



Community

Introduction from Mike Shore-Nye, Registrar and Secretary

As term one comes to an end and the Winter Break approaches, we wanted to look back at some key moments during another busy year and provide some future community updates.

This edition of the community newsletter contains a range of important updates, but I was keen to highlight two in particular. The newly formed charity 'Friends of Hoopern Valley', is an extremely positive example of a 'town and gown' collaboration, between local residents, the University and student volunteers. This charity aims to expand on the University's 'Nature Positive Pledge' by helping preserve the Hoopern Valley area and explore ideas for more public use of the site.

It has been encouraging to see this project gradually evolve from our initial discussions from the University's Community Panel. We look forward to providing further updates on this innovative scheme.

I would also encourage you to read more about the Gift It Reuse It scheme. It's a really simple scheme that helps students to gift unwanted items to other students, particularly new students arriving in Exeter. It's a remarkably simple project but the early uptake has been very impressive. We hope this scheme will continue to both lower the number of reusable items being thrown away and reduce the number of items new students feel they need to buy. We are very aware that effective recycling and upcycling are topics that students and local residents are keen that we continue to focus on.

On a more practical note, we would also like to reassure residents that we have been sending a range of messages to students about the need to socialise safely and responsibly as the term comes to an end. Our Community Engagement Team are also working closely with the City Council on an important 'bin back in' message as some students depart Exeter for Christmas.

I do wish you all a happy and healthy festive season.

Mike Shore-Nye

Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary.

The 'Community Hub' Website - update

The Community Partnership Hub is an area of the University's website that connects public, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector organisations with researchers and students at the University of Exeter.

Our aim is to help establish long-term, sustainable relationships which support partnering through research projects, student placements and internships, or volunteering.

We wanted to update local residents with the news that the Hub website has a new section to allow Community organisations to register volunteering opportunities via the Student's Guild: exeter.ac.uk/about/regionalengagement/communitypartnershiphub

University of Exeter students have one of the highest rates of volunteering internationally, with many long-established volunteering projects occurring each week. We hope that this link will make it easier to post new/one-off volunteering opportunities to students seeking new opportunities. All requests will be carefully monitored by the Students' Guild.





The Gift It Re-Use It Scheme

***Gift It Reuse It (GiRi)* is a scheme which aims to reduce waste generated by students leaving on-campus and university owned accommodations at the end of the academic year.**

The scheme was trialled this summer helped to combat unnecessary waste generation by giving students the opportunity to donate their unwanted household items at various designated points across university accommodation. These donated items were then sorted, cleaned and PAT tested before being offered to new students moving into university halls for free at the start of the next academic year.

This pilot of the scheme prevented 8,554 items, with a total weight of 1,623kg from potentially becoming waste.

The first iteration of *Gift It Reuse It* has been a resounding success and has seen thousands of items that may have ended up in waste streams put to good use by students in need at the start of the academic year. It has helped to promote the idea of a 'circular economy' amongst students, many of whom have already committed to returning the items they have received at the end of their time in Exeter.

We will also be trialling the scheme to students living off campus later this year, with help from our Community Engagement Team. We look forward to providing updates in the Community Newsletter as the project evolves.



Merry Christmas and a Lunar New Year!



Wednesday 29 January marks the first new moon on the lunar calendar and the start of the Spring Festival and the Year of the Snake in China. It is the year of the Wood Snake. The snake symbolizes longevity, wisdom, and mystery in Chinese culture. The combination of the snake and "wood" elements means 2025 will be a year of propensity and mystery.

The Spring Festival is the most celebrated and longest of all Asian festivals and is observed by millions of people around the world. Different countries in East Asia hold their own new year celebrations at this time and we are pleased to be able to showcase those different traditions in our festival on campus.

We will be celebrating on campus on Tuesday 4 February 2025 from 12-2pm in the Forum Street and fireworks at 6:45pm at the rear of XFI. Everyone is welcome.

We encourage everyone to wear something red on the day to celebrate!

This is an open event, but we ask local residents and families to be aware that the street festival in the Forum (12-3pm) has been designed for students and there is very limited visitor parking on campus (car park C is nearest the Forum and is designated visitor parking with charges until 6pm). If you would like to attend the street festival, we would suggest using public transport.

Parking is free after 6pm on campus and there is much more capacity to welcome everyone to our firework display at 6:45pm at the rear of XFI Building.

For more information visit: exeter.ac.uk/students/international/getinvolved/culturalfestivals/springfestival





Friends of Hoopern Valley

The University is proud to support a newly formed charity, Friends of Hoopern Valley. The charity will support the University's management of Lower Hoopern Valley, developing the County Wildlife Site as a biodiversity hub while also enhancing public access.

Just £5 will buy a year's membership, which will support the association and give you the opportunity to host your own event, subject to suitability.

Email membership@hoopernvalley.org to register.

Founded by six University students and six local residents who live close by the popular green space, the charity aims to expand on the University's recent Nature Positive Pledge. Key objectives include:

- Supporting this important local resource and the University of Exeter's efforts to enhance this wildlife site.
- Educating the local community about biodiversity, conservation and wildlife.
- Providing fun and engaging activities (for residents and students alike) such as picnics, litter picks, educational talks or cultural events.
- Building a bridge for positive engagement between local residents and students.
- Helping students and locals gain professional and personal skills.
- Providing a venue for the community to meaningfully contribute to local environmental and community-building initiatives.

The new charity hopes to pioneer a new way of working, with students and local residents collaborating closely in an equal partnership to work towards goals of shared importance.

Beyond increased student engagement, the charity wants to create a more effective relationship between a university and its surrounding community, building a mutually beneficial partnership focused on supporting and enhancing the ecosystems of the Hoopern Valley. Exeter has already shown the benefits of community involvement, for example with local volunteers helping to manage public spaces such as Bury

Meadow Park. Here the local residents association runs regular gardening days and oversees planting and tending of shrubs and herbs. The council benefits from volunteer support to bolster their increasingly limited resources, while residents benefit from an increased sense of connection to, and pride in, local spaces.

The social and community benefits are as important to the Friends of Hoopern Valley as the potential for sustaining the natural environment both on campus and across the surrounding urban landscape, amplifying the impact of the valley as a biodiversity hub. By bringing together university experts, students and local residents, we hope to create a broad, diverse community that's taking an active part in protecting our local environment within the university and across the city.

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This initiative demonstrates how local residents and students can come together to create something special that will have a positive impact on the city for the long term, said one of the founders, St James Ward resident Stephen Fisher.

Friends of Hoopern Valley have also recently hosted their first Annual General Meeting and will host a variety of events, from litter picks to picnics and educational talks starting in the new year. All events, unless otherwise stated, are free and open to everyone.

Anyone who wants to join in and get their hands dirty, learn more about biodiversity, contribute their skills or ideas to community events or just to be sociable and meet other people who enjoy the valley, can get in touch via the charity website at hoopernvalley.org

New Multifaith Centre - update

The University will soon be opening a new, flexible and inclusive Multifaith Centre in the heart of Streatham Campus. The new building will provide space for quiet reflection and prayer, student faith society events, student and staff hospitality and multifaith/worldview activities, which promote respect, community and inclusion.

In January 2025, we will be holding a special event to invite a range of community groups and partners to the centre. This event will showcase the space and seek feedback on ideas for events and activities suggested by the wider community.



If you would like to find out more about this event, or if you have an ideas of how this space could further connections between local faith communities and the University. Email: chaplaincy@exeter.ac.uk



Term dates 2024-25

Autumn Term 2024

Monday 23 September – Friday 13 December

Spring Term 2025

Monday 6 January – Friday 28 March

Summer Term 2025

Monday 28 April – Friday 13 June

Resident Liaison Group

The Resident Liaison Group meets once a term with resident group leaders, councillors and other community partners to discuss a range of community topics and queries.

To find out more about the format of these meetings, please contact Community Liaison Manager, Rory Cunningham:
r.j.cunningham@exeter.ac.uk

Key links and contacts

University of Exeter Covid-19

mini-site: exeter.ac.uk/coronavirus

Police Emergency: 999

Police Non-Emergency: 101

The City Council's Environmental Health Team: exeter.gov.uk/clean-safe-city

Estate Patrol

01392 723999 e.patrol@exeter.ac.uk

The University's Estate Patrol team can sometimes assist with noise disturbances from student premises after 10pm (if direct contact is not possible). Please note that Estate Patrol cannot investigate disturbances in parks and other public spaces. These concerns need to be passed to the police for investigation.

Noise concerns can also be reported to the council if direct contact with tenants is not possible: exeter.gov.uk/clean-safe-city/anti-social-behaviour/noise-complaints

General daytime queries

For general daytime queries relating to students living and socialising in the community please contact our Community Engagement Team: communityengagement@exeter.ac.uk / 01392 723721.

The Community Engagement Team provide peer-support to students living in private housing. They also conduct follow up visits to any student addresses that Estate Patrol interact with out-of-hours, and can speak with student households regarding waste management and storage.

PC Richard Jephcott

PC Richard Jephcott is our acting Neighbourhood Beat Manager (NBM) for the University, Duryard, St James, Pennsylvania and Stoke Hill. You can contact him by emailing exeterneighbourhood@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk or call 101 and ask for PC Richard Jephcott – 17186.