

'Purple Ball' held at the historic Pickwell Manor

raises £4000

Smiles, laughter and fun with like minded friends makes a difference.

It is always good to talk about our passions in life. This is what one member of SI Barnstaple did when she told a friend about the Purple Teardrop Campaign. The friend was so impressed that she then took the opportunity to attend the Unchosen Film Festival in Exeter in July 2011 to find out more about human trafficking. She took another friend along who happened to be the co-owner of the beautiful Pickwell Manor in Devon and following the film festival both were inspired to support the Purple Teardrop Campaign who were exhibiting at the event.



Both of these determined women chatted to 'like minded' friends in their community. As Pickwell Manor owners regard serving the community as an important part of their business and use the Manor on a not for profit basis to fulfil dreams and make a difference for individuals and charities it is no surprise that they offered to host the idea of a charity ball to support the Purple Teardrop Campaign with, of course, a purple theme! To them it was vital to take the opportunity to raise awareness of the modern day form of slavery which is so widespread that it is impacting on people living in South West England.

So with the Manor decorated ready for Christmas 150 guests attended the purple ball and enjoyed delicious canapé food, music and dancing in a magical and festive setting. There was also a charity auction, balloon raffle and fundraising 'bug race'.

The trustees agree with one of the Ball organisers who says, "I have to say a huge thank you to all guests and sponsors for their generous response in supporting the event. It was wonderful to see Pickwell Manor, as always, decked out so beautifully and seeing so many people having such a wonderful time."

"From little acorns".....as the saying goes.....

The above story and its amazing achievement is a tribute to a determined group of friends who having learnt about the evils of modern day slavery had the courage to send a strong message out into their communities and to inspire all of us to support the cause in whatever way we can.

Events can be all sizes such as a coffee morning, a quiz, a silent auction, fashion shows etc. or have a stand in your local shopping centre, church or village fete using the [Purple Teardrop resources](#). Click on the link or see on the website at www.purpleteardrop.org.uk or write to the address on last page.

YOU'RE VERY WELCOME TO.....

Support [SI Plymouth](#) at their International Women's Day event on the 8th March

Listen to [90.1 Hope FM](#) at 10am on Monday 12th March when they will be interviewing a trustee about the Purple Teardrop Campaign.

.....**CHECK OUT** ACT Fayre, a charity that sells products handmade by women and girls who have been rescued from the sex trade in Asia. The money generated is enough for the women to make a living and any profits go back to rescue organisations in order to rescue and train other women. ACT Fayre buy direct from the women so there is no money wasted on middle men. There is no benefit system in Asia so enabling the women to learn a trade ensures that they become financially independent and so are not tempted to return to the sex trade.

SLAVERY TODAY—WHAT IS HAPPENING TO CHILDREN IN WALES?

This was the title of a Trafficking Forum led by Soroptimist International Tenby in October to celebrate Anti-Slavery Day. Speakers included an e-Crime officer from Dyfed Powis Police Service and researcher's from Barnado's Wales. The audience learnt about the incidents of internal and external trafficking of children and the difficulties faced with encouraging the children to own up to where they might have been during a one night absence. One story was of a 14 year old girl who was being trafficked in exchange for diesel fuel in a lay-by at the side of the M4. Sadly this is not an unusual story.

It is always difficult to relate these stories to others but it helps to explain that child victims are groomed by promises of gifts and affection, teenagers are particularly vulnerable to such temptations.

We are pleased that Purple Teardrop resources were used to help spread the message at this event.

REMEMBER TO SIGN OUR E -PETITION TO 'BAN SEX FOR SALE ADVERTS'?

THANK YOU to the following organisations for supporting the petition at their events—Dorset WI, Catholic Women's League, Shrewsbury Diocese, Hope Baptist Church, Plymouth, SI Bebington & SI Grange-over-Sands. Current total is at 14,000 + signatures. CONGRATULATIONS to Croydon Community Against trafficking on successfully persuading the Croydon Advertiser to drop ads for 'Adult Services'.

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED OF YOUR EVENTS SO THAT WE CAN SHARE THE NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the [Thomas Fowell Buxton Society](#) in obtaining planning permission to erect a monument on Manor Roundabout, Weymouth, in memory of Thomas Buxton's campaigning for the abolition of slavery in the early 19th century. CONGRATULATIONS to the FIRST and FASTEST ALL FEMALE team of five who gave up their time to [Row for Freedom](#) across the Atlantic Ocean and raised £1M for work against human trafficking being done by ECPAT UK and A21.

>>>>>NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES<<<<<

Trustees use Skype during their meetings to enable a wide range of skilled members to participate fully in the campaign. So if you are interested in joining us then 'we have the technology'. For more information contact enquiries@purpleteardrop.org.uk

>>>>>INVITATION<<<<<

Please do let us know if you can give time on a regular basis to help the cause. There are various opportunities that occur during the year. It may be helping the administrative team or with a specific event or you may want to become a member of the operations team who help the trustees. Whatever your strengths we are bound to have a task that will help the cause. Please remember to spread the word about us to other businesses, clubs, organisations, friends and family.

WORKING TOGETHER

We are delighted that our volunteers in Liverpool and Manchester are able to represent Purple Teardrop at the premieres of the unique contemporary opera [Anya 17](#) on the 7th and 9th March respectively. Purple Teardrop is pleased to be partnering Anya 17. The story is a highly dramatic interpretation of the lives of four young women trafficked from Eastern Europe and sold into sexual slavery.

Trustees are delighted to be working in partnership with [SI Barnstaple](#) on their brilliant idea of using vehicle stickers as an awareness raising medium. We would be very pleased if other clubs, organisations and hauliers could take up the idea too and we have all the criteria necessary ready for you to use with your local suppliers so please do contact either enquiries@purpleteardrop.org.uk or [SI Barnstaple](#) for more information.