

Art Week EXETER

coming to Queen's Crescent Garden!

Come on down between 22nd and 28th May to explore and engage with a giant bud-shaped sculpture, **Advice Pavilion**, a fascinating piece of public art that will display and celebrate life advice offered by our diverse community.

Hugh McCann, a resident at Exeter arts studio, Kaleider, with multi-disciplinary training and experience in fine art and theatre, won the public vote for the piece of public art to be commissioned by Art Week Exeter at its Art SOUP event last autumn. Talking of his 'Advice Pavilion' Hugh explains:

"The topic was chosen, through considering how public art can be a conversation between artist and viewer, and how in my experience, the most memorable and useful conversations are usually ones in which advice is given.

At a time of increasing social fragmentation, tapping into and sharing local wisdom has the potential to build community and allow people to teach and learn from their neighbours. ... The advice may be small, or large, prophetic, or funny, but ultimately, to someone, it will one day be of use."

Let's embrace the piece as a monument to local wisdom, and use it as a way of bringing together the local and wider community, to learn from each other, whether our roots are firmly embedded in St James or we are enjoying it as a more temporary home, whether we are young or old and whatever our ethnic or faith background. We are ALL St James!

Advice from the children at St Sidwell's CE Primary School

Following the Easter break we were visited by multidisciplinary artist Hugh McCann. He came to invite the children to get involved with the 'Advice Pavilion' which he is creating for **Art Week Exeter**. Hugh asked them to think about the advice that they would give to someone who had joined their class; someone who was feeling sad; someone who has become a neighbour etc.

The children were all very excited about this and spent time in their classes thinking about what 'good advice' might be. We think that their advice says a lot about our children, community and our School.



Here is some of it...

Say Hi to more people.

Try smiling at people, this will make it easier to make friends.

If you shoot for the stars and hit the moon, it's off

Try, try again

Life is about learning new things each day so never be afraid to try new things, new ideas, explore new countries and new cultures as it will only make you a better person.

Don't judge someone by their ideas.

Always believe!

Only ever look back to see how far you've come.

Don't feed your worries.

If you have any problems, put them in the worry monster!

**Isca School of English
HOST FAMILIES NEEDED**

We are looking for welcoming homes in Exeter for our junior students (aged 12-17) for 2, 3 or 4 week periods this summer.

We ask you to provide half-board from Monday to Friday, full-board at the weekend (with a packed lunch for the Saturday excursion) and a friendly, family welcome into your home.

**No weekday packed lunches – we provide these from Monday to Friday at school.

For details please contact Mrs Jo Tomlinson at: jo@iscaschool.com or Tel: Exeter (01392) 273608

Have You a Wood Burner?

**Well - seasoned Logs
donated by Local Resident**

**All Proceeds in aid of
Queen's Crescent Garden**

£5 per bag

Contact info@exeterstjamesforum.org

EXETER

ADVANCED DENTISTRY

01392 202007
exeteradvanceddentistry.co.uk

ABOUT St James

A joint publication by Exeter St James Forum & Exeter St James Community Trust distributed to all households in St James Issue 7 Spring 2018

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DELIVERING THE NEWS AND STORIES AROUND AND ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

QUEEN'S CRESCENT GARDEN SPECIAL

Queen's Crescent Garden Set to Enter New Era!

The countdown has started!

Six long years of negotiation and hard work are set to culminate, by 30 June this year, in the compulsory purchase of this precious green space by **Exeter City Council**, followed immediately by a 125 year Lease Agreement being signed with Exeter St James Community Trust. For the first time in decades the Garden will come under legal management and for the first time ever this will be as a community space for the benefit of all the people of St James. History is being made!

Over the last year ECC and the Trust have negotiated the wording of the Lease, and the securing of a £50,000 New Homes Bonus grant from the Council as a 'dowry' ring-fenced for specific associated financial implications over the long term. The Trust will have legal responsibility for what goes on in the Garden in the future, and will be required to sanction events and activities that take place there, in accordance with the terms of the Lease as well as respecting its charitable objects for the community's benefit.

The Trust wishes to pay tribute to the goodwill, commitment and support of **Exeter City Council** which has been vital in reaching this point of take off for the community's top priority project. Read more at www.exeterstjamesforum.org

Welcome support from business

It's not just residents whose much-needed help is welcomed! **Sands Consulting Engineers** and **Clifton Emery Design**, two local businesses located in Hem's Court on the doorstep of QCG are the latest to have offered enthusiastic and generous support for the project. Watch out over the summer; one evening you may well see the workforce of Clifton Emery Design descending on QCG to take a turn in the practical maintenance of the Garden, emulating the example of **Exeter Round Table** in previous years! What better way to team build – which business will be next?!

Kier Construction and **Dainton Storage** have also come forward to support us with supply and storage of reclaimed bricks – invaluable!

The goodwill and generosity of individuals and businesses, local and further afield, are greatly appreciated. Please contact info@exeterstjamesforum.org if you would like to help.

Itching to Get Moving on the Regeneration!

The signing of the Lease is the starting gun we've had to wait for before launching the next phase of the community's Masterplan! With a pot including £50,000 ECC 'Grass Roots' grant, and two awards from **Devon County Council** - £5000 'Locality Budget' and £5286 'Investing in Devon', preparations are already being put in place to complete the restoration of boundary walls, creating two further new entrances and, if a further funding bid the Trust has submitted meets with success, adding railings to part of the wall. **And that will be just the start!**



Let's CELEBRATE

RISE & SHINE

1st BIG EVENT IN OUR GARDEN

COMING THIS JULY!

ENTERTAINMENT BEING PLANNED FOR ALL THE FAMILY

DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON at www.exeterstjamesforum.org and the Queen's Crescent Garden NOTICE BOARD



find out more at www.exeterstjamesforum.org

Previous copies of About St James can be seen on the website.
Produced by Exeter St James Forum and Exeter St James Community Trust.

Queen's Crescent Garden: Mowing the Meadow

Most of the original public-spirited volunteers are still offering their mowing services, five summer seasons on. However, we shouldn't expect the same few to continue to undertake this work for the community for ever, and so we are looking for new volunteers to come forward to join the rota. Is this something you would be willing to consider? Maybe you would like to come along to see what is involved before committing. Please contact info@exeterstjamesforum.org to offer help or find out more.

New reporting site for graffiti

Exeter City Council (ECC) has a new online service for reporting graffiti: <https://exeter.gov.uk/clean-safe-city/anti-social-behaviour/report-graffiti/>.

Graffiti removal is still free of charge.

This service aims to remove racist or offensive graffiti within 48 hours of reporting and once reported, the graffiti can be with the operative within half an hour. For other graffiti they aim to remove this within 20 days. The new site allows you to pinpoint the exact location of the graffiti by clicking on the interactive map and it is even precise enough to distinguish different sides of the same street and indicates when and where graffiti has already been reported to ECC.

You will need to give your consent (valid for 12 months) if the graffiti is on your property: <https://exeter.gov.uk/clean-safe-city/anti-social-behaviour/graffiti-on-your-property/graffiti-removal-consent/>

ECC will also monitor high footfall areas where regular recurrence has the biggest visual impact. They rely on public reporting for more ad-hoc instances with the new online system. Please help keep St James free of graffiti.



New DPRA 'POPI' initiative

The second day of 2018's Devonshire Place Residents' Association's orchard maintenance programme took place in February, when much pruning, chopping and general clearing helped rid the area of overgrown brambles etc., paving the way for new spring growth. The day was blessed by particularly kind weather and marked a well-attended start to the DPRA's innovative new POPI programme, the inaugural launch of which took place when the hard work was done.

Careful strategic planning by the steering group resulted in more interest than usual, quite extraordinary enthusiasm amongst participants and a dizzying pace of activity, such that there were some fears of orchard deforestation had work continued. Thankfully, with the new POPI programme at the day's core (Post Orchard Pub Initiative), machete-wielding participants laid down their tools, the bramble frenzy drew to a gentle close and the analgesic effects of endorphin activation kicked in as, one by one, they drifted (and some ran) to the Victoria Inn for refreshments.

Despite the programme's evident success, there was some disappointment that a small minority chose to favour certain POPI elements over the toil that preceded refreshments. Association members were reassured to learn later, however, that steering group evaluation of the programme will ensure that information about future POPI refreshment venues is to be circulated exclusively to those who have worked up an orchard sweat. No pain, no gain beer!



Norwood House: Affordable Homes in St James



Cornerstone's Phil, and Norwood House tenant Peggy, enjoy a cup of tea in one of the new kitchens

St James' residents may have noticed some extensive building works taking place at Norwood House on Pennsylvania Road, lasting up until only a few months ago.

Set in a tranquil communal garden, Norwood House was built on the site of the former Norwood Preparatory School in 1985. Owned and managed by Cornerstone Housing, these 26 City Centre flats are today let to local people over 60 years old at affordable levels of rent.

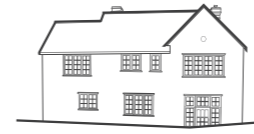
The latest in a rolling programme of modernisation works run by the housing association, the in-house improvements team began work here back in 2016. It has since been transformed by a full modernisation, including the construction of a mobility scooter store and sound proofing. Each flat now boasts a new kitchen and bathroom, with tenants given the choice of a shower, bath or wet room to suit their needs.

During the renovation, tenants were temporarily relocated to allow the works to be completed and on completion of the project earlier this year, tenants both old and new happily moved into their transformed flats.

A not-for-profit organisation, Cornerstone manages over 1300 properties in Exeter and the surrounding areas. For more information visit: www.cornerstonehousing.net

CliftonEmerydesign

Urban design and architecture



One year working from Hems House, Longbrook Street.



Good Deeds

House deeds are fascinating. My house was originally printed on its deed cover as located on 'Victoria Crescent,' but was roughly crossed out and handwritten over as 'Powderham Crescent'. It was built in 1882.

The deeds describe 'a close of land lately called Cistern Field', presumably due to a number of springs. Most of the documents are handwritten except for a printed deed proving the ownership of Cistern Field from 1805 to being bought by Thomas Hutchins Pinder for £1050 in 1877.

It states that the owner of the house had to pay a portion of the costs of the upkeep of the road, the communal garden and the gate at the Lion's Holt end of the Crescent whilst they exist. Lions Holt was a field owned by person of the same name and also the previous name of St James Station - built 1858-9. I am also not allowed a 'pigsty' without the consent of Mr Pinder.

The plot of land for my house was sold to a builder in April 1882 who sold the house the following June for £525. It's worth a little more than that now!

M Reddaway





COMMUNITY RAINBOW GARDENING CLUB

Sidwell Street

Behind the Methodist Church

Open Mondays from 3:45pm

We need your company. Come along to **learn or share knowledge** and **organically grow** fruit and vegetables. We give practical experience to all, including those with learning difficulties, helping with communication skills, gardening skills and confidence building. All produce given **free** to growers, helpers and visitors.

www.facebook.com/communityrainbowgarden

University Community Day Success

We would like to thank the residents of St James who attended the University's second Community Day on March 17th this year. We were delighted to see so many attendees and were able to gather some very useful additional feedback for our new Community Engagement Strategy. If you would like to sign up to receive notifications about upcoming public events and activities on campus, please email streetwise@exeter.ac.uk

The Community Liaison Team consists of Rory Cunningham, Community Liaison Officer, Sophie Parker, Student Support Administrator and a team of ten Student Community Wardens. The team can make contact with addresses during the daytime if there are any concerns.



Pearly Gate

Have you noticed the new feature in West Avenue? Bob Price, a long term resident has been chairman of the nearby cricket club for over 2 decades, a role which was only supposed to last for 3 months until another was appointed at a forthcoming AGM. It therefore seems quite fitting that the Club has dedicated a new entrance gate to Bob so that he can visit the adjacent Devon and Exeter Squash and Racquetball Club in style through his preferred route.

Bob has volunteered in various capacities over the years including at Sidwell Street Methodist Church, Boys Brigade and Exeter Saracens Rugby club. He appears somewhat embarrassed by the gesture but sees the funny side and remarks that such a tribute usually happens after the person is deceased!

