



## Mosque Garden

Exeter Mosque is proud to announce that the progression of the Exeter peace garden, proposed in January 2021, is coming along smoothly. The garden is achieving its aim of providing excellent horticulture through the introduction of flower beds, olive trees and the installation of a pergola with a beautiful wooden pathway.

The concept behind the garden is to benefit Muslims and the wider community, encourage conversations between people and help increase community cohesion whilst improving the environment and increasing awareness of maintaining biodiversity through the introduction of different plants.

Over the coming months the mosque is to install an outside pizza oven and circular seating area for people to sit and enjoy the garden and hopes to open the garden to the community in March 2023 In shaa Allah (God willing).



## BEWARE SCAMMERS!

Scammers in Exeter are attempting to exploit the often tenuous link between tenants, landlords and Exeter City Council by pretending to be tradesmen or officials. They target properties that appear to be tenanted, claiming they have been sent by the landlord, or by the Council, and attempt to gain entry in order to steal or to make bogus repairs. As always, the advice is to check credentials before letting anyone into your home.

## Exeter Community Safety Partnership (CSP)

CSP 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. The funding will allow several initiatives launched across the city in the next two years aimed at helping to prevent antisocial behaviour and tackle violence against women and members of the LGBT+ community, in and around Exeter city centre, particularly at night.

The project focusses on five key areas - creating a night-time safe space, enhanced CCTV and lighting, bystander intervention training, schools education programme and a good neighbour project for students.

## Exeter Civic University Agreement Community Panel

A new Community Panel was convened by Exeter University in June to support the delivery of the new Civic University Agreement.

The stated aims of the Agreement are to:

1. Support the sustainable and inclusive growth of the city
2. Deliver a net zero Exeter
3. Build a city of aspiration and opportunity

4. Support an ambitious culture and tourism offer
5. Enhance the health and wellbeing of our citizens

The purpose of the Panel is to help identify local issues, challenges and opportunities; to find ways to increase student-community cohesion and to help the university listen to and engage with the local community. The Panel consists of nine residents drawn from across Exeter, who serve for a duration of three years. St James' resident Paul Batterham is on the Panel and would be happy to hear from anyone with an issue for him to raise. paulbatterham@gmail.com.

CliftonEmerydesign  
Urban design and architecture



# ABOUT St James

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DELIVERING THE NEWS AND STORIES AROUND AND ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD



FIND OUT MORE AT [WWW.EXETERSTJAMES.ORG](http://WWW.EXETERSTJAMES.ORG)

## 'No' to more Purpose Built Student Accommodation in St James!

Showing support for the Neighbourhood Plan pays off...



Neighbourhood Plan Area



Exeter St James Neighbourhood Plan document

Many living in Union Road and Culverland Close were aghast to discover a planning application had been submitted for a 10 bed purpose built student accommodation (PBSA) in the back garden of 47 Union Road, itself a 13 bed student House in Multiple Occupation. Their dismay was shared by residents across St James who expect our Neighbourhood Plan to be respected, guarding the neighbourhood against such development that would worsen the existing community imbalance. Over sixty residents submitted objections

during the consultation period and our city councillors were very supportive. After a long delay a decision has been made to refuse the application. The applicant may well appeal so the concern has not ended, but there can be no doubt that the large number of objections played a significant part in the decision.

... BUT, time to do so again!

Hot on the heels a revised application 21/1014/FUL for 26 bed PBSA on the old Maximum Motors site, Howell Road is out for consultation until 11 December. Worryingly the documentation includes a planning officer's confirmation that in principle a PBSA is acceptable in this location, showing complete disregard for the Neighbourhood Plan. The NP is clear that in St James such PBSA can only be accommodated in locations not 'predominantly characterised by intact streets of traditional terraced, semi-detached and detached forms of 2-3 storey residential development' and 'where the servicing and parking requirements could be achieved with no unacceptable impact on the amenity of the adjacent area for residents.'

If you support the NP's vision for a balanced community please object to this application by 11 December, even if you objected to the original version. You may submit comments online or by emailing [roger.clotworthy@exeter.gov.uk](mailto:roger.clotworthy@exeter.gov.uk). It has never been more important to demand the City Council gives the recognition required to the statutory NP, prepared with such hard work, commitment, and determination by local residents and supported by the University and Student Guild.



Howell Road - predominantly of 2-3 storey residential properties



26 bed PBSA proposed for this site in Howell Road



## QUEEN'S CRESCENT GARDEN EVENTS

Queen's Crescent Garden is living up to its designation as an important part of St James' Community Hub, the focal point where the community can come together. Many individuals and groups have enjoyed our precious green space informally over the year and two organised events each drew the crowds.



### Summer Event

On Saturday 25 June the community came together to enjoy an event to meet other residents and help raise funds for the Trust and the QCG regeneration project. Apart from dodging a couple of occasional showers nothing put a damper on an otherwise sunny day which was enjoyed by all.

There was something for everyone, young and old: children keen to secure a prize by completing the spotting trail around the garden, others (big and small!) having a go at welly wanging, plants galore, brisk trade at the cake and refreshment stall, scouring for a bargain amongst the bric-a-brac, guessing the location of buried treasure on the garden map, having a punt on the tombola and the excitement of winning the raffle.

A big thank you to all who generously donated plants, cakes and other items

to sell as well as to local businesses who donated raffle prizes. Without your support the event would not have been such a success.

Special mention must be made of Newtown Roots Band for providing excellent musical entertainment and local residents Ben and Sophie Ambridge of Penguin Pizzas for cooking freshly made and very popular pizzas, donating profits to the Trust. Also to our city councillors who ensured the overheads were met by a ward grant.



### Eat and Greet

Then, on the wonderfully balmy afternoon of Sunday 2 October, the University's Community Engagement Team "Eat & Greet" event held in conjunction with the Trust's now customary book sale took place. University Community Relations Team, led by Manager, Rory Cunningham, and including the highly motivated and public-spirited student Community Engagement Officers, had invited all those living in the vicinity, student and local residents alike, to bring a plate to share, and provided the wherewithal for the Ukrainian Society to bake a variety of delicious dishes that delighted all who partook. The Ukrainian Apricot Cheesecake was truly 'out of this world'! The University also ensured there was free ice cream, with a community message theme, for everybody!

The book sale went well and benefited from the very generous donation, made by the executors of the late Exeter resident, Hazel Greenlaw, of many books from her vast and eclectic library. The first tranche of these were offered for sale and book lovers browsed enthusiastically finding old rarities including poetry and books on the history of Exeter as well as a wide range of contemporary fiction and non-fiction books. As ever the Trust is truly grateful to all who donated quality books which ensured the tables were groaning with bargains.

Those who missed out, or who couldn't carry any more home on the day, will be pleased to know that even more books are promised for our next sale, expected to be combined with the first of 2023's plant sales in May. Please think of QCG when you clear out your bookshelves or

grow plants – houseplants, outdoor vegetables, flowers perennial or annual, shrubs, grasses – all donations will be gratefully received and will help to swell the funds for the maintenance and regeneration of the Garden. If, like the executors of Helen, you have any idea that would help support the QCG Project, do suggest it to the Trust Directors!



### Hazel Greenlaw (Feb 1950 - July 2022)

Hazel lived to dance. A Royal Academy of Dance Teacher, she had her own ballet school in Richmond, London before moving to Devon where she taught the Ballet for Adults classes at Exeter Phoenix Arts Centre.

Following an accident in 2016 Hazel became increasingly immobile and was housebound by the end of 2019. She missed her classes

and her students enormously but had one consolation, her reading and her library: well over 1,000 fiction and non-fiction books covering every subject imaginable which she carried on buying until her sudden death in July.

Hazel gifted her books to her beneficiaries with many of them bequeathed to the Queen's Crescent Garden project which helped raise much-needed funds at our recent book sale. A further sale is planned next spring when another 800 or so of her

books will be available to browse and to buy. Hazel would be delighted to know that her library was not only being put to a good use but was also now able to be enjoyed far and wide.



## Powderham Crescent Residents' Association

### Some worry over slurry

The pavements in Powderham Crescent have been coated with 'slurry', several other streets in St James have had the same treatment recently. Residents saw the work cancelled several times over the past year for a variety of reasons including staff shortage and the lorry not being able to get past parked cars. On one attempt the advance information wasn't clear. Finally in October it was done over a couple days with residents having got the message to move their cars away. Some people criticise the treatment as it doesn't level out the dips and bumps. They say the uniform black surface means you can't see the unevenness making walking more hazardous.



### PCRA Bonfire Night

Sunday 6 November, in a very fortunate lull between heavy showers, saw PCRA's annual bonfire celebrations go with a bang! The central garden was transformed into an illuminated wonderland and the crescent resounded to the sound of amplified music. Well over a hundred residents, friends and student neighbours gathered to enjoy the occasion spiced up with contributions of food to share and lashings of mulled wine. Once the fire had died down the fireworks began and what a show it was – a truly heart-warming community event!



### Changing Buses in St James

The F2 service used to run every half hour in daytime from Sidwell Street – Pennsylvania Road – Union Road and return. Now replaced by a new F service which runs every two hours serving the loop around West Garth Road and Wrefords Lane instead of the H which terminates at St Davids Station. The U bus still serves Pennsylvania Road to loop around Beech Avenue, Sylvan Road and Union Road but there are just three journeys in the mornings.

The bus stop by the mosque in York Road is served by new services 4 to Cranbrook & 4A to the airport, alternately every 20 minutes. Service 56 to the airport is removed. This stop is also served by buses from north and west Devon which come in from Cowley Bridge. Going out of Exeter they don't use York Road but go directly to New North Road past John Lewis.



## Devonshire Place Residents' Association

### Devonshire Place Orchard

We were very pleased that the Orchard achieved Outstanding in the It's Your Neighbourhood 2022 South West in Bloom Awards. Thanks to our residents the community has this lovely peaceful place which is used by diverse groups of people: for the last two years the junior section of Woodcraft Folk, the Woodchips, have held educational activities in the Orchard; students enjoy lazing and relaxing; young parents drop in on their way to and from schools, nurseries and walks; teenagers mess about; local people come to sit and be quiet; and Kingsgate residents and others sit and talk with friends.



## Prospect Park Residents' Association

### Prospect Park Curry Night

Prospect Park residents came together on Sunday evening 13th November to revive the street's traditional curry night, an annual event disrupted over the past couple of years by Covid. There was a great spread of delicious curries made by residents and brought to share with neighbours young and old providing a great chance to get together with neighbours, meet new residents and to say goodbye to the Harris', residents of Prospect Park for over 45 years who are moving all the way to St Leonard's! They have been great neighbours and organisers of social occasions as well as instigating and arranging the planting of our much-loved street trees. We also continued the tradition of a street quiz, written for us by resident Richard Hitchcock, which was much puzzled over and enjoyed. Look out for our bake off and street party!

