



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter

Number 39

<http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk>

June 2019

July to September 2019

Future events

Monday 1 July 2019: Annual General Meeting and Members' Lunch

The AGM will be held at 11 am at the Cowick Barton, 121 Cowick Lane, Exeter EX2 9HF. The meeting will be followed by lunch at 1 pm. There is plenty of parking at the pub, and the A bus stops outside.

If you have any suggestions for an interesting talk for next year's programme, or an outside visit or a good venue for a club lunch, please offer them at the AGM. If you are not able to come on the day, please pass your suggestions to a member of the committee.

Our club is run by volunteers, and we would welcome your support. If you would like to take an active part in running the Club, please come along and put your name forward, or else speak to the Secretary.

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

Please contact Peter Wingfield-Digby (secretary@eucexeterbranch.org.uk or 01392 424 781) by 24 June to indicate whether or not you can come to the AGM.

Tuesday 16 July 2019: Visit to Tiverton Museum of Mid-Devon Life

On this visit to the Tiverton Museum of Mid-Devon Life, we shall have a chance to explore its large and outstanding collection, covering the fascinating history of mid-Devon. The displays include the 'Tivvy Bumper' GWR steam engine, local industries (particularly lace making), farm waggons and the history of agriculture, and the everyday home life of Mid-Devon folk. (Check out www.tivertonmuseum.org.uk)



Meet: at the Museum Reception Area at 11 am for an introductory talk, after which we shall explore the museum individually.

Lunch: Afterwards, we shall adjourn at 1 pm to the Elsie May Café, close to the Bus Station (Note: This is a change of lunch venue). Pre-ordering is required.

By car: There is parking in the Phoenix Lane Multi-Storey carpark near the bus station. The cost of parking is £2 for 14 hours! It is a five minutes' walk to the museum. Parking is available even closer to the museum, but it is only available for two hours at a time.

By bus: Tiverton bus station is two minutes' walk from the museum. The 55 bus from Exeter runs every half hour.

To book: Please contact George Garner (georgegarner@btinternet.com or 01392 881330) by 9 July.

Monday 5 August 2019: EUC (Exeter Branch) Committee Meeting and lunch for all members

The newly elected Committee will meet at 11.00 am at Cowick Barton, 121 Cowick Lane, Exeter EX2 9HF. This will be followed by lunch for all members at 1.00 pm.

To book for lunch: Please contact Peter Wingfield-Digby (pwdigby@btinternet.com or 01392 424 781) by 29 July.

Friday 30 August 2019: Visit to Paignton Torbay Bowling Club

This is a chance for us all to try our hand at bowling. Paignton Torbay Bowling Club was founded in 1920 and is affiliated to Bowls England and Bowls Devon. It is a Community Association Sports Club, so its doors are open to everyone every morning. Bowls ('woods') will be provided.

Dress should be casual; the Club would prefer it if we wear white shirts and grey trousers. Shoes must be flat-soled, since we do not want to damage the green. Some shoes are available at the club, but if you have flat-bottomed shoes, please bring them.

George (our Chairman 2018-19) is skilled at this sport, and will provide advice, and some club members will be on hand to help us. This is a 'taster' session; the cost will be £5. Tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided. Twenty is the maximum number of club members that can be accommodated for bowling.

Spectators are most welcome. If you do not wish to play, you can watch others play and then join us for lunch.

<https://www.hugofox.com/community/paignton-torbay-bowling-club-12603/home/>

Meet: at the Paignton Torbay Bowling Club from 10.00 am.



Paignton Torbay Bowling Club



Paignton Club

Lunch: We shall have lunch at 1.00 pm at the Paignton Club in Esplanade Road, which is a short walk from the bowling green. Pre-ordering is not necessary.

Paignton Club, 1 The Esplanade, Esplanade Road, Paignton TQ4 6ED

<http://www.thepaigntonclub.co.uk/>

Situated at the southern end of the Paignton promenade, just a short walk from the harbour and town centre, The Paignton Club occupies a prime waterfront location. It is perfectly placed to capture the breathtaking views over Torbay from the comfortable Maritime lounge bar, dining room or the beautiful veranda.

By car: The Paignton Club (where we are having lunch) has a car park, and it might be best to park there. If you decide to park at the Paignton Torbay Bowling Club, please park on the right-hand side as you come in to the Club (the left hand side is for a neighbouring club).

By train: Both of the places we are going to are close to the train station, so arriving by train might be most convenient. A return ticket will be about £8 from Exeter, or £5 with a railcard. The best train to take would be the direct 8.53 Exeter Central/9.00 Exeter St David's train which arrives in Paignton at 9.56 am. There is also a slightly faster train at 9.08 from St David's which reaches Paignton at 9.46 am.

To book: contact George Garner (georgegarner@btopenworld.com or 01392 881330) by 23 August.

Friday 6 to Tuesday 10 September 2019: Annual Alumni Reunion

A group of alumni, organised by John and Sheila Morgan, will be making their annual visit to Exeter. We are welcome to join any of their events. The detailed programme is not yet available. For more information, contact them at johnandsheila33@hotmail.co.uk or 02476 411716.

Tuesday 24 September 2019: Alex Sully talks on 'The Morgan Car'

Few cars evoke the nostalgia of the great days of motoring like the legendary Morgan sports car. A Morgan sports car is without doubt the quintessential British sports car, conceived in an altogether more romantic era. Yet Morgan cars, now more than ever, claim their place in the forefront of modern motoring. Today's new Morgan sports cars are modern miracles of design excellence beneath that timeless style of the open topped sports car that we all love.



Alex Sully became the proud owner of the first UK-delivered, customer V6 supplied by the BerryBrook Southwest company of Exminster. Come and hear his fascinating talk about the history of the Morgan Motor Company and its products, and the building of this exciting new sports car.

Meet at: Cowick Barton from 12 pm for lunch, with the talk at 2 pm.

To book: Contact Mike Aspray (mikeaspray@btinternet.com or 01884 242 606) before 17 September.

Event Reports

Talk by Margaret Vickers on 'Devon in Sight', 25 March 2019

After a convivial lunch at the Cowick Barton Inn, 22 members of Exeter Branch gathered for a talk given by Margaret Vickers, Community Support Worker at this Devon charity. What followed was an hour of participation and learning as Margaret got us involved in her presentation.

First came a quiz, challenging some commonly held beliefs. We learned that on average, within a group of 100 blind people only five will use braille, just four have no perception of light and only one will have a guide dog. Eighty per cent of visually impaired (VI) people are over the age of 60 and among VI adults of working age just one in every four is employed. Some of our guesses were better than others!

Then Margaret produced her box of spectacles that simulated the effects of specific eye conditions and invited us to try them on. This proved to be quite alarming as we experienced tunnel vision, (resulting from glaucoma) loss of central vision (macular degeneration), patchy vision loss (diabetic retinopathy) and blurred images (severe cataracts) among others. This reinforced the importance of having regular eye checks so these conditions can be picked up early, treated and monitored. Margaret also explained that smoking, diabetes and strokes were known to affect vision.

On a positive note, the final part of Margaret's talk focused on the help that is available locally to support people with sight loss that affects their ability to carry out daily tasks such as making a cup of tea, reading the paper and cooking meals.

We saw – and heard – the liquid level indicator beeping when Margaret poured water into a glass, we learned about talking kitchen scales, local talking newspapers, large print library books and tactile markers (bump-ons) that stick onto the cooker to indicate temperature markings. We were told about the Royal National Institute of Blind People's (RNIB's) Talking Library with its extensive collection of titles and were reminded of the importance of good task lighting which is vital as we get older.



At Devon in Sight's centre at Kennford, just outside Exeter, people with visual impairment can arrange to try out items from a range of special equipment, both low tech like lights and magnifiers and high tech such as computer-based programs, while throughout the county small groups called Hubs meet at regular intervals for talks, socialising and sharing tips; for example did you realise that the figure 5 on a keypad has a raised dot? Home visits can be booked for a 'Sight Loss MOT' where an adviser from Devon in Sight explores what items and services a VI person might find most useful in order to support their lifestyle.

As we walked out into the afternoon sunshine Margaret's advice was to remember to wear our sunglasses!

Louise Clunies-Ross

Lunch at the Blue Ball Inn, Sidford, 24 April 2019

Eighteen members of Exeter Branch gathered in this country pub on a spring day when daffodils and primroses were looking their best in cottage gardens and along the Devon hedgerows – all benefiting from intermittent April showers.

This was the kind of day when a chatty lunch with friends seemed a splendid idea and this rambling old pub had plenty to offer. Its origins date from the 12th century but in recent years skilful restoration and appropriate décor have retained much of the character of the old pub with its thatched roof, thick walls, small windows, inglenook fireplace and slightly uneven floor levels here and there.



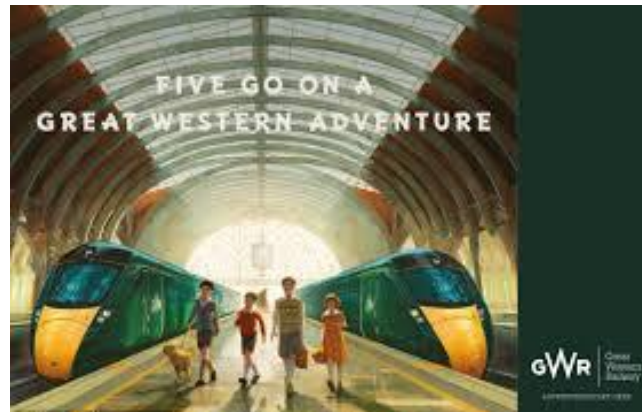
The menu was extensive: as usual the carvery proved popular and despite a rather long wait for some of the dishes, everyone appeared to enjoy the visit. When we left, the showers had gone and our Chairman George was able to drive home with the hood down on his Morgan!

Louise Clunies-Ross

Visit to Buckfast Butterflies & Dartmoor Otter Sanctuary, 13 May 2019

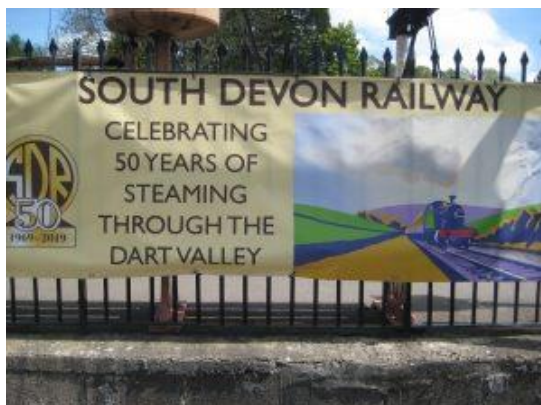
Five go on a Great Western Adventure

This GWR poster summed up our day, which was full of adventure and variety. We were destined to see butterflies and otters and to ride on the South Devon Railway during its 50th anniversary year but the whole day organised by Susie Hewitt included lots of extras. Our numbers fluctuated during the day as people did as much as they had time for and five of us returned to Exeter together.



Our adventure began with the iconic rail trip from St David's Station along the placid Exe estuary and past the red cliffs at Dawlish before we finally alighted at Totnes. With time to spare, we stopped for a coffee at the iconic Signal Box Café.

After a short walk in the sunshine we climbed aboard the coffee and cream painted coaches of the South Devon Railway, settling ourselves into the comfort of velvet-upholstered chairs in the refreshments carriage. It was mid-May and the trees were just coming into leaf so our seven mile journey along the upper Dart valley was beautiful. We passed bluebell woods, meadows with contented cattle, orchards with trees covered in blossom, fields of sheep and lambs and beside us as we steamed our way up the valley was the Dart – quite shallow in places as there had been no recent rain. We paused at Staverton along the way, well-tended by rail enthusiasts and apparently a popular location for the film and TV industry. Finally with a warning whistle, our steam train pulled into Buckfastleigh Junction Station.



Here was an extensive railway museum, full of interesting exhibits including details of the closure of the original line in 1962 as part of the Beeching cuts and a record of the opening of this heritage line in 1969. After a sociable lunch in the sunshine seven of us made our way to the nearby Butterfly House where we were entranced by the vibrant colours of the many butterflies that flew amongst the exotic tropical plants. There were also a lot of terrapins happily swimming in the large pond and basking in the shallows. But with temperatures and humidity resembling Singapore, many of us did not spend long in this very hot and humid environment!



The Otter Sanctuary was next, where we watched pairs of three different species swimming and playing in their spacious enclosures. The small Asian otters were the most playful and kept us entertained until feeding time when their keeper arrived to throw small pieces of food into their enclosure for the otters to 'catch' and consume. Their sharp teeth and evident enthusiasm for food made us glad there was a substantial fence and double wall of strong wire mesh between the otters and all of us! We learned about each pair and how they came to be at the Sanctuary and were amazed to see the oldest resident otter who was aged 24.



After a welcome cup of tea and some cake, it was time for us to board our steam train again for the ride back to Totnes. Two of our number had already left for home so it was most appropriate to see the GWR poster at Totnes proclaiming 'Five go on a GWR adventure' as we had just enjoyed a day of adventure and discovery thanks to Susie's planning and organisation.

Louise Clunies-Ross

Visit to Orchid Paradise at Burnham Nurseries, 18 June 2019

Twelve members visited Orchid Paradise at Burnham Nurseries near Newton Abbot, and after lunch in the Vanilla Café we were given a very warm welcome by Sara Rittershausen who is the third generation of this world-famous family of orchid collectors and growers. The nursery celebrates its 70th anniversary this year.



As the name suggests, it was indeed Orchid Paradise! We were given a most interesting tour of Orchid Paradise by Sara who explained the different varieties. There are over 23,000 different orchid species and over 150,000 man-made varieties. The two main types are the terrestrial orchids and the epiphytes orchids. The former is the type that grows on the ground, while the latter grows on rocks, trees and poles. We were shown examples of both types. The epiphytes grow with their roots out of the ground and have been adapted to get their water and food in a different way from those that grow with their roots in the soil. The orchid which intrigued me most was the spider orchid - *Brassia cochleata* – not the prettiest but so strange.



The Nursery offers expert help and holds an orchid clinic once a month. Several of us brought along our ailing orchids for help and advice. The nursery also sells orchids and some of us were tempted to buy including myself! For more information visit www.orchids.uk.com

Susie Hewitt

EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB – EXETER BRANCH

Minutes of the 87th Annual General Meeting of the Exeter Branch of Exeter University Club, held on Monday 2 July 2018 at The Royal Oak, Okehampton Street, Exeter

1. **The Acting Chairman**, Gwyneth Garner, opened the meeting at 11.10 am and welcomed to the AGM those members present. She read a note from the Club Chairman, Susie Hewitt, offering her apologies for not being able to attend the AGM.
2. **Attendance:** The following 17 members were present: Mike Aspray and Louise Clunies-Ross, Eleanor Attfield, Janet and Keith Feltham, George and Gwyneth Garner, Terence and Julia Harris, Derek and Rachel Jackson, Peter Nickol, Mary Rogers, John Slate, Madge Tomasevic, Dorothy Wagland, and Peter Wingfield-Digby.
Apologies were received from the following 22 members: Val Ayres and Mike Fenner, Barbara and Donald Bligh, Robina Brand, Barry and Ann Cripps, Alison Edwards, Heather Gibson, Susie Hewitt and Richard Westlake, Clive and Pamela Lee, Ian and Jill Maxted, Anne Mayes, Ted and Elisabeth Neather, Rob and Margaret Simons, Hilarie Stevenson, and Anne Stuart.
Concern was expressed about the state of health of our Honorary Member Frances Newcombe. Louise said she would follow up on this.
3. The draft **minutes of the 2017 AGM**, held at the Royal Oak on 3 July 2017, had already been accepted as a true record by the Committee at its meeting on 14 August 2017, and had been signed by the Chairman. They had also appeared in the Branch Newsletter issue number 35. The meeting confirmed its approval of the Minutes, and there were no matters arising.
4. The **Secretary's report** was then read to the meeting. He urged members to help increase the size of the membership by spreading the word and encouraging friends who had a connection to the university to join the Club. He said that, at present, about 20 people attend each of our meetings, and about 12 people come to each of our outside events. Susie, the Chair, had sent out a note, asking members why they came to so few events, and what types of events they preferred. There was an encouraging response, and many suggestions were made, which will need to be taken up by the Committee. The Club's website has proved a great success and is easy to maintain. The Club has not yet made itself compliant with the provisions of the new General Data Protection Regulations; in particular, there is a need for the Club to have a Privacy Policy, setting out what data is held about members, how it is used, and who has access to it.
5. The **Treasurer's report** was presented by the Acting Chairman, the Treasurer and her assistant having offered their apologies for not being able to attend the AGM. The Treasurer noted that speaker fees were outstripping the amounts received from members who attended meetings, and she indicated that this issue would need to be addressed by the Club. The printing and distribution of the Newsletter also gave rise to a small financial loss for the Club, but this was deemed acceptable. Thanks go to Gwyneth for organizing a very successful Christmas lunch at Cowick Barton. The Treasurer and her assistant expressed their strong approval for the proposal in the agenda of the AGM to charge a flat rate membership of £10 per year, which would lessen the workload of the Treasurer and address the potential deficits on talks.
6. Louise Clunies-Ross, in her role as Exeter Branch representative to the **Finance Group** of the former Exeter University Club (EUC), mentioned that it may be possible to recover some costs from the larger EUC group for activities related to recruitment or publicity, but not for general running expenses; such requests should be directed to her. She noted that the main date of the Group's

annual gathering this year (13 June) clashed with one of our Club outings and hoped that such a clash of dates could be avoided in future.

7. The AGM proceeded to the **Election of Branch Officers and Committee** for 2018/19.

Chairman: the retiring Vice-Chairman, George Garner, indicated his willingness to serve as Chairman. He was duly elected unopposed, on the proposal of Madge seconded by Eleanor. Gwyneth, as Acting Chairman, presented George with his badge of office. On behalf of the Club, he expressed his appreciation and thanks to Susie for all her efforts this past year as Chairman.

Vice-Chairman: Traditionally the Chair and Vice-chair are of opposite sex. The Chair sought nominations for the post of Vice-Chair, but no nomination was received. He suggested that the matter should be referred to the Committee, in the hope that they could secure a nomination.

Past Chairman: Susie Hewitt, the retiring Chair, has agreed to serve on the Committee for a year.

Secretary: Peter Wingfield-Digby, agreed to continue as Secretary for the coming year.

Treasurer: Pamela Lee indicated that she would like to cease being Treasurer at the end of the year. Susie Hewitt having indicated her willingness to take over the role, it was agreed that Pamela would continue to the end of 2018, and Susie would take over at the beginning of 2019. The meeting offered a vote of thanks to Pamela (and Clive) for all their efforts with the accounts.

Committee members: Mike Aspray, elected last year for two years, will continue on the Committee for another year. Madge Tomasevic and John Slate were both elected to serve for one year.

8. Louise Clunies-Ross was co-opted onto the Committee as representative of the Finance Group.

9. Gwyneth Garner agreed to continue in the role of Examiner of Accounts for another year.

10. There was much discussion surrounding the proposal to charge members a flat rate for membership, with no charge being made to members for attending meetings, but with visitors being charged. After considerable debate, on the proposal of Mike seconded by Derek, the following was agreed *nem con*:

- a) There would be a flat rate of £10 per person for membership, with no discount for couples;
- b) There would be no charge to members attending meetings, but visitors would be charged £5;
- c) Visitors would not be charged for their first visit, if accompanied by a paid-up member;
- d) There would be a special category of Associate Member (charged £5 per annum) for those people who wish to receive Club information but not attend any Club activities.

Members will need to amend the standing order to their bank to reflect this change.

11. The date of 13 August was agreed for the Club's next Committee meeting.

12. The Secretary described the programme for the remainder of 2018. Mike confirmed that the talk by Professor Jeremy Black would be held in Reed Hall on the morning of 10 September.

13. Suggestions were invited for the programme for 2019. Among the suggestions made were: talks by Alex Sully on Morgan cars, and someone from the university about the university's programme of activities and its aims for the coming years; lunches at the proposed Rockfish restaurant on Exeter Quay, at Paignton Club, and at the Blue Ball Inn in Sidford.

14. Mike requested that the Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports should be included in the Club's Newsletter, and this was agreed. The Secretary mentioned that a good offer had been made by the management of Cowick Barton, allowing us to use the small meeting room there free of charge if a number of us had lunch there before our meetings; the suggestion will be considered by the Committee when it next meets.

15. The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.30am.

Chairman..... Date.....

EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB (EXETER BRANCH)
2019 Annual General Meeting
The Cowick Barton, 121 Cowick Lane, Exeter EX2 9HF
11.00 am, Monday 1 July 2019 (followed by lunch at 1.00 pm)

Draft agenda

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence, and news of members
3. Minutes of the 2018 AGM (held on 2 July 2018)
– to confirm approval already given by the Committee at its 13 August 2018 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 2019/20
 - a. Chairman
 - b. Vice-Chairman
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Treasurer
 - e. Committee members (one for 3 years, one for 2 years, one for 1 year)
 - f. Co-option of additional members if necessary
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 2019/20
10. Proposal on charges for attendance at EUC events:
'That visitors be charged a flat rate of £3 for every event they attend'
11. Date, time and venue for a meeting of the new Committee
(Monday 5 August 2019 at 11 am at The Cowick Barton is suggested)
12. Programme for the rest of 2019, including date and venue for Christmas lunch.
13. Suggestions for the 2020 programme
14. Other matters, by leave of the Chairman
15. Closure of meeting

Peter Wingfield-Digby
Branch Secretary