

## Welcome



Bob Dylan said: 'Times they are a-changing' - and so is ECI. It's incredibly sad to see ECI's Transitions and Exeter Connect closing. Like so many charities, due to financial challenges, we've had to make a number of staff redundant. Each and every one has done an incredible job and we wish everyone the very best for the future. We're signposting project users to other services and we hope they will continue to find support.

Despite this, there's still a lot happening. We're delighted to welcome Magic Carpet to the ECI family, and don't forget our Volunteer Fayre on 21 March if you're looking to help out locally!

*Carole Pilley*

**Acting Chief Executive**

## Changing times for charity



Exeter Community Initiatives is sad to announce it's closing two projects and making a number of staff redundant following a significant drop in funding.

Tim Goodwin, ECI's Chair of Trustees, said: "Like many charities, ECI has seen its costs escalate and income fall significantly. With no other funding on the horizon, we've had no choice but to close two projects resulting in cuts to our

staff base. We've made these decisions with the heaviest of hearts and our thoughts are with those staff members affected and the people who've come to rely on our services."

At the end of March, ECI's Transitions and Exeter Connect projects will close. We will continue to run our other projects including Jelly, Family Resource and Community Builders.

## Magic Carpet to join ECI

Exeter charity, Magic Carpet, which runs art and drama groups for adults with learning disabilities and mental health difficulties, is to become part of Exeter Community Initiatives. The move will benefit both charities allowing them to share resources and save costs.

Jeanette Sanderson, Magic Carpet Chair of Trustees, said: "Like ECI, Magic Carpet has faced increasingly challenging times financially, so we're looking forward to becoming part of ECI. Our staff will move across to ECI and we will continue to run our popular art and drama groups."

# Volunteer Fayre



Want to volunteer but not sure where? Then come along to Exeter Community Initiatives' Volunteer Fayre on Thursday, 21 March, 11am -2.30pm at Exeter Cathedral.

Back for the third year running, the Fayre brings together 60 local voluntary groups, charities and not-for-profit organisations, all of which are looking to recruit new volunteers!

Entry to the Fayre is free and visitors will have the chance to find out more about the volunteering opportunities on offer from exhibitors such as Exeter Leukaemia Fund, Hospital Radio, Merry Go Round Toy Library, Exeter Historic Buildings Trust, Diverse Devon Together and South West Athletics Academy.

To book your free visitor tickets click [here](#).

Scan to book your free visitor ticket



# Could you spare £5 a month to support your community?



Could you spare £5 a month to support your local community? By donating regularly to Exeter Community Initiatives, you will play a crucial role in supporting us to help individuals, families and communities.

You can opt to donate as much as you wish, and we are grateful for every penny we receive. Becoming a regular donor isn't just a financial commitment, it's about being a force for positive change in your local community.

And here's an extra incentive to kickstart your journey with us: if you sign-up today, your first donation will be matched by an anonymous donor, doubling the impact of your generosity.

As a regular donor of Exeter Community Initiatives, we will keep you informed of our good work and how your contributions are making a difference to the people, families, and communities we work with.

To donate scan the QR code below or click [here](#).



Scan to donate



Thank you!

## Write your Will for free

It's Free Wills Month in March. We know how important it is to have a Will, and how overwhelming the thought of preparing one can be.

That's why we've partnered with Kwil to offer a free Will writing service so you can write your will online in as little as 30 minutes.

You could even leave a small gift to Exeter Community Initiatives so we can continue to help people to improve wellbeing and build skills, support families facing challenges and hardships, and help communities to thrive.

Exeter resident, Clive, supported ECI for many years and kindly left us a gift in his will when he sadly passed. Clive was a keen gardener. He regularly tended the community green area at Queen's Crescent Garden and would always leave his tools in ECI's shed and stop for a chat.

Leaving a gift in your Will ensures we can continue to support people, families, and communities for years to come, just as Clive did.

If you'd prefer to speak to someone to complete your Will, then you also have the option to call one of Kwil's Will writing experts on 0800 061 4934, and they will be able to take you through the process over the phone and answer any questions you might have.

## Free Wills month



For more information on our free Will writing service, visit:  
[www.eci.org.uk/leave-a-gift-in-your-will](http://www.eci.org.uk/leave-a-gift-in-your-will)

Scan for  
more info



## Big thanks to PKF Francis Clark



Big thanks to staff at the Exeter office of PKF Francis Clark who have raised an amazing £3,746 for Exeter Community Initiatives - the firm's charity of the year in 2023.

The money was raised through a variety of activities, including an 'I'm a partner, get me out of here!' challenge as well as quizzes, breakfasts, raffles and cake sales.

Support from local businesses means ECI can continue to help people where it matters most. Any local businesses wanting to work with us can call 01392 205800 or email [info@eci.org.uk](mailto:info@eci.org.uk)

# Get Involved!



## Volunteer

Join our team of volunteers.



## One-Off Donation

By cheque to 'Exeter Community Initiatives' or online.



## Regular Donor

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!



Scan to  
Get Involved!

# Exeter half marathon



Staff at Exeter Community Initiatives had a great time marshalling and handing out water at the Exeter City Community Trust Half Marathon in February. Congratulations to the hundreds of runners who took part – you've raised so much money for so many good causes! As part of the Exeter Community Fund, we were delighted to offer our support to this amazing event!

# ECI News is going 100% digital



Many thanks for taking the time to read ECI News!

To save money and protect the environment, news from now on will only be available digitally.

This means you'll no longer receive your newsletter by post so you'll need to sign up to receive it by email.

You can do this via our website or for help signing up, simply phone 01392 205800 or email [info@eci.org.uk](mailto:info@eci.org.uk)

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