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Gallery: TEDxExeter conference inspires people around the world

By Exeter Express and Echo ([http://www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk/people/Exeter Express and Echo/profile.html](http://www.exeterexpressandecho.co.uk/people/Exeter%20Express%20and%20Echo/profile.html)) | Posted: April 26, 2015

By Cathy Debenham



Kieron Kirkland, left, magician, technologist and social innovation geek, with delegates at the TEDxExeter conference (All photos: James Millar)



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Inspirational, thought-provoking, brilliant. These are just some of the adjectives that were flying around the room at the fourth TEDxExeter conference at Exeter Northcott Theatre on Friday.

With a line-up that was arguably the best yet, the day was full of ideas worth sharing.

This year, it wasn't just the audience at the Northcott that was dazzled by the wide range of talks. The conference was streamed live for the first time, and reached a much wider audience in Exeter and beyond.

Police headquarters, Central Library, Exeter City Council, St Peter's School, Exeter School, Exeter College, Southernhay House and St Loyes were all showing the event, reaching an additional 1,200 or so people – more than all the three previous conferences combined.

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In response to the first talk, by Matthew Owen about saving the rainforest, Nick Cloke tweeted: "Some parallels for us in policing. How do we help empower communities to improve things for themselves long-term?"

At the end of "a fantastic day of inspirational talks", Devon and Cornwall Police tweeted: "together we CAN make a difference – thank you TEDxExeter".

The conference was also streamed from the TEDxExeter website, so viewers from anywhere in the world could drop in and watch throughout the day. Viewers tuned in from 12 countries.

Highlights of the day included a brave and passionate attack on Islamic fundamentalism from Karima Bennoune.

Dick Moore told a very personal story of the impact of mental illness on young people. Celia McKeon asked the audience compare the feeling of a clenched fist with holding out an open hand, as she

outlined ways in which we could reimagine security. In one of the lighter moments, magician Keiron Kirkland read the mind of Express & Echo editor Jon-Paul Hedge.

"Having one of the most mentally stimulating work days in a long time watching TEDxExeter. Some difficult questions being addressed," said Wesley Neary on Twitter.

"I have just had the privilege to be part of something really special. An amazing day," said Helen Patterson.

"Astonishing performance by Sara Hyde. Powerful theatre, hardcore data crunching and a powerful vision. Make her PM," said Paul Trueman about her talk 'We need to talk about prisons'.

The team of volunteers that organises TEDxExeter is keen that people turn the inspiration of the day into action. So this year there were giant blackboards around the room and delegates were invited to complete the sentence "Before I die I want to...".

Delegates were also given a postcard, saying "Inspired by attending TEDxExeter 2015, I pledge that I will:". They were invited to fill them in, and the TEDx team will post the card back to them in six months time as a reminder of their pledge.

"TEDxExeter is about ideas, and community, and action," said organiser Claire Kennedy. "Our aim is to create a space where conversations that matter can take place and inspire action.

"We hope that these new initiatives will inspire more action. We are looking for spaces around the city that will host the 'Before I die' boards, so that the idea can reach even more people.

"This year we also plan to introduce salons, meet ups and tweet ups to keep the ideas flowing and allow more people to join the conversations."

Videos of all the TEDxExeter talks will be posted online at TEDxExeter.com within four weeks.

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