

To offer friendship through social and educational activities

EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter

Number 23

June 2015

July - September 2015

Future Events

Tuesday 7 July 2015: EUC Exeter Branch Annual General Meeting at City Gate Hotel.

Exeter University Club: Exeter Branch

Annual General Meeting: Tuesday 7th July 2015 at 11.00 am at the City Gate Hotel, Exeter.

Please try to attend this important meeting.

It is vital that as many members of the Branch as possible come to this meeting. It is the only time in the year that we all meet to determine policy issues affecting our Club. It also provides for us all an important opportunity for input into the planning of next year's programme of activities.

We shall meet at the City Gate Hotel, Exeter to begin the AGM at 11.00 am and after the meeting, at no later than 1.00 pm, we shall have lunch for those who are able to stay.

The agenda for the AGM is included with this newsletter (number 23): **please bring your copy to the meeting.** Also included in this newsletter are the minutes of last year's AGM for your information.

If you have suggestions for next year's programme please come to the AGM. If you have concerns about the Club, its activities or where we meet, come and make your thoughts known. If you would like to take an active part in your Club by joining the Committee please come and put yourself forward for election. And if you wish to raise any matters arising from the 2014 AGM this is the opportunity to discuss them. Please join us on 7th July at the City Gate Hotel.

We need to have numbers for the meeting and for lunch. Please let me know if you are attending and if you wish to have lunch after the meeting no later than by 1st July.

Many thanks. Mike Aspray, Branch Secretary, Tel: 01884 242606

mikeaspray@btinternet.com

Please remember, for those of you that do not have standing orders, your subscriptions of £2.50p per member are now due! If you are paying per cheque, these should be made payable to EUC Exeter Branch and submitted to the Treasurer, Elisabeth Thomson (01626 867363).

Tuesday 11 August 2015: Lunch at City Gate Hotel.

The lunch follows a Committee meeting beginning at 11am (held in the Cellar Bar) at which the 2016 programme will be discussed in outline.

Members meet from 12 noon onwards for lunch at no later than 1.00 pm.

Contact: Mike Aspray with ideas for events and to book for lunch (01884 242606)

Wednesday 9 September 2015:

Visit to the Bill Douglas Centre (Cinema Museum) at the Old Library, Exeter University.

The Bill Douglas Cinema Museum is home to one of the largest collections of material relating to the moving image in Britain. We are both an accredited public museum and an academic research facility and we hold a collection of over 75,000 items. Over 1,000 of our items are on display in our Galleries and are available to be viewed by the public 7 days a week.



Bill Douglas (1934-1991) was one of the British cinema's most innovative auteurs. As well as making films, he and his friend Peter Jewell assembled a remarkable collection of over 50,000 items. This was gifted to the University to found the museum and forms the heart of our collection."

The visit will commence at 2 pm, and last one hour. Numbers are limited to 25 persons.

Meet beforehand at Reed Hall from 12 noon for lunch at 12.30.

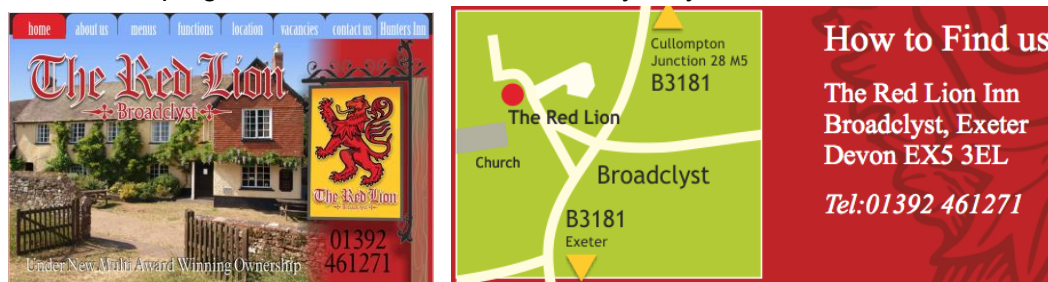
Contact: Ian Thomson by 30 August to book (01626 867363)

Tuesday 22 September: Lunch at the Red Lion, Broadclyst.

Gwyneth writes:

It is a very nice pub next to the church with a large car park.

The 1, 1a and 1b bus stop right outside so it should suit everybody.



Contact: Gwyneth Garner by 15 September to book for lunch (01392 881330)

Reports

Visit to the Exeter Cathedral Library and Archives, 11th March 2015

The Library and Archives are housed in the west wing of the Bishop's Palace. The Library contains medieval manuscripts, early printed books, and modern published texts on a wide range of topics, including local history, theology, medicine and science. The Archives contain unique original records documenting the history of the Cathedral and its Dean and Chapter. The facilities have recently been upgraded, and there is now an excellent Interpretation Gallery, which includes text panels and a timeline to put the Cathedral's history in context and to introduce some of the highlights in the collections.

Splitting into two smaller groups, we were introduced to the Library collection by the Librarian, Peter Thomas, and to the Archives by the Archivist, Ellie Jones. Arrangements for our visit were coordinated by the Canon Librarian, Ann Barwood, who had arranged for us to see the two most prized possessions, the Exeter Book and the Exon Domesday. The first is a tenth century anthology of Anglo-Saxon poetry. The second is the original detailed land and tax register for the West Country, which was used in the compilation of the national Domesday survey of 1086; it is the only regional Domesday survey document to have survived.



As part of a special research project being led by King's College, London, the Exon Domesday has been disbound and digitised. It is also being translated from its original Latin, so that it can be made available to schools, historians and researchers around the world.

There were so many interesting items on display that it is difficult to single out specific items for mention, but one cannot fail but be impressed that the Cathedral still has its original Foundation Charter, granted in 1050 when Leofric was installed as the first Bishop of Exeter. Perhaps for me the most wonderful item was the copy of the 14th century engraving of the Virgin and Child that features on the gold ring found in Bishop Grandisson's chapel in 1956.

Peter Wingfield-Digby

Paddon Award, March 18th 2015

This year's Paddon Award was held under the banner of the Arts and Culture programme, which holds public arts events at the University of Exeter.

The success of the Paddon Award can be measured in the sixty entries that were competing for the prize. The twenty finalists met at the Roborough Studios, just off the Prince of Wales Road on the Streatham estate.

John and Ann Paddon continued their tradition of attending what proved to be a very interesting and entertaining evening.

The competition began with the contestants presenting their individual pieces that had been previously displayed around the studio. All that I spoke to in the audience were at quite a loss of how to pick a likely

winner because the standard displayed was indeed very high. The entries ranged from paintings and photographic montages to poems and films all dealing with the topic of *Transformations*.



The winner Pui "Christi" Ku. In the picture on the right in the front row, the four prize winners, and at the rear from the left, John Paddon and the Judges

The Judges, Thomas Trevor (Honorary Graduate and former Director of the Arnolfini), Jackie Oates (Folk Singer) and Matt Bate, a member of the Students Guild, were faced with the difficult task of deciding on the merits of the quite different art forms that composed the numerous entries.

Due to the stiff competition and there were actually four winners as an additional joint third prize was awarded. John Paddon had very generously donated this during the course of the evening. After around 30 minutes of deliberation the judges announced the results: Bethany Ashley and Clifford Rodney tied for the third prize, The second place was taken by Jordon Edington and Piu "Christy" Ku was the worthy winner with her Poem "It all Passes".

Thursday March 19th 2015

Lunch at the Kings Arms, Tedburn St Mary

On a pleasant, sunny Thursday in March, fifteen Exeter University Club members made their way to the King's Arms at Tedburn St Mary.

This is a thatched inn dating back to the early 1600s. It was very easy to find, just off the A30 West, close to the start of the M5. Parking was stress free in the large, adjacent car park.

The owner and host made us welcome in a friendly, jocular fashion. A long table had been prepared beside the windows and double glass doors, which he advised us to open if it got too warm. The bar supplied a good range of wines, beers etc. including Dartmoor's Jail Ale, and a carvery offered beautifully cooked meats with a wide range of accompaniments for only £6.50.



Many of us took advantage of that, whilst others found a good selection of dishes to choose from off the separate menu. All the food was well prepared and tasty.

We dined almost privately around the corner from the main bar and enjoyed the cosy atmosphere of the old inn, together with unfussy, efficient service. Everyone relaxed and conversation flowed so well that Ian had difficulty getting us all to listen as he announced the next EUC talk in April! A good lunch venue indeed.

Rosy Larkin

Lunch at the Rock Inn, Haytor Vale – again!

The Exeter Branch returned to the Rock Inn for lunch on Tuesday 28 April 2015. This is one of our favourite meeting places for lunch, and with good reason. There is something special about going to the Rock Inn. Its location on the edge of Dartmoor is idyllic, and the inn has great character. And as it describes itself on its name card, it is 'steadfastly traditional'.



Fifteen of us sat down to lunch. A special feature of Rock Inn lunches is the layout of the dining room we use, with all of us sitting around a large square table. This makes for animated conversation.

We were delighted to welcome one of our older members, Pamela Richardson, who had the shortest distance to travel - she lives in Haytor – and also Louise Clunies-Ross who was celebrating her birthday that day.

A happy time was had by all-

Peter Wingfield-Digby

20th May 2015

Visit to Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth (BRNC).

Of the 21 people attending the tour of BRNC, as many as 16 met up beforehand at the Floating Bridge Inn for lunch. An advantage of arriving early for lunch was that many of us were able to get free parking quite easily down beside the river. This pub is situated right beside the Higher Ferry, which goes across to Kingswear, and it is only a very short drive from the entrance to BRNC. Cod and chips is a speciality of the pub, and many of us had that. A special benefit is that it comes in one of three sizes (with prices to match): small, medium and large. Twenty-one fortunate members enjoyed an entertaining and informative two and a half hour tour of the British navy's officer training establishment. The tour began at 5 bells (2.30pm to those not used to naval traditions) whilst a gun crew exercise was taking place on the parade ground. Right from the very start then, we were to be surrounded by naval traditions, which were explained to us by our guide with a discipline and technique which exemplify the navy's high standards.

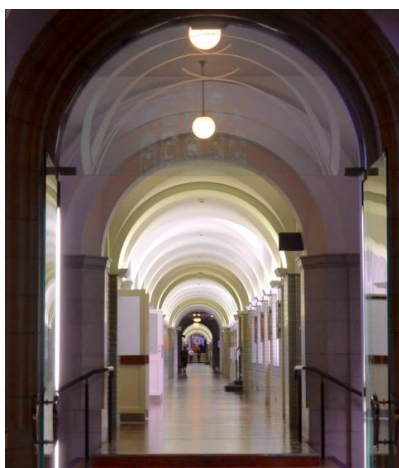


The original training began in 1863 on the river Dart where the hulks of the Britannia and the Hindustan were moored. Eventually the training was to be moved to land purchased from the estate of Sir Walter Raleigh, which overlooked the river.



The present buildings were designed by Sir George Aston Webb in the style of the original Britannia, his other commissions include Admiralty Arch. To give an idea of dimensions the frontage is 148.9 metres from the Captains House to the Officers' Mess. The foundation stone was laid by Edward VII (the time capsule placed underneath is now on display in the college's museum) and the first cadets entered in 1905. Local products were used in the construction of the building including Portland stone, Cornish slate and granite and Bath stone for some of the interior work. The college was bombed during the Second World War with the quarterdeck receiving some damage but only one casualty as the students were told to return a week later than normal and were absent when the bombing occurred. Since then, whilst structurally it has remained unchanged, its intake and courses have expanded, and it now includes female officers not only from Britain and the Commonwealth but other overseas countries. The average age is 23/4 and the course lasts 30 weeks before the passing out parade. A number of members of the Royal Family have passed through the college, which is where the Queen first met the Duke of Edinburgh in the garden of the Captain's house. Once inside we visited the magnificent ecumenical chapel with its 40,000 hand finished Bracknell bricks and which is so designed that at 3.30 on the 21st Of October (the date and time of Nelson's death at Trafalgar) a beam of sunlight shines through a window so that a shadow of a cross is seen at the right hand of Jesus on a carving behind the altar.

Amongst other things we also saw in the museum, a marvellous picture of the battle of Trafalgar by Wyllie, a samurai sword presented to Lord Mountbatten after the surrender of the Japanese, 2 Victoria crosses of local sailors that are held by the college.



We walked along the longest corridor in Europe, saw the flag room where the banners once up are left to hang until decayed plus numerous other historical and naval memorabilia. We finished with tea in the magnificent mess hall. Needless to say this report only contains a few examples of all that we heard and saw in what was a most memorable tour given by as entertaining and knowledgeable a guide as we could have wished.

Rob Simons

EUC Wessex Branch and Fleet Matinee Club Holiday - 4th to 11th June 2015

Classical Italy and the Amalfi Coast

(Capri, the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, Naples and the archaeological Museum, Herculaneum and Villa Poppaea just to mention a few)

Simply because a comprehensive report on the holiday (led by Paul Brink and Derek Smith) would take up a whole Newsletter, this has been reduced to a short text and a few snapshot impressions. We flew from Gatwick to Naples and stayed at a very pleasant hotel on a hillside above Sorrento. The weather was very warm with the occasional afternoon thunderstorm (including at the crater of Mount Vesuvius!). With two excellent local guides and great Italian food what more could we have wished for?

Ian Thomson

