



Credition Town Council



**Minutes of Credition Annual Town Meeting held on 24th March 2015,
at 7.00 pm, in the Council Chamber, Market Street, Credition**

Present: Credition Town Councillors Mr F Letch (Chairman), Mrs J Harris, Mr M Szabo, Mr D Webb, Mr A Wyer, Mrs A Hughes, Mrs L Brookes-Hocking, Mrs G Ford, Mr N Way and Mr P Vincent
Electors of the Parish, Members of the Public, 1 member of the Press

In Attendance: Mrs C Dalley, Town Clerk
Miss E Lucas, Assistant to the Town Clerk & Mayor

1 Welcomes and Introductions

The Mayor and Chairman of Credition Town Council, Councillor Frank Letch, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Councillor Letch asked members to join him in a moment's silence for Samuel Crocker and his family.

2 Minutes of Annual Town Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 25th March 2014, were confirmed as a correct record and were duly signed by Councillor Letch.

3 To receive reports from:

a) Chairman/Mayor Credition Town Council

Councillor Letch presented a report as follows:

- The Town Council has had a full council of 12 members. The Town Councillors have made a happy and effective team and have got a lot of things done over last 12 months.
- The Town Council has engaged in various projects including:
 - Christmas in Credition 2014 – The Christmas Lights Switch-on Event held in November was a great success that attracted many residents and visitors, including Spotlight.
 - Peoples Park Scout Memorial Garden – the Scout Memorial garden is really getting in to shape.
 - Peoples Park Wildlife Area – this community project, led by Cllr Georgina Ford, has developed the wildlife area dramatically, with help from Community Payback, Lanscore Primary School & Hayward's Primary School.
 - Floral Credition Competition – The Floral Competition is continuing to grow. The Council are grateful for the expertise provided by Mr Bert Jewell, with Mr Jewell providing help and advice to all entrants.
 - Neighbourhood Plan – This project will help us to plan what we can do with land in Credition.
- The Town Council has continued its battle with the loading bays in Credition. Councillor Brookes-Hocking went to London to meet with the Department for Transport. This meeting was a great success; various actions can now be pursued to make the dual-purpose loading bays stand out, including painting the bays a different colour.
- The Boniface Allotment Association has continued to work with the Council to inspect the allotments and flag up any issues at the allotment sites. The Allotment Association and the Council are currently working together to solve a water leak at one allotment site.

- Over the past year we have lost things in the Town, due to changes made within higher tiers of government, including the St Lawrence care home and day centre and the youth service.
 - The Town Council has helped to maintain some form of youth provision in Crediton
 - The public toilets in Crediton have also been under pressure. The Town Council has allotted funds to help to keep these open.
 - The Town Council have also taken a lead in the cleaning up of Crediton.
- Last year the Council voted unanimously to increase the precept considerably in order to help to save services within Crediton, including the public toilets and youth provision as well as other issues in the Town. Members of the public should be wary of looking at changes in terms of percentages, as the impact of the percentage increase is dependent on the starting point. With Crediton Town Council, yes you will be paying more but you will also be getting more in return.
- A new High Street Traders Group was formed recently under the umbrella of the Chamber of Commerce. Crediton Town Council aims to have a close relationship with this group.
- The Town Council is still in the process of taking over the Town Square. The Mayor's Surgery takes place on the first Saturday of every month and gives members of the public the opportunity to talk to the Mayor and discuss the works of the Council. The surgery is also an opportunity to give out copies of the Town Council Newsletter. It is a privilege to be on the Square and to be able to talk to members of the public who regularly praise Crediton Town Square, as well as the Farmers' Market.
- After employing a new Assistant in the Council office, the office has now been operating under new opening hours since September 2014. The Council office is now open five days a week, Monday to Friday, 10 am to 2 pm.
- The Town Council now has one less meeting per month but, due to Councillors thoroughly reading their papers, meetings are now more efficient than ever.
- The Council would like to thank the Crediton Courier for continuingly being supportive of the Town Council, providing photos and supportive articles.

Cllr Letch concluded his report by stating that he had a wonderful year personally, as well as with the Council.

b) **Mid Devon District Council Ward Members**

There were no reports received.

c) **Devon County Council Ward Member**

County Councillor Nick Way reported as follows:

- Devon County Council has had to manage many cuts this year and it is good that the Town Council is able to help with the services shed by the County, as well as the District Council.
- The Link Road - The opening of the Link Road has achieved what it was meant to do by providing traffic relief to Exeter Rd. Although it has not taken all of the traffic away it has helped to provide a considerable amount of relief. In terms of the actual road itself, negotiations with landowners, regarding the widening of Marsh Lane, are still ongoing. The road will be analysed in the next 6-12 months to assess the displacement of traffic.
- Road safety and maintenance - Devon County Council's plans to take away school crossing patrols were successfully stopped. In terms of the state of the roads, maintenance of roads is still ongoing. The policy involves all A roads, B roads and C roads on the gritting network getting priority. Resurfacing has taken place along the A377 and a large section towards Copplestone. DCC's 'Report It' system on its

website is a very effective way for the public to report potholes. Country and estate roads are under a different priority.

- **Service cuts**
 - Part of the bus service review proposes plans to take away the 607 Town Bus Service and Crediton's evening bus service into Exeter. Individuals are encouraged to get involved in the review and visit the website or phone the transport service to put any objections in. More objections will mean a better chance to save the bus services.
 - The Crediton Library service has been fairly unscathed, with the help of the Save Our Library campaign.
 - The Children's Centre will be moving shortly however they have not yet decided where. There is the possibility to move to other DCC buildings for example the library. This move will not affect the running of the service.
 - After the closure of the Youth Centre, a new Youth Café has now opened in the Methodist Church, with thanks going to Crediton Town Council.
 - The County Council are relying on help from private sector companies to provide Day Centres in Crediton.
- **Funding** – The Locality Fund has been set up to help local community organisations with small funding projects. There have been a lot of applications this year including, Dementia Awareness Day by Crediton's Senior Council of Devon, Crediton Youth Football Club, Crediton Festival including the Town Team, Community Transport, the Town Trail Leaflet and QE Basketball Club. The Town Team have also been successful in receiving funding through the Town and Parish (TAP) Fund.

d) **Town Council Members and Representatives**

Crediton Town Councillor Szabo reported that he is the coordinator for the RHS 'Its Your Neighbourhood' Awards Competition. This is the 4th year that community groups in Crediton have entered. The criteria for entry is based on voluntary led groups that clean up/green up areas. The judges visit in July and awards are given at 5 different levels. Everyone that enters gets a certificate, with the awards being presented in Truro Cathedral in September. This year Crediton has 18 entries: Crediton Congregational Church, the Railway Station, Incredible Town Square Garden, Friends of Peoples Park, Peoples Park Wildlife Area, Crediton Boules, Hillbrow Residential Care Home, Hayward's Garden Club, Landscore Primary School, Lennard House Community Gardens, Newcombes Meadow Community Group, Moffats Allotments, Crediton & District Lions Club, Crediton Age Concern, Crediton Boniface Rotary, Residents of Stanbury Court, Residents of The Lodge and Save the House Martins in Westernlea

e) **Crediton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

Councillor Liz Brookes-Hocking provided a report, this is attached as Appendix One. Cllr Mike Szabo asked whether the cycle path is for both cycling and walking. Cllr Nick Way confirmed that it is called a cycling & walking path.

f) **Crediton & District Access Group**

Mr John Higgs provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Two.

g) **Crediton Rugby Club**

Mr Colin Mackenzie provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Three. Cllr Frank Letch congratulated Mr Mackenzie on a very uplifting report from a wonderful club, he requested for the Council's congratulations to be reported back.

h) **Crediton Boniface Rotary**

The Town Clerk read a report provided by Crediton Boniface Rotary, which is attached as Appendix Four.

i) **Crediton Trefoil Guild**

Mrs Stella Still provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Five.

j) **Churches Housing Action Team**

The Town Clerk read a report provided by Churches Housing Action Team, which is attached as Appendix Six.

k) **Crediton Town Team**

Mr Rod Brookes-Hocking provided a report on the following:

- Up to a year ago the Town Team was the organising group/production team behind Crediton Festival. Mid Devon District Council approached us to discuss whether we had thought about expanding the scope of what we do and becoming a Town Team. The Town Team was brought into being in order to assist in the regeneration of Crediton.
- The Town Team are organising this year’s Crediton Festival, in which 55 events have been organised by 34 groups. The festival will include a mix of arts, sport, literature and the Food Festival and will run from 13th June to 11th July.
- The Town Team’s early venture, regarding constructing a canopy across the Town Square, is currently on hold however this idea will be brought back in the Autumn.
- The Town Team has now taken over the Crediton Flag Festival and funding has been received to expand the number of flags for this summer. The Flags had a fantastic impact on the High Street, and initially sceptical traders became very enthusiastic.
- A sub-group has now been formed in order to use the idea of Boniface to put Crediton on the map. An idea has been developed from the stained-glass windows in the Church, that tell the story of Boniface. The sub-group aim to remake the stained-glass windows out of ripstop nylon and metal frames. These will be placed in a circle on the Town Square, in order for the story of Boniface to be retold. Councillor Frank Letch contacted both Primary Schools and they will now be involved in making the oak trees to go between the shields. Representatives from Dokkum, Fulda and Avranches are also coming to the event. This event will be held on 5th June and at the opening of Crediton Festival, and could become a yearly ritual.
- The current Arts Centre building is too small and there is the possibility of relocating. As Crediton is growing, one possible idea is that of a new hub somewhere new in the town. A building could be used to facilitate the Arts Centre along with other functions including sports, incubator start-up businesses, and conference services as well as being close to other services such as the Leisure Centre. This is a concept that the Town Team hopes to integrate into Crediton’s Neighbourhood Plan.

4 Public Forum - Open Questions from Electors

The following questions were raised and comments made:

- Paul Harris, Crediton Rugby Club, explained that as this year’s Rugby World Cup is being hosted in England, the trophy will be on a trophy tour around England. The trophy will be in Devon on 8th July and there is only one club outside of Exeter and Plymouth Albion that will be one of the locations to view the trophy, and that is Crediton. The trophy will be held at Crediton Rugby Club, on the evening of 8th July, in order to coincide with a fixture against Barnstaple, to commemorate a game played against Barnstaple in India.

7 Close

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.25 pm

Signed: Date:.....
(Councillor F Letch)

Crediton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group report to Crediton Town Council Annual Meeting 24th March 2015

Surveys

Household

1 3000 approximately were delivered and collected by steering group members with the help of volunteers from community groups mainly in January with the remainder being done during February.

2 1197 completed surveys(40% return approximately) were entered into the Survey Monkey database which Andi set up. Again, volunteers from community groups assisted the steering group with this work and we completed about 800 ourselves with the remaining 400 approximately being done by paid workers in order to meet the deadline for completion.

3 The data is being collated and analysed by Devon Communities Together; DCT will also produce a detailed report. This is expected by the end of the month.

Schools

QE years 7-11

students were invited to go directly online onto our Survey Monkey student questionnaire. 388 did so and this information is being collated and analysed by us.

Landscore and Haywards years 4-6

School pupils gave responses to places in Crediton and filled in short questionnaires. This information is being collated and analysed by us.

Industrial Estate Businesses

100 surveys were delivered to businesses on Lords Meadow over a single weekend in February. They were invited to fill in the paper copy or go directly on line. So far, the response rate has been small, about 10%

Town centre businesses

71 surveys were hand delivered to businesses on the High Street and around the Town Square. Most were spoken to in person. So far the response rate is no more than 50%.

Household survey trends in brief

Likes and dislikes about Crediton

There is a strong appreciation of Crediton for its strong community spirit, market town character, independent shops, transport links, safety and rural location.

There is a dislike of the heavy traffic through the town and the difficulty in parking (as in being able to park exactly where you want, when you want).

Particular areas have particular issues, for example, QE Drive has very poor mobile phone reception; High Street residents resent the rowdiness and anti social behaviour that sometimes occurs at weekends.

The vision for Crediton in 15 years' time

Safe and prosperous came up often.

Things people feel the town lacks

Doctors surgeries and 'a proper hospital with beds' seem to be a concern.

Infrastructure for the future plan period

The need for local jobs and businesses was frequently mentioned, as was facilities and services for young people by respondents of all ages

Again, particular areas mentioned particular infrastructure issues: for example, there was a frequent mention of sewerage/drainage from the Exhibition Road respondents

Energy

There is a lack of familiarity with renewable energy sources with a lot of 'don't know' and 'none of the above' responses

Town centre usage

Most respondents say they use the town centre once a week or more, with very few using it less than once a month.

Transport

Car travel as the prime means of transport is very high.

There is very strong support for the railway station as an important asset in the town.

There is strong support for good footways for getting around the town.

There is good support for better cycle routes.

There is a very widely held view that there is a parking problem. However, this is perceived as not only a High St/Town centre problem of lack of convenient/accessible spaces: problems in residential streets and inconsiderate parking of vehicles by drivers, especially on pavements, are also factors.

Crediton assets

There is very strong support for Holy Cross church and the war memorial in particular as historical assets.

Most of the historical features of Crediton are appreciated as are the green spaces

As a community asset, the toilets receive very high support.

News from the focus groups

Transport – a lot of work has been going on in Newton St Cyres, with quite a long section, from Smallbrook to Half Moon looking feasible. The transport focus group has linked up with this initiative to look at what would need to happen to link Crediton to Smallbrook.

Town team – is looking at the feasibility of a multi-purpose community cultural hub, with a possible location at the east end of town where most of the new development is to be located.

These two groups and the other four:

- environment
- youth
- High Street

- Community care and well-being
- will be looking at objectives when we have the full analysis and report.

Next steps following the surveys

Collation of the info from QE, the schools, the businesses

Receipt of the household survey report

Commencing the writing of the plan

Drawing up of

- the vision for Crediton
- the objectives
- the policies

Work out the schedule for the period from now to draft plan

Apply to Locality for funding for the next stages

Website

Andi has updated the NP website www.CreditonNP.co.uk . We need to be using this more actively and also social media.

**Crediton & District Access Group
Reg Charity 1039145.**

The Group was founded in 1992 with the object of encouraging Local Authorities and Business to make Buildings Road & Pavements accessible for disabled people. The Group is still flourishing in its 23rd year.

Over the years we have been successful in getting dropped curbs throughout the town and parking spaces for the disabled as well as access to the Library and Old Town hall.

We have also been consulted regarding the design of the Swimming Pool, Leisure Centre and recently the new Meadow Suite there.

In 2008, we published the Crediton and District Access Guide. This is now included on the Towns Web Site.

We are now consulted by people outside the town, such as the Police & Exeter City. We have made major inputs in Exeter City projects such as the recent alterations to the Library. Currently we are in discussion about the New Bus Station and Guildhall.

The person who represents the group in this work, is our Secretary Mrs Yvonne Pope. She was a founder member and has worked tirelessly over the years to promote the the groups aims. There is no doubt that without her, the group would not enjoy the reputation we have today.

There are still problems to be solved, such as the lack of a pavement outside Morrisons in Mill Street, access to local Banks and access to other premises. The Group will continue to Cooperate to resolve these and any others that arise.



Credition Town Council Annual Town Meeting 24 March 2015 Credition Rugby Football club

Credition Rugby Football Club was founded in 1878, only a few years after the game of rugby was formally established in England.

To put this into context locally, it was the same year that the Credition Inn was built (its windows etched with the Ancient Town Seal) and the footbridge was erected at the recently built Credition Railway Station.

Games were originally played in the grounds of local estates until a Grandstand was built on the Rec. The names of players at that time e.g. Pope, Down, Harris, Luxton, Searle, Cann, Stoyle, Boddy, Adams and Helmore, are names we recognise in and around the town today.

The purchase of the Old fire Station in the 1950's provided the Club with its own bar and dining facilities for the first time.

The current rugby club facilities at Exhibition road, which when built in 1964 were on the edge of the town, comprise the clubhouse, which has capacity for 90 seated at functions and 50/60 car park spaces; the main team pitch and a training pitch with a further two full size pitches and a junior pitch across the road on land leased short term from the Endowment Governors, Queen Elizabeth School.

The Credition Town Guide notes that our town has a 'strong community with an active volunteer section' and that sums up the Rugby Club perfectly. The Club is a community club and is well used as such by the community for sport activities, functions, meetings and training events. It is a popular family club which is expanding to the extent that an additional pitch was purchased in recent years to meet demand.

The Club's membership is approaching 450 of which over 100 are adult playing members and nearly 250 are junior members - girls and boys from Credition and the surrounding area 16 year of age or younger. We regularly fields 14 teams i.e. 3 senior teams; a Colts team; 8 junior teams and 2 girls teams, and we expect to form a third girl's team at under 18 level for the 2015/16 season.

The Junior Boys Teams run from U9 to U16, and the Girls at U13 and U15 age groups. All work with the Junior Section is delivered through the efforts of a large team of committed volunteers, many being ex-players. The Club treat the welfare of the children and young people seriously and have a robust policy and procedures in place with a Designated Safeguarding Officer and Deputy managing the process. All coaches are DBS checked and they then attend specific Rugby related safeguarding training as well being expected to go on RFU training courses and ongoing personal development opportunities. The Junior Section is supported in this by Wayne Reed in his role as the Community Development Coach for North Devon.

Paul Harris, in his book 'Credition Rugby – The First 125 years'. (2003) comments that '...our forefathers realised very early in the club's history that the youth of the town needed to be encouraged to ensure its future success and that philosophy is probably more strongly emphasised now than ever before.'



Credition Town Council Annual Town Meeting 24 March 2015 Credition Rugby Football club

That emphasis is even stronger in 2015. The club continues to encourage the youth of the town to take up the sport which introduces them to the rugby ethos and its core values of Teamwork, Respect, Enjoyment, Discipline and Sportsmanship and the Club has 4 Young Rugby World Cup 2015 Ambassadors within its Colts set up who are active in and around the town.

We have good links to QE and Chulmleigh Schools as well as supporting the Primary Schools (in the QE Learning Community) in Tag Rugby. Coaches from the Club regularly support rugby training sessions at QE and in turn Paul Tearl (QE) is very supportive of the Club.

The Club has had some notable successes over the years and our first Team is currently lying in a promotional position in the Tribute Cornwall/Devon League and could see action in the Tribute Western Counties West League next season. Our Second Team is currently lying in 3rd^h position in the Devon Senior Merit League 1 and our Third team has just secured promotion to the Devon Senior Merit League 2 next season with several games still in hand.

Credition RFC Junior Section is recognised within Devon as having an excellent reputation for developing its young people to become rugby players at both club, county and National levels. At a Premiership game at Sandy Park Exeter earlier this month between Bath Rugby and Exeter Chiefs, there were 3 ex Credition Junior Section players in the starting 15s – Stuart Hooper, long time Captain of Bath, and Jack Yeandle and Sam Hill playing for the Chiefs. Other ex Credition players who have played professional rugby at the highest standard include Ben Breeze, Wayne Reed and of course, the current Exeter Chiefs Head Coach, Rob Baxter.

In addition to the 3 Premiership players mentioned above, four of Exeter Chiefs Academy U18's this season are local Credition boys.

Our Colts are the reigning RFU U17 National Champions, winning the National Bowl at the home of Sale Sharks in Manchester after becoming South West and South of England Champions. Our Under 15 Girls team are the South West Champions and in the running to become Southern or even national champions too.

Several other teams in the Junior Section are at various stages in cup competitions this season, including the Under 15s team who have reached the final of the Devon U15 Cup. The major emphasis for all members of the Junior Section, however, whether training, playing or socialising is on having fun.

The Club is an RFU Accredited Club for Senior, Junior and Girls Rugby and was successful in renewing its accreditation earlier this year. To do so, it had to provide evidence that it met stringent criteria, all of which underpins the Club's standing as a respected community club.



Credition Town Council Annual Town Meeting 24 March 2015 Credition Rugby Football club

Paul Harris comments that the Club has played a big part in the social life of the town itself being one of the most community oriented organisations within the town. It was the members of the club, back in the late 19th century that began organising the Carnival which continued for almost 100 years and raised thousands of pounds for local charities.

The Club continues on this course of raising funds and, earlier this month at its ex players event, raised £1,500 for the Devon Air Ambulance.

This year is an exciting year for the Club as it prepares to involve the community in the Rugby World Cup 2015 celebrations. Our 4 Young Rugby World Cup Ambassadors will be organising a community family touch rugby tournament over the summer and the Club will be organising community events leading up to and during the Rugby World Cup, including a very special event on or around 8 July – watch the press for details!

In preparation, we are refurbishing the bar and main social space in the clubhouse in June.

Through helping our community celebrate the Rugby World Cup, where three of the games will be played in Exeter, the club are expecting an increase in interest in rugby, especially if England does well. We expect to need more volunteers to cope with the potential influx of interested young boys and girls in the autumn.

Looking to the future, the club house and facilities cannot currently adequately meet the capacity and standards expected from the community and so the Club needs to expand. The Club therefore supports the developments outlined in the Local Plan for Exhibition road and Pedlarspool given that it provides for a relocation of the Club along with improved facilities. Such improved facilities would enable the Club to meet current increasing demand for its facilities and to future proof it against further expected increases in demand.

The Club and community would benefit significantly from relocation to the proposed Pedlarspool development in that greater use could be made of new, fit for purpose facilities located on a single site.

The proposed provision of state of the art pitches, including an artificial pitch/training area, plus a bigger clubhouse, capable of housing up to 200 seated at functions with a greatly increased car parking capacity, would meet the needs of the Club and community both now and into the future.

The enhanced facilities would create additional opportunities for physical and social activity for the community with a resulting increased impact on health and wellbeing and social inclusion



**Credition Town Council Annual Town Meeting 24 March 2015
Credition Rugby Football club**

The Club is proud to be a Community Club and proud to be a part of the Credition community and the stated four key actions for the Club for 2015/16 reflect this:

1. Recruit, retain and develop new and existing players. Continue a series of master classes covering all aspects of the game, available to all sections of the club and delivered by experienced external coaches/player's. This includes a plan is to establish a Girls U18 team in the 2015/16 season to allow those girls who are U15's a transition route to keep them involved in rugby
2. Actively support the run-up to the Rugby World cup in 2015 by being the community hub for all things rugby. Continue to facilitate and support the four Young Rugby Ambassadors within the club in their aims to communicate the latest news on the 2015 Rugby World Cup; getting the local community more aware of and involved in the rugby club and getting 16 – 24 year olds to either continue to play or play rugby again.
3. Refurbish the main bar and surrounding social area as a part of the Rugby World Cup Legacy Social Spaces initiative to make the Club and its facilities more attractive to supporters, partners, volunteers, young people and the community.
4. Continue conversations to explore possibilities for whole club relocation, including a new clubhouse and social spaces and pitch and training facilities, to the site identified on the Local Plan at Pedlarspool, Credition, opposite the new floodlit Riverside training facilities.

Colin Mackenzie
Vice Chairman,
Credition Rugby Football Club,
March 2015



Rotary International is an international service organisation, whose purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

It is a secular organisation, open to all persons regardless of race, colour, creed, religion, gender, or political preference.

There are 34,282 clubs and over 1.2 million members worldwide.

The members of Rotary Clubs are known as Rotarians. Members usually meet weekly for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, which is a social event as well as an opportunity to organise work on our service goals.

It was the brain child of a Chicago attorney, Paul P Harris who, in 1905, founded the first Rotary Club.

His vision was a place where professionals from diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful and life-long friendships. Its name comes from the initial practice of rotating meeting venues between members' offices.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of club members. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need.

The organisation's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its principal motto: "Service Above Self".

We are the Crediton Boniface Rotary Club which meets every Tuesday evening at either The New Inn, Coleford or at Downes Crediton Golf Club at Hookway - at 7.30pm for an 8pm meal and then our meeting

We have Inducted three new members in the past few months and would welcome more new members to share our passion for helping the Local and Worldwide community in anyway we can.

If you are interested in learning more about our club or would like to come along to a meeting please contact either:

President Julia Pratt - Tel: 01363 84846

or

Vice President Paul Haynes - Tel: 01363 84205

Currently we have 23 members - men and women from diverse backgrounds but who have all become friends through our shared time enjoying a meal, planning fundraising activities and listening to Speakers from various charities and local businesses.

Once or twice a month we have a fundraising event or a trip to a local business:

Our latest fundraisers have included:

Ukeholics Concert and Supper night

Christmas Fair

Dart Marathon around the local pubs

Quiz night

St Patricks' Irish Music and Supper night

Each year the Club President chooses which charity or charities to fundraise for during their year of presidency. Our current President - Julia Pratt has chosen Devon Air Ambulance and Hospiscare.

Apart from fundraising we also serve the community by planting up flower beds on the entrance to CREDITON from Exeter and Bow, making up Shoe boxes as Christmas presents to poorer countries, working with the CREDITON Rotary club in providing a Christmas meal for the Elderly,

Fundraising & Donations 2013-2014

- **Devon Air Ambulance Trust - £6300 approx.**
- **Farming Crisis Network - £4500 approx.**
- **Shoe Box appeal: - £75**
- **Shelterbox: - £85**
- **CREDITON Arts Centre - £100**
- **Chicks - £50**
- **CREDITON food bank - £500**

We are also involved in the SW Community Raffle which aims to provide a fundraising opportunity for lots of local charities and small organisations.

We have also supported local young people travelling overseas to do charity work, mainly in Africa through small bursaries.

Fundraising & Donations 2014-2015

To date:

- **DAAT and Hospiscare - £1500**

Estimated funds still to be raised for these charities:

- **Darts Marathon - £2000 - £2500**
- **Tesco bag pack - £1000**
- **Shoe box appeal - £75**
- **Chicks - £50**
- **St Patricks' Irish night - £300**

CREDITON TREFOIL GUILD ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Despite the election of a new Chair/Secretary, Crediton Trefoil Guild enjoyed a typical year of varied activities. These ranged from the comparatively calm (card making, swapping recipes, programme planning) to the more active (party games, playing croquet at our summer barbeque).

We also invited speakers to come and talk to us. At one meeting a local shop owner talked about cheese-making, with tasting of course; while at another we learnt about the 'International Aid Trust' which arranges for the shoeboxes we make up to be sent by to those in need in Europe and Africa. This year, we decided to place an emphasis on boxes suitable for pensioners as this group often gets forgotten in the eagerness to help out children in need.

Our charity of the year was 'Devon FreeWheelers' for which we raised almost £400 through various fundraising activities. We also invited one of their 'blood bike' riders to visit. He gave a very informative and interesting talk but sadly, did not arrive on his bike!

One highlight of the year was a meeting held at Tuckers Hall in Fore Street, Exeter. After a short meeting, together with some of our partners, we were given a tour and a talk on the fascinating history of the building and the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen which owns it.

Closer to home, we continued to raise the profile of Trefoil in Crediton by entering a team in the annual boules competition run by the local Twinning Association (we only just avoided the wooden spoon!); and by decorating a tree for the Crediton Christmas Tree Festival held in the main church. We also attended the local Remembrance Day service, joining the parade with local Girlguiding units to lay a wreath at the War Memorial.

We were pleased to get to know some of our local Brownies when we were invited to teach them how to knit. The end result, with help from some of our talented members, was a pet blanket to be donated by the Brownies to the Blue Cross animal rescue charity in Tiverton.

A great day out was enjoyed by those of us who went to the Taw Bottom Fun Day. It was a successful day as some of our pirate costumes were well received in the fancy dress competition and two of our members were presented with Dark Horse Venture certificates. Less active, but equally enjoyable, was the Harvest Lunch also held to support the Taw Bottom camp and activity site. These events, together with the two Trefoil County Days arranged at Teign school provided our members with an opportunity to meet and catch up with friends in other Guilds. Two members also enjoyed making the most of their invitation to the Big Brownie 100th Birthday event held at Exeter Racecourse.

Once again this year 'Team Crediton' was pleased to be able to help at Trefoil County meetings held at the Boniface Centre. While primarily there to support the organisers behind the scenes and pour out unlimited cups of tea and coffee for participants, our presence also allowed us the opportunity to fundraise for our charity. Thanks are due to all those who contributed to our activities and raffles and to our members for their enthusiasm and support.

All in all, 2014 was a year of variety which provided us with those Trefoil traits of fun, food and friendship. We look forward to more of the same in 2015

Report for Crediton Town Council**March 2015****CHAT Bringing Hope to Crediton**

CHAT's work of preventing homelessness across Mid Devon continues to see increasing demand. Our Housing Advice service, which is often the gateway to our other services, is being stretched by the local need for support and advice with housing. This increase in demand is not least due to the current economic situation, a decrease in sustainable employment, rising costs of fuel, food and household bills, a shortage of suitable accommodation, lack of rural transport networks, this range of factors plays a large part in the increase in rural poverty in Mid Devon and the need for our social support network.

Our outreach work in Crediton forms an important part of our service and during the past year we have extended this. We now have a Tenancy Support Drop-in Service on a Friday morning at the MDDC Offices in addition to our our Housing Advice Drop-in on a Tuesday afternoon.

During the year we have assisted 56 households with Housing Advice and since the launch of Tenancy Support Drop-in have held some 79 appointment sessions.

In addition to the clients we see at these times we also support a number of others in and around Crediton with Tenancy Support in their homes and at present we have provided eight Deposit Guarantees to households who, without this assistance, would not have been able to obtain private tenancies.

The following client's story demonstrates how we can offer initial advice and support to prevent evictions and then follow this up with longer term support to facilitate development of independent living skills and long term tenancy security, which is key to homelessness prevention.

H came to us in desperation.

Since splitting up with her partner H has had no income at all, she is a young mother of just 19 years old.

She has been unable to pay the rent, pay the bills or even buy food and didn't know where to turn. She is facing the threat of eviction by her housing provider and is overdrawn with the bank with growing rent arrears. She suffers with severe depression and anxiety which has prevented her from dealing with any of the day to day problems big or small.

She visited us at our Crediton outreach surgery and with our immediate assistance she made new claims for the all the appropriate state benefits.

We made an appointment for her with a debt adviser and got food delivered to her home. We have also made a referral to CHAT tenancy Support who will enable her

and give her the skills to maintain her tenancy, trying to ensure that they remain in their home.

We are very pleased to have been able to extend our presence in Crediton and enjoy good relations with many of the local organisations such as Mid Devon District Council, the CAB, the Children's Centre, the Foodbank and many others.

We are very grateful to Crediton Town Council for their continued support of our work.