

Win!

Exeter food festival passes



City foxes caught on camera

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The city's growing music scene

10 Great Exeter places to eat



HIDDEN EXETER
Inside Tuckers Hall

In fashion: Designer Soraya Goggin

Upfront

Stories and pictures from across Exeter



Chris Riley with his scythe

A traditional harvest

The first water reed to be harvested in Devon in 25 years has been cut by scythe on reed beds opposite Topsham on the Exe estuary. Scythe practitioner, Chris Riley spent a labour intensive week harvesting just over an acre of water reed, which can reach up to 10ft high.

“Water reed is an untapped resource, because of its inaccessibility and the manual labour involved in cutting it.”

Chris encourages the resurgence of scythe use: “It’s so important to keep rural skills alive and there aren’t many people with the skill and energy to harvest large

areas of reed with a scythe.”

Chris, 55, teaches this traditional skill across the Westcountry and he explains why scythe cutting is the ideal method. “The scythe is portable, and this site has no land access for big machinery. Also, a scythe produces a clean, straight cut through the reed stem, whereas a spinning motorised blade would weaken the reed and make it less suitable for thatching.”

The demand for harvested water reed has been generated by Link House, a pioneering eco-home project in the South Hams.

Rugby boost

Exeter is set to get a major economic boost from the Rugby World Cup 2015, City Council leaders have said.

Sandy Park in Exeter will host three games of the Rugby World Cup and all indications are that spending in Devon’s capital will go

up significantly as a result of the big sporting event.

Latest research from The South West Research Company indicates that visitor spend within the Exeter economy grew by 16.90% to £195.6 million from 2011 to 2012 and the city attracted over 2.2 million visitors in the same period a growth

The City Council is about to carry out some research into the expected economic benefits of the Rugby World Cup 2015 and says that it believes the forecast will be good for Exeter.

Cllr Rosie Denham, Lead Councillor for Economy and Culture, said: “The latest figures for Exeter

are very encouraging. In just over 18 months time the eyes of the world will be on Exeter and we are very optimistic that the Rugby World Cup will bring thousands of extra people into the city from home and abroad.

“Exeter is a fantastic city that has much to offer.”

Mercedes prize helps charity

A South West charity is celebrating its 21st anniversary in style with the help of a fund-raising ‘drive’ provided by Mercedes-Benz of Exeter. Dream-A-Way, which offers grants towards holidays for disabled and seriously ill people of all ages living in Devon, Cornwall and the Scilly Isles, has received a special anniversary present from the retailer in the shape of a sensational Mercedes-Benz A-Class. The news comes after the Princesshay shopping centre in Exeter announced it would be supporting the charity throughout 2014 too. The car has been donated as the top prize in a raffle that is being organised to raise vital funds to support Dream-A-Way’s work in being able to offer luxury caravan breaks, personalised holidays, outings and day trips. Formed in 1993, Dream-A-Way has now raised more than £1.7



The Mercedes A-Class
Photo: Mercedes Benz

million and helped more than 15,000 people. Organisers hope that Mercedes-Benz of Exeter’s donation will provide an extra boost for their fund-raising.

Amongst the locations selling tickets for the raffle is the Princesshay shopping centre in Exeter. They can be acquired from the charity’s volunteer team outside Debenhams or at dream-a-way.org/mercedes