



University
of Exeter

Community

Introduction from Mike Shore-Nye,
Registrar and Secretary

Autumn
2023

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

In this edition, we wanted to highlight the British Science Festival which we are very proud to be hosting this year, in collaboration with the British Science Association. There will be a wide range of free workshops, talks and activities for local residents of all ages to enjoy, across a number of Exeter venues including our very own Streatham Campus. Please do read the fuller article within this newsletter for further details of what is planned and how to access the full range of events on offer.

Other newsletter highlights include our exciting new Chaplaincy building which will provide another outstanding resource for communities to engage with in the near future. Please do forward your ideas and suggestions to the Chaplaincy team: chaplaincy@exeter.ac.uk.

We also understand that residents will be keen to know how we are preparing practically for the busy start of term and a new community of students. As term one begins, we are continuing to support 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 new 'Good Neighbour' campaign will also be promoted to new and returning students to help emphasise the positive behaviours that we endorse and that the majority of students already demonstrate. A key message will continue to be 'get to know your neighbours' and we hope that many of you will get to know your student neighbours as the new term gets underway.

And finally I can confirm that, as they do each year, 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.

Best wishes,

Mike Shore-Nye
Registrar and Secretary.

New Multifaith Centre

We are creating a new, flexible and inclusive Multifaith Centre in the heart of Streatham Campus.

The new building will provide space for quiet reflection and prayer, student faith society events, student and staff hospitality and multifaith/worldview activities, which promote respect, community and inclusion.

Planned for location opposite the Forum's South Piazza, the facility will complement existing services on the central Campus and make it a focal point of our University community.

Construction of the building started in August 2023 and we expect the building to be completed by September 2024 (subject to change).

Local faith representatives have been involved in the plans and we are keen for the new space to bring together University students and staff with local faith and community groups. Get in touch with the Multifaith Chaplaincy if you have an idea of how this space could further connections between local faith communities and the University. Email: chaplaincy@exeter.ac.uk.



BRITISH SCIENCE FESTIVAL

University of Exeter
7-10 September
Exeter



The British Science Festival is Europe's longest standing science Festival, travelling to a different place in the United Kingdom each year. The festival aims to connect people with scientists, engineers, technologists and social scientists. The festival will be held between Thursday 7 and Sunday 10 September, with events being held on the University's Streatham Campus, as well as at venues across the city, offering over 70 FREE activities including interactive activities, talks and workshops on the best of British research, art installations and exhibitions, and live performances for nearby residents.

The festival is aimed at visitors aged 16+ and there's no need for any knowledge of science to join in the celebrations. All tickets for the British Science Festival are completely free, but spaces are limited at some events so booking is advised. Ticket bookings and the full programme line-up can be found on the British Science Festival website: britishsciencefestival.org

What's on?

7-8 September On **Thursday and Friday**, the Festival will be taking over The Forum on the University of Exeter's Streatham Campus with a whole host of interactive activities including the opportunity to test out AI and find the perfect fitting trainers.

On **Thursday evening**, visitors can attend a special live recording of the BBC's The Sky at Night, Question Time programme at the Roberough building on the University campus. Come and join the presenters, including the BSA's past-President and renowned British space scientist, Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock, for an evening of stargazing and wonder!

Head back to the University of Exeter campus on **Friday** for a day of unmissable experiences, including the Killer Fungus Escape Room, Stories from our Skeletons, and a chance to try out your hand at being an air traffic controller.

Then **from 7pm on Friday**, the British Science Festival will be heading to the city for a first-of-its-kind nighttime takeover of the Guildhall Shopping Centre. Live music will soundtrack the night and visitors will be treated to exclusive performances by The Spit Game, a London-based rap collective, and The Matt Palmer Band who are taking inspiration from climate science to tell the story of sea levels rising through song.

Drop in on a virtual reality activity which allows users to experience how animals navigate the world without sight from local scientist, Dr Luke Smith, from the University of Exeter.

Get up close and personal with specimens from the Natural History Museum as they tour their incredible 'Our Broken Planet' exhibition for the first time. The exhibition will guide visitors through our relationship with our world, and what we must do to fix it.

9-10 September On **Saturday and Sunday**, the city of Exeter will be front and centre at the British Science Festival.

Head to Cathedral Square as it hosts Exeter's first 'Science Market'. Stalls include:

- An interactive exploration of fast fashion which challenges visitors to mend broken garments.
- A chance to explore the wonderful world of seaweed through art, poetry and song.
- A test of your hearing with scientists who research animals who use echolocation – discover if you'd succeed in finding food out in the wild!
- 'The Happy Shop', inside which you will find a dream selection of your thoughts and emotions.

The intersection between science and creativity will also be brought to life at the Exeter Phoenix arts centre. Here, the Festival will screen 'The World Turned Upside Down', a documentary about dementia and communication, taking the viewer behind the scenes of an original play which drew on evidence from the Improving the Experience of Dementia and Enhancing Active Life (IDEAL) research programme.

Exeter local and professor at the University, John Plunkett, will walk us through the history of 3D imaging using Victorian era devices and images from the Bill Douglas Cinema Museum, allowing Festival-goers to create their own 3D picture.

Strictly winner and CBeebies star Hamza Yassin to headline British Science Festival.

TV personality and Strictly Come Dancing winner Hamza Yassin has been announced as the headline speaker at the forth coming British Science Festival, hosted by the University of Exeter.

Wildlife cameraman Hamza, best known to CBeebies viewers as "Ranger Hamza", will be interviewed by Professor Lisa Roberts, Vice-Chancellor at the University of Exeter, about his early life, inspiration for getting involved in wildlife and his career to date.

He will also discuss his new book, "Be a Birder: The joy of birdwatching and how to get started" and which brings his passion for birding to the public, during the event at the Festival.

As well as sharing his top tips on how to introduce yourself to this rewarding and calming hobby of birdwatching, Hamza will also speak on the challenges he's overcome, and support he's received, having been diagnosed with dyslexia as a teenager.

Tickets for the event, called 'In Conversation with Hamza Yassin', are available here: britishscienceassociation-tickets.ticketolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173630139

The Good Neighbour Campaign

Last year, Exeter Community Safety Partnership, in collaboration with the University, received funding from the Home Office's Safer Streets Fund to enhance safety measures across the City Centre. Alongside a new city-centre 'Safe Space', improved street lighting and bystander intervention training for bar/nightclub staff, the University's Community Engagement Team agreed to pilot a 'Good Neighbour' campaign to champion good citizenship amongst the student population.

Our campaign has taken the form of colourful, highly-visible social-media messages, with key messages also being displayed as posters and on electronic displays in key locations on and off campus.

The overall aim of the campaign is to acknowledge six main positive behaviours that help contribute to good citizenship:

- Being mindful of noise
- Managing waste and recycling
- Volunteering in your community
- Loving your garden
- Saying hello to your neighbours
- Using public transport and not bringing a car

Following a pilot earlier this year, the full campaign will begin in September as new students arrive in Exeter, with ongoing reminders of the six themes throughout the year.

Hello from the Students' Guild!

I'm happy to introduce myself and the 2023-24 Officer Team – I'm Pip, Student Living Officer. Along with Emma (Guild President), Alex (Education Officer), Rhys (Societies and Employability Officer), and Mia (Communities and Equality Officer) we'll be representing Exeter students this year. We're looking forward to working with the local community on a number of projects, including ensuring the safety of our community here in Exeter.

My role is new this year, with a focus very much on housing, student safety and living in the local community. I'm excited to be working in this role, as I am passionate about making student housing accessible and safe. With the cost-of-living crisis, rising prices of rent and bills are a major issue facing everyone at the moment, including our students.

My role prioritises strengthening student engagement with local communities. Our students are already working with incredible charities, such as Homeless Action, holding weekly walks through the city centre and handing out food packages to rough sleepers. This is just one example of the many projects taking place across the city, from making connections with residents in care homes, to cleaning up green spaces.



"The format of this campaign follows on from previous work carried out with our Psychology department in relation to alcohol. The best way to encourage positive long-term behaviour, is to reinforce what the majority of students do well (as opposed to emphasising what a minority of students do badly). We work closely with the Council and the Police and respond swiftly if concerns arise in the community, but we have observed a positive decline in incidents of serious anti-social behaviour in recent years. We review these trends closely of course, and listen to feedback constantly, but we aim to use this new campaign to keep building on the encouraging trends we have seen."

Rory Cunningham,
Community Liaison Manager.



Pip Shaw, the new Student Living Officer for the Students' Guild.

I'm so proud of the dedication and positive impact on the community our students create during their time in Exeter, and I hope you can see the real difference Exeter students are making whilst they are here.



Term dates 2023-24

Autumn Term 2023

Monday 25 September – Friday 15 December

Spring Term 2024

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 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.