

JUNE 2022

EXETER CONNECT MONTHLY UPDATE

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**EXETER
CONNECT**

Hello

Welcome to the Exeter Connect June update, full of news and resources for community groups and organisations in Exeter. Here you will find details of upcoming training and events, funding news, job vacancies & volunteer opportunities, as well as some updates on what we have been up to!

Digital Inclusion Network Meeting



We continue to hold our regular Digital Inclusion network meetings as we look to find ways to help isolated people across Exeter connect with their families, friends and communities via technology.

The latest meeting was a really interesting discussion with lots of ideas sparking as to how we can reach the widest possible group of people and the best way to do so. We were joined by Donna from [AbilityNet](https://abilitynet.org.uk), a pioneering UK charity which believes the power of digital technology should be available to everyone, regardless of ability or age, and we are looking forward to working with them to recruit and train a team of volunteer "digital buddies" (If you have some time to spare, are digitally competent and would like to help others in your community, we would love to hear from you.)

If you would like to join the next discussion, you will be more than welcome! Please email dawn.eckhart@exeterconnect.org.uk for more information and find out more about the free advice and resources from AbilityNet here: <https://abilitynet.org.uk>

Bodley Close Plant Swap

Exeter Connect Development Worker, Johanna Korndorfer, was on hand with plants and seeds from the [Exeter Seed Bank](#) to give away for the first-ever plant swap event at the Council-owned retirement housing at Bodley Close in Heavitree.

All three Heavitree Councillors attended the event on 27 May, which included wonderful baked goodies, raffle, tea and lively chat. There was also a 'site visit' to a gardening project led by one of the residents, which is to make a little woodland garden.

A fantastic community event and beautiful weather to boot!



Food Network Meeting

Exeter Community Food Network which was established during the pandemic last month held their first in-person meeting at the Mint Methodist Church.

The aim of the Network is to increase collaboration and joint working between groups and organisations providing Community Food, to achieve positive change on behalf of people in Exeter who are in need of food and to reduce food poverty/insecurity. The event brought together groups from across the city for a focused discussion on current challenges and opportunities for working more closely together. This event was very well attended with representatives from a number of organisations including [FoodBank](#), [Exeter Food Action](#), [FoodCycle](#), [St Katherine's Larder](#) and the [Salvation Army](#). It was fantastic to have the opportunity to meet with these groups in person, and we are really looking forward to our ongoing involvement with this network.

If you are a food provision group and would like to join the next conversation, please do email Exeter Connect (info@exeterconnect.org.uk) for more details.



We need your help! State of the Sector Survey

Back in November 2020 we carried out a State of the Sector Survey to gain insight into what was happening for the sector within Exeter. As we are moving out of the pandemic we want to revisit what is going on for the VCSE sector now and as part of this process we would appreciate your help by completing a short survey to assist us in understanding the issues and challenges you are currently facing.

The link to the survey is [here](#). The survey will be open until Friday 24th June 2022. We are also planning to follow up with some more in-depth interviews and will be publishing our findings by the Autumn.

TRAINING & EVENTS

FIND THEM; GET THEM; KEEP THEM! RECRUITING & RETAINING VOLUNTEERS

22 June 2-4pm (online)

- Explore what motivates potential volunteers to work with you
- Find out about Devon Connect, the new platform, which can promote your volunteer offer
- Share ideas of good practice

To book your place via Eventbrite, please click [here](#) - only a few spaces left now!

Community Centres Network Meeting

Thursday 23rd June 7pm Online

Exeter Connect will be hosting the next Exeter Community Centres network event later this month for those working within community hubs to share ideas, experience and plans for the future of Exeter's multi use community facilities. At this session we will be focussing on ECC grants and ideas for cost cutting utility bills. If you would like to join the discussion you are most welcome - please do email info@exeterconnect.org.uk and we will add you to the list!

Velocity Project - free digital training & support for VCSE organisations and groups

Ongoing - online

Led by Cosmic, Velocity Project is an exciting new opportunity for all voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in Devon. The aim is to enable you to increase your capacity, build resilience, to be better connected, more sustainable and ready to take on future challenges. Various courses are available via [Eventbrite](#)



FREE DEVON CONNECT TRAINING

Devon Connect is a **new FREE online platform** for anyone wanting to share or find information regarding volunteering opportunities in Devon. With a vision to 'provide all communities in Devon with the means to grow and flourish', this new platform offers a **searchable database of volunteering opportunities for residents of Devon** and the ability for organisations to post these to a wide audience. There are training workshops taking place over the next month to help local organisations and groups get to grips with the new system. Click the links to book via Eventbrite:

- [29th June at 12.30pm](#) - Free 1 hour session run by Devon Connect
- [7th July & 19th July at 11am](#) - Free 1 hour session run by Exeter Connect

SOCIALLY ENTERPRISING EXETER!

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



There is a growing community of amazing social and community enterprises in Exeter who are achieving an impressive positive impact for people and our planet. Exeter Connect is excited to be hosting this event, and hopes that it will be the launch of a new network to bring together like-minded socially enterprising people from across Exeter.

WHEN?

Wednesday 29th June - 1.30pm to 3.30pm at St Katherine's Priory, Exeter. Book your place via Eventbrite [here](#)

WHY?

Our aspirations are that the event will provide:

- A space for like-minded people to network in real life
- Enable collaboration and peer support
- Celebrate achievements and aspirations
- Explore solutions to common development challenges

WHO?

You are most welcome to join in, whether you are a new director of a new CIC, or a representative of an established CIC, an enterprising charity or from another form of social/community enterprise. We hope to see you there!

The event is FREE but please book in advance via [Eventbrite](#) so that we can ensure we have enough room and refreshments

For more information please contact info@exeterconnect.org.uk

***Exeter
Together***

SIGN UP & GET STARTED

***ZOOM CAFE SESSIONS
FREE 1 HOUR WORKSHOP***

***11AM
TUESDAYS
7th July & 19th July
2022***



***JOIN DEVON'S NEW ONLINE COMMUNITY PLATFORM
& LEARN HOW TO UPLOAD YOUR COMMUNITY
LISTINGS, EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES!***

Book your FREE place via Eventbrite

www.devonconnect.org/exeter

TRAINING & EVENTS

Roles and Responsibilities of Charity Trustees & Management Committees

Thursday 28th July 6pm – 8pm on Zoom

- Are you considering becoming a trustee for a social purpose organisation?
- Are you a member of a board of trustees and concerned about legal requirements
- Would you like to share top tips and peer advice with other trustees

This is an essential refresher course for long standing trustees and an invaluable introduction to people new to the role. Even if you are on the management committee of a social enterprise or community organisation that is not registered as a charity, this workshop will help to explain what you must do to comply legally, and what you could do to ensure best practice.

Led by our experienced development worker Dawn Eckhart, this workshop will be a chance to ask questions and gain insight in a friendly and understandable way. Book your place via [Eventbrite](#) today!

LOOKING AHEAD

We are busily working away on our Autumn training and events programme and look forward to sharing more details with you as they are confirmed, but below is a sneak peek of some of the events we have planned...

Be sure to keep your eye on our next newsletter and our social media pages to stay in the loop!

**INTRODUCTION TO
LEGAL ENTITIES**

**MEASURING IMPACT
WORKSHOP**

**VOLUNTEERS
FAYRE**

**MEET THE
FUNDERS
FAYRE**



FUNDING

Western Power Distribution Community Matters Fund

WPD and Local Giving have teamed up and announced a £500,000 fund, focusing on providing help and support to grassroots community groups tackling holiday hunger when schools are closed and children often go hungry. Applications are encouraged from organisations delivering projects that offer both short-term interventions to stop holiday hunger and longer term support to help reduce food poverty. The deadline to apply is 14th June 2022. For more information, please see: [Community Matters Fund | Localgiving](#)

Devon Community Foundation - Thrive with Five grant

The purpose of this fund is to support community organisations to alleviate mobility in relation to disability or ill-health. It aims to help people overcome or relieve mobility limitations, such as contributing towards the cost of equipment that significantly improves the quality of individuals' lives. The deadline is 12 noon on 23 February 2023 but applications will be regularly reviewed up to this point. For more information, please see their guidance notes here: [Thrive-with-Five-Guidance-Notes-for-ApplicantsMobilise.pdf \(devoncf.com\)](#)



Woodland Trust - Free Trees for Schools and Communities

The Woodland Trust are giving away bundles of free trees to school and community groups across the UK to ensure that everyone has the chance to plant a tree and to help combat climate change. They are currently accepting applications for November delivery - you can find out more on their [website](#).

UnLtd Social Enterprise Grants and Support

Grants and business support are available to social entrepreneurs that are looking to start or grow an existing social venture with up to £15,000 available for existing social enterprises and up to £5,000 for new social enterprises. UnLtd are committed to providing 50% of their awards to Black, Asian and minority ethnic social entrepreneurs, and/or disabled social entrepreneurs. Founders over 16 who are living in the UK are eligible to apply - for more information, see: [UnLtd - Awards | Funding and support to grow your impact |](#)

FUNDING

OFCOM Community Radio funding

A total of £393,816 is available to help support the core costs of running licensed community radio stations. Grants can be awarded to support management, fundraising, admin, community outreach and volunteer organisation. Grants can only be made to community radio licensees in the UK, who are broadcasting under a community radio license. The deadline to apply is **5pm on Friday 10th June**. For more info, please visit: [Community Radio Fund - Ofcom](#)



The Enterprise Development Programme (Black and Minoritised Communities)

Grants of up to £30,000 together with additional capacity building support are available to enable not-for-profit agencies led by and working with Black and minoritised communities to move towards new trading models with the objective of helping them to become more financially resilient. Applicants may also have the ultimate aim of taking on social investment in the future.

This programme is limited to specific areas of the UK, one of which is the South West. **Applications close on 13 June** - it is a two step application process. More information can be found on the [Enterprise Development Programme website](#)

Exeter Community Energy (ECOE) Community Fund Grants

This fund is available for local community groups to apply for financing for projects that help to save energy and/or help to alleviate fuel poverty. ECOE provides the Community Fund to address the twin challenges of Climate Emergency and Social Justice. Proposed projects must have an energy or carbon reduction focus and demonstrate positive community impacts. The amount of the awards is not set in advance however it is likely that this year they will each be between £500 and £1,000 to enable several projects to receive substantial assistance. For more information, visit ECOE's website: <https://www.ecoe.org.uk/ecoe-community-fund/>

The Co-op Local Community Fund

A fund to benefit local communities centred around Co-op Food Stores and funeral homes across the UK or the Isle of Man. [The Co-op Local Community Fund](#) will fund projects that help local communities come together to help those in need by providing access to essentials such as food and community spaces; improving mental wellbeing; helping young people develop new skills and make a difference in their community; or protecting local biodiversity and tackling climate change. **The application deadline for this round has been extended to midnight on the 12th June 2022.**



VOLUNTEERING

We're taking a different approach for this section this month and instead of posting listings, we suggest you have a look at [Exeter Together!](#)

Or, if you would like to know more about adding your own volunteering opportunity to this platform, come along to our free 1 hour Zoom cafes on 7th or 19th July at 11am. More info on page 3

JOB VACANCIES

Community Engagement & Events Leader

Newcourt Community Association

£30,095 Full time based on a 37.5-hour week. Pro Rata for part time employees

For the full job description and contact details, please visit [this page](#)



See you in July for our
next update!

HAVE AN IDEA?

We offer FREE, professional support and training to help Exeter's community organisations to 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

Contact us:

- ✉ info@exeterconnect.org.uk
- 📘 facebook.com/exeterconnect
- 🐦 [@exeter_connect](https://twitter.com/exeter_connect)
- 🌐 exeterconnect.org



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