

EXETER FOOD ACTION (EFA)

Sharing food, Stopping Waste



NEWS SHEET - Winter 2017

Innovations

EFA is delighted to welcome Elizabeth Butland to her new role as project Co-ordinator, which she took on at the beginning of November. Elizabeth comes to the post with a long experience as a volunteer and member of EFA's steering group and we look forward to her guiding and developing the work into the future. Elizabeth is also involved in Ide Community Shop and other local initiatives.

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At the same time we say farewell to Rory Matthews who has been running our hub over the past three years. Thanks so much for all your hard work Rory, and we wish you well in returning to your studies in Exeter.

Another innovation this year is that we have become a charity in our own right. Since our inception we have operated under the work of Devon & Cornwall Food Association (DCFA) and are grateful for all their past support and encouragement. As Plymouth and Cornwall also seek to become independent bodies we wish them every success, and we will maintain contact and cooperation as much as possible.

The third new step is re-launching our EFA website thanks to Clare Bryden. It is hopeful to update and repopulate this with more of our current activities. Please check www.exeterfoodaction.org.uk if you've not seen it.

Pleas for help

As a small, local organisation, we are very dependent on volunteers, especially to collect food from stores in the evenings, and we continue to need more voluntary help, including drivers. We are also needing some assistance to run, clean and organise our depot in Blackboy Road.



Finally, we are looking for a new Treasurer or Bookkeeper to manage our finances and someone with media interest to work on our news items, website and Facebook page. For details contact our Secretary Martyn Goss at martyn.goss@exeter.anglican.org

Annual Reception

Our Annual Reception was held at St. Sidwell's Centre on 9th November with thirty people attending. In the photo Headteacher Steven Farmer from Cranbrook is speaking about the importance of school breakfast clubs, as supplied by EFA.



On 2nd December 12 volunteers engaged in our training event run by Charles Nyeko at The Mint Methodist Church - see photo on the left. Thanks to them for all their amazing work!

Food Exeter

The *Food Exeter* partnership (formerly the *Exeter Food Network*) continues to develop localised Food Systems and address some of the challenges of food poverty and food security. They have just published a new Food Strategy for Exeter, which can be accessed here - [FE Strategy](#). The current four priority action areas are:

Sugar Smart Exeter - reducing sugar consumption

Food Clubs - to improve diets and food affordability

Food Outlets - new markets & opportunities for local growers/producers

Distribution Centre - potential new centre for collecting, cooking and sharing good local food

See *Food Exeter* website: www.foodexeter.org.uk

We are upgrading our monitoring and recording at the moment and will release updated stats in 2018. On average we are rescuing between 2 and 3 tonnes of in-date food (2,000-3,000 kilos) every month. In recent weeks we have taken fresh produce from farms as well as retailers, and occasionally from suppliers from other community food organisations such as Exeter Food Bank.

EcoWaste4Food

The ECOWASTE4FOOD project brings together seven local and regional authorities from seven countries throughout Europe, including Devon County Council. Its ambition is to address the crucial issues of food waste, not only to stop an unacceptable situation which causes the loss of up to 50% of the agricultural production that is not consumed or is consumed in a wrong way regarding health concerns, but also to demonstrate that food waste could be a positive resource to local people and the environment.

Recently Rory Matthews went to Italy and Elizabeth Butland to Catalonia to represent EFA as a community project trying to tackle local food surpluses.

List of EFA Trustees

Saxon Spence (Chair), Charles Nyeko, Duncan Wood, Carole Pilley, Richard Westlake, Jon Curtis, Martyn Goss, Colin Stiff, Yvonne Atkinson

