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## **EUC Exeter Branch Newsletter**

**Number 54**

<http://eucexeterbranch.org.uk>

**March 2023**

**April to June 2023**

### **Future Events**

#### **Tuesday 25 April 2023: Lunch at the Smugglers Inn, Dawlish**

Do join us for lunch at The Smugglers Inn. We have been there several times in the past and enjoyed it, so are now planning this return visit. The pub/restaurant has a large car park and is on a bus route. The Smugglers serves a famous carvery every day, plus a full menu and daily specials.

**Date:** Tuesday 25 April 2023.

**Event:** Lunch at The Smugglers Inn.  
Meet at 12 for 12.30. Pre-ordering will be necessary

**Location:** Smugglers Inn, Teignmouth Road, Dawlish EX7 0LA  
<https://thesmugglersinn.net/> Tel. 01626 862 301

**Organiser:** To book, contact Louise Clunies-Ross on 01884 242 606 or at [louisecluniesross@btinternet.com](mailto:louisecluniesross@btinternet.com)

**Transport:** **By car:** The Smugglers Inn is easy to get to. Going south, it is situated on the left of the main Teignmouth Road, about a mile south of Dawlish. There is plenty of parking space.

**By bus:** The number 2 bus from Exeter (stand 5) runs every half-hour. The 11.06 bus stops at The Smugglers at 12.05. There are return buses to Exeter at 2.18 and 2.48



*Smugglers Inn*

### **Wednesday 10 May 2023: Talk by Peter Christie, 'History of Bideford'**

We are delighted to welcome Peter Christie, to give this talk on the history of Bideford. A retired geography teacher, he has published many books and articles about North Devon, and has served four times as Mayor of Bideford.

The talk will cover the entire history of Bideford, highlighting how geology has governed its growth, along with its links to North America and its unusual industrial history.



*Bideford Long Bridge (Picture from Wikimedia Commons)*



*Peter Christie*

- Date:** Wednesday 10 May 2023 at 2 p.m.  
**Speaker:** Peter Christie  
**Topic:** The history of Bideford  
**Place:** The Stables, Cowley, Exeter EX5 5ER  
**To book:** Contact Peter Wingfield-Digby on 01392 424 781 or at [pwdigby@btinternet.com](mailto:pwdigby@btinternet.com). We shall meet for lunch from 12 noon.

## Wednesday 24 May 2023: Pub lunch and walk in Topsham

Once a thriving port and shipbuilding centre, Topsham still retains a strong maritime flavour. The historic town has a cosmopolitan atmosphere, and the small independent shops add character to the place. Topsham has a collection of distinctive buildings, including elegant 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch-style merchant houses along the Strand. One of these houses is the Topsham Museum.

**Date:** Wednesday 24 May 2023

**Activities:** 12 noon – meet for lunch at the Lighter Inn on the Quay  
[www.lighterinn.co.uk](http://www.lighterinn.co.uk)

2 p.m. – **Either** join a walking tour of the historic town

**Or** visit Topsham Museum (free entry).

Tea is available in the museum.

[www.topshammuseum.org.uk](http://www.topshammuseum.org.uk)

**To book:** Contact Louise Clunies-Ross by 15 May on 01884 242 606 or at  
[louiseccluniesross@btinternet.com](mailto:louiseccluniesross@btinternet.com)

**Transport: Bus:** The 57 Exeter-Exmouth bus runs every half hour.  
In Topsham get out just before Station Road, then walk down Fore Street to the quay.

**Train:** The Exeter-Exmouth train runs every half hour. From the Station, walk down Station Road, then left along Fore Street to the quay.

**Car:** There is parking at Topsham Quay. Alternatively, space can usually be found at Holman Way car park, then walk down Holman Way to the quay.

## Monday 19 June 2023: Visit to RHS Garden Rosemoor, Torrington

Located in the beautiful Torridge Valley, RHS Garden Rosemoor is a hidden gem and a treat for garden lovers. It blends formal and informal plantings to magical effect.

**Date:** Monday 19 June 2023

**Event:** Visit to RHS Garden Rosemoor

**Meet:** In the Garden Kitchen Restaurant at 12 noon  
(or by 1.30 p.m. if not having lunch)

**To book:** Contact Maria Henderson by 12 June at [tmaria33@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tmaria33@hotmail.co.uk)  
or on 01805 938927



*Rosemoor Gazebo (Photo from Wikimedia Commons)*

**Cost of entry:** Entry is free for members of the Royal Horticultural Society. For other visitors, the normal entry fee is £12.95, or £9.85 if coming by public transport or by cycle or on foot (proof needed of method of transport). If we have a sufficient number in our group, we may be able to gain entry at the special price of £8 per person.

**Address:** RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, EX38 8PH  
Tel. 01805 624 067. Ordnance Survey: The gardens are on the edge of OS maps 126 and 127. Ref: 2501 1177 Open: 10 to 5 pm  
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/rosemoor>

**Transport:** **By car:** RHS Garden Rosemoor is situated one mile south of Great Torrington on the A3124. That is the direct road from Exeter to Great Torrington. There is ample parking available, but no shade.  
**By bus:** The 5B bus from Exeter (Stand 7) to Barnstaple stops right outside RHS Garden Rosemoor. The 10.15 bus from Exeter arrives there at 11.53. Return buses to Exeter are at 3.56 and 5.29 p.m.

### **Monday 3 July: EUC Exeter Branch Annual General Meeting (Zoom)**

The Club is holding its Annual General Meeting at 11 a.m. on Zoom. This is our major event of the year, and we hope most members will be able to join us online. We must have a quorum for the meeting to take place.

### **Monday 7 August: EUC Exeter Branch Committee Meeting (Zoom)**

This committee meeting will be held on Zoom at 11 a.m., to plan our programme for the first half of 2024.

## Message from our Chairman

### To Club members

At our recent committee meeting, Peter informed us that he wishes to give up his position as Secretary of the Club. We are very sorry about this. As there has been so much involved in the role, we plan to divide the current duties between two people as follows:

- |                   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Secretary         | – | Prepares agendas and minutes of AGM and two committee meetings each year<br>Communicates with members<br>Coordinates the club programme of activities |
| Newsletter Editor | - | Prepares quarterly newsletters<br>Maintains the website<br>Organizes Zoom meetings  |

I would welcome expressions of interest from members in taking over either one or both of these roles. If you feel you need more information about what is involved, do contact Peter for further information.

Frances Canning  
Chairman  
[chairman@eucexeterbranch.org.uk](mailto:chairman@eucexeterbranch.org.uk)

*Note: Peter's final contribution as Secretary will be at this year's AGM.*

## Event Reports

### Pub lunch at The Stables, 18 January 2023

We had been looking forward to a talk by Xiomara Farthing about the work of the Churches Conservation Trust, which looks after more than 350 churches around England, but Xiomara had a bad sore throat and had to cry off a couple of days before the talk was due to be given. Peter, our Secretary, was going to step in and give a talk about his travels in Africa, but in the event that talk did not take place either.

There was a sharp snow storm on the morning of 18 January, and as a result many of those who had booked for the meeting cancelled their attendance at the last moment. Only seven people made it to The Stables, but we had a pleasant lunch before departing home early, fearing that there might be more snow in the afternoon.

It is hoped that Xiomara may be able to give her talk later this year.

## Talk by Fazlul Islam on WaterAid, 16 February 2023

The Club welcomed Fazlul on Zoom. Fazlul, a Chartered Civil Engineer, was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh, but has lived in London most of his life. Currently he works for Transport for London and has been a volunteer and speaker for Water Aid since 2014. He joined WaterAid to try and make a difference to the lives of people around the world who are severely impacted by the lack of clean water, sanitation facilities and good hygiene.

When we have a shower or flush the toilet, for example, do we think about those who don't have access to this facility? So many of us take access to clean water for granted but in many parts of the world this is not the case. One in ten people in the world still do not have access to clean water.

In Ethiopia for example, they don't have clean water to drink, decent toilets to use or good hygiene to protect themselves. Without these basics, breaking the cycle of poverty is just a dream.



*Photo by James Kiyimba for WaterAid*

In northern Mozambique, Maria oversees a tiny team providing round-the-clock healthcare to thousands of people, including delivering several babies every day. Together, she and her team provide the best care they possibly can – but they're missing the most fundamental basic.

Walking to get water shouldn't be part of any medical team's job description – especially when that water isn't even clean. It's not fair. And it means that right now – despite how tirelessly they work – Maria and her team's every effort to provide safe care, to deliver new life, risks bringing harm. 6km is the average distance walked and 20kg of water carried.

*We all need clean water to survive.*

If you are interested in finding out more about WaterAid and about ways to donate to this vital charity, please visit their website <https://www.wateraid.org/uk/>

**Susie Hewitt**



## Tuesday 14 March: Audio-talk by Keith Feltham, 'Classic Film Music'

Keith, one of our members, began with what he called his 'setting up music', and asked us to 'name that tune'. It was more than one tune; rather, the tsunami of sumptuous melodies of Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto. Some of us recognised the piece, rather fewer could answer Keith's second question, 'to what film was it used as the sound-track.' That was 'Brief Encounter' of 1945, which remains perhaps the greatest match of screen and score in film history – a master-stroke from director David Lean.

Keith stressed that he would be dealing with great music from films rather than classical music. In a short historical account, he described how the early silent films were accompanied by music, at first on piano or organ, and in bigger cinemas by an orchestra. But he pointed out that film composers drew heavily on classical traditions and techniques.

By the 1930's the 'talkies' had arrived, and technology had advanced to allow a music track to be literally part of the film. Excerpts from outstanding film scores were played, beginning with Max Steiner's music for 'Gone with the Wind' from 1939. The previous year Errol Flynn had starred in a very successful version of 'The Adventures of Robin Hood.' The music was by a very gifted Austrian composer Erich Korngold who had escaped the Nazis and settled in the USA. He described Robin Hood as having saved his life, and went on to contribute to many Hollywood films, as well as continuing to write serious classical orchestral music.



Keith then gave us a rich selection of outstanding film music, including 'Quo Vadis' by Miklos Rozsa, 'The Mission' by Ennio Morricone with its well-known theme 'Gabriel's Oboe', 'Dr Zhivago' by Maurice Jarre, and 'The Big Country' by Jerome Moross. In introducing Bernard Herrmann's score for Hitchcock's thriller 'North by North West', featuring Cary Grant, Keith remarked on how the star had become a role model, a cult figure even; everyone wanted to be Cary Grant. He was recorded as saying 'even I want to be Cary Grant'.

One outstanding film was 'Chariots of Fire' (1981), depicting a historic duel between two British runners at the Paris Olympics of 1924. The score was by the Greek composer Vangelis, for which he received an Oscar. It was also noteworthy, Keith told us, as an early example of electronic instruments being used in a film score. Traditionally Hollywood composers and producers had favoured the rich and versatile palette of the full symphony orchestra. Another exception was the music for the James Bond film 'Dr No,' in which the composer uses a full-blooded 'big band' sound. Keith packed up his impressive collection of film CDs and DVDs leaving us all with resounding recollections of just how much music had contributed to our enjoyment of visits to the cinema over the years.

**Edward Canning**

## Club news

### Membership

We are sorry to report that two couples have recently had to give up membership of our club, because of mobility issues. Barry and Ann Cripps have recently moved to Tavistock, and we wish them all the best in their new home.

We are also sorry to lose Val Ayres and Mike Fenner. Mike produced that wonderful report a few months ago on our visit to the Motor Museum in Moretonhampstead. In saying goodbye to the club, Val wanted us to meet Humphrey, who lives with Mike. Here is his story.

### Anyone for ice cream ?

Hello, my name is Humphrey and I am a 1931 Morris 5 cwt light van. My first owner was an Italian man in the north east of England, who wanted me for his business. After various changes to my bodywork and interior, I spent ten years being used to sell ice creams at Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland.

The war loomed and my life was in jeopardy. When Italy entered the war, my Italian owner (who was not a naturalized Brit) had his possessions confiscated, and I was bought by another ice cream seller. I spent the wartime in a barn, but once war ended, I was again used for selling ice creams, right up to the end of the 1950s. Then I was taken over by a pop group.



Eventually I was put up for sale, and Mike bought me. Now I am retired and living in Devon. Occasionally I have an outing, for instance to the annual Historic Vehicle Gathering at Powderham Castle, but my maximum speed is only 40 miles per hour and Mike has to use hand signals when turning, both of which tend to annoy other road users.

*This piece: © Mike Fenner*

### Fear No More

Your Secretary enjoyed attending the world première of a piece of music entitled Fear No More, which constituted part of a musical performance (Music for Consolation) given on 11 March by the Exeter Bach Choir and the Exeter Bach Choir Orchestra at St David's Church. The composer, Peter Nickol, is one of our members. His piece was vibrant and uplifting, and was very well received by those attending. All the pieces performed emphasized consolation, compassion, resolution, and peace. There was a retiring collection in aid of Hospiscare.