



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter

Number 26

March 2016

April to June 2016

Events and Lunches:

APRIL:

Tuesday 12 April 2016: Lunch at Exeter College

Once again we make a return visit to the excellent students' training restaurant, which is under the direction of the Exeter Chef Michael Caine (known for his gourmet dining establishment in the Cathedral Close, Exeter).

They write about themselves:

"@34 restaurant

Hospitality and catering students experience the real life rush of a commercial restaurant by working in our very own @34 fine dining restaurant which is open for business to the public five days per week during term time."



Please book with Clive Lee (01392 841312 or clive.lee3@btinternet.com by 5 April.

Thursday 21 April 2016: Visit to Kents Cavern.

The cavern is a cave system in Torquay notable for its archaeological and geological features. Due to its importance it has been a geological "Site of Special Scientific Interest" since 1952 and a "Scheduled Ancient Monument" since 1957.

It has been occupied by at least eight separate native populations that have inhabited the British Isles at various times in the past around 44,000 to 41,500 years.

It was first recorded as Kents Hole Close on a deed made out to a John Black in 1659.

Recorded excavation began in 1824.

It became a tourist attraction after passing into the Powe family's ownership in 1903 and is still in their capable hands today.

Agatha Christie used it in her novel, "The Man in the Brown Suit", where it was called Hampsley Cavern.



Lunch at 12noon in the caves restaurant followed by a guided tour of the prehistoric caves at 2pm or 2:15 if we are 20 persons or more.

Their full menu has lots of different meals, from breakfasts to pies to burgers and fries. They have hot meals and cold meals for all ages.

Providing we are a sufficient number we will get our individual guided tour of the site.

We visited it in September 15 and the tour was very informative. Although the cave floor is paved in concrete suitable shoes should be worn, as there are damp surfaces, which could be a little slippery. It is quite cool inside with a steady temperature of around 14°C.

Arriving by Car:

Follow brown tourist signs to Kents Cavern Prehistoric Caves. Sat Nav TQ1 2JF, 89 Ilsham Road, Torquay.

Parking is available on site: There is a £2 charge to park. At busy times the car park will fill up but there is unrestricted FREE roadside parking within a short walking distance.

By bus: Use no.32 or no.11 Stagecoach bus service to St Matthias Church.

The caves are 5 minutes walk from the church

Please book with Ian Thomson by 10 April (01626 867363 or eucexeterbranch@gmail.com).

MAY:

Thursday 19th May 2016: Visit to Dartington Hall and Gardens.



The Gardens in winter

A guided tour of the Grade 2 listed gardens by the head gardener has been arranged for 2.30pm. It will cover some of the rich history of the hall and gardens. This beautiful and intriguing place has a host of features to enjoy, including a sculpture trail with a reclining figure by Henry Moore which gazes down over the Tiltyard, an expanse of grassy banks and terraces thought to have been originally a mediaeval sunken garden, a Sunny Border and a number of ancient trees with the oldest, probably a 1500 year old yew. The main regeneration of the gardens was begun by an American, Dorothy Elmhirst and her husband Leonard, who came to live at Dartington in 1925 and employed a series of garden advisors.

In the morning we suggest members might like to browse around the craft centre, glass gallery or food shops in nearby Dartington Village and then meet up for lunch to be arranged at the White Hart restaurant which is adjacent to the Gardens and the Visitor Centre.

Getting here by car:

From Exeter: From the M5, take the Plymouth (A38) road until the exit signposted to Totnes, Dartmouth and Kingsbridge. Turn left onto the A384 and shortly after the Dartington village sign, turn left at Dartington Church and follow for 1 mile. The main car park is on the left.

From Plymouth take the A38 up to the A385 turning, signposted to Totnes, Dartmouth and Kingsbridge. Then as above.

By bus:

Bus number 165 serves Dartington Hall from Buckfastleigh and Totnes. For timetables and information please call traveline on 0870 608 2 608.

Contact: Hilary Stevenson by 12 May (01398 351355 or hilarie.stevenson@btinternet.com) for further details and to book your place.

Tuesday 24 May 2016: Lunch at The Lazy Toad Inn, Brampford Speke.



We shall meet at the Lazy Toad Inn from 12 noon, for a 12.30 lunch. The attractive village of Brampford Speke is located only five miles north of Exeter, and set in lovely countryside.

If you have time, do visit St Peter's Church near the Inn. Parts of the church date back as far as 1240. This church became famous in the mid-1800s because of what was known as the 'Gorham Case'.

"In 1847 the Lord Chancellor, as patron of the living, presented George Cornelius Gorham to the Bishop of Exeter to be instituted as vicar. The bishop was Henry Phillpotts, who had distinctly High Church views. He proceeded to personally examine Gorham, over a period of eight days, and then declared him unsound for the position of vicar of Brampford Speke. The problem was their divergent views on what was termed 'baptismal regeneration'.

Gorham then appealed to the ecclesiastical Court of Arches to compel the bishop to institute him, but the court upheld the bishop's decision. Gorham then appealed to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which caused great controversy, as to whether a secular court should decide on the doctrine of the Church of England. The case dragged on for two or three years and divided the nation, but eventually the Privy Council found in Gorham's favour, and he was instituted as vicar.

It was as a result of this case that 14 prominent Anglicans, including Henry Edward Manning, called on the Church of England to repudiate the views on baptism expressed by the Privy Council. When there was no response, they left the Church of England and joined the Roman Catholic Church. Manning went on to become Archbishop of Westminster and a Cardinal.

There is a nice memorial to Gorham on a wall in the south transept, and his tombstone is outside, close to the same wall."

Directions by car from Exeter: Brampford Speke is only five miles from Exeter. Cross over Cowley Bridge, then take the first right towards Upton Pyne. Just before Upton Pyne, the road bears right to Brampford Speke. The pub is on the left, with a large car park behind the inn.

Directions by public transport: Weather permitting, your organiser will go by bus from Exeter to Stoke Canon – number 55 at 11 am – followed by a delightful 15-minute walk across country to Brampford Speke. He would welcome fellow travellers.

Further information and booking: Contact Peter Wingfield-Digby, [pwdigby AT btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com), 01392-424781

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JUNE:

The 2016 EUC Annual Outing and Weekend to Lacock Saturday 11th June



We encourage you to join us at the Annual Outing Weekend on Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th June which will be at LACOCK (near Bath)

It is really important that you support the EUC major events, such as this Annual weekend in Lacock and Chippenham, and demonstrate that we want our Club to continue to flourish. Please do your best to support us.

Derek Smith, Ann Paddon and Sheila Morgan are organising the Saturday evening dinner, accommodation and events on Sunday. All of you are welcome to attend everything or just one or more of the events over the weekend. It is a friendly affair.

As in previous years we start with a picnic at lunchtime.

This is followed by an early dinner at “The George Inn” in the middle of Lacock village. The venue is an attractive inn dating back to medieval times and prides itself on great beers and serving great food. We have booked to have our meal starting at 6.30pm, so we will meet up in the bar by 6pm. www.thegeorgelacock.co.uk. The cost of a two-course meal will be around £20. We will send out menus much nearer the time so that you can make your menu choices but we need to know numbers soon to give to the George Inn.

Not only is the Lacock Abbey, a National Trust property, rich in its 800year history, and splendid architecture, it was also the residence of William Henry Fox Talbot, who created the first photographic negative.

On the ground floor of the former Abbey, there is a museum illustrating the birthplace of photography, and upstairs there is an exhibition relevant to photography. The wooded grounds of the Abbey include a botanic garden, a greenhouse, orchard and rose garden. Also Lacock village is stunning with its timber framed and stone cottages and is well worth seeing.

Accommodation.

Our overnight accommodation will be provided by the Premier Inn, located at Cepen Park, West Cepen Way, Chippenham SN14 6UZ. The hotel has 70 rooms on 2 floors, with 7 disabled rooms located on the ground floor. We recommend that EUC members book individually, which enables you to reserve your room and then pay when you check out from the room in June. You can book B&B or room only either by phone or online at www.premierinn.com.

The phone number for the Premier Inn at Chippenham is 0333 777 4613.

Rolf Holstein (organizer) will be sending out more information in April.

Thursday June 16th 2016: Visit to SS Great Britain, Bristol.



Stern of S.S. Great Britain



View of Bristol Cathedral from the Waterside

How about a day out in Bristol, with a visit to SS Great Britain? I am happy to organise this for Thursday, June 16th 2016. As guided tours of SS Great Britain are pretty expensive (£35 - plus booking fee of £13 for seniors) I suggest we take a look around the vessel on our own, just incurring the £13 entrance charge.

My plan is that we pay as we go, that way nobody is committed. I suggest we catch the 10.24 train from Exeter to Bristol Temple Meads (I shall get on at Tiverton Parkway) and then take the 506 bus from the station to the Maritime Museum. We could have a light lunch at the Dockyard Café before touring the vessel. If anyone prefers to make their own arrangements for lunch that is absolutely fine. Although this is not a formal group outing, I would be glad to know who is interested in coming along, so that I don't find myself in Bristol on my own!

Contact: e-mail Gwyneth Garner on gbvgarner36@btinternet.com or phone me 01392 881330 during the previous week. Hope to see some of you on the train or at Temple Meads Station.

Reports

Christmas lunch at Reed Hall: 3rd December 2015

The Exeter Branch Christmas lunch in early December has been part of our programme of events for many years. It gives members the opportunity to exchange seasonal greetings and cards and to enjoy traditional Christmas fare in familiar surroundings. We have come to Reed Hall for several successive years: food and service is always excellent. And perhaps some of our older members remember long-gone days when the Branch held its Annual Dinner at Reed Hall, entertaining members of Exeter University Club from far and wide. Just after noon on Thursday 3rd December, thirty-six of the Branch members gathered in the coffee bar area of Reed Hall for drinks and chat before being summoned into the Woodbridge Restaurant where four large round tables, beautifully and tastefully decorated in gold and purple, awaited us. Under the new Management this year our organiser, Branch Chairman Gwyneth Garner, had been asked to supply a seating plan. We therefore sat down in planned formation, but it all worked out well. The serving staff, all new faces to us, included several students from up the hill. All had been well trained (a valuable addition to their curriculum perhaps): they were amazed that we all had been students so very long ago! But our presence was perhaps a good advertisement for the Club.



Most of us had the traditional offering of turkey with usual trimmings and vegetables, some with just two courses and some with three. Tables elsewhere in the restaurant filled and emptied as we chatted over our meals. We then adjourned to a nearby room for coffee, but not before we had been marshalled on the staircase for a group photograph to record the occasion for the Branch scrapbook and newsletter.

Mike Aspray

19 January 2016: Talk on Devon Air Ambulance Trust

In January the Exeter Club welcomed Mike Suffin, a volunteer with the Devon Air Ambulance Trust. We must all see the red helicopters flying over, but perhaps don't give any thought to the background story and the way it is all managed.

In 1986 the mother of a young bike accident victim worked to set up the Trust, and her dreams were realised in 1992 when the Air Ambulance started with a hired helicopter. Since then the Air Ambulance has gone from strength to strength, with two helicopters and now flying seven days a

week. The helicopters are based in Exeter and Barnstaple and are called to over a thousand incidents a year. Not only do they attend road traffic accidents and other incidents too difficult or impossible for a road ambulance to attend, such as confined spaces, but they are also used to transport sick babies, minutes old, in an incubator, which is situated at Plymouth, but can be picked up if required. They also carry out inter-hospital journeys where time is of the essence.



© Devon Air Ambulance Trust

Whatever the incident, the times are quite staggering and the whole county can be covered in fifteen minutes. It takes less than nine minutes to take the casualty to hospital. Whereas it would take an hour and twelve minutes in an ambulance, it takes only seven minutes in the helicopter to travel the 47 miles from Exeter to Barnstaple, for example.

Currently, during the darker winter months the helicopters are only able to operate for around eight hours a day; so from about 4.30pm they are unavailable. An exciting development for 2016 is the introduction of night flying. Not only will the helicopters be upgraded and night vision goggles and increased staff introduced, but whole Communities will be involved. Sites will be identified within a community and lights installed to enable safe landings. Eventually it is hoped to have 1,260 such locations in Devon.

The HEMS (Helicopter Emergency Medical Services) play a huge and vital role in allocating and dispatching helicopters throughout the South West. They establish the situation and the correct course of action to be taken. It takes only two minutes to actually get a helicopter off the ground when needed.

But all this comes at a cost, and it is estimated that this year they will need to raise £5.5 million to run the service. The money is raised by donations, charity shops, bequests, sponsored events and much more. The Exeter branch gave a £50 donation for the talk and with additional contributions from individual members a grand total of £112.51 was raised for the Devon Air Ambulance that day.

Susie Hewitt

9th February 2016 Bird Watching on the Exe

We really struck lucky with the weather for the Stuart Lines bird watching cruise on 9th February. The previous day the South West had been hit by violent winds, and it looked possible our day out might be cancelled. However, the sun shone on the righteous (i.e. those who supported this EUC outing!) Twelve members had an excellent 3-hour trip up the Exe estuary from Exmouth to Topsham, with a first class running commentary by an RSPB ornithologist.



Oyster Catcher

With our binoculars we saw a good cross section of the over wintering bird population, including hundreds of the iconic avocets as well as shags, cormorants, plover, goldeneyes, dunlin, herons and many others who feed on the sandbanks at low tide. We may not have looked an elegant group, but were glad we had wrapped up warmly for our February day on the river, which I believe all of us thoroughly enjoyed.

Gwyneth Garner

24th February 2016 - ANNUAL UNIVERSITY OF EXETER RUGBY VARSITY MATCH

Eight of our members accepted the invitation extended to all EUC members by University of Exeter Sport to watch this year's Rugby Varsity Match on the evening of Wednesday 24th February. This annual South West regional Derby between the University of Exeter First XV and the University of Bath First XV takes place at Sandy Park, the magnificent home of the 'Exeter Chiefs' and is a highlight in the Exeter sporting calendar.

We mingled and chatted with other alumni, parents of the players and members of the University's staff and were treated to a curry supper. Then it was out into the cold night air to watch what was expected to be a tough and tightly contested match. Some 4,000 students had been bussed from the main campus to cheer on the home team. And there was plenty to cheer!

The final score of 46 to 8 did not really reflect the tightness of the match, but Exeter were always ready to seize their chances and emerged as the clear winners, much to our delight.

With this result the First XV, having played 12 times, had won 11 of their games, drawn one and lost none, secured the South West League title. Their next match (the Quarter Final of the BUCS (British Universities and Colleges Sport)) was played at their home ground at Topsham on 2nd

March against the University of Newcastle. Exeter won 39 to 5 points. In the Semi Final, also on their home ground, against the University of Durham a week later, Exeter won 39 to 10 points. The Exeter First XV now go on to the Championships Final to be played at Twickenham on 23 March against the University of Loughborough.

Mike Aspray



University of Exeter Men's Rugby Union Club



+ University of Exeter Men's Rugby Union Club

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Tuesday 8th March 2016

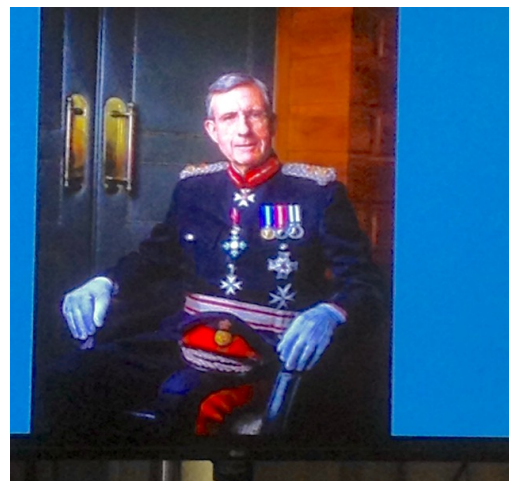
Talk by Sir Eric Dancer, former Lord-Lieutenant of Devon:



Members, friends and guests gathered with our speaker in the Reed Hall bar for welcoming drinks and chat. Then we went into the Woodbridge dining room for a cafeteria-style lunch, enjoying excellent value and quality.

At 2 pm some thirty-three of us assembled in a first-floor room set aside for us to hear an account of Sir Eric Dancer's experiences as Lord-Lieutenant of Devon. In an illustrated presentation that Sir Eric entitled "Insight" our guest speaker delivered just that – an extraordinary account of his work as the Queen's representative in Devon.

Eric Dancer had come to Devon in the 1980s as a businessman to lead the development of Dartington Crystal. He was appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Devon in 1998: the first non-titled man to hold this office, a fact of which he is rightly proud.



Over a 17 year period from his Royal appointment until his 75th birthday (when he retired) he organised some 180 Royal visits to the county involving a total of 550 venues. One of these visits was that of the Queen herself to Exeter when she formally opened the Forum – the University's spectacular newly-constructed reception area linking Northcote House, the Great Hall, Devonshire House and the Library. This Royal visit to the Streatham Campus was witnessed by 10,000 students, staff and alumni.

Sir Eric was responsible for the meticulous organisation of these and other visits, each involving months of planning, and on the actual day, being ready for any eventuality. His training included the use of firearms and the ability to react to ambushes and other acts of terrorism. Road-side bombs of soft mud and baked beans were used in training exercises. (Another use for baked beans!)

In addition to his duties associated with visits of royalty, Sir Eric oversaw the appointment of magistrates in the County: he presented awards (such as the MBE) on behalf of the Queen to those recipients who preferred not to travel to London or Windsor. He also presented Queen's Awards to Industry to local companies. Sir Eric recalled ceremonies at Exeter Cathedral in which he presented Arctic Stars to merchant seamen from World War II; he told of the highly charged emotional presentations of the Elisabeth Cross to widows or mothers of the armed services personnel killed in action.

He was active in encouraging service cadets and was particularly proud to have met leaders of every Faith in Devon during the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year. His work, for which he received no remuneration, took up at least 200 days of each year.

A collection from those present, together with a donation from the Exeter Branch, enabled a cheque for £175.00 to be presented to Sir Eric for one of the Charities of which he is Patron – the Devon Community Foundation.

Mike Aspray

Obituary: Francis Unthank

We had sad news a few days before Christmas. Francis had died of pancreatic cancer. He was 72. The University was very much part of his life. His father was a Maths lecturer (Eleanor was one of his pupils)- the family house was just across the road from Reed Hall. Francis went to Oxford Polytechnic and studied Mechanical Engineering. He worked at Harwich, coming back to Exeter, when his mother could no longer live on her own. He then met my daughter, Jane, and they were partners for the next 25 years. After Jane's death five years ago we continued to see a lot of him. We shall certainly miss him.

Frances Newcombe

Message from our chairman

THE GARDEN HOUSE, MILLWAY, BRADNINCH, EXETER EX5 4NL

01392 881330 gbvgarner36@btinternet.com

March 2016

Dear E.U.C. member,

I am writing to you as a current member of Exeter University Club (E.U.C.) (Exeter Branch) or as somebody who has shown an interest in the past.

Although we feel our programme offers a wide range of events, talks, visits and purely social pub lunches, in fact something for everyone, we are concerned that the number attending some of these events has been dwindling recently.

A brief survey accompanies this letter, with the aim of discovering if there are any changes we could make, which would make our programme more appealing. I would be most grateful if you could spare a few minutes to complete and return this survey. You may identify yourself, or remain anonymous if you prefer. For those people for whom this letter comes by post, please excuse the fact that due to the prohibitive cost of postage I have not included a stamped addressed envelope.

Yours sincerely,



Gwyneth Garner

Chairman E.U.C. (Exeter Branch) 2015/2016