



Introduction from Mike Shore-Nye, Registrar and Secretary

Winter 2022

As we head towards the Winter Break, we just wanted to take this opportunity to look back at what has been another busy term for us all, update you on some key initiatives that have taken place and highlight some upcoming activities.

Firstly, our newly badged Community Engagement Officers have been focusing their efforts this term supporting students to engage with local communities in different ways. There have been new videos developed encouraging students to make the right housing choices, not to rush into contracts and connect positively with neighbours. Safety Training was also undertaken by the team at the start of the academic year to boost safety and wellbeing awareness for students living in the private sector.

Secondly, an important initiative I'd like to draw your attention to is our new Community Partnership Hub. This Hub connects public, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations with researchers and students at the University of Exeter. The aim is to help establish long-term, sustainable relationships which support partnering through research projects, student placements and internships, or volunteering. The Community Partnership Hub also aims to support Civic University Agreements and the three strategic goals outlined in the University's Strategy 2030. Further details, and a website link are featured in the 'Regional Engagement' article in this newsletter.

In addition, as referenced at our recent Resident Liaison Group meeting and discussed at the Community Panel earlier this term, I wanted to highlight our Community Fund. The fund supports projects that enhances the relationship between students and local residents, offering grants for projects linking students, local residents, community organisations and local agencies. We are still looking for applications so for further details please visit our website here for more information: exeter.ac.uk/about/community/communityfund

Finally please look out for further information about some exciting events coming up next year, including Lunar New Year – we'd love you to join us to celebrate on campus.

I do wish you all a happy and healthy festive season.

Mike Shore-Nye
Registrar and Secretary

The Queen's Crescent 'Eat and Greet'

We would like to extend our thanks to all those who made the 'Queen's Crescent Eat and Greet' event such a success.

This social event took place on October 2nd in Queen's Crescent Garden, with the aim of bringing students and local people together at the start of the academic year. The event also provided a positive opportunity to share food from different cultures. We'd like to offer particular thanks to Exeter's Ukrainian Society for providing the majority of food and refreshments.

There were games, cakes, recipe cards and a book sale for visitors to enjoy, with a free ice-cream van for those who attended too. Our Student Engagement Officers were also on-hand to share copies of our revised 'Community Guide' to students who had just moved into the area.

The event was planned with input from University Staff, the Students' Guild, the Ukrainian Society and Exeter St James Trust. Due to the success of the event, we will be exploring the prospect of similar events in Queen's Crescent Garden next year.





News from the Regional Engagement Team

It has now been one year since we signed our Exeter Civic University Agreement and along with our partners, we have made great strides on each of our five missions. We are extremely grateful for the support of the newly convened Community Panel who are helping us to identify local issues, challenges and opportunities and to be more responsive to the needs of all social groups in the city.

The Panel meets once a term and is chaired by the University's Registrar and Secretary, Mike Shore-Nye. The Panel have also helped us refine the themes for our recently relaunched Community Fund which aims to support projects that enhance the relationship between students and permanent city residents. This year we will be welcoming applications from community and student organisations who have ideas for projects on the following themes:

1. Increasing biodiversity and enhancing green space across Exeter
2. Reducing waste on campus and in the city
3. Communicating the ecological and climate crisis to Exeter residents
4. Social events that promote student engagement with the city

If you would like to apply for the fund, please find more information here: exeter.ac.uk/about/community/communityfund



We're also really excited to have launched the Community Partnership Hub – a one-stop shop for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector to access the University of Exeter.

We have created this virtual hub to provide an accessible way for our community to connect with university researchers and students. The site provides information on different ways you can partner with the university and includes a simple form for getting in touch. We are particularly keen to hear from you if you have an idea for a project where there are opportunities for mutual benefit for your organisation and our students or researchers.

Please visit our website for more information: exeter.ac.uk/about/regionalengagement/communitypartnershiphub



The new Community Engagement Officers.

Community Engagement Officer Update

Our Community Engagement Officers have had a busy term one, supporting students in the community with advice, guidance and practical support.

On top of their usual patrols, the team have been working on some additional projects that aim to support students and local people in a variety of ways. Here is a sample of what they have been up to:

Social Events

The 'Queen's Crescent Eat and Greet' was designed to help the community get to know each other better. My role involved spreading the news of the event the week beforehand and on the day handing out booklets and flyers to students while telling them about our role and letting them know about the services we offer. Overall the project has been a success. People from all around the area came and got to know their neighbours better (as well as try some wonderful food from the various members of the community).

Alex, West Team

Safety Training

We've been undertaking some enhanced student safety training as part of the Safer Streets bid. This training will help us better support students living in the community to look after themselves and their properties. We have offered security marking and registration for valuables and will also be working on a home-safety checklist.

Berni, East Team

Student Accommodation Campaign

I have been working on the current accommodation campaign, talking to students about accommodation choices and the need to carefully consider who they share accommodation contracts with. We're also producing a series of videos to help share important information with students about what to look out for when they start viewing properties for next year. Too many students panic and rush into contracts. We also know that students who sign contracts too soon are more likely to fall out as housemates when they eventually move in together.

Alanah, Central Team



Safer Streets Update

In the Autumn edition of the Community Newsletter, we confirmed that the Exeter Community Safety Partnership (CSP) had received a significant funding boost of £680,250 from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund to help enhance night-time safety measures across the city centre.

The University of Exeter is a member of this group and the current Chair is Peter Scargill, our Director of Commercial, Residential and Campus Services.

We can now confirm that a range of projects are now being developed under five main project areas:

- Creating a night-time Safe Space in the city centre

- Improved CCTV and street lighting
- Influencing children's attitudes towards women and girls
- Bystander intervention training for people working in bars and clubs
- A 'good neighbour' campaign for students

The project continues the progress made by the Home Office funded Safer Central Exeter project which ended earlier this year and the Safety of Women at Night project which also received significant funding from the Home Office.

We look forward to providing more detailed updates on the five main project areas in future editions of the Community Newsletter.

Free Public Events

Christingle

On Thursday 8 December, we would like to invite Exeter residents to help us celebrate Christingle in the Forum building, Streatham Campus. From 12noon to 4pm we will be making Christingle lights, with a Choir Service from 5pm to 5.45pm, followed by refreshments. Please join us as we mark the start of the festive season.

Choir Service with the ECU

On Monday 12 December, the Evangelical Christian Union of students will be hosting a Christmas Choir service in St James Park. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7.15pm start.

There will be performances from two acapella groups, 'Semi-Toned' and 'Illuminations'. Willowbrook School Children's Choir will be amongst other special guests who will be performing. Please join the ECU at this free community event.

Lunar New Year 2023

We would like to invite Exeter residents to join us for Lunar New Year on Monday 30 January 2023, to help celebrate 'The Year of the Rabbit'. In Chinese culture, the Rabbit is a symbol of modesty and harmony.

There will be a range of games, activities, music and traditional food, with a firework display concluding the celebration. We'd like to encourage everyone to wear something red at this free family-friendly event. Please view our Lunar New Year web page to keep updated on details for this event: exeter.ac.uk/students/international/livingintheuk/getinvolved/chinesenewyear



Term dates 2022-23

Autumn Term

Monday 26 September – Friday 16 December

Spring Term 2023

Monday 9 January – Friday 31 March

Summer Term 2023

Monday 1 May – Friday 16 June

Resident Liaison Group

The Resident Liaison Group meets once a term with resident group leaders, councillors and other community partners to discuss a range of community topics and queries.

To find out more about the format of these meetings, please contact Community Liaison Manager, Rory Cunningham:
r.j.cunningham@exeter.ac.uk

Key links and contacts

University of Exeter Covid-19
mini-site: exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus

DfE guidance – Higher Education
Covid-19 operational guidance:
[gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campus/higher-education-covid-19-operational-guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/higher-education-reopening-buildings-and-campus/higher-education-covid-19-operational-guidance)

If you have any questions please contact us via
coronavirusenquiries@exeter.ac.uk

Estate Patrol

01392 723999 e.patrol@exeter.ac.uk

The University's Estate Patrol team can sometimes assist with noise disturbances from student premises after 5pm (if direct contact is not possible). Please note that Estate Patrol cannot investigate disturbances in parks and other public spaces. These concerns need to be passed to the police for investigation.

Noise concerns can also be reported to the council if direct contact with tenants is not possible: exeter.gov.uk/clean-safe-city/anti-social-behaviour/noise-complaints

General daytime queries

For general daytime queries relating to students living and socialising in the community please contact our Community Engagement Officers:
communityengagement@ex.ac.uk / 01392 723721.

The Community Engagement Team provide peer-support to students living in private housing. They also conduct follow up visits to any student addresses that Estate Patrol interact with out-of-hours, and can speak with student households regarding waste management and storage.

PC Richard Jephcott

PC Richard Jephcott is our acting Neighbourhood Beat Manager (NBM) for the University, Duryard, Pennsylvania and Stoke Hill. You can contact him by emailing exeterneighbourhood@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk or call 101 and ask for PC Richard Jephcott – 17186.