

Ruth Johns 1944-

Founder of Family First Trust & Action Resource Centre

Ruth was born in London and brought up in the west country, she moved to St Ann's as a young woman in 1965 and loved it joining the fight against its redevelopment led by St Ann's Tenants and Residents' Association under the colourful chairmanship of Ray Gosling. She worked initially as a journalist and then was an import/export manager for Debenhams; then she ran a registered playgroup when her children were young. She was a founder member of the National Pre-School Playgroups Association.

In 1965 she founded the Family First Trust – a self-help housing association and community organisation which inspired similar projects across the UK. In 1976 she moved to London and became Director of Action Resource Centre developed to offer self-help employment initiatives in local communities. She advised government and large companies on how they could support community initiatives in 13 cities and also wrote the outline of the initiative which became the Prince's Trust.

In 2002 she published a book on St Ann's incorporating the voices of many residents fundraising from its sale for ME from which she suffers. She publishes under Plowright Press, runs Ruth's Archive online and lives in Warwick