EXE CARS
Locally Owned
Locally Driven
(01392)
55-55-55
www.exetercars.com

In this edition:
**Anyone for bowls?**
See page 5

**Plus...**
**Page 2** - Bank Holiday Refuse Collections
**Page 3** - IKEA Opening Date
**Page 4** - Council Tax - Who Pays What?
**Page 8-9** - Community News

EXE CARS
Locally Owned
Locally Driven
(01392)
55-55-55
www.exetercars.com

Spring 2018
Exeter Citizen
Exeter City Council

# Happy 150th Birthday RAMM!

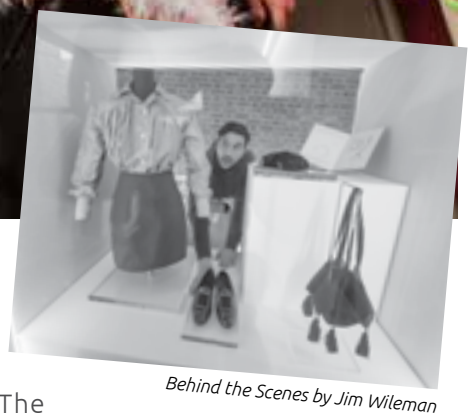
## The Royal Albert Memorial Museum & Art Gallery is celebrating a very special birthday.

150 years ago, a new museum opened in Exeter, known then as the 'Albert Memorial Museum, School of Art and Science and Free Library'. To celebrate, RAMM is recreating some of the events that took place at the time, and has added some new ones too.

The celebrations begin with the 'Carnival of the Animals' on Saturday 21 April. As RAMM takes to the streets of Exeter, there will be large-scale, kinetic animal puppets, music, performances and activities. Everyone is invited to get hands-on at the pop-up museum activities, marvel at the animal puppets and march back to the museum for cake-cutting and entertainment.

'Behind the Scenes at the Museum' is an exhibition by photographer Jim Wileman, who has been capturing some of the museum moments that members of the public don't normally see. RAMM gave Jim a 'backstage pass' to see the delicate conservation work in the labs and see how exhibitions are put together. He went on the roof, watched the meticulous cleaning of the galleries, and visited the museum storage to see some of the many objects which are not currently on display. The exhibition takes place from 20 April to 2 May.

Illustrator Victoria Byron has created a new children's book specially for RAMM. Alfie is a sparrow who sits amongst the other birds in the gallery. One night, when the visitors have all left, something magical happens; the museum comes alive and Alfie goes exploring. 'Alfie's Night Out' will be available from the Shop at RAMM, and the original illustrations will be on display alongside some of Victoria's sketch books in an exhibition from 20 April to 2 September Young visitors can create their own stories with a puppet theatre and explore books that their parents and grandparents might have read when they were young.



*Behind the Scenes by Jim Wileman*

On Sunday 29 April, visitors to the exhibition will be able to join Victoria Byron, the creator of 'Alfie's Night Out', find out how she created her beautiful images and hear passages from the book read by Conor Magee, who wrote the words. The book will be available for purchase with a 20% discount for those attending this launch, and Victoria will be signing copies.

The original opening of the museum was celebrated with a concert, so EMG Symphony Orchestra will be performing the 150th Anniversary Celebration Concert in Exeter Cathedral on Saturday 28 April. The orchestra has specially selected a museum-inspired programme of music including 'Carnival of the Animals' and 'Night at the Museum'.

More information about all the events for RAMM's 150th anniversary celebrations is available at **www.rammuseum.org.uk**

recycle for Exeter **The Latest recycling news for Exeter - centre pages**

# Need to get in contact?

## Customer Service Centre

OPENING HOURS

9am - 5pm
Monday to Friday

## Easter, May and Spring Bank Holiday collection dates

| Easter Bank Holiday 2018 | |
|---|---|
| **Collections Due** | **Will be collected on** |
| Friday 30 March | Saturday 31 March |
| Monday 2 April | Saturday 7 April |
| **Early May Bank Holiday 2018** | |
| **Collections Due** | **Will be collected on** |
| Monday 7 May | Saturday 12 May |
| **Spring Bank Holiday 2018** | |
| **Collections Due** | **Will be collected on** |
| Monday 28 May | Saturday 2 June |

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

## 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.

## Visually impaired

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

## 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 | **204850** | cllr.rosie.denham@exeter.gov.uk |
| L | Heavitree | OLWEN FOGGIN | **660430** | cllr.olwen.foggin@exeter.gov.uk |
| L | Heavitree | GREG SHELDON | **667948** | cllr.greg.sheldon@exeter.gov.uk |
| L | Mincinglake & Whipton | STEPHEN BRIMBLE | **07712 506885** | cllr.stephen.brimble@exeter.gov.uk |
| L | Mincinglake & Whipton | EMMA MORSE | **07564 109503** | cllr.emma.morse@exeter.gov.uk |
| L | Mincinglake & Whipton | PETER 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 |
| C | Pennsylvania | PETER HOLLAND | **437419** | cllr.peter.holland@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 | **431377** | 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 | **07944 478592** | cllr.luke.sills@exeter.gov.uk |
| L | St. Loyes | ROSE ASHWOOD | **07581 451523** | cllr.rose.ashwood@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 | HEATHER MORRIS | **661608** | cllr.heather morris@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 | MARGARET BALDWIN | **874028** | cllr.margaret.baldwin@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 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 Hannah Packham**
Lead Councillor for Place: **Cllr Stephen Brimble**
Lead Councillor for City Transformation, Energy & Transport: **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 Art & Culture: **Cllr Greg Sheldon**
Champion for Communities & Food Recycling: **Cllr Duncan Wood**
Champion for Section 106 Agreements: **Cllr David Harvey**

# OPENING SOON!

## There's much excitement ahead of the anticipated opening of Exeter's IKEA store.

The 29,000 square metre store near Sandy Park is set to open on 1 May, selling its trademark ready-to-assemble furniture, appliances and home accessories.

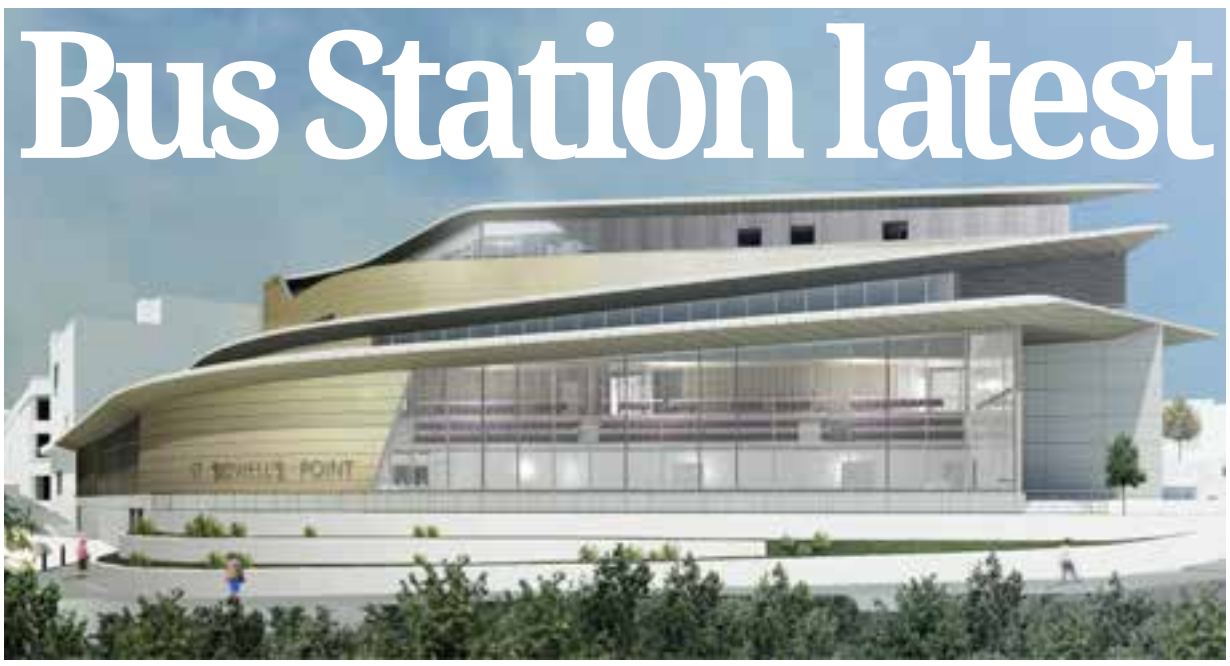
At the moment, fans of the Swedish retailer have to travel to Bristol or Southampton to buy IKEA products or savour the highly popular Swedish meatballs in the customer restaurant. However the wait will soon be over!

Nick Earle, IKEA Exeter Store Manager, said: "We know that there has been much anticipation for IKEA in Exeter and we are incredibly excited that we will open our doors to the city at the beginning of May. Along with my team, I am looking forward to celebrating with the people of Exeter in the run-up to the store's opening, and to welcoming them into store on 1 May."

IKEA is now going through the final stages of its recruitment process, with almost all of the 350 jobs created for the store opening filled. However any future opportunities can be found at **www.ikeacareers.co.uk**

The store will have parking for 1,000 cars and will be a big boost for the local economy.

# Bus Station latest



## Plans to create a new leisure centre and bus station in the city centre have taken a step forward.

Councillors have backed a recommendation to keep the current Exeter Bus Station operating as normal until May.

Proposals to extend the length of time the current station can remain open during work to build its replacement, were backed by the Council's Leisure Complex and Bus Station Programme Board.

Councillors were told that following the decision of developer the Crown Estate to withdraw its plans to create a retail and leisure development at the site, it is now possible to keep the bus station fully open until May 2018.

And a number of bus services may be able to continue operating from the current location throughout the time it takes to build a new station and leisure centre.

Full details of which services will operate from which locations will be revealed shortly.

Cllr Phil Bialyk, lead councillor for the bus station redevelopment, said: "I am very pleased that this long-awaited and much needed project is moving forward.

"These new facilities are desperately needed in Exeter and are long overdue, and everyone is working hard to ensure that they can be delivered. We will do everything we can to minimise disruption to passengers."

The City Council intends to retender for contracts to build the new bus station and leisure centre this spring.

Contractors are expected to be appointed in autumn 2018, with the main construction works starting this winter. The new bus station and leisure centre are expected to open to the public in the winter of 2020.

For regular updates visit **exeter.gov.uk/busstation**

# ELECTIONS

**The city goes to the polls on 3 May to elect 13 City Councillors.**

Elections will take place across all wards in the city.

People need to be on the electoral roll to be able to vote. Anyone who isn't currently on the roll, still has time to get on there but they need to act fast – the deadline is 17 April. To find out how to do this go to **exeter.gov.uk/vote**

Polling stations will be open from 7am until 10pm across the city. To find out where to vote go to **exeter.gov.uk/pollingstations**

# City Council tax one of the lowest in the country

## People in Exeter pay just £2.88 a week for all City Council services and that's considerably less than a pint of beer!

Traditionally setting one of the lowest council tax levels in the country, Exeter City Council is putting up its council tax by just 10p per week (based on a Band D property).

The 3.45% rise is as a result of severe cuts to council funding.

The Council has had to contend with a 6.5% reduction in Government Formula Grant in setting this year's budget on top of previous yearly cuts.

However, the Council is able to set a balanced budget thanks to a combination of efficiency savings and income.

The City Council also collects council tax money on behalf of Devon County Council, the Police and the Fire Service. In fact only 8% of the bill goes to Exeter City Council (see pie chart below).

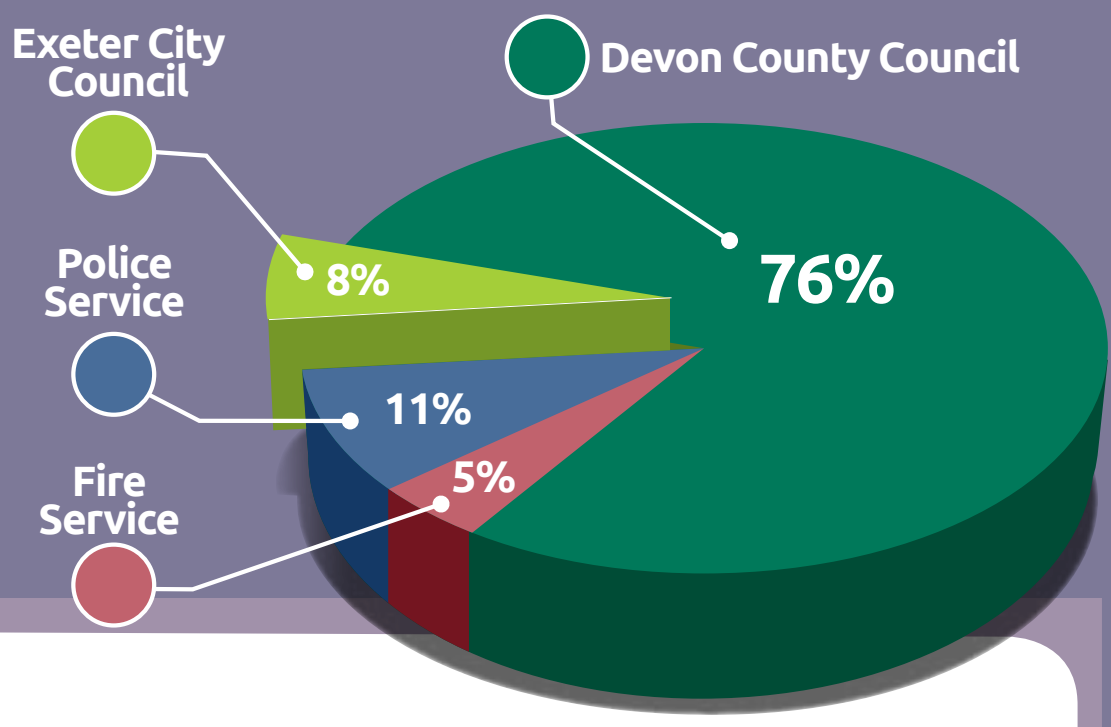
JUST **£2.88** per week **for all ECC services shows value for money**

This is how much you pay for three key services

**WASTE COLLECTION**
£2,153,000
**52p** per week

**STREET CLEANING**
£1,539,000
**37p** per week

**PARKS & GREEN SPACES**
£1,170,000
**28p** per week




| | Exeter | DCC | Police | Fire | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Band A | 100.03 | 887.46 | 125.52 | 56.01 | 1,169.02 |
| Band B | 116.71 | 1,035.37 | 146.44 | 65.34 | 1,363.86 |
| Band C | 133.38 | 1,183.28 | 167.36 | 74.68 | 1,558.70 |
| Band D | 150.05 | 1,331.19 | 188.28 | 84.01 | 1,753.53 |
| Band E | 183.39 | 1,627.01 | 230.12 | 102.68 | 2,143.20 |
| Band F | 216.74 | 1,922.83 | 271.96 | 121.35 | 2,532.88 |
| Band G | 250.08 | 2,218,65 | 313.80 | 140.02 | 2,922.55 |
| Band H | 300.10 | 2,662.38 | 376.56 | 168.02 | 3,507.06 |

# Air Quality Action Plan

## People are being asked to have their say on ways to improve air quality and cut congestion in Exeter.

A public consultation has been launched on the draft Exeter City Council Air Quality Action Plan for 2018-2023, with a survey available online.

The Action Plan contains a wide range of proposals to 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. Businesses will be supported in changing travel habits and reducing emissions.

Proposed measures include:

- Supporting a significant upgrade to public transport provision, including a single ticketing platform where possible, new routes and an enhanced passenger experience
- Supporting significant expansion of car clubs and electric bike hire network
- Incentivising employers to adopt best practice and discourage use of private cars
- Restricting which vehicles can enter certain parts of the city at certain times of the day, potentially with a charge for vehicles that do not meet the relevant criteria, focusing on goods vehicles
- Requiring developers to predict the health costs of vehicle emissions and match this cost with spending on mitigation
- Considering the use of traffic management or access restrictions which make park and ride, public transport or active travel more attractive than driving into the city centre

To find out more and to complete the survey go to **exeter.gov.uk/aqap**

# Bowled Over

## Ever considered bowls as a hobby?

The City Council has four bowling greens across the city. Not only is it great for exercise but also a fantastic way to make new friends.

Belmont Bowling Club Chairman Gordon Brown said: "Bowls is a sport and a pastime that can appeal to all ages and levels of physical condition. Wheelchair players are a common sight on greens, and Belmont members are delighted to have welcomed disadvantaged adults from the Gateway Centre Exeter, on a weekly basis for a number of seasons now, providing a rewarding experience for all concerned."

Bowls appeals to the highly competitive, as well those who prefer to have a casual game with friends and family. It's a simple game to learn and yet can be coached at club to a high level. It gives people a chance to socialise and meet new like-minded individuals, which is imperative for both mental and physical well-being. There are also opportunities to play as an individual, as part of a team of men, women or in mixed teams.

New players will be welcomed to come and try out bowling at Belmont from Monday 23 April from 6pm or contact 01392 422979 for more information.

No kit is needed apart from flat shoes.

For more information go to **exeter.gov.uk/bowls**

# Accessing Services

## It's never been easier to access council services.

New digital technology means people can now interact with and find out about a range of services whilst on the move.

There is a new interactive way to report graffiti.

The new updated system speeds up the reporting of graffiti and fly-tipping and gives the public ongoing progress updates.

Similar systems are now being developed for the reporting of other environmental issues such as overflowing bins and bottle banks, reporting fly-tipping and to book a collection of bulky waste (see page 7).

The City Council cleans off for free any graffiti from private homes provided the owners sign a disclaimer form.

The new system allows for real-time alerts to be sent directly to the clean-up teams, allowing them to prioritise and email customers to inform them that the job is complete. It also includes updated mapping.

Members of the public can take a photograph of graffiti or fly-tipping on their smartphone and via the new system, send it directly to the clean-up teams. Global Positioning Satellites allow the precise location to be pinpointed, allowing crews to clean up the graffiti or pick up the rubbish a lot quicker.

Previously, reports were logged by back-room support staff rather than going straight to the clean-up teams. The new system saves time and money.

The new system also allows the Council to collect data on the tags used by the graffiti artists, which help to identify those responsible, making it easier to catch the offenders and make prosecutions.

People can report graffiti on the new system by going to **exeter.gov.uk/graffitiremoval**

recycle for Exeter

# Recycling Times

## A lighter look at recycling

# Plastic packaging is our bread and butter

### China's plastics ban doesn't affect the city's recycling

If you put the right things in your green bin, we will continue to get them recycled. The income we get from this will be used to support public services in Exeter.

Exeter City Council has been aware of China's stricter requirements for some time.

We export significant amounts of cardboard to a Chinese reprocessor, in ships that would otherwise return to China empty. Our cardboard bales met the new quality specifications already, so we will continue to use these Chinese cardboard markets that provide the greatest value for public services in Exeter.

Much of the plastic we collect gets recycled in the UK, so we do not need to use Chinese markets for it. This is due to our ability to sort plastic packaging into five separate streams: milk bottles, clear bottles, coloured bottles, film/bags, and pots/tubs/trays.

By owning and operating a local Materials Reclamation Facility, we can control the sorting of our own recycling so that we have clean, well-sorted materials to sell on.

China's new restrictions will inevitably have an impact on the recycling industry and some materials will drop in value this year. Price fluctuations have been a feature of the market that we have dealt with for over 20 years, but we have worked hard to gain a good reputation for selling a quality product and consequently we attract a number of different reprocessors bidding to buy our material.

We treat recycling for Exeter very much like a business, working to get the best deal for the people of Exeter.

Our product is renowned for its high quality, and with the hugely appreciated collective effort of Exeter residents and our committed staff we are best placed to continue to get the top prices for it.

Thanks for continuing to support this important service!

# Helping to clean up our sea

Exeter is playing a very important part in keeping the oceans and beaches in the South West clear of plastic.

BeachCare (a Keep Britain Tidy programme) and Fathoms Free, a group of volunteer divers and sea conservationists, collect discarded marine and beach plastic and send it to Exeter City Council's Materials Reclamation Facility, where it is sorted, batched-up and sent for recycling.

This partnership not only helps rid the sea and beaches of unwanted and damaging materials, but also helps keep council tax bills down by raising much needed revenue from the sale of recycled plastic.

Fathoms Free are even using the marine plastics to create kayaks that volunteers can then use to paddle in rivers and coves to collect more discarded plastic.

Neil Hembrow, BeachCare Manager, said: "For many years we have been looking for a solution for the marine waste we collect on our beach cleans. We believe these are important steps and hope this innovative programme will empower volunteer beach cleans in the South West."

# 'Tis the (garden waste) season

## Let us do the dirty work!

Hire a brown bin and we'll collect your garden bin fortnightly between February and mid-December - no messing!

Garden waste is turned into compost by a local processor and is used by local farms to give Devon's crops an organic boost.

If you don't have enough room for an extra bin (or a big enough garden to warrant hiring one), you can buy ECC garden waste sacks from the Civic Centre in town. You get five bags for £10, which covers the cost of collection and disposal of the waste.

Remember, we can't take garden waste in the green or grey bins.

**You can hire a brown bin by visiting:**
**exeter.gov.uk/gardenwaste**
**Fortnightly collections between February and early December.**
**12 months' hire: 240 litre bin: £46 140 litre bin: £35**

# Bulky waste

Devon County Council's recycling centres on Exton Road (Marsh Barton) and Pinbrook Road (behind Pinhoe Aldi) can take many bulky household items for recycling, free of charge.

However, fitting a fridge-freezer in a small hatchback will prove difficult. That's where we can help.

For a small charge, we can collect your bulky items and take them to the recycling centre.

Prices start at £21 for one item from the kerbside of your property. Each additional item is only £10.

Extra charges apply for tyres, certain types of home-improvement waste (such as plastic doors and windows, shower screens, baths and shower trays, plastic pipes, insulation materials, roofing felt, tiles) and soil/rubble.

Call us on 01392 265010 to book a collection, or visit **exeter.gov.uk/specialcollections** for more details.

# New carton recycling banks for the city

We're excited to announce that five new orange recycling banks for cartons and coffee cups are now in situ at recycling points around the city!

We hope these banks will provide people with the opportunity to recycle their cartons, which can't currently be taken in the home green bin.

Cartons are made of waxed card and a plastic liner, and require special processing. To keep our card quality high enough to get best price from the markets, we need to keep cartons out of the green bin.

Just as exciting, these banks can also be filled with disposable coffee cups!

The new carton recycling banks are at the following locations:

**1** Bampfylde Street car park (behind the bus station)

**2** Arena Park car park recycling site

**3** Holman Way car park (Topsham)

**4** Heavitree Pleasure Ground recycling site

**5** Exton Road (Marsh Barton, outside the recycling centre)

These are in addition to the two existing carton and coffee cup banks:

**1** Sainsbury's, Pinhoe Road

**2** Cowley Bridge Road layby

**The new banks are in 'situ' at convenient sites around the city**

**Bins out by 6am on collection day but not before 6pm the night before**

And remember to bring them back in as soon as you get home!

# Community NEWS

# Staying safe in your home

Every year, thousands of people within the UK experience a fire in the home. Tragically, many of these result in injury or even death.

The damage caused can have devastating consequences. A large number of fires could have been prevented if potential hazards were identified and eliminated and people had a plan in case of an emergency.

To assist with this, Devon and Somerset Fire & Rescue Service offer a programme of free 'Home Fire Safety Checks'. The check takes no longer than five minutes, after which a home fire safety visit may be offered.

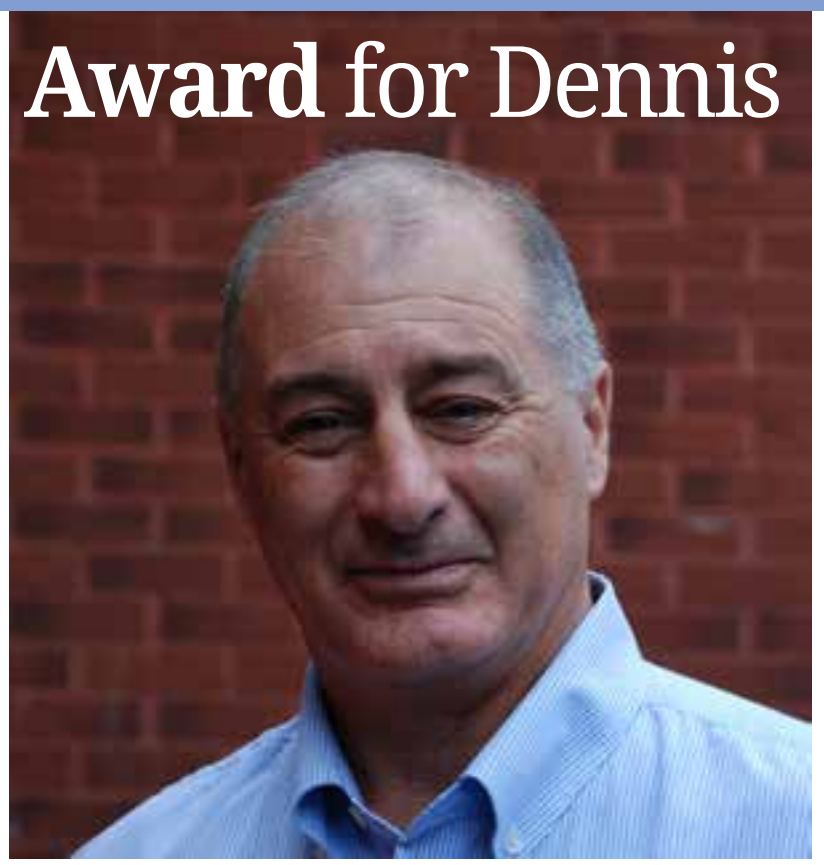
Home Fire Safety visits can sound daunting to many people, especially the elderly. They involve a DSFRS employee visiting the home and offering advice and guidance.

They will also assist with the development of an escape plan in the event of a fire. Visits are free of charge and should take around 45 minutes.

They are offered to those who are at greater risk of fire, such as older people, those living alone and individuals with mobility, vision and hearing impairment, mental health services users and those liable to intoxication through alcohol/drug use. A combination of these factors will significantly increase the risk of fire. People may also qualify to have a free smoke alarm fitted.

To arrange a visit contact **0800 0502 999**. All Fire and Rescue personnel who visit will carry photo identification. Please ensure you ask to see it.

# Award for Dennis



Big-hearted Dennis Mardon has won recognition for the good work he carries out in the communities, and for his charity leadership.

Dennis, who is Chair of leading local advice charity, Citizens Advice Exeter, received the 2017 annual Hazel Ball volunteer of the year award. The charity supports people with money and debt problems, and employment and housing problems.

The award is named after Hazel Ball (pictured right), who was on the Charity's Board and a staunch supporter of CAB. Hazel sadly passed away in 2015.

Dennis was recognised for his contribution as chair of the charity's trustee board, and for his dedication to the work of the charity, which helps so many people through everyday life.

Dennis said: "To say I was completely shocked is putting it mildly. This was totally unexpected and was very touching for me. Hazel was a very special person and a colleague and friend for many years and to receive this honour from her family is very special for me."

# Help make a difference

"Reach out and make a difference in your community" – that's the message from the Neighbourhood Friends service.

The service is currently recruiting people in Exeter to join their team of extraordinary volunteers, who since the launch of the initiative in 2014, have given over 10,000 hours of their time to help older and vulnerable people living in their communities.

Co-ordinated by local charity, Westbank Community Health & Care, the service helps people who have either been discharged from hospital and need extra support to settle back home, or those who live independently at home and are in need of support.

To date the service has helped more than 2,000 people living in the Exeter area. Lucy de Garis, of Westbank, said: "The service has really highlighted how small amounts of time can make such a big difference to people's lives. A volunteer visiting someone at home following a stay in hospital, to turn the heating on, to do some shopping or just to sit and have a cup of tea makes the world of difference to someone who lives alone and has no family or friends to support them, at what can be a very anxious time."

To find out more about helping, call **01392 824752**, email **neighbourhoodfriends@westbank.org.uk** or go to **www.westbank.org.uk**

# Reaching Out

Families of children with special needs in Exeter are celebrating after being awarded a £7,000 grant from the Grass Roots Fund.

The Exeter Parent Carer Network which runs a weekly drop-in café for parent carers, will now be able to put on more group sessions for local families.

The money comes from the Grass Roots Fund – cash raised through developments like IKEA.

Charlie Gray, who founded the café with fellow parent carer Stacey Hallet, said the money would support many families who have children with additional needs.

"Our weekly drop-in café is already proving very popular. It's free to attend and is an excellent support network for parent carers. We're also looking to set up a sibling's peer group so that brothers and sisters of children with additional needs have a supportive environment in which they can be themselves and meet other children that face similar isolation and have an understanding of their family life and the difficulties they face."

The group also want to work with local schools and groups to provide a better understanding of the issues faced by children and their families. Thay are keen to establish a lending library of relevant literature, as well as sensory play and stay sessions.

"More than 16% of children in Devon have special educational needs, which is higher than the national average," said Charlie, "therefore the demand on services is greater in this area, which makes this grant all the more welcome. We are incredibly grateful!"

The Exeter Parent Carer Café runs every Tuesday and Thursday from 10am to 12 noon at the Phoenix Community Café next to Wonford Sports Centre. For more information visit the Facebook page **www.facebook.com/exeterparentcarercafe** or the website **www.exeterparentcarer.co.uk**

# FLOWING DOWN THE EXE

A new orchard has been planted alongside the River Exe, as part of the Environment Agency's Exeter Flood Defence Scheme.

More than 250 people turned out to plant the young trees, stretching from Exwick to Countess Wear in the Riverside Valley Park.

Thirty-five different varieties of fruit and nut will, in time, produce beautiful flowers, nectar for pollinating insects and free food in a flowing ribbon alongside the river.

Local artist Anne-Marie Culhane worked with people from Exwick and St Thomas and the Environment Agency to design the orchard. Collaborating artist Amy Shelton mounted blossom to creat miniatures of great beauty.

The involvement of the artists was commissioned by Simon Bates, who leads on the enhancement of green space for the Exeter and East Devon Growth Point.

During a tree planting in January, there were stories from Heather Cole and people made bird feeders with Devon Wildlife Trust. Musician Emma Welton wrote the 'Exeter Wassail', which was sung by the Exwick Singers and others around a log fire in the orchard.

More improvements underway, include the construction of four timber benches, and a mobile shelter.

For details of more events, follow Facebook **@ExeterValleyParks**, email **floworchardexe@gmail.com** or call Simon Bates 07875 280540

# Budding Friends

People suffering from dementia have been getting involved in an art project.

Budding Friends is an initiative supported by Age UK Exeter and Veronica Gosling, a local artist. The group meet at Veronica's Studio 36 in Newtown and collaborated to create a six-foot-long piece of art to express thoughts, feelings and visions using colour, text and collage. An exhibition of their work will be opened on 4 May by Ben Bradshaw MP and runs from 5 to 31 May at the Barnfield Theatre Front of House Gallery (10am to 4pm weekdays, 10am to 2pm Saturday). Entry to the exhibition is free.

# CALLING ALL SPORTS FANS

A special social group designed to encourage men over 50 to come together and talk about sports and memorabilia has been launched in Exeter.

The weekly group, held at the Grecian Centre at Exeter City's stadium, aims to offer a welcoming and friendly environment for older men to mix and mingle with others who share a common bond of sport.

Participants can talk about their favourite sporting memories, or bring along their collections of programmes, photos or other memorabilia.

Organisers from the University of Exeter and the Exeter City Community Trust are also on hand with more memorabilia. The group also enjoy walks around the St James' Park stadium and games such as indoor bowls.

The sessions are run every Wednesday from 9.30am to 11.30am For more information call Peter Ferlie on **01392 255611** or email **peter.ferlie@ecfc.co.uk**

# Riverside Report

## Work is continuing to get the fire-damaged Riverside Leisure Centre fully operational again.

The Council is doing everything possible to get the swimming pool back in use by September at the latest.

The leisure complex was badly ravaged by fire last year, causing massive damage to the structure. Councillors have been given a tour of the building to see the progress of the repair project and were told about the complexities of the work involved, given the unusual design and structure of the building and the hidden smoke damage.

Whilst the sports hall, gym and fitness studios have reopened to the public, the pool and health suite remain closed.

A spokesman for the Council said: "The severity of the fire has made a quick fix impossible due to the extensive damage and the complexities of the building.

"Unfortunately these things take time but we are doing everything possible to speed up the works and get the pool and health suite open as soon as we can."

*The pool as it was before the blaze. Above and right, the fire damaged health suite.*

# Booming in Exeter

## Exeter had the tenth highest growth in private sector jobs in the UK last year, a new report has revealed.

The Centre for Cities Outlook 2018 report shows an increase of 3,000 jobs in Exeter – a 5.1% rise on the previous year.

The highly-regarded report also tracks Exeter as the second fastest growing city by population in the UK, with only Coventry ahead of the South West capital.

Cities Outlook 2018 is an annual health check of the 63 largest cities in the UK with a focus on the impact of increasing automation.

The report shows Exeter as a leading economic force in the UK, punching above its weight and up there among the leading cities in the UK for economic growth. All in all, positive news and confirmation that the city is moving in the right direction.

Exeter's low unemployment rate is also highlighted in the report, with the city listed as the 5th lowest in the entire UK.

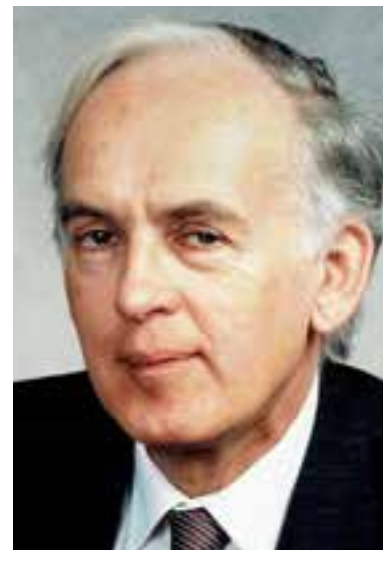
Exeter is also singled out for:

- Being one of only seven cities where emissions have reduced by 10 per cent
- Having the fifth lowest benefit claimant counts: 0.9%
- Being well qualified: 43% of Exeter's population have high-level academic qualifications and the city is the second lowest for having no formal qualifications

Business leaders recognise that for Exeter to thrive it's vitally important that the city keeps growing and attracts big companies down to the south west, bringing jobs and prosperity to the area.

The report can be found at **www.centreforcities.org/publication/cities-outlook-2018/**

# Popular Councillor Passes Away



**A former councillor who amassed a total of 50 years combined service on both Exeter City and Devon County Councils has died.**

David Morrish passed away recently at a nursing home in Exeter. He was 86 years old.

David served as a City Councillor for Heavitree. He held a variety of roles and sat on a number of committees during his time as councillor. In 2011, David was made a Freeman of the City.

# Station Road Closure

## Station Road is set to close for nine weeks to allow vital work to be carried out on the Exeter Flood Defence Scheme.

The road, which crosses the River Exe near St David's Station and links Exwick Road to Cowley Bridge Road, will shut on 9 April.

Construction of the flood defences is now well advanced with completion of the whole scheme expected at the end of the year. The scheme is a partnership between the Environment Agency, Devon County Council and Exeter City Council. The scheme will reduce the risk of flooding to more than 3,200 homes and businesses in Exeter.

Two flood gates will be built across Station Road on either side of the river and the flood relief channel. When not in use, the gates will sit behind the footpaths. When a flood is expected the gates will be closed, thereby completing the flood defences and protecting the properties on each side of the river.

*Example of a flood gate*

It is necessary to close Station Road to vehicles during the construction work due to the size of the foundations required to support the gates. Pedestrians and cyclists will be able use the footpaths across the bridges except for the four weekends in May when complete closures will be in place.

Every effort will be made to minimise disruption during the closure of Station Road, but the long-term benefits will outweigh the short term inconvenience.

The Environment Agency and Network Rail have co-ordinated their work so that Network Rail will undertake essential maintenance work on their level crossing during this time to avoid the need for a separate closure at a future date.

People can also see the latest information by visiting Gov.uk and searching for 'Exeter Flood Defence Scheme'

Throughout the works, detailed traffic and pedestrian diversion signage will be erected to direct people around the closures.

For information regarding the diversion routes or works, call the FDS Information Line on 07769 162338.

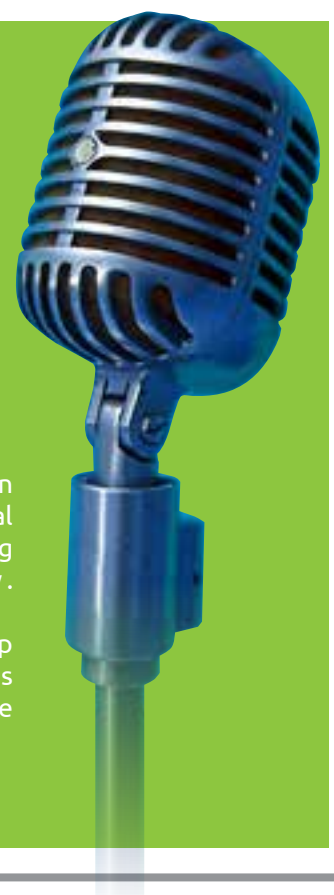
*This is how Station Road will look after the works, with timber-clad floodgates and stone-clad housing on either side of the road, a raised stone-clad floodwall on far side of the car park to the left and raised earth flood embankment to the right.*

# A VOICE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

## Watch out…it's coming soon! The City Council is working closely with young people in the city to help develop 'Exeter Youth Voice'.

As the Citizen went to press, the Council was in the process of appointing a creative agency to help facilitate a series of sessions with young people. The work will build on a consultation taking in the views of 600 young people, where a range of issues were identified that young people said were important to help. These included things to do and places to go, as well as protection from bullying and violence, mental health support and a young people-friendly economy.

Exeter Youth Voice project will help ensure that young people's voices are heard and can influence future plans for the city.



# ramm

## What's On

150 YEARS

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

VisitEngland QUALITY ASSURED VISITOR ATTRACTION

**Carnival of the Animals**

**Sat 21 Apr, 11.30am to 6pm**

Join the party as RAMM starts the 150th anniversary celebrations with a city-centre spectacle.

**Dartmoor: A Wild and Wondrous Region**

**Until 1 Apr**

Dartmoor has inspired artists like JMW Turner, for generations. This exhibition traces the artistic transformation of Dartmoor from a dreary tract to the picturesque.

**George Shaw: My Back to Nature**

**Until 8 Apr**

Turner Prize nominee exhibits work created in residence at the National Portrait Gallery, London, alongside works that inspired him by Nicolas Poussin and Piero del Pollaiuolo.

**What do you Collect? Exeter Pride**

**10 Apr to 1 Jul**

A decade of change and progress: Memorabilia from the city's annual celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) communities.

**Alfie's Night Out**

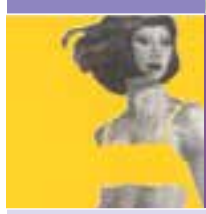
**20 Apr to 2 Sep**

See how the museum was brought to life by illustrator Victoria Byron for RAMM's 150th anniversary children's book.

**Reopening of World Cultures galleries**

**1 May**

Fresher, brighter, lighter and even more engaging, the refurbished galleries have a new family area and will re-open as part of RAMM's 150th anniversary celebrations.



**Pop Art in Print**

**12 May to 26 Aug**

Vibrant, sexy and very much of the moment, Pop Art reflected a fascination with the iconic status of celebrities and brands.

Exhibition organised by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

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

# Get Active

## Exeter and Cranbrook are celebrating after being chosen to trail-blaze new ways of getting people active for life.

Sport England has confirmed that Exeter and Cranbrook are one of only 12 places selected to work on a ground-breaking new approach to tackle inactivity in communities.

Around £100million of National Lottery funding will be invested in 12 pilot areas over four years, to create innovative partnerships that make it easier for people in to access sport and physical activity.

Research shows that around 11.5 million people are inactive, doing less than 30 minutes of moderate physical activity each week. In Exeter, people are already more physically active than the national average but certain groups such as those in lower paid jobs, women and disabled people are less likely to be physically active in their everyday lives.

Two years ago, Exeter became the most active city in the South West and now wants to become the most active city in England.

Is your conservatory too cold in Winter?

CHANGE THE ROOF!

Use your conservatory 365 days a year!

Roofworx are the South West leaders in conservatory to sunroom conversions. Transform your tired old conservatory into a fully insulated sunroom that can be used **ALL YEAR ROUND! GUARANTEED!!!**

upto 85% HEAT RETAINED IN WINTER ROOFWORX SW

75% REDUCTION IN SUMMER HEAT ROOFWORX SW

Before

QUOTE OVER THE PHONE
We don't need to come to your home, we just need a couple of photos or we will use google earth.
It's that *Easy!*

SupaLite TILED ROOF SYSTEM
25 year product GUARANTEE

FREEPHONE
0800 246 5618
roofworx
cosy in winter & cooler in the summer
www.roofworxsw.co.uk

NEVER BEATEN ON PRICE!!!

We will beat any like for like quote by at least 20%
*That's our Guarantee to you!*


Exeter City Council

Exeter City Council, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter EX1 1JN
Tel: 01392 277888 exeter.gov.uk

The Exeter Citizen is published by Exeter City Council and printed on paper made from sustainably managed forests and controlled sources.
When you have finished with this copy please dispose of it through the paper recycling facilities in the city.
Design & production by JJC Design Limited **jjcdesign.co.uk**

PEFC