

Wareham & District Development Trust (WDDT) Annual Report April 2016-March 2017

In its 15th year of operation WDDT, a charitable company limited by guarantee, has continued to sustain and develop projects in pursuit of its charitable objects, which are set out below:

- To promote general charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Wareham and the surrounding area, and to provide relief from poverty and disadvantage, and to advance the education of its residents of all ages, and in particular to provide opportunities for the aforementioned residents to participate fully in the life of their community in ways which address and alleviate social and economic deprivation.
- To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Wareham and the surrounding area by the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of such persons who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Trustees

The Trustees of WDDT are:

Philip Daubeny (Chair)

Lara Manningham-Buller (Treasurer)

Martin Adams

Cllr. Shelley Cranshaw

Sue Elmes

Harold Forbes

Cllr. Mike Lovell

Peter Scupholme

Debbie Weller

Cllr. Nicola Wiggins

. . . but we always need more Trustees

Members

Any individual who lives or works in the Trust's area of benefit (which covers most of the administrative area of Purbeck District) is eligible to join the Trust, as too are local businesses. The Trust has a membership of around 60 individuals and 20 businesses as of October 2011 . . . but we always need more Members.

Staff, Volunteers and Other Support

The Trust continued to employ a part-time Development Manager to ease the day-to-day pressure on the Trustees. Otherwise the achievements of 2013-2014 were due to the voluntary efforts of Trustees, supported by other volunteers, partner organisations and donations of labour, materials and the use of equipment . . . but we always need more volunteers.

Activities

The activities of WDDT are as laid out in the Members Newsletter

MEMBERS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2017

The only project that the Trust is currently involved in is the total redevelopment of the Wareham library garden to create the Tree of Life & Laughter Community Garden. All the work is now completed and paid for. The flower beds are laid out, one the responsibility of the children of St Mary's Primary School. Planters are in place and stocked thanks to Stoborough WI. The bug hotel is installed, designed by Stoborough School Eco group and built by Domvs. A new ceramic mural, created by local school children and the Purbeck Day Centre students, has been installed, and another is planned. Some furniture is in place, some recycled, some donated, some purchased, and more, including a bird table will be purchased. As well as being a 'garden' it is also an 'exhibition/display' space to be used by the community, local groups and organisations, businesses, in fact anyone who can make good use of it, We already have interest from SeaLife, Weymouth who want to bring along their 'rock pools', and Purbeck Art Weeks who want to begin a rolling programme of local outdoor sculptures for sale, with commission going to the Trust and Discover Purbeck. We need to make the space work for us and not let it lie idle as it has done for years before.

As regards the Bucknowle Roman villa threshold part of the project the stones have been re-located and enhanced by a 2m square trompe l'oeil, with an information board alongside and a web site and educational leaflet nearing completion. As a 'thank you' to the community, and as part of a National Lottery promotion, the Trust will be giving away a copy of their Wareham Walls Walk booklet to anyone who presents a lottery ticket or scratch card at the Discover Purbeck desk between 11-16 December 2017.

Meanwhile a quick update on what else we have been up to:

Wareham Walls Walk Booklet

The booklet, based continues to sell well and retails for £2 per copy with at least £1 from each sale going towards further community support projects. 2,000 booklets were printed and are available through Discover Purbeck, Horseys and Farwells, so please pick up your copy today.

Dorset Architectural Heritage Week 2017

The Trust entered the Saxon Walls, Town Pound and Bucknowle Roman villa threshold stones into this years events.

Redcliffe Riverside Path

The path has proved a great success with the many thousands of walkers, and for the third year has been awarded 'Best Small Conservation Area, South & South East Britain in Bloom 2017.

Priory Community Meadow

On-going management and maintenance is a problem and we do need more volunteers to help with fence mending, bridge painting, tree pruning, grass clearing, planting and general tidying.

Late Summer Cruise

Instead of having cruise every year we have decided to make it every other year, the next being in the late summer of 2018, so please look out for the posters during the summer

Volunteers

Dear Members, as you know we always have a lot on our plate, but the one thing that we lack is volunteers.

We need volunteers to get there hands dirty and be prepared to dig, plant, paint, anything and everything that is needed.

We also need more Trustees. We already have a Board on fifteen but could really use another three or four. We meet once every two months for about two hours in the evening and simply discuss 'the dreams' on the table at the time, and if all are agreed we get on with the job and turn them into reality.

Could you be a Trustee, or indeed a volunteer?

If so please get in touch.

Thanks

The WDDT Board of Trustees would like to express sincere thanks to many individual volunteers, and too many local businesses, charities, individuals and statutory organisations for their hard work, partnership and donations to the Trust over the past year. The Trust's work continues to benefit from the advice of Dorset Community Action, of which we are a member organisation. WDDT is also a full member of the Development Trusts Association.

We are also extremely grateful to all the local, regional and national trusts, charities and other funders that have given us their support, or placed their confidence in our ability to develop and sustain complex projects. We are looking forward to the challenges of 2018-2019, and the benefits we are sure that the Trust will bring to the communities of Wareham and the surrounding areas of Purbeck.

*John Scott
11th January 2018*