



Petrock's Press

Volume 1, Issue 1

SPRING 2011

Project Petrock Launch!



Our new social enterprise, called Project Petrock, aims to fill a gap in services for Exeter residents and businesses as well as provide vital on-the-job training for people who are, or have recently been, homeless.

Keith our Development Manager, explains "Project Petrock will provide house and garden maintenance and repair services to private households and businesses in Exeter and surrounding areas."

John Sheridan, a local entrepreneur with over 30 years' experience, will oversee all work carried out and provide on-site training to our client volunteers. "I wanted to find a way to use my skills and equipment for the benefit of others. This enterprise will help people take control and rebuild of their lives, whilst at the same time providing a service to the

community. We see Project Petrock as filling a gap in the community, as many handymen are unable to take on the smaller jobs, which can make a big difference to people's lives. However, Project Petrock is not simply about small jobs and is happy to deal with all domestic and commercial maintenance and repair needs." said John.

Project Petrock is a social enterprise with a difference, not only will it be competing for work in the open market rather than relying on grants and statutory funding but it plans to train volunteers to become co-operative members, employees and, eventually, the owners and managers of the business.

We hope by offering volunteering opportunities/ work placement with informal on-the-job training, alongside key-working advice, this

social enterprise project will help people gain a work record, improve their life skills and their confidence to re-enter the jobs market. providing accredited training," Keith explained.

"This is a highly competitive sector and we trust that residents and organisations would prefer to employ a community interest company with social aims and not simply profit objectives," John added.

If you have rooms or gardens that need repair, renovation or restoration, Project Petrock will be happy to provide a free no obligations estimate – just call 01392 848713 – and help Project Petrock start transforming lives today.

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Manager's Report



“We offered this service for a total of 37 nights and provided 269 ‘beds’ which was much appreciated”

It seems very late to do this, now that Spring is well on its way but we'd like to wish a very Happy New Year. It seems hard to remember the extreme cold we experienced running up to Christmas and again at the end of January.

As you can imagine, periods like this can be life threatening for many of our clients and so we were delighted to be able to assist Exeter City Council, during the severe cold weather, by providing overnight accommodation for rough sleepers. This meant that we re-opened each evening at 6pm to allow 9 of our most vulnerable clients back

into the centre until the next morning. We offered this service for a total of 37 nights and provided 269 'beds' which was much appreciated by our clients who, without being requested, tidied up each morning. There have been many positive outcomes from providing this service and we hope to do the same in future.

I hope that you will enjoy this new format of our newsletter and find the articles of interest. We have had some very positive responses to our latest

Annual Report which is very encouraging as it is a useful tool in our bids for funding!

Speaking of funding, I am happy to report that we have managed to balance our accounts this year. This is due, very largely, to the generosity of people such as yourselves - so on behalf of all the team at St Petrock's—thank you for making it all possible.

Mel

New Project/New Appointment

We'd like to welcome Shiralee Callander to the team. Shiralee started with us in March as our Housing Liaison Officer and will be developing our new project which is called St Petrock's Rent and Support Service. This service is being developed in partnership with Crisis and is aimed at developing access to private rented accommodation for our clients in Exeter, East and mid Devon.

If there are any private landlords who would be interested in discussing this project further please contact Shiralee on 01392 422396.

An Easter Message from Rev'd Mark Bate

"Hello, all the usual suspects!" A Trustees' meeting was breaking up; one of them greeted the group of men at the door. They were waiting to come in to spend the night in the warm. One of them spoke up, determined not to be put down.

"We look a lot more respectable than you lot coming out."

It was nearly true. In fact they looked dangerously middle class; and among them were long-term clients of St Petrock's.

What was so encouraging was to see so many who were not destitute or chaotic, but in control of their lives. Right, they were still sleeping out of doors, but no-one should underestimate the time and sheer effort it takes to turn lives around.

They were there because St Petrock's was meeting the challenge of the cold weather. Do you remember how freezing it was in December - and it still is March as I write? The Council has the duty to provide shelter for outdoor sleepers in very cold weather. They get funds from the Government, but someone has to be able to provide accommodation. St Petrock's was there and able to help.

Night after night we were open for 12 hours at a time. The strain on the staff and all resources was immense. It could not have been done without the facilities being in place and the service being up and running.

All that takes skill, vision and hard work.

It also takes a lot of cash!

That is why I am writing to ask for your generous support over Good Friday and Easter. It is a blessed custom in many churches to give the Good Friday collection to a good cause.

What about St Petrocks?.

Jesus and his two companions on Good Friday didn't look very respectable, did they?

With many Thanks,

Happy Easter,

Mark Bate

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Men's socks
for summer
Men's T shirts
Men's Jeans
All sizes incl.
small please.

INVITATION TO:

THE NEW ENGLISH ART CLUB EXHIBITION IN SUPPORT OF ST PETROCK'S

This year's New English Art Club will be holding an exhibition of members' work at The Great Barn, Higher Ashton, Exeter for four days in May, in support of St Petrock's and Marie Curie.

The exhibition will be open on:

Friday, May 6th - 11am — 4pm

Saturday May 7th 11am — 5pm

Sunday May 8th 11am — 5pm

Monday May 9th 10am — 2pm

Free Admission All Welcome

A painting will be raffled and drawn on Monday, May 9th. Raffle tickets will cost £10 per ticket.

Thank You to...

Wilkinson's store in The Guildhall for £250 worth of vouchers which will use to restock with kitchen cleaning items and garden tools for Project Petrock.

All those who attended the Topsham Bridge Event which raised an amazing £1086 plus gift aid!

Councillor Percy Prowse for his help in a grant from DCC of £800 which will upgrade our very old fridges and freezers.

Thank you all, your support is vital to our work.