

## Funding Matters

The majority of funds for the current phase of work on Queen's Crescent Garden came from a Grassroots Grant approved by Exeter City Council, with most welcome additions from Devon County Council grants allocated at the discretion of our local county councillors, Cllrs. Su Aves and Percy Prowse. Further funding will be required for the next phase of the project – the layout of paths and hardstanding area for a pop-up cafe, performances etc., accessed via the Queen's Crescent entrance – so the Trust will continue to be looking at all potential sources.

If fundraising is an aspect you would be keen to help with, do get in touch – and if you are not yet a member of the Trust do consider applying, whether an individual, business or organisation. The Trust is set up as a not-for-profit charitable society, for the benefit of the people and environment of St James. A one-off purchase of a minimum £5 worth of shares is all that is required to become a Member – though there is no maximum! Make contact via [trust@exeterstjamesforum.org](mailto:trust@exeterstjamesforum.org).



## COULD YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ST JAMES?

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A TRUSTEE WITH FUNDRAISING SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

ARE YOU THAT PERSON?

Please contact:  
[trust@exeterstjamesforum.org](mailto:trust@exeterstjamesforum.org)

## Remember, remember

Powderham Crescent Residents Association was very disappointed to not have the annual bonfire night party in the centre garden. This has taken place for many years with households donating fireworks and food and the Association producing many litres of mulled wine. With music playing, around 100 people regularly enjoyed the event and the bonfire was also a major way of getting rid of the trimmings from the garden. Hopefully the Covid-19 regulations will allow it to take place next year.



## Support for local businesses

This year we know that our local businesses have been hit hard by the pandemic and so we were pleased that the Forum's successful bid for a grant from the City Council's coronavirus resilience fund, has covered the cost of printing the two 2020 issues of St James. Thus we have been able to support those businesses that in previous years have taken advertising space to help meet this cost, by offering them free exposure this year. The Forum and Trust would encourage all residents to support our local businesses particularly in the weeks and months ahead. There should be space next year to accommodate a few more adverts so

any business looking for a sure way of reaching every property in St James is invited to contact

[info@exeterstjamesforum.org](mailto:info@exeterstjamesforum.org).

This will be a win-win opportunity as the Forum and Trust will once again be seeking to ensure About St James is self-financing.



# Harry's

ESTD 1993

[HARRYSRESTAURANTS.CO.UK](http://HARRYSRESTAURANTS.CO.UK)

## CliftonEmerydesign

Urban design and architecture



# ABOUT St James

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EXETER ST JAMES COMMUNITY TRUST LTD  
a shared interest



DELIVERING THE NEWS AND STORIES AROUND AND ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



Find out more at [www.exeterstjamesforum.com](http://www.exeterstjamesforum.com).

## Coping with COVID-19 at St Sidwell's School

Since the start of the Autumn Term, the children at St Sidwell's CE Primary School and Nursery have adapted very well to the necessary changes that have been required in school to keep the community safe and well in the light of Covid-19 restrictions and guidance. Vanessa Briggs, the Headteacher, commented "We have really loved seeing so many happy faces as they come into school each morning and we are very proud of the children and how they have accepted changes, just happy to be back in school and with their friends."

Some of the children had been learning from home for over 5 months and others had been in school as their parents were key workers. The school recognised that on their return in September, children would have had many different experiences and it was important to find a way of recognising and valuing every child's voice. In the first few weeks

valuable time was spent on a Re-Connection Curriculum which enabled children to talk, discuss and consider everything that has happened in the world this year. Included in this was the art of the Kintsugi Bowl with the aim that every child would make a kintsugi bowl of their own.

Kintsugi is the Japanese art of putting broken pottery pieces back together with gold – a metaphor for embracing your flaws and imperfections. "You won't realise your full potential until you go through the tough times."

*The kintsugi technique suggests many things. When an object breaks, it doesn't mean that it is no more useful. Its breakages can become valuable. We should try to repair things because sometimes in doing so we obtain more valuable objects. This is the essence of resilience. Each of us should look for a way to cope with traumatic events in a positive way, learn from negative experiences, take the best from them and understand that exactly these experiences make each person unique and precious.*

The aim was to enable the children to appreciate that everything we experience in life can support us in becoming the person we want to be and all of it is to be valued. Making their Kintsugi bowls really helped children to voice their thoughts and feelings and acknowledge the good and the bad. Go to the school website [st-sidwells-ce.devon.sch.uk](http://st-sidwells-ce.devon.sch.uk) and select "Our Gallery" for pictures of all of the Kintsugi bowls.



Kintsugi bowls produced by students

## COVID-19 fails to stop the QCG Project!

The pandemic may have resulted in delays but recent progress made towards the ongoing Queen's Crescent Garden regeneration project has drawn very positive comments from local residents as well as from further afield. The third and final new entrance with steps down into the garden opens up the sight lines from York Road and as soon as the handsome railings and ballustrades have been installed, will invite all to venture in to enjoy our community pocket park.

The Trust's directors, who are responsible for the project on behalf of the community, were delighted to accept a donation from Marshalls of commercial quality granite setts which have been expertly laid at this new entrance. The other two entrances are due to be completed in the same way as soon as the builder can schedule a return. Marshalls' vision is to "Create Better Spaces" and "Futures for Everyone", socially, environmentally and economically. They have certainly helped to realise this vision for St James through such a generous donation!



New Queen's Crescent Garden Entrance

## One pupil - One device

The learning at St Sidwell's CE Primary School and Nursery hasn't stopped throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and the school is now working to ensure that all of the children can access remote learning so that in the event of families needing to self-isolate, or further lockdowns, every child knows how to access learning from school. To do this the aim is for every child to have access to the technology!

Vanessa Briggs, the Headteacher, comments "With a student population of 220, the 100 devices we currently have is far from enough. With the support of Governors, we have created a 'gofundme' initiative to request support for the purchase of IT equipment in our

school as well as investing in ways in which we can support our children's mental health.

Education should not be discriminatory; however the relentless pressure on School budgets is threatening the core values of fairness and opportunity. Despite Government claims of increased spending on schools, our funding barely covers 'the basics'. With Covid continuing to impact on our lives we need to act and we need your help!"



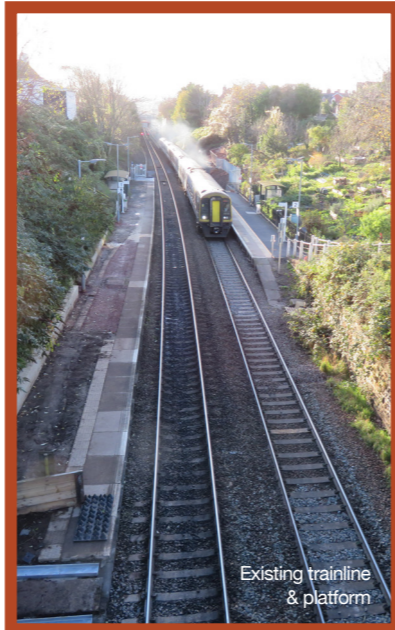
<https://www.gofundme.com/f/st-sidwells-primary-school-enhanced-learning>

## St James' Park Station Upgrade

There has been a lot of overnight work going on at St James' Park railway station through the autumn with a week of daytime work when the railway was closed. The platforms have been extended to fit the length of the longer trains now running on the Exmouth to Paignton route. For safety reasons passengers can only use one door when some doors are not on the platform. This causes confusion over which carriage to be in and has been causing delays when there are a lot of passengers getting on or off. As well as being extended the

platforms have received asphalt surfaces, drainage and tactile paving bringing them up to modern standards. The puddled compressed earth and sand surface will not be missed!

Somewhat eerie at night are new railway signals now visible from Well Street bridge at St James' Park station. During a closed week in October the points at Exmouth Junction were replaced allowing a faster speed for trains to Exmouth. As drivers can't see the signal through the tunnel, these repeater signals have been installed to give advance warning.



Existing trainline & platform

## Roundabout Planter: And the winner is ...

Thanks to those who sent in their preferred planting scheme for the planter at the Blackall Road / Longbrook Street corner, from the options Hugo Bugg created for us, presented in the last issue. The winning combination was Option 2, providing eventual year round interest with soft yellows and blues with an architectural structure of Calamagrostis, the Korean feather reed grass and seasonal uplifts provided mainly by bulbs. Using money from a ward grant previously allocated for the purpose by our City Councillors, Kevin Mitchell, Keith Owen and Michael Mitchell, all but one of

the items on the plant list has already been sourced and planted. Space has been left for the currently unavailable Santolina rosmarinifolia subsp. rosmarinifolia which will be added to the planter in time to flower next summer. Offers of help with occasional watering and maintenance would be welcomed.



Longbrook Street Junction Planter

## St James in the Blitz

Brook Green Terrace might look peaceful enough in the autumn sunshine but it was not always so as one young lad's recollection of living there on the fateful night of 3/4 May 1942 testifies:

*"We were awakened by our parents after the sirens went at about 11.30pm ..... When there had been air raid warnings in the past we had gone to our Morrison shelter in the dining room; that night for some reason they decided we should go to our neighbour's, probably because their Morrison was in the basement of their house. My dad and the nextdoor neighbour were firewatching outside in the terrace. Mum and the neighbour's wife were singing songs and telling us stories to distract us from the sound of falling bombs, some of which seemed very near.*

*Suddenly my father and his friend came rushing down the outside stairs and threw themselves in the shelter. There was a very loud bang, the house seemed to shake and bits of plaster fell from the ceiling. They then went out to see what damage had been done and when they returned they said houses in Well Street and Clarence Place (at the back of our terrace) had been destroyed. Later in the night we heard and felt another explosion, a large bomb had fallen in St. Sidwells Avenue, about 100 yards from us."*

Sadly the "large bomb" which fell on St Sidwells Avenue that night resulted in the death of nine people and destroyed several houses. Looking at the street today it is easy to forget that many of them had to be rebuilt after being flattened in the Blitz.



Brooke Green Terrace



St Sidwell's Avenue

Extracts from "A Memory of the Exeter Blitz" © Trevor Brown WW2 People's War WW2 People's War is an online archive of wartime memories contributed by members of the public and gathered by the BBC. The archive can be found at [www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ww2peopleswar)

## Will our actions lead to redundancies?

During negotiations with the City Council leading to the 125 year lease, the Council committed to installing a new litter bin just outside each entrance to Queen's Crescent Garden, to be serviced by the Council. It has been very pleasing to see so many people enjoying the space and the provision of bins will make it very easy for all users, including picnickers and dog walkers, to dispose of any waste that can't be taken home for recycling. Thank you to all who already have been taking care to ensure you leave no trace behind. The directors would urge

everyone to follow suit – our very hard-working litter pickers would love to be made redundant, so please let's all take pride in our precious open space and play our part in keeping it clean and tidy!



Right: Damaged house after the 4th May raid  
Courtesy Express & Echo

