

Welcome



I don't want to be a Christmas grinch, but we all know it's a very difficult time for the charity sector. We've got less funding despite the fact our services are more in demand than ever. So, as our 30th year draws to a close, I want to thank our funders, partners, supporters and volunteers; we couldn't do it without you! However, I do have one favour to ask: spread the word about ECI this festive season to your family, friends and colleagues to help us grow our supporters so we can continue to help where it matters most in 2024 and beyond.

Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

Carole Pilley
Acting Chief Executive

Devon firm donates mattresses



Devon-based bed and mattress company, Naturalmat, has donated two new mattresses to ECI. The mattresses have been distributed to a teenage boy and a mum recovering from surgery – both of whom are receiving support from ECI's Family Resource project.

ECI's Family Resource Manager, Daisy Binnie, said: "We're very grateful to Naturalmat for their generous donation. We often support families in financial difficulties and mattresses are an essential item but expensive to replace, particularly given the cost-of-living crisis."

Christmas card winner!



Congratulations to Zoe, aged 10, who has won 1st prize in Exeter Community Initiatives' Christmas card competition. Zoe's card will be made into our official Christmas card and sent to our supporters. We had lots of brilliant entries, so well done to everyone who took part!

Annual Review



It was great to see so many familiar faces and lots of new ones at our Annual Review meeting. Thanks to everyone for coming along and supporting us. A massive thanks also to our amazing hosts Exeter City Supporters' Trust. If you couldn't make it, check out our [Annual Review impact report and video](#) on our website.

Accountancy firm raises £1K



A huge thank you to PKF Francis Clark's Exeter office staff, who've raised over £1,000 for Exeter Community Initiatives by organising a raffle and bake sale. Some brave partners, directors and managers even volunteered to get soaked for charity! If you're a local business and would like to know more about fundraising for us, email: fundraising@eci.org.uk

Big Exeter Feast success!

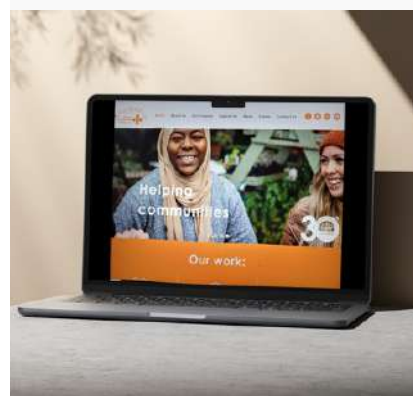


More than 80 people from Exeter's VCSE sector and local food businesses attended the Big Exeter Feast to explore how food can be made more accessible, affordable, healthier, sustainable and celebrated in Exeter. Only 2% of locally grown food is sold directly into Exeter and 35% more people are using Exeter Food Bank than last year, The sell-out conference, organised by Exeter Community Initiatives'

Exeter Connect project discussed what an integrated and eco-food system in Exeter might look like, and what partnerships and local groups and organisations can do to turn the vision into a reality.

Lots of amazing ideas came out the conference and the hope is partnerships can be formed to create a city food system in Exeter that works in partnership to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where people live.

Website refresh



Exeter Community Initiatives' website has had a refresh! We've still got the same great content, but our website is now easier to navigate and also includes new event and case study sections! Visit: www.eci.org.uk

Xmas charity tree runners up



Exeter Community Initiatives were runners-up in this year's Princesshay charity Christmas tree festival, winning a £25 gift card! Thanks to all our staff and volunteers for making the fantastic decorations!

Chief's £1K collection



Big thanks to Exeter Chiefs Foundation who presented Exeter Community Initiatives, one of its designated charities for the 22/23 season, with a cheque for £1000 from match day bucket collections.

Footie Eco Cup support



Exeter Community Initiatives is one of six charities to benefit from a new fundraising campaign launched by Exeter City Football Club. In addition to donations, funds will be raised through the use of new Eco Cups which will also reduce waste from single use plastic. Ellie Taylor, Business Operations manager at Exeter Community Initiatives, said: "We're very grateful to Exeter City Football Club. Their new reusable Eco Cup is a brilliant green initiative and we wish them every success with it."

New year, new volunteer!



To many people, new year is about resolutions, from joining a gym to changing career. But have you ever considered volunteering as a way to meet your goals as well as helping others? We've got lots of volunteer opportunities at our Jelly charity shop. Or if fundraising is your thing, how about signing up to become a volunteer fundraiser? Find out more at info@eci.org.uk or call 01392 205800.

Get Involved!



Volunteer

Join our team of volunteers.



One-Off Donation

By cheque to 'Exeter Community Initiatives' or online.



Friend of ECI

Through our scheme you can make a regular longer term donation.



Leave a gift in your Will

Make a lasting impact or remember a loved one.



Newsletter

Sign up for newsletter updates.



Fundraise

From skydives to bake sales, have fun and raise money!

giffgaff members donate payback



A big thank you to mobile phone group, giffgaff whose members voted Exeter Community Initiatives as one of their top 5 charities for 2023! giffgaff members donated their payback and it has been matched by giffgaff, bringing the total donation to ECI to £2,208.65!

Secret Santa appeal to help struggling families



Exeter Community Initiatives and Exeter City Supporters' Trust have joined forces to launch a Secret Santa appeal to help struggling families this Christmas.

To become a Secret Santa, simply donate £5, £10 or even £20 and ECI will send a Christmas gift of equal value to an individual or family. Click [here](#) to donate,

Scan to donate



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