



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

## **EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter**

**Number 47**

<http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk>

**June 2021**

**July to September 2021**

### **Monday 5 July 2021: Annual General Meeting by Zoom (11 a.m.)**

We are holding our AGM on Monday 5 July at 11 am on Zoom. We hope that as many members as possible will attend. If you indicate your interest in attending, the Club Secretary will send you a link that will enable you to join the meeting.

We did not hold an AGM last year, so this year's AGM will cover a two-year period. One important element of the AGM is electing members to serve on the Committee. We also need to elect a Vice-Chairman for the coming year. By tradition this alternates between male and female from year to year, so this year we need to elect a female. Please nominate yourself or someone else to serve in one of these positions.



*Spotted on the Streatham campus in mid-April*

## **EUC Exeter Branch Programme for 2021**

Full details of each event can be found on our website

[www.eucexeterbranch.org.uk](http://www.eucexeterbranch.org.uk) For visits, please remember to bring a facemask.

**Wednesday 23 June: Visit to Ugbrooke House and Gardens at 2 pm.**

Organiser: Frances Canning, 01392 209542 [francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Monday 5 July at 11 am: Annual General Meeting (by Zoom) at 11 am.**

Organiser: Peter Wingfield-Digby 01392 424781 [pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com)

**13-15 July: EUC Annual Outing and Reunion. Greys Court NT on 14 July.**

Organiser: Contact Mike Aspray 01884 242606 [mikeaspray@btinternet.com](mailto:mikeaspray@btinternet.com)

**Monday 26 July: Visit to Buckfast Abbey Gardens at 2 pm.**

Organiser: Frances Canning 01392 209542 [francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Monday 9 August: EUC Committee meeting (by Zoom) at 11 am.**

Organiser: Peter Wingfield-Digby 01392 424781 [pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com)

**Monday 6 September: River Tamar Cruise at 2.30 pm**

Organiser: Peter Wingfield-Digby 01392 424781 [pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com)

**Tuesday 14 September: Talk (on Zoom), 2 pm, Peter WD: 'Exploring South India by Train'**

Organiser: Peter Wingfield-Digby 01392 424781 [pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com)

**Wednesday 6 October: Talk (on Zoom) at 2 pm about 'Devon Air Ambulance'**

Organiser: Susie Hewitt 01392 273895 [susiehewitt@gmx.com](mailto:susiehewitt@gmx.com)

**Monday 18 October: Visit at 2 pm to Killerton House and Park**

Organiser: Louise Clunies-Ross 01884 242606 [louisecluniesross@btinternet.com](mailto:louisecluniesross@btinternet.com)

**Thursday 4 November: Talk (on Zoom) at 2 pm by Alan Puttock on 'Beavers'**

Organiser: Louise Clunies-Ross 01884 242606 [louisecluniesross@btinternet.com](mailto:louisecluniesross@btinternet.com)

**Wed 17 November: Visit Devon and Exeter Institution at 10.30; St Nicholas Priory at 2.30**

Organiser: Ian Maxted [ianmaxted@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ianmaxted@hotmail.co.uk) (or via 01392 424781)

**Tuesday 7 December: Talk (on Zoom) at 2 pm, Paul Rendell 'Okehampton of Yesteryear'**

Organiser: Susie Hewitt 01392 273895 [susiehewitt@gmx.com](mailto:susiehewitt@gmx.com)

We are not intending to hold a special Christmas Lunch this year.

## Future events

### Wednesday 23 June 2021: Visit to Ugbrooke House near Chudleigh

Ugbrooke House has been the family seat of the Clifford family for over 400 years. In the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century the house was remodelled by Robert Adam and the gardens by Capability Brown. Both are well worth exploring. There is also a very impressive chapel that is still in use.



The gates open at 12 noon. **Please remember to bring your facemask.**

**Meet:** (Optional) At 12 noon for a light lunch in the Orangery, Ugbrooke House, Chudleigh TQ13 0AD. Website: [www.ugbrooke.co.uk](http://www.ugbrooke.co.uk) Tel. 01626 852 179

At 2 pm for a conducted tour of the house. The cost for house and gardens will be £9. If we have 15 or more members visiting the house, we shall get a private tour to ourselves – otherwise we shall have to be part of a public tour.

#### **Transport:**

**By car:** Take the A30 road from Exeter, then the A38 and A380. Turn off at the slip road at Olchard Ideford Dip (GR 50.59, -3.58). Turn left at the junction, and continue for 1 km to Ugbrooke.

**By bus:** There is an hourly bus service (no. 7) from Exeter bus station. For instance, the 10.50 am bus gets to Olchard Ideford Dip (the next stop after Kenn) at 11.17. Cross the A380 and then walk NW for 1 km to Ugbrooke House. Return buses run hourly, at a quarter to the hour.

**To book:** Contact Frances Canning ([francesandedwardATblueyonder.co.uk](mailto:francesandedwardATblueyonder.co.uk) or 01392 209 542) by 10 June.

## Wednesday 14 July 2021: EUC Annual Outing

Full details on this event were given in the last Newsletter .

The Annual Outing this year is expected to be held on Wednesday 14 July, and will be to Greys Court (National Trust), Henley-on-Thames, RG9 4PG. The plan is to enter Greys Court NT as individuals and then meet on site.

Greys Court (National Trust), near Henley  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/greys-court>

*For more information, please contact Mike Aspray, our Vice-Chairman:  
[Vicechairman@Teucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:Vicechairman@Teucexeterbranch.org.uk) Tel. 01884 242606 – leave a message.*

## Monday 26 July 2021: Visit to the Gardens at Buckfast Abbey

On this visit to Buckfast Abbey, we shall have a conducted tour of Buckfast Abbey Gardens. At Buckfast there are spacious lawns and three specialist garden areas: a Lavender garden, a Physic garden, and a Sensory Garden. Everywhere there are specialist trees which give a magnificence and splendour to the grounds.

12.00 (Optional) Lunch – those who wish to do so can have lunch or snacks in the Grange Restaurant, which commands spectacular views of the Abbey and the surrounding countryside.

2 pm Conducted tour of the gardens. The head gardener is both knowledgeable and enthusiastic, so this should be a very interesting tour. There will be a charge of £3 per head.

The Abbey and grounds are usually open from 10 am to 4 pm. Please note that the Abbey will be closed to visitors between 12 and 12.30, when it is only available to those attending Mass. There are also three interesting shops nearby.

Buckfast Abbey, Buckfastleigh, Devon TQ11 0EE <https://www.buckfast.org.uk/>

### Transport

**By road:** Buckfast Abbey is half a mile from the A38, and mid-way between Exeter and Plymouth. There is ample free parking at the Abbey.

**By bus:** From Exeter Bus Station there are two alternatives. The No. 7 bus at 9.50 am gets to Newton Abbot at 10.45. Then take the 88 bus at 10.50 am, which gets to Buckfast Abbey at 11.22 am. The return buses are at 38 minutes past the hour. Another option is to take the X38 bus at 9.30 am towards Plymouth, and get off at Station Approach, Buckfastleigh, at 10.20 am. From there it is a half-mile walk to the Abbey at Buckfast. The return bus to Exeter runs every two hours.

**Please remember to bring your facemask.**

**To book:** If you would like to join this tour, please contact Frances Canning by 13 July.  
[francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk) or 01392 209 542

## Monday 9 August 2021: EUC Committee meeting by Zoom

The Committee that has been elected at the AGM on 5 July will meet at 11 am by Zoom, to discuss issues of importance to the Club, and to plan the programme of activities for 2022.

Contact Peter WD, the Secretary: [pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com) 01392 424781

## Monday 6 September 2021: River Tamar cruise

Join us for an idyllic cruise to experience the stunning scenery of the Tamar Valley. Setting sail across Plymouth Sound and up the River Tamar to the picturesque Cornish village of Calstock. Leaving the busy city behind we pass the Naval Dockyard and Brunel's famous bridge, taking in the beautiful sights of the Tamar Valley, passing Cargreen, Wier Quay, Pentille, Holton and Cotehele.



The 5-Hour Cruise comprises a two-hour cruise to Calstock, with a one hour stop-over – a chance to stretch your legs and walk around the quaint Cornish village - before returning to the vessel for the two-hour return journey. There is small licensed bar on board, with some snack food. At Calstock, the 17<sup>th</sup> Century Tamar Inn can serve light snacks, or more substantial food if booked in advance (Tel. 01822 832 487).

**Dog Friendly** – Dogs are allowed on all Daytime Cruises & Ferries, but must remain on their leads at all times.

**Timings of the sailing:** Depart Plymouth 2.30 pm. Arrive Calstock 4.30 pm  
Depart Calstock 5.30 pm. Arrive Plymouth 7.30 pm

**Departure point:** Tamar Cruises Landing Stage, near the Mayflower Steps.

**Please remember to bring your facemask.**



**Cost of cruise:** £19.50. Payment can be made:

a) **on the day** at the Ticket Pavilion located directly in front of the Landing Stage where all the trips depart. It is recommended that you arrive at least 15 minutes before the scheduled departure time, or

b) **by booking in advance** (at least the day before) through the secure online booking system, which gives a 5% discount. Tel. 01752 253 153

<https://online.plymouthboattrips.co.uk/trips/schedule/filter:calstock>

### **Travel to Plymouth:**

- 1. Train:** Trains leave Exeter St Davids every 20 minutes. Journey takes 1 hour. 20-minute walk to the landing stage.
- 2. Bus:** The X38 leaves Exeter at 9.30 and 11.40, and takes 1½ hours to Plymouth. 15-minute walk to the landing stage.
- 3. Coach:** Falcon Coaches go every hour from Honiton and Sowton Park & Ride. The journey takes one hour. 15-minute walk to the landing stage.
- 3. Car:** The nearest carpark is at Lambhay Hill (£9 for more than 5 hours), but the larger Elphinstone Car Park a little further away is the preferred choice (£3.50 for 6 hours).

**To book:** If you would like to come on this tour, please contact Peter Wingfield-Digby at [pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com) or 01392 424781 by 23 August.

### **Tuesday 14 September 2021: Talk at 2 pm by Peter Wingfield-Digby on 'Exploring South India by Train'**

Peter will give an illustrated talk on his two-month holiday in south India. His extensive travels, covering about 3,000 miles, were done almost completely by train. His trip started in Mumbai and finished in Kolkata.

During his stay he was able to visit almost every major tourist spot in the south of the country, travelling down the west coast, and then getting to Chennai on the east coast. He also visited several place in the centre of the country.

He also met for the first time a second cousin who had retired to Kerala, and he spent Christmas with some British friends who have a second home in the deep south.



**To book:** If you would like to join this talk, please contact Peter on 01392 424 781 or [pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com). He will then send you a link for access to Zoom.

## Wednesday 6 October 2021: Talk at 2 p.m. by Devon Air Ambulance

We are delighted to welcome a speaker from the Devon Air Ambulance, who will tell us about the important work that they do. In an emergency, the Air Ambulance can be anywhere in the county within minutes - from the moors to the shores.

The patients saved are ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances: parents, partners, children. Nobody chooses to have an emergency, but thanks to the crucial support of the Devon community, the Devon Air Ambulance can be there when it matters most.



<https://www.daat.org/>

**To book:** Contact Susie Hewitt ([susiehewitt@gmx.com](mailto:susiehewitt@gmx.com) or 01392 273895). You will then receive a link a day or two before the meeting, which will enable you to access the talk online via Zoom.

## News from the campus

### Student accommodation

In the last issue we mentioned that the University had submitted proposals for the development of the Clydesdale, Nash and Birks Grange Village halls of residence on the Streatham campus. That plan received overwhelming support at a meeting of the Exeter City Council Planning Committee on 27 May. Despite a number of objections from the public, the proposal was approved by 10 votes to 1.

The proposal would see the demolition of the existing Clydesdale and Nash Grove buildings – built in the later 1980s and early 1990s – and the construction of new student accommodation buildings, ranging in height from three to eight storeys. It will result in a net increase of about 1,200 student bedrooms on the campus.

## **Did you know?**

In 2020 there were about 27,000 students at the University of Exeter, of whom 22,000 were full-time. There were almost 21,000 students on the Streatham campus, 3,700 at St Luke's, and 2,700 at Penryn. Overseas students numbered about 5,000, and they came from over 150 countries.

The professional staff number about 6,500, of whom 1,000 are engaged solely in research, 1,200 combine teaching and research, 1,300 do teaching only, and 3,000 provide professional services. Some staff are part-time, so in terms of full-time equivalents, the university employs about 5,000 full-time staff.

The University's total income in 2019/20 was £478 million, with over half of that (57 %) coming from tuition fees and education contracts. Almost 20 percent came from research grants and contracts, 11 percent from funding body grants, and 12 percent from other income, including a small proportion from investment income and donations.

## **News from the city**

### **Swimming pools**

The St Sidwell's Point leisure centre, near the site of the old bus station, is about to open its doors. Construction is complete, and they are putting the final touches to the outside. It will contain, among other things, a state-of-the-art Passivhaus swimming pool. Also opening soon is a new bus station alongside, which should make bus travel much more pleasant, especially in winter time. With the old bus station, bus travellers were exposed to the elements while waiting for their buses.

Across the city, the Riverside Leisure Centre swimming pool, damaged four years ago by fire, is finally set to reopen on 24<sup>th</sup> July. It has proved a massive job to restore the swimming pool, and its transformation has cost the City Council £5.6 million.

### **Local businesses**

While many businesses have suffered during the pandemic and been forced to close, others have seen the lockdowns as a good opportunity to develop along new lines. Two interesting developments in the centre of Exeter concern restaurant businesses. The well-known Lloyds Kitchen, in Catherine Street, which in the past has been voted Exeter's Restaurant of the Year, has had a complete makeover. It is now a modern and elegant restaurant called Sabatini, and serves Italian food. Nearby in the Cathedral Close, a glamorous new restaurant called The Ivy has just opened in the imposing City Bank (Jack Wills) building directly facing the Cathedral. There is seating for 120 diners.