

The logo features the text 'Exeter Respect Festival 2024' in a bold, sans-serif font. 'Exeter' is in black, 'Respect' is in red, and 'Festival 2024' is in black. Below the text is the tagline 'ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL' in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a circular background with a white, stylized, concentric geometric pattern. The background of the entire page is a vibrant yellow and orange floral pattern with various flowers and butterflies.

Exeter Respect Festival 2024

ALL DIFFERENT, ALL EQUAL

EXETER RESPECT CIC
"ALL DIFFERENT ALL EQUAL"

EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2024
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2025



All Different, All Equal

Exeter Respect

Exeter Respect CIC
“All Different All Equal”

Exeter Respect Festival 2024
Celebrating 27 Years of Diversity
Annual Report

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1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to 27th Anniversary of Exeter Respect Festival 2024

The theme "Friendship through Diversity"

Dedicated to David Blencowe and Chris Bowman

Exeter Respect Festival 2024 marked the 27th anniversary of the first Respect Festival in Exeter in 1997 aimed to bring communities together to celebrate their differences and commonalities. This year's theme was "Friendship through Diversity". Exeter Respect Festival 2024 returned to mark friendship through diversity and was dedicated to remembering two people that were involved with Exeter Respect by organising and providing support for Exeter Respect Festival for a long time - Chris Bowman and David Blencowe.

David Blencowe supplied electricity and generators that ran power for the festival for many years, and he was also a real force who strongly believed that the festival is part of the cultural makeup of the city. He was tremendously missed at 2024's festival. He was quite a character, no one could miss his presence during the festival. When roaming the site it seemed that his shadow and his spirit lived on. Dave always supported the festival and was always there to provide his skills, bless his soul he will be remembered as being kind, strong and dedicated.

Chris Bowman designed the festival's map and layout every year, having to be on the site to the finish with his kind smile, and giving us advice on how to lay down the site. Both men, bless their souls, were missed.

Prior to the Festival there were events to promote diversity and human rights in Exeter and the South West - Respect Cinema On 15 April 2024 in Studio 74 at the Exeter Phoenix, and a promotional day in Princesshay on 25 May 2024 in the heart of Exeter. Acts who played included: the Chinese Hikmat Group; Hongkongers in Exeter; Rosalie's Caribbean Dance with M; locals The Real Ish band and Irish band The O'Marleys. It was a day of joy and promotion of friendship through diversity.

The 27th anniversary of Exeter Respect Festival in 2024 was back in full, live at Exeter City Council's public ground at Belmont Park on Saturday 8 June and Sunday 9 June. The doors opened to the public at 11:30am and the festival started at midday to 7pm on Saturday, and from 11 am to 6:15 pm on Sunday.

Outdoor stages provided a kaleidoscope of performances. Saturday's highlight was The South African Cultural Gospel Choir UK and Sunday's was local Exeter based group Shumba Tribe who presented a dynamic blend of drumming inspired by African tradition.

There were outdoor processions and activities for everyone of all ages, plus the regular welcome opportunities for visitors to sample the wealth of stalls providing everything from global food to fine clothing and handmade crafts, plus information about local communities and organisations, all delivered with a very genuine smile. The festival was alcohol free again, Bar Nova provided non-alcoholic cocktails for everyone to enjoy.

Due to the economic climate that we live in and to sustain the festival there was a symbolic entrance fee for each day of £2 with under 16s 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.

A comment from Devon County Council:

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

Dr Suaad Genem
Managing Director
Exeter Respect CIC
"All Different All Equal"



"Your theme of friendship in diversity is very apt for today's society. Many things have polarised post Covid"
- Councillor John Hart

2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report contains a review of every aspect of Exeter Respect Festival 2024, 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 2024 OVERVIEW: ELEMENT BY ELEMENT ANALYSIS

Exeter Respect Festival 2024 took place on Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June 2024 in Belmont Park in the City of Exeter lasting from noon until 7pm on Saturday, and 11am until 6pm on Sunday. Exeter Respect Festival 2024 was an alcohol-free festival providing a great safe space in which communities came together to celebrate and share their cultures.

REVIEW OF PROGRAMMING 2024

RESPECT CINEMA: CURATOR DAN PRODUCTION

Exeter Phoenix, Studio 74, Monday 15 April 2024

The moving image can create a deep connection. Respect Cinema presented an hour of films that highlight inclusion, prejudice, community and change. Showed at the Exeter Phoenix, Respect Cinema has grown out of the ideals of the Exeter Respect Festival and draws on local films ranging from animation to interviews, to a musical comedy.

Respect Cinema started as a screening event at the Exeter Respect Festival. *"When you're at a festival, you don't want to be ducking away into a dark room to watch some films"* the event organiser Dan Wiseman told DandC Film. So this year the films had a special place all of their own at Exeter Phoenix.

The screening included **Beanka**, **My Name is Darak**, **Home**, **Outsider**, **Between The Lines**, and included a 15-minute edit of **Us**.

Beanka by Mal Biele is an animated story about identity, friends and being yourself.

Home by Jemma Cholawo is an improvised dance film about isolation, intense loneliness, and the human need for connection.

My Name is Darak is from Dan's 'Stories From The Street', a series of films about how any of us can fall through the cracks. Darak was training to be a Michelin-star chef at Michael Caines' restaurant, but he was racially attacked, resulting in multiple fractures to his skull. What follows is a series of poor decisions and a life spiralling out of control.

Alexandru Dragan showed his film **Outsider**, Alex: "Films have the power to humanise complex issues."

Between The Lines by Dom Lee is a musical short about finding your voice.

Us is a film Dan Wiseman is making and part of an ambitious project about imagining a better world and how we can achieve it. Dan aims to cross all kinds of boundaries to hear voices and hopes from a wide array of standpoints. *"I've got nearly 50 interviews"* he says, including the chef Michael Caines, Exeter MP Ben Bradshaw, retired judges, old people, young people, people with disabilities, and from all different walks of life. *"My plan now is to speak to religious leaders, political leaders, and some celebrities"* says Dan, who wants to stimulate discussion and create a forum around the issues that are raised.

Respect Cinema is an ideal opportunity to start and share those conversations.

"Art has an important place in being a vocal platform and helping us to talk about what people feel and helping to change society for the better by putting those conversations and arguments out there" says Dan, *"The main thing for me is to try and encourage more people to make films around these around issues of inclusion, community, respect and multiculturalism."*



PROMOTION DAY

Princesshay, Saturday 25 May 2024



The promotion day started at 11:30am with folk Irish band **The O'Marleys**, followed by local **Hikmat Chinese Line Dancing Group** who encouraged the audience to participate in their delicate elegant smooth dance. The high beat of **Rosalie's Dance With Me's** Caribbean music and free movement dance Zubma got onlookers moving to the rhythm. **K-Pop Dance Team** followed, including magic and singing by Exeter group **Hongkongers**, with amazing dancing by female students from **Exeter College** and high schools. Having a magician was a first for Exeter Respect, entertaining all including families and their children. **The Corduroy Curiosities** followed, then **The Real Ish Band**, and finally **Phil Andrews** closed the stage ending the day with joy.

The public had the taste of Exeter Respect Festival 2024, and our promotion day was received with a smile. The feedback from the public was "please do this more often".

MANDELA STAGE

Saturday 8 June

Saturday was hosted by Philip Andrews and behind the scenes was stage managed by a student from Exeter College.

At 11:30am the procession arrived from the festival's family and play area the Windrush Area, walking through the site alongside the deputy Mayor of Exeter and Chair of Devon county Council Councilor John Hart, and the Exeter City Council Leader Phi Byalik who all highlighted with delight how rich the festival is with diversity in the heart of Exeter City and Devon.

"Your theme of friendship in diversity is very apt for today's society. Many things have polarised post Covid"
- Councilor John Hart

The stage opened at 12 noon with **The Big Noise Chorus**, a network of community choirs covering Exeter, Torbay and Ashburton that enjoy singing pop, soul, world, Motown and rock music.

Other acts that followed were:

The Papers started in Brixton London in 1979, playing rock and reggae around London pubs and clubs. Exeter based, they have released three albums, their single *In Vienna* was released in July 2020 followed by covers of *Whiskey In The Jar*, *Space Oddity* and *Message In A Bottle*.

The Roc Project is a music school for primary and secondary children who are taught how to play guitar, bass, drums or vocals and learning to play as a band to perform several times a year in the Exeter area.

Formed by the most talented and professional African artists and musicians based in the UK, **The South African Cultural Gospel Choir UK** sang in different African languages, acapella, classical and traditional gospel songs alongside a band, and included energetic Zulu dancing bringing excitement to their performance.

Nigerian Community Dance are a newly formed Nigerian community in Exeter, sharing their traditional vibrant and colourful Nigerian Dance with the taste of West Africa.

Exeter Jazz Orchestra is one of Devon's premier big bands, seamlessly blending old school toe-tapping classics from the likes of Count Basie, Glenn Miller and Benny Goodman to the more modern belting beats of Gordon Goodwin, Thad Jones and Buddy Rich.

After seven hours of music the finale was **South Kerala Indian Dance Exeter** and **Kerala Community Association** who closed the stage, performing traditional Indian Dance from the region of South Kerala. The performance was vibrant and colourful, bringing the spirit of South Kerala to Exeter.

Sunday 9 June

Sunday on the Mandala stage continued with:

Kirtan Yoga by Megha and Group, Kirtan is an essence to yoga that links one with the divine. Kirtan offered devotional mantra music by a variety of musicians and instruments; immersive guided meditations; a call and response form of chanting and a friendly atmosphere.

Soul of the City Gospel Choir, an inspirational gospel choir from Exeter led by professional vocalist, songwriter and arranger Emma Watson were supported by their live gospel house band and directed by multi-instrumentalist, composer and arranger Alfie Pugh.

No Ordinary Fish based near Exeter played their first Respect with original and catchy songs.

Hazaar, a vibrant six-piece ensemble hailing from Dartmoor blended clarinet, sax, violin, flute, guitar, double bass, and drums into a mesmerising fusion. With infectious energy and versatility, they infused traditional Balkan/klezmer melodies with funky rhythms, rock vibes, and gypsy jazz flair, crafting their signature "Eastern European folk-rock" sound. Hazaar commands stages across the South West with their dynamic performances, embodying fifteen years of immersion in the rich musical tapestry of Eastern Europe, Greece, and the Balkans with their diverse backgrounds and virtuosic talent.

The Loose Canons are a local 12 piece function band who returned after their first Respect Festival appearance in 2019, playing a mixture of soul, funk, disco, rock, ska, reggae and pop covers.

It was great to have **Shumba Tribe** as the headliner on Sunday who brightened up our day with a dynamic blend of drumming, dance and song from Exeter's own rhythmic community group. Shumba Tribe are inspired by a deep respect for rhythmic traditions from the African continent and led by Denis Rowe and Allan Kerr, with support from Arjun Maghee.

Kurdish Govend Dance closed the festival with joy and harmony with rhythm of diversity from around the world. It was a pleasure to participate in their dance and say goodbye to the crowd, promising them that Exeter Respect Festival will continue, and saying farewell until next year.



COMMUNITY STAGE

Music and dancers from all different backgrounds and rhythms 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 collectively say no to racism and to all forms of prejudices.

Saturday 8 June

This popular stage is led by our communities to showcase their cultural heritage, the festival having been organised and established to campaign against prejudice, discrimination and racism. The community stage was very well organised by our grassroots stage manager and volunteers students from Exeter College, who presented the following acts:

Soundwaves are an Exeter based charity that are all about people of different abilities making music. Soundwaves believe that anyone can give music a try.

Hikmat Devon Chinese Group are a Chinese community dance group who bring the tradition of China to Exeter - dynamic, vibrant and colourful with a unique touch of Chinese cultural flavour.

Firestone are a fusion of Appalachian, Irish, Canadian and African stepping mixed with line dance, square dance and jive in a mixture of traditional and modern music.

Exeter and Taunton based **Illaria Belly Dance and Shema Raqs** brought a mixture of classical and folkloric styles to the Community stage.

Get Change Company produces high quality arts projects that raise the profile of the disability arts community through vibrant, creative professional performances.

Filipino Community Association are a community group who enjoy singing and mainly sing at their Catholic Church in Exeter. They come to and enjoy Exeter Respect Festival every year to perform their traditional Filipino lyrics and voice.

Karina Gracia Dance Flamenco and Bollywood, graceful bodywork and powerful footwork combine in their passionate dance from southern Spain, accompanied by live guitar.

Sing and Sign Jukebox Choir are a friendly inclusive choir made up of individuals from the learning disabled community, their parents, carers, enablers and professionals. They perform a range of popular songs based on the tastes of their members and proudly use Makaton signing alongside their singing. Their mission is to entertain, encourage people to sign along with them, and to celebrate all voices and to have fun while doing it!



Sunday 9 June

Exeter Musical Theatre Choir were led by professional vocalist and vocal coach Kelly Young. The Exeter and Torquay Choirs are all about fun, vocal technique, building confidence and belting out show tunes!

Majidah Tribal Belly Dance are a group who have performed at Respect several times over the last few years, it was great to have them back.

Wren Music Devon Youth Folk Ensemble played great folk tunes, all members are aged 13-18.

Exeter Folk Choir sang traditional songs from the UK and beyond.

Newtown Roots Band is a community band that makes a big joyous sound! They played a variety of folk tunes from around the world with exciting arrangements, energy and fun.

Bulgarian Society Devon Dance Club presented dances which have been around for centuries that bring vitality and positive emotions entwined in unique odd rhythms. Even though the moves are important and sometimes difficult, in Bulgaria the main thing is passion.

K-POP Dance by Hong Kong Song: Shooting Star by XGPerformers: Joanne, Ingrid, Sonia, Lois, Luke, Victoria and Suhannah. Most of the girls recently moved to the UK with their parents. All of them go to schools and university here and they all love K-Pop dancing.



Magic Show by Mr T - before moving to Exeter Mr T was a professional magician in a well known Hong Kong theme park He is still very passionate in showing amazing magic and entertaining the audience. Mr T has also performed at various public events for the Hongkongers community.

Eunice loves singing and has performed in various public events performed Cantonese songs.

Max Kroger, Shine Music Devon. Max is a multi-instrumentalist from Shine Music Devon, with experience of piano, saxophone, drums and beat boxing. Max has worked hard over the years to find his own sound, putting his own take on his favourite covers of popular songs on the piano.

D'Accord French and Breton Music and Dance are a French and Breton dance and music group in Exeter, who dance to live music.

The Bollygals, a Devon and Somerset based dance troupe demonstrated the vibrancy, fun and emotion of some of the Bollywood movie industry's best-loved musical numbers. Their dances encapsulated the drama, humour and high energy that Bollywood is renowned for.

Global Harmony, a mixed community choir based at Exeter Phoenix sang songs of celebration and protest from around the world in glorious harmony. From Africa, the Middle East or pop favourites, the choir bring an eclectic and diverse repertoire to the stage.





DIVERSITY STAGE

The Diversity Stage is primarily organised by young people - sometimes with a mixture of both adult professional and semi-professional artists alongside young people - mainly from Exeter College who host the stage. It is designed to encourage young people as there are often very few opportunities or platforms for them to showcase their talent or perform at festivals or for them to learn how to manage and perform.

Saturday 8 June

The day started with Holly Shepherd, a talented musician who is supported by Powderham Live CIC, followed by:

Ava and Emilee, a new local duo who play a variety of genres. Emilee accompanies Ava with piano and they have recently added some guitar and vocals to spice things up.

Jon Fazel and Cat Rose, an emerging folk duo based in Plymouth. Jon has had his music featured on BBC Radio 2 and BBC 6 Music, Cat is a musician, writer and theatre maker.

Draculin, a rock/ metal band from Torquay write their own compositions and played covers from their favourite rock heroes.

The Real Ish Band are a jazzy bluesy quartet who write original eclectic music and have played at many festivals and well known local venues. The audience enjoyed their melodious groove and great vibe.

Community Zumba are a lively and welcoming Zumba group who got the crowd joining in with their free movement. They are a local group that meets every Saturday at Newtown hut for an energetic session.

The Phantoms from the Exeter College Band aimed to create unconventional music that haunted everyone and that everybody enjoyed.

Out of Bounds are a five piece alternative rock band based in Exeter that made everyone rock.

Obvious Reasons are a four piece hard indie rock band from the South West whose heavy riffs and strong beats knocked it out of the park.

Casey-Rae Perry was awarded musician of the year at high school both sang and played a variety of instruments.

Sunday 9 June

Sunday opened with **The Jazz Project**, a group of young talented musicians consisting of vocals, guitar, bass, keys, drums and a horn section playing soul/r'n'b and jazz influenced music.

The Vive are a four piece rock 'n' roll band from Devon influenced by Oasis, The Who, Arctic Monkeys, The Jam Kasabian, The Stones Roses, The Beatles and Jimi Hendrix.

3 Days Wonder, a young Devon based band with a refreshing sound of 80s and 90s rock, performed their own anthemic songs.

Lucky Six were formed at Exeter College in September '23 are a versatile six-piece band that draws influences from indie, alt and classic rock to create a unique sound. Their original songwriting combines layered guitars and the diverse vocal talents of their two lead singers to create broad musical landscapes.

Kodachrome Band are a young and amazingly talented, dynamic band from Bristol who's set of their own material impressed the crowd.

Wasabi, a four-piece alternative/shoegaze band with a captivating blend of vocals, guitars and effects played a varied catalogue of original songs inspired by bands such as Radiohead, Fontaines DC and Portishead.

Roc College are students who collectively showcased their lived experiences with mental health through song, poetry and guitar.

Luke McAuly's raspy and soulful voice carried raw emotion, where heartfelt storytelling met infectious melodies.

The ever popular **Exeter College Big Band** is open to any Exeter College student to join. Singers fronting the band and instrumentalists were encouraged to improvise during their performance.

Dance With Me Zumba, the audience joined Rosalie for a dynamic dance filled with fusion of Latin styles, combining all elements of fitness closed the stage with style.



COMMUNITY YOGA

The 108 Sun Salutation is a very popular annual event at the festival attracting experienced yoga enthusiasts and beginners alike. Once again the salutations were led by **Fran Allen (DerekTheDog Yoga Centre)** took place on Sunday morning giving us all a bit of a warm-up, particularly in the drizzling rain. Wet weather didn't deter them and they carried on, enjoying the wet muddy ground. They were covered from head to toe with mud, and were filled with laughter as they finished their session.

MARKET STALLS

Local small businesses and charities sold Fair Trade 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 to create a balance between commercial traders and charitable causes. There is a huge demand for more coffee trailers. There was only one coffee trailer, Bar Nova, who sold coffee alongside non-alcoholic cocktails, but this wasn't enough to supply the requirements of the festival. Regardless of the fact that some stalls provided hot drinks, there is still a need to increase the number of coffee trailers for next year.



COMMUNITIES, CAMPAIGN AND DISPLAYS

Many communities from different diverse backgrounds rushed to book a space this year, and fitting everyone in was a challenge. Many groups also raised funds for their good causes. Exeter Respect Festival 2024 marked the solidarity between people to stand up to campaign for 'Diversity Built Britain', and the range of displays and activities by campaigners encouraged people to move more around the park. The layout of the site was organised according to the causes, traders, and caterers, which worked well.

MANDELA AREA

The Mandela Area was full of trading stalls sharing their unique products - from the African percussion of **Powerful Drums** to a variety of clothing and jewellery sold at very affordable prices. **Exeter University Medical Students** delivered health awareness sessions. **South West Unison** and **Unison Devon County Council Branch**, one of our sponsors who have been involved with Exeter Respect since our inception 27 years ago, displayed information about diversity and the rights of workers.

Hikmat Devon, consisting of multicultural groups from around Devon, shared a display about their heritage. **St.Sidwell's Community Café** brought homemade pastries and bread from their bakery. Charities such as **Citizen Advice Exeter** and **Citizen Advice Torbay** welcomed everyone to talk to them and explained how you can obtain legal consultation and support.



However, some campaigners that are campaigning for the same causes prefer to be apart, therefore they were spread throughout the site, for example **Green Peace** and **Devon Wildlife**. Others wanted to be grouped such as **AA Intergroup** and **Vocap**, **Normal Magic** and Exeter adults and children of **AandD** (stalls providing information about specific matters) as well as other wellbeing stalls. This has been noted for next year's Festival. **Devon Air Ambulance** explained that they wished to be within an area of more of community groups rather than next to the stalls of public agencies such as the **Devon and Somerset Fire Service** or the **Police**. **Bar Nova** provided non-alcoholic cocktails and hot drinks.

DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

Devon County Council (DCC) were delighted once again to be one of the main sponsors of the 27th Exeter Respect Festival and to have the opportunity to be at Belmont Park for the weekend, showcasing some of their work, meeting and talking to people from different communities, and joining in the celebrations of Devon's diversity.

Councillor John Hart, recently elected as Chair after serving 15 years as leader of the council, was at the opening of the festival, and in his speech he commented on the important roles that festivals such as Exeter Respect play, particularly at a time of increasing polarisation, leading the way in bringing people from different communities together and breaking down barriers between them. Councillor Hart emphasised that the county council recognises that diversity is something to be valued: *"It enriches our cultural life, strengthens our economy and helps to prepare our children and young people for the global society that we all live in."*



As in 2023, DCC had a strong presence at the festival, with staff and volunteers from a range of teams taking their turn to look after the DCC stand and engage with festival goers before wandering off to enjoy the live performances, visit the community stalls and enjoy international cuisine. Representatives from **Public Health** teams took the opportunity to promote dental hygiene and anti-smoking campaigns; **Learn Devon** highlighted adult education opportunities; **Equality Diversity** and **Inclusion and Migration and Resettlement** shared information about the different strands of work they are involved in, including anti-racism work and supporting the integration of refugees under various resettlement schemes.

The **Migration and Resettlement** team took the opportunity to distribute the latest edition of the **Devon Service Directory for Ethnically Diverse Communities**, assisted by volunteers from resident asylum seeker and refugee communities. Volunteers originally from Afghanistan, Columbia, Sudan and Russia invited children and families to join in art activities in the DCC gazebo such as decorating blank masks and bunting with images and words celebrating the cultural diversity of Devon.

Here's some feedback from DCC staff and volunteers:

"Lots of positives – nice atmosphere, good networking opportunities, good engagement"

"I loved the food! So many different things to try"

"The event was really well organised and all of the Respect staff were really friendly, polite and helpful when setting up etc. Was lovely seeing so many different groups from the community performing too."

"Well organised event, lovely atmosphere, diverse DCC departments all working together, good networking and collaboration"

"Looking forward to Exeter Respect 2025!"

COMMUNITY AREA

This year we lifted the cover of the stage, and the area hosted lots of stalls from different services such as **Shared Lives**, **Roc College**, **Avocados Advocacy**, **Foster Recruitment**, **National South West Union of Teachers (NASUWT)**, **Age UK**, **Exeter Samaritans** and **Adoption Agency South West**. There were also political parties displaying information. The **Exeter Quakers** displayed their work in the community and ran a workshop, and regardless of the music around them they managed to pray for peace by forming a quiet circle. Other charities in attendance were women's organizations such as **Devon Rape Crisis** and **Sexual Abuse Services** who were visited by many people wishing to learn about their services.

DIVERSITY AREA

Book-Cycle is a UK based volunteer run charity seeking to empower children worldwide through the provision of free books and educational resources - visitors to the festival could choose to buy books for a donation rather than paying a set price.

Many people from different faiths and beliefs joined **Devon Faith and Belief (DFBF)** to read poems for world peace.

Refugees Support Devon displayed information about refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom were at the stall sharing their experiences.

Ethiopian Link displayed information about their projects in Ethiopia and offered the taste of freshly ground coffee from Ethiopia.

The **Philippines Community** and **Egyptian Association** displayed their ancient heritage in style alongside their cuisine.

The colourful **Bulgarian Community** shared their culture including workshops and dance for all to enjoy.

The **South India** presence from the state of **Kerala** and **Nigerian Community in Exeter** displayed information about their activities in Exeter and shared tastes of their cultures.

Devon Centocow Link provided art activities and storytelling from South Africa.

Multilingua Devon displayed and explained how Devon has been shaped culturally, did you know there are more than 150 languages currently being used in Devon?

Palestinian stalls displayed information to share the taste of the Holy Land.

The Kurdish Community, rich with **Tehri** culture exhibited artefacts from their homeland.

Cultural stalls included a stall from **Hong Kong**, and **Afghani Jalwa Clothing** displayed their embroidery.

There was lots of good food and good music. The festival was well organised and well run. It felt safe and there was a great atmosphere.

WINDRUSH: FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

The **Toy Library** presented activities for the whole family including spinning plates and poi activities, a soft toy tombola, and preloved toys and books stalls.

Newtown Primary School made friendship bracelets as random acts of kindness that were shared with other children and adults in our community. Their innovative values-based curriculum centres around academic excellence, character education and metacognition, developing the whole child for their future.

Scrapstore and **Blue Slide** offered fun to children and families with lots of activities to enjoy.

Exeter City Football Trust presented their package of information about football in the community and fun activities.

Daisi held workshops to make and take arts and crafts under a gazebo all day Saturday from 11 - 4pm.

On Sunday 9th there were drumming and flamenco dancing workshops, a rotation of 45 min workshops started at 11:30 running until 4pm. All activities were suitable for all ages and were all free.

Exeter Seed Bank offered bracelets made with beans and clay beads, and body painting of plants as well as hay basket making.

RAMM dressed up as swans that were floating in between areas and displayed information at Exeter Phoenix's stall.

Fair Trade attended, displaying and handing out information about fair trade next to the Global Centre's stall.

The Global Centre displayed their work with schools, and from their archives of research that they have collected by working with different communities. The Global Centre is an educational hub for schools and people advancing international connection and education to support learning about different cultures. Amongst their many projects, they have managed to collect viable information about the journey of Windrush and have helped to establish **Windrush Devon Group** that celebrates and promotes the issues of Windrush generations.

OTHER PERFORMANCES AND 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**, from **Exeter Malayalam Community**, the **Hong Kong Exeter Community** and the **Kurdish Community** amongst many others. Everywhere you turned you could see people moving around, enjoying themselves and performing.

DECORATION

The site transformed into a colourful and vibrant festival. The **Art Wall** at Belmont Park featured vivid messages, people writing their thoughts based around our theme “Friendship through Diversity”. The messages and designs were expressed with love and care. Everywhere the park was colourful and vibrant bursting with joy.

4. VOLUNTEERING

It wouldn't be possible to run the festival without the generosity of many people from all different backgrounds and from the staff and students of **Exeter University** and **Exeter College** 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. Volunteers have performed and showed dedication and commitment.



5. SOCIAL MEDIA AND PROMOTION

This year Wiseman Production led the production of a series of short videos that were posted on our social media sites, actively involved in promoting the festival. We printed an A5 brochure listing events and activities that was given out at the festival. We also gave out A5 flyers around the city. We also used our website and 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.

The lead up to the main event of Exeter Respect Festival 2024 was at the heart of our city center in Princesshay on 25 May, a Community Variety Show launch event. Princesshay with in-kind support provided a free venue, more details are on page 5.

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

We spread a variety of posters around the city and on digital screens throughout the city.

We kept our regular meetings with our different communities for updates, 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 as a means of word of mouth promotion.

We are trying to reduce paper promotion print and focus on media and digital promotion.

6. OVERALL EVALUATION OF EXETER RESPECT FESTIVAL 2024

2024 was Exeter Respect Festival's tenth year as an alcohol-free festival, making it alcohol-free since 2014. This decision was taken after long negotiations with the police and **Exeter City Council**. We reviewed 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 the 2024 festival alcohol-free again. The feedback was excellent and people responded to our call not to bring alcohol into 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.

An unfortunate racial incident occurred where two females were escorted out of the site by security due to their loud and inappropriate racial comments, which were reported by a third party. Despite being confronted by security in a professional manner, the females concerned repeated their comments loudly and were escorted from the festival.

We would like to state that our policy at the festival is zero tolerance to Hate Crime. To anyone who thinks that they are at the festival to express their racially offensive comments, we say that the festival stands firm against all forms of prejudice and racism.

We appeal to everyone, in particular young girls and women, that if you are faced by any kind of racial comments or harassment please report to the information point. We have a safe place to accommodate anyone who feels stressed, the location is kept in a very quiet area. We do appreciate our visitors and the members of our communities, that everyone at the site should feel safe and secure and enjoy their experience. We have very dedicated security, members of staff and volunteers who are dedicated to make sure that everyone is welcome.

COMMENTS FROM FESTIVAL GOERS, STALL HOLDERS, MUSICIANS AND PERFORMERS

Some of the comments written on our visitor book at the end of the festival from a wide range of people including stall holders, musicians and performers:

"Bringing people together integration of different cultures All in harmony".

"Endorsed the inclusivity. Nice chance to relax".

"Inclusive, friendly, welcoming, felt relaxed and enjoyed the chance to meet some lovely people".

"Really lovely people, lovely food, fantastic ice cream van. Easy access from town of public transport links. Good facilities".

"Organisation has been brilliant, lots of help offered, great festival. Love it".

"Really good as always, thank you!"

"Many thanks for a vibrant and enjoyable day!"

"Volunteers were absolutely brilliant. Great music everywhere".

*"Really helpful volunteers, helped with setting up the gazebo.
Good amount of stalls, good food plus drinks. Here's next year!!"*

*"Organisation of event good e.g set up on Friday.
Great time to connect with many people and organisations".*

"Really amazing stalls, we definitely will come next year".

"Lovely event, great interacting with neighbouring stalls and people, communities".

*"Great team behind Respect Festival. All very helpful.
Thank you for creating a fun space to connect with our communities!!"*

*"Fantastic event, friendly atmosphere help from organisers.
Coming back next year, great community event, inclusive".*

*"Went really well, perfect festival, nothing is Missing.
Look forward to it every year, sadly it's only once a year".*

*"Wonderful event this year, fabulous vibes, we've had a great time,
very positive interactions. Brilliantly organised as always. Look forward to next year".*

*"Fantastic atmosphere welcoming means that we are able to converse and reach a diverse range of people. Some very emotive conversations much needed support and advice being able to be given.
Well organised 7 helpful stewards/ staff. Thank you".*

"Quite long queue for tea and Coffee- Was very good, maybe have more than one stall next year?"

"Great atmosphere in spite the changeable weather. Lots of fun for the children. George has been very helpful and worked hard! Actually thanks to all for making the festival successful".

"Great event for everyone. There is a warm, inclusive atmosphere. It is a good opportunity for us to talk to people about Unison trade Union and our focus on equality. Looking forward to being back next year".

"Wonderful day. Lots of beautiful energies. So many great conversations. Thank you so much to all that helped organised. I have held less session than last year so slower but a great atmosphere".

"Great day, lots of conversations, made great atmosphere and easy going. More direction needed on how to access the place but everything excellent".

"Wonderful conversation and atmosphere, great music".

"Fantastic event. Well organised for set up. Thank you all for your help. We are looking forward to next year".

"Very enjoyable day and had a great time. We need more of this around the world".

"As usual excellent, staff have been fantastic".

"Activities all good, and brilliantly organised, lovely atmosphere".

"The entrance not obvious how to get in. Very happy man, first time and go for it!"

"Volunteers were very helpful throughout the event. A credit to the Festival!"

"Great Festival for 2024!- Nothing at all sticks out as negative! All and everyone was brilliant! Thanks!"

"Amazing can't wait for 2025. All good!"

"We are always enjoying every single of it, this my second festival and I would like to say proud to talk about it brings unity, Thank you!"

"We had a great time and engaged with many people in the emergency. Great. Thank you!"

"Had a great time today. As a charity it might have been better to have been with other shops and charities rather than emergency services, Devon Air Ambulance".

"WOW! Super organised and security really flexible and friendly, George was really helpful and approachable".

"No complaints. Great organisation friendly staff - We had an awesome weekend. Thanks for having us again!"

"Excellent event, everyone brilliantly helpful!"

"Great event, great atmosphere, really helpful organisers".

"Great event, very well run, brilliant organisers, look forward to next year. Thank you!"

"Brilliantly organised. Wonderful atmosphere. Our favourite event of the year. Thank you so much!"

"Extremely good organisation considering it is such a complex event to organise. Well done, all staff!"

7. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Exeter Respect Festival 2024 understands that we must look after the environment and therefore used bio diesel rather than red to run the festival generators. No environmental damage was caused, and we received no complaints from the neighborhood. 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 we can 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

EXETER RESPECT 2024 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



exeterphoenix



9. KEEP IN TOUCH

Exeter Respect Community Interest Company - CIC No. 08725612

Exeter Respect, Sidwell Street, Exeter EX4 6NN

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stalls@exeter-respect.org

Online

exeter-respect.org • facebook.com/exerespect

twitter.com/ExeRespect • instagram.com/exerespect

Thanks to our dedicated photographer Clive Chilvers and filmmaker Dan Wiseman

Exeter Respect Festival branding designed Evolve Promotion

