

EXETER STREET HALL IS YOUR HALL!



Owned and run by the Community, for the Community



IN THIS LEAFLET:

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Exeter Street Hall was bought in 2013, when over 900 people contributed to saving the Hall for use by the community in perpetuity.

Since then, volunteers have turned the Hall into a vibrant community hub and have made huge progress in repairing and restoring it to its former glory, making it fit for the 21st century.

We hire the Hall out to a wide range of individuals and groups that offer activities and classes to the community. We also run our own volunteer-led community groups and all kinds of fundraising events.

The Hall has so much potential. We want to see lots of people using the Hall for classes, indoor sports and social activities. And we want to keep improving the building and its facilities.

Post pandemic, we're back with a bang and would love to hear what you'd like to see and – if you want to – for you to get involved!

The Hall Team



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 [@ExeterStreetHall](https://www.instagram.com/ExeterStreetHall)

 [@ExeterStHall](https://twitter.com/ExeterStHall)

 [@ExeterStreetHall](https://www.facebook.com/ExeterStreetHall)

HOW IT BEGAN

In 1884 St Luke's Church Hall was built in what is now the middle of Exeter Street. The beautiful red-brick Gothic building's separate Boys and Girls Sunday School entrances are still visible. The Church Hall was used throughout its history by people of all ages for many activities – from parties and playgroups to church socials, Boys' Brigade & Brownies and indoor sports tournaments.



From the private collection of St Luke's Prestonville

The **Hall Get Involved** campaign (THGI) came together at the end of 2011, inspired by a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: the Church Hall was dilapidated and had been put up for sale. We wanted the Prestonville community to buy it in order to keep it as an asset for everyone to enjoy both now and in the years to come.



After 18 months of campaigning and fundraising, we raised £180,000 through donations and selling community shares, and in 2013 our community became the proud owners of Exeter Street Hall.

Ten years on, THGI has become **Exeter Street Community Hall Ltd** – a charitable community benefit society – and we've been busy ever since! We installed a new roof, made the Hall accessible, set up a cosy Community Room, put in WiFi and renovated the kitchen. The Hall is now a busy place throughout the day and most evenings.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

As part of our commitment to the community, our volunteers run a range of low or no cost activities. These include our Stay and Play group, Repair Café, Art Class, Table Tennis and Jobs Advice. We've recently launched Prestonville Friday Friends, a lunchtime session where people of all ages can come and socialise and be warm in winter over soup, tea and cake.

We've become well known for our fabulous events and we really missed them during the Covid lockdowns. Many are fundraisers or entertainment shows, others are things we put on for free because we want the community to enjoy the Hall. We've had sports panels, music quizzes, comedy nights, Christmas concerts, children's film shows, curry nights, environmental events, and talks from people such as bestselling author Peter James and Guardian cartoonist Steve Bell. As we have our own premises licence, we often run a very reasonably priced bar.

Our annual children's Halloween Parties always sell out and our headline event of the year is the 'Great Get-Together' summer street party. It's always wonderful to see everyone out enjoying the music, games, stalls and chatting to neighbours.

Did you know, we're also a polling station on election days, we're a venue for the Brighton Festival Fringe, and most importantly, we house a community defibrillator?

We want to make sure that cost doesn't deter our community from taking part and we always keep prices as low as we can.



We're also keen to help out other charities and groups that promote social justice. By using the hall for free, these organisations can run fundraisers that benefit others – spreading the reach of who benefits from the hall. For the last three years, we've been glad to be able to support Nourish Catering who have used the kitchen over Christmas to cook Xmas dinners for vulnerable people across Brighton.



Community Groups

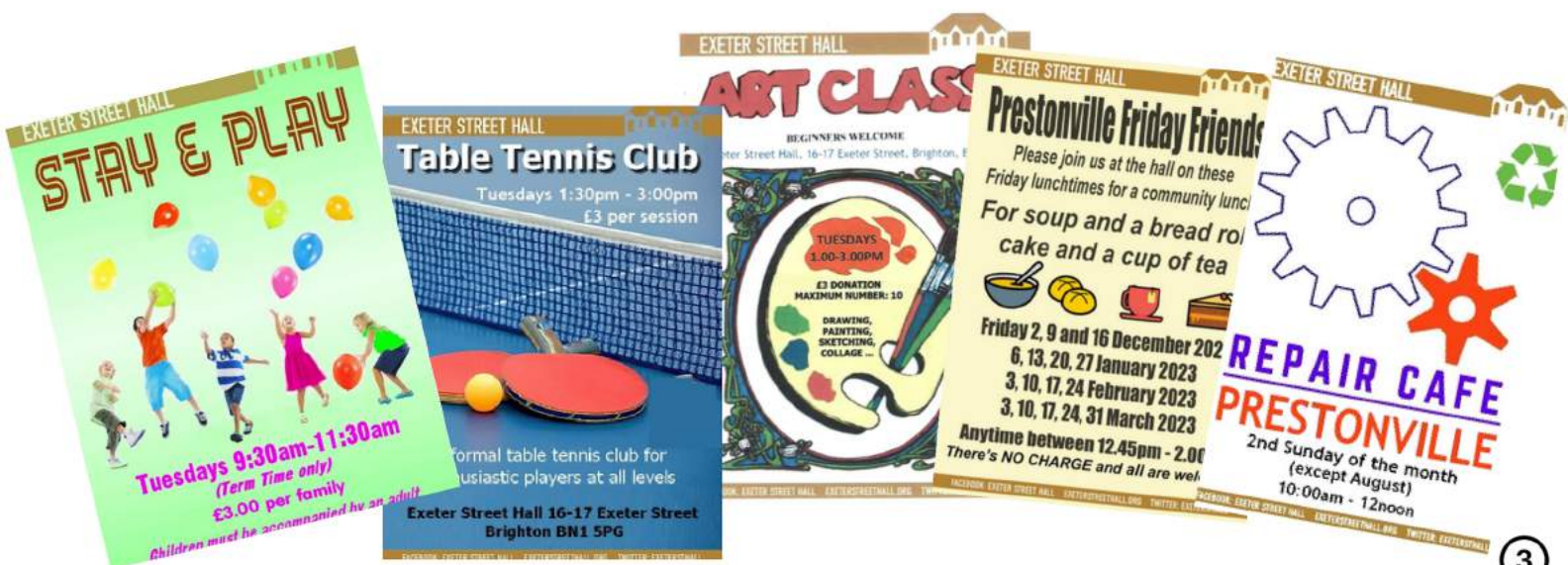
Stay and Play - For parents/carers and toddlers, Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am term time

Art Class - Tuesdays 1pm

Table Tennis - Tuesday 1.30pm, any standard

Prestonville Friday Friends - Friday 12:45 - 2:00pm. A friendly, all ages community group for anyone who fancies a chat over soup, tea and cake.

Repair Café - 2nd Sunday of the month 10-noon. Bring household items you want repaired



REGULAR CLUBS AND CLASSES

For the latest information go to exeterstreethall.org/whats-on or check out our noticeboard.

Mondays

9.15am	Community Yoga with Katherine
11am	Migrant English Project
4.15pm	Creative Dance Club with Holly
7pm	Albion Tai Chi with Ali



Tuesdays

9.30am	Stay and Play Group
1pm	Art Class (volunteer led community group)
1.30pm	Table Tennis (volunteer led community group)
3.30pm	Ballet Brighton
6pm	Brownies
8pm	Pilates with Kelly



Wednesdays

6pm	Boys' Brigade
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Thursdays

6-7pm	Boom Table Tennis Kid's Club with Ian
7-9.30pm	Boom Table Tennis Club with Ian



Fridays

9.15am	FIT with Kelly
10am	Pilates with Kelly
11.30am	Three Trees Tai Chi with Fiona
12:45-2:00pm	Prestonville Friday Friends
3.45-10pm	Ballet Brighton various classes from nursery to adult



Saturdays

9am-1pm	Boom Table Tennis Coaching with Ian
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Monthly

First weekend of the month at 6.45pm Saturday and 9.45pm Sunday - Gong Bath Meditation with Xenia

Second Sunday of the month 10-noon Prestonville Repair Café



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE & DO?

We're a community asset and we want to represent and cater for everyone in our community. What would you like to see at the Hall? What kinds of events/activities would you come along to? Board games, book clubs, wine tasting, tiddlywinks, local history, film shows, exotic food nights, choirs? You can no doubt think of much better activities than these, so do suggest them. You can write them in the suggestion box at the back of this leaflet and put the page in our letterbox, or just send an email to manager@exeterstreethall.org. We always want to hear from you!

There are a few things our insurance won't allow – so, for instance, fire-walking and potholing are out! But don't feel constrained in your suggestions. If there's enough interest and space in the timetable, we'll consider it.

HELP RUN THE HALL

We simply can't run the Hall without volunteers. We have a friendly and sociable team who we depend upon – and we're always looking for new people to get involved. **Can you help?** You can do as much or as little as you want – volunteer often or just from time to time. We operate a guilt-free policy!

Can you lend a hand with any of these?

- **Events** – we need ideas, organisers and people to serve at our licensed bar
- **Baking** – we love providing home-cooked cakes and treats at Prestonville Friday Friends and other events such as the Great Get Together and our annual community festive drinks
- **Marketing** – we need poster designers, photographers and social media support
- **Website development** – to keep the site up-to-date, and it could really use a facelift
- **DIY/decorating** – we always need people who are handy and can help with small jobs

If you'd like to find out more you can:

- Email volunteer@exeterstreethall.org
- Get in touch to be added to our **Volunteer What'sApp group** and **email list** for infrequent updates and shout outs for help
- Come along to our **Hall Action Team meetings** – you'll be very welcome and you won't be pushed into anything.



IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Since buying the Hall, we've raised over £100,000 to improve it: a new roof, improved access and our recent kitchen refurbishment have all contributed to making the Hall a fabulous space to hire and visit.

There is much more to be done to improve the building and enhance the facilities in the Hall. For instance, we want to install more sustainable heating and we really need a new toilet block.

We can apply for grants for some of these things, but we usually need to top them up with our own matched funds, so watch out for campaigns and events to help us raise money for planned building works.



SUPPORT THE HALL FINANCIALLY

We get by with a little help from our Friends. Running the Hall costs about £2000 per month. We aim to cover our bills through hiring it out; we secure grants for big projects; and we host fundraising events for general maintenance and repairs. As with every Victorian property, there is always something that needs fixing and, as everyone knows, energy costs have gone through the roof recently.

You can make a one-off donation or set up a regular payment via the online platform run by the Charities Aid Foundation. It's easy and secure, and if you're a taxpayer you can boost your donation by 20% at no cost to yourself through Gift Aid. There's a link to it here: exeterstreethall.org/donating

Please consider giving a regular donation, no matter how small. With your support, we'll have the security of knowing that the Hall's regular costs are covered and we can use the funds we raise on restoration and developing more low-cost, inclusive community activities.

You could help to	Per month	What could that pay for?
Keep the Hall welcoming	£5	would help us buy the ingredients for our Prestonville Friday Friends community club
Keep the Hall clean	£10	would help us buy lots of cleaning products - we get through a ton of toilet rolls
Keep the Hall warm	£20	would pay for about 4 hours of energy, keeping our Art Class and yoga sessions nice and warm

HIRE THE HALL

You can hire the Hall for private celebrations and events (although as 'good neighbours', we do have some limitations). You can also hire it to run a class or activity for others at very reasonable rates. Details of costs, availability and how to make an enquiry can be found on our website:

<https://exeterstreethall.org/availability>

EASYFUNDRAISING

Would you like to fundraise for us without it costing you a penny? Shopping online through easyfundraising means that lots of retailers give us a % of what you spend - for free! Register at:

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/exeterstreethall
download the reminder and shop away at all the places you usually shop - includes Amazon, eBay, lots of the supermarkets and more.

This has raised the hall over £1300 already - the pennies really add up, so we'd really appreciate it if you could get involved. It's easy to sign up on your computers or tablet and download the app for Android or Apple iOS. There's no catch or hidden charges and we'd be really grateful for your donations.

KEEP IN TOUCH



For general enquiries please contact:

manager@exeterstreethall.org or call 01273 561149

To reach the Management Committee please contact:

secretary@exeterstreethall.org

If you'd like to volunteer then we'd love to hear from you

volunteer@exeterstreethall.org

If you'd like to stay up-to-date with what's going on at the Hall you can:

- sign up to receive our **Community Bulletin** via our website
- follow us on social media: **Facebook**, **Twitter**, **Instagram**
- look out for our **posters** in your street and **noticeboards**

Our **Linktree** page is a handy way to find your way to key info:

<https://linktr.ee/exeterstreethall>

Our mailing address is:

Exeter Street Community Hall Limited, Exeter Street Hall,
16-17 Exeter Street, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 5PG

(CO-)OWN THE HALL

Did you know you can own a share of the Hall? Join the 940+ members who already support the Hall. Since our first share offer, almost 100 new shareholders have supported us through buying our community shares.

We'd love all new residents to buy a share and get involved. As a shareholder (minimum shareholding £50), you can receive extra information, vote at AGMs and have even more of a say in how the Hall is run. You can read our shares document, which will tell you everything you need to know, and find an application form on our website at exeterstreethall.org/buy-a-share



EXETER STREET HALL WHO'S WHO

Our Manager

Susan Corlett, Manager, is always happy you show you round, chat about getting involved or let you know what's going on. You can contact her at: manager@exeterstreethall.org



Our Management Committee

The current members of the Management Committee are:

- Robin Bailey, Director
- Jo Camplisson, Treasurer and Director
- Rosie Dewick, Director
- Dave Fellows, Chair and Director
- Graham Thomas, Secretary and Director



Our Management Committee, which is elected by the shareholders, sets policies, takes financial decisions and makes sure we adhere to all the legal things we need to comply with.

Interested in joining our Management Committee or finding out more? You can get in touch via Graham at secretary@exeterstreethall.org



COMMENTS / SUGGESTIONS

Please jot down any ideas or comments, put this page in our letterbox, or just send an email to manager@exeterstreethall.org. We always want to hear from you!

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I would like to help the Hall by volunteering. I'd be interested in:

- Helping to put on events*
- Helping to maintain and improve the building*
- Helping with the website / social media*
- Helping behind the bar*

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NAME.....

EMAIL.....

PHONE.....



**SCAN THE CODE TO
VISIT OUR LINKTREE**