

Exeter Respect Festival 2023

ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL

EXETER RESPECT CIC
"ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL"

EXETER RESPECT
FESTIVAL 2023
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2024'S FESTIVAL





Exeter Respect Festival 2023

ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL



Exeter Respect CIC "All Different All Equal"
Exeter Respect Festival 2023 Annual Report

CONTENTS

- 1. Introduction3
- 2. The purpose of this report4
- 3. Exeter Respect Festival 2023 Overview:4
Element by Element analysis
- 4. Volunteering10
- 5. Social Media & Promotion10
- 6. Overall Evaluation11
- 7. Environment & and 12
Social Responsibility
- 8. Letter from Exeter's Lord Mayor 13
- 9. Sponsorship & Support In-Kind 14
- 10. Keeping in touch with 14
Exeter Respect CIC



1. INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO THE 26TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2023 TO ALL PEOPLE WHO GAVE THEIR LIFETIME TO CAMPAIGN FOR “DIVERSITY BUILT BRITAIN” NHS 75TH AND WINDRUSH 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Exeter Respect Festival 2023 marked the 26th anniversary of the first 1997 Respect Festival in Exeter, aimed at bringing communities together to celebrate its differences and commonalities. This year's theme was “Diversity Built Britain”. Exeter Respect Festival 2023 returned to mark the 75th anniversary of NHS and the 7th anniversary of Windrush.

The festival was held live and in full at Exeter City Council's public ground at Belmont Park from Saturday 10th June to Sunday 11th June. The doors were open to the public at 11:30 am and the festivities kicked off at midday on Saturday, finishing at 7pm and started again from 11am to 6:15pm on Sunday.

The festival featured a kaleidoscope of performances. The outdoor stages included renowned local band Revelation Roots on Saturday and international Senegal artist Batch Gueye on Sunday. There were many other outdoor activities and processions for people of all ages, as well as the opportunity to sample a variety of food, clothing, and handmade crafts from local communities and organisations. The festival was alcohol free, however Bar Nova provided non-alcoholic cocktails. Due to the economic climate, a suggested entrance fee of £2 per day was charged, with under 16s admitted free of charge.

Exeter Respect's launch took place in May 2023 at the Exeter Phoenix with a screening of the film *The Wytches Vendetta*, directed by John Fitzsimons. The film tells the story of a descendant of those responsible for the hanging of three women for witchcraft and ensuing karmic revenge. The film begins with a reprise of the events that led to the hanging of three women, Temperance Lloyd, Mary Trembles and Susannah Edwards, in 1682. Enhanced with dramatic imagination and dialogue the courtroom and hanging scenes are re-enacted using locations in Bideford, The Guildhall in Exeter, and the Castle. The setting is the present day Dartmoor where in a lay-by one of the descendants, a successful American businessman, is trying to seduce a young woman. She refuses, but suggests a local pub where there may be a room available for the night. He is thrilled. A lack of moral concerns, inherited from his forefathers, guides his decisions. His delight grows when he finds the pub full of women. But they may not be who they seem, and his life is about to change forever. We feel this film is inclusive and addresses some of the issues that we face in Britain today.

Our theme was Diversity built Britain. The speaker following on from the film screening, medical student Nabeel Khan, highlighted the relevance of this film to the theme. The film sparked a discussion on a variety of issues, including gender, the NHS, Windrush, and the future of young people in the face of climate change and environmental impact. The audience left Studio 74 at Exeter Phoenix with the hope that next year will maintain the same format of a film followed by a panellist speaking afterwards.



We are honoured to have people coming from around 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 underlying message has not changed since it started in 1997 and it is the biggest annual celebration of diversity, equality, and human rights in the Southwest.

Devon County Council commented *“It was a joy to experience such wonderful community spirit. The message of this excellent event was “all different, all equal”. It was humbling to meet community leaders and volunteers, who are embracing diversity and working together for the benefit of all.”*

We would like to thank our communities, volunteers and sponsors for their dedication to the festival

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 2023, 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 2023 OVERVIEW: ELEMENT-BY-ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Exeter Respect Festival 2023 took place on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th June 2023 in Belmont Park in the city of Exeter. It took place from noon until 7pm on Saturday, and 11am until 6pm on Sunday. Exeter Respect Festival 2023 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 2023

MANDELA STAGE SATURDAY

RUACH, who describe themselves as 'a sort of Jewish Ceilidh band', are a trio who opened the stage with music of Jewish heritage.

LAZY SNACKS are a fusion band, blending jazz, funk, rock, lo-fi, and disco. They delivered a dynamic live performance.

DEVON AFROBEAT COLLECTIVE- a 14-piece Afrobeat band with three great singers and a five-piece horn section kept the audience dancing non-stop.

Devon's reggae **REVELATION ROOTS** were our headliners on Saturday. They have appeared at Glastonbury and Beautiful Days festivals to name a few, and were awesome to listen to and dance to.

Exeter based rock band **BIG LAVA** are a four-piece outfit that delivered high-energy performances and infectious, riff-driven tracks drawing inspiration from classic rock and metal.

Saturday finished with electrifying Indian dance from **SOUTH KERALA INDIAN DANCE** - enhanced by **AVATAR DANCE** joining in the proceedings - adding a touch of Indian life and culture to Saturday's closing performance, the crowd loving their presentation that showcased the diversity of our communities. Next year, we will have more community groups and professional artists performing on Saturday to close the show.

MANDELA STAGE SUNDAY

Klezmer band from Dartmoor, **HAZAAR** performed a variety of Eastern European tunes taking the audience on a journey to the Balkans and beyond, with their music so captivating that the crowd couldn't help but dance.

BLIMEY O'RILEY are a collective of musicians who have shared the stage with the likes of Noel Gallagher, Frank Turner, and Megadeth to name but a few.

VENUS are a four-piece Indie Rock band based in Exeter, inspired by artists including Wolf Alice, Arctic Monkeys and The Strokes, they played a set ranging from punk, grunge and alt rock.

Sunday's headliner the **BATCH GUEYE BAND** magically transported the audience to the heart of West Africa with his soulful voice and traditional Senegalese Baye Fall music with an amazing and energetic live performance.

ANDY QUICK BAND, a luxury band playing authentic jazz and show tunes from the 1920s, 30s and 40s, incorporated jazz, swing, Bossa, latin and blues into their music to create the mood from that era.

BATCH DANCE SABAR FAMILY DRUM AND DANCE brought the festival to a spectacular conclusion by taking us on a fantastic dance journey from West Africa through the wider African Diaspora! They closed the Festival with joy and harmony with the rhythm of diversity from around the world. It was a pleasure to participate in the dance and say farewell to the crowd, promising them that Exeter Respect Festival will continue next year in 2024.





COMMUNITY STAGE

This stage is a popular platform for communities to showcase their cultural heritage, not to promote a specific ethnicity or country. The festival has its own values and rules, and we do not allow any ethnicity to show that they are superior to others. The Festival was created and is organised to campaign against prejudice, discrimination and racism. We sometimes ask groups to reschedule due to sudden changes. This year, some groups have resisted, cancelled last-minute, and used inappropriate language. We do not tolerate this behaviour, even from long-time participants. We were surprised when this happened, but fortunately it was only one member of a group who acted without consulting the others and overreacted by using unacceptable language. The community stage is for all communities to enjoy. If we change the time or the day, it is beyond our control and we will always have a serious reason. We have to accommodate everyone if we can.

We encourage everyone to be open-minded and respectful of other cultures, and not to take any changes to our schedule personally. We are happy to provide an opportunity and platform for groups and those who run workshops to share their culture and for their students to perform, regardless of their background or culture. Our objective is to promote sharing, tolerating, enjoying and celebrating different cultures, and kicking out prejudice in all its forms.

We would like to thank the stage crew, specifically our sound engineer Paul Johnson who ran the PA. **WREN MUSIC** presented young folk band **DEVON YOUTH FOLK ENSEMBLE** and adult choir **EXETER FOLK CHOIR**, stating "We would like to give feedback and give praise for the quality and staffing of the sound on the Community Stage this year on the Sunday of Respect Festival 2023. Huge thanks to stage manager Chris, and especially sound engineer Paul, whose care and attention to detail and responsiveness to feedback made this far and away the best experience we have yet had at Respect Festival. We have been part of Respect for several years and with this quality would be happy to be asked again".

Next year, all communities are kindly requested to communicate respectfully and effectively with our team of volunteers who are giving their time to make this event happen, as well as the sound engineers, in order to have the best possible experience.

COMMUNITY STAGE SATURDAY

SOUNDWAVES MUSIC PROJECT opened the stage, an Exeter based charity all about people of different abilities making music, Soundwaves believe that anyone can give music a try!

THE EXETER MUSICAL THEATRE CHOIR, dynamic singing ensemble for local people, headed up by MD Kelly Young. The choir are a part of The Sing Space, who run choirs around the UK and provide professional voice training and opportunities without auditions. The choir is open to all with a focus on community, showtunes, harmonies and technique. The choir has been championed by West End stars such as Kerry Ellis and Gina Beck.

LOU LATHAM produced a fusion of Hip Hop and dance music integrating Lou's real talk lyrics.

TESS AND THE D'URBERVILLES are a lively acapella group who sang toe-tapping tunes singing to the heart of the audience to make their souls warm.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHOIR, a community group are a special group who have been part of Exeter Respect Festival for many years, and have been involved in volunteering and highly supportive through the years.

INCLUSIVE EXETER ZUMBA made the crowd move and dance with their vibrant beat.

Graceful bodywork and powerful footwork combined in this passionate dance from Southern Spain, Spanish trained **KARINA GRACIA FLAMENCO** and her Exeter students were accompanied by live guitar. .

EXETER ROCK MUSIC PROJECT is the UK and Ireland's premier school for children's contemporary music tuition aged between 7-18 years old who impressed the audience by their amazing talent.



The **GLOBAL HARMONY MIXED COMMUNITY CHOIR** based at Exeter Phoenix sang songs of celebration and protest from around the world in glorious harmony singing songs from Africa, the Middle East and pop favourites, bringing an eclectic and diverse repertoire to the stage.

STUDENTS OF INDIA DANCE BN performed the classical dance form of Bharatanatyam, one of the most dynamic and internationally popular styles of Indian dance, based around Hindu mythology and originated in Hindu temples as a form of worship.

EXETER KERALA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION performed traditional Indian dance from their region. They closed the stage on a high note with a vibrant performance that included audience participation.

COMMUNITY STAGE SUNDAY

The stage was opened by **TURNING TIDES PROJECT** who were brilliant. They showed the audience that their aims are to make Equal Access to music, the arts and life a reality for people with 'Learning Disability' and 'Autism' labels.

Maketon is the signing system for non-verbal people with learning disabilities. **MAKATON JUKEBOX** is made up of sixteen people, half of whom are non-disabled paid or unpaid carers and the other half are adults with cognitive disabilities. The choir is led by professional singer Joanne Rogers, they played covers and original songs created by composer Ben Glass.

Okehampton based charity **WREN MUSIC** helps people from all backgrounds and all levels of experience to make music together, all across Devon. They presented a joint performance from their youth group the Devon Youth Folk Ensemble and Exeter Folk Choir.

NEWTOWN ROOTS BAND, a community ensemble, made a big joyous sound playing a variety of folk tunes from around the world.

BULGARIAN TRADITIONAL DANCE's DG Sedef presented dances that have been around for centuries bringing vitality and positive emotions entwined in unique odd rhythms. Even though the moves are important and sometimes difficult, in Bulgaria the main thing is the passion. When they danced you can see their feelings and passion.

HIKMAT CHINESE DANCE GROUP, a Chinese community group brought the tradition of China to Exeter, dynamic and vibrant, colourful with a unique Chinese cultural flavour.

MAX KROGER AND JIM (SHINE MUSIC DEVON), Max put his own take on favourite covers of popular songs on the piano, played with feeling and from the heart, emotional chords with striped back moody melodies. Jim provided saxophone, drums and beat boxing.

THE KURDISH GOVEND DANCE, a Kurdish traditional dance group brought in the crowd to celebrate their culture collectively, sharing the stage with young people and their leaders, ending their show in front of the stage with a huge crowd joining in to try Kurdish dancing.

The festival was closed by the **GLORIOUS CHORUS** who have performed at Glastonbury, Port Eliot and Isle of Wight Festival, with all-original music.

The stage was packed for two days, the audience fully engaged, and everyone involved expressed their amazement at the wealth of culture hidden in Exeter and Devon.

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.

DIVERSITY STAGE SATURDAY

MACHINERIES OF JOY opened the stage, an Exeter based psych/punk/alt-rock band playing all original material that throws out shards of Doors, Flaming Lips, Clash, Berlin Bowie and more.

MATHEW KITCHENER AND SOMBOR are a new force in modern prog music, with Kitchener's unique compositions brought to life by the band's talented musicians.

JON FAZEL AND CAT ROSE are an emerging singing-songwriting folk duo based in Plymouth, their songs described as "combining dreamy, catchy melodies with storytelling lyrics that paint vivid pictures in your mind", played songs inspired by the beauty of their coastal city, juxtaposed with its industrial roots.

THE EXETER COMMUNITY FOLK ORCHESTRA is an open, welcoming and inclusive music group who have also supported Refugee Support Devon and St Petrock's, they supplied joyous music and melodies.

With a unique combination of traditional instruments, **TRIO BAKLAVA** blended the sounds of the oud, concertina, bagpipes, Middle Eastern percussion, mandolin, baglama, spiked fiddle, guitar, tin whistle and voices to bring evocative, stirring, lively music and song from the Mediterranean.

Exeter based indie-rock band **HOUSE OF CARDS** are a four-piece outfit with a penchant for catchy hooks, intricate guitar work, and emotive lyrics showed that they are quickly becoming one of the most exciting up-and-coming bands on the local scene.

Formed during their studies at The Academy of Music and Sound in Exeter, **CIGARETTES AND AFTER EIGHTS** are a punk band that proved their reputation for their energetic live performances and catchy, high-energy tracks.

London based **MAX TYLER** used his self-taught, innovative production to carefully combine new and old electronic music together to craft his own unique Synthpop with a modern twist; euphoric, powerful, high energy and yet full of soul.

DANCE WITH ME closed the stage with free movement dancer Rosalie Rocca calling the audience to join her proclaiming "everyone can dance!" Dynamic, filled with a fusion of West Indian style, combining all elements of fitness, her energy and enthusiasm was hard to stop. She has closed the day with a touch of joy.

DIVERSITY STAGE SUNDAY

JOYRIDE opened the stage, a 5-piece indie rock/pop band, based around Exeter, consisting of vocals, lead and rhythm guitar, bass and drums played original material alongside relevant covers.

SOUNDS LIKE LILY, fronted by 18-year-old singer Lily Mackay whose incredible voice emoted a soulfulness that's hard to put into words

OBVIOUS REASONS, a five piece Indie Rock band based in Ottery St Mary gave us youthful and contemporary vibes.

SOILL, a recently formed five piece experimental dream pop band based in Exeter performed indie rock, folk, soul with an electronic ambience.

MELODIE, previously of Minx, a key act in the 90s drum and bass scene who has sung and recorded in various bands in the South West over the last 20 years performed solo material.

THE CORDUROY CURIOSITIE, an acoustic duo played original songs in an Americana/ alt style with vocal harmonies with a melodious groove.

Solo artist **SONEYCHKO** combined elements of psychedelic electronica and soul through a mixture of acoustic and electronic instrumentation.

FLAVOUR THE WICKED, a three piece psychedelic indie funk/rock band took influences from the Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Sticky Fingers and Dirty Sound Magnet to create a 60's vibe.

EXETER COLLEGE BIG BAND, now in its 34th year the Big Band is as popular as ever with students and open to any Exeter College student to join included Latin American, popular ballads, Motown soul, soundtracks and genuine big band jazz in their repertoire. They closed the stage leaving the sound of their music from today and decades gone by in our ears.



COMMUNITY YOGA

The annual 108 Sun Salutation is a popular event at Exeter Respect, attracting both experienced yoga enthusiasts and beginners alike. The salutations, led by Fran Allen of Derek The Dog Yoga Centre, took place once again on a Sunday morning, this time in drizzling rain. Despite the wet weather, the participants persevered and enjoyed the muddy ground, finishing their session covered from head to toe in mud and laughter.

MARKET STALLS

Many local businesses and charities sold Fair Trade goods from around the world, many supported good international causes. The park's central avenue of trees and the play area were transformed into an international market, with people browsing and shopping for Asian and Indian cuisine, Devon jewellery, and world clothing. We encourage local traders to participate and promote their goods, but this element needs to be carefully managed to strike a balance between commercial traders and charitable causes. There is a high demand for more coffee trailers. Bar Nova's, which was split between non-alcoholic cocktails and coffee, was not enough. We need to consider adding at least one more coffee trailer next year to create a better balance, despite the fact that some stalls are already providing hot drinks.

COMMUNITIES, CAMPAIGN & DISPLAY

There were more communities from different diverse backgrounds wishing to book a space this year, so fitting everyone in was a challenge. Many groups also fundraised for their good causes. Exeter Respect Festival 2023 marked the solidarity between people to stand up to campaign for 'Diversity Built Britain'.

The range of displays and activities by campaigners encouraged people to move more around the park with the layout of the site placing causes, traders, and caterers in one common area. In this manner, we created a specialised area where visitors could browse, shop, socialise, and gather information.

The Mandela Area had a café organised by **ST. SIDWELL'S COMMUNITY CENTRE**

SPONSORS SOUTH WEST UNISON and **DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL BRANCH** have been involved with Exeter Respect Festival for 26 years. They displayed information about employment and diversity, the rights of workers and inclusion.

CITIZEN ADVICE EXETER and **CITIZEN ADVICE TORBAY** welcomed people to learn about what they offer and explain the complexity of legal systems.

Some campaigners that campaign for similar causes preferred to be apart, therefore they were spread throughout the site. These included **GREENPEACE**, **DEVON WILDLIFE**, **EXTINCTION REBELLIONS** and **FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**.

The Community Area hosted a large variety of stalls displaying information, and some goods such as **EXETER FAIR TRADE**.

EXETER QUAKERS displayed their work in the community and ran workshops, regardless of the noise around them they managed to pray for peace and harmony forming a circle. People were joining them to feel at peace.

Other charities included women's organizations such as **DEVON RAPE CRISIS** and **FAWCETT DEVON**.

The Diversity area had many stalls from around the world displaying their culture and sharing their taste of food.

REFUGEES SUPPORT DEVON, **ETHIOPIAN LINK**, **PHILIPPINES COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** all offered their cultural cuisine as did the **EXETER MALAYALAM COMMUNITY**.

AFGHANISTAN WOMEN from refugee backgrounds presented their cultural art craft.

MULTILINGUAL DEVON's display explained how Devon has been shaped culturally with more than 150 languages so far in Devon.

GARLAND SUPPORT presented their work and workshops.

THE GLOBAL CENTRE, working with schools, displayed the archives of research that they managed to collect and with different communities. It was great to visit their stall.

The **KURDISH COMMUNITY** stall was rich with their culture and displayed artefacts from their homeland.

The **BULGARIAN COMMUNITY** display showed their colourful traditional dress, inviting people to join into a folklore dance in front of their stall.

The **EGYPTIAN STALL** gave a taste of the Pyramids and informed people about ancient Egypt.

EXETER PHOENIX ART CENTRE joined forces with **RAAM**.

BOOK CYCLE were very popular, people were queuing to take a book, plus there was a quiet area within the large tent for reading and an area for chatting about books.

DEVON UKRAINE ASSOCIATION, regardless of the war, displayed interesting facts about Ukraine and clear information about their distinctive culture. The area was colourful, and people enjoyed the many workshops for the whole family.

The **HONG KONG STALL** was popular, giving an insight into their culture.

The **POLISH COMMUNITY** featured their culture and displayed their connection with Exeter and Devon.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL COMMUNITIES TEAMS

This year saw more participation from Devon County Council than in any previous years. More than 20 staff and volunteers from different departments, County councillors, and the new CEO attended the festival and helped out at the Devon County Council stall. As well as taking the opportunity to talk to lots of people, answer queries about DCC services and hand out information leaflets, they also successfully recruited several new volunteer ESOL teachers to help with the English classes that were organised for asylum seekers. With the help of local artists Kerrie and Yudi, they ran an interactive Art project, inviting passersby to draw or write something on the theme of "a country or a culture that you have a connection with" on squares of cotton. *"The consensus from our point of view is that the weekend was a great success. Well done to all the organisers and volunteers from the Respect team. DCC was proud to be one of the main sponsors of this celebration of diversity, and our staff and volunteers enjoyed the opportunity to meet and engage with so many people and community groups. Lots of good food and good music. The festival was well organised and well run. It felt safe and there was a great atmosphere."*

In the words of DCC staff and volunteers, councillors, and stall holders from linked groups:

"It was a truly joyous occasion, my cheeks are still hurting from smiling so much!"

"The Festival brought people together and celebrated the richness that diversity brings from the food and music we enjoyed, to the sharing of experiences and strengthening of connections to each other and our communities."

"What particularly resonates with me was seeing so many people, from so many backgrounds, joining together to learn more about each other and to take away with them a broader understanding of diversity in Devon."

"The Exeter Respect Festival is a wonderful opportunity for us all to learn so much. I have attended for years (apart from during Covid of course) and relish the opportunity to watch and be part of something which is so uplifting. I was unable to attend on Saturday but Sunday's events were fantastic, with the highlight for me being the Bulgarian dancers and the Newtown orchestra who played music from around the world. Fabulous. More please."

"Attending the Respect Festival enabled me to engage with individuals I do not come into regular contact with. For example, I learnt a lot about the Kurdish community and the challenges they face on a day to day basis. It gave me pause to think about differences but more importantly sameness and the things we share in common. Attending the Respect Festival has re-enforced how important The European Convention on Human Rights and Human Rights Act 1998 are in bestowing human rights and in my day to day work. It also indicates how much more work needs to be done to promote and protect basic human rights."

"It was my first Respect festival but it was great to meet people from all walks of life, all over the world, different backgrounds, faith's, nationality, cultures.... I was able to chat with people that maybe I would never have the opportunity to talk with before, open my mind to what their lives are like and listen to their life since seeking asylum here in the UK.... for example 3 woman from Afghanistan had made this amazing beaded jewellery from their country and they had learnt English in 9 months, they were really inspiring people. The event was about celebrating the amazing diversity we are as humanity, the strength that we are in that diversity and uniqueness that we all bring to life. When there is so much oppression and discrimination in the worldevents like these are so important."

"I think that all of us would love to live side by side whatever culture, race or religion, so the more we express this as individuals the more we become one. Love is what humans relationship are built on understanding and acceptance of each other's beliefs, understanding that each person is an individual with individual beliefs

and accepting those beliefs, and sometimes we may question those beliefs. But in the end, humans are built on love and compassion, and understanding that each person has had different experiences, are weaknesses as humans sometimes are being judgemental, but unless you have walked in someone's else's shoes, you will only know what they have experienced and seen and felt. We can make that change individuals and collectively."

"I felt everyone who attended got into the spirit of the festival and it was a friendly and fun space. It was lovely being amongst the community organisations - placing us right in the heart of communities, where we should be! It's good to engage people in activities, so the flag making was a great idea."

"Overall the festival is very friendly and with lots of interesting and good value food, and great music. So overall much better atmosphere than – say - the Devon County Show. And I say that as a farmer.. It's definitely good that DCC sponsors Respect."

"I am really glad that we participated as it is a good opportunity to connect with other groups"

"We had a great weekend. It was our group's first time here and we weren't sure about what we planned – but it went well. Talked to so many people."

"It was so much fun"



WINDRUSH: FAMILIES AND CHILDREN AREA

SCRAPSTORE provided their blue slide fun for children and families, and displayed their variety of activities.

THE TOY LIBRARY presented activities for the family: spinning plates and poi plus a soft toy tombola, and a preloved toys and books stall.

SAFE SOIL provided fun for the whole family enabling them to touch the soil, plant their own seeds, creating a mobile garden.

Football shooting organised by **FOOTBALL IN THE COMMUNITY, EXETER CITY FOOTBALL CLUB** and **EXETER CITY TRUST** was very popular indeed.

POLICE CADETS ran lots of different activities for everyone to enjoy.

EXTINCTION REBELLION, FRIENDS OF THE EARTH and **ENVIRONMENT HUB** campaigned through a variety of activities related to the environment.

LOVE FROM SYRIA read stories and engaged with the public by resolving a few clues in their quiz.

DEVON CENTO-COW LINK ran storytelling activities.

There was a stall promoting education by displaying artefacts from **SOUTH AFRICA**

OTHER PERFORMANCES & ACTIVITIES

Belmont Park was transformed into an amazing festival site and the event featured a number of strolling performances including the Philippines community, the Bulgarian Association, the Exeter Malayalam Community and the Kurdish Community amongst many others. Everywhere you turned you could see people moving around enjoying themselves and view some inspiring performances.

DECORATION

The festival transformed into a colourful and vibrant festival site. The art wall at Belmont Park featured lots of beautiful, heartfelt artworks which reflected the colourful and vibrant decor of the festival.

4. VOLUNTEERING

It would not 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 part of this amazing event. We thank them for their dedication and commitment.

5. SOCIAL MEDIA & PROMOTION

This year Wiseman Productions created a series of short videos that were posted on our social media sites.

We also used our website and other social media tools including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, which were kept live and up to date both before and during the festival by a brilliant volunteer Tom Caro.

Evolve Promotion created 2023's branding, posters and flyers. An A5 brochure listing events and activities was given out at the festival. A campaign that was both virtual and hardcopy was used to spread a variety of posters around the city and on digital screens in prominent places with high footfall. A5 flyers were handed out in the weeks running up to the festival.

Leading up to the main event, Exeter Respect Festival 2023 was at the heart of our city centre. We had our Community Variety Show launch event at Princesshay on 26th May 2023, which, 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 and Music and Sound Academy. We have kept regular meetings with different communities for updates and to inform, these meetings are very important to keep our different communities involved in shaping the festival. Our presence at the High Street and Princesshay was effective in meeting new people, recruiting volunteers and talking to the general public through word of mouth promotion, we are intending to reduce the paper and print promotion and focus on media and digital promotion.



6. OVERALL EVALUATION OF EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2023

2023 was Exeter Respect Festival's eighth 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 2023 once more 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.

Here are a few comments written on our visitor book at the end of the festival from different people including stall holders, musicians and performance :

"This event was definitely needed in Exeter, bringing everyone together in one place. Introducing the diverse communities in Exeter to each other is peaceful. A lot of hard work seems to have gone into the organisation of this event, Thank you for Suad for This beautiful organisation".

"One of the best events in Exeter. We look forward to it every year. I love how inclusive and inviting it is. I love all the activities and art. The atmosphere is amazing- this is so needed in Exeter. As someone from a minority background, Exeter Respect Festival has always made me feel so loved + welcome. Thank you !".

"A lovely thing to do. Thank you".

"Yet another amazing festival, the highlight of the year. Well done to all !".

Brilliant festival once again, fabulous atmosphere, people and music. Loved making lots flowers with the attendees and sharing Falun Dafa with Exeter. Thank you!"

"A Wonderful festival congratulation to the organisers for all their support. We've enjoyed the musical events, all the different activities".

"V nice festival, great variety of music and lovely atmosphere".

"The festival is very inclusive and so nice to see a variety of activities , arts, food and thought I have enjoyed the experience of Respect Festival".

"I really love the festival! Such a great atmosphere. I think it is really approachable and great for kids also, maybe a suggestion is do some workshops? I like cultural ones or something"

"What a wonderful, well organised event with a lovely chilled atmosphere. Great stalls...obviously I'd love more Vegan stalls... as they show Respect to all life! Keep up great work Denia and team, See you next year... Dave..."

"Absolutely amazing place, people, ethos and atmosphere. So happy to be a part of this festival it shows Exeter at its best. Thank you so much we look forward for another great year"

"Fantastic atmosphere, great music, wonderful festival in a great city. Very well organised."

Such a vibrant diverse event! Love being part of it!"

"Very nice atmosphere, energetic public, very helpful, meaningful, definitely will be back next year"

"Lovely festival, we had loads of interests, very helpful, suggestion: maybe an arts and crafts dedicated section might be welcomed. Lovely altogether x."

"Thanks team. Really good, great gathering. Keep up, the world needs it !"

"Fab environment, amazing buzz"

"Amazing atmosphere. Kind and approachable people. Excellent networking opportunities. Raising cultural awareness. Thank you."

"Brilliant, very vibrant. Good chats with the public. Very productive and well organised. Safe, Vital-more. please."

"Lovely relaxed atmosphere. Great to see everyone out enjoying the Park and each other."

"Amazing atmosphere, great music and activities. A brilliant event".

"Amazing weekend, incredible staff and stewards, MASSIVE RESPECT."

Great weekend- big reunion of friends!"

"Great weekend- Respect to staff and Stewards helpful, awesome activities".

"Have Enjoyed this festival again this year, has plenty of visitors to our tent, lovely atmosphere fr0m our neighbours tents, will definitely come back next year".

"Thank you so much for showing Exeter the diversity of the world. What a positive, beautiful event".

"Has been amazing, Exeter NEEDS This Festival".

"Great Vibe. Very helpful staff. People appreciated Indian food! See you next year 2024".

"Absolutely Lovely event, clearly thriving, very well organised. Excellent food, stalls , bands, well done".

"Beautiful vibes, , old young all together, all dancing together, love it".



"Super friendly, amazing festival, well done Exeter".

"Lovely festival, we have the pleasure to come every year and people are nice, good environment, thanks to organising it every year".

"It's been very good staff, very helpful and good".

"Lovely atmosphere and variety of activities. Nice to meet and mingle with others".

"Fantastic once again! Great to see people and new".

"Such a pleasure, everyone is so welcoming and loving. The staff are so helpful, I can't wait for next year! Xx".

"An amazing event, excellent food, music and stalls. Very well organised. An absolute pleasure to be here again. Thank you !!".

"absolutely brilliant vibe- We came and would be more than happy to come again with friends and family".

"Amazing festival, such respectful people . this was our first time trading, we will be back!".

"Great Festival, great mix of people, unity in the community".

"Lovely atmosphere, friendly staff...maybe meat free next year in keeping with the climate change agenda?"

"Great space- Great Atmosphere! Need more Coffee Stands".

"Lovely to meet the diverse people of Exeter in such a great festival".

We have had some really wonderful conversations and made connections with all ages about what really matters to them. Excellent ! "

"We have had many enquiries about work and made many contacts. Thank you, it is a wonderful festival".

"We had 2 days, everything went really well and support from stewards! Thank you".

"A great couple of days! Everyone was very friendly and we had some excellent discussion. Both days were extremely well organised and a great celebration of diversity in Exeter".

"Our favourite Event of the year! Everyone puts in such a great effort we thank you for making it such a great event. Thank you !"

"I think the festival went very well, well planned and excellent, friendly and really good stewards !"

ESP SECURITY *"Our first time, but really hopefully not be the last! What a wonderful event to be a part of what an amazing team!".*

UNISON: *"Great Festival, fantastic atmosphere. Good to see the communities groups and grassroots initiatives- look forward to continuing to support for many more years. Well done."*

7. ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Exeter Respect Festival 2023 accepted that we must look after the environment and therefore used biodiesel rather than red 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. LETTER FROM THE LORD MAYOR OF EXETER



THE LORD MAYOR'S PARLOUR, GUILDHALL EXETER
Telephone: 01392 265524

Dear Suaad,

I just wanted to write personally to thank you for kindly inviting me along to the annual Respect Festival. It was truly a great privilege to be part of this important event for the City and our community.

As I stated in my speech the Respect Festival is so relevant to ensure we all live in a City where diversity is embraced and I can also assure you your continued hard work to ensure the event occurs every year is appreciated very much by so many - so a huge thank you for all you continue to do.

Ian and I really enjoyed the day and from the feedback I have received from residents I know the weekend was once again a great success.

Thank you again and take care

Yours sincerely

The Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Exeter
Cllr Kevin Mitchell



Please reply to The Lord Mayor's Office, Civic Centre, Paris Street, Exeter, EX1 1JN

9. SPONSORSHIP

EXETER RESPECT 2023 RECEIVED FINANCIAL SUPPORT
AND IN-KIND SUPPORT FROM THE
FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS AND BUSINESSES

PLATINUM SPONSOR



GOLD SPONSOR



BRONZE SPONSORS



FRIENDS OF EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL



IN-KIND SPONSORSHIP OR CONTRA DEAL



10. KEEP IN TOUCH

Exeter Respect Community Interest Company - CIC No. 08725612

Email

info@exeter-respect.org • programming@exeter-respect.org
volunteers@exeter-respect.org • suaad@exeter-respect.org • stalls@exeter-respect.org

Online

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

Exeter Respect Festival 2023 branding designed by Nigel Pennington of Evolve Promotion
Photography: Clive Childers and Tom Faro

