



Friends of
**SOUTH WEST POLICE
HERITAGE TRUST**

Supporting Devon & Cornwall Police Heritage

JULY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

It has been quite some time since the last newsletter and it was thought prudent that you all received an update as soon as possible after the recent appointment of our new Communications Officer.

A lot has happened since the last communication. The Devon & Cornwall Constabulary Heritage & Learning Resource has become the 'South West Police Heritage Trust' and the collection has grown under the expert care of curator Hilary Bracegirdle. The 50th anniversary of the force came and went in June 2017, when the Friends assisted at various locations around the force with displays, and at present we are spectators to interesting and uncertain times as the Commissioner and Chief Constable explore a possible merger with Dorset Police.

Our New Communications Officer

We are delighted that Mark Rothwell, already a member of the Friends group, was appointed at the AGM to be our Communications Officer. Mark joined Devon & Cornwall Police in October 2009 as a civilian emergency call handler, a job

he continues to do in the present. Over time Mark became very interested in the history of the force, prompting to him to contact the collection in its previous incarnation in 2012. In 2016 he turned to authorship as an outlet for his researches. Mark is always happy to talk police history and can assist with any research requests that fall outside the remit of Hilary and her team.

The Future of the Newsletter

Having taken some time to look at the work of other heritage groups, we are keen to involve you, the Friends, in the look and content of future newsletters. Any of you who are members of the Police History Society will know that their quarterly newsletters are chock full of member-authored articles, appeals and even book reviews. This is a theme we are keen to emulate, and we would love to hear from anyone who has an article in mind they'd like to share with fellow members. The beauty of electronic newsletters is that they are not limited by word count, so please do not hold back! Please contact Mark Rothwell on mrothwell643@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested.

Membership

The method of renewing your membership and updating your details, via the cloud-based service 'Membership Mojo,' remains unchanged since the last communication. If you are unsure how to access this, please go to: <https://membermojo.co.uk/> and click 'Sign In' in the top right-hand corner; enter your email address and it should generate a log-in for you. If you know somebody you think would make a good Friend, please forward them this link: <http://fswpht.org.uk/> Membership remains only £5 and makes such a difference to the Historic Collection.

The Outreach Van



The Outreach Van continues to be a focal point of our public engagement and has undertaken many successful trips throughout 2018. Soon the van will undergo a small force-funded makeover to reflect our change in name and contact details. Already this year, the van has been to:

Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Open Day, Plympton – 13th May

RAF St Mawgan – 10th June

Oakville Social Club, Plymouth – 18th June

Royal Cornwall Showground (Blue Light Day 2018) – 4th July

The outreach van's next trip will be to Penryn on 25th August 2018. If any member would like to assist or just come along to see what we do, they would be very welcome. Please contact Pam Giles, message us or contact us via our website...

<http://www.fswpht.org.uk/contact/contact.php>

The Force 50th Anniversary



On 1st June 2017, the force celebrated fifty years of service to the two counties, following the amalgamation of the three constabularies (Cornwall, Plymouth and Devon & Exeter) in 1967. Although the Friends were involved in many aspects of the celebration, perhaps the most memorable was the 'Tardis on Tour' which saw the infamous blue police telephone kiosk travel the length and breadth of Devon and Cornwall throughout the month of June. Although not strictly a relic of the past fifty years, the iconic police box drew crowds wherever it went, and the co-operation and goodwill of local officers made the venture very worthwhile.

A Date for Your Diaries



On Friday 9th November 2018, Devon & Cornwall Police is holding an Armistice Event at Middlemoor Headquarters in recognition of the hundredth year since the end of the Great War. Extensive research has been conducted, both in the SWPHT archive and county record offices, since September 2017 into the policemen who joined the Army and were subsequently killed. It was obvious early on that there were many men from the constituent Devon and Cornish forces who died but were not included on police war memorials.

Rather than interfere with the existing memorial plaques, the chief constable has agreed to commission a new, single memorial to every man from the region known to have died during the conflict. Descendants of these men have been contacted and invited, and the unveiling will take place on the 9th immediately after the usual Act of Remembrance. While formal invitations have yet to be sent out, the Friends are very welcome to attend. After the memorial is unveiled, guests and dignitaries will be escorted to the Tamar Room above the Middlemoor canteen for coffee, cake and the opportunity to mingle. The Friends intend to have a display table at this event which will hopefully provide an ideal opportunity to talk to prospective members. If anyone is interested in this, please contact Mark Rothwell by the end of July on 07946396263 or by email mrothwell643@hotmail.co.uk

Death of a Member



It was with great sadness to hear earlier this year of the passing of one of our members, Keith 'Solly' Solomon, who died at Treliske Hospital following a short illness on 6th March 2018. Keith joined Cornwall County Constabulary in 1961 and served through amalgamation until 1982. He served in Falmouth, Liskeard, Newquay and St Columb. Latterly he was a Devon & Cornwall Police Chaplain in Cornwall from 2007 to 2012. A proud Cornishman, Keith was known for his sunny disposition, good humour and as a 'character' to all who knew him. Following his retirement, Keith wrote 'Telling the Tale,' a fascinating memoir of his police service, a copy of which he kindly donated to the collection. Before his passing, Keith was assisting the Force with its Great War Remembrance project.

Follow Us Online

Social media users can find up-to-date information by following us on Facebook. You can find the page by clicking on this link: <https://www.facebook.com/FSWPHT/>

Committee Members

Chairman: Andy Bickley
Vice Chairman: Pam Giles
Secretary: Jane Wilkinson
Treasurer: Sue Crowley
Webmaster: Andy Francis
Transport Manager: Brian Edmunds
Communications Officer: Mark Rothwell

Contact us

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telephones are manned part-time.)

<http://www.fswpht.org.uk/>

A Big Thank You

A big thank you to all of our members, whose support is highly valued. Without your continued help, there would be little, if any, scope for the public engagement which has proved time and again to be an integral part of raising awareness of the Historic Collection. Devon and Cornwall Police has one of the best and largest police archives in the country, a fact that should be celebrated.

FSWPHT Chairman Andy Bickley