

**'Exeter Everyday: a week of day-long festivals celebrating the everyday'**

Completely unique, with over one hundred thousand participants, hundreds of millions of pounds of scenery and landscape, extraordinary logistical resources and deep improvisational skills, **Exeter Everyday** will be the biggest festival in the city's history and perhaps will become a model for similar festivals throughout the world.

Over one week (10-15 July 2006), Wrights & Sites, a group of Exeter-based artists with a special interest in space and place and authors of **An Exeter Mis-Guide** and **A Mis-Guide To Anywhere** ([www.mis-guide.com](http://www.mis-guide.com)), are organising day-long festivals to celebrate the everyday life of their city.

Each day will have a different theme: Monday - feet and shoes, Tuesday - beaks and paws, Wednesday - waiting, Thursday - reflections in windows and glints in eyes, Friday - horizons, Saturday - crowd scenes.

Phil Smith of Wrights & Sites said: "We won't be doing a great deal for the festival, other than calling it. The programme will be published in various city magazines and local brochures, an announcement of each day's theme will be made across the various media - and each day posters and sandwich-boards advertising the theme of the day will be in evidence in the centre of the city. But apart from that, nothing - it's the everyday itself that is the performance, it is the festival.

"Most festivals bring in unusual, unfamiliar, exceptional people and events but we wanted to make a fuss of the everyday things and individuals in our city. There's obviously a comic element in this, but also something very serious and important - every day the people here make and re-make their city, by the ways in which they use the city, travel across it, mark it, mend it, walk over it, write on it, work on and in and under it. This is a chance for us all to enjoy the unexceptional power we each wield every day.

"If it's a success we hope other cities will follow our example.

"Of course, there's nothing compulsory, if people don't wish to join in they only need to be exceptional for the week."

The key idea behind the festival is that the city is as much created by the everyday use, activity, actions of its citizens as it is by those large scale decisions that are made about its laws, its policies, its architecture and design, its timetables, its civic symbols.

The key mechanism is to create a series of posters - accompanied by articles and news stories - encouraging Exonians and visitors to the city to notice, 'perform' and celebrate their everyday for the week of the festival. This may provoke people to wear their best shoes on Monday, or wear coloured contact lenses or slightly more eye make up or even flirt a little on Thursday. Or maybe just make people a little more aware of the everyday performances of the city and how they might be acting out the city in a way that is crucial to how it is and how it will be.

**Exeter Everyday**  
**A week of day-long festivals of the everyday in Exeter**  
**10-15 July 2006 - full programme**

Monday 10th: A festival of feet and shoes

Tuesday 11th: A festival of beaks and paws

Wednesday 12th: A festival of waiting

Thursday 13th: A festival of reflections in windows and glints in eyes

Friday 14th: A festival of horizons

Saturday 15th: A festival of crowd scenes

Celebrating different aspects of the everyday in the city of Exeter.  
No admission charges. Everyone invited. Enjoy the everyday.

Festival Mis-directors: Wrights & Sites. Supported by Exeter Arts Council.

**ENDS**

## Notes to editors

**Wrights & Sites** is a group of four practitioner-researchers committed to producing work that responds to space and place, and the people who live, work and play in diverse sites and landscapes. Formalised in 1997 and based in Exeter (UK), the four core members are Stephen Hodge, Simon Persighetti, Phil Smith & Cathy Turner.

More general information about Wrights & Sites and the 'Mis-Guide' project is available online at:

**[www.mis-guide.com](http://www.mis-guide.com)**

Please contact us if you require any further information, or if you would like to interview a core member of Wrights & Sites.

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