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Students on the Move – 2026

The University and City Council are getting ready for this year's end-of-term 'Students on the Move' scheme. This involves a range of university-paid refuse collections for students as they get ready to depart for the Summer. It is the 18th year of the scheme, which was originally launched in recognition that most student tenancies do not complete on the correct bi-weekly bin collection day.

The additional collections begin on June 1st and run through to graduation week in mid-July. There will also be two 'Community Cleanup Days' on June 13th and July 18th that will concentrate collections for all residents in twelve key St James streets. Participating streets will receive an information flyer closer to the time.

Also continuing will be the collection of some re-usable items, bringing them back to Streatham Campus for inclusion in the successful 'Gift It Reuse It' scheme. They will then be passed on

to new students arriving in September.

If you have any concerns about bagged waste that is placed out on the wrong collection day, please be aware that it may have already been earmarked for collection as part of our scheme – it should be clearly labelled with a 'Students on the Move' sticker. Some landlords and builders will also be turning properties over and bulky items like bedding, mattresses and furniture may be placed outside. The University can help investigate if direct contact with the occupiers/tradespeople is not possible using the email: communityengagement@exeter.ac.uk



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Local Police Updates

Here are a few things to be aware of from our local PCSO Paul Fudge:

There have been concerns recently of people camping in Queen's Crescent Garden. We are working closely with the Community Wardens to identify, engage and advise them to move away from the area. Similarly, Bury Meadow and Lower Hooper Valley attracts suspicious behaviour. We have increased our foot patrol in the area to discourage loitering. We encourage everyone who witnesses regular events such as these, to keep a record of dates and times. We have also engaged with a proactive team of officers to tackle issues with Electric Bikes riding around the area and where they have proved illegal, we have seized these bikes.

Answer :
Above the door of 5 Victoria Road. But when was Bloomtree Terrace renamed? Can you help? It was still called Bloomtree Terrace in the 1939 Register.

ABOUT St James

A Publication by Exeter St James Community Trust Delivered to all Properties in St James Issue 23 Summer 2026

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DELIVERING THE NEWS AND STORIES AROUND AND ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

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Hands Off – This is St James!

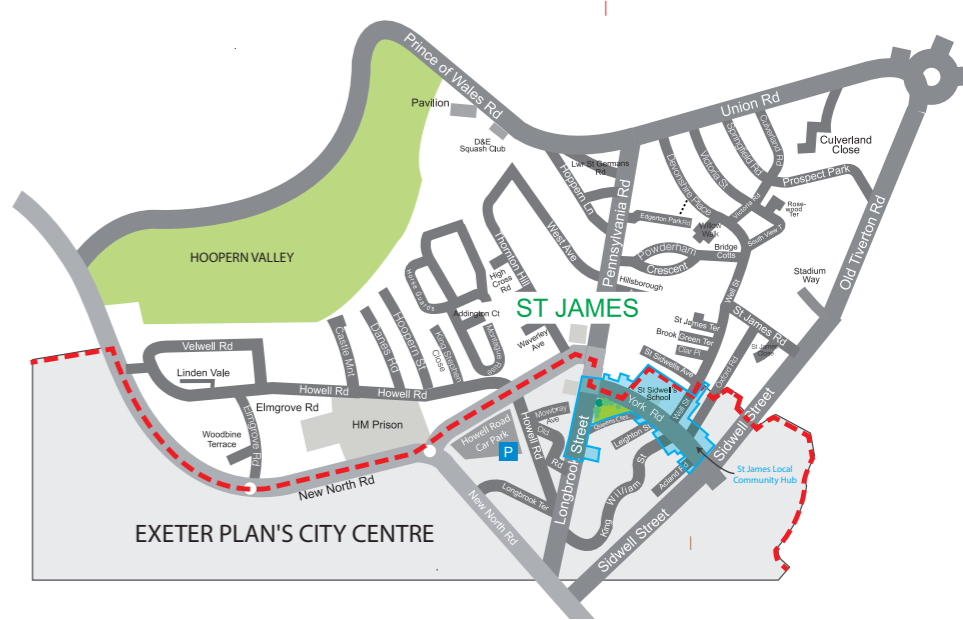
A threat to the future of our neighbourhood

City-centre-scale development, student accommodation prioritisation, night-time economy uses — reaching deep into St James.

This is what the new Exeter Plan proposes through a City Centre Boundary that cuts far into our neighbourhood, absorbing:

- A number of **Article 4 protected residential streets**
- The **Howell Road car park** (a key potential windfall site)
- Almost the entire area of **St James Local Community Hub** designated in our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) for community-focused development, and including **Queen's Crescent Garden**.

Exeter Plan's City Centre Incursion into St James



What would this mean?
It would undermine the Neighbourhood Plan's community balance objective and sustainable development policies. The new designation would allow the Council to prioritise Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA), co-living blocks, higher footfall, and night-time economy uses across this whole area.

Take Howell Road car park: the NP supports **affordable homes for local people** on this site (after safeguarding local business parking). Under the Exeter Plan, it would instead be steered toward PBSA, co-living — or even a nightclub.

The Council says its Exeter Vision 2040 and Liveable Exeter initiative

will be delivered through the Exeter Plan. Yet Liveable Exeter stresses that **'neighbourhoods are the building blocks of the city'** and must be strengthened. This proposal does the opposite for St James.

Despite repeated rebuttals from the Council during the Examination, the Trust has continued to present evidence showing the conflict with the Neighbourhood Plan.

National guidance is clear: **local plans must take neighbourhood plans into account**.

We now await the Inspectors' verdict. Find out more on the Trust website.

STOP PRESS!

The Council is now consulting on a **City Centre Strategy** until 29 June. This shows a map that **extends the City Centre even further into St James** – to include all of Howell Road and Bury Meadow, Pennsylvania Road as far as Hillsborough Avenue, the whole of Well Street and Old Tiverton Road to Stadium Way.

Under 6 themes, ranking of **priority actions** is sought. Amongst those that most would agree are laudable, there are others which are **likely to greatly concern St James' residents**.

See more information on the Trust website and please respond to the consultation.

Protect St James. Protect Our Neighbourhood. Support the Trust.

Friends of Hoopern Valley

Friends of Hoopern Valley, FoHV, is a community group established to support the University of Exeter with the Hoopern Valley. Its objectives are to encourage the use of the Valley for education and biodiversity awareness by bringing town and University together. It's been a busy year for the group, including their second AGM with speakers from the University and a talk about the rabbit research in the Valley. In February, FoHV ran their annual litter pick, a great way to get out and about in the dregs of winter. Also, in collaboration with Exeter Student Volunteers, there were two very lively Scavenger Hunts, an interesting and educational bat walk and an Insect Safari exploring the creatures in the stream.

For more information about events look at the FoHV website <https://www.hoopernvalley.org>

With students graduating, there are also multiple student-Board positions available so please get in contact for details.



Bees in Queen's Crescent Garden



Blue drifts of alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens* were blooming in profusion around the edges of Queen's Crescent Garden, QCG, in April and bees noticed this too - at least a dozen species have been seen. A yellow blur zigzagging rapidly through the flower stems is the male Hairy-footed flower bee *Anthophora plumipes*, patrolling its territory against other males and searching for females, which look completely different, all black except for prominent buff coloured pollen-collecting hairs on the hind legs.

Another solitary bee making regular visits is the small gingery Red mason bee *Osmia bicornis*, which makes ready use of garden bee hotel stick cases. There are also a few different *Andrena*, soil-nesting mining bees with hind legs dusted with yellow pollen. Dandelions are always worth inspecting for *Andrenas* and for tiny greeny metallic *Lasioglossum* bees burrowing into the flowerheads.

Flying alongside these have been at least three species of common bumblebees, such as the carder bumblebee *Bombus pascuorum* (all over fawn brown) and buff-tailed and white-tailed bumblebees *Bombus terrestris* and *Bombus lucorum*, each with two yellow stripes and white 'tails', plus some of a more secretive, particular type of solitary bee, cuckoo bees. Spotted in QCG has been *Melecta albifrons*, the special cuckoo of the hairy-footed flower bee, and dainty yellow wasp-like *Nomada* 'Nomad' bees, which come in a variety of yellow and brown colour patterns and target the nests of *Andrena* mining bees.



Fun a Day 2026

Once again the gloom of February was lifted with the challenge to do something everyday, document it and exhibit it in March. Fun a Day was back! 111 people registered from Cornwall to Kent, many of whom had participated in previous years. 78 actually exhibited in Positive Lights Project in Sidwell Street, with diverse projects such as daily gritudes, quilts, poetry, drawing, weird words and Lego to name but a few. As usual there was a private view and party for participants and their families, with live jazz, a glass of wine and much excitement. The age range went from 4 to over 80, and all abilities.

This was the 4th event and clearly there is a desire for more, so keep your eyes peeled for posters or go to: <https://moorfish.com/fad> for more information and to join the email list for next year.



Wildflowers in Horseguards

You may have noticed a very small patch of wildflowers appearing in Horseguards and it has been lovely to see what was once a fairly plain bit of grass start to come to life with colour, and even better to spot bees and butterflies making use of it!

Wildflower plots are a simple way to give nature a helping hand. They provide food and shelter for pollinators, which are so important for our environment. But it's not just about wildlife - they can brighten up a space and give people something nice to look at on a daily walk too!

Wildflower patches are surprisingly low effort once established, which makes them a great option for community spaces. A bit of effort at the start can go a long way, and after that just a little preparation once a year when local residents can get together for a cup of tea and a chat - cake is also welcome!

If it is something you've been thinking about trying in your own area, there's plenty of help out there. For instance, Devon Wildlife Trust has some really useful guides: www.devonwildlifetrust.org/wildlife-gardening



TWRA News

Thornton West Residents Association had a busy schedule of spring events. Following a much-enjoyed Easter Egg trail and a well-attended Community Debate in run up to the City Council elections, there was also an enjoyable May bike ride.

Monthly street cleans (on the first Sunday of each month) are really effective in stopping blocked drains and keeping down weeds to avoid harmful herbicides.

Thank you to all the neighbours who come along and help out.

The Summer Street Party – always a highlight, with room for kids to play and neighbours to catch up and everyone to eat cake - will take place on Sunday 7 June.

Our newest resident is a badger, recently seen rummaging in front gardens up and down West Avenue. We are a bit worried that it might be lost. Please keep an eye out!

Prospect Park Residents Association Update

Since the last update Prospect Park Residents Association, PPRA, has welcomed new residents and has been busy caring for the area. First up was a working party to clear weeds at the top of Prospect Park and its junction with Old Tiverton Road. Next, supported by residents' crowd-funding and a helpful ward grant, PPRA has continued to work with approved tree surgeons to maintain the much-loved street trees. Alongside Exeter St James Trust and others, in March PPRA took part in the inspectors' hearings on the Exeter Plan, the city's development strategy. We challenged the council to reinstate the

principle of community balance to the plan. PPRA's last social event was their annual Mediterranean Madness 'bring-and-share' supper, popular with residents of all ages. Children's crafts were on offer, as well as a delicious spread of Mediterranean dishes. A fiendish quiz revealed competitive tendencies! Thanks to all involved.



How well do you know St James?

Where can this sign be seen? (Answer on page 4)



Gandy Street First Thursdays

Although not in the St James area Gandy Street is a lovely part of Exeter and this summer, inspired by a St James' resident, InExeter is organising a new event - First Thursdays. From June to September, Gandy Street will come alive on the first Thursday of each month, with a festival atmosphere in the early evening. Expect late-night shopping, live music, street entertainment, extended opening hours at cultural venues and a cocktail trail. All your favourite businesses on Gandy Street and in the surrounding area will be open and activities are planned between 5 and 8pm. Put the dates in your diary - 4 June, 2 July, 6 August and 3 September.



Sustainability at St Sidwell's School

In May, St Sidwell's Primary School Eco Committee had an exciting opportunity to meet with the local MP, Steve Race, to showcase the inspiring work they have been leading around sustainability within the school. The children spoke passionately about their ongoing projects, from reducing waste and promoting recycling to encouraging energy-saving habits across the school community. The Year 6 representatives were fantastic ambassadors and presented their ideas with confidence and clarity, demonstrating both their knowledge and genuine commitment to protecting the environment.



The visit also highlighted the vital role schools play in teaching children about sustainability. By developing an understanding of environmental issues from an early age, pupils are empowered to make responsible choices and become active, informed citizens. Opportunities like this not only deepen their knowledge but also show them that their voices matter and that they can help influence change in their communities and beyond.

