

**Exeter & District United Nations Association**  
**Events held in 2015 to Celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN 1945 – 2015**

- 1 March 19<sup>th</sup> 2015 - A talk and discussion on **Climate Change** in Exeter Central Library with speakers, one from the MET Office Dr Doug Smith and Climate Change Officer Ian Bateman from Devon C C. Both gave outstanding presentations and referred to the UN's perspective on Climate Change throughout the evening. Plenty of questions from the audience during the Q & A session. The run up to the the General Election in May will be an opportunity to question candidates for their views on Climate Change.
  
- 2 17<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> October **Video Montage** held in the Cathedral showing how young people in Devon see the work of the UN. 7 Schools were invited to send slides of their art work, collages and photographs depicting different UN topics such as Shelter for Refugees, food shortages, peace keeping, availability of water, population change, anti slavery and right to education. Exeter UNA president Professor Neil Armstrong presented each school with a UNA-UK poster. Copies of the Video Montage will be circulated to all schools in Devon and to other societies. This event was reported in the local paper and in Exmouth.
  
- 3 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Devon Development Education (DDE) Exeter Global Centre, invited ExeterUNA to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN with a talk on -  
**'Why we still need the UN?'**  
Susan Matthew of Exeter UNA gave a brief overview of the growth of the UN since its inception in 1945 with just 51 member states at that time. She recognised that each of us has his or her own perception and expectations of the UN, and thought that very often we expect too much of the Organisation. She noted that the UN has fulfilled one of the major tasks mandated under the Charter- it has prevented another World War. She went on to outline some of the early successes of the UN, such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Abolition of Apartheid. Susan gave many more details of the successes of the UN and ended with a quote from the former USA President, Bill Clinton:  
***The UN is imperfect- it is also indispensable.***
  
- 4 23<sup>rd</sup> October – **Flag Raising at County Hall**  
present - Deputy Lord Lieutenant Trevor Coleman, Lord Mayor of Exeter Olwen Foggin, Devon C C Chair Cllr Christine Channon, Cllr John Hart Leader Devon C C, Rt Hon Hugo Squire MP for East Devon and Minister of State at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
Cllr Andrew Leadbetter Cabinet Minister Devon C C,  
Professor Neil Armstrong President Exeter UNA, Representatives from Devon's Youth Parliament and members of Exeter United Nations Association.  
County Hall had made every effort to make this 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flag Raising a memorable occasion with as many officers of the county as possible present.
  
- 5 23<sup>rd</sup> October - **Radio Devon Interview** – Susan Matthew was interviewed by David Fitzgerald live on BBC Radio Devon. The interview covered a broad range of UN- related topics although the focus of the interview was 'What benefit is the UN to the people of Devon?' Susan explained that the benefits to the people of Devon were equally benefits for the whole of the United Kingdom. Especially in regard to the Torrey Canyon disaster in 1967, spilling thousands of tons of crude oil killing sea birds and polluting. This disaster intensified action for international maritime regulations on the prevention of pollution at sea and efforts to eliminate the recurrence of such disasters in the future  
*On Conflicts around the world she said: ultimately success depends on the desire and willingness of Governments to seek peace.*

*Continued....*

*6 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 - Display of the work of the UN in the foyer of County Hall when all County Councillors are gathered .*

*Exeter UNA presented a UNA -UK poster to Devon County Council in appreciation of their continued support of Exeter United Nations Association.*