



DEVON & EXETER
I N S T I T U T I O N

Press Release

The Devon and Exeter Institution

For immediate publication

The Devon and Exeter Institution is delighted to introduce a new Board of Trustees led by Margaret Knight.

Following a change in its charitable status last year, a new Board have been elected and Margaret Knight is duly elected Chair. Margaret is only the third woman to hold this post since 1813.

Margaret is a chartered Librarian with extensive experience in public, government and school libraries. She was the Librarian of Harrow School, London, during which time she planned and oversaw the refurbishment and development of the Grade 2* historic library.

Margaret says “I actively support the development of the Institution and believe that the conservation of its building and resources, the development of our education and research role and our mutually beneficial relationship with the University of Exeter and RAMM are fundamental to our role in the local and national arena. I wish to support and welcome our present and future members and encourage their involvement in this unique and special place”

Following grants from Historic England and the Heritage Lottery Fund the Institution has completed a major roof restoration and has developed its programmes of conservation, learning and engagement. The Board of Trustees aims to encourage more people to learn about and appreciate the historic value of the DEI – its building and setting in Cathedral Close and its library and art collection.

Camilla Hampshire, Museum Manager and Cultural Lead at RAMM said:

“Many of RAMM’s key founding collections were first housed in the DEI and this shared history continues to link two of Exeter’s most important stewards of its city and regional history. I am delighted to see the conservation and development needs of the Institution proactively addressed as it will provide the foundation for a continuing and growing role in the life of the city”

The Institution is a subscription library and new members of all ages are warmly welcomed.

www.devonandexeterinstitution.org

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Notes to Editors

About The Devon and Exeter Institution

Founded in 1813, the DEI is a product of the Eighteenth Century Enlightenment and civic pride.

The founders established the Institution in 1813

“for promoting the general diffusion of Science, Literature and the Arts; and for illustrating the Natural and Civil History of the County of Devon, and the History of the City of Exeter”.

The Institution occupies historic premises at the heart of Exeter in the Cathedral Close. Adapted from what was once a medieval house belonging to a canon of the Cathedral, the library of the Institution is housed in two elegant Georgian rooms which provide space for individual research and for cultural events, lectures and musical evenings. There are also two smaller meeting rooms enjoying beautiful views of the Cathedral and a members’ dining room.

The Institution is cherished by members and visitors alike for its calm and peaceful atmosphere in the midst of a busy city. Many scholarly books and articles have had their origins in its quiet spaces and a number of leading academics acknowledge the part the Institution has played in the early stages of their careers.

Further information

For further information, images and interviews please contact:

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Historic England

