

St Thomas

Community Newsletter Summer 2025



Hello from Amy!



Welcome to the August edition of the St Thomas Community Builder newsletter! My role is to map what resources exist, create new networks and connect people and opportunities. I also support people to grow their own ideas and try new things together to help improve wellbeing and make our community

an even better place to live. So if you've got a great idea for your street or neighbourhood, be it a community garden, festival or new group, but don't know how to start, I can support you to turn it into a reality. Equally, if you've got an event or activity you'd like to feature in this newsletter, or you'd like to get involved in any of the activities highlighted, do get in touch. You'll find my contact details on the back page!

Best wishes

Amy

Amy Jones

This issue

Page 1

Introduction

Page 2

- Listening post
- Love St Thomas Festival

Page 3

- Meet Felix
- Merrivale Big Breakfast

Page 4

- West of the River Magazine
- Friends of St Thomas Health Centre

Page 5

- Blood Kits
- Get Social & Useful Info

Page 6

New Alibi Play Cafe Dates

Pages 7-8

Events & Activities

Page 9-12

- What's on
- Contact Details

Listening Post

Listening is an important part of a Community Builder's work. Here's what residents have shared with me at recent events.

I'd like more craft groups or opportunities in St Thomas. Can you help and do you know others who might be interested?

I'd like to start a residents association. Can you help with this?

I'd like to have a coffee morning to get to know the other people in the building.

I'd like to see more things to do for older kids.

Love St Thomas Festival











What an amazing success the first Love St Thomas festival was! Thank you St Thomas for coming out in your thousands to support it. It's been 10 months of hard work but it has been a pleasure to support James, Louise, Debbie and Ian, the core Love St Thomas festival team to get this festival up and running. The feedback from the community, stall holders and food vendors has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to everyone who volunteered or sponsored the event. Thank you to Sophie Parker-Rees our volunteer photographer for the day for supplying these fantastic photos. If you would like to see more of her photos check out her instagram account (@sophie_parkerrees).

It's hoped that the festival will become a regular summer fixture in St Thomas. The Love St Thomas crew would love to grow the festival planning team and increase the pool of volunteers to help out on the day. There are so many way you could help including fundraising, volunteer management, social media, health and safety, finding acts and stall holders, stewarding, site decoration, manning a stall, collecting and sourcing equipment. You don't need to have any experience, just a willingness to get stuck in and help out. Please get in touch if you would like more information. To keep up to date with Love St Thomas event be sure to like the Facebook page

Merrivale Big Breakfast Pop Ups





During August i've been hosting a series of pop up events with **Exeter Community Initiatives** and Wellbeing Exeter at Merrivale park each week. We've been offering a free snack style breakfast, craft activity, adults yoga 11am-12pm with Karen Whitfield of Your Yoga Practice.

Having listened to residents the theme of anti social behaviour and lack of youth provision has come up. We discussed what could be the next steps to resolving some of the issues by offering more activities to the youth in the area. I will be facilitating a meeting with local residents, organisations who may be able to offer activities and hopefully the PCSO and local Councillors at a later date in September. If you or anyone you know would be interested to share your views and ideas and be part of this conversation, please let me know.

Other ideas have included improving the play equipment and look into the possibility of outdoor gym equipment. It was also suggest that a community litter pick would be a good way for the community to come together and take care of the park.

News from Felix - CPAO



Hi, my name is Felix and I am the Community Physical Activity Organiser (CPAO) for West Exeter, covering Exwick, St. Thomas

Some of you may be aware that we had planned a large family-friendly Walking Sports Festival to take place at the Exwick Playing Fields in July. After lots of work planning and organising the event, we had to postpone it due to severe weather warnings the day before. This was very disappointing and we are now looking for an alternative date. Keep an eye on my Facebook page for updates.

On the day, the Exwick Playing Fields will be transformed into a festival space for several hours of free drop-in taster sessions including Walking Cricket, Walking Tennis, Walking Football, Non-Contact T1 Rugby. our experienced coaches, will be on hand to help. suitable for any age (16+) and ability. Come and join us for a chance to play, socialise and enjoy a fun day out this summer! More info: facebook.com/CPAOExeterWest felix.elsen@ecct.co.uk

Walking Basketball

Based on feedback from residents in St.Thomas and Exwick, I am looking at the possibility to organise some trial Walking Basketball sessions. It would be really helpful if anyone who may be intrigued by this could let me know, so that I can get an idea of how much interest there may be.

Please email or text: felix.elsen@ecct.co.uk 07736 918280

West of the River Magazine Second Edition



Areas that need more deliverers:

Wardrew Road, Regents street, Buddle Lane, Union Street, Chiefton Way, Cowick street, Newman Road, Dunsford gardens, Beaufort Road, Church Road and more!

Edition two of the West of the River Magazine was delivered to 9000 house in St Thomas, Exwick and arears of Haven banks and Alphington in July. Thank you to all of those people who came forward to help with the delivery, wrote articles and bought advertising. It's a mammoth task to get it delivered. We still need more volunteers in all areas, but i've listed a few of the St Thomas streets in the picture above where we are short of volunteers. The next edition will be out on November 1st with an advertising deadline of October 1st . If you can help please get in touch with me, or the Editor Benji. Email: Editor@westoftheriver.org . If you spot a mistake in the listings or you would like to add a regular or one off event, go to https://westoftheriver.org or send the details of your event to listings@westoftheriver.org

Friends of St Thomas Health Centre



Are you a member of St Thomas Health Centre? Did you know you can access a range of groups and outings via the Friends of Group? Recently I learned about Fish & Chip Monday. The group get together to enjoy lunch together at 1pm at Trefoil Lodge in Buddle Lane. One of the volunteers kindly picks up the food from Smarts Fish bar and delivers it to the group. If you would like to join this group for lunch or learn more about the carers group, coffee mornings, craft groups and bus trips, please contact Denise on 01392 676676 and press option 3.

Fundraising for Blood Kits



This week I met 16 year old Mia and her mum to discuss the important topic of blood kits and the impacts of youth knife crime. Last year one of Mia's friends was killed in a knife crime attack in Bristol. They were 15 years old and it was a case of mistaken identity. He had only gone out to buy a pizza. This has had a pre-found impact on Mia who has become an Ambassador for the Daniel Baird Foundation and is on a mission to install blood kits in every area of Exeter. Blood kits can be used in any major incident and provide extra time for people to get emergency care. They cost £100 each.

We discussed funding opportunities and talked about connecting Mia to Exeter Secondary schools so she could share her experiences and the impacts of knife crime with as many young people in Exeter as possible. If you would like to contribute to this cause please get in touch. Mia would like to get blood kits in St Thomas, Exwick and Wonford next.

Get Social



Keep up-to-date by joining these local Facebook pages and groups.

- St Thomas, Exeter
- Brillsville Market St Thomas
- Love St Thomas Festival
- West of the River Magazine
- Love Food CIC
- Cowick Roots and Recreation
- Friends of Merrivale Park
- Family Garden CIC
- St Thomas Winter Market (Winter Festival)
- The Birdhouse Cafe
- Zero Mile Gardens
- St Thomas Community Garden
- St Thomas Local History Group
- St Thomas Squilometre open group
- St Thomas Food Fight
- Friends of St Thomas Heath Centre
- Crafts, Arts & Produce (CAP) St Thomas

Useful Information

- Parental Minds gives support to families who are struggling with their mental health https://parentalminds.org.uk/
 Tel: 07907 614 516
- Domestic Violence Splitz Devon Helpdesk
- Talk works Tel: 0300 555 3344 www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk
- Mental Health Mind charity Tel: 0300 123 3393

Tel: 0345 1551074.

- The Moorings @ Devon Out of hours mental health support for 16+.
 www.mhm.org.uk/the-moorings-devon
 Tel: 07990 790 920
- Andy's Man Club Talk through problems that men face. Monday evenings, 7pm. www.facebook.com/AndysManClubExeter/
- Age UK Exeter Tel: 01392 202092
- Adult Social Care team Tel: 01710 424000
 Out of hours Tel: 01720 422699
- Care Direct 0345 1551 007
- NHS Chat Health Health Visitor confidential text messaging service <u>www.chatline.nhs</u>.uk
- Home-Start Support for families with young children <u>www.homestarteemd.org.uk/</u>
- Exeter Food Bank <u>exeterfoodbank.co.uk/</u>
- Lightning Reach financial support portal https://www.lightningreach.org/
- Early help child safeguarding <u>https://www.devonscp.org.uk/early-help/</u>

New Play Cafe Dates at Theatre Alibi Aug-Sept

Café Dates & Times

Tue 26th August – 9.30am – 1pm Get your hands on an iconic bit of Alibi history at the Alibi Jumble Sale + bounce and rhyme in St Thomas Library

> Tue 2nd September – 10am – 1pm Toys, colouring and drawing + bounce and rhyme in St Thomas Library

> > Thu 4th September – 10am – 1pm Toys, colouring and drawing

Tue 9th September – 10am – 1pm Toys, colouring and drawing + bounce and rhyme in St Thomas Library

> Thu 11th September – 10am – 1pm Toys, colouring and drawing

> Thu 18th September – 10am – 1pm Toys, colouring and drawing

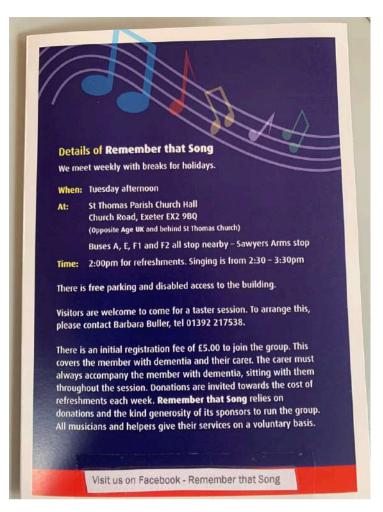
> Thu 23rd September – 10am – 1pm Toys, colouring and drawing

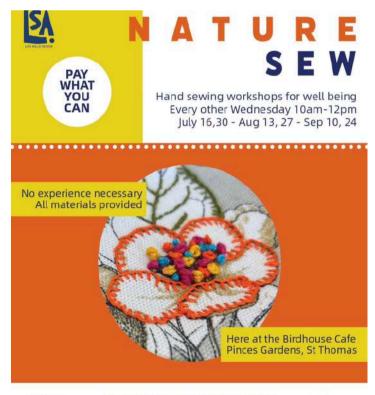
> Thu 25th September – 10am – 1pm Toys, colouring and drawing

All events are free to attend!

Events & Activities Continued





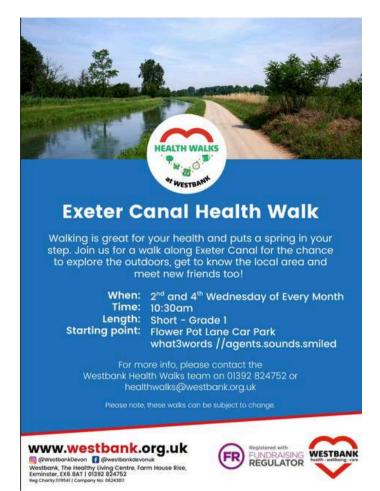




Booking Essential Online or email Pay what you can www.lisamills.design



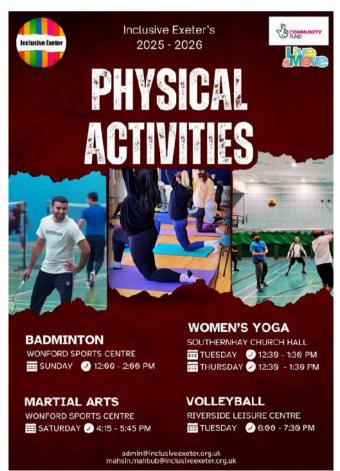
Events & Activities Continued





Meet at 7am at Bromhams Playing Field Car Park (near Marsh Barton railway station). We'll walk a 2.5 mile loop through Riverside Valley Park - about 45 mins of gentle exercise and good conversation to start the day. Walking boots and weather appropriate clothing recommended. MEN ONLY event. Book here or scan the QR code: https://tinyurl.com/yb2pf6mb









What's on: St Thomas

Monday

- 09.00-11.15 Baby & Toddler Group St Thomas Baptist Church (STBC) (Term time only)
- 10:00-10:30 Story Time St Thomas Library (STL)
- 10:00-13:00 Play space The Family Garden (FG) (term time only)
- 10:00-15:00 Community Fridge & warm hub Love Food CIC (LF) (term time only)
- 10:30-12:00 Knit & Natter (STL)
- 11.30-16:00 Exeter Food Bank (EFB) (referral service only)
- 13:30-17:30 Tech Cafe-IT Support- (STL) (3rd Monday of the month only)
- 15:30-17:00 Exeter City Community Trust Youth Club Years 7 & 8 West Exe School (WES)
- 17:00-18:00 Premier League Kicks Football Sessions 4-11 Years (WES)
- 17.45-18:45 50th Exeter Brownies St Thomas Methodist Church (STMC)
- 18:00-19:30 Brownies 7-10 years Trefoil Lodge (TL)
- 18:00-19:00 Womens Walking Football Riverside Leisure centre (RLC)
- 18:30-19:30 Freemovement Circuits in the Park Cowick Barton Fields (CBF)
- 19:00-20:30 Guides 10-14 years (TL)
- 19:30-20:30 Exeter 45th Guides (STMC)
- 19:30-21:00 Rangers 14-18 years (2nd and 4th Monday) (TL)

Tuesday

- 10:00-15:00 Community Fridge & warm space (LF) (term time only)
- 10:00-10:30 Bounce & Rhyme (STL)
- 10:00-12:00 Memory cafe for dementia and memory disorders & or carers Riverside Church (RC)
- 10:00-13:00 Play space (FG) (term time only)
- 11:00-13:00 Breastfeeding support drop in- Birdhouse Cafe (BC)
- 11:30-12:00 Bounce & Rhyme (STL)
- 11.30-14:00 Exeter Food Bank (EFB) (referral service only)
- 14:00-16:00 St Thomas Library Book Chat- Luccombe Oak Pub (LO)
- 16:45-17:45 Rainbows (STMC)
- 16:45-17:45 Rainbows 4-7 years (TL)
- 18:00-19:00 Rainbows 4-7 years (TL)
- 18:00-19:00 45th Exeter Brownies (STMC)

Wednesday

- 10:00-15:00 Community Fridge & warm space- (LF) (term time only)
- 10:00-13:00 Play space (FG) (term time only)
- 10:00-12:00 Friendship hub, knit & natter & community cafe (RC)
- 11.30-14:00 Exeter Food Bank (EFB) (referral service only)
- 13:15-14:45 Songbirds Choir St Thomas the Apostle Church Hall (STACH)
- 13:30-15:00 Mums Choir (STL)
- 17:00-18:00 Squirrels 4-6 years 6th Exeter St Thomas Scout Hut (STSH)
- 17:00-18:00 Beavers 6-8 years (STSH)
- 18:30-20:00 Cubs 8-10 1/2 years (STSH)
- 18:30-19:00 Freemovement Circuits in the Park (CBF)

*Abbreviations in brackets () relate to the location. See back page for contact details



What's on: St Thomas

Thursday

- 09:00-11:00 Community Gardening Session Zero Mile Gardens Emmanual Hall (EH)
- 09:15-10:30 Stay & Play Baby & Toddler group Montgomery School (MS) (term time)
- 09.30-11:00 St Thomas Tots (STAPH) (term time)
- 10:00-12:00 Community Drop-in (STBC)
- 10:00-15:00 Community Fridge & warm hub (LFC) (term time)
- 11.30-14:00 Exeter Food Bank (EFB) (referral service)
- 12:00-14:30 Craft Group Shilhay Community Centre (SCC)
- 12:30-13:30 Community Lunch Club, Love Food CIC 95 Cowick Street (term time)
- 15:00-17:00 Warm Space Hub Community Drop-in (STACH)
- 16:30-17:30 Wicketz Kids Cricket Sessions 8-16 Years Riverside Leisure Centre (RLC)
- 17:45-18:45 Super 1's Disabilities Cricket Sessions 12-25 Years (RLC)
- 18:00- 20:30 5th Boys Brigade 5-18 Years (STMC)
- 19:00-20:30 Crafting 4 Others St Thomas Methodist Church (every other Thursday) (STMC)
- 19:00 -20:30 Bell Ringers (STPH)

Friday

- 09:00-11:00 Stay & Play West Exe Nursery Cowick Street (WEN) (term time)
- 09:30-11:00 Community Breakfast Club all welcome (STL)
- 10:00-12:00 Stay & Play Toddler Group Riverside Church (RC)
- 10:00-10:30 Story Time (STL)
- 10:00-12:00 Knit & Natter- Trefoil Lodge (TL)
- 10:15-11:00 Chair Based Exercises (TL)
- 11:30-12:30 Table Tennis, Badminton & Pickle Ball Sport in Mind Sport for improving mental health - (RLC)
- 11.30-14:00 Exeter Food Bank (EFB) (referral service only)
- 14:00-16:00 Tea, Craft & Chat (TL)
- 14:30-16:30 Carers Group (TL) (First Friday of the month only)
- 19:00-20:00 St Thomas Local History Group (monthly 1st Friday of the month)
- 19:00-21:00 Scouts 10 1/2-14 years (STSH)
- 19:30-21:00 Youth Club (RC)
- 19:30 -St Thomas Local History Group (monthly 1st Friday of the month) (STACH)

Saturday

- 09:00-10:00 Freemovement Circuits in the Park St Thomas Pleasure Grounds (STP)
- 10:00-12:00 Lego Club (STL)
- 09:00-13:00 Brillsville Market & Repair Cafe (Second Saturday of the month only) Kings Carpark, Cowick Street (KC)

Sunday

- 08:50- 09:30 Junior Park Run 4-14 Years (CBF)
- 10.15-12.15 Natter Club (TL)
- 11:00-12:00 Community Gardening Session St Thomas Community Garden (STPG)
- 11:30-12:30 St Thomas Food Fight (free hot food and drinks) St Thomas Precinct, Cowick Street.



What's on: St Thomas

Contact Details for Venues and Classes:

- (STBC) St Thomas Baptist Church 01392 421707 https://www.stbc.org.uk/
- (STL) St Thomas Library 01392 407061- stthomas.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk
- (LF) Love Food CIC info@lovefoodcic.co.uk https://lovefoodcic.co.uk/
- (EFB) Exeter Food Bank St Thomas Hub 07818 226 524 info@exeterfoodbank.org.uk
- (WES) West Exe School Premier Kicks & Youth Club 01392 255611- inclusion@ecct.co.uk
- (RL) Womens Walking Football https://www.eventbrite.com/.../stthomas-womens-walking...
- (LO) Luccombe Oak Pub 01392 966695
- (STMC) St Thomas Methodist Church https://www.stthomasmethodist.co.uk/
- (STMC) Crafting for others email: mrsmaccookie@sky.com
- 50th Exeter Brownies 50thexeterbrownies@gmail.com
- 45th Exeter Brownies exeterbrownies45@gmail.com
- · Exeter 45th Guides exetergg45th@aol.co.uk
- (STSH) 6th Exeter St Thomas Scout Hut https://6thexeterscouts.org.uk/contact-us/
- Freemoovement 07709 300765 freemoovement@hotmail.com
- (CBF) Cowick Barton Playing Fields 01392 262630 https://exeter.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/
- · Rainbows westexerainbows2nd@outlook.com
- (BC) Birdhouse Cafe breasting feeding support Text 07484747923
- (STACH) St Thomas the Apostle Church Hall-01392 437486http://www.stthomaschurchexeter.co.uk/
- Mums Choir mums.choir.exeter@gmail.com
- (EH) Zero Miles Gardens Community Gardening zeromilegardens@gmail.com
- (MPS) Montgomery Primary School 01392 285240 https://www.facebook.com/MontyToddlerGroup
- (SCC) Shilhay Community Centre, Thursday Activity Group (Shilhay Community Centre) See Facebook group
- Super 1's Disabilities Cricket & Wickets Kids Cricket damian.price@devoncricket.co.uk
- · Sport in Mind Table Tennis, Badminton, Pickle Ball info@sportinmind.org
- 5th Boys Brigade boysbrigade5thexeter@hotmail.com
- (WEN) West Exe Nursery Stay and Play 01392 279361
- (RC) Riverside Church 01392 210146 info@loveexeter.com
- (TL) Trefoil Lodge- 01392 210232 Trefoillodgebookings@outlook.com
- Friends of St Thomas Health Centre Knit & Knatter, Chair Exercise, Carers Group 01392 676676denise.knowles@nhs.net held at Trefoil Lodge
- (STCG) St Thomas Community Garden https://www.facebook.com/groups/2504356273192890

About Wellbeing Exeter



Wellbeing Exeter is a collaborative partnership of organisations working together to promote and improve the wellbeing of people individually and in their neighbourhoods, to make the community a better place to live.

St Thomas Community Builder

Name: Amy Jones

Phone: 07935 218747

Email: <u>amy.jones@eci.org.uk</u>

Facebook: Amy Jones Community Builder (St Thomas)