



## Chairmans Report

### Wimborne History Festival - 22 December 2017

#### Introduction

In Summer 2016 A consortium of Wimborne Organisations lead by East Dorset District Council Community and Recreation Officer (Tracy Cooper) who successfully applied for Heritage Lottery Funding, Wimborne Minster Town Council and Wimborne BID funding to put on a first Wimborne History Festival. As part of the partnership offer East Dorset District Council managed the project funding and led a small team of temporary staff and consortium members to deliver the Festival.

In tandem with this project delivery the Governance of the Festival was registered a Company limited by guarantee as Wimborne History Festival Ltd on 10 February 2016. During 2016 there were three registered Directors, this has since been increased to six.

#### ACCOUNTS

Our first set of accounts were submitted on 10 November 2017 to Companies House, our accounts were prepared by our Treasurer and examined and submitted by Thomas and Woolven Accountants, I would like to express my thanks to Thomas and Woolven for this.

EDDC managed the 2016 project accounts for Wimborne History Festival so the income/expenditure for the delivery of the activities will not appear on the WHF accounts:

The headline project figures for 2016 were:

Income: Grants: £68,488.34 + Other Income: £13,167 = £81,655.34

Expenditure: £80,978.90

Surplus of £676.44 was transferred to WHF in November

#### GOVERNANCE AND PERSONNEL

Since the completion of the first festival and subsequent educational projects Wimborne History Festival governance has undergone a quiet period of consolidation and the last year has been a useful time to organise ourselves and form our team, set up our Project Bard roles in readiness to plan and deliver our second History Festival. This Board is made up of the Following Directors:

- Tracy Whitham
- Andy Williams
- Malcolm Angel
- James Webb
- Kelly Webb
- Steve Evans
- With a non executive Treasurer Ian Faulkner

Unfortunately Alistair Ford has recently had to stand down from our small team due to ill health so we are looking for a new Director to join us, ideally someone to lead the work on Health and Safety,

we would like to express our thanks to Alistair for his support and sponsorship over the setting up period of Wimborne History Festival Ltd and the Festival. I would also like to thank Wimborne BID for constant support throughout the delivery of the project and the setting up of the Organisation.

The Board has now structured itself with a highly skilled, well connected and experienced team of professionals able to apply for and manage funding effectively going forward.

### **The Future and a 2018 Festival**

Our constitution has laid out that we will deliver a biennial History Festival which will focus on different elements of Wimborne's History. For 2018 we are still very much at our planning phase - this delivery I must emphasise will depend entirely on successful funding bid applications which will be submitted over the next couple of weeks.

Having taken on board some of the key lessons learnt from our first festival we will be slightly less ambitious in the scale of the Festival and will be bringing our activities into the town.

We have also taken the decision to focus on just one period of history and its relationship to Wimborne.

An HLF application is being prepared for £10,000 towards educational activities.

So in 2018 on 21/22 July we plan to deliver a WW1 Living History Festival in the town Centre; within this theme we will focus on Trench Warfare, our own fallen soldiers, The Suffrage Movement and what it was like to live in Edwardian Wimborne during the Great War years. There will be educational activities and living history encampments and exhibitions, vehicles etc.

In January I will be circulating an invitation to a new consortium meeting in which I will be inviting all local organisations to come and talk about our plans and hopefully to ask for that same support, contribution and encouragement that we experienced in 2016 and ideally from this form a 2018 management committee to assist the Board of Directors in the delivery of our next project. All will be welcome to attend this meeting on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 11 a.m. (venue still to be arranged).

The 2018 Festival will be predominantly a free town event to the public and we aim to have an economic impact to the Town by bringing new audiences into the town and adding to the festival event offer for Wimborne celebrating its rich heritage.

Thank you

Tracy Whitham  
Acting Chairman of the Board of Directors