

Business in the

Community

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Plymouth & Exeter Cares Champs Join Forces to Save Dartington Dormice!

Volunteers from EDF Energy, Bailey Partnership, Your Radio, Business in the Community and Maitlands Estate Agents, who are all members of the leadership teams of Plymouth & Exeter Cares, will be taking part in a National Monitoring scheme at Dartington Hall Estate to participate in essential survey work on dormice on 04th April 2006.

Dormice are a highly endangered species in the UK and have very few strongholds left in Devon; they make new nests every day for sleeping and the survey work will entail putting out plastic survey tubes around the grounds, which the dormice can use as nest sites. At a later date these tubes will be checked for signs of mice and if a presence of the species is detected then nest boxes will be erected to encourage their success in the area.

The leadership teams for Plymouth & Exeter Cares comprises senior members known as 'Champs' from companies that belong to Cares, part of Business in the Community, that regularly run and participate in challenges pertaining to local community groups that meet corporate objectives that deal with major social, educational and environmental needs through volunteer action. The team seeks to inspire, challenge and engage support from within their organisations to continually improve its positive impact on society.

The Dartington Hall Trust comprises of 1200 acres of ancient woodland, farmland, wetland and the river Dart, and has long been a pioneer in terms of developing farming and land management practices, which enhance natural habitats. As a result there is already a considerable amount of wildlife biodiversity on the estate and the aim of the volunteer work is to continue to enhance this diverse landscape and encourage additional wildlife biodiversity. The conservation department is responsible for maintaining much of this area to high standard, but also enabling people from the local community and beyond to enjoy it and benefit from it.

Andrew Blacklock, MD Maitlands Estate Agents said "We as a company are delighted to be involved in another worthwhile project organised by Plymouth Cares. All of our staff get a great sense of achievement after completing a project and our own Managing Director is involving himself personally on the Dormouse survey"

Graham Gilbert, Plymouth Cares Leadership Team Chair said "This is a bit of fun (with a serious re-housing objective) for our Champs who have worked really hard all year to engage their work colleagues in Community matters. I'm not sure that they envisaged such a variety of projects when they signed up with us but I'm sure they'll sort these itinerant Dormice out with their usual vigour, enthusiasm and success!"

If you are a company interested in learning more about the Cares employee volunteering programme and how the challenges can make a real difference to your workforce, contact Holly Nuttall or Abigail Netcott at Business in the Community on: 01752 510410.

Notes to editors:- Contacts – Holly Nuttall 01752 510410.