

## FRIENDS OF DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE HERITAGE COLLECTION

A tremendous amount of activity has taken place during the past six months within the South West Police Heritage Trust supported by the Friends group so I thought it appropriate to give you a summary of events.

### **With regard to the South West Heritage Trust:**

- In August, John Casson MBE was elected to the chair of the Trust, taking over from David Rees. Many of you will know that John has been a stalwart supporter of The Friends group since its inception in 2011 and is indeed an honorary life member. John brings a rich background of business expertise to the trust as well as a deep insight into the work of charities.
- The trust has now adopted the working name of Devon and Cornwall Police Heritage Collection. The registered charity name remains South West Police Heritage Trust
- Six sub committees have been formed under the Trust: their titles are self-explanatory. Strategy Advisory Group (SAG) / Virtual museum / Collections and Development / Policy and procedures / Property / Finance. The Friends are actively involved in the Strategy Advisory Group and supporting across the other groups.
- The Devon and Cornwall Police archive has now successfully been entered into storage at The South West Heritage Trust (Devon Heritage Centre) at Exeter, under a partnership agreement, and volunteers are currently cataloguing it. Ultimately this will enable it to be available to the public.
- An application is currently being submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to initiate a photographic project which will involve archiving, preservation and community involvement. The application seeks around £90,000 to support a range of activities and initiatives in support of the Trust's strategy.
- The Chair has held successful meetings with senior officers in the force and the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner. As a consequence of these meetings a position paper is being submitted to the force setting out proposals to deliver the Trust's plans over the short, medium and long term. These proposals include a number of objectives within the next 2 years including:
  - Encouragement to identify new trustees.
  - Induction training for new trustees.
  - Financial independence within 2 years
  - Identify new location with the closure of Okehampton.
  - Ensure professional standards of the collection
  - Provide access and benefits to the public
  - Provide support to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The outcomes of the discussion paper and the Lottery Fund application will be keenly awaited as they offer an exciting opportunity to enhance how we manage, celebrate

and utilise the collection across our communities

- Partnership agreements are in place or being drawn up with; The Museum of Dartmoor Life, Tavistock Heritage Trust, Devon Family History Society, Plymouth, Exeter and Cornwall Universities. These agreements provide opportunities to showcase the collection and connect with community-based organisations.
- A Women in Policing Display is currently on show at Middlemoor Police Headquarters and has recently been exhibited at The Museum of Dartmoor Life.

### **With regard to The Friends of The South West Police Heritage Trust**

- In line with the Trust the Friends group will use a working name of Friends of Devon and Cornwall Police Heritage Collection
- Membership remains at a healthy 50 in number. However, more members would be most welcome, can you ask just one friend to join and support us? We would welcome any ideas on how to grow the Friend's network!
- Several Friends now volunteer at the Exeter records office assisting with cataloguing the Police archive. The work is fascinating, discovering archives including World War policing, personnel records, crime files, policy and procedures all dating from 1860,s to present day. More volunteers will be recruited in the new year so if you are interested in helping do contact us through the friends e mail [engs@fswpht.org.uk](mailto:engs@fswpht.org.uk).
- The Friends are contributing a significant amount of work in support of the Trust, Charing working groups and attending various meetings. We will soon be commencing work to ensure that the role of the Friend's going forward meets the requirements of the Trust and has a clear purpose. It's important we have a shared understanding of what it means to be a 'Friend', what we offer and how people can contribute their time, knowledge and effort to support the heritage of our force.
- The Friends' group in line with best practice would like to change their "officers" who have all been in post in excess of 5 years! If you would like to take on the role of Vice Chair, Secretary, or treasurer please let us know. We are also looking for a "whiz kid" to support a more consistent delivery of various forms of communications. Andy Francis does an excellent job of managing are social media and website platforms but we would welcome some help in preparing messages more regularly for Andy to disseminate. If this is your forte and you think you can help us do get in contact.

Thank you for reading this update and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year. Warm Regards,

Andy Bickley (Chairman of The Friends)