

Funding Dreams Come True



After an incredibly successful season in 2011 with national television and press coverage Barcroft Hall's 'Field of Dreams', the beautiful wildflower meadow with species from around the world, attracted over 4000 visitors and shot into being one of the most successful new attractions in the West Country during July & August.

Environmentalists Brian and Denise Herrick who funded the project decided that no entrance fee was to be charged but asked visitors if they would donate to local charities and they did this enthusiastically.

'We were delighted with the response said Brian, over 92% of visitors came from outside the county and from abroad, they were all incredibly generous to our community'.

After creating the Field of Dreams 'Charity Fund' Brian and Denise asked local organisations within the parish and immediate area of South Petherton to apply for funding. *'We had a very positive reaction' said Brian 'and on Sunday 15th. January at 2pm within days of the cut off for applications on 31st December we organised the donations to be handed out'.*

'Words really cannot express our gratitude and excitement!' said Renira Pollard and Tim Burch of the local scout group for whom the fund paid for folding tables, benches, patrol tents, hike tents, a dining shelter, patrol boxes, billy can sets and a post basher! 'The funds will enable us to make these significant equipment purchases which will make huge differences for all our different types of camping, and especially with our group ever expanding. Thank you'.

In addition to the scout funding the Field of Dreams funded;

- New furniture and tables for the Seavington Community Shop
- An external planting scheme for the new Kingsbury Epsicopi Community Shop
- A coach trip for all the 1st South Petherton Brownies stargazer badge

- Bunting for the Over Stratton Jubilee Street Party
- Loads of new toys and equipment for the Mother & Tots Group in South Petherton
- Help with the South Petherton Out of School Club
- Help to the Stratton & District Village Hall
- Contributions to the Vanessa Project
- Substantial support to the East Lambrook Mothers Union
- Funds to promote the South Petherton Twinning Association
- Funds to the David Hall South Petherton for new windows
- Further general funding help to the South Petherton Brownies
- Funds for new door curtains in South Petherton Parish Church

In addition substantial funds were also made available for the historic and beautiful St.Jame's church in East Lambrook to cover the statutory necessity of structural surveys and other needed items.

Hartley Heard just one of the recipients from the South Petherton Twinning Association commented *'This will provide a significant boost to our funds and enable us to develop further our links with our French partners, not least in trying to get more involvement from young people/the schools/ families'*.

'It's so important' said Brian 'that in today's environment, everybody has a little piece of heaven to experience, and that has been repaid with fabulously generous donations. We are particularly pleased that the local organisations have benefitted especially for our younger community, we must focus on our own home-grown needs in this time of austerity, our heartfelt thanks go to everybody who generously helped us achieve this'

Simon Nevitt Chairman of South Petherton Parish Council who with Tim Rutherford Vice Chairman attended the event at Barcroft Hall said *'This is just what our village needs; Brian and Denise have certainly put South Petherton on the map for visitors, we're all really looking forward to next year's Field of Dreams and other environmental projects from Barcroft Hall. Undoubtedly this is an important contribution to what makes South Petherton the second best place in the UK to bring up children !'*

Brian and Denise are already planning the Field of Dreams 2012 along with other very exciting and topical conservation projects which will be announced in the spring. Bookings for 2012 for individuals or groups can be made in advance by visiting www.barcrothall.co.uk .

Readers can also view the way to make their own mini 'Field of Dreams' in their garden by watching Brian explain how on BBC Gardeners World soon.

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