

THE CITY'S ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY

All Different, All Equal

Exeter
Respect

Exeter Respect CIC

ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



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"ALL DIFFERENT ALL EQUAL"

EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2015

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I. 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 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. Since the 1950s, the Council of Europe have encouraged all organisations 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 Exeter 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 become 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 organising 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 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, and by listening to the words of many organisations who wished to campaign and share their services with the public. The Festival has become a 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 2015, to share with the public, sponsors, stall holders and supporters, to comment, and to suggest recommendations for improvement.

3. EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2015 OVERVIEW: ELEMENT-BY-ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Exeter Respect Festival 2015 took place on Saturday 6 May and Sunday 7 June 2015 in Belmont Park in the City of Exeter. It was a free event lasting from noon until 7pm on Saturday and 11am until 6pm on Sunday. Exeter Respect Festival 2015 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 Café Stage
- 3.3 Community Stage
- 3.4 Stephen Lawrence Stage
- 3.5 Widsith & Deor Cabaret Tipi
- 3.6 Community Yoga
- 3.7 Play Area
- 3.8 Market Stalls
- 3.9 Communities, Campaign & Display
- 3.10 Wellbeing Zone
- 3.11 Exeter Woodcraft Folk Tent
- 3.12 Other Performances & Activities
- 3.13 Decoration



3.1. DIVERSITY STAGE

Retaining the name Diversity Stage from 2014, this open-air stage once again featured a very diverse programme of carefully chosen live music over the two days. A programming team of six people listened to music from all the bands and individual musicians who had applied to perform, and final decisions were made using a “best fit” approach, according to the following criteria (which was also applied to programming for the Acoustic Cafe Stage):

- To only feature artists who had not performed the previous year and/or a number of times over previous years (one exception was made in the interests of diversity);
- To prioritise artists based in Devon - and particularly Exeter;
- To prioritise artists performing original material;
- To increase the generic diversity of the music on offer;
- To allow more opportunities for young people to perform;
- To attempt to achieve a fair balance of performers across ethnic minorities; gender; age; and musical genre.



In the end, the programming team decided to include two African bands from Bristol in the line-up, both to ensure that there was enough music in the programme to justify the chosen theme of “African Culture”, and also to expose local audiences to music and dance they may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience. Travel expenses were paid to these bands to cover their costs.

As in 2014, no one band was promoted as a headliner, as we aim to promote the idea that all the artists are equally as important and excellent in their own way. This is totally in fitting with the central message of Exeter Respect - “All Different, All Equal”. In order to further demonstrate this belief in practice, we once again had an equal expenses payment policy, where every individual musician was paid the same amount (£30). The only exception to this was for bands with five members or more, whose expenses fee was

capped at £150 due to budgetary limitations, and the two bands from Bristol who received travel expenses on top. We received no complaints whatsoever from artists about this policy; in fact, many of the bands told us they thought it an excellent idea.

On the whole, the live music programmed on the Diversity Stage went down extremely well with audiences, and many people danced and cheered with appreciation. Genres of music included: African & Middle Eastern drumming; music and dance from Senegal; reggae; dub; ska; indie pop; rock; folk; hip hop; and klezmer. The young screamo metal band who had won one of the Road To Respect competition heats held at the Cavern (organised by Mike James from Phonic FM’s “The Rock Show”) were perhaps programmed too early in the day for some, as this genre of music is very loud by definition - however, this young band did appear to win over some new fans nonetheless!

There was some inevitable sound bleed between the stages at times, which is difficult to avoid completely on a small site. Consequently, we should perhaps think more carefully about the positioning of the stages in relation to each other for 2016. We also need to re-assess the size of the Diversity Stage, as some of the larger bands had some difficulty squeezing onto the staging. A wider stage would be much more practical if possible. Perhaps 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.

3.2. ACOUSTIC CAFE STAGE

The relaxed ambience of the Acoustic Cafe Stage offers an alternative experience for those looking for an escape from the more hectic areas of the festival, and the comfy sofas and coffee tables contribute to the marquee's intimate atmosphere. For this stage, the programming team sought out the very best of local acoustic talent, in the form of solo singer/songwriters, duos, trios, and stripped back bands performing semi-unplugged sets. Genres and styles ranged from English folk to Russian folk, from rock/pop to jazz guitar and saxophone, from hang drums to electronica, and much more besides!

Given the marquee's location immediately next to the Real Food Cafe, the stage became a magnet for those who needed to rest their feet and partake in home-made refreshments, whilst simultaneously being lulled by some really excellent live music.

Once again, Exeter Local Records set up a stall in the marquee where, alongside CDs and vinyl records from a variety of local talented acts, they were also selling a specially compiled, downloadable album of artists performing at the festival. 50% of the proceeds from this album were donated to Exeter Respect CIC.

3.3. COMMUNITY STAGE

The Community Stage was once again partly and kindly sponsored by Hannah's of Seale Hayne (who also provided a comperer!), and hosted a variety of performances by talented community groups, including several large choirs from different cultures; dance groups performing everything from flamenco to belly dancing; a theatrical production and live music featuring young disabled adults and children; two large jazz bands from Exeter College and the University of Exeter; a community ceilidh; a female flute-playing trio; and much more besides! Performances in this marquee were very well attended, and the community spirit and atmosphere was tangible and vibrant. The stage was fully accessible for wheelchair users, and large enough for dance groups and sizable choirs to perform comfortably.

The programme was kicked off on Saturday with live music from Soundwaves, who also led the opening procession through Newtown along with drummers from Chai Chapel and Chinese Lion Dance performers, following a music workshop at St Matthew's Hall.



3.4. STEPHEN LAWRENCE STAGE

This year, the programming team were keen to change the name of this stage from the rather uninspiring “youth tent” label it had been stuck with by default in the past. Suaad George suggested the “Stephen Lawrence Stage” to acknowledge and commemorate the original motivation behind the Respect Festival movement. After ensuring that the Lawrence family were happy with this proposed tribute, the new name was agreed upon unanimously by the team.

In the past, Devon Youth Service have run all activities within this marquee, and have provided all the necessary equipment. However, due to significant cuts to the county youth service over the past 12 months, this was not possible this year. Nonetheless, funding from elsewhere within Devon County Council and support-in-kind from DYS in the form of a sound engineer/stage manager and the use of PA equipment for the whole weekend, meant that we were able to provide a packed programme of performances by, and workshops for, young people over both days. DCC erected an information stall inside the marquee, and also invited a number of Devon Youth Parliament reps along to the event to introduce themselves and inform other young people about the DYP. There was also a comfortable “chill-out space” for young people to hang out together inside the marquee.

Saturday’s performances, open mic sessions and drop-in arts, crafts and games were organised by DYS. Open mic sessions included opportunities for budding singers, musicians, poets, rappers, beat-boxers and comedians to perform to their peers.

Sunday’s programme was curated by the Exeter Respect programming team, and included performances by young musicians from local community organisations and educational establishments, including Wren Music, Exeter College, and the Academy of Music & Sound. Workshops were also organised by the Exeter Respect programming team, and included a street dance workshop (led by Lou Latham from Urbanflow); a singing workshop (led by Sarah Owen from Wren Music); and an African and Middle Eastern drumming workshop (led by Steve Crossen from Drum Magic). The workshops were very well attended, and there was a really vibrant buzz in and around this marquee throughout the entire weekend.

Backline for the whole weekend was provided as support-in-kind by Exeter College.



3.5. WIDSITH & DEOR CABARET TIPI

Widsith & Deor Cabaret Tipi hosted an intriguing range of activities and performances, including offbeat stories, poetry, theatre, and live music. The organisers, Shane and Matthew emailed:

"Just to say a big THANKS for putting on the Respect Festival and for having the Widsith & Deor Cabaret Tipi there. Our stage went really well, the audiences loved our acts, we had a fantastic line up and fantastic weather, and people really came together and enjoyed themselves, which is what it's all about, so we wanted to say well done for all your hard work and thanks for having us :) We are already planning next year! Long may it continue..."

3.6. COMMUNITY YOGA

The 108 Sun Salutation is a very popular annual event at Exeter Respect, which attracts experienced yoga enthusiasts and beginners alike. The salutations - led by Fran Allen (DerekTheDog Yoga Centre) - once again took place in the centre of the main area, and while the live African drumming from Drum Crazy who opened the Diversity Stage seemed to complement the relaxing yet invigorating Sunday morning warm-up particularly well, some were not so sure about the screamo metal band which followed. While this may have put some people off, others were much more philosophical about the intriguing combination of yoga and death metal. After all, where else in the local community could you witness these two activities taking place literally side-by-side?!



3.7 PLAY AREA

Once again, 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. The author David Lawrnece Jones was eager to spend quality time in telling and sharing and signing his children story books with children and families, and the bouncy castle was looked after by the Summer Adventures society from the University of Exeter Student Guild. Exeter City Football in the Community Trust also provided sports activities. The Children Centre, RAMM, St Matthews pre-school, Home Start and many others also delivered activities involving children and their families. YMCA provided information about their dedicated team and their commitment to young people. The area was buzzing with interactive activities from all around the world.

3.8 MARKET STALLS

Local small businesses and charities sold 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. We encourage local traders to participate and promote their goods; this element needs to be carefully managed in order to create a balance between commercial traders and charitable causes.



3.9 COMMUNITIES, CAMPAIGN & DISPLAY

More communities from different diverse backgrounds rushed to book a space this year, 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 also fundraised for their good causes. Exeter Respect Festival 2015 was marking the solidarity between people, and the range of displays and activities by campaigners made people move more around the park. Chai Chapel encouraged people to try African drumming at their workshops as they raised money for their projects in Africa.

3.10 WELLBEING ZONE

The quiet Sensory Garden part of Belmont Park became the Exeter Respect Festival Wellbeing Zone, this year sponsored by Devon Healthwatch, who were busy providing people with health information. This year, a few stall holders at this area mentioned that the Health Zone being out of sight gave them more privacy; others felt that maybe it needed more signage. However, healing organisations generally found it better to be in a quite area in order to deliver their activities effectively. The overall feedback was that it was an excellent location for the purpose of their activities, and more stalls from the main area wished to move to the Health Zone. Rockhaven Adventure Therapy used the area as a platform for community engagement. There were many more activities related to health and wellbeing, including discounted head massages and full massages provided by a local practitioner, and the public had plenty of opportunities to learn more about wellbeing, healing and spirituality.

3.11 EXETER WOODCRAFT FOLK TENT

Exeter Woodcraft Folk supplied a large tent which was used by diverse groups for activities such as Wild Life sessions, an Indian cultural display, and a massage shiatzu session run by Sandhya Dave and her sister to raise money for Nepal. On Sunday the Woodcraft Folk were able to run their own workshops too.

3.12 OTHER PERFORMANCES & ACTIVITIES

Belmont Park was transformed into an amazing festival site and the event featured a number of strolling performances from the Philippines community and the Bulgarian Association, amongst many others. 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 and vibrant festival site. 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, including those of the organisers. We believe that those faces that were portrayed by Beverly reflected our lives in Exeter. Exeter is gradually becoming a cosmopolitan city and this needed to be featured on the wall.

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 which acts would be suitable to be invited to perform at the Festival. For many years people have been coming from all parts of Exeter, Devon and Cornwall to volunteer and be part of this amazing event. The Philippines organisation in particular organised volunteers to be at the festival site for the whole two days from early until late this year.



5 SOCIAL MEDIA

This year we printed an A5 brochure, listing events and activities, which was given out at the festival. We also gave out A6 flyers around the city. We also used our website and other social media tools including Facebook and Twitter, which were kept live and up to date both before and during the festival by a brilliant team of volunteers. Leading up to the main event Exeter Respect Festival 2015 was at the heart of Princesshay, the commercial hub of our city centre, for pre-launch musical performances, with distribution of cup cakes and wrist bands. Also we had our Community Variety Show launch event at the Barnfield Theatre, that, with in kind support, had provided a free venue and hosted our launch. Likewise the Bikeshed Theatre, also hosted an evening of music to help launch Respect 2015. Exeter Phoenix are also supporting Exeter Respect by hosting an International Community event on 4 December 2015 to fundraise for Exeter Respect Festival 2016 and further promote our core message of 'All Different All Equal'. Our publicity was very well received at the Forum at the University of Exeter. Our leafleting in the high street was very appreciated by the people who were eager to take our flyers and excited that the festival was, once again, happening. The festival has become the annual feast for many families who look forward to it every year. Our T-Shirts become so popular that we need to print more.



6 FEEDBACK & OVERALL EVALUATION OF EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2015

2015 was Exeter Respect Festival's second year as an Alcohol-Free Festival. This decision was taken after long negotiations with the police and Exeter City Council. We reviewed the feedback from the police and the Exeter City Council Health and Safety group, and the public who advised the organising committee, and decided to run 2015 festival Alcohol free. The feedback was excellent, and 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. As a result, the event was more inclusive, and the alcohol-free policy enabled everyone to move around, to sing, to dance and eat, sit, stand and move freely everywhere.

FEEDBACK ON THE 2015 FESTIVAL

Rank of Overall Experience: Excellent

"Hello to all your hard working, incredible people! What an amazing festival you organised this year. Thank you so very much for inviting Sadie to perform this year, she absolutely loved it and has been buzzing ever since. The festival was absolutely fantastic, such a wonderful atmosphere. We enjoyed chatting to many people and listening to some excellent music. Thank you once again for putting on such a beautiful, worthwhile event"

CAROL BARWELL

"Once again, Great to be here!"

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

"On behalf of my belly dance students and myself, I would like to thank you for inviting us to take part in Exeter Respect this weekend. We performed our belly dance show on the Community Stage. We enjoyed sharing our love of belly dancing with everybody who came and watched us...we were asked for an Encore by the audience and everybody belly danced with us!!! Awesome!"

AMEERA AWARD-WINNING BELLY DANCE ARTIST

"Really excellent time at Festival. Enjoyed the atmosphere, well organised. Good cause to sponsor."

WAITROSE

"An excellent festival, well organised, well done indeed for your hard work."

BAHAI COMMUNITY

"The busiest festival we have ever had, thank you very much indeed, great opportunity to come and be part of the larger community, we shared our culture, people were interested to learn more about Islam and Muslims' way of life."

EXETER MOSQUE & CULTURAL CENTRE

"Once again an excellent event for the Newtown community and throughout the city.

We have appreciated the opportunity to be part of it. Thanks"

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

"Two great days, lots of activities for all ages to do, we are so proud to be able to sponsor and have so many people who were interested to learn about our interpreting services in Devon. Thank you very much indeed for organising such an amazing event."

MULTILINGUAL

"First time we came to the Respect festival and it was absolutely brilliant.

Lovely atmosphere. Lots to see and do". - POLISH SUNDAY SCHOOL

"Great to be here, great to meet so many people"

SPECTRUM HOUSING GROUP

"There seemed to be a wider range of people this year, and it's always great to meet new people and community groups"

RAMM

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

RAVI HINDU TEMPLE

"Absolutely wonderful. Festival seemed larger. I loved it. Well done. Thank you Suaad."

SHERRY ROUHIPAM

"No Alcohol, wonderful. Definitely we will be more involved with our students"

EXETER COLLEGE

"The Commissioner had the opportunity to spend the whole Saturday meeting people and having to answer all sorts of different questions; it is great to be here."

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR DEVON AND CORNWALL

Other Comments:

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

"Fantastic festival. Much better without alcohol."

"Excellent. We were so happy about it."

"Respect festival great for all. 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."

"Highly recommended. Keep up the good work!"

"Excellent! For everyone for every age!"

"Lovely atmosphere; wonderful people! I am glad that ECC Housing were here to consult them in housing issues"

7 ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Exeter Respect Festival 2015 was a successful festival with a small carbon footprint, and no environmental damage or complaints from the neighbourhood. 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 2015. Due to the economic climate that we live in, many organisations have cut back on their financial support. Regardless of our policy of no alcohol at the festival we were more creative in managing our budget. We were thankful for our successful bid from Arts Council England that made a huge difference to 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 for meetings. The 2015 Festival had a very hard journey financially, but in the end the budget was healthy and we made a small surplus.



EXETER RESPECT 2015 RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND IN-KIND SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES:

- Arts Council England
- 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
- Hannah's at Seal Hayne
- Health Watch Devon
- Devon & Cornwall Constabulary
- Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Devon & Cornwall
- YMCA
- Devon Faith & Belief Forum
- Football in the Community
- Exeter City Football Club
- Centre for Human Rights & Social Equality CIC
- Parkwood Leisure
- St. Sidwell's Community Centre
- Exeter Community Initiatives
- Phonic FM
- Exeter Scrapstore
- Puxley Sound
- Newtown Community Association
- Merry Go Round & Carousal Toy Library
- Clive Chilver Photography
- Devon Contract Waste
- Exeter College
- Westward Housing
- RAMM
- Waitrose
- Sound Events
- Widsith & Deor
- Exeter Woodcraft Folk
- Exeter FilBrit
- Exeter Philippines Community
- Soundwaves Music Project / D'arts
- Evolve Promotion
- Multilingual
- Spectrum Housing Group
- HAART Estate Agents
- Bikeshed
- PRS
- Princesshay
- Exeter Phoenix
- Yoga for children
- Wren
- Co-op
- Broadside Screenprinting
- Radio Exe

9. KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH EXETER RESPECT COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

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www.facebook.com/Exeter.respect

Exeter Respect Festival 2015
design and branding by
Nigel Pennington at
www.evolvepromotion.co.uk
Photography: Clive Chilver



EXETER RESPECT ANTHEM

Exeter Respect Festival say
Put your hand on your heart
Stand up for what's right, friend
Exeter Respect Festival

Exeter Respect believe
We are all different
We are all equal

Exeter Respect Festival say
Put your hand on your heart
Stand up for what's right, friend
Exeter Respect Festival

No prejudice no hate
To rip apart
Free your minds and souls

Exeter Respect Festival say
Put your hand on your heart
Stand up for what's right, friend
Exeter Respect Festival

Exeter Respect Festival say
Put your hand on your heart
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Exeter Respect Festival
Exeter Respect Festival
Exeter Respect Festival

Written by Dr Suaad Genem-George
Edited and Music by the song writer,
composer, musician Lewis Esparon



Exeter Respect 2015 received financial support and support in-kind from:

