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(01392)
55-55-55
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In this edition:

All the latest
housing news

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Plus...

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Winter 2018

Exeter Citizen



Snow courtesy of Pro Sound and Light.

Christmas in Exeter

Step back in time at RAMM this December as the Museum celebrates a Victorian-inspired Christmas.

As part of its 150th anniversary celebrations, RAMM will be getting into the festive spirit. On the weekends of 8 & 9 and 15 & 16 December, there'll be a chance to make Victorian Christmas decorations, take part in storytelling sessions, listen to carolling in the courtyard and even meet Santa himself. Traditional wreath-making workshops for adults will take place on Thurs 6 & 13 December.

Exeter is the place to be in the run-up to the big day, with a glittering Christmas lights display courtesy of InExeter, late night shopping until 9pm on

Thursdays, a Christmas Grotto in Princesshay and a Christmas Market on Cathedral Green, back by popular demand.

Shoppers can browse for unique and artisan gifts from local retailers housed in traditional wooden chalets, as well as enjoying festive food and mulled wine whilst listening to local bands on the bandstand at the foot of the magnificent West Front of Exeter Cathedral. The Market stays open right up until 16 December.

The festive season wouldn't be the same without a pantomime

and this year there's Aladdin at the Exeter Corn Exchange from 8 December to 1 January. Jack and the Beanstalk is on at Exeter Northcott from 3 December to 6 January.

Don't miss the delightful Magdalen Road Christmas Fair on Saturday 1 December. For the eighth year, the road will close to allow shops and restaurants to spill out onto the street and be joined by 50 festive stalls from all over the West Country. Enjoy street food, mulled wine, live music and family entertainment, whilst shopping for unique gifts.

Other festive highlights, include a 40th Anniversary Live Concert Screening of The Snowman at Exeter's Belmont Chapel on 8 December; Carols in Exeter Cathedral with Exeter's Philharmonic Choir on 11 & 12 December and performances of Puffin Island by Quirk Theatre at Exeter Phoenix between 12 & 24 December.

There's lots more
happening across the city
so to find out more, visit
visitexeter.com/christmas

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Visually impaired

If you require a large print version of the Exeter Citizen, contact 01392 265103.



Wi-Fi at Civic

People visiting the City Council can now take advantage of Wi-Fi internet access at the Civic Centre. This includes the Customer Service Centre and all committee rooms.

Christmas and New Year Bank Holiday Bin collection dates

Collections due	Will be collected on:
Tuesday 25 December	Thursday 27 December
Wednesday 26 December	Friday 28 December
Thursday 27 December	Saturday 29 December
Friday 28 December	Monday 31 December
Monday 31 December	Wednesday 2 January
Tuesday 1 January	Thursday 3 January
Wednesday 2 January	Friday 4 January
Thursday 3 January	Saturday 5 January
Friday 4 January	Monday 7 January
Monday 7 January	Tuesday 8 January
Tuesday 8 January	Wednesday 9 January
Wednesday 9 January	Thursday 10 January
Thursday 10 January	Friday 11 January
Friday 11 January	Saturday 12 January
Monday 14 January back to normal...	

Councillors' phone numbers & email addresses

Party	Ward	Councillor	Telephone	Email address
L	Alphington	BOB FOALE	410567	cllr.bob.foale@exeter.gov.uk
G	Alphington	CHRIS MUSGRAVE	660389	cllr.chris.musgrave@exeter.gov.uk
L	Alphington	STEVE WARWICK	07954 549771	cllr.steve.warwick@exeter.gov.uk
LD	Duryard & St James	KEVIN MITCHELL	420646	cllr.kevin.mitchell@exeter.gov.uk
L	Duryard & St James	KEITH OWEN	413075	cllr.keith.owen@exeter.gov.uk
C	Duryard & St James	PERCY PROWSE	209024	
L	Exwick	PHILIP BIALYK	07976 362159	cllr.philip.bialyk@exeter.gov.uk
L	Exwick	OLLIE PEARSON	07725 554385	cllr.ollie.pearson@exeter.gov.uk
L	Exwick	RACHEL SUTTON	275886	cllr.rachel.sutton@exeter.gov.uk
L	Heavitree	ROSIE DENHAM		cllr.rosie.denham@exeter.gov.uk
L	Heavitree	OLWEN FOGGIN	660430	cllr.olwen.foggin@exeter.gov.uk
L	Heavitree	GREG SHELTON	667948	cllr.greg.sheldon@exeter.gov.uk
L	Mincinglake & Whipton	JUDY PATTISON	920414	cllr.judy.pattison@exeter.gov.uk
L	Mincinglake & Whipton	EMMA MORSE	07564 109503	cllr.emma.morse@exeter.gov.uk
L	Mincinglake & Whipton	PETE EDWARDS	465114	cllr.peter.edwards@exeter.gov.uk
L	Newtown & St. Leonard's	RICHARD BRANSTON	210815	cllr.richard.branston@exeter.gov.uk
L	Newtown & St. Leonard's	MATTHEW VIZARD	07753 616921	cllr.matthew.vizard@exeter.gov.uk
L	Newtown & St. Leonard's	NATALIE VIZARD	07843 282371	cllr.natalie.vizard@exeter.gov.uk
L	Pennsylvania	DANIEL GOTTSCHALK	07738 664995	cllr.daniel.gottschalk@exeter.gov.uk
L	Pennsylvania	JANE BEGLEY	966072	cllr.jane.begley@exeter.gov.uk
L	Pennsylvania	RACHEL LYONS	253649	cllr.rachel.lyons@exeter.gov.uk
L	Pinhoe	DAVID HARVEY	464253	cllr.david.harvey@exeter.gov.uk
C	Pinhoe	CYNTHIA THOMPSON	468135	cllr.cynthia.thompson@exeter.gov.uk
L	Pinhoe	DUNCAN WOOD	580005	cllr.duncan.wood@exeter.gov.uk
L	Priory	KATE HANNAN	07767 407072	cllr.kate.hannan@exeter.gov.uk
L	Priory	LESLEY ROBSON	221369	cllr.lesley.robson@exeter.gov.uk
L	Priory	TONY WARDLE	07725 632239	cllr.tony.wardle@exeter.gov.uk
L	St. David's	LEWIS KEEN	07986 172359	cllr.lewis.keen@exeter.gov.uk
L	St. David's	ROBERT LAMB	07500 929710	cllr.robert.lamb@exeter.gov.uk
L	St David's	LUKE SILLS		cllr.luke.sills@exeter.gov.uk
C	St. Loyes	PETER HOLLAND	437419	cllr.peter.holland@exeter.gov.uk
C	St. Loyes	DAVID HENSON	446956	cllr.david.henson@exeter.gov.uk
C	St. Loyes	YOLONDA HENSON	446956	cllr.yolonda.henson@exeter.gov.uk
L	St. Thomas	LAURA WRIGHT	205057	cllr.laura.wright@exeter.gov.uk
L	St. Thomas	ROB HANNAFORD	206421	cllr.rob.hannaford@exeter.gov.uk
L	St. Thomas	HANNAH PACKHAM	07904 011693	cllr.hannah.packham@exeter.gov.uk
C	Topsham	CATHERINE PIERCE	07580 647999	cllr.catherine.pierce@exeter.gov.uk
C	Topsham	ANDREW LEADBETTER	876322	cllr.andrew.leadbetter@exeter.gov.uk
C	Topsham	ROB NEWBY	676471	cllr.rob.newby@exeter.gov.uk

Council Leader & Portfolio Holders

Leader and Lead Councillor for Growth & City Development: **Cllr Pete Edwards**

Lead Councillor for Support Services: **Cllr Ollie Pearson**

Lead Councillor for People: **Cllr Emma Morse**

Lead Councillor for Housing Revenue Account: **Cllr Laura Wright**

Lead Councillor for Place & Commercialisation: **Cllr David Harvey**

Lead Councillor for City Transformation: **Cllr Rosie Denham**

Lead Councillor for Health and Wellbeing, Communities & Sport: **Cllr Phil Bialyk**

Lead Councillor for Economy & Culture: **Cllr Rachel Sutton**

Champion for Young People: **Cllr Luke Sills**

Champion for EX1 (Internal Transformation): **Cllr Greg Sheldon**

Champion for Communities: **Cllr Duncan Wood**

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Quick thinking sweeper honoured

A street sweeper who went to the aid of an elderly lady, who had fallen over in Exeter city centre, has won an award.

Matt Campbell who is part of Exeter City Council's city centre team was recognised at Exeter Tidy Group's Ambassador of the Year Awards.

The Awards recognise the people - street sweepers and grounds maintenance staff - who keep Exeter looking good.

Matt was praised for his compassion and the way he reacted after spotting a woman collapse in the

High Street. He sprinted to the scene, dialled 999, made her comfortable and waited with her until the ambulance arrived. He was also praised for his continued efforts in keeping the city centre looking tidy.

Runner-up was John Coles, who was recognised for his fine turf management at Northbrook Approach Golf Course. Martin Duben, who works as part of the car parks team was highly commended for his standards of cleanliness in the city's car parks.

The Personality of the Year award went to Tony Tancock, who is part of the City Centre Team, and the Semper Fidelis award to Dean Melliush. Organisers thanked sponsors McDonalds, Waitrose and NatWest Bank.



Winners alongside Lord Mayor (centre), left to right: Dean Melliush, Matt Campbell, Tony Tancock, John Coles

Freedom of City for Professor Sir Steve and Todd

Exeter University's Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir Steve Smith, is to be given Freedom of the City along with local historian and author Dr Todd Gray

Smith is to be honoured for his outstanding service to the city of Exeter during his 15 years as Vice Chancellor. Gray, who also works at the University, as a Research Fellow in the History

Department, is recognised for his passionate interest in Exeter's historic buildings and his concern for their continued preservation.

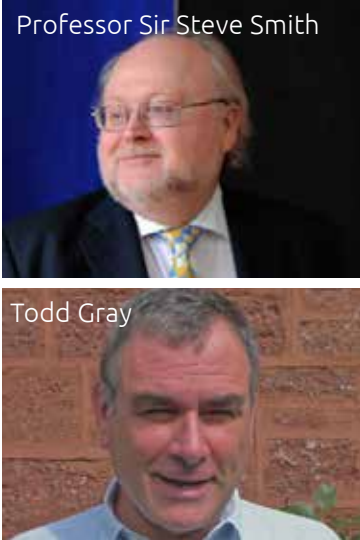
During his time in Exeter the university has not only grown considerably, bringing financial benefits to the city, but more importantly has become one of the top universities in the country and indeed the world.

Gray has become a well-known face and voice around Exeter and achieved national and international recognition for excellence in his particular field. When the front of the fire-damaged hotel was pulled down by a demolition crew he was seen to be visibly moved by the occasion. He has written several books on local history and even written

questions for the BBC quiz show Mastermind.

The City Council awards Freedom of the City to a number of military units with a close connection to the city as well as individuals who deserve the honour.

In the past, the position has been awarded to such names as Lord Nelson, Liam Tancock, Jo Pavey, Tony Rowe, Rob Baxter and Michael Caines.





Christmas opening times

	Will close on	Reopening
Civic Centre	Monday 24 December at 12 noon	Wednesday 2 Jan at 9am
Exeter Visitor Information and Tickets	Monday 24 December at 12 noon Sunday 30 December Tuesday 1 January	27-29 December, 10am to 4pm Monday 31 December Wednesday 2 January 9:30am to 4:30pm
Underground Passages	24, 25, 26 December & 1 January	27,28, 29,30 & 31 December, 9:30am to 5:30pm 2 January 9:30am to 5:30pm
Custom House	Normal opening pattern closed Monday to Wednesday	Normal opening pattern open Thursday to Sunday, 11am to 4pm
Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery	24, 25, 26 & 31 December 1 January	27 to 30 December 2 January



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Sandy Park triumph

Exeter is to host international rugby matches at Sandy Park next year.

England Women will play their fourth match of the 2019 Six Nations at Sandy Park on Saturday 9 March against Italy. This will be the first time the Red Roses have visited Exeter. The game will be televised on Sky Sports for those who cannot get tickets.

Just before that, England U20s men also travel to Exeter to play their second game of the Six Nations Championship, against France U20s on Saturday 9 February. The game will also be televised on Sky Sports.

Tony Rowe OBE, Chairman and Chief Executive of Exeter Rugby Club said: "To have more international rugby returning to

Sandy Park is fantastic news not only for the club, but for the region as a whole.

"Sandy Park has shown over the years that it's a first-class facility when it comes to hosting international rugby and we have no doubt this will be another great occasion for everyone involved.

CLlr Phil Bialyk, Lead Councillor for Health and Wellbeing, Communities and Sport at Exeter City Council, said: "This is fantastic news for the city. Exeter is fast becoming the brilliant alternative where people can live better and enjoy the quality of life that events like the Six Nations bring right to their doorstep. I for one can't wait for the first match!"

For tickets, please visit englandrugby.com/tickets

flybe.com

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*Available on Flybe.com for travel until 30.03.19 subject to availability. Please refer to our website for full details. See full schedule at flybe.com

Digital services success

More and more people are accessing council services online.

So many City Council services are now available on computer, tablet or mobile. Connecting online gives people the flexibility to access the council whether at home, in the office or out and about.

Now people can sign up for garden waste collections through the City Council website or renew online. Doing so, allows for garden sacks to be delivered to their home. There's also the opportunity to report

damaged or stolen bins, notify the Council of a change of address, order extra or return unwanted bins and cancel the service when no longer required.

In April the Council allowed people to report fly-tipping online. Since then, more than 600 reports have been made, with 300 taking advantage of the online reporting service.

Since giving people the opportunity to book bulky waste collections online, hundreds have taken advantage of the new system, which was previously only available by phone. And the beauty of the service is that it's

available 24/7, with over half of online bookings taking place after 6pm.

"Making these services available online gives people the option to access the council services any time, anywhere," said CLlr Ollie Pearson, Lead Councillor for Support Services.

"New technology with satellite navigation also allows us to pinpoint locations easier and get to the heart of the matter, as with the reporting of graffiti," he added.

Go to exeter.gov.uk to access the following services:

- Garden waste collections
- Reporting missed bin collections and ordering new bins
- Car park season ticket renewals
- Graffiti reporting
- Fly-tipping
- Bulky waste
- And much more



Recycling Times

tips to help you have a greener Christmas

For Christmas bin collection dates visit: exeter.gov.uk/bincollections or see page 2

In your green bin this Christmas:

Include the usual suspects such as, food tins and drinks cans, aerosols, newspaper and magazines, aluminium foil, and plastic food tray/pots/tubs/wrap

Plus don't forget:

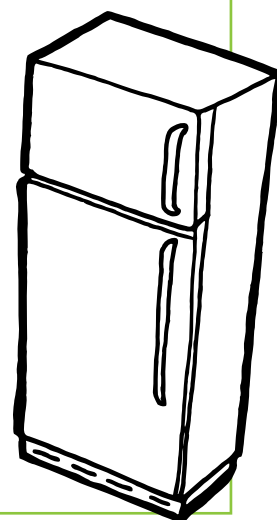
Toy packets (card and plastic separated)
Cardboard packages
Plastic gift packaging



Festive freezing

Press the pause button on Christmas food waste and freeze these!

- Leftover turkey to make turkey curry
- Leftover Christmas pudding
- Cheese (best grated first)
- Fruit (grapes and strawberries make fun ice cubes)
- Bread (sliced)
- Wine (in the unlikely event there is any left) in ice trays for sauces
- Roast potatoes for bubble and squeak
- Cooked or raw cabbage and sprouts



Cards

Since many Christmas cards are covered in glitter, so are not recyclable, we can't take them in the green bin. Recycling centres will accept NON GLITTERY Christmas cards for recycling but why not consider making them into tags for next year's gifts instead.



Wrapping paper

Like previous years, we are unable to take wrapping paper in the green bin.

Brown paper is still recyclable, and makes for artsy-looking wrapping paper. Also newspaper or old comics.

It simply doesn't recycle, as the quality is too poor, so use your black bin if you can't reuse it next year! Please note that the recycling centres similarly do not accept wrapping paper of any kind (paper or metallic) for recycling.

To help you try alternative wrapping this Christmas we have five packs of reusable wrapping paper to win in our free prize draw.

Consider using reusable cloth wrappings such as these by Wrag Wrap: wragwrap.com.



To enter email recycling@exeter.gov.uk with your name and quote **WRAG WRAP CITIZEN**. Closing date 9 December 2018

Blow the snow

Be prepared! If it snows, go to exeter.gov.uk/suspendedcollections for advice about what to do with your waste and to find out when collections will take place.



Christmas trees

If you live in Exeter, in postcode districts EX1 – EX4, there's now an easy way to get rid of your tree and help local people with a terminal diagnosis.

Please remember to remove all the decorations and pot or stand.

Hospiscare is working with JustHelping, a UK charity founded in 2012 with a vision to inspire and encourage people, businesses, charities and other organisations to volunteer in their community.

If you'd like to volunteer to help Hospiscare with the tree collection, please get in touch via fundraising@hospiscare.co.uk, or call 01392 688020 for more information.

You can also take your tree to one of Exeter's recycling centres, at Marsh Barton or Pinbrook Road, or ECC garden waste customers can place their tree out for collection with or without their brown bin on their first garden collection of the year (see exeter.gov.uk/bincollections from late January).

Please do not leave your tree in an ECC car park for collection by the Council; this will be classed as an act of fly tipping.



Housing Matters

News on housing across Exeter

Night shelter

People sleeping rough over the winter nights have somewhere to go thanks to a new Night Shelter.

The 26-bed shelter is being provided by the City Council and run by local charity Julian House. Situated in the former Spice Island restaurant in Magdalen Street, the shelter will provide overnight sleeping accommodation for homeless people between November and the end of March.

Funding for the shelter has come from a successful application to the Government's national initiative to reduce the number of rough sleepers. Exeter received £481,600 to provide

support to people living on the streets and help them back into accommodation.

Cllr Emma Morse, Lead Councillor for People (pictured right), said: "Last year we were unable to find the space to provide a dedicated winter shelter and instead used extra capacity at Gabriel House hostel and St Petrock's centre.

"We've worked hard to identify a suitable site and Spice Island is an ideal location. Everyone in Exeter should have a roof over their head and providing this facility means that no-one should be sleeping outside over the cold winter months."



In 2016, the City Council used a building in Market Street for a dedicated night shelter but the practice of providing an overnight facility dates back 51 years. In 1967, the City Council gave a free lease on a building near the Quay so that homeless people could come in out of the cold.

Beyond April it is hoped that the building will be used as a community facility for the homeless, providing educational courses, arts and crafts and other meaningful activities.



Empty homes

People who own empty properties and are struggling to move forward are being offered help.

The City Council's Empty Homes Service can offer free advice and support to help bring homes back into use. They can offer help with legal issues, probate, accessing low

interest loans and becoming a landlord. The Council is keen to work with owners to help re-let, re-occupy or sell their empty property.

For more information contact Elaine Oliver on **01392 265865** or elaine.oliver@exeter.gov.uk



Universal Credit

There's a new benefit on the block and it's called Universal Credit. Here's all you need to know.

Universal Credit replaces a number of benefits including housing benefit and income support and was introduced in Exeter in September. It only affects people of working age.

The new service is intended to be delivered exclusively online as one monthly payment,

supported by regular face-to-face interviews with Work Coaches at Jobcentre Plus.

Universal Credit replaces Housing Benefit, Income Support, Jobseekers Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Working Tax Credit & Child Tax Credit.

People can make and manage their claims from their own mobile device, although those that don't have access to wi-fi or a computer can use the PCs in the Customer Service Centre in Paris Street, where help is on hand to talk through the process and any queries with a member of staff.

To get help managing the change to Universal Credit payments call **01392 265475** or email paymentsandcollection@exeter.gov.uk

Find out more about Universal Credit at understandinguniversalcredit.gov.uk

Low cost home loans

Turn your house into a home thanks to a low rate loan scheme.

Exeter City Council has teamed up with Wessex Resolutions CIC to offer homeowners and landlords the chance to do up their home.

Funding repairs, improvements or adaptations can be a costly

business, a home loan could spread the cost*.

People can borrow from £1,000 to £15,000. Loans have a fixed interest rate and typical 4.2% APR and are *subject to status.

Find out more at wessexresolutions.org.uk, call **01823 461099** or email enquiries@wrcic.org.uk



Passivhaus – the way forward



Rose Mason in her passivhaus home



One of Exeter's Passivhaus properties



We hear it more and more these days..."Passivhaus"...but what does it mean and why is Exeter City Council building so many of these properties for its residents.

To date the Council has built 67 Passivhaus properties and there are more in the pipeline. Even the eagerly-awaited St Sidwell's Point Leisure Centre will be built to Passivhaus standards.

Passivhaus is a rigorous, voluntary standard for energy efficiency in a building. Properties use little energy for heating, with triple-glazed windows and impenetrable insulation, keeping energy bills down and reducing their ecological footprint.

Air quality is exceptional thanks to incoming air being filtered

through the mechanical ventilation system, but also delivers very high levels of thermal comfort, without hot and cold spots as you would expect in a standard home.

The homes meet building biology standards to minimise the use of harmful chemicals. All of the properties have also been completed to lifetime homes standard, meaning that people can continue to live in them as their mobility needs change. Four have been completed to fully wheelchair accessible standards.

Rose Mason moved into her Passivhaus property in Heavitree eight years ago, downsizing from a four-bedroomed house after her husband passed away.

"It has proved to be one of the finest things I have ever done," she told the Citizen.

"It keeps me beautifully cosy in the winter and if it's very hot and you walk in in the summer, it's lovely and cool."

"My health is amazing – I do not get colds, flu or viruses. Whether it's anything to do

with the system I don't know, but living in my previous house I got colds all the time."

There has been much written about energy savings in Passivhaus buildings – bills being reduced by up to 90% - but can we believe everything we read?

"I moved from a larger house so it's very hard to judge," said Rose, "but talking to other people who live in the same size property that I do, my bills are considerably lower - £450 for a year and that's everything because I only have electricity."

"I would recommend anyone to move into a Passivhaus and not be scared of it because that was my immediate reaction – I don't know what to do? The truth is, I don't do anything, I don't have to!"

Next up on the City Council's to-do list is a 53-home Extra Care residential scheme in Topsham Road that will be built to Passivhaus standards.

"Do you want lower energy bills?" "Is it hard to heat your home?"

If the answers are yes to these questions, then free and impartial energy advice is now available at venues across Exeter. Fully trained Energy Advisors from Exeter Community Energy (ECOE) run monthly Drop-in Energy Advice Clinics at Civic Centre,

The Beacon Centre, St Sidwells Community Centre and Wonford Community and Learning Centre.

ECOE's energy advisors can help with energy saving tips, changing supplier or tariff, applying for discounts, advice

on and obtaining grants for insulation and heating. Bring your recent energy and water bills to see how much money you could save. Home Visits are also available.

ecoe
exeter community energy



Clinic dates and more information can be found at ecoe.org.uk/healthy-homes-wellbeing/ or call ECOE on 01395 276734 / 07731 540215.

Visit our website at exeter.gov.uk or call 01392 277888

Community NEWS

‘Ask for Angela’ tackles sexual harassment

There's help on offer in pubs and clubs in Exeter for people who feel threatened, intimidated or harassed.

Licensed premises within the city are taking a united stand as part of Best Bar None, to reduce sexual violence and vulnerability within their premises. Premises have been undertaking safeguarding training organised by Exeter Community Safety Partnership in conjunction with Devon Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Services, and have launched the national scheme called 'Ask for Angela'.

The #askforangela scheme is an initiative that helps people who are on a date or who have met someone at a venue and feel unsafe, intimidated or threatened, get help from venue staff. The scheme promoted by Exeter Best Bar None has been launched across a number of premises within the city.

The purpose of the scheme is to reduce sexual harassment and vulnerability by providing customers with a non-descript phrase they can use to get the attention of staff members who can help separate them from the company of someone with whom they feel unsafe.

Anyone can get help from staff by simply asking to speak to "Angela". Staff will then assist the person by removing them from the situation to a place of safety.

All venues are required to attend training and complete a policy detailing how they will deal with a situation should someone 'Ask for Angela', before they can implement the scheme.

The scheme will raise awareness among all staff and encourage them to look out for potentially vulnerable customers. It's a valuable measure in ensuring Exeter continues to be a safe place to visit.

Details of participating venues and more information about #askforangela can be found at bestbarnoneexeter.co.uk.



A smooth transition

A new intake of students have been settling in at Exeter University.

Every year the City Council works closely with the University and the Police to ensure that Freshers' Week goes as smoothly as possible and the impact on local communities is minimal.

University Patrol work alongside staff from the Council's environmental health department dealing with any noise issues like parties getting out of control.

The Guild's Welcome Team, the Pink Army, are on hand to deal with student welfare and behaviour.

As they entered the city centre, advice was given to students about not drinking in the streets and keeping noise down to a minimum when returning home. The Best Bar None initiative takes a lead on responsible premises.

Street Pastors carried out extra shifts to ensure the safety of students issues and there was a Students Union funded Helpzone in the city centre for revellers.

Wood you believe it!



Young people from Exwick have proudly presented to the community a bench they have carved with creator James Bond.

The work was carried out thanks to a grant from Coastal Recycling

Community Fund as part of the FLOW project, backed by Exeter and East Devon Growth Point, which has created a ribbon orchard along the River Exe from Exwick to Double Locks.

Building a better community

Community Builders are operating in a neighbourhood near you...and this has nothing to do with bricks and mortar!



To find out more about Community Builders and the Wellbeing Exeter initiative, go to wellbeingexeter.co.uk

Instead, the initiative is all about building better communities and providing firm foundations to allow individuals and communities to improve their own health and wellbeing.

The Builders are working across Exeter, listening to residents and through these conversations, helping to uncover what people feel strongly about and what activities they can get involved in.

The initiative, which has already seen positive results, is the brainchild of Wellbeing Exeter, a strategic alliance of public, voluntary and community sector organisations, set up to pilot a particular approach to social prescribing.

One of those to benefit from the scheme told the Citizen: "Before I became involved with the local community around me, I had become reclusive and virtually bed-bound - this was in autumn 2017.

"When I first met my local Community Builder I was intrigued as to what she was doing, her role and hearing from her about the community's plans for my local green space.

"I started getting up and about and was able to attend the first few meetings with my husband. I helped form a committee for the Park, of which I am now proud to say I am secretary and my husband is also involved.

"Now, I find the pain in my legs is still there but I can move and stand a lot more. People say I look better! I still have my bad days, but less of them now.

"I've had to get up and about, connecting with new people who want to get involved with our local Green Space, meeting my neighbours and other groups in my community. I've organised events to raise money for the park, and involved people I have met along the way. I thoroughly enjoy it, and haven't looked back!"

Community Builders are working in all 13 wards across the city. Their role is to listen to residents, and through these conversations help to uncover what people feel strong about, to help connect people and ideas, to help the community develop what they want. **To find out more visit www.eci.org.uk**

New hut for Newtown community

After years of fundraising to make it happen, work has started on a new community hut in Belmont Park.

Members of Newtown Community Association celebrated the occasion along with local councillors. The City Council has financially supported the project.

The old hut dated back to the Second World War and had been used as a community space for 30 years.

The new facility will offer a larger and more flexible space, up-to-date kitchen and toilet facilities and better access for all users.

Echoes of the old hut will remain in the timberframe construction with timber cladding but importantly, the new building will be much more energy efficient, combining high levels of air tightness and insulation with solar energy panels and up-to-date heating.

The building is due to be completed in the spring and will be used by local community groups including the Newtown Community Choir and Roots Band, the regular social café and Quigong groups.



To find out more go to newtowncommunity.org.uk

New skate park taking shape



Work is progressing on a new skate park for Exeter. The new facility at Arena Park is expected to be ready by Christmas.

The design of the park has been chosen by a group of local pro skaters working to a design brief heavily influenced by the local skating community.

The skate park will feature ramps, quarterpipes, flatbanks, ledges and rails. The plaza style design will also feature a viewing/seating area overlooking all the action.

The old skate park had to be broken up last year after it came to the end of its usable life.

Cllr David Harvey, Lead Councillor for Place (pictured right with Council Leader Pete Edwards), said the City Council had consulted with the skater community right from the start to find out what equipment they required.

"In the end we had more than 300 people taking part in a consultation exercise to contribute ideas for the designs of the new facility," he added.



Lord Mayor's Christmas

Don't miss the chance to join in with the Lord Mayor's festivities this Christmas.

The Lord Mayor's Christmas Carol Service takes place at 2pm on 3 December at the Exeter Cathedral. Seats are available for a minimum donation of £3.50 from Exeter's historic Guildhall and Exeter Lord Mayor's Office – Civic Centre and Exeter Visitor Information and Tickets in Dix's Field.

Then there's Christmas with the Lord Mayor on 15 December from 10am to 2pm at the Guildhall. There's Santa's grotto, mulled wine and mince pies as well as homemade chilli. All proceeds go to the Lord Mayor's Chosen Charity, SSAFA The Armed Forces Charity.



Air quality feedback

Air quality in Exeter is generally good but the City Council is committed to making it better by producing an Air Quality Action Plan.

The City Council is working to improve air quality and cut congestion in the city by producing an Air Quality Action Plan.

The plan sets out a range of proposals to improve air quality in the city, reduce exposure to air pollution and improve health and quality of life.

It aims to discourage private car use and increase use of public transport, cycling and walking,

in partnership with others. Businesses will be supported in changing travel habits and reducing emissions.

The Council recently carried out a three-month consultation.

A total of 2,873 people completed surveys. 88 per cent of those agreed that air quality should be treated as a public health priority.

A big majority (80 per cent) backed an expansion of park and ride sites, while 61 per cent supported restrictions on accessing certain parts of the city for certain types or ages of vehicles.

An overwhelming big majority (82 per cent) agreed that making public space more attractive will encourage people to be more active. Nearly three quarters (72 per cent) agreed that active and

healthy people will use active and healthy travel options.

All of the feedback is being carefully analysed before the Plan can be finalised by the end of the year.

Cllr Rosie Denham, Lead Councillor for City Transformation, said: "We are delighted with the response to the consultation from the public, both residents and

visitors to the city. It was great to hear their views on how best to cut congestion and improve air quality.

"The good news is that air quality is improving in Exeter. But we know there is still much work to do to tackle pollution hotspots and ensure healthy air quality for everyone in our city."

New stand for Grecians



Council Leader Pete Edwards recently opened the new Stagecoach Adam Stanfield Stand at Exeter City Football Club's St James Park.

The £3.4 million project has also seen the construction of new

changing rooms, an away end and other facilities.

Julian Tagg, Chairman of ECFC, said: "This whole project wouldn't have been possible without Exeter City Council, and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for

providing the majority of funding of this development from the proceeds of the sale of land behind the Big Bank."

Join RAMM's new online membership scheme

RAMM has launched a free, online membership scheme to help connect with its audiences, understand what they value most, develop an inclusive programme and ensure that visitors are up-to-date with the things that interest them.

The membership scheme aims to be an online community of culture lovers, giving members the opportunity to get closer to Exeter's museum, find out more about RAMM's exhibitions and events, learn how the museum works and share their experiences with friends, family and neighbours. Members will receive a monthly e-newsletter tailored to their interests, personalised website pages, seamless ticket purchase and special offers on gifts at the Shop at RAMM.

Tailored information

When signing up to RAMM Membership, visitors will complete a short quiz about their



HRH The Princess Royal visited RAMM as part of their 150th anniversary

personal approach to culture. By understanding them more deeply, RAMM will be able to update members about the news and events that interest them most - and to ensure that its programme caters to everyone.

Signing up to RAMM Membership

Anyone wishing to sign up to RAMM Membership can do so

by completing an online form at rammuseum.org.uk/membership. Visitors can also sign up in the museum itself using the digital sign-up stands at either Reception.

Sign up to RAMM Membership today.
rammuseum.org.uk/membership

ramm

What's On

150 YEARS

Enjoy stunning displays, fabulous exhibitions and engaging events at the Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery (RAMM), Exeter City Council's world-class museum.



Current exhibitions



FREE

Devon Voices
1914-1918
Home Front Stories
Until 6 Jan 2019



FREE

Women Artists
Exeter's Fine Art Collection
8 Dec to 19 May 2019



FREE

Criminal Ornamentation
Yinka Shonibare MBE curates the Arts Council Collection
19 Jan to 17 Mar 2019

Yinka Shonibare MBE, *Faded Fabric*, 2010 © Arts Council Collection

Programme highlights



£5

Digital creative workshops
12 Jan, 26 Jan, 20 Feb and 16 Mar 1.30-4pm
Take inspiration from the museum to create prints, drawings and collages and use digital cameras and software to animate them into fabulous films using your smartphone or tablet. Suitable for 8-16 year olds.



£3

UrbanFlow: street dance workshop
Wed 20 Feb 10.30am-12.30pm / 1.30-3.30pm
Whether you're a pro or have never broken a move, drop into our street dance workshop to find your style. From hip-hop to house, try your hand at breaking foundations, locking, popping, waving and shuffling.



£16 (early bird) / £18

Monty Halls: the influence of migration
Fri 16 Jan Doors and bar 6.30pm, talk 7pm
Marine biologist Monty Halls explores how significant movement of people and animals around the world has shaped cultures civilisations. The talk will be illustrated by stunning images taken over thirty years of travel.

Join in the lively programme of family activities, talks and tours
Admission free.

Open Tuesday to Sunday, 10am to 5pm.
Closed Mondays and bank holidays.

Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery
Queen Street, Exeter EX4 3RX
www.exeter.gov.uk/ramm

T 01392 265858
E ramm@exeter.gov.uk



Visit our website at exeter.gov.uk or call 01392 277888

Sport England success

Exeter has been recognised as the most active Local Authority in England according to latest figures from Sport England

Nearly four in five adults (79%) undertake more than 150 minutes of activity every week compared to the national figure of three in five (62%). The figures placing Exeter on top of the rostrum are revealed in Sport England's Active Lives Adult Survey for October 2018.

Whilst this is good news with Exeter bucking the trend nationally, the City Council recognise that there is still more work to be done across the city to address pockets of inactivity.

Last year, Exeter and Cranbrook was chosen by Sport England as one of only 12 pilot areas in England to work on a bold new approach to build healthier, active communities. Already that good work is paying off.

Cllr Phil Bialyk, Lead Councillor for Sport, Health and Wellbeing, and Chair of the Exeter Health and Wellbeing Board said: "This is great news but we're not standing still. We know that there are still sections of the population who struggle to be physically active and that is our challenge moving forward."

"This isn't just about sport, it is about enabling people to become active – to make small changes to their lives, like walking your children to school, cycling to work or just getting off the sofa and getting out of the house."

Three years ago, Exeter became the most active city in the South West. Now Exeter has gone one stage further as the most active local authority in England.

Promoting active and healthy lifestyles is one of the three top priorities identified in the City Council's Corporate Plan. Already the city has the highest number of commuters walking to work in the UK. In the next three years the City Council is working towards doubling the figure of those cycling to work.

"We have some work to do, but it's already very encouraging," said Cllr Bialyk. "There isn't just one single thing that we're doing to achieve these results – it's about working with our partners, working in the communities and giving people the opportunity to get more active and make a difference to their lives."

Some of the initiatives being delivered across the city include:

- Couch to 5K running programmes at dozens of locations across the city through the Get Active Exeter programme
- Free tennis coaching sessions on City Council courts at

Heavitree and Cowick Barton Playing Fields

- Exeter City FC City Community Trust delivering health and wellbeing programmes including City Fit Club and Man Vs Fat

- Active Mums cycling group on the Quayside and Wonford Leisure Centre

- An award-winning social prescribing programme under the Exeter Wellbeing umbrella that builds firm foundations for individuals and communities to improve their health and wellbeing.



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