

CHAIR'S REPORT TO SDNP AGM 17 JANUARY 2016

2016 was a busy and productive year for the Association with a number of excellent projects undertaken successfully, such as:

- The People's Health Trust funded projects for the creation of a *Vision Statement*, a *Photography Competition* and ongoing work such as the creation of the *Sensory Garden* at the Community Centre. The Vision statement has been produced as full colour pamphlet with the statement of how the community wants to see the St David's Neighbourhood become *as a place to live and work in the year 2020*, with things that need to happen to achieve this. The People's Health Trust funded the public consultations around this, a photography competition to generate interest and photos for the poster - and the poster itself. The creation of the sensory garden at the Community Centre involved community workshops to make ceramic tiles for the walls of the garden - in a previously unloved part of the Centre garden, planters and planting by volunteers. It's a superb project delivered in partnership with St David's Primary School and ExeArt. A huge thanks to Hannah for initiating the projects and securing/managing the grant funding of approx £16K for the two projects.
- The ARTSfest programme was conceived, managed and delivered with no additional grant funding by Roger Kaye and the wide variety of activities was hugely appreciated by all who took part (Thanks to Roger)
- Unusually Good Book Sale followed up from Seed Swap events in the past. Organised by Gail and Paul Prosser in St Michael's Church this was really well-attended and enjoyed by all and £50 of the income from the event has been donated to SDNP to help fund other projects (Thanks to Gail, Paul and Helpers)
- The Community Centre's excellent and changing exhibition of artwork is organised by Stuart Crewes and is a real service to local artists and the visitors to the Centre (Thanks to Stuart).
- Richmond Road Car Park gardens have been stored by Antonia, Angela and Françoise (with great help from Robert Edwards who unfortunately has now moved to Bristol but has left the garden as his legacy). Funding for the plants was from Western Power Distribution. The issue of poor litter-bin collections resulting in a constantly unsightly mess has not yet been resolved.
- The Veitch Period Lamp Post Trail was virtually completed by Kate Wilson in partnership with RAMM and featured in Exeter's Heritage

Week Tours. There are one or two final matters to complete, including the printing of Trail Leaflets for Exeter City Council, so that this now becomes part of the City's Red Coat tours for visitors. (The project is generously funded by Devon County Council's Locality Fund and the Lottery Awards for All programme).

- RHS Britain in Bloom SW - St David's as a 'Village' achieved GOLD this year through the outstanding efforts of many people in the Neighbourhood. The 4 individual 'It's Your Neighbourhood' projects (Little Silver, Richmond Road, The Mulberry Garden and St Nicholas Priory Garden) all achieved Outstanding. The work was generously supported by Exeter City Council's Community Fund. Decision: Does St David's 'Village' want to enter again in 2017?
- Community Warden Scheme - on 1 November the new scheme got underway in partnership with Patronus Security thanks to grant funding from Cllr Jill Owen's Devon Locality Budget and The Exeter Board as well as The People's Health Trust. The Steering Group is meeting regularly to review the scheme - and talking to other neighbourhoods interested in adopting the scheme.
- Peep Lane reopened after 4 years of major repair work by Devon County Council and private land owners following a major collapse of walls along the steps.
- 'St David's Big Bash Festival!' The Association has just been awarded £3,500 from the Lottery 'Celebrate England' fund to hold a festival on 3rd and 4th June this year. The idea came from Peter Lavers-Mason who will be helping to lead The Big Bash! group in planning and delivering the event.

OUTSTANDING ISSUES:

- Private road from Clock Tower to Jubilee Court (back of Queen Street) is still not identified in terms of ownership and still no progress in getting action for the road to be adopted and repaired. (Cllrs are following up on this))
- Completion of Richmond Road with planting at the entrance is still being negotiated by residents with Drew Pearce, agents for Richmond Court.
- The land between the Iron Bridge and Bridge Court (with the steep muddy slope) is still unregistered/owners not identified and maintenance not being carried out. (Action by Chair SDNP).
- Student numbers in St David's - there are ongoing discussions with the Vice Chancellor of the University and, through St James Forum, Gavin

Barwell MP, Minister for Housing & Planning (appointed July 2016) concerning the unacceptable number of students in neighbourhoods close to the university which creates community 'imbalance'. St James members met Gavin Barwell MP with Ben Bradshaw in London on 19 December and a copy of their report will be shared with St David's Committee.

Christine Fraser
Chair, St David's Neighbourhood Partnership
17 January 2017