



Back to the Future: the Social Landscape of Devon

9:30am registration – 4pm, Saturday 6 October 2018

Petroc College, Mid Devon Campus, Bolham Road, Tiverton EX16 6SH

The Devonshire Association's President, **DAME SUZI LEATHER**, invites you to her Presidential Symposium

Whereas last year's Symposium dealt with Devon's physical landscape, this year's Symposium focuses on the social landscape. Is Devon's society changing? If so, in what ways? New towns are being built, we have a rapidly increasing proportion of older citizens, and our communities are becoming more diverse. Meanwhile there are major challenges, including inequality, climate change, people homeless or in debt, drug and alcohol problems, and loneliness. How is Devon coping with these challenges, especially at a time of public sector cuts? How will the shrinking role of the state and increasing reliance on individuals, families and communities – reminiscent perhaps of times gone by – affect the way in which we face these challenges? How are we and civil society responding? How can we ensure that Devon's social landscape is fit for the 21st century?



DAME SUZI LEATHER chairs the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education – the ombudsman for higher education students; serves on the board of the General Medical Council; and is a trustee of StepChange, the debt advice charity. Locally, she chaired the Plymouth Fairness Commission, is a Vice-President of Hospiscare and served on the Council and Ethics Committee of Exeter University.

Dame Suzi has a wide professional background, having been Chair of the Charity Commission, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, the School Food Trust, the School Meals Review Panel, the Council of Food Policy Advisers, and LankellyChase Foundation. She was the founder and Deputy Chair of the UK Food Standards Agency. In the health field she has chaired a local NHS trust and the Ethics Committee of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Dame Suzi lives in Exeter and is married with three adult children and two grandchildren. She went to Tavistock School and has lived in Devon on and off since her sixth birthday. She is married to Professor Iain Hampsher-Monk, an historian of political thought. She is an active, if slow, triathlete, and also enjoys long distance walking, having done four Camino routes to Santiago de Compostela and completed the GR20 in Corsica last year.

Suzi was created a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2006 and is a Deputy Lieutenant of Devon.

- Tickets at £24**, to include coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea.
- NON-MEMBERS are welcome (tickets £28).**
- Free parking.** Travel instructions with booking acknowledgement.



9:30-10:00am REGISTRATION and COFFEE

SPEAKERS (morning session)

10:00 –10:10am Welcome and brief introduction

Dame Suzi Leather

10:10 –10:50am An historical perspective

Professor Jonathan Barry, Professor of Early Modern History,
University of Exeter

10:50 –11:30am Devon’s people today

Dr Virginia Pearson, Director of Public Health, Devon County Council

11:30 –12:10pm Re-imagining the state

Dr Phil Norrey, Chief Executive, Devon County Council

12:10 –12:50pm Re-imagining civil society

Martha Wilkinson, Chief Executive, Devon Community Foundation

12:50 –1:00pm Poetry

Professor Christopher Southgate

1:00 –2:00pm LUNCH

2:00 –3:15pm PANEL DISCUSSION (afternoon session)

Fit for the 21st century: a panel discussion on civic society – the state of local action/philanthropy

Chair: Dame Suzi Leather

Panel members from: Devon Communities Together, Devon Voluntary Action, Devon Community Foundation, and Hospiscare

3:15 –3:30pm Poetry

Professor Christopher Southgate

3:30-4:00pm TEA

Images: front – food bank (Delphine Jones);
back – illustration from Thomas Shapter's *The History of Cholera in Exeter 1832* (public domain); urban decay,
Union Street, Plymouth (John Maltby); St Petrock's,
Hospiscare & Devon Communities Together (Tony Buller)

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6 OCTOBER 2018

I/We would like to book _____ tickets at £24 each and _____ at £28. Remittance for

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____ Telephone _____

Email _____ Vegetarian meal? _____

Please make cheque payable to **'The Devonshire Association'**

and send **TOGETHER WITH A SAE** to The Registrar,

Unit 10, Chitterley Business Centre, Silverton,

Exeter, EX5 4DB

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