



Devon & Cornwall Police
Building safer communities together

Devon & Cornwall Police

Policing Past  *Community Present*

2014 to 2015

In 2014 I was again successful in a bid for funding for the Historic Collections of Devon & Cornwall Police. This time the collection was awarded just under £10,000 through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Start Up grant, and we were the only collection in the South West to be awarded this. In addition the project received a generous donation from John Casson - ex-police officer and businessman.

I designed the *Policing Past, Community Present* project with the main aim of moving the collection away from the police and into a charitable trust. However, the ethos of the project was very much around examining ways in which the collection could feed into themes such as community safety, citizenship and personal social responsibility and move away from the often stereo-typical image of police museums as somewhat macabre spaces. In other words to also examine the consequences of crime rather than just the crime itself.

Miami Police Museum

... please see next card

Project funders: Heritage Lottery Fund /
John Casson / Devon & Cornwall Police
Project budget: £17,000
Project time-scale: 1 year



Devon & Cornwall Police (continued ...)

The three key outcomes required by the Heritage Lottery Fund are that the collection is better managed, that it is more resilient and that people develop skills to take the collection forward. As such this project was always designed to be fluid, imaginative and innovative and to challenge and interpret the collection in new and innovative ways. Specific project goals have been:

- ❖ to employ and work with a firm of charity lawyers to advise on and prepare paperwork for achieving charitable status;
- ❖ to make available part-funded work-placement opportunities for recent graduates;
- ❖ to support additional time for myself so that I could manage the project;
- ❖ to undertake consultation, both online and through focus groups;
- ❖ to identify future partners and stake-holders;
- ❖ to begin the next major funding bid to take forward the project vision.

The project has been my most challenging to date, in that it has required balancing the police's desire for cost-cutting (in a time of huge budgetary constraints) along with securing the long-term interests and resilience of the collection.



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