



# Credition Town Council

## Minutes of Credition Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016, 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 L Brookes-Hocking, Miss J Walters, Mr N Way, Mr B Dixon and Mrs H Sansom.  
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.

### 2 Minutes of Annual Town Meeting

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2015, 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 which is attached as Appendix One.

CLlr Letch introduced Sgt David McFadden, Neighbourhood Team Leader for Credition Police. Sgt McFadden provided an update including the following:

- Credition have secured funding to retain PCSOs until 2018.
- A crime hub has been set up to deal with low to medium level crimes.
- The planning application for the police station site has been submitted again. The plan includes levelling the site and building 4 houses, one of which will be a new police station.

Sgt McFadden invited any question. No questions were asked.

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

Councillor Bob Wright presented a report as follows:

- Grant cut backs have meant that Credition would have lost its toilets if the Town Council had not stepped in, play areas are closing, with the Town Council also taking over some of these, and the Town is losing the office downstairs.
- Two controversial planning applications are in the pipeline.
- Car parking charges are set to increase. The charges at St Saviours Way were proposed to increase from £1 for 5 hours to £1.50 for 5 hours. CLlr Wright voted against this rise at both the Working Group meeting and Mid Devon District Council Policy Development Group meeting. When this proposal was discussed at a Mid Devon District Council Cabinet Meeting, the recommendations of the Working Group and Policy Development Group were not taking into account, and the decision was to increase the charges to £2 for 5 hours. In addition, the prices will be increasing in the Market Street car park with the maximum stay being cut from 3 hrs to 2 hrs.
- The air quality in Credition has improved.
- Mid Devon's dry recycling figures have risen by 25%.

Initials.....

**c) Devon County Council Ward Member**

County Councillor Nick Way reported as follows:

- The Locality Fund has helped various events/organisations in Crediton including the Crediton Food & Drinks Festival, installing planters at Bowden Hill, Shakespeare in the Square, Friends of Crediton Library, Crediton Youth Theatre and hopefully Crediton Memory Café.
- Budget cuts are set to continue. These cuts have manifested in Crediton in various ways, including the closure of St Lawrence Residential Care Home and the temporary relocation of Crediton Children's Centre.
- DCC were proposing to remove the lollipop crossing patrol service. It has now been confirmed that the crossing patrol will continue to operate.
- Crediton's library service has been fairly unscathed as it is a popular library that is well used. Friends of Crediton Library have been working hard to improve the service. The Library has been transferred from DCC to a mutual co-operative venture. Representatives from the Library will make up part of the board who will manage the new mutual company.
- Discussions are taking place with regard to a crossing point being installed near Lords Meadow Leisure Centre. The Leisure Centre is well used and footfall is likely to increase.
- Both primary schools in Crediton have been awarded funding in order to increase their facilities to accommodate for the growing school population. Landscore Primary School will be getting a new hall and the building at Haywards Primary School is set to be revamped to allow for more classrooms.
- Council tax has increased for the first time in 4-5 years due to the cuts at national government level, which have impacted the way local councils have to raise funds.

**d) Town Council Members and Representatives**

Councillor Mike Szabo provided a report as follows:

- 20 years ago Cllr Szabo joined the Floral Crediton Committee who have delivered a first class service to people of Crediton.
- One of the Committee's main activities is the Floral Crediton Competition, which has been running for 28 consecutive years. The competition allows residents to showcase their gardens to the judge, Bert Jewell. Last year there were over 30 entries.
- The Committee have also worked towards getting hanging baskets installed around the town, as well as flower towers. The Town Council purchased four flower towers last year which are located on the Town Square. Various businesses around the Square have sponsored the flower towers.
- The Britain in Bloom competition is a ladder for towns to climb if they chose too. Crediton has been involved in Britain in Bloom for years, on and off. Initially Crediton entered the It's Your Neighbourhood Competition, which is the bottom rung of the Britain in Bloom ladder. The competition centres on greening and cleaning up the local area. Each community group that enters is part of the town therefore, if each group green and clean up their area, the town improves its overall. In 2012 there was one entry, Crediton Congregational Church. Last year there were 18 entries. Exeter started It's Your Neighbourhood in 2012 with around 20 entries, which increased to 28 last year with 4 entries into the Pennant Competition. Exeter is now set to represent the South West for the Small City Awards.
- This year, Crediton have entered the Pennant Award. On 4<sup>th</sup> July, the Britain in Bloom judges will spend 2 hrs in the town. The judging is based on 25% community participation, 25% environmental responsibility and 50% garden achievements.
- Groups are invited to contact Cllr Szabo if they are interested in entering.
- Two residents had been litter picking near the trading estate on Sunday as part of the Clean for the Queen Campaign. They had filled over 13 black bins with litter.



*Initials*

- e) **Crediton Neighbourhood Plan**  
Councillor Liz Brookes-Hocking provided a presentation, this is attached as Appendix Two.
- f) **Crediton Town Team**  
Mr Mike Summerton provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Three.
- g) **Age Concern Crediton**  
Mr John Musty provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Four.
- h) **Crediton Scouts**  
Mrs Debbie Richards provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Five.
- i) **Crediton Trefoil Guild**  
Mrs Stella Still provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Six.
- j) **Crediton and District U3a**  
The Town Clerk read a report provided by Crediton and District U3a, this is attached as Appendix Seven.
- k) **Devon Senior Voice**  
Mr Ron Cuthbertson provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Eight.
- l) **Crediton Arts Centre**  
Mr Peter Hamilton and Mr Tom Blaen provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Nine.
- m) **Churches Housing Action Team**  
Sharon Bradshaw provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Ten.
- n) **Sustainable Crediton**  
Mr Charles Mossman provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Eleven.
- o) **Boniface Trail Association**  
Mr Bob Lunnon provided a presentation, this is attached as Appendix Twelve.
- p) **Crediton Children's Centre**  
Ms Georgie Marks provided a report, this is attached as Appendix Thirteen.
- q) **Boniface Link Association**  
Councillor Frank Letch read a report provided by the Boniface Link Association, this is attached as Appendix Fourteen.

**4 Public Forum - Open Questions from Electors**

One member of the public suggested holding a 'Freshers Fair' on the Town Square once a year, for local community groups and organisations to attend. Cllr Letch encouraged the individual to pursue this idea.

**5 Close**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.52 pm

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

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017

**Chairman's annual report 2015-2016**

Once again the year has been one of successes and challenges. As there were only 10 candidates who put themselves forward at the May elections there was no vote needed but the council had to find two willing candidates to co-opt. We were pleased to welcome Heather Sansom and Jade Walters as our final councillors.

Despite the inclement weather Christmas in Crediton proved to be a great success. The parade was headed by the Pied Piper who was followed by a host of children in fancy dress and a good number of organizations from the town. The High Street was closed for two hours which required many marshals drawn from several associations in the town. Once again this event showed community cooperation at its best.

The council's Neighbourhood Plan is coming together slowly; it is proving a time consuming but worthwhile challenge.

The council's Floral Crediton Competition continues to grow and we are grateful to Bert Jewell for giving up his time to visit more than 30 gardens and the commercial entries.

The town council has again decided to increase the precept by 22% (£13.15 pa increase on a Band D) in order to cover the shortfall of the services previously undertaken by Devon County and Mid Devon District Councils. It was not an easy decision but one taken to protect our town as much as possible.

The final challenge came when Mid Devon District Council voted to withdraw its office staff from April first 2016. The town council and our staff have been in tough negotiations with Mid Devon officers to give the residents who usually use the service a workable alternative. Only time will tell how successful our negotiated arrangements have been.

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# Crediton Neighbourhood Plan

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## Vision and Objectives

March 2016



# How do we know what's important?

## **Our own surveys**

- Town plan consultations: 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013
- Household survey 2015
- Business survey 2015
- Schools survey 2015

**Other surveys and consultations, e.g. Health**

# Key questions for getting off the starting block ...

4/

What is our town like now?

What makes us different to other towns?

What do we want for the future?



# Our town

a creative and sociable community,  
committed to developing a  
sustainable town,  
alongside our valued heritage and  
environment

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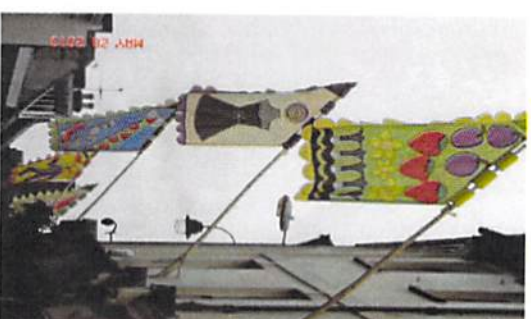




# Our distinctiveness

✓

- arts-based social action
- St Boniface heritage
- public transport connectivity
- a rural valley setting



# Our mission

to make Crediton a better place to live, work  
and play

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## **Our vision for Crediton includes**

- 1 Community and facilities
- 2 The town centre
- 3 Transport
- 4 Sustainability
- 5 Employment
- 6 Heritage
- 7 Environment



# Section 1 Community and facilities

## Vision


in 2026, CREDITON will be a place with strong community spirit and active community life set around a lively programme of town events





# **Section 1    Community and facilities**

## **Objectives**

- 
- **1.1 maintain and enhance the community spirit**
  - **1.2 maintain and improve the range of social, community and leisure facilities for all ages**
  - **1.3 support the provision of suitable social facilities for young people in the town centre**
  - **1.4 support plan proposals which improve the mental and physical health and well-being of the community**
  - **1.5 be a town that actively involves local residents and businesses in shaping it and in the process of plan making, monitoring and delivery**

# Section 2 The town centre


## Vision

In 2026 Crediton will be a thriving and prosperous town with a vibrant town centre where people enjoy living, working and spending their leisure time



# Section 2 Town centre

## Objectives

- 
- **2.1 improve the vibrancy and vitality of the town centre**
  - **2.2 improve the functionality and physical environment of the town centre**
  - **2.3 recognise and promote Crediton's strong independent retail sector**
  - **2.4 ensure new shops support the built heritage character of the town centre**
  - **2.5 keep a high proportion of retail shops in the primary shopping frontage**
  - **2.6 keep a low proportion of ground floor offices in the primary shopping frontage**

# Section 3 Transport

## Vision

In 2026 Crediton will be well-supplied with sustainable transport options, especially for walking and cycling

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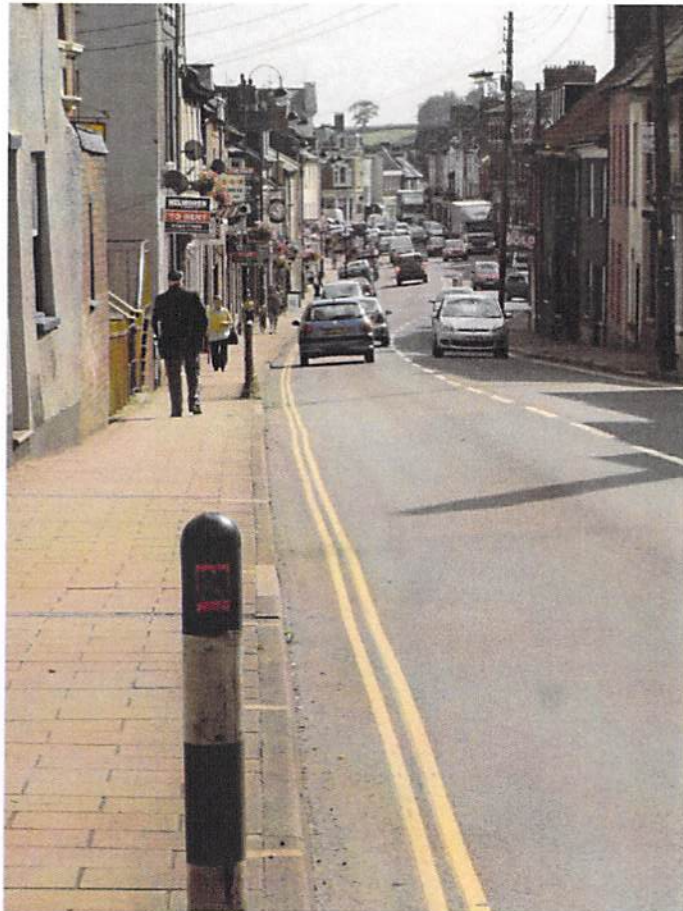


# Section 3

## Transport

### Objectives

- 3.1 improve the pedestrian environment and practicality of moving around the town on foot
- 3.2 improve the cycle network within the town and connections to the wider cycle network
- 3.3 promote and support safe travel for all and improve parking
- 3.4 promote, maintain, connect and extend the existing network of cycle paths, footpaths and pavements
- 3.5 seek improvements to connectivity between different forms of public transport
- 3.6 promote travel by bus and train through improvements to services and facilities
- 3.7 promote car sharing



# Section 4 Sustainability


## Vision

In 2026 Crediton will be a community that is more reliant on its own resources, reduces environmental degradation and mitigates the effects of climate change



# Section 4 Sustainability

## Objectives

- 
- **4.1 encourage energy efficiency and energy production from renewable and low carbon sources**
  - **4.2 promote facilities for the re-use of items and materials and recycling of waste materials and ensure adequate storage for recyclable and waste materials in new housing developments**
  - **4.3 encourage the purchase of locally produced food goods and services**



# Section 5 Employment

## Vision


In 2026 Crediton will be well supplied with employment opportunities, including industrial and business sites, and facilities for home-working





# Section 5 Employment

## Objectives

- 
- **5.1 Support and strengthen the local employment base and attract a wide variety of businesses to Crediton**
  - **5.2 Make sure that existing employment sites are kept for employment use wherever possible and appropriate**
  - **5.3 Support new business premises in suitable locations**
  - **5.4 Support new mixed use developments so that where appropriate, people can combine work and home life.**

# Section 6 Heritage

## Vision

In 2026 Crediton will have a protected, valued and maintained heritage of historic buildings and well-designed additions and refurbishments which enhance the existing street scenes especially in the town centre



# Section 6 Heritage

## Objectives

- **6.1 promote sensitive development which enriches and preserves the heritage of Crediton**
- **6.2 ensure the design of all new development is of high quality, in keeping with the town character and to a high level of sustainability**
- **6.3 promote Crediton station as part of the built heritage of the town and protect it from negative impacts of development**
- **6.4 maintain and enhance the town's conservation area**
- **6.5 retain and improve open spaces in and around the town centre**

# Section 7 Environment

## Vision

In 2026 Crediton will retain its southern rural landscape to preserve its setting between the flood plains of the Yeo and Creedy, and its green spaces within the town with improved air quality and enhanced biodiversity





# Section 7

## Environment



### Objectives

- **7.1 protect and restore biodiversity and natural habitats through appropriate land use and integration of habitat sites into the built environment**
- **7.2 encourage planting of trees and shrubs in appropriate locations in the public realm to mitigate the effects of carbon emissions and to extend biodiversity**
- **7.3 maintain and improve green spaces within the town**

# What's next?

- Circulate the Vision and Objectives and gather responses
- Write up planning policies that will support our objectives – these must add detail to existing national and district planning policies. They should not simply repeat them.
- Take advice from our planning consultant
- Talk to Mid Devon District Council again.

## Crediton Town Team

The Town Team are a group of local volunteers who started off as the organisers of the Crediton Festival. They still organise the festival, but two years ago, when Mid-Devon asked them if they had any proposals for some government community funds, they saw the chance to extend some of the festival activities into community projects. They all had backgrounds in project management, so it seemed a good fit.

The High Street flags are now in their fourth year. There's about 60 of them now, all hand-made using translucent hot-air balloon fabric and all unique, each one co-designed with shopkeepers or community groups. This year, the town team will be taking over the former Gee's TV - ariel shop on the High Street for whole of March. Their flags artist, Charlotte Turner will repair about 20 flags, make 8 completely new ones, and create two shop-window sized panels which can fit in empty shop-fronts

The team has also linked up with the Devon Guild of Craftsmen from Bovey Tracey, who will then rent the shop for the first 2 weeks of April to exhibit work made during the Devon Arts Wave projects with Haywards and Land score schools and Upstream.

Other town team projects include an artist-led design exhibition for new town signs at the main entrances to the town, additional market stalls for the annual Food Festival which will help extend the food stalls up Market Street to the High Street, and a second design exhibition, this time led by the four main architects of the town to develop concepts for weather protection of the town square. Their design concepts, along with the town entrance sign ideas, will be exhibited during the Food Festival on the weekend of June 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>

The preparations for CredFest 2017 will begin this summer, as usual a whole twelve months ahead of the event and an indication of just how long this successful coming together of the town takes to organise. This last year's CredFest, the most successful to date, comprised some 84 events in four weeks ranging from live music in the shops to dog shows in the park. On the opening weekend, representatives were welcomed from Avranches in Normandy, Dokkum in Holland, and Fulda in Hessen.

Those representatives also watched a recreation of the life of St Boniface in the square. This town team project was the result of months of preparation whereby the story of Boniface - as told in eight stained glass windows in the Parish Church - was recreated in translucent fabric banners set in metal frames, in the square, with actors playing the parts of Boniface and the pagans who martyred him. There has been a request from Fulda, where he is buried, to receive the banners there.

One more project the town team is currently working on will – if it succeeds - be their biggest and most challenging, that being the creation of a new cultural 'Hub' for the town. This would include a 250-seat auditorium for live music, dance and theatre, conference and seminar facilities, a bar, a café, function rooms, start-up units for small businesses, and possibly health-related facilities as well. Feasibility studies and comparative studies of other centres have been underway for some time. If funding and planning applications are successful this project will take over 5 years to achieve.



## Age Concern Crediton Report for Annual Town Meeting February 2016

In February 2015 David Charlesworth retired as Chairman of the Trustees after two years during which he had put in place a more commercially viable means of operating this Charity. John Musty offered to take over in order to establish continuity, and was fortunate in that the remaining 5 Committee members (Joan Rutterford, John Potter, Elsa Wakefield, and Brian Shillingford, elected to remain as Trustees). During the course of the year, Jenny Berg and Mike Felstead had also joined, filling roles which required their special skills.

During the year, The Lady Mills Centre in Deep Lane provided Day Care activities for 2123 people, serving 1787 home cooked lunches in the process. Our Home Support operation continued to grow, helping those at home in the services of befriending, cleaning, light domestic duties, information and advocacy to 1023 people from the town and surrounding district. The High Street Shop, which was refurbished in 2013, continues to provide a substantial part of our donated income, and we are greatly indebted to those who patronise and support it, and to the work of new Management Team Karen Greenslade and Gillian Stone, together with the help of more than 15 volunteers who have helped in all its facets. Our Keep Fit activity at the Leisure Centre; our Foot Care clinic, and Art Group, continue to thrive, and we are constantly looking for new ways to serve the community. During the spring, the Centre will be refitted with Dementia friendly signage and colour schemes, in line with our expanding role in this area, providing relevant care to those involved and relief for their carers. In all of this, we are totally dependent on volunteer drivers, carers, home support visitors and helpers: over 40 of them, and to whom there is no way of evaluating our debt.

We have been supported by Grants and Donations from Mid Devon Council, Crediton Town Council, The Kelly Trust, Unity Lodge of Freemasons, the Co-Op; and collections during the Crediton Festival, (for which we were fortunate to be a nominated Charity), at TESCO and Morrisons, and at over 36 shops in the town. Notwithstanding the foregoing, none of these benefactors can be expected to provide more than they already have, and we are therefore constantly seeking funding from external sources.

Last year, facing the fact that the Charity had run at a loss for many years, and was reaching the limit of its resources, we made some hard decisions, reluctantly losing some loyal Staff, and reducing hours of operation in the process. At the same time we redoubled our efforts to raise our profile in the Town, via the Crediton Courier, by attending as many Farmer's Markets and functions in the Town Square as we are able, holding open days, giving on average one talk each month to socially minded groups such as the W.I. and Mother's Union, revitalising our contacts with Surgeries and relevant local Agencies such as Neighbourhood Friends and Social Services. All of this to increase the numbers of clients and hence income, in which event we appear to be fortunate in that the balance sheet at the end of the period suggests that the coming year should be very close to break even.

For the coming year we hope to extend our hours of operation, and look to more fund raising events, but it is difficult with such a relatively small staff. Even so, Bev Whaley, our tireless CEO is already organising a sponsored walk in March, and Ellie Johnstone, one of our Day care Supervisors is running a marathon on our behalf; and we are organising a huge Spring Concert in the Parish Church in April. All of these and more events to come are so heavily dependent on those who already commit so much voluntary time to the Charity. As we rely so heavily on such voluntary work, it is my hope that the ears on which this falls may somehow not only support us in principle, but in action as well.

John Musty

Chairman of Trustees







## **Report – Annual Town Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Looking back over the last year, there have been many highs but also sadly some lows.

It would therefore not feel appropriate to look back over the last 12 months without firstly acknowledging the sad loss of one of our scouts, Samuel Crocker.

Samuel, began his scouting journey as a Beaver, he then moved on through Cubs and had only just become a fully-fledged Scout before his tragic accident. No words can express how we all feel about losing such a kind and loyal member of our group. Samuel is deeply and sadly missed by us all but as a group we have all managed to take some comfort in creating a variety of ways in which to remember him by. We would especially like to thank the Town Council who have supported us in allowing permission for a Totem Pole in memory of Samuel, to be placed at the Scout and Guide Garden in People's Park. A special place, to remember a special Scout.

During the last year we have had many changes in our Leadership team but we remain a close and strong team and take pleasure in leading such a lovely group of children who have made us all very proud through both the sad and happy times throughout the year.

**2015, what a busy time we had.....**

### **SPRING TERM**

In March we were delighted for three of our Scouts who attended a special awards ceremony at 'County Hall' where along with 90 Scouts from around the county, were congratulated on their achievement in gaining their 'Chief Scout Gold Award' (the highest badge to gain as a Scout). In addition to this, another 7 Scouts gained their award too throughout the year. We were also pleased to present some Beavers and Cubs with their 'Bronze and Silver' awards. As a group we are very proud of them all.

### **SUMMER TERM**

In April, we joined all the other groups in our 'Mid Devon Scouting District' at Chagford, for our annual St George's Day service and parade. Our Beavers and Cubs visited 'Pets At Home' for an organised evening to help towards gaining their 'Animal Friend' badge. Our Cubs also attended their weekend District Camp and the Scouts had a weekend away at a PGL Activity Centre near Torrington.

In June we were so pleased and delighted to hear the wonderful news that George Davey was listed in the Queen's Birthday Honours to receive the British Empire Medal for services to Young People in Crediton through the Scout Movement. With 50 plus years of service to Scouting, George has seen so many young people and leaders join and move up through the movement across Mid Devon District. However, he has always remained loyal to 1<sup>st</sup> Crediton keeping us all grounded in the true values of Scouting. We have all gained so much

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'Z' or 'J'.

knowledge from George, particularly regarding the history of our group, which has been invaluable and appreciated by us all. Everyone within scouting feels honoured to know George but 1<sup>st</sup> Crediton are just a little bit proud that his heart lies with us.

### **AUTUMN TERM**

In October we joined forces with Bow Scout Group to enjoy a spectacular 360 degree/3D space show presented by 'Space Odyssey' inside a special inflatable dome. Also during this month many Beavers from across our District enjoyed a night away at Plymouth Aquarium 'Sleeping with Sharks!' What wonderful experiences for all.

Towards the end of the year we were pleased to take part in community events such as the annual Remembrance service and parade, Christmas in Crediton/Light Switch on and of course the Xmas Tree Festival.

We ended the year with a Family Christmas Party and the delivering of our Christmas Scout Post to local households within the town.

2016 is already looking very busy with lots of camps, activities and community events to look forward to.

I finish this report by thanking my team of Leaders and helpers who give up their time to ensure scouting remains strong within the town and that as many children as possible are provided with the opportunity to be part of a great movement. Without adult volunteers this would not be possible.

As a group we continue to keep the sparkle shining for Samuel.

*Debbie*

**Debbie Richards**

**Group Scout Leader**

**On behalf of 1<sup>st</sup> Crediton Scout Group**



## CREDITON TREFOIL GUILD ANNUAL REPORT 2015

In 2015 Crediton Trefoil Guild enjoyed a comparatively action-packed year. Our activities included an introduction to Qigong and Tai Chi, a Djembe drumming session and a walk around the town guided by a member of the Crediton History Society. We also went on a tour of Crediton Dairy and later explored further afield with a visit to the Exeter Guildhall. Our summer outing was a little more relaxing: a cream tea cruise on the River Exe.

We also invited speakers to some meetings. A retired high court judge involved us in a discussion on the point of custodial sentencing - a thought-provoking topic; while on a lighter subject, during our fun 'Night at the Races', which centered on a horse-racing game, we enjoyed a talk on hats.

At one meeting, we reminded ourselves of some Guiding skills by cooking on a can and singing campfire songs.

We helped to raise the profile of Trefoil in Crediton by once again entering a team in the annual boules competition run by the Twinning Association. This year one of our teams came away with the runners up trophy - a great improvement on last year's wooden spoon! We also decorated a tree for the Crediton Christmas Tree Festival and attended the local Remembrance Day service where we joined the parade with Crediton's Girlguiding units to lay a wreath at the War Memorial.

Slightly further afield, we raised the name of Crediton by supporting various events arranged by other Guilds in the County.

Once again this year 'Team Crediton' was pleased to be able to help at the Trefoil County CHaTS and Lones meetings held in Crediton. 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 charities. Thanks are due to all those who contributed to our activities and raffles. Our main charity of the year was our local Guide Headquarters' building which is always in need of a little tlc.

All in all, 2015 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 2016.

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## Crediton and District U3A - (University of the Third Age)

Report for Town Meeting Feb 2016

The U3A Movement is non religious and non political and has three main principles:

- Membership is open to all in their third age; that is, when full time work or full time childcare responsibilities are over.
- Interest groups cover as wide a range of topics and activities as are wanted, by the members, for the members. No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake with enjoyment being the prime motive.
- Each U3A is a mutual aid organisation; it is self funded with membership subscriptions and group costs kept as low as possible.

We started in June by attending a meeting hosted by Tiverton U3A at the invitation of Frank Letch.

A steering group was formed and we worked through the guidelines of running a U3A with a mentor from the National Office and help from Tiverton committee members.

Our first meeting was in November 2015 - over 110 people came to hear Frank talk - we were very pleased by the enthusiasm of Crediton people who have been patient while we have tried to organise group activities.

So far, we have formed 15 groups: Art, Astrology, Digital Photography, Visits to churches and historical buildings, Cycling, short walks, long walks, Family History, French, Spanish, Philosophy, Computer workshops, Science, a Grandparents group and pub lunches.

Our next meeting on Wednesday March 16th will not be Geology of Crediton as advertised because the speaker has had to cancel - but...we have great pleasure in welcoming Reverend Anthony Geering - past Vicar of this parish - who has agreed to fill the space with a talk on his time with Maoris' in New Zealand.

As at February 2016, we have 155 paid up members - our funding is secure enough to plan ahead and book premises, speakers and, pay for the running costs. We are thrilled with the positive response from the people of our district for embracing this new organisation.

The monthly meeting is open to all - members and people who want to find out what we are about.

Refreshments are £1.50 for unlimited tea and coffee.

Jane Innes Chair

Contact me by ;

Phone : 01363 84376

email: creditonu3a@gmail.com





**Devon Senior Voice (DSV)**

**Crediton & Area Branch**

People are living longer, and DSV exists to help those over 50 lead lives that are as fulfilling as possible. We started in 2008 with funding from Devon County Council and NHS Devon as an independent and non-party-political forum that is listened to by the decision makers.

We now have more than 2,000 members – and many associate members – in 19 branches across Devon who have been working hand in glove with the authorities and others to meet the needs of older people and to improve their lives.

In 2013 we became a delivery partner with the new consumer watchdog Healthwatch Devon to provide engagement with older people in Devon.

Membership of DSV is free and open to Devon residents aged 50 and over.

If you wish to join, and we hope you do, please contact

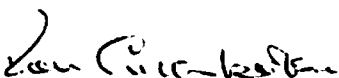
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[www.devonseniorvoice.org](http://www.devonseniorvoice.org)

During the year, the local, Crediton & Area Branch, set up monthly meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, in the Meadow Suite, Lords Meadow Leisure Centre – see attachment 1 for details of our monthly meetings during 2015. Attachment 2 shows the meetings arranged for the current year and we already have bookings for 2017.

In addition to the monthly meetings mentioned above, the local branch put on a “Care in the Community Event” during the Crediton Festival and in September hosted a very successful Dementia Awareness Day in the Boniface Centre. Early in October some of our volunteers assisted in the Old Persons Day put on by DSV, held on the Cathedral Green, Exeter.

Two of our volunteers are participation in the workshop to produce our flag to join the others in decorating the High Street for future events.

Sadly, during the year we lost our Chair, Pauline Thomas, who died suddenly in October. She will be sorely missed by a number of local organisations.

  
Ron Cuthbertson  
Treasurer  
Crediton & Area Branch  
Devon Senior Voice (DSV)



### Overview

CAC's remit is to promote activities in the arts through the provision of classes in art, drama, music for all irrespective of religion, age, gender and ability. We achieve this through the provision of classes, events, workshops and courses at the Centre on a regular basis and through events and projects in the town and wider community. The Centre's brochure illustrates the scope and variety of our work. With this in mind the year 2015/2016 has seen:

**Young People:** Crediton Youth Theatre meets on weekly basis and provides drama and theatre experience for some 30 young people age 8 to 18. Once a year the February Half Term Project is a showcase for the town's young people to demonstrate their dramatic energy and ability.

Charles Academy of Dance meets on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. A small section of their work was featured on the High Street during the Christmas Switch On event of 2015.

**Flag Project:** This successful visual project, initiated by CAC, is a collaboration between the town's business and social community with a practising artist to produce the colourful flags that decorate the High Street on particular occasions. Here is an inspiring example of the role of the arts in promoting the town in a vibrant and colourful way. During March this year, the third successive workshop will gather ideas for and work on additional town flags.

**Busk It:** This one-day music event almost flooding the shops and pavement on the High Street and the Town Square, like the flag project, adds to the town's vitality. This year's fourth successive June occasion provided by a variety of local busking musicians demonstrated the vitality and diversity of the local artistic community.

### Festivals:

**Crediton Food Festival:** This Arts Centre Project is now in its seventh year. From its early beginnings in 2009 it has grown in strength and variety while remaining true to its original aims of promoting and celebrating local food which highlights growers, markets, business and restaurants. An indication of its success is the interest in the Saturday morning rolling programme of presentations, the community Sunday Lunch and the extension of the Festival in 2015 to include Market Street

**Crediton Festivals:** Crediton Arts Centre was involved in the recent series of town festivals that started with the 1995 Boniface Festival. This festival was partly responsible for the Centre's first Shakespeare production King Henry IV Part One and regular bi-annual productions were part of the trigger to suggest a town square as a community space. In 2009 the Centre was heavily involved with a re-formed Festival for the town together with subsequent festivals in 2011 and 2013. CAC was one of the lead players, through the newly formed Town Team, to promote the recent CredFest 2015 which featured the three- night performance of Operation Belinda by Crediton Youth Theatre.

**Switch on Parade:** Working with the Town Council in 2013 the Centre has played a significant role in the planning of the Switch On Parades. Community involvement has grown from the first event in November 2013 to very successful Parades and Town Square occasions in 2014 and 2015. The Centre's role has included visual workshops for local groups and overseeing the artistic events on the High Street and in the Town Square.

**Crediton Town Council:** Crediton Arts Centre wishes to thank the Town Council for its continual support which has enabled many of the above projects to take place. This support through both annual and project grants demonstrates the value that the Council places on the work and role of the Arts Centre and for which we are very grateful

**Looking Ahead to 2016/2017:** The Centre has four aims;

- to continue the provision of classes, courses and events both at the Centre and in the wider community;
- to produce its ninth Shakespeare in the Square;
- to develop new community projects
- and to maintain financial stability in these difficult economic times.



Report for Crediton Town Council February 2016.

The Churches Housing Action team (CHAT) celebrated 20 years of preventing homelessness across Mid Devon in 2015 and we are really pleased to still be here supporting local people.

We provide free, independent and impartial housing advice, tenancy support and advocacy to residents of Mid Devon to assist those who are homeless or insecure in their housing. Work has developed in the Crediton area over the last couple of years and we meet clients each week for either Housing Advice (Tuesday afternoons) or for Tenancy Support (Friday mornings) in the Council Offices, providing advice and support people of all ages and from all walks of life.

We are successfully working with local landlords and letting agents to try to resolve clients homelessness and currently have nine households accommodated through our Deposit Guarantee Scheme ( a paper agreement in lieu of cash deposit), six of whom were housed in the last six months.

Tenancy support have worked with thirty households in the Crediton area since April, having been visited on a Friday on 61 occasions. The support provided includes assisting with the myriad changes to the benefits system, debt help, budgeting, help with moving in and setting up new tenancies, advice about the condition of the home and help in using the on-line facilities in the building to make applications. Practical assistance in the form of Crediton Food bank vouchers and meat and fruit and vegetable vouchers that can be used at two shops in the town can be provided as appropriate.

Housing advice have seen 45 clients at their outreach since April offering advice on rent arrears, homelessness, relocating, liaising with landlords and setting up deposit guarantee tenancies.

As an example; a senior citizen had taken on a private tenancy jointly with his daughter and son-in-law. He had applied for housing benefit as a pensioner but was astonished to find they treated him as a student (under 35 in a shared house) and would not pay what he had been advised previously they would. We assisted him in challenging the decision. He has now had the full award backdated to the start of the tenancy. Much to his relief.

We are hugely grateful for the support we receive from Crediton Town Council and the wider community of churches, individuals and organisations without whom this work would be much more difficult.

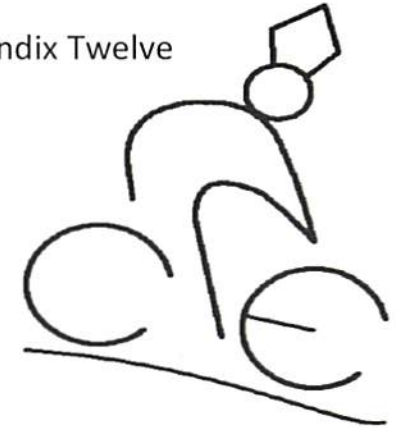
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Sustainable Crediton Highlights 2015

- Two-monthly waste plastic collections ended as MDDC decided to include waste household plastics in their doorstep recycling rounds. This was something we had lobbied MDDC to do for several years.
- Energy Group Feasibility study recommends a rooftop solar PV project with QE School. This would have produced savings of £230,000 over 25 years for QE, the generation of a Crediton Community Fund of £122,000 and a 5% return on capital for investors. Regrettably QE declined to progress the project due to concerns over tight deadlines imposed by the Government.
- Waste Action Group opens a Give and Take Shop in Crediton High Street in February saving 7 tonnes of household goods from landfill. There was enormous demand for the goods from over 7000 customers over a two week period. The shop was featured on BBC Spotlight and Radio Devon.
- A second Give and Take Shop opened in partnership with ReFurnish in October.
- Annual seed share bigger than ever with live music.
- Several members travel to London to lobby our MP about climate change
- Recycling performed at the Food and Drink Festival
- Volunteering morning organised in the Town Square
- Pig Club initiated by the Food Group
- Crediton Climate Challenge event in support of the Paris Climate Summit took place in the Town Square in November. We had stalls, music, poetry reading and around 300 people attended. Pledges were made and taken to Mel Stride in London next day. The event culminated in a large aerial photo in the shape of a heart.
- John Skrine stands down as Chairman as he was leaving the area, and Sarah Green takes over.
- Hedgerow Group work parties continue.
- Monthly meetings of our Core, Energy, Waste, Food and Transport groups continue.
- Monthly newsletter sent out to over 700 supporters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JK' or similar, located at the bottom left of the page.





# Boniface trail combined use path to/from Exeter

- Status report March 2016
  - Survey (over 800 responses so far)
  - <https://sites.google.com/site/bonifacetrailcampaign/>
  - Setting up charitable trust
  - Fundraising
  - Discussions with engineer

Thanks to:

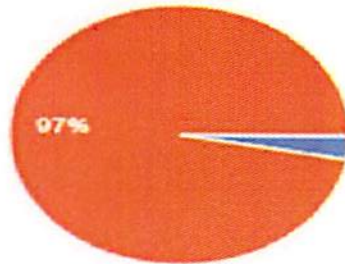
Crediton Town Council for financial support

Club Crediton for use of premises for meetings

# Survey – some preliminary results



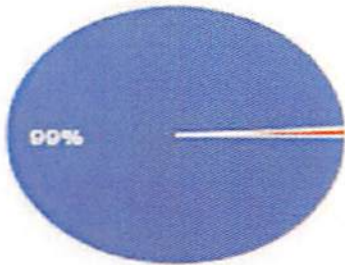
Do you feel the A377 is a safe cycling route?



Yes	18	3%
No	588	97%

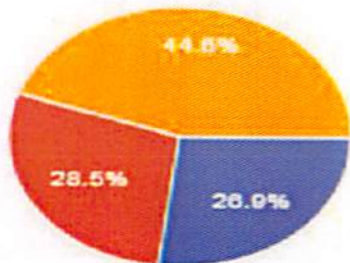
Would you use a dedicated cycle path if built?

24



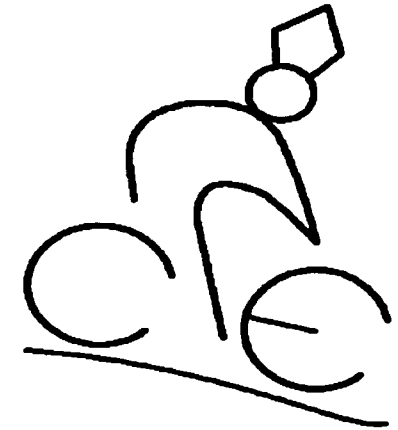
Yes	600	99%
No	6	1%

If built, would you use the path for work travel ?



Occasionally	160	26.9%
Regularly	169	28.5%
Not at all	265	44.6%

# Setting up charity



- Application made to charity commission in February
- Trustees have skills in financial, legal and technical aspects
- Two trustees are long-established footpath wardens

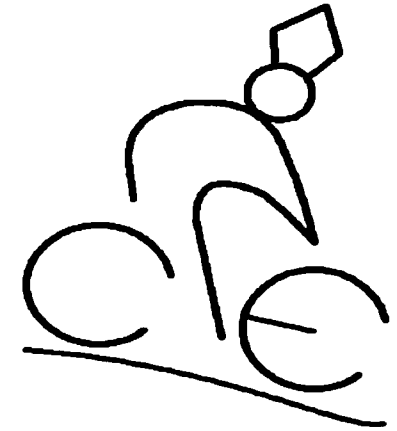
# Fundraising



21

- Application is being made for LEADER funding (Rural Payments Agency funding for rural development)
- Also investigating funding from landfill tax
- Also investigating section 106 funding
- Also investigating TAP funding
- Also investigating “Spacehive” crowdfunding

# Discussions with engineer



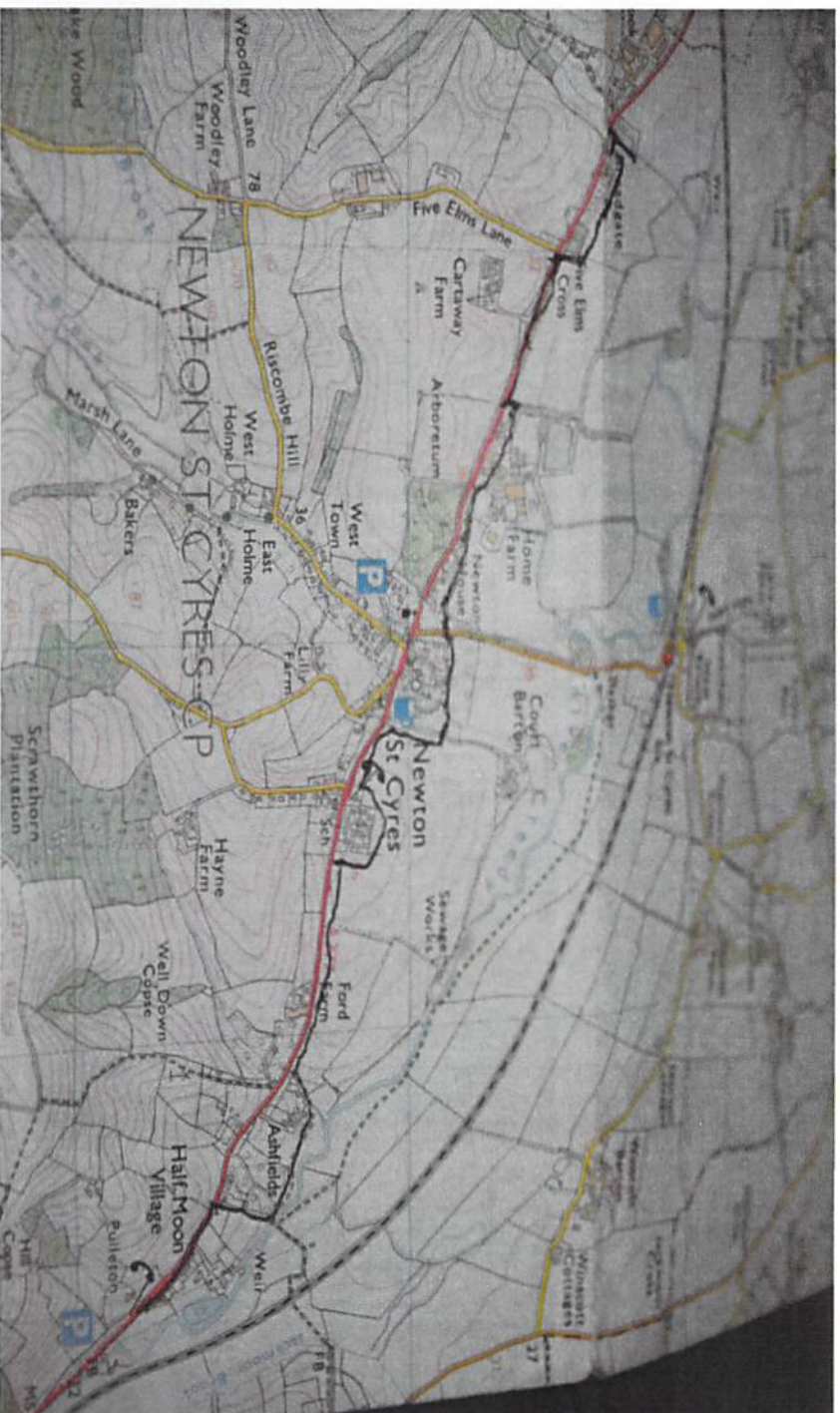
- Selected trustees have had long meeting with engineer who has had experience working on Otter Trail in East Devon
- Following this meeting focus will be on obtaining planning permission for central portion of route round Newton St Cyres where we have provisional landowner agreement
- Portions at Crediton and Exeter ends will come a little later, taking advantage of experience gained



# Possible route round Newton St Cyres



4



Report for Crediton Town Council

February 2016

## **Crediton Area Children's Centre**

### **Who are we**

Crediton Area Children's Centre has been supporting families with children under 5 since 2008. All families can access our services for support during the early years and we increasingly focus our resources on children who may be more vulnerable. Our patch is over 100 square miles and there are 1419 children within this area.

### **What do we do**

We offer a wide range of services including;

- Universal play and stay sessions, during term time and the holidays.
- Small groups where there is a need for additional input, including baby massage and our Great Beginnings group, run jointly with Health.
- Antenatal classes in partnership with midwifery.
- One to one support where there is a identified development need for the child
- Breastfeeding support and 'Hatchling's' for new parents.
- Advice, guidance and signposting on a wide range of subjects related to children in the early years.
- Sessions in the local community, including our Information Station and support to toddler groups.

We work closely with the Health team, social care and settings. Families can contact us directly if they feel that they need additional support or information. Alternatively, we receive many referrals from agencies and professionals.

Nearly 80% of families are 'members' of the children's centre, which means that they receive regular updates about our services. We'd like to see 100% of families joining us, that way everyone will be aware of what is on offer to them and their children. Please promote us to any families that you work with and encourage them to check out our Facebook page at.....

### **Where are we based**

Since September 2016, our administration base has been in the old youth centre on the site of Haywards School. We're really grateful to the school for offering us temporary premises and are waiting to hear from Devon County Council about relocation plans.

We offer our services in Crediton town from the fire station and Methodist church. In the wider community, you will find us in the toddler groups and Health lead baby clinics.



**What next**

We like to keep abreast of what is going on for children and families within our communities. Please feel free to contact me if you'd like to chat about any of our services and where they may be gaps.

Georgie Marks

Centre Lead

Crediton Area Children's Centre

01363 777219

[Georgina.marks@actionforchildren.org.uk](mailto:Georgina.marks@actionforchildren.org.uk)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized 'G' or 'M'.

## BONIFACE LINK

**History and purpose:** The Link was set up about 20 years ago, at the behest of the Town Council, which at the time was receiving a number of random and largely unrelated queries about Boniface and the places he had been active.

The main aim of the Link was to act as a coordinating and “facilitating” organisation, which would field these enquiries, and try to answer them, or indeed to “link” groups from Crediton area with their counterparts, mainly, but not exclusively, in Dokkum and Fulda. It was NOT the intention that the Link would take it upon itself to plan and organise any specific events or visits. However, we do occasionally put on events for the general public, and each year we hold a number of low-key social events – partly to raise funds, though we usually just break even. Some of us quite enjoy them!

**Finance:** We have about £1,500. It does not cost much to run the Link, but we do give occasional grants; members currently pay £5 a year for the privilege.

**The year just passed:** This proved one of our busiest, and we believe it justified our existence. We helped out with the formal visitors from both Dokkum and Fulda last summer, and I think it fair to say that, without the Link's involvement, this visit might have fallen a bit flat (formal visitors, and others, do expect a fairly full programme, and often need transport, and sometimes accommodation).

The town is involved in a number of regular exchanges, often church-related, though the veterans' football, now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, tends to be somewhat secular. The Link keeps abreast of these events, and certainly helps to fund (and accommodate players) when we hold the football in town.

We have just hosted a visit from a Mr Smit from near Utrecht, where apparently Boniface first set foot in what is now the Netherlands. (We now have an invitation for a representative to visit at the end of May).

We have also now developed much closer links with our Twinning Association, to our mutual benefit. A member of the TC is on the Committee, and we are pleased that they attend regularly.

**The future:** I believe that the Boniface Link fulfils its remit; that we now have a closer relationship (and knowledge of our continental counterparts) than heretofore. We provide knowledge and a continuity of contacts with the growing “Boniface community”: Fulda (Germany), Dokkum, and now Dorestad (Netherlands), Sarasota (USA), and sometimes Wimborne and Nursling (UK).

Bob Edwards  
Chairman, Boniface Link

PS 1. We are always on the lookout for new members.

2. For some years I have been looking for someone to attend, virtually free, a 4-week summer school at Fulda University. This person must be between 18 and 23, educated to GCSE standard (but knowledge of German is not necessary). If you know anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact me or Judy Tucker.

