

University Liaison Report

During the past year, the Project Team (Bertram, Carol and Maggie) have continued to develop mutually beneficial links with our University of Exeter. Some of the highlights include the following events:

In April eighteen members of Exeter U3A enjoyed a very informative and entertaining talk by Professor Richard Seaford on the 'Invention of Money' in Greece during the sixth century BC.

Also in April several of our members shared a 'Songs and Stories Evening' at the INTO building. A wide range of students from the various countries represented at our university were present.

Several of our members again went to INTO in May to join in one of the 'Family Classes' which are designed to help the partners and spouses of foreign students to develop their use of English.

In July thirty six members of Exeter and Exmouth U3As attended a talk by Professor Pete Vukusic on the 'Science of Colour'. The material covered was wide-ranging and illustrated with fascinating images and practical demonstrations. Research carried out at Exeter has discovered how the iridescence of butterflies is caused by the interference of light from tiny regular structures in their wings.

In September Exeter U3A members were joined by members of Exmouth U3A to hear a talk on 'Dementia'. In general, research in this area is not well funded but important work is being carried out at Exeter into this area of concern, particularly for those of us in our third and fourth ages.

In response to a request from Chloe Paver, Professor of German, four of our members and one from Exmouth took part in a focus group. Chloe, who specialises in German history museums, is working with a colleague from Exeter RAMM to develop a travel guide to these museums in the form of an app.

Earlier in the year we were asked to find a 'lay member' to sit on the Exeter University Social Sciences and International Studies Research Ethics Committee and Peter Cleasby is now carrying out that role. This is addition to Olwen Goodall's role on the Exeter University Animal Welfare & Ethical Review Group.

Bertram Brockington