

DECEMBER 2021

EXETER CONNECT MONTHLY UPDATE

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EXETER
CONNECT

Hello,

Welcome to Exeter Connect's December update. Coming up in this edition, we have stories of local community activity, updates on our team, upcoming training & events, volunteering opportunities, and lots of funding information.

Happy reading!



Wonford Planters

Local greening group, [Wonford Planters](#), is progressing with its pocket park project adjacent to Wonford Green Surgery. With support from Exeter Connect, the group successfully applied for an Awards for All grant from the National Lottery. The grant includes events to engage the local community with the project. For this, they are utilising the skills of another great community enterprise, Wood for Good, (part of Co-Create). It's fantastic to see groups and projects collaborate to take action in their community and to bring neighbours together.

An Xmas-wood craft event will be held on Saturday 11th December from 10am to make bug hotels and bird boxes for the site and to take home. Co-Create will also be making the raised beds and bench for the park. Do pop along - a bird box or bug hotel would make a great Christmas gift!



Barriers to Bridges Magazine

One of our Development Workers has been supporting Dawn Saunders, the founder of the [Barriers to Bridges Magazine](#). This is such a great initiative, and we wanted to give Dawn the chance to share a bit more.

"Hello, I am the founding editor for Barriers to Bridges Magazine – a new online publication, providing a platform for marginalised people and communities.

After embarking on, and completing my Master of Arts in Journalism as a mature student in Sheffield and relocating to Exeter, I launched Barriers to Bridges at the beginning of this year. As a marginalised woman, due to my visual impairment, single-parent status and having been homeless on two occasions, I am passionate in providing a 'voice for the voiceless' among the current level of noise and inequality.



We are currently working on our December issue and looking to secure funding through a stakeholder campaign, crowdfunding and other funding streams in the new year – not to mention acquiring CIC status, so we are ambitious and passionate about writing compelling copy."

Dawn Eckhart, one of our Development Workers, said:

"I have had the pleasure of working with Dawn Sanders over recent months on her journey to establish Barriers to Bridges. She is an amazing social entrepreneur, so full of passion based on her lived experience of experiencing barriers to social inclusion throughout her life. I have been supporting her with a range of development issues including grant application skills, stakeholder analysis and engagement and legal structures. I strongly recommend that anyone with a passion for overcoming barriers takes a look at the online magazine, and hopefully even contributes to it!"

Find out more about the Barriers to Bridges Magazine: <https://www.barrierstobridgesmagazine.co.uk>

Merry Go Round and Spinning Top Toy Libraries

Did you know that libraries don't always focus on book borrowing? There are some great initiatives across Exeter that are instead focused on sharing and borrowing equipment, activities, games, and more. These are a great way to make items more accessible, reduce consumption and waste, and to foster community spirit.

For example, the newly formed [Exeter Library of Things](#) has just run a very successful crowdfunding campaign, and will soon be lending out items, ranging from hand tools to a PA system!

Another local initiative is the Merry Go Round and Spinning Top Toy Libraries which lend toys and games for adults and children to enjoy together. The toy libraries are open not only for families, with children aged from a few months to early teens, but also for any groups or individuals involved in providing day-care for children.

They offer an online Covid-safe click and collect service and their toy librarians can also offer advice on which toys are most suitable for individual children, taking into account their age, stage and interests. Merry Go Round is open for collections every Tuesday 10am-4.30pm at Exeter Scrapstore and Spinning Top every Friday from 10am-1pm in the Beacon Centre.

Find out more: <https://my.mgrtoylibrary.org/>



THE NEWEST MEMBER OF THE TEAM

We are very excited to introduce the latest addition to the Exeter Connect team, Peter Stokes!

"Hello, I'm Peter Stokes and I am delighted to have recently started in the role of Service Manager for Exeter Connect. I have worked in the Voluntary and Community sector for almost all of my career, mostly in London, but most recently in Torbay, where I worked for Torbay Community Development Trust. Although I have mainly worked in London, I am Devon born and bred, moving back to the best and most beautiful place on earth in 2015. I have lived in Exeter a couple of times in the past, and returned to living here in April of this year.



My passion in my job is supporting the potential and power of groups, communities and individuals to shape positive change, collaborate, share ideas and knowledge and thrive. I believe that working in collaboration rather than competition is best for everyone, and I am very excited about meeting many of you in the near future and building on the great work of Exeter Connect so far."



HAVE AN IDEA?



Our Development Workers, Dawn and Johanna, are happy to meet up with you to discuss your ideas, and have really enjoyed getting out and meeting some of you over the past few months.

Dawn recently meet with some of those involved with the Cemetery Fields Play Area Project in Exwick to find out more about the initiative and see how Exeter Connect might be able to support this.

Would you be interested in having a chat with one of the team about your ideas?

Whatever stage you are at, we can provide bespoke one-to-one support and advice for a range of development needs including:

- Starting up
- Funding
- Financial and governance structures
- Working with volunteers

Get in touch at info@exeterconnect.org.uk.



TRAINING & EVENTS

We have some exciting workshops and training sessions coming up for individuals and community groups in Exeter.

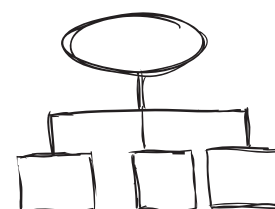
These sessions are all free and will be delivered via Zoom.

Introduction to legal structures - Wednesday 8th December, 1.30 - 4pm

- In a dilemma about how to formally set up your new project?
- What are the pros and cons of charity status?
- CIC, CIO, CBS...finding it a bit confusing?
- Want to understand better the legal structure of your community organisation and your options moving forward?

Join us for this online session and get the answers you are looking for.

[Find out more and sign up.](#)



Crowdfunding: Making the most of your campaign - Tuesday 25th January, 12 - 2pm

Are you considering using crowdfunding to raise funds for your group? Do you want to know more about how it works?

Join us for tips on running a successful campaign, how to increase your reach, what match funding is available and find out about local groups who have successfully used this method.

[Find out more and sign up.](#)



2022 Training & Events Schedule

We are currently working on putting together our training and events schedule for 2022.

In January-March 2021, we are planning to focus on the following topics:

- Demonstrating your impact
- What could sustainable funding look like for your organisation?
- Parklets in Exeter: sharing experiences, tips and learning

We will share more details about these in the new year. If you have any ideas or suggestions for future workshops, training sessions or networking opportunities that Exeter Connect could host, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact us at info@exeterconnect.org.uk if you would like to find out more about any of our upcoming events.

FUNDING

The [Norman Family Charitable Trust](#) is running a second round of its COVID Fund and is inviting applications from charities and other non-profit/voluntary groups who have been adversely affected financially by COVID.

Application deadline: midday on 10th December 2021

The [Northbrook Community Trust](#) provides grants to charities changing the lives of some of the most disadvantaged young people in Devon. The charities they support typically focus on the care, education, and training of young people under 25.

The [Social Enterprise Support Fund](#) is offering grants of £10k-£100k. The fund will support social enterprises to rebuild; in particular, to help restart or grow your trading income, as well as to support your communities to recover from the COVID-19 crisis. They are also running a [free webinar](#) on Wednesday 8th December, 6pm for organisations to find out more about the fund and application process.

The first round of applications closes on 21st December 2021.

It was fantastic to see so many of you at our **Meet the Funders** event last month, and we hope that you found it helpful. Below is a summary of the funds that were covered during the session.

Devon County Council

[CrowdfundDevon](#): Campaigns launching as part of CrowdfundDevon could be eligible for a contribution from DCC of up to 50% of their funding target (up to a maximum DCC contribution of £3,000). Constituted not-for-private-profit voluntary or community organisations (including town and parish councils) and charities can apply.

They are keen to support local projects that aim to make communities stronger, more connected, capable, active, safer, fairer and more inclusive; helping communities have more control to achieve the things that matter most to them, in the ways that they choose. Crowdfunding projects must raise 25% of their fundraising target and must also have contacted the appropriate ElectedMember/s about their project before being considered eligible for possible funding.

[Locality Budgets](#): Each county councillor has £10,000 per year in grant funding. To find out more and apply, first [contact your local county councillor](#) and ask if they will support your project. Once you have gained their support, you can apply online.

[Covid-19 Outbreak Management Grant \(Self-Isolation\)](#): Devon County Council is awarding grants to voluntary and community groups/organisations and social enterprises that help people by providing practical, social, and emotional support when they have to self-isolate due to COVID-19. Grants of up to £5,000 are available for small projects, and between £5,000 and £20,000 for larger projects. Groups don't need to have a bank account as long as another constituted organisation with a bank account can sponsor them.

FUNDING

[Covid Outbreak Management Fund](#): This fund will support people who have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 including BAME communities, rough sleepers, those who are having to self-isolate, those who have been classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable, people with protected characteristics, people from deprived communities, people who are digitally excluded and people living in rural communities.

Funding available:

- Small grants scheme (max. £300).
- Large grants (£10,000-£25,000)
- Equality and Diversity Fund (£5,000-£20,000).

All grants will need to be spent by the end of March 2022.

[Subscribe to Devon Funding News](#) to stay up to date on funding opportunities to support business, environmental and social projects in Devon.

Devon Community Foundation

[Thrive with 5](#): Grants provide funding for projects and initiatives which improve the lives of individuals and communities across Devon. Applications of between £2,000 and £5,000 will be considered. Their current priorities are early years and the environment.

Application deadline: 23rd February 2022

[Devonian Grants](#): Organisations may apply for funding of up to £5,000 to help people overcome or relieve physical mobility limitations. This may include equipment or specialised transport, such as accessible coaches or taxis.

[Community Grants](#): These are designed to enable small, local, grassroots organisations across Devon to support, encourage and develop thriving communities. Applications of up to £2,000 will be considered.

[Subscribe to Devon Community Foundation's newsletter](#) to stay up to date on funding opportunities.

Exeter City Council Grants Programme

[Ward Grants](#): Community groups can apply for a maximum grant of £500. A Ward Grant can support a community project, a local community festival, a local theatre production or a craft group.

[Exeter Small Grants Fund](#): The fund will support groups and organisations with a one-off grant of up to £3,000 to help run events, festivals and projects that aim to encourage community participation. This fund can also be used for a one-off purchase or repair of equipment.

FUNDING

The National Lottery Community Fund

Awards for All: The fund offers between £300 and £10,000 to voluntary or community organisations, and can be used to support your group with continuing to deliver activities or to adapt and become more resilient to respond to future challenges. Groups will need a constitution and a bank account to make an application.

Reaching Communities & Partnerships: This can fund individual organisations or partnerships, with grants from £10,001 or more. They are looking for projects that work to make positive changes in their community, and like to see projects that can test new approaches to issues in the community.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

The **Heritage Fund** offers small (£3,000-£10,000), medium (£10,000-£250,000) and large (£250,000-£5m) grants. Their funding priorities are:

- Inclusion of under-represented groups: young people, disabled people, people with lived experience of racism, LGBT+ communities, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds
- Landscapes and nature
- Heritage at risk
- Community and local heritage

Exeter Connect is subscribed to various grant finder and search services, some of which are only available as a paid subscription. If you would like us to make a search on behalf of your group, please get in touch.

We can also provide support with grant applications, and read over any applications as a critical friend.

Please contact us at info@exeterconnect.org.uk to find out more.

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

If you would like us to include an opportunity in the next newsletter, going out at the start of December, please email us a short blurb by **Monday 10th January 2022**.

Listening Volunteer

providing a friendly listening ear for our visitors

We are looking for volunteers who share our values of compassion and inclusivity to join a new team of listening volunteers.

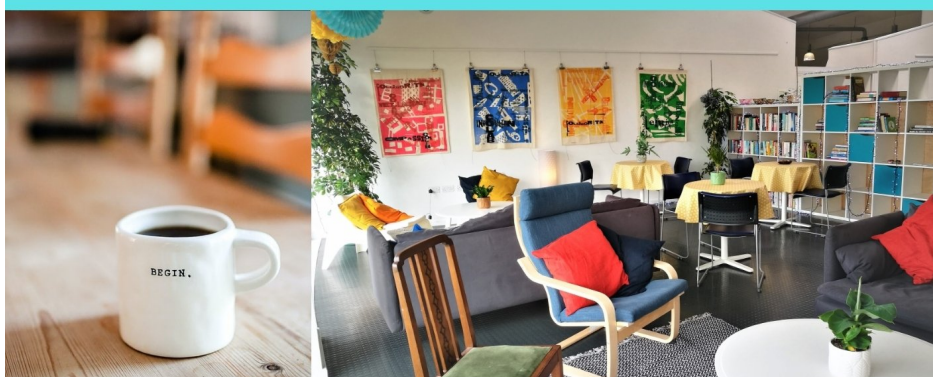
Colab hub offers support to people with a wide range of needs, and our atrium is a welcoming space where people seek support. Sometimes people come to Colab just because they want some company or somebody to listen. Listening volunteers will be available on Monday and Friday mornings, so that people can chat with a volunteer who is friendly and calm, offering a listening ear. Full training and support will be provided, and staff are available if visitors need more specific support. If you think you could be a good listener please get in touch to find out more.

Closing date 6th Dec, informal introductory session 13th Dec 10.30 - 12.

contact us

Speak to Fiona or Lorraine at Colab on 01392 202055, or email lorraine.hansford@colabexeter.org.uk

CoLab Exeter, Wat Tyler House, King William Street,
Exeter EX4 6PD. Registered Charity No: 1100990



EXETER STUDENT VOLUNTEERS

Exeter Student Volunteers (ESV) is a university initiative with a range of projects including those working with children and young people, vulnerable adults, and community-focused activities. ESV also regularly share local community volunteering opportunities with their members.

If you would like to share any opportunities with students interested in volunteering, please send over any details to: esv-president@groups.exeterguild.com.





From all of us here at Exeter Connect, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We will have limited team availability between the 20th December - 4th January, but look forward to all the community activity to come in 2022!



[Sign up](#) to receive future updates from Exeter Connect or [unsubscribe](#) from this mailing list.

HAVE AN IDEA?

We offer FREE, professional advice and training to help Exeter's community organisations develop and grow.

Whatever stage you are at, Exeter Connect can provide one-to-one mentoring, advice and group workshops and discussions including:

- Starting up
- Funding
- Financial and governance structures
- Working with volunteers

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