

## Picture puzzle

What is this and have you spotted it when walking around St James?

Clue:  
There are several others in the vicinity,  
6 with the same date.



The Picture Puzzle answer can be found at the bottom on the inside spread...

CliftonEmerydesign  
Urban design and architecture



# ABOUT St James

A joint publication by Exeter St James Forum & Exeter St James Community Trust Distributed to all households in St James

Issue 12 Summer 2021



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.org](http://www.exeterstjamesforum.org).

## All change for Union Road? Make sure you have your say!

As part of the E4 Cycleway planned to connect St David's Station with Exeter Science Park, Devon County Council is now consulting on the Union Road section. With 3km of the cycleway already completed, the question is not whether you agree to the cycleway, but asks your views on the proposed design for this section, and whether it balances 'providing a high-quality cycle route with the needs of pedestrians, car users and public transport users'.

The proposal to remove all parking spaces in Union Road and two in Old Tiverton Road may be the most problematic aspect of the design. The claim that a survey has shown a maximum of 75% usage of parking space along the road has raised eyebrows – this is not the experience of local residents! The Council has suggested four mitigation proposals and your views on this, as on all other aspects of the proposals, are sought through an online survey at [devon.cc/unionroad2021](http://devon.cc/unionroad2021)

While few would argue against the urgent need to reduce car numbers and encourage greener transport, these proposals appear unrealistic to local residents who are already exasperated by the parking problems they face. One wrote, 'Parking is the worst it's ever been ... many cars just don't move for weeks whilst residents working shifts & those with young families often can't park ... one lady gets a taxi to pick up her grandchild in fear of losing a parking spot'.

All settled residents in St James are aware of the huge reduction in pressure on parking during the weeks when our student residents have returned to their family homes. The University has a stringent policy banning student cars on campus, but is its pride in its green credentials justified when it is so ineffective in deterring students from bringing cars to the City? Devon County Council and Exeter University must devise measures that would see the end to all but disabled students bringing cars to the City. Many residents will agree this is the only mitigation proposal that would have the desired effect, and the University would receive tremendous plaudits from its neighbouring communities if this were

done, as well as more widely from all pushing for a greener future.

Please respond to the survey which is open until 13 July at [devon.cc/unionroad2021](http://devon.cc/unionroad2021). Please also let your views be known to the Forum, [info@exeterstjamesforum.org](mailto:info@exeterstjamesforum.org), and your councillors Su Aves, [su.aves@devon.gov.uk](mailto:su.aves@devon.gov.uk), and Percy Prowse, 01392 209024, so that collectively we can make our voice heard.



## Find it hard to read the print?

About St James is always available to download from our website:  
[www.exeterstjamesforum.org](http://www.exeterstjamesforum.org)

The print can be enlarged as much as required.

If you don't use a computer, and need a larger printout, please write to:

Trust Secretary,  
15 Powderham Crescent,  
Exeter,  
EX4 6DA

## SUPPORT YOUR TRUST

Exeter St James Community Trust is your Trust and has responsibility for the Queen's Crescent Garden project and for producing this newsletter twice a year. It would also be willing to take on any other appropriate projects that are identified as benefiting the St James' community.

Trust Membership is open to any individual, or any incorporated or non-incorporated organisation, keen to see the improvement of St James, whether they live in St James or not. If you are not already a member of the Trust then please do join us. An application form can be found on our website [exeterstjamesforum.org](http://exeterstjamesforum.org)

Whether you are a member of the Trust or not then please also consider making a donation to us so we can continue to run the Trust and produce this newsletter. All contributions would be very welcome and you can send cheques, payable to Exeter St James Community Trust Limited, to The Secretary, ESJCT, 15 Powderham Crescent, Exeter, EX4 6DA



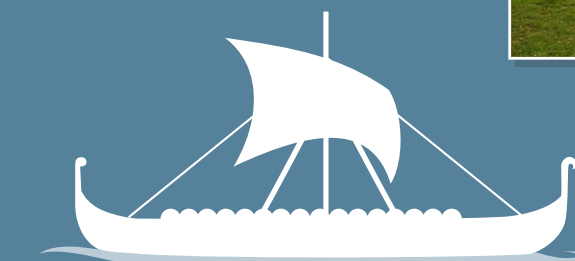
## Were there ever Vikings in St James?

This scheduled monument behind the prison off Howell Road known as "Danes Castle" was once believed to have been built by Vikings. However, archaeological excavation of the site, when the adjacent reservoir was remodelled in 1993, revealed the earthworks which are seen today and they are a classic medieval fortification or ringwork dating from the 12th century. It was constructed during the reign of King Stephen (1135-54) who besieged the rebellious 1st Earl of Devon, Baldwin de Redvers, in Rougemont castle for three months in 1136. It is thought

the earthwork was a temporary campaign structure, never completed and abandoned after Baldwin de Redvers surrendered. It is suggested that the site was again occupied during a later siege of the city in 1645-6 when occupied by Parliamentarian forces under the command of General Fairfax. So, no Vikings here!



Above:  
Danes Castle  
(scheduled monument)





## Major Milestone for Queen's Crescent Garden

The recent installation of the final section of railings along the newly built Queen's Crescent wall marked an important milestone in the regeneration of Queen's Crescent Garden, the completion of the initial phase of the garden's transformation involving the re-establishment of perimeter walls and creation of three new entrances. Back in 2011 when residents first mooted the idea of reclaiming this sadly run-down and neglected green space at the heart of our community few realized just what that journey would entail.

What followed was the setting up of Exeter St James Forum and the adoption in 2013 of its Neighbourhood Plan which identified the regeneration of QCG as the top priority project. In 2014 Exeter St James Community Trust was born to take on the lease once Exeter City Council acquired the land via compulsory purchase, a process not completed until 2018. Since assuming responsibility for QCG the Trust has managed the regeneration according to the Masterplan drawn up in consultation with the community. Now, ten years on, it is extremely gratifying to receive the many positive comments and plaudits about what has been achieved and especially pleasing to see the garden once again being enjoyed

in the early summer sunshine by young and old alike.

None of this progress would have been possible without the generous financial assistance of Exeter City and Devon County Councils as well as support from local businesses and, of course, our shareholder members. But, we cannot rest on our laurels! The Trust must now turn its attention to the mammoth task of raising the necessary funds to embark on the next phase of regeneration and internal landscaping.

Can you help?  
Do you have fundraising expertise?  
Are you a Trust member?  
Could you volunteer as a Friend of QCG?  
Let us know!

Below:

One of the three new entrances with splendid apron of granite setts kindly donated by Marshalls Paving



## Longstanding City Councillor steps down

Although Keith Owen had originally planned to step down in May 2020 as City Councillor for Duryard and St James, he found himself serving the local community for a further 12 months when last year's elections became a casualty of the pandemic. If he regretted not being able to put his feet up for a well-earned rest after 8 years of committed service, he didn't show it and the Forum was pleased to be able to rely for a further year on his knowledgeable and dedicated support. St James has benefited hugely from the tireless and determined commitment to the community demonstrated by each of our city councillors whether individually or impressively working together as one, supporting all Forum endeavours to realise the vision of the community's Neighbourhood Plan, even when this has meant prioritising community perspective over party line. For his part, Keith has spoken eloquently and passionately at many a Planning Committee meeting, urging Members to refuse

developments that are non-compliant with our Neighbourhood Plan. Out of the public eye, he has responded swiftly and effectively to all requests made of him, and assisted in obtaining grants for worthwhile projects. The Steering Group is sure that all the community would want to join us in thanking Keith, and wishing him and his wife, Jill, every happiness in their new freedom!

In Keith's place a welcome is extended to our new City Councillor, Cllr. Martin Pearce, who completes the 'team' with Cllrs. Kevin Mitchell and Michael Mitchell. Cllr. Percy Prowse and Cllr. Su Aves continue as County Councillors for different parts of St James.



Keith Owen

Devon  
County Council



Exeter  
City Council



## Queen's Crescent Garden Volunteers

The Trust's Queen's Crescent Garden Project Team is always keen to hear from those who would like to help in practical ways. The mowing team has become depleted this year so do let us know if you would like to help occasionally with this, or to come down with shears to trim the perimeter or help tackle any number of other jobs as they arise. Has anyone got a petrol strimmer that they would be willing to put to good use in the Garden? People of all ages are very welcome, but it would be especially encouraging to find younger adults and teenagers coming forward - those who take part in working parties inevitably comment on how much they have enjoyed making their contribution and meeting other residents. Get in touch at [info@exeterstjamesforum.org](mailto:info@exeterstjamesforum.org) if you would like to offer help or discuss further.

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## Picture puzzle

Picture Puzzle answer:

*They are War Department marker stones denoting the boundary of the now defunct Higher Barracks. This one set in the wall at the junction of Howell Road with Blackall Road.*



## Keeping the garden spick and span - it's down to us all!

New litter bins are expected soon just outside each entrance to Queen's Crescent Garden. The Trust's valiant team of litter pickers who are busy each day keeping the Garden looking inviting, are not alone in hoping that these will encourage all who are using the Garden to dispose of their litter responsibly. Recently a portable barbecue, a bag of charcoal and the remains of a party were left for others to deal with the next day. Please note that barbecues are not permitted in the Garden. Litter picking is one task that we hope should become unnecessary, but with every aspect of maintenance of the Garden down to volunteers from the community, the Trust is always keen to hear from people willing to help in practical ways.



## Plant and Book Sale - and Pizza in the Park!

Make Saturday 3 July a date in your diary to come on down to Queen's Crescent Garden! Between 10:30am and 4pm the Trust will be manning plant and secondhand book stalls. There are sure to be treasures to find, so why not call in and browse - remembering to bring baskets or boxes to carry your purchases back home!

Local resident, Ben Ambridge of highly recommended Penguin Pizza will be there, too, adding to the fundraising effort by donating all profits from selling his delicious pizzas! If you have spare plants or groaning bookshelves that could do with a sort out, do please donate either by bringing them down between 9 and 10 on the day, or, if you need to have items collected, please get in touch at [info@exeterstjamesforum.org](mailto:info@exeterstjamesforum.org) the week before.



Clive Temperton delighted to see the bees loving the myriad flowers

Clive Temperton justly proud of the Echium pininana he has grown from plants sold at the 2019 Plant Sale - more will be available this year!

