

The City's Annual Celebration of Diversity

Exeter Respect CIC

All Different, All Equal

ANNUAL REPORT 2014



EXETER RESPECT CIC

"ALL DIFFERENT ALL EQUAL"

EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2014

ANNUAL REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

Exeter Respect Festival was inspired by the 1996 Respect Festival that was a free anti-racism music festival in London, organised by the Trades Union Congress (TUC). While primarily perceived as a free music festival, it also hosted trade unions, voluntary organisations, groups, charities and community organisations campaigning for diversity and equality and promoting the anti-racism movement that was led by the Racial Equality Councils. Exeter Respect Festival 1997 was led by The T.U.C. and Devon and Exeter Racial Equality Council, (DEREC). They all had one thing in common, to bring communities in Exeter together to say no to racism and say yes to multi-cultural understanding and social inclusion, under the slogan of the Council of Europe *"All different- All Equal"*. This slogan became part of the Exeter Respect Logo. The Council of Europe since 1950s have encouraged all organisation who are campaigning against racism and prejudice to adopt this slogan and use it.

Between 2005 and 2013 Exeter Respect Festival was organised by an independent unincorporated group of individuals without a clear legal structure. In 2009 Exeter Respect Festival was moved from the Phoenix, its previous main venue, to Belmont Park and was combined with the Exeter City Council Play Day. In 2010 Exeter Respect Festival was extended to a 2 day event in Belmont Park. The Membership Committee of the Cooperative Society sponsored the Festival. They became the Platinum sponsor for 3 years. Alongside Exeter City Council, there were many other sponsors and stall holders that helped the Festival to be sustained, yet its legal structure was still unclear.



Exeter Respect 2013 was the most challenging time in the history of Exeter Respect Festival. The 3 years sponsorship from the Cooperative Membership Committee had finished. One member of the core organiser committee left, due to the workload of his own business. Another member of the committee was also struggling to stay. After the Festival he decided that 2013 was to be his last year. This led to further strong discussion about the future of Exeter Respect Festival, its structure, and its sustainability. After the Festival in 2013 the committee, after discussion with a legal team and business advisor, reached the decision to opt for a model of non-profit social enterprise in the form of a Community Interest Company (CIC). On 9 October 2013 Exeter Respect became Exeter Respect CIC with a legally structured board, with the rights to organise Exeter Respect Festival and their main responsibility to sustain it and develop it.

Exeter Respect Festival is unique, its message has never changed since it was started. It is the biggest annual celebration of diversity, equality and human rights in Exeter. Every year, Exeter Respect Festival has created a large cultural community hub. It has provided a place for people to network, to empower and to connect with each other, by browsing through the stalls, by attending the different workshops, listening to the words of many organisations who wished to campaign and share their services with the public. The Festival has become the platform for artists to share their creativity with voices of celebration from every corner, a melting pot of all nationalities and ethnicities coming together to say, *"no to all forms of prejudice, discrimination and racism"*.

EXETER RESPECT CIC "ALL DIFFERENT ALL EQUAL"

2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report contains a review of every aspect of Exeter Respect Festival 2014, to share it with public, sponsors, stall holders and supporters, to comment, and to suggest recommendations for improvement.

3. EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2014 OVERVIEW: ELEMENT-BY-ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Exeter Respect Festival 2014 took place on Saturday 31 May and Sunday 1 June 2014 in Belmont Park in the City of Exeter. It was a free event lasting from 11.30am noon until 7pm on Saturday and until 6pm on Sunday. Exeter Respect Festival 2014 was an Alcohol Free Festival and provided a great safe space in which more communities than ever before celebrated and shared their cultures.

THE WEEKEND'S ACTIVITIES CONSISTED OF:

- 3.1. Diversity Stage
- 3.2. Acoustic Music Café
- 3.3. Community Stage
- 3.4. Play Area
- 3.5. Widsith & Deor Cabaret Tipi
- 3.6. Market Stalls
- 3.7. Campaigns & Displays
- 3.8. Wellbeing Zone
- 3.9. Young people's Workshops
- 3.10. Woodcraft Folk Tent
- 3.11. Fire & Rescue Service Demonstrations
- 3.12. Other Performances & Activities
- 3.13. Decorations



3.1. DIVERSITY STAGE

The outdoor stage was renamed 'The Diversity Stage', which is what we attempted to achieve by only featuring local performers. A new team took on programming the music for this year's festival and made some decisions about criteria for artists, which were as follows:

- To only feature artists who didn't perform the previous year (2 exceptions were made)
- To only feature artists who are based in Exeter and Devon
- To only feature artists performing original material (mainly achieved)
- To open up opportunities for young bands to perform
- To increase the diversity of music on offer
- To attempt to get a balance of performers across Ethnic backgrounds, male & female, young & mature

We also wanted to ensure a more equal opportunity and not promote any artist as a headliner. They are all equally as important and brilliant as each other. So we ended up with music that ranged from Screamo Metal to African Mbira music and everything in-between. The highlight was seeing so many children and families enjoying an atmosphere that was free from alcohol and, therefore, free of the possible uncertainties that can surround large crowds of people drinking. The Diversity Stage should certainly be present again in 2015.

3.2. ACOUSTIC MUSIC CAFÉ

The acoustic music café has become hugely popular with people seeking something that is a bit more relaxed. This ambience is successfully brought about by featuring the absolute best of local acoustic-based music and the comfortable sofas. This year it was further enhanced by having Exeter Local Records running a merchandise stall, featuring a specially compiled, downloadable album of artists performing at the festival. There is little doubt that the Acoustic Stage is an important music stage for Respect and should remain for the foreseeable future.

All musicians took part in Exeter Respect for an equal amount of expenses, a policy that should remain for next year as it is totally fitting with the central message of Respect, that being 'All Different, All Equal'

3.3. COMMUNITY STAGE

The community stage featured performances by a variety of Community groups, including music, dance and theatre. The weekend was launched with the annual procession through Newtown, led by Soundwaves and this year StreetHeat (who facilitated a special workshop for Soundwaves and D'arts participants). The procession ended at the Community Stage where Soundwaves opened up proceedings with another mixture of original compositions. The stage was once again sponsored by Hannah's and featured performers from there, as well as dance groups from all over Devon. The stage is the only fully accessible stage at Respect, which is something that needs to be reviewed.

The Community Stage should remain, although possibly renamed, and it would be good if the Diversity stage could be the same size as the Community Stage and fully accessible so that we can mix up community groups and bands throughout the site – increasing the sense of Respect being a community event.



3.4. PLAY AREA

Exeter Community Initiatives offered in kind support to coordinate the play area. They produced a booklet that included a full list of activities and the timetable for each activity, so it was easy for families to find and to manage their time. The activities were delivered by different stall holders, engaging with families and their children. Clifton Hill Sports Centre provide a tester of activities for toddlers, not to forget the bouncy castle was looked after by the Exeter University Students. Exeter City Football in the Community trust also provided sport activities. Clyst Vale Community College were at the heart of the play area with their year seven students who have managed to create a friendly environment with their diverse mobile garden. They were eager to volunteer and look after the environment and make sure that the area was tidy. Double Elephant Print Workshop encouraged the public to take part to create their story and make a print. YMCA provided information about their dedicated team and their commitment to young people. Not to forget Home Start with their wonderful display and children's activities, RAMM have provided activities for the whole family.

3.5. WIDSITH & DEOR CABARET TIPI

Widsith & Deor Cabaret Tipi hosted an intriguing set of activities including offbeat stories. The organiser Shane has reported *"We featured a Taking the Mic special, the popular open music night at the Exeter Phoenix, who brought a selection of performances poets and guitarists; followed by professional storytellers David Heatherfied and Sara Hurley, the latter bringing her lovely performance character Isabella Necessity complete with vintage bicycle and box of pictures which went with tale. We had Gideon Lawrence of Wyverntales with a Medieval Martial Arts display and fully insured have-a-go sessions (which were extremely popular). The next day we featured a Spokes Amaze mini slam from the Bike Shed Theatre, in association with Apples and Snakes S.W., the performance poetry development agency, in which the audience voted for the winner. We had an extract of the sell-out show Duplicity, this year's play by Substance and Shadow Theatre, followed by music from well-known Exeter artist and musician Dave Sawyer, playing his exquisite Sanzachord, and dulcimer duo Whittall and Green (in the style of Flanders and Swann). And finally, mellow singer/songwriter Rob Dickinson. We also punctuated the acts with storytelling, poetry and a bit of Stand Up Philosophy from ourselves. We were definitely pleased with our audiences who were most appreciative. We didn't get a chance to see much of the rest of the festival. Sadly as we were so busy! But it looked really fun and well run, and when I did get a chance to grab some food, it was delicious. Everything seemed to run pretty much like clockwork, and everyone we spoke to said how much they had enjoyed the whole thing. We also know that some people came from as far as Bideford for it! We are going to offer our service again for next year, and so will put the dates in our diary. Thanks for putting on such a great community event."*



3.6. MARKET STALLS

Local small business alongside Fair Traded goods from around the world, many supporting a range of international good causes. From Asian and African cuisine, to Devon jewellery; to world clothing, the park's central avenue of trees and the play area became an international market, with people browsing and shopping at the open market. We encourage local traders to participate and promote their goods; this element needs carefully be managed in order to balance between commercial traders and charitable causes.

3.7. COMMUNITIES, CAMPAIGN & DISPLAY

More communities from different diverse background rushed to book a space and fitting everyone in was a challenge. A few organisations did not get their preferred space, but there were plenty more groups who simply could not fit into the park. As usual Exeter Respect Festival reserved the right to hold collections on the entrances, but many groups fundraised for their good causes. Exeter Respect Festival 2014 was marking the solidarity between people, the range of display and activities by campaigners made people move more around the park, chatting more, signing the wall that was full of an exceptional painting of Nelson Mandela and Stephen Lawrence. Chloe Poole, the artist, observed children and young people asking who the people in the painting are.

3.8. WELLBEING ZONE

The quiet Sensory Garden part of Belmont Park became the Exeter Respect Festival Wellbeing Zone, this year sponsored by Devon Healthwatch, NHS New Devon Clinical Commissioning Group and Rockhaven Adventure Therapy who used the area as a platform for community engagement. There were more activities related to health and wellbeing. The public enjoyed a discount on head messages and full messages provided by local provider, and had the opportunity to learn more about wellbeing, healing and spirituality.

3.9. YOUNG PEOPLE'S WORKSHOPS

Dan Barton, a senior youth worker at Devon County Council, filled the Young People's Tent with contemporary urban music workshops, whilst on Sunday the Young Devon Dreamcatcher Project filled the tent with food testing and making smoothies, while young people enjoying running belly dance workshops and many other acts.

3.10. EXETER WOODCRAFT FOLK TENT

Exeter Woodcraft Folk supplied a large tent which was used by diverse groups such as Wild Life, Indian cultural display and homemade food tasting, the Meet Kate Organisation were displaying African culture and talking to the public about women in the Congo. On Sunday the Woodcraft Folk were able to run workshops.

3.11. FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE DEMONSTRATION

The Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service once again delivered an interactive demonstration area near the festival entrance. Children and their families were able to try on firefighter's respiratory apparatus and helmets and use high-pressure hoses. State-of-the-art firefighting vehicles were on display, there was a fire engine to climb over, and a series of thrilling chip-pan fire demonstrations.

3.12. OTHER PERFORMANCES & ACTIVITIES

The Park was transformed into an amazing festival site and the event featured a number of strolling performances. Everywhere you turned you were confronted with someone performing something. Not having alcohol on site made the site more inclusive and more accessible to an organisation who run specific projects related to rehabilitation from alcohol.

3.13. DECORATION

Belmont Park was transformed into a colourful festival site by many flags supplied by schools, mainly the Clyst Vale School, youth and communities. Beverly Esparon produced a banner especially for the procession. The wall at Belmont Park was transformed with vivid images of different faces from multicultural backgrounds on one side, and on the other side it featured 2 faces that touched our spirits, Steve Lawrence and Nelson Mandela. Chloe Poole, who volunteered at no cost to paint the wall, said "I believe in community art, I believe those faces reflect our lives in Exeter. Exeter is gradually becoming a cosmopolitan city and this needed to be featured on this wall. Nelson Mandela is an icon that we follow, Steven Lawrence is the victim of ignorance, today I am proud to be here and to share my inspiration and Art with Exeter Respect Festival 2014".

4 VOLUNTEERING

The volunteers are the backbone of Exeter Respect Festival and it wouldn't be possible to run the festival without the generosity of many people from all different backgrounds coming together to help and support the Festival, before, during and after the event. Before the festival skilled people were gathered to form sub-committees such as the programming committee, where musicians and promoters were eager to decide what acts would be suitable to be invited to the Festival. The organising committee were all unpaid people who managed to help and sustain the festival. St.Sidwell's Community Centre had offered to coordinate the volunteers. Young people from Exeter University, Exeter College, Clyst Vale Community College and from the different communities all helped to make the festival a success.

5 SOCIAL MEDIA

Due to budgetary constraints we could not afford a printed A5 brochure this year, and instead handed out an A4 3-fold flyer listing events and activities. Likewise, our poster and advance flyer print-runs were limited by limited funds. We also used our website and other social media tools including Facebook and Twitter.



6 FEEDBACK & OVERALL EVALUATION OF EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2014

Exeter Respect Festival 2014 was an Alcohol Free Festival. This decision was taken after long negotiations with the police and the Exeter City Council. According to the police report, there were 6 incidents in 2013 all related to the consumption of alcohol. We reviewed the feedback from the police and the Exeter City Council Health and Safety group, who advised the organising committee to fence an area for alcohol. At Exeter Respect CIC we believe in freedom of movement - we were against fencing and excluding any area from the Festival. In addition we had a considerable number of parents and families who were drinking and losing track of their children. As a consequence we had a considerable number of lost children to look after. Due to all this we had to reconsider our plans and organised an inclusive festival for everyone. Our local pub, the Globe, down the road from the Festival, organised a Beer Festival for the weekend to coincide with Exeter Respect festival 2014. This provided people with an opportunity to get a drink if they wished to do so.

After long discussion and consultation we have decided to continue with the idea of not having alcohol at the festival. The feedback was excellent, people responded to our call not to bring alcohol to the festival. We were impressed by our audience and visitors who helped us to respect our wishes. Families, children and young people were able to move everywhere in the park without feeling uncomfortable or intimidated. It was inclusive, it was for everyone, to move around, to sing to dance and eat, sit stand and move freely everywhere.

FEEDBACK ON THE 2014 FESTIVAL

Rank of Overall Experience: Excellent

"Really good time at Festival. Enjoyed the music, atmosphere and food.

Good cause to sponsor." **WAITROSE**

"An excellent festival, well organised." **EARTHERN**

"The busiest festival we have ever had. 5 hours non-stop making paper lotus flowers. Thank you."

FALUN DATA

"An excellent opportunity for the community both local and throughout the city. We have appreciated the opportunity to be part of it. Thanks, see you next year."

NEWTOWN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

"Really good again! Thank you for being alcohol-free. We've appreciated the organisation and support – see you next year!" **ST MATTHEWS PRE-SCHOOL**

"No booze was good even though I didn't think it would be and all the volunteers that helped agreed with me." **ST. SIDWELL'S COMMUNITY CENTRE, EXETER**

"Two great days, lots of goody people and plenty for all ages to do." **EXETER LABOUR PARTY**

"Lovely atmosphere. Great people!" **THERESE**

"First time we came to the respect festival and it was absolutely brilliant. Lovely atmosphere, great for meeting friends and acquaintances here. Lots to see and do." **SOUTH AFRICAN GROUP**

"Great!" - **UNIVERSITY OF EXETER**

"There seemed to be a wider range of people this year, from more socioeconomic backgrounds and its always great to meet new community groups" **RAMM**

"My favourite festival. Very relaxed. Family friendly. Do not change." **WILDLIFE TRUST**

"Absolutely wonderful. Great music. Sounds of the Sirens. Festival seemed larger. I loved it. Well done. Thank you Suaad." **CAROLE**

"No Alcohol, wonderful, definitely we will be more involved with our students." **EXETER COLLEGE**

"Our service is about the effect of Alcohol to attend the festival, we felt safe."

RIPPLE EFFECT, EXETER COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

OTHER COMMENTS:

"This festival has got better and better every year."

"Fantastic festival. So much nicer alcohol free."

"Very, very, very nice. We were so happy about it."

"Respect festival is absolutely great idea. Can't wait for next one!"

"Excellent city village fair. Good to see Exeter City FC at Respect."

"Been very nice to be at the Exeter Respect Festival. Too good... wonderful."

"A great event. Good to see all ages here."

"Fantastic atmosphere. Very friendly organisation. Highly recommended. Keep up the good work!"

"All different... All Equal... and all Local! Excellent!"

"So wonderful to see so many smiling happy faces, it must continue."

"What a great idea. Happy people everywhere."

7 ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Exeter Respect Festival 2014 was a successful festival with a small carbon footprint, no environmental damage and no complaints from the neighbourhood. People were receptive to keeping the park clean, many people have ties with the festival and it has become their festival - they feel responsible for its success. Everyone was happy to come to the information desk and ask if we needed a hand. This social responsibility was translated into action.

Everyone who came through the gate, heard the slogan, 'All Different, All Equal'. This is what Exeter Respect CIC and Exeter Respect Festival stands for - bringing people together every year.

Only together can we build a society free from prejudices. Exeter Respect Festival is the platform for all people regardless of their background colour, creed or ethnicities, to come together to celebrate diversity in the heart of Exeter.

8 SPONSORSHIP, SUPPORT IN-KIND AND TRADING

It was a real challenge to budget for Exeter Respect Festival 2014. Due to the economic climate that we live in, many organisation have cut back on their financial support. The decision to cut the alcohol had a big impact on revenue. Regardless of this we were more creative in managing our budget. We consulted our sponsors who agreed that we should cut the publicity in terms of hard copies, and rely more heavily on social media including Facebook and Twitter, as well as word of mouth Devon Contract Waste kindly offered to collect the waste without any fee. More voluntary organisations such as Exeter Community Initiatives and St.Sidwell's Centre were able to provide free venues and coordinate the volunteers and the play area. The 2014 Festival had a very hard journey financially but in the end did work, the budget was healthy and we made small surplus.



EXETER RESPECT 2014 RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND IN KIND SUPPORT FROM:

- Exeter City Council • Devon County Council • Unison South West
- Devon County Unison • Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
- University of Exeter • University of Exeter Students Guild
- Hannahs at Seal Hayne • NHS New Devon Clinical Commission Group
- HealthWatch Devon • Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
- Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner • YMCA • Devon Partnership NHS Trust
- The Cooperative Membership • Young Devon • Still Moving Dance Company
- Wren Music • Rockhaven Adventure Therapy • Devon Faith & Belief Forum
- Football in the Community Exeter Football Club • Parkwood Leisure
- Centre for Human Rights and Social Equality CIC • St. Sidwell's Community Centre
- Exeter Community Initiatives • The Cathedral • Phonic FM • Exeter Scrapstore
- Puxley Sound • Newtown Community Association • Real Food
- Merry Go Round & Carousal Toy Library • Clive Chilver Photography
- Devon Contract Waste • Exeter College • Westward Housing • Oriental Grocery
- RAMM • Radio EXE • Waitrose • dB Sound & Lighting Production Ltd • Sound Events
- Widsith & Deor • Exeter Woodcraft Folk • Exeter FilBrit
- Exeter Philippines Community • Art and Culture Department Exeter University
- Michelmores • Broadside • Nigel Pennington Graphic Design

9 KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EXETER RESPECT COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY NO.08725612

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Photography Clive Chilvers

Exeter Respect Festival 2014 branding & design by Nigel Pennington

Annual Report designed by www.evolvepromotion.co.uk

Exeter Respect 2014 received financial support and support in-kind from:



Office of the Police
and Crime Commissioner

