



## **Pensford Publow and the Stanton Community Trust**

### **Chairman's Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015**

I am delighted to present my report for this our second AGM and to thank the growing number of community minded people for their tremendous support of our community charity. Inevitably, much of the year was taken up with establishing a formal legal framework, agreeing key policies and obtaining registration with the Charity Commission. Notwithstanding, we have progressed our support of community projects which along with fund-raising is our key objective. I will start with reporting on grants made;

#### ***Grants***

To date we have made three grants:

- Pensford School for their iPad project (£1500): this is designed to benefit the pupils themselves of course but also very important is the involvement which is planned for other villagers to benefit from tutoring in use of the equipment. The inter-generational contact which should result is a hugely valuable aspect of this project in the view of the Trustees;
- Pensford Memorial Hall (£504): a grant towards the installation of security equipment at this key local amenity;
- Stanton Drew Gardening Club (£500): this grant was to provide equipment for local school children to learn gardening and also to share time with residents at Stanton Court, again an inter-generational project.

We are presently considering two other applications and are keen to attract more. Our grant-making criteria have recently been agreed by Trustees and will shortly be available for viewing on our website.

We are keen to raise the Trust profile in the villages, and are preparing to issue the first Community Trust Times. We also have plans for the Trustees to visit local groups that could potentially benefit from a Trust grant.

#### ***Fund Raising***

The 100 Club anchors the Trusts fundraising and we are truly amazed by the level of support from such a small community of two parishes. Our monthly meetings continue to play a key part of our community life and development. The spirit engendered by the founders of the 100 Club remains strong and under the relentless enthusiasm of Phil, Sue, Karen, Ken and Clarke we have formed something which we should be very proud of, we have formed a group of 100 people who care for our community, enjoy our community and want to make a difference. It is the Trustees role to ensure that this goodwill is channelled into worthwhile projects and support.

I am delighted to report that fundraising is well underway. The Rok the Stones Marathon saw many very competent runners from all over the country touring our beautiful villages on a cold but sunny day. The comments from the running community were flattering and suggest that this can become an annual event. Our sincere thanks to Simon Whittle for creating such a brilliant and inspired event and to the members of the Trust who turned out in large numbers to organise, marshal, cater and generally support.

In the autumn, members promoted a successful and fascinating event at the Stanton Drew Lecture Hall where a packed hall explored our long mining heritage and dined on sausage and mash.

I am very grateful to all those who inspired and supported these events, which provide something of a virtuous circle of fun, fund-raising and publicity and a big thank you to Liz Richardson for her brilliant work on our web-sites and communications

The Trustees would like to encourage other residents/members to have some fun and fund raise for the Trust, by organising small events, sponsorship or any other novel ideas they have.....or simply by becoming a member and contributing £10 every year (Gift Aid increases this to £12.50). So let us spread the word!

### ***Constitution and Trustees***

I am grateful to my fellow Trustees for their diligence and support in the year. Our Constitution has finally been approved by the Charity Commission and we are officially a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. Our registered charity number is 1106279

Our Constitution calls for the Chairs of the two parish councils to be ex-officio Trustees. Judith Chubb-Whittle chairs Stanton Drew Parish Council and Tony Heaford has recently been succeeded by Janette Stephenson as Chair of Publow with Pensford Parish Council. We also have one Trustee nominated by each Parish Council. Ken Payne has been nominated by Stanton Drew – and I thank him for his diligence as our Treasurer. I have been nominated by Pensford. We have up to four other Trustees elected by the members, although in practice we believe that two is enough. Sue Osborne has filled one of these positions throughout the year, and I thank her for her hard work and support as unofficial “secretary”. Sue retires at the AGM under our constitution and together with Tony Heaford is prepared to stand for re-election.

The Trustees met five times during the year. Members may not know of the sheer administrative headache involved in registering with the Charity Commission and then opening a bank account. However, in recent weeks we have managed both of these tasks amid much relief all round. This will allow the Trust to claim an additional 25% on any donation made by a UK tax payer providing a declaration is signed at the time of the donation.

***Finances***

Ken Payne’s report is separately submitted. This shows a very healthy balance of funds. I am grateful to Mark Finn for reviewing these accounts and I ask members to support Mark’s re-appointment.

***Thank you***

This Trust would not exist without the support of its members and the people who provide so much time and effort. We all know who they are, so a big thank you from all of us for your selfless contribution to your community. Well done indeed!

Andrew Hillman  
Chairman of Trustees  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2015