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Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum Development Fund profile

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| Development Fund granted | £1,500 |
| Total cost of project | £7,000 |
| Forum member community | Churchdown |

Overview of project August 2009

On with the show in Churchdown

It's on with the show for the Churchdown Players, thanks to a £1,500 grant from the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum.

The Players – formerly known as the St Andrew's Dramatic Society - had to leave their venue of 50 years at short notice and have moved to the Churchdown Community Centre. But without some essential kit, including a special stage back cloth and lighting bar, they may have had to delay future performances.

Ruth Warne, Clerk to Churchdown Parish Council which applied for the grant on behalf of the Players, said: "In order to be able to put on performances from October, the Society needed some essential kit. We were delighted to hear we had been successful in winning a grant from the Market Towns Forum for the Players - which means it's on with the show!"

Ian Clark, Secretary Churchdown Players said: "The grant from the Gloucestershire Towns Market Forum was critical in enabling us to stage a play this year - without the funding we would have been very restricted in what we could have put on. Staging plays in the village is a long and very well supported tradition that crosses all age groups; our move has already attracted new members to join. We hope to have the work in the hall completed in September and are keenly looking forward to welcoming big audiences for 'Allo Allo', in October."

Additional funding was received from Tewkesbury Borough Council, Churchdown Parish Council, Churchdown Community Association and the Players themselves.

Chairman of the Community Association, Richard Smith, said the estimated total cost of establishing the Players at the Community Centre was about £7,000 and cited the project as an excellent example of a "partnership effort to ensure that a worthwhile local venture can continue and prosper."

The Churchdown Players are a village institution which draws people together from across the community, and of all ages and their popular performances raise money for local charities.

Installation of the backcloth and lighting will substantially upgrade the facilities at the Community Centre and would be available to any group wanting to use the stage.

- For a GMTF Development Fund application form and more details, contact Geoff Wheeler (01453) 545583 or geof.wheeler@btinternet.com