

St James

Community Newsletter Winter 2025



Hello from Natalie!



Hello St James!

Phew! This summer was a busy one with lots of community engagement. Lots of listening when outdoor knocking with colleagues and attending community groups. It's been lovely seeing the formed connections between those that attend community groups.

We made the most of the glorious weather with community walk & talks, active pop ups, weeding parties and our well attended community litter picks. Thank you to everyone who has made me feel a part of the St James Community. I wonder if any of you have any ideas on how to make where you live more brighter and connected? If you have an idea, I could support, please get in touch.

Best wishes,

Natalie

Natalie

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Listening Post

Listening is an important part of a Community Builder's work. Here's what residents have been saying:

"I'd like to see a small, outdoor libraries or a book sale in someone's front garden"

"It would be a good idea to hire a mini van to get those of us without transport to bowling"

"It's great to understand what Wellbeing Exeter offers"

"It's amazing how many free activities and groups there are across the city. Exeter Community Initiatives and Urban Learning, especially"

Listen & Support



Whether it's via Whatsapp, email or meeting residents in person, a vital part of my role is to support you to turn your ideas into action. It's great to hear that Prospect Park Resident's Association has been successful in securing a ward grant for a Little Free Library and Devonshire Place Resident's Association are in the early stages of planning for a community noticeboard.

Prospect Park Makeover

It's been great to support the excellent work by Prospect Park neighbours. We can now see the beautiful brickwork. Let's be inspired by these wonderful residents. Have you got a space near you that needs brightening up? Would like plant some bulbs in a green space?

Do some community weeding? Have an idea to brighten and care up your neighbourhood?

If you need some equipment ~ don't fret, we can borrow from **Devon Wildlife Trust**. Get in touch to have a chat!



Age UK Exeter Craft Group

The lovely ladies at Age UK Craft Group have been busy all year round, creating beautiful Christmas decorations to sell at the upcoming Christmas markets.

Please support them at the following Christmas Fayres to raise vital funds for AgeUK:

- The Beacon Centre on Saturday 22nd November between 11.00 - 2.00pm
- Broadclyst Victory Hall on Sunday 29th November between 10.00 - 1.00pm
- Westpoint Exeter Christmas Shopping Fayre from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th December between 9.00-4.00pm



News from CPAO Georgie

"With winter coming in and the year coming to an end have you thought about any New Year's resolutions. Possibly joining a fitness group or class? Starting a sports team? Or even just giving a different way of moving ago?



In the next on coming months we have a few plans for you to try these things out. Keep an eye out for our posters and social media to see what events we have on in the new year and what group you can join as well If you would like to show your interest in any of these ideas. Please feel free to get in contact with me or Natalie."

You can contact me at Email- georgie.barbour-gresham@ecct.co.uk Phone- 07926127824



Women's 5 Aside Football

Every Monday 8-9pm, Streatham Sports Park, 5 aside pitch

Ready to own the pitch? Join us for 18+ Women's 5-A-Side Football – whether you're a seasoned striker or just fancy a fun kickabout, this is your time to shine! Grab your mates or come solo – we'll match you up. Football. Friendship. Fierce fun.

www.wellbeingexeter.org.uk



Pop Up Play at Queen's Crescent Gardens Tuesday 18th November from 3.30-4.30pm

Join your Community Builder - Natalie and CPAO - Georgie or an Active Pop Up Play with various games, for the whole family to enjoy. Share your ideas and connect with

University of Exeter ~ Repair Cafe

Join us for the launch event of the University of Exeter Repair Café!

Date: Tuesday 25th November 2025

Time: 11.00 - 3.00pm

Location: Digital Maker Space (Forum Library)

Got a broken appliance, ripped clothing or glitchy tech? Our friendly volunteers will help you fix household items such as lamps, laptops, clothes or jewelery and teach you the skills to do it yourself.

But you don't need to bring something to take part - feel free to drop in, watch, learn and chat with others about repair and reuse. It's a great way to pick up new skills and connect with your community.

If you know what you'd like to get repaired, please let us know in advance via this form:

https://forms.office.com/e/m68nAR0A8w.





Funding News

The University of Exeter's Community Fund helps local residents, community groups, and student societies start and grow fresh projects. We



welcome ideas that build stronger links between the University and our city environmental schemes, community events, cultural activities and more.

What's available:

- Grants of 300 are offered, with up to 500 for larger projects
- Funding can part-support wider projects
- Two application rounds each year, reviewed by a panel of staff and community reps
- Deadlines are posted on our website
- You can re-apply each round, but not for the same project
- Each application must clearly explain the need
- Organisations working with Exeter students and residents can apply, where real collaboration is shown

Got an idea? Please email: r.j.cunningham@exeter.ac.uk

Mental Health Matters



MEN'S HEALTH & WELLBEING EVENT

WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 5-7PM THE TRUST SUITE
ST JAMES PARK
STADIUM WAY, EX4 6PX



Join us for an evening dedicated to raising awareness about men's physical and mental health. Meet the organisations working with men across Devon. The event encourages open conversations, connection, and support for the men in our community.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

While the focus is on men's health, women are warmly invited to attend and take part.

FREE PLACE















Support services

- Exeter Community Mental Health Team 01392 208900
 Click here for more information
- Talk Works Exeter
 0300 5553 344

 Click <u>here</u> for more information
- Devon Partnership NHS Trust 01392 208866
 Click here for more information
- Step One Charity 01392 255428
 Click here for more information
- The Moorings @Exeter 07990 790920
 Click <u>here</u> for more information
- Mind 0300 123 3393
 Click <u>here</u> for more information

Children's Service

 YMCA Exeter Children's Wellbeing Service (5-18 Years)

Click here for more information



Community Christmas



Christmas Gathering at Creating Connections Social Cafe on Tuesday 23rd December between 10.30am - 12.00pm.

Held at Grecian Room at Exeter City Football Club, Stadium Way, EX4 6PX

Georgie - 07926127824

Crave Restaurant are offering a free light lunch

Christmas Day 25th December between 10.00 - 2.00pm Held at 38 Commercial Road, Exeter, EX2 4AE 01392 343940

Friends Of Mount Pleasant

Diary Dates at Mount Pleasant Surgery: Cake Sale

 Thursday 27th November -9.30am-1.00pm

Art Exhibition & Sale

• Tuesday 2nd December from 10.00am

If you have any questions, please contact: 01392 499291



Bury Meadow Community Garden



Community gardening is for residents and students living locally to Bury Meadow Park. Saturdays 3pm Sundays 10am Diary dates

- December 13th/14h
- January -10th/11th
- February 7th/8th
- March 7th/8th
- April 11th/12th
- May 9th/10th
- June 13th/14th
- July 11th/12th

For more details please contact:_info@burymeadow.co.uk

Resilient Roots



"A brave, gentle, and as-safe-as-possible space for people of colour and those of mixed heritage to come together and tend to the impact of current far-right activity on our bodies, hearts, and minds.

We'll share mindfulness practices, connect in circle and pairs, and simply be together - grounding in community and connected safety.

Sunday 7th December from 2–5pm at St Sidwell's Community Centre, EX4 6NN This space has been lovingly running since 2022, and all are welcome who feel called to join."

Please contact Sandhya for more information -sandhyadde@gmail.com

Devon & Cornwall Police - Update







If a crime is in progress, call 999
999 BSL (national video relay via BSL Interpreter)
SMS/Text 999 (pre-registered)
Minicom/textphone 18000

"We stand together with our communities to remind everyone that we have zero tolerance to hate crime.

We acknowledge that this is a very difficult time for many diverse communities, and we want to provide some reassurance that we are here to provide support where hate crimes may be happening.

We have teams dedicated to supporting victims of hate crime. If you have been the victim of abuse or targeted because of your race or ethnicity, we want you to know that we are there for you. Please report it to us so we can investigate offences fully and signpost you to support. An increase in reporting helps us understand what is happening in our communities and how best to tackle it. Don't suffer in silence. Report it."

Diary Dates

There's some fantastic opportunities for you to join in with coming up so have a a good read and save those dates. Come and find out what's going on locally and share your ideas for your community.



Meet your Community Connector/Builder at St Sidwell's Community Centre Cafe

Thursday 27th November from 1.30 - 2.30pm

Meet Connector - Sarah & Builder - Natalie to find out about our roles, what's on locally, local volunteering opportunities and share your ideas.







Community Litter Pick

Sunday 23rd November & 25th January at 11am -12.00pm

Meet at Devonshire Place Orchard with local neighbours to keep St James tidy. All litter pickers, gloves and bag are provided. Everyone is welcome - bring family and friends.







SOCIAL CAFE 🥕







Rekindle Recovery
invites you to
come and enjoy three weeks
of easy, joyful, and fun

Christmas Karaoke



Free drop-in to help lift your holiday spirits Wednesday December 3rd, 10th and 17th 2pm - 3:30

Hems Room, St Sidwell's Community Centre Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN

Rekindle Recovery is voluntarily run, peer led community group of people with lived experience of life interrupting challenges wanting to help others live wel Find us on Facebook or vist our website at www.rekindlerecovery.org.uk



What's on: St James: Winter 2025

Monday

- 1pm-2.30pm Theatre Workshop Migrant Women St Sidwell's Community Centre
- 3pm-5pm Gardening Group Rainbow Garden at Sidwell Street Methodist Church (3rd Feb-Oct)
- 6pm-7pm Andy's Man Club Exeter City Football Club

Tuesday

- 10am-12pm Exeter Community Garden Higher Hoopern Lane EX4 4SQ (close to car parks A&B) email: exetercommunitygarden1@gmail.com
- 10am-12pm ESOL English Classes St Sidwell's Community Centre email: maria@stsidwells.org.uk for more information
- 10.00-4.30pm Merry Go Round Toy Library Positive Lights Projects Browse and book at my.mgrtoylibrary.org
- 10.30am-12pm Creating Connections Social Cafe Grecian Centre at St James Park
- 10.30am-12pm Coffee Morning St Sidwell Methodist Church (first & third Tuesday of each month)
- 11am-1pm The Sidwell Street Gardeners St Sidwell's Community Centre
- 1pm-4pm Board Games & Books St Sidwell's Community Centre
- 2pm-4pm CoLab Men's Group CoLab, King William Street
- 2pm-4pm Work & Wellbeing Drop In at St Sidwell's Community Centre dropin@stsidwells.og.uk
- 6pm-7.30pm Boys Brigade (ages 5-11 years) Sidwell Street Methodist Church
- 7.30pm-9pm Boys Brigade (ages 12-18 years) Sidwell Street Methodist Church

Wednesday

- 10am-12pm ESOL English Classes St Sidwell's Community Centre email: maria@stsidwells.org.uk for more information
- 10.30am-12.30pm CoLab Women's Group Meeting House, CoLab, King William Street email: colabwomen@colabexeter.org.uk
- 1pm-4pm Rekindle Arts & Crafts Recovery Drop In St Sidwell's Community Centre
- 2pm-4pm St Sidwell's Knitting/Craft Group St Sidwell's Community Centre
- 2pm-4pm ULA Choosing Creativity Workshop Colab email: info@urbanlearnacademy.org.uk
- 3pm-5pm Exeter Community Garden Higher Hoopern Lane EX4 4SQ
- 6.30pm Freemovement Exercise Class at West Garth Park email: freemoovement@hotmail.com
- 7.30pm Wednesday Evening Talks (monthly), Everyone Welcome Sidwell Methodist Church www.sidwellstreetmethodist.org.uk

Thursday

- 10am Sporting Memories St James Park
- 1pm-3pm -Sidwell Street Gardeners Sidwell Street Community Centre
- 6pm-7pm Lose to Win St James' Park at the Grecian Centre
- 7.30pm Badminton Sidwell Street Methodist Church
- 7pm-9pm Open Mic Night The Sunset Society, 5 Old Tiverton Road



What's on: St James: Winter 2025

Friday

- 10am-12pm ESOL English Classes St Sidwell's Community Centre email: maria@stsidwells.org.uk for more information
- 1.30pm-3pm Friday Club St Sidwell's Community Centre (£2 refreshments)
- 1pm-4pm Board Games Afternoon St Sidwell's Community Centre
- 2pm El Conversatorio Spanish Conversation Cafe -St Sidwell's Community Centre
- 2pm-3.30pm Sidwell Scribblers St Sidwell's Community Centre
- 4pm-6pm Exeter Choir St Sidwell's Community Centre email: ESOL@devon.gov.uk

Saturday

- 9.30am-10.45am ESOL English Classes Sidwell Bakehouse maria@stsidwells.org.uk
- 10am Exeter Community Garden Higher Hoopern Lane EX4 4SQ (close to car parks A&B)
- 10.30am-11.30am Exeter University Health Walk starting point: Visitor's car park, opposite Northcott Theatre

Sunday

• 9am - Freemovement Exercise Class at West Garth Park - email: freemovement@hotmail.com for more information



St James Community Champions

Share ideas ~ support ~ inspire others

Join your neighbours & community in St James to work together to maintain a tidy and blossoming neighbourhood. Share ideas and keep up to date with planned litter picks, planting sessions, etc via What's App. Scan the QR code to join.

Get Social



Keep up-to-date by joining these local Facebook pages and groups.

- Age UK Exeter
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Devon Connect
- Exeter City Council
- Exeter City Community Trust
- Exeter Community Builders
- Exeter Community Initiatives
- Exeter Community, UK
- Exeter Mosque & Cultural Centre
- Mums in Exeter
- St James and Duryard Community Support
- St Sidwell's Community Centre
- Wellbeing Exeter

Useful Information

- Parental Minds gives support to families who are struggling with their www.parentalminds.org.uk/
 - **07907 614 516**Domestic Violence Splitz Devon Helpdesk
- Tel: 0345 1551074.

 Talk works Tel: 0300 555 3344
- www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.ukMental Health Mind charity
- Mental Health Mind charity
 Tel: 0300 123 3393
- The Moorings @ Devon Out of hours mental health support for 16+.

Tel: 07990 790 920

- Andy's Man Club Talk through issue and problems that men face.
 Monday evening 7pm www.facebook.com/andyManClub Exeter/Remote
- Age UK Exeter Tel:: 01392 202092
- Adult Social Care team Tel: 01710 424000
 Out of hours Tel: 01720 422699
- Care Direct 0345 1551 007
- NHS Chat Health Health Visitor confidential text messaging service www.chatline.nhs.uk
- Home-Start Support for families with young children <u>www.homestart.org.uk</u>

About Wellbeing Exeter



Wellbeing Exeter is a collaborative partnership of organisations working together to promote and improve the wellbeing of people individually and in their neighbourhoods, to make the community a better place to live.

St James Community Builder

Name: Natalie Smith Tel: 07856917894

Email: Natalie.smith@eci.org.uk

Facebook: Natalie Smith

(Community Builder St James)

Click here



Community Physical Activity Organiser (CPAO)

Georgie Barbour-Gresham Tel: 07926 127 824 Email: georgie.barbourgresham@ecct.co.uk

Facebook: CPAO Exeter North

Click here

