



Community

**Introduction from Mike Shore-Nye,
Senior Vice-President and Registrar and Secretary**

**Winter
2023**

As term one comes to an end and the Winter Break approaches, we wanted to look back at some key moments during another busy year and provide some future community updates.

I would firstly like to acknowledge the hard work of Estate Patrol, our Community Engagement Team, the Student Welcome Team and our partners within the Police and City Council for helping to manage the busy Welcome Week period at the start of term. We have received a lot of feedback this year, praising the response of these teams in helping to address student welfare and responding to incidents of disturbance in the community. We are grateful for all of the feedback we have received.

I would also like to convey particular thanks to all of the community members who visited campus when we hosted the British Science Festival in September. We experienced a record turnout and were particularly pleased to meet community members who hadn't visited our campuses before. We hope that you will continue to engage with our facilities and regular cultural events. We have further details of some festive and new year events towards the end of this newsletter.

It is always positive to learn about projects that we have supported with our Community Fund, especially those initiatives that have sought to bring local people and students together on a common cause. We are aware of the importance of student integration and hope that more Resident Associations consider applying for a community grant in future. Further details of our grant 'themes' are detailed in the Community Fund article.

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

Mike Shore-Nye

Senior Vice-President and Registrar and Secretary

Community Fund Update

The four themes of our Community Fund have recently been updated by our Community Panel. The four current funding themes are:

- 1. Increasing biodiversity and enhancing green space**
- 2. Reducing waste on campus and in the city**
- 3. Supporting ideas and solutions that help address the climate crisis**
- 4. Social events that promote student engagement with the city**

The Community Fund offers grants of up to £300 for projects linking students, local residents, community organisations and local agencies.

So far this year we have funded community social events, gardening activities, arts initiatives, and community 'revamp' projects.

Do you have an idea?

Please contact **Rory Cunningham**, Community Liaison Manager to outline your idea before applying: r.j.cunningham@ex.ac.uk.

The Community Fund helped Prospect Park Resident's Association to relaunch their annual September street party



Students show bags of support at the end of term

Exeter University students have shown bags of support for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) as part of the charity's Pack for Good Campaign. Students donated 4,848 Bags of unwanted items to the BHF which could raise up to £67,872 to help fund lifesaving research into heart and circulatory diseases.

The Pack for Good campaign, run by the BHF, encourages students to donate unwanted items at the end of term, such as clothing, shoes, books, DVDs, bags and small electricals, enabling the charity to recycle goods that might otherwise go to landfill. Throughout the scheme Exeter students were incredibly supportive and made full use of the donation drop-off points.

Tim Reeves, BHF University Account Executive, said:

"We have been delighted with the response from Exeter University students and their incredible support. Our shops rely on donations to continue raising money to fund lifesaving research. Thanks to the generous donations from the students and staff of Exeter University we have been able to help our shops in Exeter and the Devon Area."

"We're always on the lookout for more donations and we take pride in the environmental good our shops and stores do through the reuse of donations from the public. If other universities or businesses would like to work with BHF shops and provide valuable collection facilities, please do get in touch by emailing packforgood@bhf.org.uk."

BHF shops are an integral part of our high street and we have been able to provide a really convenient service for our students to donate items they no longer need to a good cause. We are so pleased this collaboration has proved to be such a success and hope the service continues to be used, helping us raise vital funds to continue the BHF's lifesaving research."

Rory Cunningham, Community Liaison Manager, University of Exeter

In a year, the BHF saves over 57,000 tonnes of goods going to waste, including 13,000 tonnes of clothing. Through the reuse and recycling of donated items this helps prevent 130,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions being released into the atmosphere.

To create your own stock collection campaign or find your nearest clothing bank, please contact packforgood@bhf.org.uk



British Science Festival 2023

The University of Exeter was delighted to co-host the British Science Festival with the British Science Association in September, enjoying a fantastic four days and welcoming people from across the city and beyond to explore the wonders of science. The Festival gave the University's world-class academics the chance to showcase the very best of Exeter's research and innovation.

Over the course of the weekend, the Festival reached more than 7,500 people of all ages who took part in more than 70 individual events across the campus and city involving around 280 people. The University of Exeter hosted around a third of these events, and the Streatham Campus was a hive of activity, discovery and curiosity when cutting-edge research, interactive events and hands-on workshops were brought together. Amongst other fascinating exhibits, this gave people the chance to take part in a Killer Fungus escape room experience; sit in the seat of AI-managed air traffic control; and learn about a revolutionary approach of personalised shoe design.

The University also welcomed Dallas Campbell and an expert panel featuring BBC The Sky at Night presenters Maggie Aderin-Pocock, Chris Lintott and Pete Lawrence, alongside special guests who answered questions from the audience on all things space and astronomy. The President and Vice Chancellor of the University of Exeter, Professor Lisa Roberts, sat down with TV presenter, wildlife photographer and birdwatcher Hamza Yassin for a conversation about his life, including how he became one of Britain's finest wildlife photographers and the challenges he has overcome on his journey.

The festival was a huge success and we once again would like to share a big thank you to all involved in bringing the event together.

Showcase: Exeter Community Garden

In this edition of the Community Newsletter, we were keen to share the first of a series of 'community showcase' features – highlighting a well-established community project or campaign connected to the University. The first showcase focuses on Exeter Community Garden, a community-run project based within the grounds of the University's Streatham Campus. Exeter Community Garden have also been recipients of a Community Fund grant.

The Community Garden has been established for over 12 years now and has become a regular meeting place enjoyed by members from the University and the local community. With the raised beds, fruit orchard, greenhouse and polytunnels, there are jobs to be done most weeks of the year. We benefit from having people with a wide range of skills and experience who are willing to share their knowledge with all those who attend. As well as growing fruit and vegetables, many members like to use the area as a leisure resource, a learning centre, for social interaction or just to benefit from some peace and quiet in the open air.



We welcome all those who want to come, no experience is required, and there is no commitment to come every week. We can provide tools, gloves and any training required, just come with suitable footwear and clothing appropriate for occasion, it gets very hot in summer and cold and wet in winter.

We have three sessions a week, Tuesday and Saturday mornings and Wednesday afternoons and always finish each session with a drink and a cake – often homemade and sometimes using ingredients grown at the garden.

So if you want to plant a potato, prune an apple tree, tend a tomato vine, help establish a wild flower meadow or examine the insect life, come along and see us, you will be very welcome and you might find someone else has a similar interest to you, or you might find out something completely new and fascinating to open up a new area of interest.

Visit the Exeter Community Garden website (exetercommunitygarden.co.uk) or email us direct at exetercommunitygarden@btinternet.com, if you would like to get involved.

Adrian Berryman, Exeter Community Garden Secretary

Festive/New Year events for the community to enjoy:

Christingle

The University Chaplaincy will lead a Christingle Celebration on Tuesday 12 December in the Forum building. With an orange, red tape, sweets and candle, we use the Christingle to retell the story of Christmas. It is a symbol that has been used by churches for hundreds of years.

From 12 noon until 4pm, we will be making Christingles in the Forum and all are welcome to come and make one with us. We will have everything you need and it's free.

At 5pm in the Forum by the Christmas tree, we will have a Christingle gathering lasting about 30-40 minutes. There will be Christmas music, some Christmas readings and we will learn about the history and meaning of the Christingle. The gathering will finish with singing some carols with the candles lit on our Christingles. All are very welcome to join us.

Choir Service with the ECU

On Monday 11 December, the Evangelical Christian Union of students will be hosting a Christmas Carol service at St James Park. Doors open at 6:30pm for a 7:15pm start. There will be a performance from a Salvation Army Band, with Semi-toned and Sweet Nothings joining Exeter railway band. Please join the ECU at this free community event.

Spring Festival 2024

We would like to invite Exeter residents to join us for Spring Festival on Tuesday 13 February 2024, to help celebrate 'The Year of the Dragon'. 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 Spring Festival web page to keep updated on details for this event: exeter.ac.uk/students/international/livingintheuk/getinvolved/lunarnewyear



Term dates 2023-24

Autumn Term

Monday 25 September – Friday 15 December

Spring Term 2023

Monday 8 January – Friday 29 March

Summer Term 2024

Monday 29 April – Friday 14 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

Police Emergency: 999

Police Non-Emergency: 101

The City Council's Environmental Health
Team: exeter.gov.uk/clean-safe-city

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 10pm (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@exeter.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.