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Big changes ahead: South West Police Heritage Trust and the Friends

By FDCCHL Chairman, Andy Bickley

As you are aware, in 2014 the Friends secured funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to establish a project which would ultimately find a new way of maintaining the collection and increasing public access to the rich history of the Force. The project involved working closely with the Force and specialist museum consultants to map out the options to secure these aims. The project phase has now concluded, after a year of hard work, and a final report has been submitted to the HLF. A copy of this report is available should any member wish to read it.

A new charity has been established with the charities commission - the **South West Police Heritage Trust (SWPHT)** and six trustees have been recruited from a wide range of backgrounds and experience. The board of trustees is meeting monthly to develop their plans and I, as your chairman, have accepted their offer to sit on the Board as an ex officio member. The incredible collection of police history held at Okehampton has been notionally transferred to the South West Police Heritage Collections Trust (an arm of the SWPHT) for them to protect and develop in line with their aspirations.

**SOUTH WEST
POLICE HERITAGE
TRUST**

Coming soon...

The South West Police Heritage Trust have a website - www.swpoliceheritage.org.uk that will contain more information in 2017

This significant step forward in the history of Devon and Cornwall Police heritage naturally brings with it imminent changes for our Friends Group. Your committee will be discussing how we can best integrate with the new arrangements. Key will be ensuring there is a clearly defined and understood role for the Friends and a delineation with the work undertaken by volunteers on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

To further this work, I'm consulting with the Trustees on how they envisage their Friends organisation operating particularly in terms of the role and purpose of the Friends network. This needs to have absolute clarity as we move forward. When the options are more defined, I will of course seek members' views on the preferred model of Friends support. As with most projects, with the foundations in place the hard work of implementation now needs to happen so we can fully realise the benefits and aspirations we seek to achieve. These are genuinely exciting times!

As always, if you require any further information on any aspects of the Friends work, please do get in touch as follows:

Phone: 01837 658414 (Manned Mon/Tues/Wed) | E mail: enqs@fdcchl.org.uk

Correspondence: The Secretary, FDCCHL, Heritage Resource, Okehampton Police Station, Exeter Road, Okehampton, Devon EX201NN

New membership database: update your details and renew easier!

To help us run a proficient and professional Friends group, we have invested in a cloud-based membership recording scheme called Membership Mojo. This will enable us to keep accurate records and contact you all easily via email or letter. It will allow membership payments to be made on line. Most importantly it will enable YOU to keep your details up to date, it will remind you when your membership is due and provide easy ways of payment (such as PayPal and debit card payments). There is also a facility for direct debit payments, and **anyone who takes the direct debit option will not be subject of any membership increases for the length of their direct debit.**

You should all have received an email from the Membership Mojo system over the last few weeks. Please go in to it and check that we have correct information for you. If you have not paid your membership this year we have given you this year free and made your renewal date 1st January 2017. If you are not sure that you have received the email, go to the Membership Mojo website here: <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.

We hope that by making our system easier to use we will encourage more people to keep renewing, and joining! If you know somebody you think would make a good Friend, please forward them this link to join us: <http://fdcchl.org.uk/friends/join/join.php>. Membership remains only £5, and makes such a difference to the Historic Collection.

FDCCHL Heritage Van has a busy summer

Our van seems to have covered the length and breadth of the Force area this summer, thanks to the efforts of Van Rep Brian Edmunds and volunteers Sue and Derek Crowley. Your membership allows us to keep the van on the road and utilise police heritage in teaching young (and older!) about policing and criminal history.

We take out the ever-popular 'Tardis', replica stocks, handling collection that covers various periods of policing, and a small selection of objects from the collection itself.



Where the van went this summer/autumn:

- **Saturday 11th June – Barnstaple Blue Light Day**
- **Monday 13th June – Plymouth Blue Light Day**
- **Saturday/Sunday 25th/26th June – Annual Blue Light Forces Day on Plymouth Hoe**
- **Thursday 30th June – Coombeshead Academy, Newton Abbot**
- **Saturday 2nd July – South Zeal Fayre and Beer Festival**
- **Wednesday 6th July – Cornwall Blue Light Day**
- **Wednesday 10th August – Blue Light Day, Exeter**
- **Monday 10th October – St. Leonard's School, Exeter**

Find photos from these events on our Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/FDCCHL/>

Join our Committee!

Our Communications Officer Carmen Talbot is having to stand down from the Friends Committee due to work commitments. Could you take her place? This role is responsible for producing three newsletters a year (spring, summer and autumn), and support the Webmaster in posting information on Facebook.

We also welcome new Committee members in other roles – could you volunteer a few hours a month to help our small charity?

If you would be interested in joining our Committee as Communications Officer, or in another role, please get in touch on enqs@fdcchl.org.uk.

Committee Members

Chairman: Andy Bickley
Vice Chairman: Pam Giles
Secretary: Jane Wilkinson
Treasurer: Sue Crowley
Web Master: Andy Francis
Van rep: Brian Edmunds
Communications Officer: Carmen Talbot

Contact us

FDCCHL
Okehampton Police Station
Exeter Road
Okehampton
EX20 1NN

Phone: 01837 658414 (please note: phones are only manned part-time)
Email: enqs@fdcchl.org.uk
www.fdcchl.org.uk

