

Community

**Introduction from Mike Shore-Nye,
Registrar and Secretary**

**Autumn
2022**

A very warm welcome to the Autumn edition of our Community newsletter.

I would firstly like to convey the University's sadness at the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. Our thoughts are with the Royal Family at this time.

At the time of writing this newsletter, meetings are being held to explore what changes may need to be made to Freshers' Week in light of the period of national public mourning and the state funeral. Updates will be added to the University website and circulated to our community networks – but there are still some significant schemes and projects we'd like to make you aware of.

Firstly, we have received a significant funding boost from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund to help enhance night-time safety measures across the city centre. This bid, developed by the Exeter Community Safety Partnership and led by the University, will be used to launch a number of initiatives within the city centre. More details about these safety schemes can be found later in the newsletter.

Secondly, in June I chaired the first meeting of our Community Panel which will meet termly. This panel consists of a variety of community representatives from across Exeter and will look to support the ongoing delivery of the Exeter Civic University Agreement; help the University listen to and engage with the local community; identify local issues, challenges and opportunities. It was an incredibly productive first meeting and the team is looking forward to sharing more thoughts and ideas with our community representatives.

This year will be an exciting time for all of our student community, as they return to some form of normality following the difficult years we've faced due to Covid and once again a large part of our message to returning students will be 'get to know your neighbours'. We are supporting a number of community social events to help students get to know their local communities better. As always, we are committed to responding swiftly to any concerns around noise or anti-social behaviour. Our Estate Patrol team, Welcome Team volunteers and Community Engagement team will be working in tandem with our colleagues in the Police and City Council especially through the first few weeks of term, resolving problems as promptly as we can.

Thanks for your support over the last busy few months.

Mike Shore-Nye
Registrar and Secretary

New Community Panel

The first meeting of a newly established Community Panel took place in June this year, Chaired by our Registrar, Mike Shore Nye.

The aim of the Community Panel is to help the University of Exeter to identify local issues, challenges and opportunities, and to support the development of an annual plan of community engagement.

The Panel will provide us with an opportunity to listen to and engage with the local community and be more responsive to the needs of all social groups.

We connect with communities in a variety of ways, but the new panel will seek input from a wider cross-section of city residents to help us co-create solutions that meet local needs.

The Panel was formed to support the delivery of the Exeter Civic University Agreement, which was signed by leaders of the University of Exeter, Exeter City Council, Exeter College, and The Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, in October 2021.

The next panel meeting will happen in October and we look forward to providing further updates on new projects and ideas in future editions of the community newsletter.

Community Funding News

A bid developed by Exeter Community Safety Partnership and led by the University of Exeter, has 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.

This funding will be used to launch a number of initiatives within the city centre to help prevent anti-social behaviour, and tackle violence against women and members of the LGBT+ community, in and around Exeter city centre, particularly at night.

The initiative will be focused around several key areas: enhancing the existing CCTV and street lighting network in key locations within the city, specifically looking at routes from the city centre night time economy to residential areas, delivering bespoke bystander intervention and educational training for key groups, enhancing key areas of the local community to help promote personal safety and the provision of a safe space.

Peter Scargill, Director of Commercial, Residential & Campus Services at the University of Exeter and Chair

of the Exeter Community Safety Partnership said: "The success of our bid reflects the excellent collaborative working by all of the partner organisations that form the Exeter Community Safety Partnership. I am extremely excited about the delivery of this project over the next eighteen months and the long-lasting benefits it will provide to all members of Exeter's community who use the night time Economy".

In November 2021, the partnership was also awarded more than £72,000 from the Home Office's Safety of Women at Night Fund, to help tackle night-time crime in the city.

For more detail about this latest community safety grant and what projects are being developed, please contact communityengagement@exeter.ac.uk



Students' Guild Update

Hello from the Students' Guild! I'm happy to introduce myself and the 2022-23 Officer Team – I'm Lily Margaroli, Guild President. Along with Jack (VP Education), Izzie (VP Opportunities), and Emma (VP Liberation) we'll be representing Exeter students this year, and look forward to working with the local community on a number of projects, including ensuring the safety of our community here in Exeter.

We're excited this year to be working closely with the Exeter Community Garden, based on the edge of campus near Higher Hoopern Lane. The Garden has just celebrated its 10th birthday, and continues to go from strength to strength. If you're in the area please do drop in and see what the team are growing and harvesting!

The Garden brings together volunteers from the local community as well as student volunteers who meet twice a week to work on the garden, share tips and knowledge and often tea and cake too! You can find out more at exetercommunitygarden.co.uk

We also have a large number of Student Societies with a community-focus. At our Guild Awards ceremony this year, Student Project of the Year 2022 was Action After Stroke, a long running project providing a safe and supportive environment for members to exercise in. The sessions involve a mix of light rehabilitation exercise and social support for up to 25 stroke patients who have progressed beyond what the NHS provides. This year the project has recruited 40 student volunteers, attending sessions twice a week on the St Luke's campus. Some of the patients supported by the project have been attending for over 20 years! We're really proud and impressed that Exeter students have been dedicating their time to this project and making a difference to people's lives for more than 2 decades.



Student Community Team

Community update: Community Engagement Officers

‘Community Engagement Officers’ will be the new name for the ‘Student Community Wardens’.

The Student Community Warden scheme was first launched in 2008, to advise and support students living in private accommodation. The Wardens are all students in their final year of study, who have lived in the community for at least one year. The team are often first point of contact for many Resident Associations in the city.

The new title was resolved following feedback and consultation with students earlier this year.

The title Community Engagement Officer is much more reflective of the breadth of engagement work that the team does. We also discovered that the term ‘Warden’ did occasionally confuse some students who assumed that our team were employed by the City Council. We were keen to communicate this change in advance of the new academic year and to promote our new email for general community queries: communityengagement@exeter.ac.uk Any emails sent to our old email address will be automatically redirected to the new account.

Rory Cunningham, Community Engagement Manager

The Community Engagement Officers will be engaging with returning students in September and distributing copies of the Student Community Guide, and our new Community Wall Planner, containing information on waste management, noise awareness and the importance getting to know your neighbours.

The new team will also undergo some new, targeted, community-safety training (supported by the Safer Streets Fund) to help educate students about personal safety.

If you have any feedback for our new team, or would like to explore ideas for community projects, please contact us.

University of Exeter experiences for local Year 12 students

Year 12 students living and studying in the South West can now apply to our free Exeter Scholars programme, for an opportunity to find out more about university and get first-hand experience of student life.

Applications are open from 12 September until 6 November for year 12 students living and studying in the South West.

Successful applicants will – Get an understanding of university life and an opportunity to hear directly from current university students and world class academics.

Explore a subject of their choice, with activities both on our campuses and online.

Build skills to help with their studies both now, and with the move to university-level study in the future.

Gain the experience and knowledge to help them decide whether university is right for them, and, if so, boost their university application.

Access a pathway to studying at the University of Exeter that includes reduced entry grades, and other financial and pastoral support.

Visit exeter.ac.uk/exeterscholars for more information, details of the eligibility criteria and to apply.



Exeter scholars

“

Exeter Scholars helped me a lot as it provided me an opportunity to see what university life is like and whether it is the right choice for me. I also knew most of the buildings and facilities, so I managed to navigate around and settled into university easily.

Recent Exeter Scholars graduate.

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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 (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**.

**Fresher's Week will run
from Monday 19 – Sunday 25
September 2022**