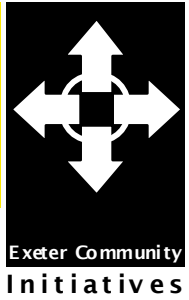


Exeter Community Initiatives

Newsletter Winter 2010



ECI in numbers

From July to Sept 2010.....

Beacon Heath's Apple Day celebration was attended by **114** local residents

13 community groups and **2** organisations were provided with infrastructure support, and

5 networks facilitated, by ECI projects

32 volunteers gave **413** hours of help across all our projects

147 people registered with Harvest and **118** Incredible Edible Minigardens were distributed

LATEST NEWS

Projects

- We said our **farewells to the PORCH project** which has been taken over by St. Petrock's
- We have **secured further funding** for Exeter Parenting Co-ordination to cover East & Mid Devon areas
- **Beacon Heath celebrated Apple Day** in the Community Orchard on 9th October with a range of outdoor activities for all the family
- The **Harvest Project was officially launched** at St Sidwell's Centre on September 25th
- We have launched **our new Share Scheme.**

Staffing & Trustees

- Alistair Macintosh, our **Director is on 6 months' adoption leave and**
- Matt Bell is now Acting Director
- We **welcome two new trustees**, Richard Clack and Adnan Al-Daini
- Richard will be taking over Jane Allen's role as our **new Treasurer**
- We say **goodbye and thank you to Hazel Stock**, Finance and Admin Manager who is enjoying her well-earned retirement
- And **welcome Gail Riley** as the new Finance and Admin Manager

For more information



Flying Start Children's Centre 01392 666224

Other Projects and General Enquiries 01392 205800



14 York Road, Exeter EX4 6BA



info@eci.org.uk



www.eci.org.uk

Charity No: 1026229
Company No: 2844870

Beacon Heath Community Project

Once again Community Worker Eve Malster organized an event to celebrate Apple Day in Beacon Heath. It was held at Mincinglake Community Orchard, which Eve has helped to develop into a much used community space in Beacon Heath. The event was a great success, with over 100 residents and their families attending. There were various activities organized such as campfire cookery, bush craft and storytelling, arts and crafts, apple pressing and apple tasting, gardening advice stalls, children's games, live music, tug 'o' war and more! There were also many delicious home-cooked apple treats available, ranging from jams and chutneys to drinks and cakes, most of which were made by Beacon Heath residents. The event couldn't have gone ahead without the help of many local volunteers who we say a big thank you to. Eve is hoping to continue the tradition and we hope to see more people from



Community Hubs

Over the past few months the Community Hubs project has really been taking off. The project has talked to 18 different Community & Residents' Associations and we have our first three Community Hubs for Year 1 of the project. These are Alphington Community Centre & Village Hall (Alphington Community Association), St Sidwell's Centre and Belmont Hut (Newtown Community Association).

We will be working with these groups to develop new projects, undertake community consultations, review their governance, help make the best use of their community spaces and more. They will also be looking to undertake the Hallmark Quality Assurance

Scheme to show how well these community facilities are used and celebrate the hard work undertaken by the voluntary management committees.

In response to demand we will be running a training session around 'Roles & Responsibilities of Trustees' in January 2011 for anyone involved in our Community & Residents' Associations Network. The Network also gives groups an opportunity to share success, gain support and ideas from each other and keep up to date with what is happening in the city. Groups can also contact the Community Hubs project at any time if they need support or wish to attend a network meeting. Ring Alex Howarth on

Flying Start Children's Centre

Flying Start's Community Development team are setting up a Community Network for Toddler Groups, at which group leaders and committee members can share ideas and experiences, receive support from Flying Start and access training opportunities. The first meeting takes place at Kingfisher House on Tuesday 14th December, at 11 am. Contact Becci Daniels on 01392 666224 for more details.

The re-launch of our Young Parents' Group, Little Angelz, took place at Belmont Hut on 4th November. It was a great success and now meets regularly at 1:30 on Thursdays in Belmont Hut.

"Little Angelz is an ideal place for your children to let off steam and make new friends. You can get help with any worries you may have too"
Little Angelz group member

Harvest

On a sunny afternoon back in September Harvest was formally launched by Alistair Macintosh and ECI Trustee Rev Tom Honey. The launch party was a wonderful celebration of all things grow-your-own. The main focus of the event was a produce swap, where visitors were encouraged to bring along anything they had grown, picked, pickled, preserved or baked, and swap for produce



from other growers. The produce swap was so well received that the Harvest team are planning monthly events to take place throughout the growing season in 2011.

The event also saw the launch of the next phase of Harvest. Exeter Garden Match is a garden share scheme, where people with space to spare in their gardens are matched with people who would like to grow food but don't have a garden or allotment. We hope to announce the first matches soon. Autumn has seen the foundation of the Grow-Your-Own Network, providing a forum for growers to get together socially, sharing food as well as skills, knowledge and information about food growing, plus a series of practical craft and cookery sessions, with ideas of what to do with surplus produce.

Homelessness Collaboration

In the run up to the cold winter weather, a Steering Group has been planning emergency accommodation provision, which the City Council is obliged by law to provide when the temperature reaches zero or below for three consecutive nights. Central Exeter Churches are providing volunteers to help staff the extra space which is being provided within Gabriel House, Esther Community and St Petrocks centre. If you are interested in helping as a volunteer, please contact Anne Dowdeswell on 01392 425782.

A public information event was held on Saturday 20th November at the Guildhall, at which the Collaboration members had stalls to showcase their work to the public. It was well attended and many offers of voluntary help were made, along with donations to individual projects.

Consultations with service users are under way, to find out their views on services available to people who are homeless and in housing need in Exeter. We have undertaken two focus groups to date, with three more planned. The responses to these will be collated and a report published in January. If you would like a copy of the report, please contact Laura Callaway, Homelessness Collaboration Project Co-ordinator on 01392 205800 or email laura@eci.org.uk.

NEW SHARE SCHEME LAUNCHED!

ECI launched its new Share Scheme at the Annual Review meeting in November. The Share Scheme is a way for you to give a financial contribution to our work and 'share' in the benefits ECI bring to our communities. It helps us to undertake development work and can be used to 'match fund' project work. We encourage you to invest £60 per year for a five-year period, but we welcome gifts of any size towards our work. To find out more, contact Louise Porter on 01392 205800 or email louise@eci.org.uk. We wish to thank everyone who supports our work both financially and in other ways, such as by volunteering their time.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Children's Centre Development

The tender submitted to Devon County Council by Westbank League of Friends, as reported in the last newsletter, unfortunately was not successful. However, we have taken the learning from this, to inform the development of our own approach in looking at what role ECI can play in providing children's and family services.



Transitions

Transitions will help people living in supported accommodation to make the transition to independent living, by providing practical and emotional support via volunteers. The project will build on ECI's experience of running the CARD mentoring project. It aims to assist with the 'move-on' from hostel accommodation, and to prevent new tenancies from breaking down due to issues such as benefits changes or feelings of isolation. For more information, contact Carole Pilley, Community Development Manager, on 01392 205800.

THE FINAL WORD

Within all the changes that are happening, ECI continues to be committed to helping those that are in the most need. Some of these will be those we already help, others we need to turn our attention to. When times are tough, we need to rely on each other to make sure we are doing the right thing. I hope you can support us by investing in our new Share Scheme and in ECI's work at a time when as need is increasing, much needed funding is decreasing.

Matt Bell, Acting Director

SUPPORT US

- Use <http://admin.whitedotbox.com/myhomepage.asp?OrgID=4287> as your homepage. ECI will get 4p for every search you make.
- **Volunteer for one of our projects.** ECI has a range of roles on offer from working with parents to helping out with funding applications.
- **Include a donation to ECI in your will.** Through Exeter Community Initiatives you can leave a legacy for your local community.
- **Make a regular donation via the Share Scheme.** This helps us continue our development work and deliver projects to unmet need.
- **Spread the word!** Tell others about the work we do and pass this newsletter on.

We are grateful for all the support you continue to give us.

