

To offer friendship through social and educational activities

## **EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter**

**Number 40**

<http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk>

**September 2019**

**October to December 2019**

### **Future events**

#### **Thursday 10 October 2019: Lunch at Bickleigh Mill**

Join us for lunch at Bickleigh Mill, near Tiverton.



Bickleigh Mill was built in the late 18th century and was milling corn until the devastating floods of the 1960s. Corn from surrounding farms was raised into the corn loft and then ground. The mill workings and water wheel are still on display.

The Bistro Restaurant and Bar is located in the Old Mill House, with views of the waterside gardens and the mill wheel itself. Nearby, there are a great variety of shops over three floors. There are also some riverside walks nearby.

**Website:** <https://www.bickleighmill.com/>

**Meet at:** Bickleigh Mill, Bickleigh, Tiverton EX16 8RG Tel. 01884 855 419

**Date and time:** Thursday 10 October 2019 from 12 noon for 12.30 lunch.

**By car:** Take the A396 from Exeter towards Tiverton. Go past the turn-off on the right to Bickleigh Village, and the entrance to the Mill is on the right immediately before Bickleigh Bridge. There is ample parking space there.

**By bus:** Take the 55 bus at 11.30 am from Paris Street. It arrives at Bickleigh village at 11.54, and it is then a short walk towards the bridge.

**To book:** Contact George Garner at [georgegarner@btopenworld.com](mailto:georgegarner@btopenworld.com) or 01392 881 330 by 3 October.

### **Wednesday 30 October 2019: Pamela Vass talks about her book *Seeds of Doubt* and the Lynmouth flash floods of 1952.**

Many remember the summer of 1952 when flash-floods destroyed the small fishing village of Lynmouth on the North Devon coast. Pamela Vass was intrigued by rumours of government interference with the weather and spent many months accessing previously secret documents at the National Archive in Kew.

This talk uncovers the incredible true story that creates the backdrop for her novel *Seeds of Doubt*. She will include readings from the book and anecdotes about the research and writing process.

**Visit her website:**

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



**Speaker:** Pamela Vass, a local author

**Topic:** *Seeds of Doubt*: The Lynmouth flash floods of 1952

**Venue:** Cowick Barton, 121 Cowick Lane, Exeter EX2 9HF

**Time:** 2 pm, but with lunch beforehand from 12 noon.

**To book:** Contact Peter Wingfield-Digby ([pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com)) or 01392 424 781 by 23 October.

## Thursday 21 November 2019: Shaun Curtis talks about the University of Exeter: Present position and future prospects.

Come and hear Dr Shaun Curtis speak about the present state of our university and its future prospects. He is ideally qualified to speak about this, since he is the Director of Global Advancement at the University. His department is responsible for building long-term relationships with the University's alumni and supporters around the world. More than 140,000 alumni are spread around the world, and many (like those in our Club) remain closely involved in supporting the University.



- Speaker:** Shaun Curtis, Director of Global Advancement, University of Exeter
- Topic:** The University of Exeter: Present position and future prospects
- Place:** Cowick Barton, 121 Cowick Lane, Exeter EX2 9HF
- Time:** 2 pm, with lunch beforehand from 12 noon
- To book:** Contact Peter Wingfield-Digby ([pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com) or 01392 424 781) by 14 November.

## Thursday 5 December 2019: Christmas Lunch at Cowick Barton

Our Christmas Lunch will again be held at the Cowick Barton. The date to note is Thursday 5 December at 12.30 for lunch at 1 pm. The menu and order form are included on pages 13 and 15 at the back of this newsletter. **Please submit your orders and payment cheque as soon as possible to Gwyneth**, who is organising the event. The deadline for booking is 7 November.

## Event Reports

### Annual General Meeting, 1 July 2019

At our AGM the following officers were elected:

Chairman	Frances Canning
Vice-Chairman	Mike Aspray
Secretary	Peter Wingfield-Digby
Treasurer	Susie Hewitt

The following people were elected as members of the Committee:

George Garner	Immediate past Chairman (ex-officio)
Felicity Cawthra	Member
Clive Lee	Member
Pamela Lee	Member
Louise Clunies-Ross	Co-opted (representing finance group of former EUC)

At the AGM it was decided that the financial arrangements for visitors attending our talks would be simplified. In future all visitors will be asked to pay £3 whenever they attend meetings. This arrangement was endorsed by the Committee at its meeting in August.

The AGM requested that the reports from the Secretary and the Treasurer should be included in the Club Newsletter. You will find them on pages 9 to 12

### Visit to Tiverton Museum of Mid-Devon Life, 16 July 2019



On Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> ten members visited The Tiverton Museum of Mid Devon Life. After a welcome and a brief introduction by Pippa Griffith, the museum's director, everyone went round the exhibits at their own pace, concentrating on those things which most interested them. There is certainly a lot to see; items range from Roman artefacts through Devon's history in the Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Medieval periods until the present day with particular emphasis on the textile industry, agriculture and fishing. Galleries are devoted to Devon life during the Civil War and both World Wars.



After the visit we lunched at Elsie May's Café, which is conveniently close to the Museum, the Bus Station and a cheap car park. The café was pleasant and the food was perfectly satisfactory, the only complaint heard being that the portions were sometimes too large.

The visit was generally enjoyed, with much praise for the museum. The time planned for the museum visit – an hour and a half – was possibly too short; some members returned there after lunch.

*George Garner*

### **Visit to Paignton Torbay Bowling Club, 30 August 2019**

Sadly there was insufficient support from members for this event, and it had to be cancelled.

### **Talk by Alex Sully on 'The Morgan Car', 24 September 2019**

19 members enjoyed a talk by Alex Sully on "The Morgan Car". Alex was at pains to emphasise that he has no connection with the Morgan Car Company or any trader in Morgans but has been an enthusiastic owner of Morgans for 40 years. He writes newsletters for "Oggiemog", a local branch of the Morgan Sports Car Club.

He began by telling us of questions guaranteed to infuriate Morgan owners:

- (i) "Is the chassis made of wood?" None have ever been,
- (ii) "Is it a kit car?" NO!!!
- (ii) "Have all the Morgans ever made been painted by the same man using the same brush?"

A moment's thought would answer the last, since the first three-wheeler was made in 1906 in a garage at Malvern, where the company later built the present factory, which had to be sold during hard times and was re-bought later. The first car consisted of little more than a two- cylinder engine and two wheels at the front, a rudimentary tubular chassis, a chain-driven wheel at the back and a single seat for the driver, who got very wet and muddy on the roads of the time. This problem was partially alleviated by the addition of a simple open, single-seater body.

Dashing young men found that the cars attracted ladies and two-seaters were developed, rapidly followed by four-seaters to accommodate chaperones or, later, children. The three-wheeler was continuously developed for many years but was superseded in 1936 when Morgan produced its first four-wheeled car. This was named the 4/4 as it had four wheels and an engine with four cylinders. The 4/4 remains in production with only detailed modernisation and its layout has been the basis for all Morgans until very recently: A chassis with angled steel members, a unique system of independent front suspension, “cart-springs” at the back and a wooden (ash) frame to an aluminium body. Various engines and many other components have been bought in from other suppliers and this has sometimes caused the factory yard to become clogged with incomplete cars.

Increasingly powerful (and expensive) cars of similar appearance have since been produced and many have achieved success at motor-sport, particularly in trials over bad ground and in hill-climbs. There is an established series of races run for Morgans and the marque probably achieved its greatest success in 1962 when it won the 2 litre class at Le Mans against much more prestigious makes, despite scornful comments about its antiquated design.



Recently a director of the firm remarked casually to a journalist that they considered producing a new three-wheeler. This was published and such was the public interest that the company felt that they had to go ahead. The resultant car has been very successful despite being introduced in such a hurry that early customers had to iron out some faults that should have been discovered at the development stage. Nevertheless it has done much to improve the company's finances.

Morgan has experimented with an electric Morgan and a fuel-cell car but these have not reached production.

Morgans are cars much loved by enthusiasts; they are noisy and rough, often fitted with a hood which takes 15 minutes to erect (and then leaks), have minimal luggage space and have suspension so hard that a common joke is that if you drive over a coin you can tell if was "Heads" or "Tails"

Alex ended his talk with a series of photographs illustrating production techniques involving his own car at various stages in its build. He answered questions from the audience and was thanked by Louise Clunies-Ross for a most entertaining and informative talk.

*George Garner*

## **Other notices**

### **Subscriptions**

If you haven't yet paid your subscription or pay by cheque, please would you consider setting up a standing order? Subscriptions are due on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The bank details are: Nat West. Account number: 10016821  
Sort code 52-30-17. Exeter University Club- Exeter Branch.

Membership: £10 per person

Associate membership (for those who do not want to attend talks but wish to keep in touch with the Club): £5

*Please note – if you require a hard copy of the Newsletter there is an additional charge of £5*

## **Farewell to Una Cutts**

We are sad to report the death last month of Una Cutts. Una graduated in French in 1944 and went on to take a postgraduate Certificate in Education the following year, also at Exeter. As the family home was in Exeter, Una did not need to live in Hall. She retained strong links with Exeter and for many years attended Exeter Branch and some EUC events, staying in the old family home in May Street and travelling by train from her home in Cardiff. Una retained a love of France and despite her arthritis, just a few weeks before her death in late September had enjoyed a holiday there with her son Timothy.

Below is a reprint of an article that Una wrote about the 1942 Exeter blitz. She was an Exeter student at the time.

## MEMORIES OF THE BLITZ

I was in Exeter throughout the War, so experienced the blitz first-hand.

We spent the night of May 4th in one of the air-raid shelters which had been put up at the ends of several roads, and sat there, along with a score of other people, listening to the low flying planes and the continuous “wooshes” and explosions – and thinking our own thoughts. At one point, our local ARP (Air Raid Precautions) warden stepped outside to see what was happening, but retreated quickly when a plane swept even lower and started machine-gunning.

When the All Clear eventually sounded, we came out to find that most of the damage in our area was of burning buildings. We spent most of the rest of the night trying to extinguish the fire in one house, using stirrup-pumps, with the water supply being kept up by a chain of people with buckets.

At some time someone said, “Do you want to see the last of St James’s Church?” The old church was next to the football stadium in St James’s Road. As we watched, we saw the flames going up through the tall spire, and watched it fold and collapse. It was a clear night, and the full moon looked blood-red from the reflection of so many fires.

Afterwards, we gradually took in the extent of the devastation, and how many familiar land-marks in Exeter had been destroyed. I can still remember the smell of dust and rubble, and, where a large grocer’s had been, the smell of burnt cheese!

As so many people had been made homeless, canteens were opened, where hot meals could be had at minimum cost. We spent quite a lot of time helping to serve meals, when we would otherwise have been attending lectures. It was a rather different experience being a student in war-time Exeter!

*Una Cutts*



# **EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB – EXETER BRANCH**

## **2019 Annual General Meeting**

Monday 1 July 2019

11.00 am at the Cowick Barton, Cowick Lane, Exeter

### **Secretary's Report**

#### **EUC Officers and Committee**

At last year's AGM we were not able to fill the post of female Vice-Chairman. Subsequently Frances Canning agreed to accept the role, for which we are most grateful. The duties of officers and committee members are not particularly arduous. Perhaps the main requirement is that they should be able to attend the Committee meeting held at the beginning of August, when we plan the programme for the coming year. I would like to thank our outgoing Chair, George Garner, for his help this year. Special thanks are also due to Pamela and Clive Lee, who have now handed over the post of Treasurer to Susie Hewitt. They have done much to put our financial record-keeping on a sounder basis.

#### **Christmas lunch**

The Christmas lunch at Cowick Barton was very well supported by Club members. Special thanks go to Gwyneth Garner, for making all the arrangements.

#### **Change of meeting venue**

Following its refurbishment, and with the recent change in management at the Cowick Barton, the Club Committee decided to relocate our meetings back to Cowick Barton, starting in January this year. So far it has worked out very well, with the manager allowing us to use our old meeting room at no charge.

#### **Privacy Notice**

As required under the Data Protection Act, your Committee – at its meeting last August - agreed a Privacy Notice for the Club, and the link to this notice has been placed on the 'Contact us' page of our website. In an effort to improve security, the Secretary has placed passwords on his files containing membership data.

#### **Newsletters**

The publication of the quarterly newsletters has continued throughout the year. The printing arrangements, with Garfield Barnett in Tiverton, work out very efficiently and economically. Turn-around time for printing is usually 24 hours! Currently eight members pay for a hard copy of the newsletter.

#### **Website**

Our website ([eucexeterbranch.org.uk](http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk)) continues to provide a valuable resource for members, as well as for others wanting to learn more about our Club. Details of all forthcoming meetings, lunches, and outings are placed on the website. There is also an archive giving reports, often with photos, on all events that have taken place. All our quarterly newsletters are saved on the website, and there is a page giving details of Club officers and committee members. There is a small photo gallery, and a spot at the top of the homepage for highlighting 'Stop Press' information.

## Publicity

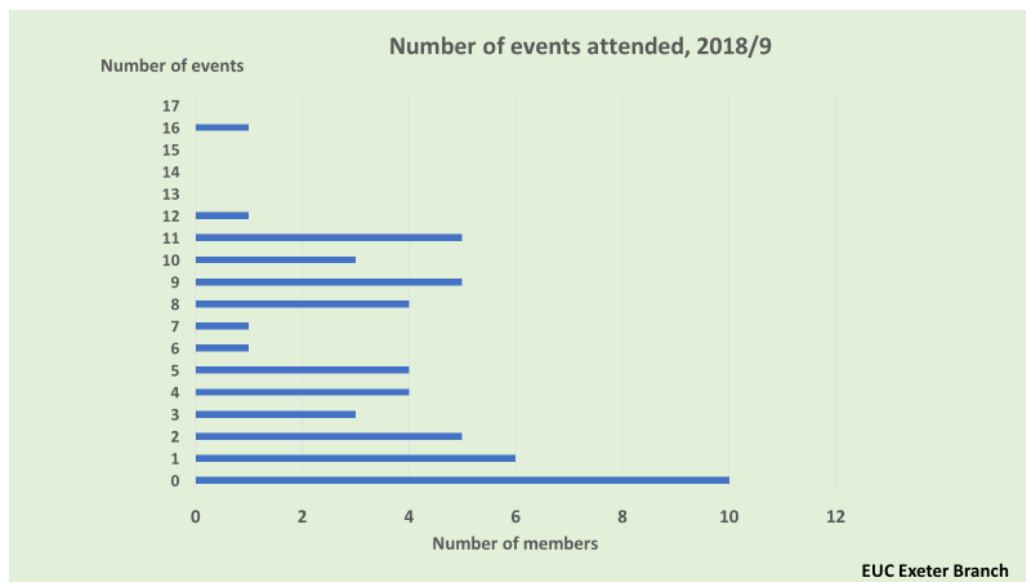
We must all make an increased effort to attract new members. In an effort to do so, the Secretary has placed a laminated A4 flyer about the club in three central locations in Exeter: at the Exeter City Library, the Devon and Exeter Institution, and Exeter Community Centre on St David's Hill. Members are welcome to take some small flyers to show to prospective members, and a registration form for anyone who is interested in joining the club.

## Members' participation

Finally, I want to mention that during this past 12 months I have been keeping a record of who attends each of our events. In this way we get a chance to see which type of event appeals to the greatest number. Over the past year there have been 17 events: seven meetings, including last year's AGM; seven lunches, including the Christmas lunch, and three outings. The total number of paid-up members attending each of our events is shown below:

Meetings:	AGM	16	Lunches:	Heathfield	14	Outings:	Cruise	13
	Black	19		Smugglers	13		Buckfast	7
	NCI	12		Highwaymans	13		Orchids	12
	Richard	16		Christmas lunch	28			
	Allan	20		Red Lion	15			
	Hospitals	15		@34	15			
	In Sight	19		Blue Ball	18			

In terms of individual paid-up members , the number attending events ranged from 10 members who did not attend any event, up as far as one member who attended 16 events. This is illustrated on this chart.



The big question is: How can we get more members to attend more of our events?  
Thank you.

*Peter Wingfield-Digby, 1 July 2019*

## Exeter University Club (Exeter Branch) Treasurer's financial report 2018/19

I took over from Clive as treasurer early this year and would like to thank him for passing over everything in such good order and helping me with the transition. Also, thanks to Peter for pulling everything together for the final financial report.

Here are some of the main features of the financial report:

Summary  
position

<b>Reconciliation</b>	
£	
<b>Balance at 1.4.18</b>	<b>1,263.93</b>
<b>plus</b> 2018/19 receipts	1,288.00
<b>less</b> 2018/19 expenses	943.62
<b>Balance at 31.3.19</b>	<b>1,608.31</b>

### **On the receipts side:**

**Subscriptions:** Last year the rate of subscriptions changed. Instead of paying a membership fee of £2.50, and an additional £2 for each talk attended, all members now pay £10 and there are no meeting fees. Inevitably we lost some members as a result of this change. In 2017/18 there were 74 paid-up members. We now have 53 members paying the £10 annual membership fee, along with one associate member paying £5 (she receives all club information but cannot attend club activities). There are also two honorary members.

**Talk income:** There was some talk income this past year, because one talk took place in April 2018, before the new membership rules came into effect.

**Newsletters:** The number of people paying for hard copies of the quarterly Newsletter fell from 10 to 8, but a spare newsletter was also sold for £1.

**Christmas lunch:** This was very well supported, as the figures indicate.

**Donations:** These arose partly as a result of people paying the old standing order of £2.50 but then deciding to discontinue their membership. Also included here is one late payment for Christmas lunch from the previous year.

### **On the expenses side:**

**Speaker fees:** These were lower than expected, because some speakers did not claim a fee.

**Donations to causes:** For some talks the club was asked to make a donation to the charity giving the talk or to a charity nominated by the speaker.

**Newsletter printing and distribution:** The costs are slightly higher this year because it includes the printing and distribution of five newsletters, not four.

**Christmas lunch:** Although expenses were higher than last year, they were easily covered by the higher receipts, because more people were attending.

**Website:** The annual cost of maintaining the website remained unchanged, and appears to represent very good value.

**Secretarial:** This year's amount covers just postage.

**Miscellaneous:** This includes the items shown below the table. The cost of printing the programme card for members has been included here, rather than including it as secretarial as was done in the previous year.

### **Conclusion**

It is good to report that we are financially in an excellent position. The new way of paying subscriptions has made the Treasurer's job a lot easier and reduced the paperwork substantially. Instead of the deficit of £84.28 sustained in the previous year, this year we have had a surplus of £344.38.

It is disappointing, but perhaps inevitable, that we lost some members as a result of the change in the system of subscription. It would be good if we could all try to boost the number of members we have.

However, one recommendation I would like to make is that instead of visitors being allowed to attend one meeting as guests free of charge (thus involving keeping records of their attendance) we ask all visitors to pay a small payment each time they come. This is item 10 on the agenda today.

*Susie Hewitt  
Club Treasurer*

**Footnote:** Following discussion at the 2019 AGM, the motion that in future all visitors would be asked to pay £3 for attending meetings was passed unanimously. This proposal was endorsed by the Committee that met in August 2019.



## ***EUC (Exeter Branch) Xmas Lunch 2019***

***Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> 12.30 for 1 p.m.***

***2 courses £20 (smaller portion £19)***

***3 courses £23 (smaller portion £22)***

### **Starters**

Wild boar, venison and duck terrine, plum & apple chutney, toasted ciabatta, baby leaf

Oak smoked salmon, pickled cucumber, pumpkin seeds, charred lemon (*gf*)

Homemade breaded brie wedges, cranberry sauce, mixed leaf

Roast parsnip soup, toasted almonds, pea-shoots (*ve, gf*)

### **Main Courses**

Hand carved roast turkey, sage & apple stuffing, roast potatoes, pigs in blankets, seasonal veg

Slow roast beef brisket, mushroom & red wine sauce, roast potatoes, seasonal veg

Honey glazed roast salmon fillet, rosemary roast new potatoes, lemon crème fraiche, salad (*gf*)

Nut roast, cashew, peanut, almond & walnuts, cheddar cheese, vegetables & herbs,

vegetarian gravy, roast potatoes, seasonal vegetables (*v*)

Mushroom and chestnut risotto, thyme and truffle oil (*ve, gf*)

### **Desserts**

Traditional Christmas pudding, brandy sauce (*v*)

Vanilla crème brulee, shortbread (*v, gf\**)

Deep filled cheesecake, gluten free honey and granola base, Morello cherry compote (*v, gf*)

Belgian chocolate tart, raspberry coulis, raspberries, double cream (*v*)

Lemon, raspberry and mango sorbet (*ve, v, gf*)

*v=vegetarian ve=vegan ve\*=vegan with amends gf=glutenfree gf\*=glutenfree with amends*



EXETER UNIVERSITY CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH

THURSDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2019

**BOOKING FORM**

NAME.....

PHONE NO: .....

E-MAIL.....

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

1. Please put your initials next to your choice on the menu
2. If you require the Smaller Portion option, please underline “Small Portion” at the top of the menu
3. Please return this menu and booking form **with your cheque** made out to **E.U.C (EXETER BRANCH)** to **Mrs G. Garner, The Garden House, Bradninch, Exeter EX5 4NL**
4. Closing date for booking is **Thursday November 7<sup>th</sup> 2019**
5. **Refunds** – Please note that if you have to cancel your booking EUC cannot refund your payment after Thursday 21st November 2019.