

Welcome



Welcome to our Summer 2025 newsletter! There's been so much to celebrate recently, from winning the Chamber Member Award to seeing the difference our teams are making every day in communities across Exeter and Devon.

In this issue, we're sharing real stories of change, new opportunities to get involved, and a special invitation to our Thank You Celebration in October. Whether you've supported us for years or recently joined our journey — thank you. Your belief in our work helps us build stronger, more connected communities every day.

Ellie Taylor

Acting CEO

Save the Date: 18th October 2025



Firstly, we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout 2024 and 2025.

Whether you've been part of our story for years or only started supporting us recently we invite you to join us on:

Saturday 18th October

10:30am to 12:30pm at St Stephen's Church (Exeter High Street)

As we come together to celebrate everything we've achieved this year and show thanks to our supporters who have helped to make it all possible.

We'll be sharing inspiring stories of impact, reflecting on the journey so far, and giving heartfelt thanks to our amazing staff, volunteers, supporters and partners.

There'll be tea, cake and conversation, along with a look at what's next for ECI as we continue to build stronger, more connected communities across Exeter and Devon. We will be sending an official invitation soon!

This event is our way of saying

Thank you. You made this possible.

We Won the Devon Chamber Member Award!



We are absolutely delighted to share that Exeter Community Initiatives has been awarded the Chamber Member Award at the Exeter Chamber Impact Awards 2025. This recognition means so much to us, and we want to say a heartfelt thank you to Exeter Chamber for celebrating the achievements of charities and local businesses. Together, we're helping to build a more connected, caring and vibrant Exeter.

An Award for Our Whole Community

This award isn't just for us – it belongs to every volunteer, supporter, donor and partner who stands alongside us in our mission. Your belief in our work and your ongoing support makes everything we do possible. We're excited to continue building on this momentum, creating projects and opportunities that help people improve wellbeing, build skills, support families in need and bring communities together across Exeter and beyond.

Community Building: From Isolation to Connection



After a period of deep isolation following the loss of her husband and years spent caring for her father, one Pinhoe resident felt disconnected and unsure how to rejoin the community. A chance discovery of the What's On – Pinhoe newsletter led her to Zoe Hughes, Community Builder for Pinhoe, and a simple walk that changed everything. With Zoe's encouragement and connections, she rediscovered confidence, joined groups, made new friends—and now feels truly alive again.

"Zoe gave me the courage to move forward."

👉 [Read the full story here](#)

Transitions Project Workshops

Our Transitions project works with people of 18+ in Exeter who may be feeling vulnerable and isolated, or going through a period of change. Sarah and Pete (our Project Workers) run small group workshops about wellbeing and life skills, exploring self-help strategies, and sharing ideas with others.

Upcoming workshops include:

Feel the fear:

3 workshops designed to help you understand and manage anxiety
Tues 24th Sept and Tues 1st and 8th Oct 10am -1pm - St Johns Court, Exmouth

Clear Your Clutter:

Designed to tackle de-cluttering. Starting with one small area, we invite you to identify what to keep, what to chuck, what to sell and give away

Tues 4th, 11th and 18th November 2025. 6.30pm – 8.30pm (Online)

Pound-Stretching:

Ideas for making your money go further and maximising your income. Wed 19th Nov, 26th Nov and 3rd Dec from 6.30pm – 8pm - (Online)

For more info and to book [click here](#) or contact us



Please note that booking is essential

📞 01392 205800

✉️ transitions@eci.org.uk

Magic Carpet



We are incredibly grateful to the D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust for awarding us a £6,000 grant to support our Magic Carpet arts group. This generous funding will enable us to launch a brand-new community theatre group in September, offering a creative space for individuals facing mental health challenges to express themselves, build confidence, and connect through performance. With your support, we're making the performing arts more accessible to those who benefit most from the power of creativity and community. Thank you for helping us bring this important work to life.

If you would like to register your interest for this group scan here:

👉 Find out more about our Magic Carpet Project [here](#)



Our Impact in Action - A Safe Space for Healing The Davies Family's Journey



Our Family support workers are skilled in engaging families and work in partnership with them to agree a way forward through the challenges they are facing. We supported The Davies Family through a their journey.

When the Davies family came to us, they were in crisis. Their son Daniel had witnessed a violent attack on his stepdad, leaving him anxious and withdrawn. His sister Demi was struggling, and mum Diane felt lost.

“From the beginning, ECI didn’t just support us — they saw us.”

Through tailored, non-judgmental support, from parenting techniques and counselling for Diane, to school-based play sessions for Daniel and emotional support for Demi the family began to heal.

“We talk more now about how we feel... we’re stronger.”

Thanks to the Family Resource Project, the Davies family have gone from surviving to rebuilding together.

👉 If you would like to help support families we have a Family Support Role Vacancy.
Find out more click [here](#).

Jelly Charity Shop New Mural



We're thrilled to have had the wall in our Jelly snug transformed by vibrant new artwork, created by the incredibly talented local Exeter artist Chloe Farrant!

Her bold, colourful style brings a burst of energy to our space just look at this amazing piece!

Huge thanks to Chloe for sharing her creativity with us.

👉 Want to work in our award winning children's charity shop? We have a position available! Find out more [here](#).

Fundraising Highlights

Charity Quiz Night!

We are delighted to announce that our recent Charity Quiz Night at David Lloyd Exeter raised over £1,000 in support of Exeter Community Initiatives – a fantastic result made possible through the power of local collaboration.

We have another quiz night coming up, Friday 29th August at David Lloyd 7pm email DoGood.Exeter@davidlloyd.co.uk to book your team (£2pp)



Sarah's O2 Challenge

We're thrilled to celebrate an inspiring achievement from one of our incredible supporters, Sarah, who has raised £225 for Exeter Community Initiatives through her latest challenge! Sarah turned 50 last year and set herself a goal of completing 50 positive experiences – from trying new foods to swimming in the Outer Hebrides. Her grand finale was something truly special: climbing to the top of the O2 Arena in London.

Thank you Sarah!

A huge thank you to the Skylark Choir!

We're so grateful to the incredible Skylark Choir for raising £245 at their beautiful performance at St Stephen's, Exeter on Sunday 20th July in support of Exeter Community Initiatives.

Your voices, generosity, and community spirit make a real difference.

Thank you for using your talent to support local families and projects across Exeter.



👉 Want to fundraise for us? [Click here.](#)

How can you help?

By Supporting ECI you help individuals and families across Exeter and Devon face life's challenges with confidence and hope. Whether it's improving wellbeing, building skills, or creating meaningful connections, your support makes a lasting impact on people's lives and communities. But change doesn't happen alone and you are a vital part of it.

Here are 3 simple ways you can get involved today:

1. Donate: Help Fund Local Change

Every donation helps us provide vital, practical support. One-off gifts meet urgent needs, monthly donations offer stability, and legacy gifts create lasting change. Just £25 could fund a 1-1 coaching session for a vulnerable adult. £100 could fund a local community activity to help reduce social isolation.

[Make a donation](#)



2. Fundraise: Turn Your Passion Into Purpose

Fundraising is a fun, powerful way to support ECI – from sponsored walks to quiz nights or birthday challenges. From bake sales to skydives, coffee mornings to birthday challenges, fundraising is a fun and rewarding way to make a difference. Need ideas or support? We're here to help!

Contact: fundraising@eci.org.uk



3. Partner With Us: Business Collaboration

We're proud to work alongside local businesses, schools, churches, and community organisations that want to make a difference. Working together strengthens our city and shows your commitment to social impact.

Ways to collaborate:

- Corporate volunteering or team challenge days
- Workplace giving or match-funding
- Sponsoring a project or event
- Skills sharing (e.g. HR, marketing, IT, design)

Contact: fundraising@eci.org.uk to discuss partnership opportunities.



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