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

When a group of fifteen members gathered at the Royal Oak to hear a talk on Storybook Dads, it was probable that at least thirteen of us had very little idea of what Storybook Dads was about. We soon discovered that it was a charity that aimed to keep families together by enabling men in prison to maintain loving contact with their children by recording bedtime stories, which are edited and enhanced with sound effects before being put onto a CD or DVD and sent to their children.



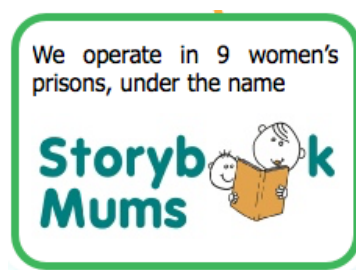
The background to this work comes from a number of frightening statistics:

- Over 200,000 children each year suffer the trauma of parental imprisonment, leading to feelings of isolation, abandonment and shame;
- 50% of prisoners lose contact with their families. Prisoners who keep in contact are up to six times less likely to reoffend;
- While only 2% of the general population has been in care, over 25% of prisoners have spent time in care as children.

So what could be done to help to change the situation? Storybook Dads began in HMP Dartmoor in 2002 with the idea that contact could be maintained between dad and child by enabling the child to listen to their dad's voice telling them a story at bed time. Prisoners can also create read-along DVDs, personalized memory books, comics and challenge charts for older children. Storybook Dads is a very simple idea that has been shown to be a lifeline, helping to heal rifts and maintain, or build vital relationships between prisoner and child. A quote from a child puts it well "I miss my dad so much. When I feel lonely, I listen to my CD and hearing his voice makes me feel better". Another quote, from a prisoner, "It

helps my daughter with her reading and confidence (and mine!). I feel like I'm becoming the dad I always wanted to be. This is the best I've ever felt".

The idea behind Storybook Dads has been shown to be working in practice. The charity is now based at HMP Channings Wood and provides a base for editing and producing discs of stories from about 90 UK prisons. About 20 prisoners are employed at Channings Wood to work on audio, video and photo editing software to produce the bedtime stories. As prisoner editors leave upon their release, others are trained in their place – so far about 500 prisoners have been trained, leading to increased job opportunities outside prison. The charity has received a National Lottery grant to enable them to extend the age range of the children being helped and to enable other activities, such as craft, story writing, memory books and calendars to be introduced. Storybook Mums now exists in many women's prisons. Similar schemes have been introduced in many other countries, including Australia, Japan and Poland. The scheme is now being adapted so that RAF, Army and Royal Navy personnel deployed abroad can record bedtime stories for their children.



At the end of an excellent talk and presentation, we all agreed that it is astonishing how a simple idea can blossom into a countrywide, even worldwide, force for good among a group of people who can all use a second chance to live a better life within their family and the wider society.

More information can be found by visiting the Storybook Dads website:

[www.storybookdads.org.uk](http://www.storybookdads.org.uk)

*Clive Lee*

## **Newsletter Editor**

Our talented Newsletter Editor, Ian Thomson, will soon be leaving Devon. Ian and Elisabeth will be moving to Lubeck in Germany. Ian has also been running our new website ([eucexeterbranch.org.uk](http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk)). He has kindly offered to continue carrying out these two duties for the time being, to give our Committee time to make alternative arrangements.

We wish them both well in their new home, and thank them for their substantial contributions to the Club over many years.

*Peter Wingfield-Digby*  
*Secretary*

## Obituary Notices

### **Bato Tomasevic, 1929 – 2017**

Nebojsa 'Bato' Tomasevic was born in Montenegro, the seventh of eight children. By the time he was 30 he had been a member of Tito's Partisans during WW2 (aged only 13!), had survived the Munich air disaster in 1958, which killed several Manchester United players (the famous "Busby's Babes"), and had married his English wife Madge, whom he had met while studying English at Exeter University on a special post-war bursary. Enough for a lifetime, one might reasonably think. Marrying a foreign wife ended his short career in the Yugoslav diplomatic service.

Having studied journalism at Belgrade University, he founded the first all- Yugoslavia television station, but when this failed turned his talents to publishing. Bato founded the Motovun Group of international publishing houses, specialising in cultural and "glossy" art books, a highly successful venture. He had a particular interest in naïve art and also in the lives of gypsy communities. During the terrible Milosevic years Bato was prosecuted on trumped up charges and had to flee the country with Madge in 1991. They returned to England and in 1997 he was diagnosed with stomach cancer and given only a few months to live – another example of him being a natural survivor! His final years were spent in Exeter.

In 2008 he was persuaded to write his autobiography "Life and Death in the Balkans", published in twelve languages, an amazing story of an amazing life. Bato was a thoroughly engaging personality and seemed particularly to enjoy the EUC pub and Christmas lunches. Peter and Gwyneth represented EUC at his funeral on April 24<sup>th</sup>. We hope very much to see Madge again at our meetings in a little while.

*Gwyneth Garner*

### **Jane Dimsey**

It is with sadness that we report the death of Jane Dimsey on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 following a lengthy stay in hospital after heart surgery last autumn. Before moving to Tetbury in 2016 Jane and Tony were active and hospitable Exeter Branch members who ran outings and events and for many years hosted the Christmas social at their home. Jane was a talented artist and a gifted gardener and after retiring from teaching they both enjoyed a lot of holiday travel, especially cruising. Tony has the support of their three children and their families, as well as their many friends.

*Louise Clunies-Ross  
14 May 2017*

## EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB – EXETER BRANCH

Minutes of the 85th Annual General Meeting of the Exeter Branch of Exeter University Club, held on Tuesday 5 July 2016 at the Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton

1. The Chairman, Gwyneth Garner, opened the meeting at 11.05 am and welcomed those members present. An attendance list was passed round for signing. Gwyneth reported that it had been a successful year for the Club. She noted the sad news that Mike Aspray had decided to stand down after nine years as Secretary of the Club. On behalf of the Club, she presented him with some bottles of red wine as well as a photograph album illustrating his involvement with the Club during his period as Secretary.
2. **Attendance.** The following 17 members were present at the AGM: Mike Aspray & Louise Clunies-Ross, Eleanor Attfield, Gwyneth & George Garner, Gerald & Barbara Halls, Susie Hewitt, Clive & Pamela Lee, Jesslyn Lott, Hilarie Stevenson, Ian & Elisabeth Thomson, Cliff Wadey, Dorothy Wagland, and Peter Wingfield-Digby.

**Apologies** were received from the following 25 members: Robina Brand, Edward & Frances Canning, Tony & Jane Dimsey, Melody Dougan, Keith & Janet Feltham, Renate Helmsley,

Derek & Rachel Jackson, Edward & Elisabeth Neather, Frances Newcombe, Peter Nichol & Hilary Noakes, Mary Rogers, Rob & Margaret Simons, John Slater, Bato & Madge Tomasevic, Val Wadey, and Alan & Ann Weeks.

3. The draft Minutes of the previous year's AGM (held on 7 July 2015 at the City Gate Hotel) had already been accepted as a true record by the Committee at its meeting on 11 August 2015 and had been signed by the Chairman. The approved minutes appeared in the Branch Newsletter issue number 27. The meeting confirmed its approval of the Minutes, and there were no matters arising.
4. The Secretary's report was read to the meeting, describing the Club's activities during the year. Mike noted that the numbers attending this year's AGM had remained unchanged at 17 despite the switch of venue. Sadly, the year had seen the deaths of four members (Marguerite Attfield, Francis Unthank, Pamela Richardson, and Mary Sargent – the latter death occurring only a few days short of her 105<sup>th</sup> birthday). Four other members have moved away from this area for family reasons, and five others had resigned. These losses in membership have been counterbalanced by the arrival of new members.
5. Clive Lee presented the accounts for the financial year on behalf of Pamela, the Treasurer. Rob Simons had acted as Examiner for the accounts, and was thanked. Clive noted that no expense was incurred for room hire, since the City Gate provides the room free of charge. Speakers' fees last year amounted to only £30, since only one speaker had asked for a direct fee. Several speakers accepted a payment to a charity of their choice, and these amounts were shown in a footnote. The accounts appeared to indicate that much more was spent on the printing and distribution of the newsletter than



was received in income from those who asked for hard copies of the newsletter. This disparity was somewhat misleading, since these accounts were based on the printing costs for five newsletters, not four (one being carried over from the previous year), and the distribution costs cover two financial years. The receipts and expenses for the Christmas lunch were broadly in balance, with a small profit being made. Overall, there was a healthy surplus of £270 this year on the Club's accounts. Ian proposed, seconded by Susie, that there should be no increase in subscriptions or attendance fees, and this was unanimously accepted.

6. Louise Clunies-Ross, in her role as Branch Representative, gave a short report on Exeter University Club activities. She referred to the EUC website as a source of information, and to the annual Club outing to Lacock in Wiltshire.

7. Election of Branch Officers and Committee Members 2016/17.

**Chairman:** the retiring Vice-Chairman, Clive Lee, indicated his willingness to serve as Chairman. He was elected unopposed on the proposal of Gwyneth seconded by Gerald. Clive was presented with the Badge of Office by Gwyneth and took the Chair. On behalf of the Club, he expressed his appreciation and thanks to Gwyneth for her year as Chairman.

**Vice-Chairman:** Susie Hewitt, having indicated her willingness to take up this position, was proposed by Clive and seconded by Louise, and agreed to *nem con*.

**Secretary:** Peter Wingfield-Digby had indicated his willingness to take up the position of Secretary. His election was proposed by Clive and seconded by Ian and agreed *nem con*.

**Treasurer:** Pamela Lee indicated her willingness to continue in post and was duly re-elected, on the proposal of Clive, seconded by Dorothy.

**Committee members:**

- As immediate-past Chairman, Gwyneth Garner was willing to serve on the Committee for one year, and was duly appointed.

- Elisabeth Thomson indicated her willingness to serve on the Committee and was duly elected for a period of three years, on the proposal of Gwyneth, seconded by Pamela.

- George Garner indicated his willingness to serve on the Committee, and was duly elected for a period of two years, on the proposal of Ian, seconded by Clive.

- The position of Committee member for one year was left open, since it was unclear whether George Tout was available and willing to serve out his remaining one-year term.

- Ian Thomson, the Editor of the Branch Newsletter, was thanked for his valuable contribution to the Club. In addition to his work on the Newsletter, he also keeps the Branch page on the EUC website up-to-date, and liaises regularly with the Alumni office. He agreed to continue as Editor, and as such will be an *ex officio* member of the Committee.

8. Louise Clunies-Ross agreed to serve as Exeter Branch representative to the Finance Group of the former EUC for 2016/17. On the proposal of Hilarie, seconded by Cliff, Louise was co-opted onto the Branch Committee for a period of one year.

9. Rob Simons has agreed to continue as Examiner for 2016/17, and was duly re-appointed, on the proposal of Ian, seconded by George. Because of the changeover of Treasurer in mid-year, there was considerable delay this year in finalising the accounts. The Examiner has recommended that in future a monthly summary of the accounts should be prepared, which would speed up the preparation of the final accounts. Elisabeth noted that, rather than wait to receive the final bank statement for the year, the Treasurer should go to the bank and ask for a printed Treasurer's statement. Pamela reminded members that the word 'Convocation' has now been dropped from the name of our bank account; the account now has the name 'Exeter University Club – Exeter Branch'.

10. It was noted that the newly elected Committee is due to meet on Tuesday 9 August 2016 at 11.00 am in the Garden Suite at the City Gate Hotel. Following the meeting, and no later than 1 pm, lunch will be taken, and all Branch members are welcome to attend.

11. The programme for the remainder of 2016 was briefly reviewed. The visit to Westbank Community and Care Centre in Exminster is confirmed for Tuesday 6 September. The date and location of the Exeter lunch in September has yet to be fixed. Talks are scheduled at the City Gate Hotel for Tuesday 18 October and Thursday 10 November. The Christmas lunch was provisionally fixed for Thursday 8 December. Some members expressed dissatisfaction with the quality of food provided at Reed Hall. Various alternative venues were suggested. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Club should aim to hold the Christmas Lunch at the Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton.

12. Gwyneth Garner reported on the results of the survey of members that she had conducted earlier in the year. Replies were received from 35 members. All the activities that she had listed in the questionnaire were liked, but 'lunch and talk' was particularly popular. There was no great demand for morning or evening meetings. Among the suggestions for new activities were a film or theatre visit, and a discussion event. Thursday was the most popular day for meetings, but several people pointed out the need to vary the days of the week when meetings were held. Most people liked the City Gate Hotel as a venue, but some members wanted meetings to be held at a pub outside the city. Members enjoyed receiving the quarterly Newsletter. In discussion, other possible activities were mentioned: chamber music at the RAMM and the live screening of opera, ballet and plays at local picture houses, and a visit to the Northcott Theatre.

13. Programme for 2017. Several suggestions were made of possible items for the 2017 programme:

**Talks:** 'Exeter 10,000', Exeter Clinical Research Facility, which aims to improve the diagnosis and treatment of common conditions such as diabetes and heart disease; Derek Gore (Honorary University of Exeter Fellow) – talk on Alfred the Great; Jan Stewar (A.J.Coles) on Devon dialects.

**Trips:** Totnes, with lunch at the Royal Seven Stars, and a guided visit to the Museum and Guildhall; Lunch at Tally Ho, Littlehempston's Community Pub near Totnes, followed by a talk four miles away at 'Animals in Distress', Ipplepen, near Newton Abbot; Visit to the Met Office, Exeter – this would be for a small group, around mid-day on a Saturday; Tour of the Cornwall campus, University of Exeter; Visit to Quicke's Cheese, Newton St Cyres; Coldharbour Mill Museum, Uffculme. Could combine with lunch at the Halfway House, Willand.

**Lunches:** Upmarket lunch at Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth.

14. Alternative venues: There was support for the Ruffwell Inn, Thorverton, as an alternative venue to the City Gate Hotel. The Ruffwell's meeting room comes free of charge, it is on the ground floor with easy accessibility, and the acoustics are good.

15. One way of attracting people to our meetings is to have a good website. Ian highlighted some of the difficulties in trying to find one's way around the present website. He mentioned the experience of Dawlish U3A, which has set up its own website with the help of a professional web designer. The initial set-up charge was £200, and the annual maintenance fee is £50. Club members expressed interest in this arrangement, and Ian was asked to follow up on it.

16. Any Other Business. Mike mentioned that a group of Exeter Alumni will be making their annual visit to Exeter at the end of August; in due course Ian will circulate details of their visit, in case any Club members would like to join any of their activities. The issue of transportation for Club trips was raised; members should be encouraged to offer lifts to those who do not have their own transport.

17. The meeting was closed at 12.55, and was followed by a carvery lunch.

Chairman.....

Date.....

## **EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB (EXETER BRANCH)**

### **2017 Annual General Meeting**

**The Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton Street, St Thomas, Exeter EX4 1DY  
11.00 am, Monday 3 July 2017 (followed by lunch at 1.00 pm)**

#### **Agenda**

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence, and news of members
3. Minutes of the 2016 AGM (held on 5 July 2016)  
– to confirm approval already given by the Committee at its 9 August 2016 meeting
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Report of the Exeter Branch representative to Finance Group of the former Exeter University Club (EUC)
7. Election of Branch Officers and Committee Members for 2017/18
  - a. Chairman
  - b. Vice-Chairman
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Treasurer
  - e. Committee members (one for 3 years, and one for 2 years)
  - f. Co-option of additional members if necessary  
(Note: under the Branch Constitution, the Newsletter Editor is *ex officio* member)
8. Election of a representative to the Finance Group of the former EUC if needed, and agreement to co-opt onto the Branch Committee if needed.
9. Appointment of an Examiner of the Accounts for 2017/18
10. Date, time and venue for a meeting of the new Committee  
(Wednesday 16 August 2017 at 11 am at The Royal Oak is suggested)
11. Programme for the rest of 2017, including date and venue for Christmas lunch.
12. Suggestions for the 2017 programme
13. Other matters, by leave of the Chairman
14. Closure of meeting

Peter Wingfield-Digby  
Branch Secretary  
14 May 2017