



**Minutes of Credition Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019,  
at 7.00 pm, in the Boniface Centre, Church Lane, Credition**

**Present:** Credition Town Mayor and Chairman, Councillor Mr F Letch  
19 Members of the Parish and 6 Members of the Public

**In Attendance:** Mrs C Dalley, Town Clerk  
Mrs L Blake, Assistant Clerk

**1. Welcomes and Introductions**

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

**2. Minutes of Annual Town Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018, were confirmed as a correct record and were duly signed by Councillor Letch.

Clr Letch then handed over the hosting of the event to Rosemary Stephenson and Kate Lock from Credition Town Team.

**3. To receive the following presentations:**

Kate and Rosemary explained that each group/organisation had been asked to give a brief explanation about what it does, as well as one key proposal for Credition in the future.

- **Credition Town Team**

The Town Team has been in existence since 2014. Its aim is to keep Credition as a vibrant exciting and great place to live. It currently has seven different projects on the go, these include Credfest 2019, the Boniface Heritage Trail, for which they have just received £16,000 LEADER grant funding, Credition flag project, Wellbeing Credition, which is a new social prescribing scheme and 'The Heart Project' which is a new community hub which will work towards keeping the heart and vibrancy in the town.

Key proposal/idea: Keeping the heart and vibrancy in the town.

- **Credition Library**

Credition Library is run by Libraries Unlimited, a charitable mutual, since April 2016. There were 45,000 visits to Credition Library last year to access books, audiobooks, DVDs, computers, events, clubs, exhibitions, etc. The Library provides resources and events for all ages. To increase the offer to the community Credition Library works in partnership with and provides facilities for, a wide range of organisations: from Learn Devon for maths skills and Elite training for IT skills to Upstream and U3A for poetry, craft, French and Spanish groups. The library, with the involvement of the community and local organisations, put on new large events such as a Local History Day and a Fun Palace of arts and sport cultural activities.

This year the Library wants to utilise its outdoor space, which has fantastic views of Newcombes Meadow by installing decking for level access and an awning. This will enable the space to be fully utilised.

Key proposal/idea: To create outdoor space at the Library.

- **Crediton Arts Centre**

There is something happening at Crediton Arts Centre every day, life drawing, performances, martial arts etc. The Centre also appears all over Crediton and in surprising places. There may be musicians playing in shops and businesses, the Centre contributes to Christmas in Crediton, it helps people to display their artwork, it's even provided street theatre in Princesshay Square in Exeter. The Arts Centre wants to continue to explore what it is doing for and with the people of the town and surrounding areas. A supply of the Arts Centre's current brochure had been brought along and everyone present was invited to take a copy.

Key proposal/idea: To support the Town Team's cultural hub, it would be great.

- **Turning Tides**

Unfortunately, a representative of Turning Tides was unable to attend.

- **Crediton International Social and Cultural Organisation (CISCO)**

Unfortunately, a representative of CISCO was unable to attend.

- **Crediton Age Concern**

Unfortunately, a representative of Crediton Age Concern unable to attend.

- **Crediton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**

After 5 years of consultation, research and planning, the draft Neighbourhood Plan will soon be online for everyone to read. Hard copies will also be available and you will be able to read about it in the press.

Key proposal/idea: More affordable housing and a proper bus linking the whole of the town.

- **Sustainable Crediton**

Sustainable Crediton is a group of local people that share common concerns about the environment, the natural world and its finite resources. Its mission is to help people in Crediton and the local area to lead more sustainable lifestyles and work towards a carbon neutral future.

It has a transition town approach by focusing on changing minds, changing expectations and changing what people do in their day to day lives to help the community become truly self-supporting and resilient in the face of the coming challenges of climate change, peak oil and food insecurity.

They held a street stall in March to meet the public and to advertise forthcoming talks and the Seed Share. They have regular get-togethers called Chatterbox where people can meet and talk informally about the environment and sustainability.

There is also a Waste Group, Food Group and Woodland and Hedgerow Group. In the last year, Sustainable Crediton has, amongst other things, set up the town's water refill scheme, organised a clothes swap and assisted with recycling at the Food Festival.

Its latest project is B-Lines. B-Lines are a series of 'insect pathways' running through the countryside and towns to help support pollinators such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies. They would like to put Crediton on the map of the B-Line Project and make Crediton the bee capital of Devon.

Key proposal/idea: For Crediton and the local area to live more sustainable lifestyles and a carbon neutral future.

- **Crediton Area History & Museum Society (CAHMS)**  
The Society is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. It works to help people appreciate and promote Crediton's great history, which not a lot of people know about it. Each year it holds one or two exhibitions, last year's was called 'Young at Heart' and was about childhood history. This year's exhibition will be 'A Brief Encounter at Crediton Railway Station' which will cover the coming of the railway and feature who used it.

The Museum is open from April to October and houses the Family Research Corner, where they help people trace their ancestors. During the winter, when the Museum is closed it holds regular talks at the Boniface Centre and it still continues to collect, catalogue and maintain historical artefacts.

It has a dedicated team of volunteers but could always do with more.

Key proposal/idea: To expand the museum and take it out into the community more.

- **Crediton & District Access Group**  
The group was set up in 1992 to raise awareness and improve access for all. Since then its remit has widened. Over the past year group representatives have attended and contributed to many local meetings/consultations, always trying to have constructive input, these have included Crediton Community Emergency Plan, Parish Paths, the new Exeter Bus Station, the Health and Wellbeing Forum, the proposed new Crediton Garden Centre, Crediton Traffic & Urban Realm Study and the proposed new Crediton GP Hub. Representatives have also met with various planning applicants to discuss ways of improving access for all and they have increased their involvement with the Turning Tides project plus much more.
- **Crediton Operatic & Dramatic Society (CODS)**  
The current production is the musical Carousel, which 23 children are involved in. The Society relies on its sponsors. This year there will be a summer production for Credfest. Members of CODS do it for pleasure and hope that the people of Crediton enjoy what they do.

Key proposal/idea: To support the Town Team's 'Heart Project' so there is a performing space in Crediton which everyone can use.

#### 4. Refreshment Break

The meeting was paused whilst everyone grabbed a cup of tea, or coffee, and a biscuit!

*Initials.....*

## 5. Discussion Session

Kate and Rosemary explained that this part of the meeting was an opportunity for anyone present to:

- ask more about other groups' work and role
- ask questions about the council's work and role
- discuss any of the future proposals that have been presented
- raise anything else about the town
- to ask questions of any of the groups and organisations that have attended the meeting.

The big question was "how are we going to achieve the things that we want for Crediton?" Many people felt that one of the biggest problems is volunteers and how to get people involved. Everyone agreed that they struggle to get volunteers and positive thoughts were required on how to combat this. It was noted that Crediton has a lot of groups and organisations so the volunteer pool is spread quite thinly and we already have a lot of people volunteering.

Rosemary advised that as part of the Town teams 'Heart Project' they wanted to set up a website that would connect all the community groups and venues. It is important to try and get everyone communicating, sharing knowledge expertise and volunteers.

It was suggested that some people don't know how to get involved. The Library advised that they get people regularly asking about volunteering opportunities however, they can only signpost people to the opportunities they know about.

It was questioned whether Crediton is actively working to bring people in from the wider community. Crediton has a huge catchment, is it spreading the net wide enough and is it outward looking?

It was felt that Crediton could be vulnerable to becoming a dormitory town in the future due to the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP), which covers a huge area. More housing will come but it is not known how much will come to Crediton due to its topography. The GESP details major investment and development on the M5 corridor and down the A38. With development at Bridgwater, Hinckley C, Yeovil, junctions 27 & 28, Exeter, and down to Plymouth with its maritime studies. The hinterland, West Devon and North Devon are being missed out of the economic opportunities. To keep the heart in Crediton a mix of housing and employment is needed. The Neighbourhood Plan looks at what Crediton needs such as hanging on to employment, encouraging start-up businesses and allowing expansion, whilst making it work for the town. Everyone in Crediton needs to work together to make things happen.

We also need to be mindful of youth. Mid Devon has an ageing population but we need to consider the opportunities for young people in the town.

Concern was expressed regarding access to shops and businesses in Crediton. The purple pound is worth £249 billion to the UK economy and its disabled people who contribute to it. Whatever is done in Crediton, we must make sure we are factoring in people with disabilities. People can find it difficult just to go out and have a cup of tea.

A member of the public sighted the Belmont Park project in Exeter. Where a community association is in the process of replacing a fairly modest two-room hut that is used for all kinds of community

activities. He suggested that as Newcombes Meadow has no such thing, perhaps this could be a possible town project for Crediton.

Another suggestion was to think about how new residents could be welcomed to the town. Could someone visit them and provide them with information about what's happening in the town and help them to make new connections.

The final question was regarding what, if anything, is being done to draw all the organisations together. The Town Team confirmed this is in the pipeline. Firstly, they want to promote venues in the town with details of the space available and how it can be booked. Rosemary then advised that the 'Heart Project' is holding a stakeholder consultation on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019. They would like as many people as possible to go along so they can find out what everyone wants and start a debate. This will be followed up with a public consultation at a later date.

**6. To note reports attached to the minutes from Crediton community groups and organisations.**

The Town Clerk, Clare Dalley, advised that she had received detailed reports from the following community groups and organisations and these would be attached to the minutes, and publicly accessible for people to read.

- Crediton Area History & Museum Society (CAHMS)
- Crediton and District Swimming Club (CDSC)
- Crediton and District Access Group
- Crediton Church Corporation
- Crediton Library
- Crediton Trefoil Guild
- Girlguiding Crediton
- 1<sup>st</sup> Crediton Scouts
- Sustainable Crediton
- Crediton Twinning Association
- QE Academy
- Crediton Town Team
- Crediton Arts Centre

**7. Close**

Rosemary and Kate thanked everyone for attending and participating. The meeting closed at 8.11 pm

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

# CREDITON AREA HISTORY & MUSEUM SOCIETY



## REPORT TO CREDITON TOWN MEETING    March 2019

We continue to circulate a newsletter 3 or 4 times a year and hold monthly talks at the Boniface Centre over the winter months when the museum is closed.

A group meets weekly, at the museum over the winter and at Downes during the summer, sorting and cataloguing our growing collection. Work continues on detailing the collection using the specialist museum software we have, with the long-term intention of putting this on our website so that the general public can easily learn more of what we have in the collection. Meantime, there is a limited amount of information about the collection on the website which quite often brings enquiries from all over the world.

Last year's exhibition at the museum 'Young at Heart' was very popular and we are pleased to say that several schools from the villages and the town brought groups of children to see it. We hope that this year's exhibition 'A Brief Encounter at Crediton Railway Station' will prove equally popular. Visitor numbers usually amount to around 1500 each season. What we can display is severely limited by a lack of floor space, despite us being allowed to install some cabinets and displays on the mezzanine.

The museum reopens on 10<sup>th</sup> April and will run until October.

All year around the Research Corner, where family and house history research goes on, is open every Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

The rent and other essential costs of maintaining the museum amount to in excess of £5,000pa and we simply would be unable to meet these without the grant given to us by the Town Council and our Friends programme. Around 15 local firms contribute £100pa each and approaching 80 individual members also contribute. This income bridges the gap and ensures our survival.

We have a dedicated team of volunteers, including many who help steward the museum. There is a great deal more interesting work that we could do on the history of the town and area if we had more volunteers so we are always pleased to welcome anyone interested.

Grateful thanks once again to the Town Council for their continuing support.

# CREDITON AND DISTRICT SWIMMING CLUB

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON 2018

The year has again proved memorable for several reasons:

The Club will be 20 years old on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and has over those years continued under the Coaching of Jane Brimacombe who gives so much to the Club and her son Robert who runs our very successful Development Squad which feeds younger swimmers into the Club.

Our swimmers have achieved great success during the year with 39 County Qualifying times achieved by 10 swimmers and an amazing 51 Club Records broken in the 2018 Club Championships. More Swimmers have been taking part in County Competitions and many PBs have been achieved.

Once again Club Member Darren Beer has achieved recognition as the National Masters Champion in the 200m Breaststroke as well as winning national medals in two other events. He has also represented the club at County and Regional Competitions in which he has achieved success. Darren also supports the Club as our Competition Representative on the Committee and ensures a well organised approach to the Club Championships and other Competitions with excellent record keeping.

When the club was formed in 1999 just after the Pool at Lord's Meadow was opened we were fortunate to secure the services of Karen Padden as our Secretary and I am delighted that Karen has in recent years returned to the role of Club Secretary.

Our Treasurer Matt since taking over in 2015/16 despite his busy work life continues to keep a close eye on our finances as well as performing as a Masters Swimmer at County, Regional and National level where he has also achieved success.

Our Membership Secretary Sara Rolle has also made significant progress with her Masters swimming winning Medals and achieving Personal Best times. Sara is a great help to Jane on poolside and also with the fitness and flexibility sessions she oversees.

Our Committee has met regularly during the year and it always amazes me that as some key members leave other come forward and ensure that behind the scenes the Club's affairs are kept in order. This includes Membership, Equipment, Welfare and Publicity to name a few areas. There is always a welcome to any parents who would like to support the Club within the Committee, please speak to Jane, Robert or me for more information.

The Club has continued to organise and oversee the Crediton Learning Community Primary Schools Swimming Gala and with support from the Principle at QE have used our Year 7 and 8 Club Members to provide valuable support on poolside which is really appreciated by the Primary School Staff. This year Lansdown were the 2018 winners with Newton St Cyres placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of the 12 Schools who took part.

Lifesaving Instruction to Club Members continues successfully to this day thanks to the efforts of Andy Coles and Christine Furse. Many Club Members go on to achieve National Pool Lifeguard Qualification status and can be seen working at the Leisure Centre.

.  
Peter Brewer - Chairman

DRAFT

## **Crediton & District Access Group report for Crediton Town Council 2019**

Crediton & District Access Group was set up in 1992 to campaign for and raise awareness to improve access for all. We believe access is not just about getting a wheelchair into a building it's about being inclusive for all; about people feeling welcome and useful; empathy not sympathy.

Members of the Access Group want to be part of the community, support local businesses and help Crediton remain a prosperous and caring community. However in order to do this and have a choice of where we go for coffee with family and friends or where to shop we need access without having to make a fuss.

Not everyone has access to the internet nor indeed does everyone want to shop on-line we want to have the choice to be out in the community enjoying the social life and supporting others.

The Access Group fully embraces the concept of the Purple £.....\*\*

Members of the Group are disappointed that access to the various business premises along the high street could not be explored / included in the planned forthcoming town centre improvement plans.

Over the past year Group representatives have attended and contributed to many local meetings/consultations always trying to have constructive in-put. Meetings/consultations attended include the Crediton Community Emergency Plan; Parish Paths; the new Exeter Bus Station; Health and Wellbeing Forum; the proposed new Crediton Garden Centre; Crediton Traffic & Urban Realm; Crediton Gp Hub; have met with various planning applicants to discuss ways of improving access for all, increased involvement with the Turning Tides project and many more.

In the coming year the Group plans to continue to monitor planning applications, meet with other like-minded organisations, update the Access Guide and take part in more local events. We would also like to work more closely with the Town Council to explore ways of improving access.

The Group is grateful for funding from Crediton Town Council which helps pay travel expenses to enable members to attend meetings.

Despite dwindling numbers (mainly through deteriorating health or members moving home) the spirit of the original Group lives on and we are actively looking for new members. Our meetings are lively and we try to be positive we believe if people don't understand what the barriers are they cannot help break them down.

### **The Purple £ \*\***

“The DWP used the phrase purple pound to promote its 2012 campaign to get small and medium-sized businesses to attract disabled customers. This phrase is still used by ministers.

Nearly one in every five people in the UK has a disability or impairment, and over half of households have a connection to someone with a disability. Their collective spending power – the Purple Pound – is worth £249 billion to the UK economy.

However, this potential is not being fully realised. There are still real (and perceived) barriers that make it harder for disabled people to find work, spend money online and in store, and enjoy a drink or meal out.”

**CREDITON CHURCH CORPORATION**  
**Restoration Committee**

2 North View  
Union Road  
Crediton  
EX17 3AL

Phone: 01363 773669  
Email: [glenda.hills@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:glenda.hills@yahoo.co.uk)

26 March 2019

***Report to the Annual Town Council Meeting:***

*The committee wishes to express it's thanks to the Town Council for the Grant awarded to, and split evenly between, the Flower Festival and the Christmas Tree Festival each year. These two festivals annually generate the income necessary to maintain the building and grounds of our Grade 1 Listed Parish Church.*

*During 2018 we were able to repair the Clock Chimes; complete the Window Mesh security for all the stained glass windows; cover the costs of a Tree Survey resulting in a Tree Scan and subsequent Pollarding and increase our CCTV coverage with an additional Security Camera. Together with a considerable number of minor works our Expenditure came to £33,903.00, this was offset by: Grants awarded, donations received, fund-raising activities and VAT refunded in some cases, totalling £19,963.00 which left net expenditure at £13,940.00. This has all been accomplished by a combination of generosity and hard work from a number of sources.*

*The assistance given by the Town Council is a very welcome boost to our finances.*



**Glenda Hills**  
**Treasurer to the Restoration Committee**

# Crediton Library



Crediton Library is one of 50 Devon Libraries and has been run by Libraries Unlimited, a charitable mutual, since April 2016. Libraries Unlimited aims to bring ideas, imagination, information and knowledge to people's lives and communities.

There were 45,000 visits to Crediton Library last year to access books, audiobooks, DVDs, computers, events, clubs, exhibitions, etc. The library provides resources and events for all ages. To increase the offer to the community Crediton Library works in partnership with, and provides facilities for, a wide range of organisations: from Learn Devon for maths skills and Elite training for IT skills, to Upstream and U3A for poetry, craft, French and Spanish groups. The library, with the involvement of the community and local organisations, put on new large events such as a Local History Day and a Fun Palace of arts and sport cultural activities.

Crediton Library has 4 Reading Well collections, endorsed by health experts, to help people to understand and manage their health and wellbeing. New links with other organisations are being formed to increase support for the mental and physical health and well-being of the community such as a year-long Devon Guild of Craftsmen photography project for people aged over 60. Funding is being raised for an accessible community outdoor activity space in the library garden for events and for use as a relaxing reading, studying and work space.

Crediton Library offers a book club for children and one for teens, a weekly Duplo and Lego Club, a weekly under 5 event and a new monthly CoderDojo, a coding and digital club. The library supports Duke of Edinburgh volunteers to learn new skills and help their community. 330 children attended the 15 events Crediton Library put on over the 2018 summer holidays, from craft and science to Really Wild Learning and author events. 345 children from 28 local schools also took part in the national Summer Reading Challenge at Crediton Library. The Friends of Crediton Library paid for a disco for the children who completed the challenge and provided a school trophy to support the literacy development of children.

The Friends of Crediton Library is a group of volunteers from a cross-section of the community that have been in existence since 2014. They support the library by extending the library facilities to benefit the whole community. Funds have been raised through annual voluntary donations, from book sales of donated books and from events they host in the library. The events included photographer Chris Chapman, From Russia with Love, Food from a Devonshire Country Kitchen, Keeping our Bees and a Cheese and Wine Tasting.

Please visit the link below to find out more about Crediton Library:

<https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena/creditonlibrary>

Sue Lee  
Library Supervisor

devonlibraries.org.uk

 **Devon  
Libraries**

is part of

 **Libraries  
Unlimited**



@DevonLibraries



facebook.com/CreditonLibrary

## CREDITON TREFOIL GUILD

Just a couple of the highlights of our year:-

You may know that 2018 was the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Trefoil Guild and the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Crediton Trefoil Guild and to mark the occasions we wanted to plant a new Harkness "Trefoil Rose" in the Scout and Guide Garden in Peoples Park Road. We were very grateful for the help of Emma Anderson in arranging for us to do this and also for the continuing TLC given to our rose by the gardener who does such a good job in maintaining this calm oasis in the centre of Crediton. A service of thanksgiving was also held in Crediton Parish Church when members of Trefoil Guilds all over Devon attended.

Last year Crediton Trefoil Guild joined others throughout the Country in raising funds for Riding for the Disabled and you may be interested to know that our target of £30,000 has been exceeded and is currently over £83,000!

Regarding your request for a key proposal for Crediton - might we suggest that a coming-together of all organisations in the town in the form of an Annual Town Fair - eg. In Newcombes Meadow, could give the local community a day of enjoyment and a way of fundraising and informing people about their respective organisation at the same time?

## **Girlguiding Crediton**

Girlguiding Crediton continues to grow in numbers and strength. We currently have 8 units in the District, with 6 in Crediton town providing opportunities for 180 girls aged 5-17 run by an amazing team of adult volunteers. In town we have two Rainbow units (5-7 year olds); 2 Brownie units (running 3 weekly sessions for 7-10 year olds); 52 girls attending a Guide Unit - for 10-14 year; and a Ranger Unit for those aged 14+.

During the 2018/19 year have included numerous residential opportunities – including a music festival weekend in the New Forest where it did rain for 24 hours; held a disco for all of our members; attended a Thinking Day celebration with other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Tiverton Division; and launched our new programme.

Our new programme has 3 main elements: Skills Builders – designed to support girls to develop skills throughout their time in Guiding these are a range of activities on 6 levels; Unit Meeting Activities – fun activities to be completed in groups and Interest Badges – designed to be completed at home these now include vlogging, event planning, grow your own, archaeology, zero waste, women's rights, voting, storytelling and animal care.

Judith Harris – District Commissioner

25/03/2019

DRAFT

## Report – Annual Town Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019

To begin our report, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my trusted team of leaders and committee members for holding the fort during my 6 month break from Scouting between January and August 2018. Good volunteers these days are hard to find and they all did an amazing job in staying connected and working as a team to ensure all our young members were well supported and looked after. For this I am so appreciative and my return was all the more easy, due to their commitment shown to the group.

Over the past few years, stability of our leadership team has certainly had its ups and downs. At the present time I am pleased to say that we are in a good place, which not only is positive for Scouting, but also for our group and the young members that we care for.

Over the last year, Scouting has had a bit of a facelift, with many celebrities signing up to become 'Scouting Ambassadors', joining our 'Chief Scout' Bear Grylls to promote our organisation. We have also seen new branding and a real emphasis is being made to promote 'Skills for Life' and 'Youth Shaped Scouting'. We hope here in Crediton we provide our young members with a wide range of experiences that they might not otherwise have access to in any other youth organisation. We also hope we provide them with as many opportunities as we are able, to 'have a voice' and be involved in their own programme planning and the future growth of Scouting.

Always too many activities to mention but we certainly try to put the 'out' in Scouting, enjoying the outdoors as much as possible.

- We have been extremely grateful to Henry Parker for allowing us to use an area of woodland on the Downes Estate for activities. Last summer our Scouts were fortunate to use this land for their very own 'Survival Camp' and we hope to use this area not only with our Scouts but our Beavers and Cubs too, once the better weather appears.
- In July we took a small group of Scouts to Haldon Racecourse Exeter for a County Scout week-long event named 'Run to The Fun 4'. We camped alongside many other Scouts from around the county and some international Scouts too. The weather proved very challenging even though it was July, but all enjoyed their first big camping experience and many activities were on offer throughout the week.

Working towards gaining badges and awards are very much a focus for our young members on their Scouting journey and we have been very pleased to award 7 Beavers their 'Chief Scout Bronze Award' and 4 Cubs their 'Chief Scout Silver Award' this year. These are the highest badges they can gain in their Scouting section. We have also been delighted to award two adult leaders with their 'Wood Beads' after completing their leadership training.

We very much like to help in our community as much as possible. Over the year you will have seen us in Crediton getting involved with local events such as the annual Boules Competition, Remembrance Parade, Battles Over Commemoration, the Christmas Light Switch on and Christmas Tree Festival.

Last but not least 2019, is a big year for 1<sup>st</sup> Crediton Scout Group as we celebrate 110 years of Scouting in our town. We have many events lined up, including in June, a Garden Party in the Gardens of Downes House for past/ present members and friends of our group. We are also planning an overnight camp and activity day for all our current young members in July.

To add to our Birthday celebrations, many of you will know George Davey as a pillar of our community. This year George will have been involved and connected to our Scout Group for 70 years since he became a Cub Scout back in 1949! How amazing is that?

A very positive year all round. Continuing as always to 'Sparkle for Samuel'

**Debbie Richards**

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

DRAFT

## Sustainable Crediton Annual Town Meeting Report 2019

In 2017 Sustainable Crediton 's umbrella group, the Core group, went into dormancy due to ill health and retiring members, though the action groups continued to be busy organizing events, campaigning and distributing information about the environment and sustainable living. In May 2018 a new Core group was elected and Sustainable Crediton as a whole is back working hard to fulfill its aims.

This year has been about re-establishing the Core group, training and starting to look at what we can achieve next. We are moving towards making greater use of social media in addition to our website and regular newsletter. We have had an encouraging number of new people signing up for our newsletter. The Core group held a street stall in March to meet the public and advertising forthcoming talks and the Seed Share, more are planned. Regular get-togethers called Chatterbox have been held to provide a social spot where people can meet and talk informally about the environment, sustainability, our town and anything else!

The Waste Group were very busy last year. Projects included: a Clothes Swap in November, making the Seed Share food from surplus food donations, organizing the recycling at the Food Festival, advising and helping at the Devon County Council Community Action Group's (CAG) Love Food Hate Waste event, taking part in the Christmas Tree festival, attending Environment Agency events on plastic waste with a view to future work on plastic and setting up the water refill scheme with local businesses in Crediton. Another clothes swap is planned as part of Credfest 2019.

The Food Group organized this year's *Share, Grow, Eat* Seed Share which was bigger and better than ever. The move to the Boniface Centre last year allowed them expand the number of stalls manned by local groups and businesses, showing what they are doing on a sustainability related theme in addition to the sharing of locally grown and Heritage seeds. The Food Group have also commenced forming a project on saving pollinators as part of the Beeline scheme to create habitat corridors. They held two talks, one on Sustainable Land Management and the other from the Bumblebee Trust to start the ball rolling. An exhibition was put together for the Seed Share about Bees and other pollinators, with encouraging interest. Another exhibition is planned as part of the Credfest Picnic in the Park.

The Woodland and Hedgerow Group continue to meet and work together to look after hedgerows and woodlands, creating sustainable habitats for wildlife by keeping hedge laying skills and traditions alive via working parties, whilst socializing, having fun together and keeping fit and healthy. The Woodmen band are a testimony to having fun!

Some of us took the opportunity to take up the Town Council's kind offer to go with them to the Energy from Waste plant in Exeter and see for ourselves how our non-recyclable waste is handled. While in Mid Devon we are doing quite well at 53.4% now recycled, there is still long way to go, there is more we as a group can do to encourage to recycle, reduce, reuse across energy, food, and transport.

Sustainable Crediton is looking forward to the next year and fostering a positive response to the challenges of climate change and reducing resources we face, at a community level. We are about helping people to become aware, interested and willing to take steps to make a difference to our future.

# **CREDITON TWINNING ASSOCIATION**

Established 1989  
P. Sherwood Hon. Secretary.



**AVRANCHES  
1993**

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.**

This year has been our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. I am delighted that we are still such a successful club 25 plus years. This is a tribute to all our members including my hard working committee. We have enjoyed 25 years of travelling. In March and May last year QE exchanged pupils with Challemel- Lacour. We gave the French students a tour of the town, church, park with a photo shoot at St. Boniface statue and on to the Council Chamber for a reception with the Mayor Frank Letch. Events held during the year :- Skittles Evening, Boules Competition, BBQ, and Curry Evening. Everyone who attended these events enjoyed themselves. In September we visited Avranches where a new charter was signed by Frank and included two new towns linked to Avranches. Chester and Riolo Terme in Italy, along with Korbach and St. Hellier. A plaque handmade by Ed Sherwood was presented to Avranches celebrating 25 years of Twinning. We started 2019 with our Annual dinner and other events are planned for the coming year. In June we are receiving our friends from Avranches. Plans are in hand for their visit.

### **Town council report QE Academy Trust**

This academic year started, as always with the summer results to reflect on. Our summer 2018 results saw success at both post 16 (6th Form where we were once again one of the highest performing schools in Devon) and at GCSE where our English Baccalaureate (EBACC) was very pleasing and put us in the top 10 of non-selective state secondary school in Devon. This represents the progress students make across a broad range of subjects and here at QE we remain absolutely committed to ensuring a broad range of subjects is available to all our students, for examination at both age 16 and post 16.

Just a few of the highlights this year have been the amazing school production of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' and the recent victory for our under 14 boys rugby team who beat Ivybridge 10-7 in a stunning game to become Devon County Champions. This along with many other sporting achievements including our extensive partnership work with the Crediton Learning Community primary schools, Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh means that there are many opportunities for students to get involved in extra curricular activities, something we believe to be incredibly important.

DRAFT

# CREDITON TOWN TEAM

## Report to the Town Council for the Annual Town Meeting 27 March 2019

Crediton Town Team has continued to work to improve the vibrancy of the town.

The Team members are:

- Rosemary Stephenson (Chair)
- Kate Lock (Vice-Chair)
- Martin Ashley (Treasurer)
- Rod Brookes-Hocking (Secretary)
- Jo Ward
- Rachel Vowles
- Lorraine Harris
- Paul Tucker (non-voting)

### Our Projects

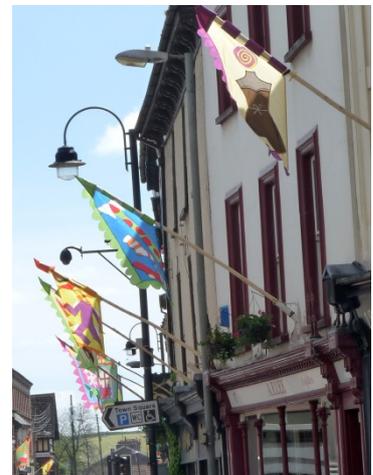
**Crediton Festival 2019:** We are busy preparing for our 4<sup>th</sup> CredFest, which will run from 2 to 23 June, showcasing numerous community groups. Highlights will include a free open air cinema in Newcombes Meadow, an Art Trail in the shops displaying the work of more than 40 local artists and a new musical by CODS in the Parish Church. The Festival will open with a huge Picnic in the Park and end with a Party in the Square.

**Boniface Panels:** We've been awarded £16,000 from the LEADER Fund, enabling us to install a magnificent heritage trail, with 8 panels across the town depicting the life of Boniface. Each panel, made of reinforced glass, will depict a scene from his life. We hope to have these ready to mark Boniface Day on 5 June 2020.

**High Street Flags:** This popular project has become an intrinsic part of summer in Crediton. This is our 7<sup>th</sup> year and we will be running community workshops throughout May to repair some of the older flags and make new ones to add to our collection.

**WellBeing Crediton:** In partnership with Involve MidDevon, we have attracted significant funds to set up two pilot social prescribing schemes in the town, one for over 50s and one for over 18s. These involve employing Community Connectors to work with the socially isolated to find activities and support to improve their wellbeing.

**The Community Hub:** This ambitious, long term plan to build a facility for Arts, Community and Enterprise in the town has made significant progress in the last year. An independent not-for-profit organisation, with 9 trustees, has been set up to lead this work. Called 'The Heart Project' with the strapline '*Keeping the Heart in Crediton*', they will be running a major public consultation campaign this summer to find out what the people of Crediton want.



**Active Mums Crediton:** We've continued to support this group who organise weekly bike rides for mums with their babies and toddlers. The Town Team have raised enough funds to buy bikes and trailers, as well as pay for a ride leader. We are hugely grateful to Create Storage for providing a home for their equipment free of charge. After a break for the winter, rides are due to resume soon.

**Get Out: What's On EX17:** A monthly listings of all the arts, music and drama happening in the Crediton area, a project initiated in and run by Andrew Vaccari and subsidised by the Town Team. For the last year Get Out has had a monthly page in the Crediton Courier, enabling it to reach many more people.

DRAFT

## Crediton Arts Centre

If you turn left out of the door when you leave the Boniface Centre this evening and look across the main road when you get there – or when you drive up from the Car Park for that matter – you should see a sign poking up over the stone wall opposite - rather like an old fashioned railway station sign. Unless it's too dark, of course – but we're working on that.

That sign reads 'Crediton Arts Centre' – and the buildings beyond contain the Centre's headquarters, including its two studios. Something may well be going on there every day of the week – classes in watercolours or life drawing, a portrait club, dance, youth theatre, silver-smithing – or maybe there's a four night, sold-out run of Dylan Thomas's **Under Milk Wood** performed by the in-house theatre company, Brown Paper Bag. Ancient people might be 'Moving It or Losing It', while younger ones practise martial arts.

But the Arts Centre is a bit like The Cheshire Cat in *Alice in Wonderland*. It suddenly appears all over Crediton in surprising places. Usually – like the Cat – it has a smile on its face, and hopefully it's putting smiles on the faces of everyone around. The Centre might be providing musicians, playing in shops and businesses up and down the High Street on a Saturday morning in the Festival. It might be contributing to the Big Christmas Switch-On in the Square, or helping Artists to open their studios to visitors or to display their work in shop windows or on office walls. The Youth Theatre could be performing an original musical in Newcombe's Meadow, or – last November – you might have seen actors from the Centre working in partnership with the Quakers to create some street theatre in Princesshay Square in Exeter to commemorate the Armistice.

When Alice asked the Cheshire Cat which way she ought to go, the Cat replied, 'That depends a good deal on where you want to get to'. The Arts Centre's been asking itself where it wants to get to ever since it started, and I hope it always will go on exploring what it should be doing for – and with - the people of the town and the villages around. In that search, it has for several years been supported by its Business Partners, Ashgrove Kitchens, Peck and Strong Bakers, Veitch Penny Solicitors and WorthamJaques Accountants. We've also often received generous donations from our friends in the Lions and the two Rotary Clubs – and we've consistently benefitted from grants from our Local County Councillors and indeed our own Town Council. We could not be more grateful for such support; we would not exist without it..