



WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Member

As spring unfolds, I have been reflecting on the last year and looking forward to a promising future for the Institution.

We have a growing and more diverse membership who are increasingly involved in our activities.

The DEI is a wonderful building and housed within it, a unique and authentic research environment. Gradually, different aspects of our collection are being revealed. The collection plays a vital part in our partnership with the University of Exeter and our outreach activities to schools and various visiting community and local history groups. Our staff, volunteers and tour guides will be delighted to introduce you to some of our treasures.

We have recruited three new part time members of staff: Two Saturday Activities Coordinators and an Administrative Assistant. The Saturday post will be a job share and we have appointed Stephanie Beddoes and Bethany Howell. Our new Administrative Assistant is Ceri McWilliams.

Bethany is a graduate of our HLF funded volunteer programme whom we have continued to invest in via the University partnership. Both Ceri and Stephanie are returning to work after a break to raise their families. I hope that these two posts will enable us to provide a level of resilience to take us forward until June 2020 when we intend to undertake a major staffing review. Clare Maudling our library assistant will be leaving us at

the end of June. We wish Clare well in the future and thank her for her contribution to the Devon and Exeter Institution library.

You will see from the article below from Emma Dunn that we are preparing an external funding bid to enable us to preserve and improve the DEI.

The trustees and staff are working hard to ensure that the DEI is an independent subscription library to be proud of. Please come along and make use of the building, the collection and the Courtenay Room facilities and our extensive current newspaper and periodical collection or simply relax away from the bustle of central Exeter.

There are still vacancies on the Board of Trustees for candidates with appropriate skills in marketing to help us develop our expertise in this area. Professional experience in IT, management and administration skills would also be welcome.

Please contact me at margaretknight@devonandexeterinstitution.org for an informal chat if you are interested in joining our team. Many thanks as ever to my fellow trustees, staff and volunteers for their continuing hard work and support..

Margaret Knight, Chair, Board of Trustees

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

Members might like to make a note of the 2019 AGM date. This year's AGM will be on Thursday 24th October in the Guildhall.

The Annual General Meeting of the DEI was held on 21 November last year with 86 members Attending. The minutes of this meeting are now available on the DEI website at devonandexeterinstitution.org/governance/agm-information.

The following week the new Board of Trustees met for their Annual Meeting and Margaret Knight, John Reeves and Derek Knight were re-elected to their respective posts of Chair, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary. The Membership Secretary duties are now jointly shared by Jeremy Lawford and Clare Radstone.

NEWS UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Paying membership of the DEI now stands at over 760. This does not include University members, who are funded by a grant from the University. Whilst historic records are incomplete, it seems likely that this is the highest number of members the DEI has ever had, certainly since it became a registered charity in 1989.

Members celebrated Christmas with our annual party on the 11 December with a festive meal supplied by Tea on the Green and entertainment provided by the choristers of Exeter Cathedral School. It was a very enjoyable evening and we are already beginning to plan the 2019 event so that hopefully more members can participate. I'd like to thank everybody who contributed to the raffle held on the night which raised £185 for conservation work in the DEI.

Our talks programme has proved very popular this year thanks to the work of Geoff Roberts and Richard Buscall in organising the Members' Evening Lectures and Ruth McLeish who arranges the Lunchtime Lectures. Demand for tickets has been consistently high and the quality of speakers has been outstanding. The new programme starting in the autumn is nearly finalised and details can be found on the What's On page of this newsletter. Publicity and booking arrangements for these events will be released later in the year.

Geoff Roberts and Sandra Bond have been busy organising this year's members' outing to the Jurassic Centre at Seaton. There may be options to visit Beer Quarry, the Jurassic Centre, Colyton Tram railway and a guided walk around Colyton. The date is Thursday 23rd May, details are still to be confirmed.

The windows and wooden detailing at the front of the DEI will be

re-decorated in May but this should not cause any disruption to members.

Members will have noticed that the regulator timepiece has now been repaired and re-installed in the foyer case thanks to the work of Robert King. The repair work also gave us the opportunity to explore the history of its installation. The regulator was installed in the Institution on New Year's Day 1819 by John Skinner. It is signed 'Skinner Exeter' although the mechanism was made in Clerkenwell, London. (Robert King discovered a stamp on the mechanism T & R 6152, showing it was made by Thwaites & Reed in 1819). The cost was £61 16s 6d (about £5000 in today's money) and it was intended to be the most accurate timepiece in Exeter. It spurred John Skinner's professional rival in the city, Henry Ellis, to create his own regulator which, in turn, led him to be asked by Mr John Squance, the Institution's first librarian, to take care of our own regulator in 1821, much to the annoyance of John Skinner. Further information on this little parochial squabble can be found in Clive Ponsford's book 'Devon Clocks and Clockmakers' which is available from the DEI library.

Finally, a warm welcome to Ceri McWilliams who joined the DEI in March. Ceri works in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings and will focus on administering room hire bookings and events administration but is always there to help members.

Derek Knight, Honorary Secretary

You will have seen that we now have a new bank account with The Cooperative Bank. We kindly request that members ensure their future payments are made to this account and staff or trustees will be happy to provide you with these details via email or in person. GoCardless payments via webcollect will automatically go to our new account.

Please ensure that when making other payments, for example via bank transfers, you quote our new details. Our old bank account with NatWest is now closed. This change will enable us to use internet banking, and where necessary for staff to have debit cards.

At the middle of our financial year, our operational budget is on track, and this more secure financial position compared to last year is largely thanks to better administration of subscriptions and renewals by our membership team. Well done, Jeremy and Clare.

Our income flows are ahead of our expenditures and our budget planning is robust.

We have some planned expenditures to make on building maintenance before the end of June. In particular, the external painting at the front of the library building, planned to take place in May

This year for the first time and following Charity Commission guidance, part of our librarian's salary is being paid from operational income rather than from external grant income, with a one third contribution. From 1st July, when we go into the next financial year this will increase to a two thirds contribution to librarian's salary.

I would like to thank Lee our book-keeper who works in the office on Tuesday afternoons, for all his hard work keeping our financial records up to date and undertaking our banking.

We have started the new budget planning round, and with inputs from staff and fellow Trustees. I will be putting my draft budget for next financial year (from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020) to the Board of Trustees meeting in mid-April.

John Reeves, Honorary Treasurer

IN THE LIBRARY

PRINTS AND DRAWINGS

Work continues on the vast collection of prints and drawings. For the past few months a team of volunteers supported by Deborah and Ian at the Devon Heritage Centre have been cleaning and encapsulating prints, drawings, watercolours and brass rubbings with a protective covering.

A team of volunteers has already counted the items so far located and the grand total to date is 9,000. The next piece of work is to organize the collection and we are considering the best structure to ensure that the collection is easily searchable in the future.

The aim this year is to digitize this marvellous resource making it accessible to all our members and beyond. Margaret Knight and the development team have been seeking external funding to enable this ambitious project to come to fruition.

SATURDAY SNIPPETS

Continuing with the theme of prints and drawings member Jenny Ridd gave an interesting presentation about the life and work of George Rowe a printmaker and artist from Exeter. It was a great opportunity to see the examples of his work from the collection and to find out more about his life.

This programme of presentations has proved very popular and an archive of the subjects covered may be found on Research Resources page of our website. All presentations are between 2pm and 3pm.

Please let Anne know if you have a topic to present.

INDEPENDENT LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

As a founder member, we are delighted to be hosting 30th Annual Conference of the Independent Libraries Association from 7th to 9th June. The theme of the conference is: Adaptation, Change, Reinvention: Continuity and Change in Independent Libraries

The keynote speaker is: Naomi Korn who will speak on 'Copyright: balancing risk, ethics and compliance'. The full programme will be downloadable from www.independentlibraries.co.uk/annual-meeting

MAPS

An additional two hundred large scale 25" to the mile Ordnance Survey maps have recently been acquired and are currently being added to the collection. These sheets will help to fill in existing gaps and provide a more comprehensive coverage of the Southwest.

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The group has been running since January 2018, but interest has remained at six members at each meeting. The six of us have shared some interesting books and had some lively debates.

Unfortunately, the group is not sustainable at this level of participation and reluctantly the final meeting was held in January 2019.

An archive of books read is on the website and if a greater number of members show an interest it may be reconvened later in the year. In the meanwhile, the group is continuing as "Not the DEI Evening book group" due to the generosity of one of the group members offering to host at their home.

VOLUNTEERING

There are many volunteering opportunities in the library and if you would like to join the team the biggest need is afternoons between 1 and 5, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday.

If you are able to commit four hours every week, this provides the greatest continuity while giving you the best opportunity to learn the secrets of this wonderful collection.

On Saturdays again the greatest need is afternoons between 1 to 4 but alternate weeks will fit with the current rota.

Please get in touch with Anne if you are interested.

2019 PERIODICALS

Thanks to all those who put in a bid for the 2019 journals. It is lovely being able to find another home for the old copies and also raises some money for the library.

ADOPT A BOOK

Thanks to all of you that have already adopted a book. There are hundreds still in need of adoption. Members may wish to know that we will obtain an estimate in advance and you can then make the decision on going ahead or not and 'partial adoption' is also warmly welcomed. Further information can be found on the Adopt-a-Book page of our website.

Anne Howard, Librarian



DEVELOPMENT

Since the last newsletter we have conducted a number of member consultations. Thank you to all those who contributed. While (thankfully) not a referendum or people's vote, this exercise has certainly given the trustees and staff an indication of how members would like to see the Institution develop, what the priorities are and the aspects of the Institution that people hold most dear.

We have also conducted consultations with our key partners at the Cathedral, RAMM and the University of Exeter and potential members – that is – those attending events at the Institution who have not yet joined us.

We have focussed our attention in three areas: The needs of the programme; the needs of the collection and the needs of the building.

The most popular suggestions for Programme development were:

1. To create more flexible spaces for educational activities by opening up the front rooms to members and/or the public

2. To host debates and 'radical thinking' events in the library

3. To review opening hours to include more twilight sessions

The most popular suggestions for Collection development were:

1. To create a digital picture library catalogue for prints and drawings

2. To enhance temperature control, humidity and air circulation in libraries to protect stock

3. To remove plan chests and create a maps, prints and drawings room on the site of the rear 20th Century brick extension

The most popular suggestions for the development of the Building were:

1. Open up all four front rooms for members and/or public use and relocate back office space

2. Upgrade lavatories and create new member facilities on the site of the rear 20th Century brick extension

3. Enhance the reception and welcome area in the hallway

The Partnerships and Programme Committee and specialist contractors have now considered these suggestions in detail. We are using the findings of these focus groups to create an outline proposal for the next development project.

There are some clear themes emerging and with the agreement of the Board, this summer we will be applying for grants which will enable us to prepare for another capital development project.

Do contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of our future development.

PROGRAMME

You will see from our What's On page that our programme is flourishing. We hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy. This would not be possible without a huge team effort from volunteers, trustees and staff.

Ongoing grant funding continues to support our core aims of public education through our learning and engagement programme and the preservation of the library and building.

This spring we have a new Saturday programme for all ages and our programme for schools continues; sessions on Early Science and Natural history have been the most popular this term.

We continue to work with students from the University who support conservation work and collection research. We are working closely with RAMM for a forthcoming programme of 'Untold Stories' which will look at some of the little known aspects of our collection and the lives it represents.

This summer we are also looking forward to working with the Cathedral to deliver 'Pilgrim Days' which commemorate local school pupil's journeys and transition from Primary to Secondary School.

We have had condition reports on several paintings in preparation for further funding bids and the Library Preservation Team continue to clean and re-tie book stock in preparation for the Association of Independent Libraries Conference, to ensure we are looking our best for this exciting event.

Emma Dunn,
Partnerships and Programme Manager

Remembering the DEI in your will

If you are making or revising your Will, you may wish to consider leaving a legacy to the DEI to help preserve our book collection and library building for future generations to enjoy in the way that we have.

If you would like more information, then please contact the Hon. Treasurer.

Pledge forms are available, and assistance can be provided in complete confidence, supplying such details as may be required by your solicitor in drawing up documentation.

APRIL - JULY 2019

SATURDAYS AT THE INSTITUTION

Our new Saturday Programme begins on April 6th. Members will find a host of activities, talks, displays and events each week, inspired by the collection as well as Saturday newspapers, browsing and refreshments. Most of our activities will happen in the Outer Library or garden and we will be open to members as usual in the Inner Library, Courtenay Room and Upper Reading Room between 10-4pm.

6th April 10am - 4pm : Literature in the library: A table top display of 19th Century novels.

13th April 10.30am - 12noon
'Bookworms do April Fools'
Bookworms is our monthly Junior Members club for children aged 5 - 8 years old and their adults. First taster session free then join us for £12 per year.

20th April 11am - 12noon - Family Tree Learn how to draw up your family tree. (Booking necessary via Emma: emmadunn@devonandexeterinstitution.org)

27th April 2pm - 3pm, The A-Z of the Institution Saturday Snippet with Clare and Anne.

4th May 10am - 4pm, May Day Celebration drop in event

11th May 10am - 4pm - Voyages table top display **2pm - 3pm** - Did Cook discover Australia? Saturday Snippet with Geoff Roberts.

18th May 10.30am - 12noon
Bookworms do Creatures from the Deep

18th May 2pm - 4pm - New Members' Welcome Event. If you've recently joined us, drop in to meet other members, Trustees and staff and

find out what's on at the DEI and how you can get involved. Refreshments provided.

25th May 10am - 4pm - The Plant Hunters family event

1st June 10am - 12noon - The Southwest Railway Autistic family friendly event. Contact Emma: emmadunn@devonandexeterinstitution.org for further information.

8th June - Independent Libraries Association conference
10am - 4pm Glorious Gardens family pop up event at St Nicholas Priory, 21 The Mint, Exeter, EX4 3BL

15th June 10.30am - 12noon
Bookworms do Dinosaurs

22nd June 10am - 4pm - Illustrating Our Region- display

2pm - 3pm The Diocesan Architectural Drawings Saturday Snippet with Stuart Blaylock.

29th June 10am - 4pm Cooking the Books drop in event

LUNCHTIME LECTURES

Doors open 1pm for 1.10pm. The lectures are approximately 45 minutes and finish by 2pm. Please arrive promptly as places are limited. Free and open to all

15th April: A History of the Victoria Cross (and some local connections) by Mike Richards

20th May: Saving lives at Sea by Simon Priestly

17th June: The Victorian Workhouse, by John Jones

15th July: An Exeter Life in Peace and War: Cornelius Kerslake (born 1876), Plumber and Soldier by Robert Guyver

TEA AND TALKS

2nd May at 5.00pm - John Salvatore will speak on The Roman Bath House (repeat event)

9th October at 5.00pm - Michael Gee will speak on Devon Orchards: how Devon took to Cider

EVENING LECTURES

26 April at 6.00pm - Last of the current programme of Friday evening talks on Bishop Hugh Oldham. Jeremy Griggs.

*Our autumn programme will resume with: 25 October at 6.00pm - Courtenay Family Manuscripts at Powderham Castle. Prof Henry French
29 November at 6.00pm - General Sir Redvers Buller VC; A Global Life. Robert Guyver*

DEI READING GROUP

Reading List and dates for 2019

8th April Motorcycle Diaries

by Ernesto Che Guevara

13th May The Outcasts of Time

by Ian Mortimer

10th June East West Street

by P. Sands

8th July Rosie: Scenes from a Vanished Life by Rose Tremain

12th August Master Georgie by Beryl Bainbridge

9th September The Sparsholt Affair by Alan Hollinghurst

14th October The Nothing

by Hanif Kureishi

11th November Salt and Saffron

by Kamila Shamsie

9th December Mister Pip

by Lloyd Jones

CINEMA CLUB

Held in the outer Library on the fourth Wednesday of every month the DEI Cinema Club will be happy to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining please come along to the next Club Night or contact Tony Rhodes tonyandbrendarhodes@gmail.com for more information.



WHAT'S ON AT THE DEI

APRIL - JULY 2019

Membership costs only £12 per annum and covers admission to all regular Cinema Club showings. Film Club Nights are on the third Wednesday of each month, starting at 6.30pm.

RESEARCH GROUP

Exeter in the 1920s – a DEI collaborative research project Beginning 16 th Sept. A new venture for members who are interested in working together on an historical research project is being launched at the Institution this autumn. Led by Dr Julia Neville (of the First World War Red Cross Hospitals project) this will focus on recreating the life of Exeter's West Quarter in the 1920s and exploring how the big changes of the 1920s - not just slum clearance, but other changes like motorised transport, domestic electricity and secondary schooling - had an impact on everyday life.

If you'd like to express an interest now, please email Julia at j.f.neville@btinternet.com.

MEMBERS' SUMMER OUTING

Thursday 23 May: Our very popular summer outing this year will be to the Seaton Jurassic Centre at Beer Quarry

DISPLAY

Front Hall until October 2019 Books of Wonder - Exploring the DEIs Natural History Collection

EVENTS

A Musical Evening with the Dean of Exeter. Members will enjoy food at the DEI and musical entertainment at the Deanery to raise funds for the restoration of the large oil painting of The Valley of the Exe by E. Jeffery. Date: TBC

Saturday 28 September - A Fundraising evening with Todd Gray and Mark Stoye to raise money for restoration needed in the Inner Library.

USEFUL CONTACTS

Chair: Margaret Knight
margaretknight@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Hon. Secretary: Derek Knight
derekknight@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Hon. Treasurer: John Reeves
johnreeves@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Joint Membership Secretaries: Jeremy Lawford and Clare Radstone
jeremylawford@devonandexeterinstitution.org
clareradstone@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Partnerships & Programme Manager:
Emma Dunn
emmadunn@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Librarian: Anne Howard
anne.howard@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Housekeeper: Mary Noon
m.noon@devonandexeterinstitution.org

DEI Office:
office@devonandexeterinstitution.org
cermicwilliams@devonandexeterinstitution.org

EVENTS CONTACTS

Lunchtime Lectures: Ruth McLeish
ruth.mcleish@gmail.com

Saturday Snippets: Anne Howard
anne.howard@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Evening Talks: Geoff Roberts
geoff.roberts@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Reading Group: Margaret Knight
margaretknight@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Bookworms, Outreach and School visits:
Emma Dunn
emmadunn@devonandexeterinstitution.org

Cinema Club: Tony Rhodes
tonyandbrendarhodes@gmail.com



LIFE MEMBERSHIP

A limited number of life memberships are currently available.

If you are interested please contact the Membership Secretaries
Jeremy Lawford and
Clare Radstone or
Office staff for details.

Opening Times

The DEI is open: Mon-Fri 9.30-5, and Sat 10-4. Office open weekdays.

Refreshments

Lunches are served in the Courtenay Room: Mon-Fri 12-1.30pm. Tea, coffee, biscuits and confectionery are available in the Courtenay Room. Please use nearby tin for payments.

See also the DEI website for full and updated information. Listings of events and talks can be found under 'What's On' www.devonandexeterinstitution.org



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