



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

## **EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter**

**Number 32**

<http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk>

**September 2017**

**October to December 2017**

### **Editorial:**

Dear members,

this is the first edition that has been edited from abroad as Elisabeth and I have moved to the historic Hanseatic City of Lübeck, North Germany.

The arrangement is that Peter Wingfield-Digby will supply me with the necessary input and then it is my task to put the content into the newsletter.

This will continue until such time as a new editor comes forward and takes over.

We are settling in in our new abode and getting things to our liking (Making a new nest as it were!). As Lübeck is quite familiar to us we have met up with old friends and acquaintances and have already made new ones.

The trials and tribulations of registering, changing addresses both here and in the UK, arranging things, our flat etc., are ongoing, but are already completed in the main.

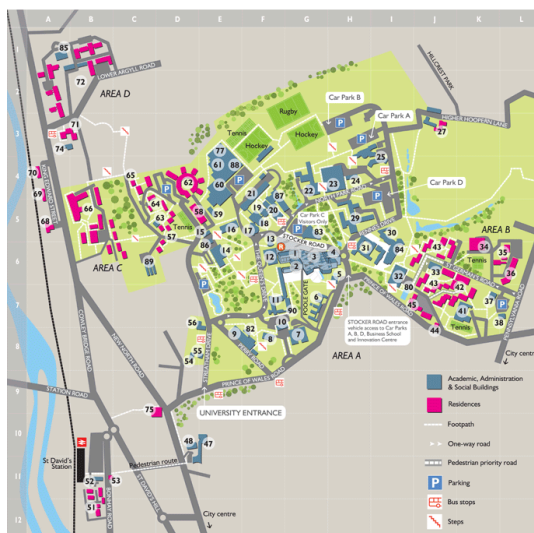


Lübeck's Cathedral and Mill Pond and the Holy Ghost Hospital (Alms House)

## Forthcoming Events and Lunches

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

**50 years on: The Streatham campus then and now**



Come to the Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton Street, St Thomas.

Lunch from 12.15, with talk at 2 pm.

This meeting, coordinated by Peter Wingfield-Digby, will offer the opportunity for members to share photos and memories, and reminisce about the changes that have taken place on the university campus over a period of 50 years or so. If you have specific photos or other materials that you would like to share, please can you contact Peter in advance of the meeting, so that the items can be scanned and included in the presentation.

Please book with Peter ([pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com) or 01392 424781) by 7 September.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017.**

**Lunch at the Victoria Hotel, Peak Hill Road, 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. The hotel is situated on the edge of town, with glorious sweeping views of Lyme Bay.

If you join us for lunch, why not linger awhile after lunch and explore the timeless charms of Sidmouth?

Meet in the Victoria Bar from 12noon onwards.

Lunch will be at 12.30 in the White Room.



Please book with Peter Wingfield-Digby ([pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com) or 01392 424781) by 20 September 2017.

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Talk:**

**The Vikings in the West Country**

Talk by Derek Gore, Honorary University Fellow, Archeology Department, University of Exeter.



It is a common belief that the Vikings were not active in the West Country, but our written sources suggest otherwise. With its long coastline and easy access via navigable rivers, the region certainly attracted these seaborne raiders from Scandinavia on a number of occasions. But that is not the whole story. Recent study of finds by metal detectorists, of place- and personal names and stone sculptures are together

beginning to suggest a more diverse picture. It is possible to argue that Scandinavian culture was influential in the region.

Lunch at the Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton Street, St Thomas from 12.15, with talk at 2 pm. Please book with Peter Wingfield-Digby ([pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com) or 01392 424781) by 1 October.

### **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017.**

#### **Lunch at the City Gate Hotel, Iron Bridge, Exeter.**

The City Gate Hotel is now a very different place from the days when we used to hold our meetings there. It is under new management, and the building has undergone an extensive £ 1.4 million refurbishment. Our old meeting room (the Garden Suite) is now a very attractive restaurant, and the hotel's restaurant food has been receiving good reviews.

Meet in the restaurant area (the old Garden Suite) from 12noon, with lunch in the same room at 12.30 pm.

Please book with Peter Wingfield-Digby ([pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com) or 01392 424781) by 16 October.

### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017.**

#### **Dialect stories and songs of Jan Stewer by the Revd Christopher Pidsley.**

He is a retired clergyman with an interest in and a mastery of the Devon dialect.

Jan Stewer is generally known in the South West of England as a character in the song 'Uncle Tom Cobley', the chorus of which ends with 'Uncle Tom Cobley and all'.

This was also the name of Albert John Coles, (referred to as A.J) who, for 64 years, wrote and performed Devonshire dialect stories, plays and songs. Noted by John Betjeman before he was Sir John, as 'among the great understanding humorists' Coles published seven books, wrote amusing stories for local papers, toured rural theatres with his stage act and took a play to the Haymarket Theatre in London in the course of his career as Jan Stewer.



A. J. Cole

Lunch at the Royal Oak, 68 Okehampton Street, St Thomas from 12.15, with talk at 2 pm. Please book with Susie Hewitt (01392 273895 or [susiehewitt@gmx.com](mailto:susiehewitt@gmx.com)) by 1 November.

### **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017.**

### **Christmas lunch at Cowick Barton.**

This year we are holding our Christmas lunch at Cowick Barton, our old meeting place. The pub is now under new management, and the building – dating back to the Reformation – has recently had a £350,000 facelift. Our old meeting room is now an attractive restaurant.

The menu is shown at the end of this newsletter, together with a booking form. We do hope you are able to join with other Club members for this important event. If you can come, please return the booking form as soon as possible to Gwyneth Garner – the organizer - enclosing a cheque, and indicating on the menu page which items you would like to have.

## **Event Reports**

### **Visit to Coldharbour Mill – 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

On a gorgeous sunny May day and after an excellent lunch in a local hostelry in Willand our group visited Coldharbour Mill in Uffculme. The mill is one of the oldest woollen textile mills in the world. It was bought by Thomas Fox, a Quaker, in 1797 for 1100 guineas.





Originally the mill was powered by a huge waterwheel, which is where our tour began, and steam was later introduced to support the water power. We learnt how the wool is turned into yarn by a process of washing, untangling using carding paddles, and later combing machines, before the slubbing (twisting) process, and then roving before the wool is straightened to form a 'sliver' for spinning into yarn. Memories of our school days when we learnt about the Industrial Revolution and spinning jennies, flying shuttles and Richard Arkwright's inventions came flooding back as we walked around the various machines at the mill. We followed the wool process and watched some of the machines that are still in full working order demonstrate the worsted spinning process and looms weaving woollen cloth. We also learnt about the strength and versatility of wool. The yarn produced was good quality and a wide range of cloths was manufactured including broadcloths (woven on broad looms) to hard-wearing cloth, as well as serges and flannels for uniforms. The company won a contract in 1888 which lasted until after the Second World War, to supply to the armed forces puttees, which were later exported to other forces all around the world.

Working conditions in the mill were hard; the mill was a hot, dirty, dangerous and noisy place, cloth was often used to protect the ears hence the expression "cloth-ears." Urine was also used to help with some manufacturing processes and some say the expression "taking the p\*\*\*" is attributed to those who had to carry and work with the urine. Women and children, often as young as 8, were used in the workforce as it was one industry where children could contribute to the family income. However, lateness was not tolerated and minutes late were often translated into hours of wages lost. Women were often in charge of a number of machines and were set targets for amounts of wool produced.

The mills worsted spinning machines are still used to make a range of knitting wools in various weights. Four tartans, Green Devon, Blue Devon, Blackdown Hills and Somerset are still produced, as are floor mats and other woven materials.

The Friends of Coldharbour Mill, a registered charity supported by mill staff and many volunteers, help keep this working museum the attraction that it is today.

This was a most enjoyable and educational visit. It also afforded the club the opportunity to bid farewell to and thank Ian and Elisabeth Thomson, who are returning to Germany, for all their help. They have been stalwart members of our club for a

number of years both as committee members and regular contributors to its activities. Ian has been responsible for modernising the club by producing the newsletter and website where we hope his influence will continue to be seen. *Rob Simons.*

### **Visit to Totnes, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017**

This visit to Totnes, ably arranged by Robina Brand, took place on the summer solstice, and it turned out to be the hottest June day for 40 years.

Totnes is a fascinating town, proudly guarding its independence and character; it is reputed to have more listed buildings per head of population than any British town.

We began by exploring the Elizabethan House and Museum, which contains a wonderful variety of objects connected with the history of Totnes and with this particular building – originally the home of a wealthy merchant. We enjoyed exploring the various rooms, including the main bedroom, dining room and the Elizabethan kitchen, but we had no luck in seeing the resident ghost. Outside at the back was a lovely Elizabethan herbal garden.



On the top floor is a wonderful exhibition on the life of Charles Babbage, the most illustrious son of Totnes. His Analytical Engine was the precursor of the modern computer. We also learned about the “enchantress of numbers”, the visionary Ada Lovelace, Lord Byron’s only legitimate daughter. Her prodigious mathematical talents led to a long working relationship and friendship with Babbage. In fact she developed the first set of notes or algorithms for the Analytical Engine, and these can be considered as the first step in the development of computer programming.

After the museum, our guide Nick took us up the road to show us the outside of St Mary’s Church. Originally it was a Benedictine priory church, but in the 15<sup>th</sup> century Bishop Lacy granted an indulgence for a complete rebuild. Then it was on to the Guildhall, which has nearly a thousand years of history. The original priory was largely destroyed at the time of the Reformation, but it was rebuilt in 1553. Over the years the Guildhall has been used as the town gaol – one cell can still be seen – boys’ school, magistrates’ court, and today it still serves as the Council Chambers and Mayor’s Parlour for Totnes Town Council. Cromwell and Fairfax are said to have sat at the table in the Council Chamber to plan the closing stages of the Civil War.

Our short visit to Totnes was rounded off with a splendid lunch at the Old Library room in the Royal Seven Stars Hotel. The whortleberry parfait was quite something!



*Thank you, Robina and Nick.*

### **Visit to Penryn Campus, 25th July 2017**

It was with some surprise and amazement, and a touch of nostalgia, that our group of 20 plus became students again as we were treated to a fascinating series of short talks and a tour of the University Campus at Penryn. The afternoon visit was well organised and structured, and at first glance may have looked a little dull, but it turned out to be exactly the opposite.

We were entertained and welcomed by Professor Dave Hosken. Amongst many facts we learned that the Campus is shared between Exeter and Falmouth Universities. Professor Juliet Osborne told us about the Environment and Sustainability Institute, and after lunch we commenced our tour. Of great interest were the laboratories (chemist writing) where a wide variety of research takes place. Many aspects of Biodiversity and Conservation, Marine Renewables, Sustainable Fisheries and Climate Change are studied at Penryn.





An enormous number of research projects takes place, but highlights for me included the insect radar, which monitors the size, weight and orientation of insects flying above, with one similar for birds. We were intrigued by the study of bees which have aerals attached to their backs (harmless!)

An entertaining talk from Professor Brendan Godley from the Centre for Ecology and Conservation brought home to me how fortunate the students are to travel to many places in the world for their studies.

This was followed by a visit to the Camborne School of Mines, where we found ourselves surrounded by exhibits of rocks and minerals (chemist at home again). After representatives from the Students Union gave us a glimpse of the life of today's students, it was all too soon time for the bus back to the station.

Did I mention lunch? It was rather good!

*Alan Read*

**Footnote:**

*The University has recently established the Cornwall Opportunity Fund, to promote the development of university education in Cornwall. If you would like to donate to the Fund, please go to:*

[www.exeter.ac.uk/exceptional/donate/singlegift/](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/exceptional/donate/singlegift/)

*For theme, you should select 'Other' and then type in 'Cornwall Opportunity Fund'.*

*This detailed financial report is being shown here, since it could not be displayed at the recent AGM.*

## EUC (Exeter Branch) Financial Report

**Receipts and Expenses for the period 1.4.2016 to 31.3.2017, and figures for previous year**

	2015-16		2016-17		2015-16		2016-17	
Receipts	£		£		Expenses	£	£	
Subscriptions	220.00		182.50		Website set-up	-	212.00	
Talk Income	318.00		178.00		Speakers' fees & exp.	30.00	115.00	
Charity collection	177.01		-		Donations to causes	367.51	105.00	
Newsletters (NL)	60.00		40.00		NL – printing & dist.	149.57	56.25	
Xmas Lunch	719.50		443.50		Xmas Lunch	706.15	436.80	
Donations	-		55.00		Secretarial	21.15	24.18	
Miscellaneous*	-		65.21					
Total	1,544.51		899.00		Total	1,274.38	1,014.44	
					Surplus/(Deficit)	270.13	(115.44)	

\* Miscellaneous: Parting gift to Mike Aspray, Retiring Secretary - £35.96; Coffee at AGM - £29.25.

Financial Position at Year End		31.3.16	31.3.17
	£	£	£
Bank Balance	1,417.14	1,347.74	
Petty Cash	46.51	0.47	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,463.65</b>	<b>1,348.21</b>	

Reconciliation		£
<b>Balance at 1.4.16</b>		<b>1,463.65</b>
<b>plus 2016/17 receipts</b>		<b>899.00</b>
<b>less 2016/17 expenses</b>		<b>1,014.44</b>
<b>Balance at 31.3.17</b>		<b>1,348.21</b>

# **EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH**

**TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY DECEMBER 7th 2017 – 12.00 FOR 12.45**

**At Cowick Barton, Exeter**



## **STARTERS**

Home cured Salmon Gravlox (dill & mustard sauce) served on rye bread

Game terrine, plum and ale chutney, toasted ciabatta, baby leaf

Creamed roast parsnip soup, toasted almonds and watercress

Beetroot, goat's cheese and feta baby gem salad, with honey balsamic dressing

## **MAINS**

Roast turkey in lemon, parsley and garlic, pork, sage and apple stuffing, goose fat roast

potatoes, pig in smoked streaky blanket and seasonal vegetables

Roasted plaice, chardonnay and cream reduction, buttered kale with chorizo, garlic and olive

oil roasted new potatoes

Slow roast beef brisket in merlot and shallot gravy, goose fat roast potatoes and seasonal

vegetables

Roasted butternut squash and goat's cheese risotto, red sorrel and violets

## **PUDDINGS**

Panettoni bread and butter pudding, whipped double cream, chocolate shavings

Grand Marnier and cinnamon crème brulee, shortbread

Belgian chocolate tart, pouring cream, raspberries

Christmas pudding, brandy sauce

**Two courses £19    Three courses £22**

## BOOKING FORM

NAME

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PHONE

.....

E-MAIL

.....

### **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**