



To offer friendship through social and educational activities

## **EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter**

**Number 52**

<http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk>

**September 2022**

**October to December 2022**

### **Club news**

#### **Annual General Meeting and new committee**

We were encouraged by the support given by members in attending the Annual General Meeting. This meeting was held on Zoom on 4 July, and 23 members attended. In the course of the meeting the outgoing chairman, Mike Aspray, handed over to Frances Canning who was elected chairman for the coming year.

The officers and committee for 2022/2023 will be:

Officers:	Chairman:	Frances Canning
	Vice-chairman:	Steve Pooley
	Secretary:	Peter Wingfield-Digby
	Treasurer:	Susie Hewitt
Members of the Committee:	Mike Aspray (immediate past chairman)	
	Maria Henderson (three years)	
	Keith Feltham (two years)	
	Richard Westlake (one year)	
	Louise Clunies-Ross (co-opted)	
	Anne Mayes (co-opted)	

A committee meeting was held on Zoom on 8 August to plan our programme of activities for the first six months of 2023.

## Message from the Treasurer

Susie would like to remind EUC members that subscriptions became payable as from 1 July. The annual subscription is £10 per person. Members receive an electronic copy of the quarterly Newsletter, but if you want to receive a hard copy, that will be an additional £5.

The best way to pay your EUC annual membership is to set up a standing order at your bank, so that the subscription is paid automatically at the right time every year. The bank details are:

Name of account:	Exeter University Club (Exeter Branch)
Sort code:	52-30-17
Account number:	10016821

## Farewell

### **Frances Newcombe (nee Hartnoll) 29 July 1928 to 24 July 2022**

Honorary member of EUC Exeter Branch

Frances Mary Hartnoll was born in Braunton, North Devon in 1928, and a few years later the family moved to Teignmouth. However in the early 1940s they returned to North Devon, to be further away from wartime raids along the south coast. In 1946 Frances was delighted to gain a place to read history at Exeter University, where she lived in Lopes Hall. A further year at the University's Education Department led to the award of her teaching qualification and Frances began her teaching career at Totnes Grammar School for Girls.

In 1953 Frances married Philip Newcombe and they moved to live in Exeter, where their two children, Jane and Roger, were born. When both children were of school age, Frances did some teaching locally but after the death of her husband in 1976, Frances concentrated on bringing up the family in their home in Pennsylvania. Not long after losing her husband Frances joined the local branch of Exeter University Club where she made some good friends and enjoyed helping to run the club and taking part in its activities.

Frances always maintained her interest in the University and along with other alumni, she was very helpful in identifying people and places within the large archive of photographs held by the University in its Special Collections.

Frances died on 24<sup>th</sup> July after some years of poor health due to dementia; Jane had predeceased her. Five members of Exeter Branch attended her funeral at Exeter Crematorium to say goodbye and to support her son Roger.

Louise Clunies-Ross

## Future events

### Wednesday 12 October 2022: Visit to Moretonhampstead Motor Museum

**Visit:** Moretonhampstead Motor Museum  
**Date and time:** Wednesday 12 October 2022  
12 for 12.30 at the Union Inn (optional)  
2.15 p.m. at the Motor Museum.  
**To book:** Contact Anne Mayes before 5 October at A.C.Mayes@exeter.ac.uk  
or on 01647 252 603

Lunch at the Union Inn 10 Ford Street TQ13 8LN [www.theunioninn.co.uk](http://www.theunioninn.co.uk)  
We aim to walk up to the Museum for 2.15/2.30pm

The Motor Museum is at the Old Barn Depot, Court Street TQ13 8LG  
[moretonhampsteadmotormuseum.co.uk](http://moretonhampsteadmotormuseum.co.uk) The standard entrance fee is £8,  
but we might get a group discount, depending on numbers.



## Background information

The Motor Museum is home to a collection of over 150 vintage and classic vehicles, including pre-1920s to the 1990s. It is run by local motoring enthusiast Frank Loft, who is an Exeter graduate. The museum is housed in a newly refurbished bus depot. The collection of vehicles is complemented by motoring artefacts and automobilia, and visitors can also view the restoration workshop.

## Transport

**By car:** There are two car parks:

1. Station Road car park – if coming in from Exeter on the B3212 turn left at the cross roads, signposted Bovey Tracey. The car park is on the right-hand side and is the nearest to The Union Inn.
2. Court Street car park. Go across at the cross roads, through the centre of Moreton, the car park is on the right-hand corner of the first road on the right. This is where the bus stops, there are toilets and this is the nearest car park to the Motor Museum.

**By bus:** Catch the 11.15 Country Bus 359 from Sidwell Street Stand 40. This arrives in Moreton Square (alight here for the Union Inn) at 12.05pm, and at the Court Street Car Park (for the Motor Museum) at 12.08 p.m. The return bus, from Court Street Car Park, is at 4.15pm arriving in Exeter at 5.09pm.

## Thursday 10 November 2022: Talk on Exeter Cathedral memorials with links to Empire

***N.B. We were originally hoping to have a talk by Professor Kevin Gaston on the Role of Biodiversity, but unfortunately that talk has had to be cancelled.***

Instead, Peter, our Secretary, will give a talk about a book that he has recently published, which describes some 63 memorials in Exeter Cathedral that have links to Empire. They cover a wide range of experience: soldiers and sailors, missionaries, explorers, colonial administrators, people employed by the East India Company and – almost inevitably – some connected with slave plantations in the Caribbean.

Peter spent most of his working life in the tropics. He has been a guide and steward in the Cathedral for the last ten years.

**Date:** Thursday 10 November at 2 p.m.

**Speaker:** Peter Wingfield-Digby

**Topic:** Exeter Cathedral memorials with links to Empire

**Place:** Upstairs restaurant at The Stables, Cowley, Exeter EX5 5ER

**To book:** Contact Mike Aspray by 3 November on 01884 242 606 or at [mikeaspray@btinternet.com](mailto:mikeaspray@btinternet.com) We shall meet from 12 onwards for lunch.

### Transport:

**By car:** Approaching from Exeter, turn left at Cowley Bridge towards Crediton. The pub is on the left just after Bernaville Nurseries. There is a large car park up the slope behind the pub; turn in just before the pub. From there walk straight into the pub.

**By public transport:** There is a good bus service (5, 5A, 5B, 5C) every 20 minutes from Exeter Bus Station, which stops in Paris Street on the way. The bus will drop you at Bernaville Nurseries, just before the pub.

## Tuesday 6 December 2022: Christmas Lunch at The Stables, Cowley

Arrangements for the Christmas lunch have now been finalised.

**Date:** Tuesday 6 December 2022. Meet at 12 for 12.30 lunch

**Place:** The Stables, Cowley, Exeter EX5 5ER

**To book:** Contact Frances Canning on [francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:francesandedward@blueyonder.co.uk) or at 01392 209 542. You will be asked to pre-order before 31 October from the special Christmas menu that you will receive.

**Payment:** Advance payment is required. Please pay by BACS transfer to the club account, and notify Frances and the Treasurer when you have paid. Susie Hewitt, [susiehewitt@gmx.com](mailto:susiehewitt@gmx.com) Tel. 01392 273 895  
*Account name:* Exeter University Club (Exeter Branch)  
*Sort code:* 52-30-17 *Account no.:* 10016821

Alternatively, you can send a cheque to the Treasurer  
(Please ask the Treasurer for details of her address)

**Transport:** The pub is located on the Crediton road, just after Bernaville Nurseries. There are excellent parking facilities. Turn left up the slope just before the pub, then immediately right. From there you can walk directly into the first floor function room of the pub, where we shall be having our lunch.

**By bus:** There is a very good bus connection from Exeter every 20 minutes. The 5, 5A, 5B, and 5C all go along this road. Alight beside Bernaville Nurseries. For the return journey, the bus stop is directly opposite the pub.

## Event Reports

### Visit to Cadhay House and Gardens, 22 July 2022

Driving there an unusual substance landed on the windscreen. Closer investigation showed it to be something we'd not seen for some time - rain! Excellent timing! It continued until those of us who needed to, had changed out of sandals, found rainwear and swapped the sun hats for umbrellas....and then stopped.

Twenty of us gathered, paid, took advantage of the facilities and were then greeted by the first of our very knowledgeable guides. We were to tour the house first, and so headed for the courtyard where we were given a detailed history of Cadhay and its architecture. Unusually for an estate of this size, it had not been in the same family since the sixteenth century. Many of the male owners had wisely married heiresses who had brought the necessary monies to make enlargements and alterations: everything from added wings, to changes to windows and fireplaces. The inner courtyard is quite unique in its style and use of building materials giving a chequered effect.



We were ushered inside and shown the dining room, a sitting room and the music room. Our guide went into detail on the paintings, the furniture and the items on display. Unlike many NT properties, we were allowed to sit on most of the chairs - welcome, as it was a bit hot and sticky by then. Upstairs we admired the many en-suite bedrooms, most with very high four-poster beds. We were told this was to stay clear of damp and vermin - in the bad old days! Interestingly each side of the bed had a tumbler but there was only one set of steps per bed!



Shown in the photo are (L to R): Maria Henderson, Richard Westlake, Madge Tomasevic, Susie Hewitt, Ron Henderson, Louise Clunies-Ross, Anne Mayes, Gwyneth Garner, Mike Aspray, Margaret Simons, Mike Rosenbloom, Edward Canning, Frances Canning, Rob Simons, Chris Rosenbloom (partly hidden), George Garner, Barry Cripps, Ann Cripps, Peter Wingfield-Digby

Very impressive that there is only a very narrow time window between the cleaners leaving after one set of guests depart and new visitors arrive. Tours slot into that gap. Of great interest was the long gallery packed with artefacts, and then the roof in the top room with a very large table.

It was then into the hands of the very capable Dave. Dave wore two hats – six months as head gardener and six as buildings renovator, maintaining all the buildings on site. He'd been doing this for 20 years and had converted all the outbuildings into holiday lets. The Manor itself now operates as holiday lets, sleeping 22.

Dave gave us a very comprehensive tour of all the gardens, starting with the Community Allotments and the Manor Allotments and fruit garden, all in this magnificent walled garden. This is a really good idea; they are open to those living within 3 miles of Cadhay. The allotment holders are clearly spurred on by the setting,

the competition and the public appreciation. It was on to the Stew Pond and the history of that. We walked all the way round that and then on to the newest addition – another garden area.

We were particularly impressed by the borders filled with dahlias and the revelation that they are all grown from seeds collected by him at the end of the season and all looking their best. This seems to produce some unique varieties and unusual blooms.

Finally, our cream tea eaten outside in the sun, in groups, so lots of chat. The teas were very good, lovely cream, jam and scones, a choice of tea or coffee and top ups offered. A highly recommended treat, indeed some said they would go back just for that!

All in all a very enjoyable visit to a wonderful house and garden.

Anne Mayes

### **Pub lunch at The Stables, 6 September 2022**

Seventeen of us enjoyed a splendid lunch at The Stables pub, which is located on the Crediton road next to Bernaville Nurseries. Our purpose in trying out this pub was to see whether it might be a suitable venue in future for our club talks. There was general agreement that this would make an excellent venue.



We had booked a dining room upstairs that can seat about 30 people. It is directly accessible from the car park behind the pub, so there is no need to climb the stairs, We were able to increase the ventilation of the room by opening a fire door leading to the patio.

There was a good range of main courses. A particular feature is that they offer smaller portions at much reduced prices for 'smaller appetites'. They also offered a good range of desserts. It seems that a good time was had by all.

## **Trip on the Grand Western Canal, Tiverton, 21 September 2022**

21<sup>st</sup> September was a day of glorious sunshine, perfect for a trip on the Grand Western Canal. Twelve of our members boarded the horse-drawn barge in Tiverton Canal Basin. (If there had been three more of us we could have benefited from a discount on our tickets!) Perhaps the only slight disappointment was that there was a largeish coach party on board, so every seat was taken, but that did not really detract from what was a most enjoyable morning.

Philip Brind, proprietor of the barge, dressed appropriately as a bargee, explained to us that his beautiful horse, George, was only really “for show”, as the barge itself, even fully loaded, is incredibly light to handle when it is on the water. His young horse handler, Lauren, could single-handedly push the barge across the canal! We glided quietly along under several bridges, one of which still bears the “logos” of the illiterate stonemasons who constructed it. We then stopped for a while for Lauren to tell us a little of the canal’s history. It was built 200 years ago, by workmen from all over the country digging the whole canal by hand – no mechanics in those far off times – who completed the work in only four years. The labour was relatively well paid for those days, so there was no problem in recruiting workers. The mid-Devon countryside being quite undulating, the work involved having to build up some areas, hollow out others, so that the canal is totally level.

On our return journey we were all asked to stop talking, the bar was closed and all extraneous noise eliminated. For ten minutes or so we glided along in total peace and quiet, just the sound of the water lapping on the side of the barge. That was what it would have been like 200 years ago when limestone was transported in the barges to be converted into agricultural fertiliser. Of course we know that the coming of the railways meant that the canal was no longer needed. How fortunate that it has been restored and is now a wonderful recreational facility in mid-Devon.

Gwyneth Garner

## **Streatham campus news**

### **Centre for Resilience Environment, Water and Waste (CREWW)**

Construction work has begun on a new building on North Park Road, adjacent to the Amory Building and opposite Laver and Harrison Buildings. CREWW is being established through a partnership with South West Water (SWW), and is funded by a grant from Research England and investment from SWW. Completion is expected by the spring of 2023.

The new building will be the first purpose-built transdisciplinary research centre in the water sector. Its research work will look at how to manage natural resources to ensure there is sufficient water to cope with population growth, the pressures of climate change, and to improve resilience to the potentially devastating effects of flood, drought, and energy pollutants. The academic researchers will cover disciplines such as geography, biosciences, engineering, economics and psychology, along with their partners from industry and NGOs.