

ABOUT St James

A joint publication by Exeter St James Forum & Exeter St James Community Trust distributed to all households in St James Issue 9 May 2019

DELIVERING THE NEWS AND STORIES AROUND AND ABOUT OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

University End of Term Preparation

As final exams finish and term three draws to an end, many students will be celebrating the end of the year. The University appreciates that this often means socialising at home and in the city centre so they have been communicating with students via email and social media about respecting neighbours and consulting the community guide prior to arranging any gatherings likely to generate noise.

If you encounter any serious noise disturbances from a student address (and direct contact isn't possible) please call **Estate Patrol on 01392 723999**. EP should be able to investigate, pending on-campus emergencies. EP will also report address details to Rory Cunningham, the University Community Liaison Officer, for follow-up contact.



Rory Cunningham

Refuse and Litter:

■ The 'Students on the Move' scheme begins on **Monday 3rd June and finishes on July 26th**. The scheme provides a range of additional, University-paid refuse collections for students every Monday and Friday. Normal collections occur mid-week as usual.

■ If you spot any waste that appears to have been left out on the wrong day, it may have been placed outside deliberately as part of the subsidised scheme. If you have any queries about an address, feel free to pass their details to Rory and he can check if they are on the collection rota.

■ The scheme also pays for two community clear-up days for 12 streets in the St James Ward. These will occur on 8th June and 20th July. Participating streets will receive an information leaflet closer to the time.

■ A limited number of food, bulky and glass collections are also available through the Students on the Move scheme.

■ The University is circulating British Heart Foundation collection bags inside the moving out packs this year for the first time and a series of temporary recycling banks are being placed in key areas of the city. This is a new trial and it is hoped that the sites are well used.

Rory is happy to receive feedback about any addresses that you have concerns about on r.j.cunningham@ex.ac.uk / 01392 723721

Planning Enforcement Review

Planning systems exist to control the development and use of land in the public interest but this can only be achieved if planning controls are enforced.

Whilst the Council expects landowners and developers to comply with planning laws and not carry out development until the necessary planning permission has been obtained this is not always the case. Here in St James - where our Neighbourhood Plan dictates that all development should be sustainable, appropriate and sympathetic to the local heritage - we are aware of a number of breaches of planning control.

The Forum was therefore pleased to be consulted last summer by the Council's review of its City Development Enforcement Plan. Critical of the current position we eagerly await the outcome of consultation and hope the redrafted document will present a much more pro-active and robust policy sufficient to deter individuals and developers from forming the view that they will still be able to "get away with it".

POTHoles BEWARE ANSWERS: Photo 1 Howell Road Photo 2 Velwell Road Photo 3 Highcross Road Photo 4 Edgerton Park Road

PARKING PERMITS

Residents will be familiar with the long term issues surrounding abuse of the residents' parking permit scheme. Abuses include students and drivers from outside the area obtaining permits by deception, and business owners using business permits for long stay commuter parking.

There have been several incidents of residents being asked if their address can be used (falsely) on a parking permit application, and unfortunately some have agreed, thus depriving a genuine neighbour of a parking place. However friendly and approachable these people are, please don't assist them, as you will be complicit in the deceit.

If you suspect any abuse, please contact Devon County Council using its dedicated email address parkingservices@devon.gov.uk

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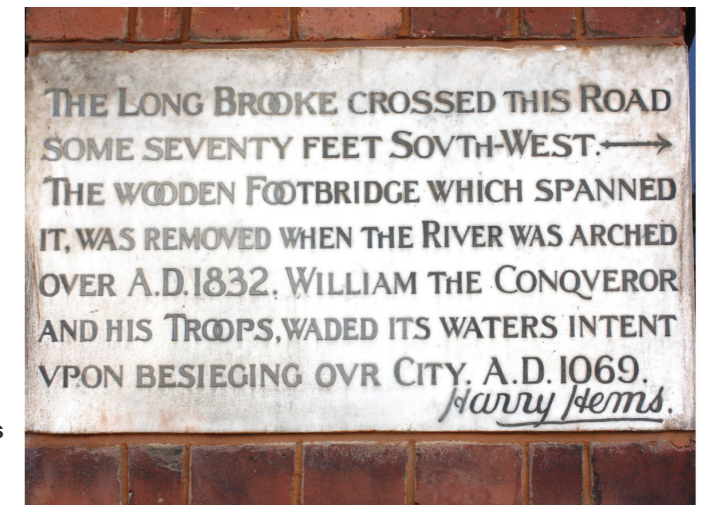
EXETER ST JAMES COMMUNITY TRUST LTD
a shared interest

Stepping Back in Time – Musing in Queen's Crescent Garden

Have you ever wandered through the Garden and paused to experience the surprising tranquility amidst this busy part of Exeter? Have you ever wondered when this precious space was first laid out as a pleasure garden, and what it would have been like before that time?

It was at the very end of the 19th century that the garden first took shape, along with the residential development of two large sloping fields that stretched back as far as Church Lane, now King William Street. The fields were part of the select Hill's Court of which, in 1805, the historian Alexander Jenkins noted, 'in this hamlet are several genteel houses, with good gardens, in a pleasant retired situation, free from the noise and smoke of the city, yet almost contiguous to it; this place is termed Hill's Court, from a knightly family of that name who formerly had a spacious mansion there, and in which they lived with great splendor'

A major feature at this lower end of the fields during previous centuries would have been a sparkling stream, the Longbrook, that originated in the area later developed as Prospect Park. It would no doubt have provided here opportunity for recreation, for bathing as well as for laundry, before it skirted Northernhay and descended the steep wooded Longbrook Valley eventually joining the River near the present-day Mill on the Exe.



But go back to 1068 (or 1069 according to Harry Hems' plaque above Harry's Restaurant) and this peaceful pastoral scene would have witnessed a quite extraordinary event. Imagine 500 soldiers on horseback led by King William the Conqueror pouring through this place heading down to the lowest point in Longbrook Street where the Longbrook could be forded, allowing access for William to Eastgate from where he would besiege the City!

As the rural outskirts of the City were swallowed up with periods of rapid population growth, the sparkling waters of the Longbrook inevitably changed, too. In 1832 when cholera came to the City, it was to the then open sewer of the Longbrook that the finger of blame for the spread was pointed, and so it was that in 1843 it was channelled underground in a brick culvert for its entire length. Try as we may, as we pause in QCG today, to hear the rushing of the water thus concealed beneath the turf, we shall need to leave the pleasant gurgling of the Longbrook of yore to our imaginations!

Clock Tower Hotel –

disappointment as conversion to student accommodation given green light

As reported in the last issue of About St James, Exeter College was seeking permission to convert Clock Tower Hotel in New North Road to accommodation for up to 25 students.

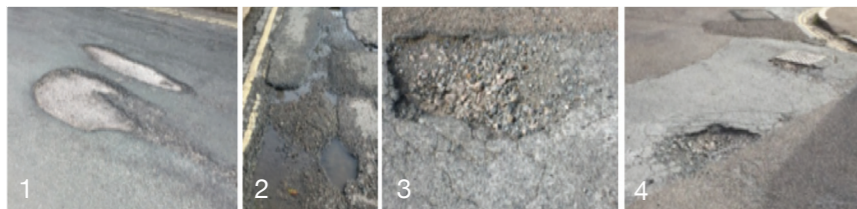
The Forum would like to thank those members who joined many other individuals in submitting comments, a total of over 50 objections and only one offering support. This degree of response ensured that the application was taken to Planning Committee where Forum Chair Anne Jobson, Cllrs. Mitchell and Owen all elected to speak against the application. No opportunity was allowed for Members to question those who spoke and a request turned down to seek a deferral, at least until the fire safety report had been made available. Cllr. Prowse who sits on Planning Committee, voted against the application but sadly it was approved by 8 votes to 3. The College may be sure that local residents will remain vigilant, quick to spot any deviation from the claims put forward by the College in support of its application.



POTHoles BEWARE!

Can you spot these examples from around St James?

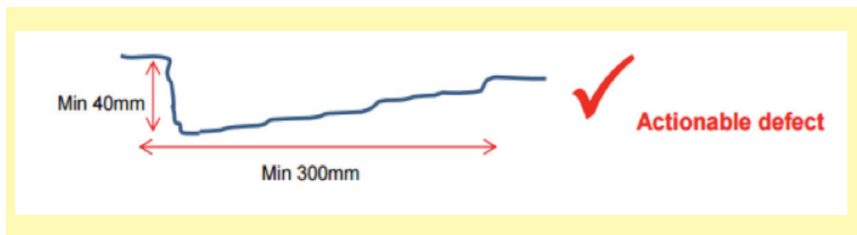
(answers on the back page)



You can now report potholes direct to Devon County Council online at: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/report-a-pothole/>

Please note only those potholes deeper than 40mm, wider than 300mm and with a vertical edge will be repaired.

An interactive map allows you to pinpoint the exact location of the pothole and you can upload photos of it and elect to receive automated updates about the pothole too.



Queen's Crescent Garden Project Update

The community's Masterplan of 2014 has been undergoing further fine-tuning to accommodate various constraints that have only emerged as a result of the detailed surveys commissioned since the Trust signed the Lease. We are grateful to local resident landscape architect, Frazer Osment, who has donated his professional expertise, and not a few hours, to tweaking the design accordingly. Thanks, too, to St James' business, Sands Consultants, Civil and Structural Chartered Engineers, for pro bono help with mapping underground services, liaising on our behalf and providing advice.

As this issue of About St James goes to press further consultations with South West Water and Devon County Council are taking place, and we hope to be able to reveal, very soon, the detailed plans for the final entrance, the internal paths, curved seating and performance area, for which planning consent will then be sought.

The continued support of our City Councillors, Kevin Mitchell, Keith Owen and Percy Prowse, most recently with a ward grant towards the tree works, is greatly appreciated. In their capacity as County Councillors, Percy Prowse and Su Aves have each also approved a very welcome £2,000 Investing in Devon grant towards the boundary wall work.

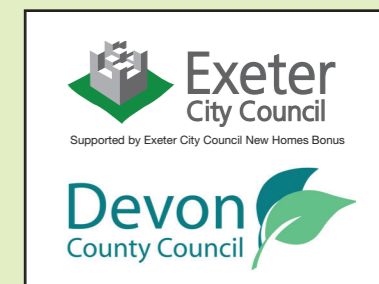


More volunteers come forward – but we'd encourage even more!

The Trust's QCG Project Team is delighted that new volunteers have come forward to join the rotas for mowing the grass and for regular litter-picking. Would you be able to offer to help either as part of a rota – the more volunteers the less frequently each will be rostered! - or to be called on for an occasional working party? Volunteers must be covered by public liability insurance and this is secured through membership either of the Forum and/or the Trust. We would love to hear from individuals or local businesses / organisations to discuss opportunities to get involved.

Keep our Community Garden Safe, Clean and Tidy!

It is pleasing that so many people who use the Garden (and we look forward to more and more local residents and workers enjoying what it has to offer) are showing increasing respect for the garden and for others by taking their litter home or placing it in the council bins provided on the pavements outside the boundary. However, the fact that we need volunteers to litter-pick indicates that currently not everyone is doing so. Please play your part in making the litter-pickers redundant! We understand that a false message is being spread that the bins are not to be used for litter from the Garden. The Trust Directors can confirm that such use of bins was negotiated with Exeter City Council as part of the lease agreement, and in fact, once the third new entrance is created, the Council will provide a new bin at each entrance to be used for litter and dog waste.



A Date for your Diaries – Community Fun Day

Plans are afoot for this summer's event bringing together people young and not-so-young for another day of community fun at **Queen's Crescent Garden**. Do come along on **Saturday 6 July** to meet friends old and new, and support the work of the Trust and Forum. We would encourage you once again to donate cakes and plants, and also to get in touch if you would be willing to help with the advance organisation or on the day, or have an idea for a stall, competition or display - info@exeterstjamesforum.org.

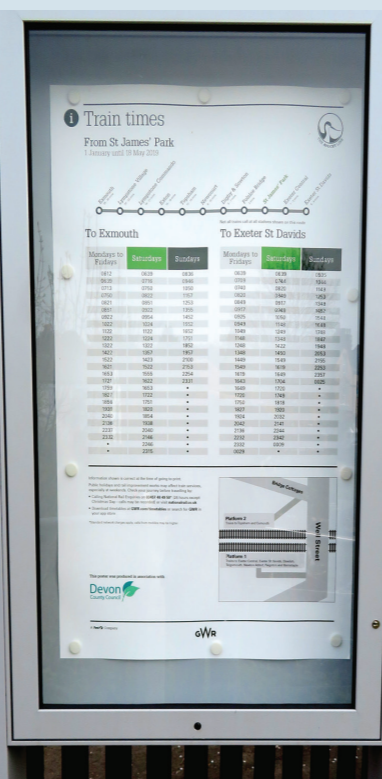
Station Improvements

St James' Park station in Well Street next to the football ground has had some improvements over the past few years. New fencing has been installed and volunteers look after planting and keep the plants tidy at the station. The shelters have been improved and solar powered illuminated poster cases have been installed thanks to funding raised by the Avocet Line Rail User Group (ALRUG). The poster cases make timetables easier to read in the dark and last autumn they won a National Community Rail Award for innovation.

Trains from the station run hourly to and from Exmouth, Dawlish, Teignmouth and Paignton, ideal to visit the seaside, go for a walk or to explore Topsham or Newton Abbot. The trains run beside the coast making a trip worth it for the views alone. Why not give it a try?

ALRUG has achieved other improvements along the Avocet line from Exmouth to Exeter, including more trains on Sundays. Membership of the group is only £5 per year –

find out more at www.avocetline.org.uk



A MESSAGE FROM EXETER MOSQUE

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can do that.”

The famous words of Martin Luther King Jr. are a testament to humanity. We are faced today with senseless killings in sacred places of worship. That our fellow humans can stoop to such levels is a sickening thought. Hatred has taken many forms but the attacks in Christchurch, New Zealand and the more recent attacks in Sri Lanka have shaken us to the core.

Whilst these atrocities have overshadowed the headlines, there remains a beacon of hope that shines across some unlikely places; that light reaches far and wide. Exeter Mosque has been humbled to be supported by a group of 'vigil keepers' from a wide range of backgrounds who have been standing in solidarity with our diverse but small and vulnerable Muslim community following the NZ attacks.

This short piece is submitted as a means of thanking those who have expressed their love of all humanity by demonstrating support for our Muslim friends and neighbours during the recent vigil held outside Exeter Mosque.