

Plymouth Drake Foundation Newsletter November 2011

Communities in Action

Despite a dreadful night weather-wise, around 100 people braved the elements and attended our inaugural Communities in Action evening on Plymouth Hoe on 20 September. We were kindly loaned the use of the Graduation marquee by Plymouth University and excellent catering was provided by The Treasury. Music before and after was courtesy of Lipson Community Big Band.

The evening was hosted by the Editor of The Plymouth Herald, Bill Martin, and after a foreword from our chairman, Charles Howeson, we heard from many interesting speakers. Councillor Nicky Wildy talked about just what a huge difference can be made by small amounts of money, Eunice Halliday from Plymouth Foodbank talked about the background to the project and gave a thought provoking example of how normal families can fall upon difficult times. We heard from the East End Allotment project about their great work and in between all of this, Ruth Walls from Community and Social Action Plymouth announced a new fund of £6000, jointly contributed by Plymouth Drake Foundation and CASAP. The fund, appropriately called the 'Communities in Action Fund' will be available to assist small community groups or charities when released shortly. Before Bill closed the formal part of the evening we also heard a few words from our Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Edward Delbridge.

Many groups attended the evening and put on interesting displays of the fantastic work that they are doing. It was a great opportunity to network and meet new contacts.

We were delighted at the response to our invitation to become a member of Plymouth Drake Foundation and many application forms were handed in on the night along with others that came in after the event. Our Prize draw winner was Miss Katie Lake from Flameworks who will receive a pair of first class rail tickets, kindly donated by First Great Western.

All in all, and despite the worst of what Mother Nature could throw at us, a great evening enjoyed (hopefully) by all. Read what The Plymouth Evening Herald said at <http://bit.ly/ta27Rc>

Plymouth University – Student Volunteer Fair

We attended the Volunteer's Fair at Plymouth University on 29 September to promote some of the groups that we support and who are looking for volunteer help. We were hugely impressed by the enthusiasm of everyone there on the evening and we had lots of interest from students wanting to learn more about volunteering opportunities. We will be taking feedback from both the groups themselves and from the students who have been placed to measure the overall success of the project. If you would like to know more about volunteering opportunities, please drop us a line at plymouthdrakefoundation@gmail.com



News

Lord Lieutenant's Charity Dinner

The Plymouth Area Business Council hosted the Lord Lieutenant's Charity Dinner on 5 October at Stonehouse Barracks. Co-hosts to the event were The Sunday Times, Harvey Nash PLC and Bond Pearce. Guest of honour for the evening was Admiral The Lord West of Spithead GCB DSC. Plymouth Drake Foundation are delighted to be supported by the charity dinner which raised in excess of £1500 on our behalf.

Sporting Dinner at The Holiday Inn

This took place on 22 September and was hosted by David Fitzgerald. Guest speaker was the former Manchester City footballer Steve Daley who, at £1.4 million, was once Britain's costliest player. Dinner guests were also entertained by comedian Paul Boardman and after dinner enjoyed an ice-cream tasting experience. A raffle was held on the evening and Plymouth Drake Foundation are very grateful for the generosity shown as they received a cheque for £1400.

Winter Fuel Payments

Winter Fuel payments are due shortly. Although these payments have been reduced they are still worth £200 to over 60's and £300 to over 80's. These payments are tax-free and crucially are not means tested meaning that everyone receives them.

Have you ever considered donating your winter fuel payment to charity? You could do so by donating to Plymouth Drake Foundation and be sure that we will put this money to good use, going to those who really are in need – and only in the Plymouth area.

What's more, if you are a tax payer, then by 'Gift Aiding' your donation, HMRC will add a further 25% to the amount, at no cost to you. This would turn your £200 into £250 or your £300 into £375.

You can donate by visiting our website at www.drakefoundation.com and clicking on 'donate now'.

Why not use your winter fuel payment to become a member of Plymouth Drake Foundation? For details of becoming a member, visit <http://www.drakefoundation.co.uk/become-a-friend.php>

Christmas Cards

Ensure that every Christmas card you send this year is a charity one. If you want to show your friends or your business contacts your appreciation for their support throughout the past year, the perfect way to do so is with a beautiful, personalised Christmas card in support of the Plymouth Drake Foundation. Every card will be personalised for you however you wish and up to 50p per card will be donated to Plymouth Drake Foundation. For more information and to order your cards, visit <http://charitychristmascards.com/>

We welcome the following new members of the Plymouth Drake Foundation:

John Stratton, Norman Goffin, Mrs. Josephine Pearce, Miss Katie Lake, David Sumner, Cllr Nicky Wildy, Cllr Chris Penberthy, Rob Cooper, Stephen Pearce, Mrs Victoria Edwards, Anthony Edwards, Ms Lucy George-Foster, Mrs Jane Frajbis, Ben Shearn, Ms Jakki Brady

If you would like to support the Plymouth Drake Foundation by becoming a member then please contact Jeff Maddison on 01752 764455 for more details or go to <http://www.drakefoundation.co.uk/become-a-friend.php>

In the business world? Consider becoming a corporate member and discover how your Business and Plymouth Drake Foundation can work with each other. Call Jeff on the above number or e-mail at plymouthdrakefoundation@gmail.com

New Chief Executive for Plymouth Drake Foundation

Royal Mail continues to support Plymouth Drake Foundation by covering all management costs. Caroline Perry, former CEO has now returned to Royal Mail Group and is succeeded by Jeff Maddison. Jeff has 28 years experience across all areas of Royal Mail operations and came to Plymouth in 2001 to join the senior management team in the set up of the Royal Mail Data Entry Centre in Pennycomequick. By far the largest of the 3 UK Data Entry Centres, over 750 people work at the centre and is a key employer in Plymouth.

Jeff says 'I am delighted to have the opportunity to work with Plymouth Drake Foundation and building upon the fantastic work that has been done so far. This is an exciting time as we further develop our relationships with businesses, individuals and community groups within the Plymouth area. We have a supportive team of Trustees who are committed to improving the lives of people in Plymouth through the work of Plymouth Drake Foundation.'

'I'd also like to thank Caroline for everything she has done in preparation for the year ahead.'