

Plymouth Drake Foundation Newsletter September 2011

Community spirit in city is rewarded

PLYMOUTH'S unsung heroes have been celebrated with a special event in the city.

The Spirit of the Community Awards, organised by The [Plymouth Drake Foundation](#), highlighted the dedicated and selfless work of people in the community.

Four awards were given out at the gala event, which was held at the Holiday Inn, Plymouth Hoe, on 12th April

The Friends of Devonport Park was given time in the spotlight thanks to its impact on the local community and its dedicated team of volunteers who turn out in all weathers to improve the world around them. They were presented with their accolade by Julian Crow, of First Great Western, the principal sponsor of the awards.

"I think this event is brilliant for celebrating what people in the voluntary sector are doing," said Mike Gallagher, chairman of the friends group.

The East End Community Allotment Project picked up the second of the night's awards, sponsored by Gill Akaster. The group of volunteers launched the scheme to tackle health inequalities and now works with the community, schools and families.

"There is a real community spirit down at the allotment and we are over the moon to have won an award," said Mo Townsend, one of the project volunteers.

Budo Youth, which was formed five years ago to tackle the problems being encountered by young people, was also celebrated. Sponsored by Radio Plymouth, their award was given to show the project's work with young people in St Budeaux, helping them to meet in a safe and dry area.

"The young people will be so proud when they see that we have got this award," said Justine Lawrence, one of the professional youth team working in partnership with the group.

Mary Lacey, the driving force behind the Plymouth Senior Citizens Forum, was the final recipient at the awards show. She was handed her prize, sponsored by King Sturge, to champion her dedicated passion and commitment for the over-50s.

"I am absolutely astounded that I won an award," said Mary. "I think events like this are an ideal way to show that people care about what is being done in the community." Each group winner received £500 and Mary was presented with a cheque for £250. Since its launch in 2008, The Plymouth Drake Foundation, formerly The Drake Foundation has supported community and voluntary groups across the city with grants of up to £5,000.

Plymouth Grassroots Challenge Fund

The fantastic news is that we have smashed our target of £279,000. We have actually raised £600,000 which will be match funded by the government to create a Plymouth Grassroots fund of £1.2 million. This fund will be helping the people of Plymouth for years to come and it has been made possible by the generosity of people like you. So a big Thank You to everyone that has donated to PDF.

Thanks to Linda Radley at DIO Projects, HMNB Devonport. She ran a charity golf day at the Elfordleigh. The staff took annual leave and self funded in order to join in. People from The MoD (DIO), Debut South West, Babcock Marine, First Great Western and a serving Royal Marine all took part to raise over £600.

Plymouth Half Marathon

Plymouth Drake Foundation was the nominated charity for the Plymouth Half Marathon 2011. Over 4,500 runners turned out to take part in the race which finished on Plymouth Hoe. There were 42 runners who pulled on their Plymouth Drake Foundation running shirts and bravely pushed their bodies to the limit. Runners included Dominic Walshe, George Curness and his team from Plymouth City Council, Richard Ayre, Tony Hill, Robin Howeson, Ryan from Cotswold Outdoors, Jane Dowrick from Beechwood School, Paul Widnell ex CEO of PDF and a whole gang of students and teachers from Plymstock School.



News

2011 Plymouth Area Property Professionals Association Annual Golf Day and Gala Dinner

On the 10th June the PAPP held this year's event at St Mellion International, with 16 golf teams and 150 guests for the gala dinner. The chairman, Gareth Forrest, thanked all the participants and member firms for supporting the event this year, and hoped that everyone enjoyed the day and evening as much as he did. As Chairman and on behalf of the association, Gareth also thanked all of the sponsors which helped the association raise a fantastic amount this year for The Plymouth Drake Foundation and Horizons. Gareth said "These donations have been very much appreciated and have assisted us in raising a fantastic amount. We have managed to raise over £5000 this year which will be equally split between the charities that both rely on local support".

Architects build winning total

PLYMOUTH architects have been known to lock horns with city council planners – but not usually on the cricket pitch.

But the professions clashed at Mount Wise's Village by the Sea, for the first of what could become regular games.

The idea came from a conversation between Marc Nash, director at Millbay-based Architects Design Group (ADG), and Paul Barnard, the council's assistant director planning services.

The architects were represented by players from eight city practices while the planners' side included building control officers and planning and policy makers.

The 20/20 match ended with the architects triumphant, scoring 152 runs, including six sixes, to the planners' 116.

Mr Nash said £250 raised at the game will go to the Drake Foundation Charity. "There is a plan to repeat it next year," he said.

Latter-day Robin Hoods

HANDY with a bow and arrows and doing good work for charity might bring to mind Robin Hood, but in the spirit of this historical icon modern-day archers from all over Devon and Cornwall have dug deep to help the [Plymouth Drake Foundation](#).

Archers of all ages and abilities took part this week in the Bowmen of the Tors annual Open Shoot at Notre Dame School, with several rounds over a range of distances from 30 to an incredible 100 yards.

A raffle was held on the day and raised £102.50 for Plymouth's community charity. Club secretary, Margaret Byrnes said: "The club was pleased to support the Foundation and the work that it does in Plymouth. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed themselves."

Caroline Perry, CEO of the Foundation said: "We really appreciate Bowmen of the Tors donating this money to the charity, which will go towards supporting local community and voluntary groups in Plymouth."

Funding for allotment ensures buildings go green – literally

GROWING AMBITIONS: The Lord Mayor, Cllr Mary Aspinall, and Lady Mayoress, Kate Aspinall, join councillors, representatives of the Plymouth Drake Foundation and East End Allotment volunteers

EAST End allotments are the first in Plymouth where the buildings require the attention of green-fingered gardeners. The summer house and toilet of the allotments have been given living roofs as part of a green project this year. The allotments received funding from the Drake Foundation and councillor and Lord Mayor Lady Aspinall. The volunteers, comprising six families from Prince Rock and children from Prince Rock School and Nomany Day Nursery, decided to spend their funding making their buildings become one with nature.

The roofs use Sedum plants which come in many different subspecies and colours, and thrive throughout the year without requiring maintenance.

The sedum can insulate houses in winter, whilst keeping them cool in warmer temperatures. Sedum roofs are also said to collect 80% of rain water whilst saving on electricity usage.

Volunteers Rick Townsend, Paul Merrick and Roland Adams built the roofs themselves, despite having no experience with Sedum before.

Mo Townsend, volunteer at East End allotments, said: "We are over the moon with the new roofs. Not only do they look fantastic, but they are both environmentally friendly and financially beneficial.

"We're lucky to have such a supportive local councillor in the form of Mary Aspinall and we're so proud to be the first allotments in Plymouth with a green roof."

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

Baroness Janet Fookes, Lord David Owen, David Heard, Roger Harris, William Taylor, Ashley Beare, Caroline Mitchell, Charles Crichton, Janet and Peter Hume, Joan Watkins, Frances Purdie, Simon Ashley, Sue McDonald, Charles Crichton, Steve Dearden and David Wheeler.

If you would like to support the Plymouth Drake Foundation by becoming a member then please contact Caroline Perry for more details

Francis Clark LLP supporting local community groups

The South Asian Society and Plymstock Utd Colts are able to print with a passion thanks to the generosity of Francis Clark who have donated two laser printers which were being replaced. My thanks go to Ivan who made the kind gesture.

Such was the response from local community groups to the offer of the printers that I would ask if anyone else has any surplus office equipment of any sorts that they would be willing to donate to local community groups to let me know.