



## Crediton Town Team

The Town Team are a group of local volunteers who started off as the organisers of the Crediton Festival. They still organise the festival, but two years ago, when Mid-Devon asked them if they had any proposals for some government community funds, they saw the chance to extend some of the festival activities into community projects. They all had backgrounds in project management, so it seemed a good fit.

The High Street flags are now in their fourth year. There's about 60 of them now, all hand-made using translucent hot-air balloon fabric and all unique, each one co-designed with shopkeepers or community groups. This year, the town team will be taking over the former Gee's TV - ariel shop on the High Street for whole of March. Their flags artist, Charlotte Turner will repair about 20 flags, make 8 completely new ones, and create two shop-window sized panels which can fit in empty shop-fronts

The team has also linked up with the Devon Guild of Craftsmen from Bovey Tracey, who will then rent the shop for the first 2 weeks of April to exhibit work made during the Devon Arts Wave projects with Haywards and Land score schools and Upstream.

Other town team projects include an artist-led design exhibition for new town signs at the main entrances to the town, additional market stalls for the annual Food Festival which will help extend the food stalls up Market Street to the High Street, and a second design exhibition, this time led by the four main architects of the town to develop concepts for weather protection of the town square. Their design concepts, along with the town entrance sign ideas, will be exhibited during the Food Festival on the weekend of June 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>t</sup>

The preparations for CredFest 2017 will begin this summer, as usual a whole twelve months ahead of the event and an indication of just how long this successful coming together of the town takes to organise. This last year's CredFest, the most successful to date, comprised some 84 events in four weeks ranging from live music in the shops to dog shows in the park. On the opening weekend, representatives were welcomed from Avranches in Normandy, Dokkum in Holland, and Fulda in Hessen.

Those representatives also watched a recreation of the life of St Boniface in the square. This town team project was the result of months of preparation whereby the story of Boniface - as told in eight stained glass windows in the Parish Church - was recreated in translucent fabric banners set in metal frames, in the square, with actors playing the parts of Boniface and the pagans who martyred him. There has been a request from Fulda, where he is buried, to receive the banners there.

One more project the town team is currently working on will – if it succeeds - be their biggest and most challenging, that being the creation of a new cultural 'Hub' for the town. This would include a 250-seat auditorium for live music, dance and theatre, conference and seminar facilities, a bar, a café, function rooms, start-up units for small businesses, and possibly health-related facilities as well. Feasibility studies and comparative studies of other centres have been underway for some time. If funding and planning applications are successful this project will take over 5 years to achieve.