



Community

Introduction from Mike Shore-Nye

As a new term begins, we wanted to share some updates on community projects and initiatives that we think will be of interest to the wider Exeter community, as well as share updates on our preparations for term one.

I am particularly proud to announce the launch of our first Repair Café on campus, which we hope will become a really valuable resource for the wider Exeter Community to come and have objects repaired, share their expertise and connect with students and staff. We have received some much-appreciated support from other Repair Cafes in the County, and we look forward to sharing ideas, volunteers, and resources with them. Please read the full article to find out more.

On the topic of sustainability, we are also hoping that local people will come to the Hoopern Valley on September 28 for the 'Community Challenge' – a public event seeking your thoughts and ideas on how students can work with local people on new projects and ideas that tackle environmental concerns. This event will highlight some existing partnership projects to help generate discussion and new ideas. Further details are provided later in the newsletter.

We also understand that residents will be keen to know how we are preparing for the busy start of term and a new community of students. As always, we are committed to responding swiftly to any concerns around noise or anti-social behaviour and encouraging students to get to know their neighbours. We hope that many of you will get to know your student neighbours as the new term gets underway.

We will be in regular communication with new and returning students in the build-up to the new term, emphasising the need to socialise safely and responsibly.

And finally, I can confirm that, as they do each year, our Estate Patrol team, Welcome Team volunteers and Community Engagement team will be working in tandem with our colleagues in the Police and City Council, encouraging good citizenship and resolving problems as promptly as we can.

Mike Shore-Nye

Senior Vice-President and Registrar & Secretary

Volunteering Focus: The Dog Walking Project

Exeter University Students make one of the largest contributions of student volunteering time in the UK. Exeter Student Volunteers (ESV) are a student society that manage a range of long-term volunteering schemes and projects. In this article we wanted to highlight the work of The Dog Walking Project.

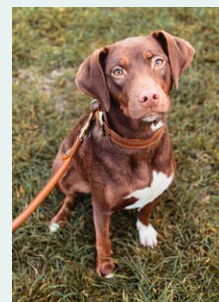
Exeter student Volunteer's Dog Walking project is a student-led volunteering programme that supports members of the Exeter community who need help caring for their dogs. Sometimes local people need help with dog walking because they have become unwell or are recovering from an operation and dog-walking can be a huge help.

Although the scheme has been running for a few years, it saw a major expansion last academic year, growing from eight dogs in September to now supporting twenty-two dogs, with around four hundred student volunteers and ninety walks taking place each week. Each week, project leaders send out walk schedules, matching volunteers with dog owners and helping to build meaningful relationships between students and the wider community.

But it is not just about coordination, there is a real sense of community among the volunteers, who stay in touch through an active WhatsApp group, share updates and dog photos, and follow along on Instagram for regular highlights and interactive updates.

The project continues to grow because it offers something valuable to everyone involved: support for residents, companionship for the dogs, and a chance for students to make a difference while doing something enjoyable and rewarding.

If you would like to hear more about the scheme or like to make an enquiry about dog walking for your own dog, please contact: esv-dogwalkers@groups.exeterguild.com



Exeter Students Win National Sustainability Fund

The University Partnerships Programme is delighted to announce the winner of the Student Sustainability Fund – a pilot scheme launched at Exeter, Hull and Leeds Beckett universities.

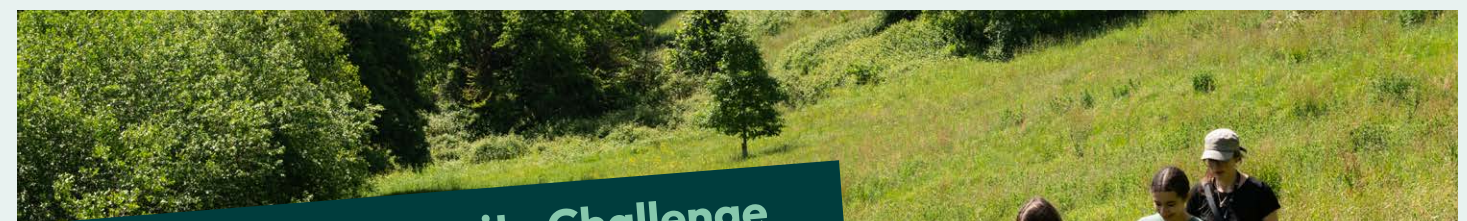
An expert panel has chosen 'Stitch by Stitch', the sustainable fashion project led by students at the University of Exeter as the winner.

The Stitch by Stitch team set out to make Exeter's fashion ecosystem more circular and sustainable, through a series of activities. They held speaker events and workshops, taught students repair techniques, held clothes swapping events and boosted awareness around fast fashion and sustainable clothing.

Emily Pink, Co-President of the Stitch by Stitch project said: "From the conception of our project, Stitch by Stitch, we wanted to create something that outlasts our time as students here at Exeter. Reflecting on my final four years here at Exeter, I cannot think of a more rewarding end than winning the Student Sustainability Fund. I am so proud of the team for all they have accomplished. We have engaged thousands of students, forged new local partnerships, connected the university with the wider community, been recognised both locally and within the institution, and, crucially, instilled a passion for slow fashion in so many people."



Kay Cameron, UPP Foundation and Social Purpose Manager said: "The Student Sustainability Fund has been an amazing opportunity to work with our university partners across the country, to explore what sustainability means to our students. It has been fascinating to see the passion, the learning and the engagement that each one of these student teams has been through over the past year."



The Student Community Challenge

Come and join us on Sunday 28 September at the Lower Hoopern Valley (accessible path, off Prince of Wales Road) from 1 to 3pm, to explore how students and local community members can work together to enhance sustainability in our local environment.

This event is aimed at new and returning students, as well as local permanent residents who want to make a positive difference. We will be exploring local sustainability challenges, and ways that we can tackle them by working collaboratively. We will be inviting local organisations such as Friends of Hoopern Valley, Exeter Seed Bank, and the Community Garden to join us.

This event is organised by the University of Exeter and Exeter Students' Guild with support from our Community Panel.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact our Regional Engagement Manager, Lindsey Anderson: l.j.anderson@exeter.ac.uk

We hope that the 'Community Challenge' will become an annual event that will allow us to bring together new and returning students with local people, to explore an issue of joint interest.

The Hoopern Valley was chosen as the location for our first Community Challenge event, to provide an opportunity to highlight the work of 'The Friends of Hoopern Valley' – an environmental project that brings together students and local people.



NEW

Repair Café on Campus

We are thrilled to announce the launch of a new Repair Café on Streatham Campus!

Thanks to funding from the **Sustainability Projects Fund**, we're now set to bring our idea to life in the new academic year. The first repair café event is scheduled for Tuesday 25 November in the Digital Maker Space (Forum Library). Everyone is welcome – we are keen to make this a collaborative event involving students, staff, and community members. We are looking for repairers, organisers, and enthusiastic individuals to help make these café events a reality!

If you would like to be involved, we would be pleased to have your help. We are particularly interested in repairers with skills in repairing electrical goods, jewellery, and general household items. If you have any skills that you could offer, we would love to hear from you whatever your speciality. Feel free to contact us on repaircafe@exeter.ac.uk.

If you have something that you would like us to try to repair, please contact us initially so we can confirm that we will have the appropriate repairer available. At present you can contact us on repaircafe@exeter.ac.uk and shortly we hope to have an online form available to gather information on items for repair and repairer's skills.

Establishing a repair shop on campus was instigated by University staff member Peter Rayment:

"I had read about the university being a leader in the promotion and education of Circular Economy worldwide and it seemed to me to be a fantastic opportunity to facilitate a grass roots development of a circular economy project that we could promote and practice at a local level. The repair of items (and their re-use) is one of the most fundamental ways to extend a product's life and reduce environmental impact."

Further details will be released soon, but for now, to stay up to date, follow [@voesustainability](https://www.instagram.com/voesustainability) on Instagram.

We look forwards to seeing you at our first event.

The University of Exeter Community Panel

The University of Exeter Community Panel is helping to embed the broader community voice in the University's Civic Engagement activities.

The Panel comprises local residents who help us to identify local issues, challenges and opportunities and provides a community perspective on a range of university plans and activities. The Panel also offers objective opinions on ideas, initiatives and partnerships and helps us set priorities for, and review Community Fund applications.

Formed in 2022, following an open invitation to residents across the city, the Panel is Chaired by the University's Senior Vice

President, Registrar and Secretary, Mike Shore-Nye and meets three times a year.

We are currently seeking two new members to join the Panel. We are keen to include representation from across the city, and from communities who are currently underrepresented on the Panel.

To register your interest in becoming a panel member, please email Lindsey Anderson (by Monday 22 September) who can explain the next steps:
l.j.anderson@exeter.ac.uk.



Term dates 2025-26

Autumn Term 2025

Monday 22 September – Friday 12 December

Spring Term 2026

Monday 5 January – Friday 27 March

Summer Term 2026

Monday 27 April – Friday 12 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

Police Emergency: 999

Police Non-Emergency: 101

The City Council's Environmental Health Team: [exeter.gov.uk/clean-safe-city](https://www.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](https://www.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.