

# **THE CREDITON HEART PROJECT**

## **Annual Report and Financial Statements**

**For the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

The Old Vicarage  
Colebrooke  
Crediton, EX17 5JQ  
Charity Registration no. 1189549

**THE CREDITON HEART PROJECT**  
**Annual Report and Financial Statements**  
**For the Year Ended 31 March 2024**

<b>Trustees</b>	Dennis Mardon	
	Catherine Lock	
	Eugene Mullan	
	Hattie Booth	
	John Bulford	
	Paul Walker	
	Rosemary Stephenson	
	Stephen Hocking	Resigned 15/12/2023
	Wendy Murgatroyd	Resigned 26/09/2023

<b>Address</b>	The Old Vicarage
	Colebrooke
	Crediton
	Devon
	EX17 5JQ

<b>Bankers</b>	Lloyds Bank
	Chelmsford Legg St OSC
	Legg Street
	Chelmsford
	Essex
	CM1 1JS

<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Smarter Accounting
	Chartered Management Accountants
	138 High Street
	Crediton
	Devon
	EX17 3DX



**The Crediton Heart Project**

## **Chair's Report for Year Ending 31 March 2024**

The last year has been the most eventful and productive since the Heart Project was launched in 2018. Despite the sad departure of some key members, we have made progress with our core projects, explored and embraced new initiatives and welcomed new talent onto our team.

### **Summer Workshops**

The year started with the successful delivery of our second Summer Arts Programme, this time in the easier setting of the Arts Centre, rather than a marquee. Most workshops were fully booked and much appreciated, as were the outreach sessions we did for Ukrainian refugees and Age Concern. The project strengthened our relationship with the Arts Centre, providing a welcome boost to the incomes of both charities. Thanks must go to Patsy for coordinating this project so expertly, sourcing the funding, devising the programme and generally keeping the whole show on the road.

### **Website revamp**

The Crediton in and around website had so far been our most tangible achievement. But we all agreed that, after three years, it needed streamlining. Thanks to a Locality Fund from Devon County Council, we were able to pay our original designer, Mark, to redesign the site, simplifying the listing pages to make them easier to maintain and introducing a new themed home page. Huge thanks to Stephen for his perseverance and hard work on this task, which was not always straightforward.

### **Town Team merger**

Perhaps the most significant event of last year was our decision to merge with Crediton Town Team. This was taken following a strategic review meeting in September, when trustees met to consider the future of CHP, given that after five years we seemed no closer to our core aim of building a new community hub. Various options were considered and it was agreed that a merger with the Town Team, which was due to close, would be the most positive way to move forward.

This was a bold, possibly risky move, as although it provided a welcome boost to our general funds, it also committed us to a lot of extra work as we took over responsibility for two of the Town Team's high profile projects.

#### **The Flag Project**

Firstly the hugely popular Flag Project, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, went ahead under the CHP instead of the Town Team banner, funded by an annual grant from the Town Council. Although the project started successfully, with 10 new flags being made and 60 flags being installed in the town centre, it was unfortunately cut short when a flag pole and bracket fell off the wall leading to a joint decision by the Town Council and CHP to take all the flags down early for safety purposes. We will now work with the Town Council to review our safety measures, before deciding whether to go ahead next year.

#### **The Big Boniface Bash**

Another inheritance from the Town Team was a pot of money ring fenced for events promoting St Boniface, Crediton's most famous son. To make the most of this, we teamed up with the Town Council to organize the first Big Boniface Bash, a family fun day in the park to celebrate St Boniface Day. Thanks must go to Jo Davey, the Town Council's Project and Events Officer, who coordinated this very successful event, which attracted 1000 people during the day. Also thanks to CHP associate Rachel Vowles, who had the idea for a Boniface Bash in the first place and stage managed the live music on the day, and to our new recruit Vanessa MacDonald, who bravely agreed to steward at this event, with no idea what she was taking on.

There are plans to repeat the event next year and we will need to consider what role CHP takes in this.

#### **Parish Church concert**

Earlier in the year, we had organised another successful event - a concert in the Parish Church by folk legends Kathryn Roberts and Sean Lakeman. This was a 'proof of concept' project, initiated after conversations with the Parish Church about how to increase the use and income of their venue to strengthen their bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The concert was a great success, with 147 tickets sold and even a small profit going to CHP and Arts Centre, who were our co-producers. Although no progress has been made with the church's ambitious development plans, this is another example of CHP building partnerships with key community organisations.

Thanks to Eugene Mullan for his work as our music promoter. I gather he is already exploring other options with the Arts Centre, to bring high profile artists to Crediton.

### **Community Hub**

Despite the demands of these new projects, we did not abandon our core mission, to build a new community hub for the town. After the disappointment of our plans for the Redlands site we switched our attention to the Newcombes Meadow toilet block – which we believe has huge potential to be developed as a community venue. The Town Council are keen to demolish the current building, which they own, as it is no longer fit for purpose and have responded positively to our ideas. Over the past few months we have had several constructive meetings with representatives from the Town Council and Mid Devon District Council, who own the park, to explore how we can work together to develop the site. A joint steering group has been set up and the next step is to raise funds for an architect's feasibility study.

This is only the start of what will no doubt be a very long journey, but it certainly feels quite exciting.

### **Town Manager role**

Another CHP idea which met with a positive response was the creation of a Town Manager role. Kate and Eugene had several meetings with the Town Council and the Chamber of Commerce to explore how this could be achieved and they have even written a job description. All agreed this would be hugely beneficial for the town and the Town Council has offered to be the employer if we can raise the funds. We await a suitable source of funding to emerge before taking this forward.

### **Farewells**

We were very sad to lose two of our founding trustees - Stephen Hocking and Nancy Murgatroyd– who have both played such a crucial role in the creation and development of CHP, by sharing their special skills, energy and wisdom. We would not have achieved so much without them, so I would like to say a huge thank you to both of them. Fortunately Nancy agreed to continue her role as picture editor on the website group and Stephen has remained in the background offering technical support and advice when needed, as we get to grips with the baffling back end of the website! This has been much appreciated.

I am also hugely grateful to our associates, Keith Jeram and Paul Gibbs, who have stepped up to take on Stephen's technical role, and Hattie who has added her invaluable skills and experience to the website team.

We also said farewell to Bracken Jelier, who has done an amazing job over the last two years managing our social media, contributing to our website and generally raising the online profile of CHP. Thank you.

### **New recruits**

With our members depleted, we started 2024 with a recruitment campaign which fortuitously delivered three excellent new people to our team. Vanessa MacDonald, who has joined as an associate, has already proved her worth at the Boniface Bash. Sarah Fryett has joined the

board as well as the website team, and has stepped skillfully into Bracken's shoes as our social media manager. Finally, Linda Williamson will join us as an associate in September.

#### **Summer Arts Festival**

As a result of all this activity we finished our financial year in a healthier position than ever. We had also clinched funding for our third summer programme, which this year has been expanded into a full scale Summer Arts Festival - with workshops, film, music and theatre events across three venues and, crucially, a bigger outreach programme taking workshops to various community groups. Tickets are already selling well.

Thanks again must go to Patsy for not only encouraging us to go ahead with this more ambitious programme, but for yet again securing the funds and coordinating the people and the kit to make it all happen.

#### **Thank yous**

There are many other people I'd like to thank for keeping the Crediton Heart beating. Our funders, notably Crediton Town Council, who have reliably supported the website every year, as well as Devon County Council, Mid Devon District Council and the National Lottery for supporting our upcoming Summer Festival. Also a massive thank you to CODS for boosting our funds yet further by choosing us as one of their supported charities.

Finally, I'd like to congratulate all our wonderful trustees who have risen to the challenge this year of an expanded, busier and more ambitious Heart Project.

**Rosemary Stephenson**  
**Chair of Trustees**  
**July 2024**

## **The Crediton Heart Project**

### **Independent examiner's report to the members of The Crediton Heart Project**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the period ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- a) to which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect, the general requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with UK accounting principles have not been met
- b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached

Mr N Bishop  
Smarter Accounting  
138 High Street  
Crediton  
Devon  
EX17 3DX

## THE CREDITON HEART PROJECT

### Statement of Financial Activities

For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
Donations	68	1,131
Website Income	1,750	1,000
Gift Aid	41	270
Sponsorship	-	1,184
Summer Event	9,019	10,984
Overhead Transfers	1,120	-
Town Team Transfer	3,911	-
Crediton Flag Project	1,000	-
Total incoming resources	<u>16,909</u>	<u>14,570</u>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
Direct Charitable expenditure:		
The Crediton Heart project operating expenditure	13,926	15,406
Total resources expended	<u>13,926</u>	<u>15,406</u>
<b>Net incoming/ (outgoing) resources for the year</b>	<b>2,983</b>	<b>(836)</b>
Fund balances brought forward	4,058	4,894
Fund balances carried forward	<u>£7,041</u>	<u>£4,058</u>



## THE CREDITON HEART PROJECT

### Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
Current assets		
Debtors	300	-
Bank Current accounts	7,091	4,390
Cash in hand	-	-
	<u>7,391</u>	<u>4,390</u>
Less: current liabilities		
	<u>350</u>	<u>332</u>
Net current assets	7,041	4,058
Total assets less current liabilities	<u>£7,041</u>	<u>£4,058</u>
Funds		
General funds	7,041	4,058
Total funds	<u>£7,041</u>	<u>£4,058</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 20/07/2024 and signed on their behalf by:



Dennis Mardon

## THE CREDITON HEART PROJECT

### Income & Expenditure Account

As at 31 March 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Donations	68	1,131
Gift Aid	41	270
Website	1,750	1,000
Sponsorship	-	1,184
Summer Event	9,019	10,984
Overhead Transfers	1,120	-
Town Team Transfer	3,911	-
Crediton Flag Project	1,000	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>16,909</b>	<b>14,570</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Summer Event	9,019	10,984
	<b>9,019</b>	<b>10,984.00</b>
<i>Other operating costs</i>		
Meeting Expenses	30	111
Insurance	210	198
Website Management	2,473	1,302
Social Media	1,800	2,400
Computer Software	226	251
Accountancy	168	132
Advertising & Marketing	-	28
	<b>4,907</b>	<b>4,421</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>13,926</b>	<b>15,405</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<b>2,982</b>	<b>-836</b>