Notice of the Annual General Meeting

The Community Meeting & AGM will be held on
Wednesday 22 January
at 7pm
in Exeter Community Centre
(Northernhay Room)
EVERYONE WELCOME!

- Refreshments from 6.30pm
- Meet your Neighbourhood Police Team
- Meet your local councillors

Nominations for Committee Membership should be emailed to: info@bystock.eclipse.co.uk or by letter to 17 St David's Hill, EX4 3RG (marked 'SDNP' by Friday 17 January 2014

St David’s Neighbourhood Subscriptions

Membership of St David’s Neighbourhood Partnership is free. However, we do ask for an annual subscription from those who can afford it of not less than £3 to help towards administration and Newsletter costs.

How to Pay:
In Cash at the AGM on 22 January
By cheque payable to 'St David’s Neighbourhood Partnership' and sent c/o Exeter Community Centre, 17 St David's Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG. Thank you.

News from your Committee

As the St David’s Neighbourhood Partnership AGM approaches on 22 Jan, it’s time to reflect on community issues over the last 12 months, celebrate the highlights and to look forward to what our community priorities should be up to 2020.

In November 2012 the SDNP community meeting set the following priorities for action by the SDNP committee:

- Considering planning and licensing applications which may adversely affect the heritage and residential character of St David’s
- Speed limits and road congestion, especially on St David’s Hill
- Anti-social behaviour – noise, drugs, crime, litter

So, what’s happened so far?

Planning Issues

After consultation with residents, SDNP objected successfully to an application for a budget hotel on the Clock Tower, which it was felt would not be a design in keeping with the conservation area and would affect existing hotels and B&Bs in the Neighbourhood. We were unsuccessful, however in our objections to a bookmaking shop on Queen St. We felt that the design of the shop front was not in keeping with the area and anyway a gambling shop was not appropriate where young people walk to College every day.

20 MPH 'Zone'

The existing 'Zone', not to be confused with 20 mph 'limit', currently excludes much of St David’s 'neighbourhood'. The Committee has submitted an application to Devon County Council to include the whole length of St David’s Hill; Richmond Road; Queens Terrace; Bystock Terrace; and the access road to Jubilee Court from the Clock Tower. If approved, there will be an opportunity for the 'neighbourhood' to design part of the sign boards.
Traffic Calming

Devon County Council has agreed to the community's request to create a pavement 'pinchpoint' on St David's Hill near Richmond Court, to reduce the speed of traffic driving up and down the Hill and help children cross the road more safely to school and nursery.

Anti-Social Behaviour

We have had more problems this year with drug dealing, street drinking, illegal dogfight training, defacing of trees in St Bartholomew's Cemetery and graffiti on residents' doors and walls. Our actions on these are outlined below. Most important is that residents continue to call police if they spot problems. It's only by reporting crime that we will continue to get the resources for our excellent neighbourhood police team to combat it.

Licensing

There are a number of businesses in our neighbourhood which have applied this year for extensions to their licensing hours to 1am or even 2am with the additions of recorded or live music and dancing. Residents have told SDNP that although they want the night to thrive, these establishments need to understand that St David's is not the city centre. We're a residential area and residents need their sleep. The city centre already caters well for nightclubs. The cumulative effect of more drinking, music and dancing license extensions makes for noise issues and stretches police resources still further. Licensing policy guidance is being reviewed by Exeter City Council but, in essence, responses regarding licence applications can only be made under 4 criteria: 1. The prevention of crime and disorder 2. Public safety 3. The prevention of nuisance 4. The protection of children from harm.

Public nuisance could include low-level nuisance, perhaps affecting a few people living locally as well as major disturbance affecting the whole community. Examples of nuisance could include noise, threats to community safety, litter, odour, smoke or lighting. If you are considering objecting to a licence extension, asking for a review of an existing licence or making a complaint, you must provide evidence that you have experienced or would experience a nuisance issue at first hand.

Exeter Community Centre

The Centre is buzzing with groups booking spaces for everything from French to martial arts. There are now a host of classes going on every day and evening as well as groups booking space for meetings and health clinics such as community acupuncture and homeopathy sessions. The Mulberry Café has gone from strength to strength offering hot and cold snacks, excellent cappuccino coffee, and, since the opening of the Centre's Mulberry Garden, the Café has been able to offer seating in the garden too.

Past, Present, Future

This year the Centre secured funding for a 'Past Present Future' project – collecting residents' memories of the Centre and St David's over the past 50 years. We have hosted a reunion for ex pupils of the Centre when it was a boarding school for the blind. It was very moving to hear their memories of 1950s to 70s when the Centre was their home – sleeping in the dormitories of learning a trade – piano tuning, basket weaving and clock repair.

The memories collected will form a permanent archive for St David's. The memories and artworks created during the project – painting, creative writing and textiles as well as photos of the work undertaken by volunteers in the Centre's garden - will be exhibited in the Centre throughout May and June this year. Do come and see the exhibition – and maybe this year is one for you to learn a new language or skills in a class at the Centre? Pop in and see us. Thanks to all who gave and collected memories of the area.

And finally....

Michael Morpurgo, former Children's Laureate and author of 'War Horse', has helped fund a superb Story-Telling Chair for the Mulberry Garden at the Centre.

The work, by James Bond (environmental sculptor) is now completed and will be installed in February. Carved from a massive piece of oak which had lain weathering in a field for 50 years, the Chair reflects the ancient Mulberry tree, the peregrine falcons living on St Michael's church tower, the work of former students in the building - such as leatherwork, weaving and piano-tuning - and it echoes the twin Norman towers of Exeter cathedral which can be seen from the location of the Chair in the Mulberry Garden. Visit the Garden in the spring and enjoy your story-telling moment!
Keep St David's Tidy?

Phil Barton, chief executive of Keep Britain Tidy, said a rise in the cost of cleaning up litter, from £780 million to £858 million, reflected the dirty streets.

'It is quite obscene that we, as a nation, have to spend more than £3/4 billion clearing up the rubbish that people can't be bothered to put in a bin,' he said. 'We must make littering as unacceptable as vandalism.'

New Year’s Resolution?

St David’s Neighbourhood has just over 1,000 households (and businesses). If every household picked up and binned just ONE piece of litter a week, that would make a significant contribution to keeping the streets clean. St David's is really well-served by our street-cleaning Team and a New Year effort from every household would help the Team - and the cleaner the neighbourhood, the less litter it attracts.

Community Graffiti - Cleaning

In December St David's was the first community group to take part in the City-wide initiative by the council, police and community safety partnership to help clean up tagging and graffiti in the neighbourhood.

The aim of the anti-graffiti project is to work with the Council to create a 'blank canvas' so that any new tagging/graffiti can be photographed and offenders identified (through social networks). The Community Clean-Up Kit provided free by the Council is held at Exeter Community Centre and can be used by anyone in the neighbourhood (with some brief instructions).

Why are such community initiatives needed? John Lloyd writes: 'This is all about 'The Broken Window' theory. Many people regard graffiti as harmless self-expression by young people. In fact, along with broken windows and litter, it can be a trigger for petty crime and later more serious crime.

This "broken windows" theory was first put into practice by New York mayor Rudi Guiliani in 1985. It was combined with other social and enforcement measures. The result was a sharp and lasting drop in all kinds of crime.

It seems that once graffiti, litter and broken windows build up, people start to think no one cares; that no one will do anything if they behave badly commit crime.

That's why we should support the attempts to tackle these issues in our neighbourhood.'

The Pride of St David's

Congratulations to St David's C of E Primary School for their wonderful achievement in the first ever 'Pride of Exeter' Awards held at Sandy Park in November. Mrs Lyn Wonnacott's 'Green Team' won the Environmental Heros (under 18) category - despite having no garden of their own - and Jack Lavers was a finalist in Young Hero category.

Nominations for the 'Pride of St David’s 2014'

From now until September 2014 we will be asking residents/businesses in the neighbourhood to nominate their 'Pride of St David's'.

The criteria are simple: which individual(s) or group(s) provide a service or action which makes a significant contribution to the life of St David's community and how do they do this. Anyone can submit a nomination.

And the winners will be those receiving the most votes at the next AGM!

How to nominate: simply send an email with the nomination giving details of the individual(s) or group(s), their contact details and the reason for the nomination to: admin@SDNP or write to 'The Pride of St David’s’, c/o Exeter Community Centre, St David’s Hill, Exeter EX4 3RG
Congratulations, St David's 'Village'!

The Royal Horticultural Society has awarded the 'village' of St David's a Silver Pennant award in this year's South West in Bloom awards.

The areas judged were: St Bartholomew's Cemetery, Mount Dinham, The Mulberry Garden (Exeter Community Centre), Little Silver Green, St David's Churchyard, and Bury Meadow Park. Congratulations and thanks to all volunteers, helpers and good neighbours who help to keep the 'village' green spaces in such good heart.

This year (2014) St David's 'Village' will enter again, along with new groups - St James' 'Village' and 'St Thomas Village'. This initiative is being run with Exeter Parks Watch as part of a strategy to engage groups across the City to help care for green spaces, parks, cemeteries and gardens. (See www.exeterparkswatch.org - RHS)

Volunteering Opportunities
If you can spare a little time to support the community, we’d love to hear from you! For example, could you deliver the next Newsletter to houses/businesses in your street? Could you help occasionally to clean graffiti from our street furniture? Could you help supervise a Student Community project or gardening projects? Call or text Christine on 07773038689 who is awaiting your call!

St David's Church - The Future

St David's Church (built 1900) is considered to be 'a perfect example' of the work of architect W D Caroe. Sadly this magnificent building has significant problems with subsidence at the west end which will need underpinning. As part of the information needed for grant funding applications, Rev Tom Honey needs the views of local people on how the church might be developed to meet local needs. There is a simple survey for this purpose. You can help and give your views by simply completing the online survey at https:// surveymonkey.com/s/stdavids2013 or www.svy.mk/sde2013

Exeter Community Centre
Expand your mind & reduce your body in the New Year!

Thinking about a meeting with friends? A children's birthday party? A dance class, language classes, art, painting, poetry, martial arts, acupuncture, homeopathy and much much more? Pop in to Exeter Community Centre, have a coffee in the café garden, read our full activities sheet and see what’s on offer. Or visit www.eccentre.org to see all activities and rooms for rent.

Mulberry Tree
Coffee Shop & Tea Garden

Drop in Mon - Fri 9am to 4pm and enjoy our specialist coffees, loose leaf teas, lunches and homemade cake in our relaxing Cafe. New for 2014 are our children's party packages, drop in to discuss or take a look on mulberrytreecafe.co.uk

The Newsletter is produced by St David's Neighbourhood Partnership for distribution to 1,000 households and businesses in the area. All the information is believed to be accurate at the time of going to press.