22 YEARS OF CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

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RESPECTOR ANNAL REPORT

All Different, All Equal EXECTOR RESIDENT

EXETER RESPECT CIC "ALL DIFFERENT ALL EQUAL" EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2019 CELEBRATING 22 YEARS OF DIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 22nd Anniversary of Exeter Respect Festival 2019

To All People Who Gave their Life Time to Campaign for Justice and Human Rights

On behalf of the Board of Exeter Respect CIC and the organizing committee of Exeter Respect Festival 2019 we would like to thank and congratulate all of our communities for their participation in the festival. Your efforts and support are very much appreciated.

On the 8th and 9th of June Exeter sprang to life once again with the sounds of live world music and dance at The Respect Festival in Belmont Park. Now part of 'Exeter Live Better' the festival celebrated its 22nd year with a theme of Ethnic Diversity, marking 25 years of the End of Apartheid in South Africa. We dedicated the festival to all people regardless of their background, colour, gender or creed, who have tirelessly stood firm for human rights and justice. No to prejudice, no to hate, no to racism. The South African Cultural Singers, an 8 piece vocal harmony group were our headliners at the park on Saturday, and in the evening young singing star Azanda Jezile headlined the after-show party at the Exeter Phoenix. Sunday headliners RSVP Bhangra played a blend of Punjabi Indian music with dance beats, and regardless of the rain everyone danced to their vibrant sound. World foods, crafts and campaigns made up many of the diverse stalls, with 6 stages of entertainment spread about the site devoted to a varied mix of music and dance; everything from Bollywood to belly dance to jazz folk and soul; there really was something for everybody!

The preparations for Exeter Respect Festival 2019 were based on input from our communities through our social media pages and monthly community event at St. Stephen Church in Exeter. At St. Stephens held a series of open events, sharing and discussing ideas from the general public, volunteers and sponsors. The O'Marley's Irish Band played at some of these events adding a special enjoyable musical element. At these open meetings it was suggested to carry forward the £2 charge at the gates, with no charge for children and young people 16 years old and under. We were overwhelmed by the response and glad that people are committed to honour our decision to implement this policy of a symbolic charge. The Festival reflected our community unity: one voice, one community - All Different, All Equal. The festival message was also supported through the University of Exeter and the Students' Guild, where they organized Exeter Respect Festival on Campus in May 2019.

We are honored to have people coming from everywhere in Devon and beyond to Exeter specifically for the Festival and delighted that we have kept the festival alcohol-free. Exeter Respect Festival is unique. Its message has not changed since it started in 1997 and it is the biggest annual celebration of diversity, equality and human rights in the South West.



The voice of our communities resonate with Exeter Respect Festival 2019, an expression of one voice, one community, united, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, a melting pot of all nationalities and ethnicities coming together to say, "no to all forms of prejudice, discrimination and racism".

Dr Suaad Genem-George Managing Director 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 2019, to share with the public, sponsors, stall holders and supporters, to comment, and to suggest recommendations for improvement for future festivals.

3. EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2019 OVERVIEW: ELEMENT-BY-ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Exeter Respect Festival 2019 took place on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June 2019 in Belmont Park in the City of Exeter. It was an event lasting from noon until 7pm on Saturday and 11am until 6pm on Sunday. Exeter Respect Festival 2019 was an alcohol-free festival and provided a great safe space in which communities came together to celebrate and share their cultures.

REVIEW OF PROGRAMMING 2019

MANDELA STAGE

SATURDAY

The Devon Youth Jazz Orchestra featured players from across the whole of Devon.

The Datura Roots Collective's inspired reggae, dub, blues and hip hop were with a delirious cocktail of soulful vocals.

Shumba Arts, a Devon based collective inspired the audience with African drum music and dance.

Headliners the **South African Cultural Choir UK**, one of the most talented & professional African Artists & musicians based in the UK, electrified the audience with their colourful appearance, music and dance.

Devononbird gave a vibrant performance with a mix of original soul touching folk songs firmly rooted in Westcountry.

Avtar Indian Dance invited audience participation with a variety of music styles including traditional folk.

SUNDAY

The stage opened with the **Peter Canter Trio** playing superb swing, bebop and latin jazz

L Juea, a five piece Exeter based band consisting of a diverse range of cultures, played a fusion of Latin American music.

The Loose Cannons, a 12 piece multi-genre band from Devon played an energetic set.

The Invisible Opera Company of Tibet, gave us deep-space, funk-punk, psychedelica infused with a hint of jazz and twist of gnome.

Headliners of the day **RSVP Bhangra**'s unique blend of Punjabi Indian music with dance beats and mainstream pop created an irresistible sound that the audience (regardless of the rain) joined in by dancing!

The dancing continued with Karina Gracia Dance ending the show with a style blending the passion, high energy, colour and bounce of Bollywood and Flamenco.

Stage management and MC were exceptionally organised.





COMMUNITY STAGE

Music and dancers from all different backgrounds and rhythm are the main elements of the community stage where communities bring the source of life to the stage, showing unity and solidarity between communities, to say no collectively to racism and to all forms of prejudices.

SATURDAY

The Sound Waves Music Project opened with their vibrant beat,

Majidah Tribal, a variety of talented dancers, mixing people from Exeter, Devon and beyond with diverse backgrounds shared their joy in celebrating cultural diversity.

The Snapdragon Connection, 4 band members with passion for 70s rock music, played a mixture of Led Zeppelin covers and their own songs.

Sister, made up of Tess, Maya and Molly, combined elements from all styles of music from folk to jazz.

The Wren Project, one of the UK's most well established community arts organizations, presented their renowned choir.

Newtown Roots Band, a large acoustic with musicians of all abilities played folk music with bit of gypsy jazz from around the world.

Ameera Dance, a belly dance artist who has performed internationally and won various awards, such as Miss Bellydance UK in 2011.

Jubilation Choir Totnes led by Fran Andre, a singer with a passion for helping people connected by singing with their hearts to the crowd.

Monty & Charlie, inspired the audience with jazz, soul, hip-hop and contemporary modern RnB.

Mudan Dance - Chinese Multicultural Community, based in Exeter, brought passion for free movement and unique dance representing the Mudan flower that symbolizes China and its heritage for the love of nature.

SUNDAY

Sunday opened with the vibrant dance of **Just 4 funk**, an international breakdance crew from Devon who have competed and performed all around the world, awesome break with energy and free spirit, on a wonderful morning to start the show.

Capoeira Libertacao is a Exeter and Devon based capoeira group who's performance is Capoeira which was created at the start of slavery in Brazil from a combination of mainly African cultures, creating a vibrant dance.

Turning Tides followed, a group with learning disabilities or autism who find passion in music.

D'accord French & Breton Dance played traditional French music.

Urbanflow Street Dance, a community hive of positive energy and of range of age gave vibes about mental health awareness and about how connecting our mind body and soul are so important.

Bulgarian Dance gave an exclusive show to share their traditional colorful dance, forcing everyone to move with their rhythm.

Indian Dance South West performed expressional dance storytelling through mime, using hand gestures and facial expression creating a dynamic form of art.

The Philippines Community Choir Fil Ex Dance used the body's expression of cultural, bringing harmony and unity.

Ilaria Tartanella Exeter took a journey through the South of Italy with upbeat Tarantella.

Ending the day **The Tirkkeballakee Band**, musicians and dancers from different nationalities who live in the UK, brought a variety of music and dance from the Mediterranean, Africa and middle Eastern modes and rhythms as well as by the Greek and Albanian tradition.





DIVERSITY STAGE

Curated by young ambassadors and students from Exeter College Music Academy and their tutor Emma Watson, the stage also had some external acts complementing the Exeter College performances. Exeter College Music Academy continued to provide the sound equipment and an engineer. Scheduling ran to time and the student's performances were well prepared.

SATURDAY

Saturday started with **Sabrina Fletcher**, an accomplished local singer-songwriter and self taught pianist

Exeter born **Sarah Yeo**'s brand of country, songwriter and folk songs were beautifully voiced.

Verity Greenway, a young band who drew the attention of the crowd.

Holly Kirkby, an engaging singer songwriter from Exeter who accompanies herself on piano.



Exeter College Choir were enjoyable and we learnt that the choir is open to all college students.

The Jambassadors are a smaller, breakout ensemble selected from the Exeter College Music Academy ensemble Jazz Project digging deeper into improvisation, exploring modern jazz rooted music and experimentation whilst performing funk, fusion, Latin, rock, folk, prog and contemporary jazz.

Chartwell Dutiro's mbira playing took the crowd directly to the heart of his homeland Zimbabwe, the mbira's country of origin.

Ruby May Spencer, Exmouth, Devon based singer/songwriter. Her music has been described as "Neo Soul". RMS released her debut EP 'The Prologue' back in December 2014 at the age of 14yrs. Influences such as Amy Winehouse, Etta James & Alabama Shakes inspire her music.

Lazy Snacks a 5 piece from Devon consisting of Felix Martin, Zac Ward, Josh Cade, Alfie Wright & Tom Brown played funk towards the end of the afternoon.

The day ended with **Kangaroo Crossing**, a jazz band playing a mixture of originals, standards, and some reworked versions of classical songs taking inspiration from Gilad Hekselman, Buddy Rich and Chris Minh Doky.

SUNDAY

Sunday started the day with **Funk'd Up**, passionate musicians based in Devon who love jamming and playing jazz and funk with a tight rhythm section and an ear blasting horn section, played well known songs from jazz and funk to rock and pop.

Paul Kouatchu, who describes his vibes as world music founded in the roots & heart of reggae stated "I am both privileged & proud to be able to share & celebrate in the sounds I create at Exeter Respect Festival 2019".

Short Notice, a band of six college students, featuring two vocalists (Lily Stagg & Teagan Jackson), two guitarists (Arthur Woodcock, George Fahy) a drummer (Cameron Conn), and a pianist (Chloe Clayton) played a mixture of acidjazz and pop-funk covers and originals.

CaveMouth, firm favourites on the festival circuit, played a unique and edgy mix of wonky-blues, mammoth-sized funk and a sprinkling of jazz. CaveMouth have supported bands such as The Blockheads and Tankus the Henge.





The Real Ish Band were formed in 2012, comprising of Isbhbel Crombie on vocals, Rob Rohdes on guitar, Nick Chevesse on bass and Rob Sibley on Cajon, played original material and performed an eclectic mix of heartfelt irreverent acoustics with toe tapping melodies.

Endakat gave us a set of electronic indie-pop fusion of bubblegum synths, dreamy vocals and lo-fi guitars.

Anna Jones is a local singer-songwriter who creates soulful songs which reflect aspects of her life. She accompanies herself on her keyboard and adds depth with rhythm on her Cajon drum. Her warm, soulful voice and thoughtful lyrics connected with the audience.

The festival ended with **Exeter College Big Band**. Now in its 31st year, the Big Band is open to any Exeter College students to join. Their set consists of Latin American, popular ballads, Motown soul, soundtracks and genuine big band jazz repertoire.

STEPHEN LAWRENCE STAGE

On Saturday the stage was curated by The Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies (IAIS) from the University of Exeter:

"The Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies (University of Exeter) had a rich day of events at the Respect Festival on 8 June 2019. It was a great opportunity to share our work and exchange with the inhabitants of Exeter city. We all really enjoyed this experience! The Marquee hosted two colourful exhibitions throughout the day - one by the students in Gender and Sexuality showcasing their creative projects, and a picture exhibition of boat-making in the Indian Ocean by Alessandro Ghidoni. The public was greeted with beautiful Kuwaiti cakes



and biscuits served by Asmaa Shamesaldeen, and kemençe music from Kurdistan played by Argun Çakir. The programme included different talks on "Artefacts of activism: creativity, gender, and the Middle East" (by Katie Natanel and the students on the course), "Re-viewing the Past, Re-shaping the Future: what we can learn from working with archives" (by James Downs, archivist at Exeter Library), "Yezidis, Mandeans, and other Religious Minorities in the Middle East" (by Christine Robins), "The Importance of Baghdad" (by Emily Selove). The Marquee was packed for Abla Oudeh's Arabic taster classes and the children's stories (told by Christina Phillips, Asmaa Meftah, and Rinat Harel). The public also enjoyed discovering Arabic calligraphy and listening to Arabic and Kurdish poetry throughout the day which ended joyfully at the sound of the kemençe and around Kurdish dances!"

On Sunday the stage was curated by Space*:

"On Sunday Space attended the Exeter Respect Festival once again to promote our organisation and the services which we provide as a youth service within the local and wider communities. The festival itself is the annual celebration of diversity within Exeter which promotes positive engagement and respect for one another within the wider community.

"Our aim was simple, keep it fun, keep it inclusive and above all, promote the positive opportunities and work we deliver for young people. Throughout the day we ran various activities to engage both young people and adults alike into our space, from open mic sessions, music workshops, smoothie making, face paints, festival games whilst talking to excited and curious members of the public about who we are and what we do.

"Overall a long, but fantastic day, our young people did really well at chatting to the public, promoting our work, getting involved, singing, performing, encouraging others to get involved and just generally doing an amazing job at being the voice of Space* throughout the day."



INSPIRE STAGE

Curated and hosted Widsith & Deor Stage:

"This was our eighth year hosting the Widsith & Deor Stage, and as ever, we were delighted with its success. Storytelling Theatre present a fantastically eclectic mix of spoken word, music, storytelling, performance poetry, theatre, comedy & even workshops! With trademark big masks and spectacular figures from myth & legend, the scene is set for some great performances from guest artists – past headliners have included Kimwei, Clive Pig the Storyfella, Raventales, Kat Black & Substance & Shadow Theatre!"

WINDRUSH STAGE

Hosted by Newtown Community Preschool

"As a local Community Preschool (situated on Blackboy Road, just opposite the park) we were delighted to be able to put on a full day of entertainment and activities for kids and their parents to enjoy.

"At Newtown Preschool we enjoy movement, music and singing and we include them every day. Physical activity and music are amongst the best ways to build children's brains, and most children love the chance to move and join in with music. We'll be sharing some activities children enjoy at Preschool - songs, yoga, Dough Gym and stories".

Newtown Primary School

"The village school in the heart of the city'. We are a small, friendly, community school, in the centre of Exeter, providing an exciting and personalised curriculum for our pupils. We create a happy, safe and nurturing environment where pupils are supported to flourish. We are dedicated to ensuring high standards of teaching in all classes. We work closely with parents and carers to ensure every child enjoys their time at school, develops a love of learning and achieves their best. We provide many opportunities to develop each child's unique gifts and talents, whether academic, creative, sporting, or musical. We were proud to celebrate and promote our school values in everything we do: Embracing Excellence - Celebrating Diversity - Nurturing Individuality."

The stage hosted:

Poco Drom , Skylarker presents - The Book Keepers, Jayne Leaver, Bumble Beats, Reta Franklin - Open Mic Stage, Community Yoga

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AREA

Full list of activities were delivered by different stall holders, engaging with families and their children. Exeter City Football Trust One Game One Community Group alongside.

The Toy Library was provided by **RAMM**, celebrating a 151 year anniversary and bringing history alive. Newtown Community Pre-School scrapstore provided interactive activities.

St. Matthews Church, **Belmont Church** and **The Salvation Army** provided an interactive activity for parents and children.



DAISI and **Double Elephant** provided art prints, in addition to a circus adding to the unique workshop that parents and children were able to enjoy.

Exeter City 'Pop Up' Farm delivered a range of experience and opportunities to learn about the natural world and farming.

There were three elements to this provision: activities inside the marquee, gardening outside and experiencing animals.

"Our aim was to create the opportunity to see and learn about farm animals. We were focused on delivering this work with chickens. There was an opportunity to see the chickens throughout the day and an opportunity to feed and handle the chickens and learn about them at set times."

MARKET STALLS

Local small businesses and charities sold Fair Traded goods from around the world, many supporting a range of international good causes. From Devonian, Asian and Indian 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.

COMMUNITIES, CAMPAIGN & DISPLAY

More communities from different diverse backgrounds rushed to book a space this year, fitting everyone in was a challenge. Many groups also fundraised for their good causes. Exeter Respect Festival 2019 marked the solidarity between people, and the range of displays and activities by campaigners encouraged larger movement around the park.

The layout of the site was organised according to the causes. Traders and caterers in one area, women's groups, faith and other charities in another. This created a specialist area for the visitors to browse, shop, socialise, and retrieve information. However, some campaigners that were campaigning for the same causes prefered to be apart.

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. Regardless of the heavy rain on Sunday, everywhere you turned you could see people moving around enjoying themselves and in the presence of someone performing something.

DECORATION

The site transformed into a colourful and vibrant festival site. The Art wall at Belmont Park was featuring a vivid image of Nelson Mandela on the wall and the symbols of Exeter Respect Festival.

AFTER SHOW

The 2019 festival expanded into an after show at the Exeter Phoenix on Saturday night featuring young singing star headliner Azanda Jezile. Azanda first appeared on 'Britain's Got Talent' where she amazed the judges, and was also a star of Young Eurovision in 2018. She was followed by The Love Community band and young Waz Rap Innovative Music. The evening ended with Revelation Roots.

4. VOLUNTEERING

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. For many years people have been coming from all parts of Exeter, Devon and Cornwall to volunteer and be a part of this amazing event. Volunteers have managed to perform under the heavy rain and showed dedication and commitment.









5. SOCIAL MEDIA & PROMOTION

Wiseman Production led a production of a series of short videos which were posted on our social media sites actively involved in promoting the festival.

An A5 brochure listing events and activities was given out at the festival.

A6 flyers were distributed around the city.

Our website and other social media tools including Facebook and Twitter were kept live and up to date both before and during the festival by a brilliant team of volunteers.

The lead-up to the main event Exeter Respect Festival 2019 was in the heart of our city centre. Our Community Variety Show launch event at the Barnfield Theatre, that, with in-kind support, provided a free venue and hosted our launch.

Our publicity was very well received at the University of Exeter.

Exeter College produced artwork for a variety of posters spread around the city.

Monthly meetings and open mic sessions at St. Stephen's Church at the High Street in Exeter were very well attended, celebrating different occasions and promoting the festival meeting our volunteers and consulting the public.

Our leafleting in the high street was very appreciated by people who were eager to take our flyers and excited that the festival was once again taking place.

6. OVERALL EVALUATION OF EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2019

2019 was Exeter Respect Festival fifth's 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 2019 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 alcoholfree policy enabled everyone to move around, to sing, to dance and eat, sit, stand and move freely everywhere.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Exeter Respect Festival 2019 accepted that we must look after the environment and therefore used biodiesel to run the festival generators. No environmental damage was caused and we received no complaints from the neighbourhood. Everyone who came through the gate had the experience of 'All Different, All Equal'. This is what 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. TESTIMONIALS

This is very belated but Exeter Quakers were pleased to be at Respect Festival this year and especially with our flash mob 15 minute circle on Saturday afternoon by our stall. Thank you for your prompt replies to our questions and for all your hard work

Exeter Quakers.

I would very much like to thank you for inviting myself to attend your event. I really appreciated the time and effort that you went to, and I had a wonderful time. It is thoroughly enjoyable attending a wide range of events throughout my civic year, and seeing so many different activities, events, and aspects around the City of Exeter, and across Devon. I would like to wish you every success in the future. **The Deputy Lord Mayor**



9. SPONSORSHIP

We would like to thank this year's main sponsor Exeter Live Better for their funding, and Exeter City Council for their support-in kind.

We would like to extend our thanks to our sponsors Devon County Council as well as South West & Devon Unison, University of Exeter, the Institute of Islamic and Arabic Studies, Multilingual Devon, Space, Young Devon, Exeter community Initiatives, Police and Police Crime commissioner Office

We would also like to thank Devon Contract Waste, Exeter College, PRS for Music, Widsith & Deor, Waitrose and Stagecoach for their support in-kind.

A thank you for support and resources from voluntary organizations including St. Sidwell's Community Centre, Newtown Association, Pre-School New town Community and The Barnfield Theatre and Exeter Phoenix.

Our appreciation and thanks to all our volunteers, who are the backbone of the festival.

EXETER RESPECT 2019 RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND IN-KIND SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES



volunteers@exeter-respect.org • suaad@exeter-respect.org • stalls@exeter-respect.org **Online**

exeter-respect.org • facebook.com/Exeter.respect • twitter.com/ExeRespect

Exeter Respect Festival branding designed Evolve Promotion