



Community

Introduction from Mike Shore-Nye, Registrar and Secretary

As term three ends, we wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on what has been another busy and productive year. The Community Newsletter provides an opportunity to take stock of key activities and projects, as well as looking ahead to September and plans for next year.

We are pleased to confirm that we are about to embark on our seventeenth year of the successful 'Students on the Move' waste-collection scheme. We hope you can take some time to read about the project later in the newsletter. The initiative has grown a lot over the years, with an increased focus on recycling and re-using items.

We understand that term three can be a disruptive time for local people as students celebrate the end of exams and prepare to leave Exeter after graduation. Please be assured that Estate Patrol and our Community Engagement Team will be working in close collaboration with the Police and City Council to address issues of concern.

It has been another busy year for student volunteers and the Community Engagement Officers who support students living in private accommodation. We encourage residents with ideas for community projects to contact our Community Engagement team at any time of the year.

As we look ahead to term one in September, I am pleased to say that plans are already underway to help manage the new intake of students through further collaboration with the Police and City Council.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer.

Mike Shore-Nye
Registrar & Secretary.

The Students' Guild Awards

Each year Exeter University's Students' Guild hosts an event to celebrate the achievements of student volunteers, campaigners, and societies.

Awards are given to projects to celebrate a range of themes, from sustainability and wellbeing to collaboration and community impact. The Community Award recognises an individual, society or project that has had a positive, radically inclusive, and meaningful impact on a wider community, either at Exeter, locally, nationally, or internationally.

This year, the special Community Award was achieved by 'STAR' – the Student Action for Refugees Society. The society was recognised for running regular volunteering initiatives, such as ESOL (English as Second Language) classes and homework clubs for the refugee communities within Exeter. The society also established a considerable number of collaborations with other societies and fundraising efforts, allowing them to go above and beyond to expand their community networks and spread awareness of the issues faced by refugees.

To find out more about the varied work of student volunteers, societies, and projects, visit the Students' Guild website: [exeterguild.com](https://www.exeterguild.com)



STUDENTS ON THE MOVE 2025

The University and City Council are getting ready for this year's end-of-term 'Students on the Move' scheme.

The scheme involves a range of university-paid refuse collections to students as they get ready to depart for the Summer. This is the seventeenth year of the scheme, which was originally launched in recognition that most tenancies do not complete on the correct bi-weekly bin collection day.

The additional collections begin on June 2 and run through to graduation week in mid-July. There will also be two 'Community Cleanup Days' on June 14 and July 19 that will concentrate collections for all residents in twelve key St James streets. Participating streets will receive an information flyer closer to the time.

This year we will be trialling the collection of some re-usable items and bringing them back to Streatham Campus for inclusion in our successful 'Gift It Reuse It' scheme. This scheme has helped to store, then pass-on reusable items to new students arriving in September.

**Gift it
Reuse it**

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.

Student waste should be clearly labelled with a 'Students on the Move' sticker (see image).

At this time of year we also appreciate that some Landlords and Builders will also be turning properties over. In most incidents, bulky items like bedding, mattresses and furniture will be placed outside by Builders or Cleaners. Again, we can help investigate if direct contact with the occupiers/tradespeople is not possible.

If you have any queries about the scheme, please contact the University via the following email: communityengagement@exeter.ac.uk



The Community Fund - Case Study: Exeter Seed Swap

The University of Exeter wants to support projects that enhance the relationship between students and permanent city residents. The Community Fund offers grants of up to £300 for projects linking students, local residents, community organisations and local agencies.

Our Community Panel members now help frame annual Community Fund 'themes' - they also help to prioritise which projects receive funding.

The four current themes for funding are:

- 1 Increasing biodiversity and enhancing green space
- 2 Reducing waste on campus and in the city
- 3 Supporting ideas and solutions that help address the climate crisis
- 4 Social events that promote student engagement with the city

One example of a community project we helped fund this year was the Exeter Seed Bank 'Seed Swap' Event

Exeter Seed Bank runs its flagship Seed Swap event in Spring each year. This year it was held at Positive Light Projects on Sidwell Street. In addition to seed swapping, the event included demonstrations, talks, a cafe, drop-in workshops, and exhibition displays. The event also included a new map exhibit of the work of various community gardens in the city.

Exeter Seed Bank used the Community Fund grant to offer free tickets for all talks to students and under twenty-fives to encourage younger residents to engage with their work.

Students also helped make cakes for the cafe as well as create decorative bunting for the event at 'Love Food CIC' in St Thomas. Participating students learned how to make vegan cakes and simple bunting and engaged in conversations about the importance of community as spaces for action and cultural change.



The Seed Swap event met the Community Fund criteria because it had a clear focus on biodiversity and enhancing green space as well as helping to promote student engagement and volunteering. This project was also funded with the support of the Creative Arc Programme, Exeter City Council, and the UK government through the Shared Prosperity Fund.

If you have an idea for a Community Fund project, please contact Rory Cunningham, Community Liaison Manager: r.j.cunningham@ex.ac.uk



Exeter Seed Bank 'Seed Swap' Event

Community Research Update:

One of the ways the University supports local communities is through our sector-leading research. Academic research conducted in partnership with communities can help address key local issues and even lead to new research collaborations. By involving community members in research, studies can also be more effective and can sometimes provide data and evidence to help local organisations attract more funding and investment.

In April this year, our Regional Engagement Team had the privilege of co-facilitating 'Community Research: Exploring & Celebrating Collaboration' - a showcase dedicated to community-based research in the Southwest. Supported by the University of Exeter and the Devon Research Engagement Network, this event offered people from across the academic and voluntary sectors the chance to connect and share valuable insights into their work.

With this showcase, we wanted to encourage a dialogue between community groups and academic research. The Southwest is home to many charity and community organisations, who are eager to engage with more researchers. It is hoped that this showcase is only the beginning of future collaboration across the region, and with so many local groups and researchers getting involved, we have already seen enormous potential to build on these important conversations.

If you work for a community group or organisation and have any questions or community research ideas, please contact our Regional Engagement Team: PER@exeter.ac.uk

Community Engagement Team update:

The University's Community Engagement Officers (formerly the Student Community Wardens) support students living in private accommodation throughout the city. They also function as a first point of contact for Resident Associations and community groups in areas where students live.

We have three teams of four officers working in Exeter. They are the Central Team, the West Team, and East Team. All teams cover a portion of the St James Ward, and adjacent ward areas. In term two every year, the teams instigate their own community projects. This year's team projects included:

West Team

This year the West Team collaborated with Bury Meadows Residents Association on a special gardening day to help spruce up Bury Meadow Park. Held on Sunday, 23 March at 2pm, the initiative united ten university students, one college student, and eight local residents. Sparked by an energetic group chat call-to-action, volunteers trimmed brambles and uprooted invasive ivy, while enjoying tea, coffee, and cake. This grassroots project not only improved Bury Meadows Park but also strengthened community ties and demonstrated how shared effort and dialogue can bridge gaps between students and local residents.

Joseph, West Team

Central Team

The Central Team have been working behind the scenes this year on an important 'Student Community Survey'. The survey will gather a range of information from students living off-campus to better shape the work of next year's Community Engagement Officers. The survey will include questions about household safety, bin storage, the accuracy of waste/recycling information (provided by Landlords/Letting Agents) and a check-in on when students will be departing this summer. Departure information will also help us better-target our end of year waste collections.

George, Central Team

East Team

Our project aims to raise awareness of recycling. We are planning to create a QR code to display around campus that will make information on recycling rules clearer and more accessible to students. Having spoken to many students, they often tell us that their landlords have provided inaccurate or outdated recycling information and there can be a lot of confusion. This is not helped by the different recycling rules that international students are accustomed to - and even students coming from different areas of the UK. By highlighting Exeter's rules through this simple QR Code, we aim to help students to improve their recycling habits, thereby contributing to a more sustainable environment. We will also be posting on social media and running events where students can test their recycling knowledge.

Osei, East Team



Term dates 2025-26

Summer Term 2025

Monday 28 April – Friday 13 June

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 22 September – Friday 12 December

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 January – Friday 27 March

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.

