

Honiton

The Town in the Country

TALK OF THE TOWN

THE NEWSLETTER OF HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2012

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It's that time of the year again when we find ourselves rushing to and fro queuing in shops, writing out Christmas cards, grumbling about the same old Christmas hits on the radio, helping our children count down how many more sleeps to go (and secretly sharing in their excitement). But in all the hustle and bustle of the next few weeks can I ask that you spare a thought for the members of our community that might be spending this Christmas time on their own, particularly the elderly and vulnerable. Simple things like a Christmas card, a few minutes spent on a quick chat over a mince pie can mean a lot to someone on their own at Christmas time.

There is a lot going on in Honiton in the run up to the festive season as we show below - simply look out for announcements in the local press and on community noticeboards and lastly may I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Cllr David Foster, Mayor of Honiton



CHRISTMAS IN HONITON

There are many events planned for Honiton during the run up to Christmas. All residents, family, friends and visitors are welcome to attend the following:

Thursday 6th December - Late Night Shopping & Evening Market 6pm-8.30pm

Many shops in the town centre, together with the popular street market, will be open during the evening for you to browse and sort your Christmas shopping. On hand to entertain you will be Honiton Twirlstars majorettes, the Amycrofters Folk Dance Band and two groups of carol singers. Father Christmas will be on hand to make sure everything goes well.

There will be free car parking in all EDDC car parks from 2pm on this day.

Friday 7th December - Tree Lighting, Children's Carol Service & Charity Fair

Starting at 5.30pm local schools will be taking part in a carol service at St Paul's church, followed by the official switching on of the town's Christmas tree by the Town Mayor, Cllr David Foster, ably assisted by the Town Crier. All are then welcome to join the Chamber of Commerce in the Mackarness Hall for refreshments - it is understood that Father Christmas will also be in attendance here.

Saturday 8th December - Christmas Carnival from 5.30pm

The second chance this year to see the floats parade down the High Street - this time with a definite Christmas theme.

Saturday 8th December - Honiton Town Band Concert 7.30pm

An evening of festive cheer will be provided by Honiton Band who will be playing at St Paul's Church and featuring a group from the Sheldon Singers. Tickets £6 available on the door (children under 16 free) to include a glass of wine and mince pie with proceeds going to the Friends of the Beehive.



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Sunday 9th December - Christingle Service 4.00pm

The ever-popular Christingle Service for children will be held at St Paul's. Loved by children and adults alike, this candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of Christmas, while helping to raise vital funds for The Children's Society.

Friday 14 December - 4.30 Nativity Procession from 4.30pm

Join Honiton families as they re-enact the nativity by following the donkey from the Church of the Holy Family to St Paul's Church, followed by carols and mince pies.

Friday 14 December - Carols by Candlelight 7.30pm

A candlelit evening of Christmas carols and readings being organised by the Mayor in partnership with St Paul's Church.

Tuesday 18th December - Honiton Community College Christmas Carol Service 7.00pm at St. Paul's Church.

Friday 21st December - Millwater School Christmas Carol Service 10.00am. At St. Paul's Church.

Saturday 22nd December - Sheldon Singer's Christmas Concert 7.30pm

This year this popular local choir will be performing Handel's "Messiah" in full with an orchestra. Tickets available soon.

Monday 24 December - Christmas Eve Street Market.

Don't miss your last opportunity to get bargains and fresh produce from the Honiton market traders.

There will be free car parking all day in the Honiton Community College public car park

Monday 24 December - Children's Crib Service 11.00am

A children-centred short service at St Paul's Church to celebrate the meaning of Christmas.

Monday 24 December - Christmas Midnight Service 11pm at St. Paul's Church

Throughout the month and until 22 December - Present Makers Selling Exhibition

The Thelma Hulbert Gallery is again highlighting the work of local craft makers and artists in its annual Selling Exhibition. Pop along to the Gallery for some different presents for Christmas.

And Much More

There are doubtless many more activities happening throughout December but the ones above are those known to the Town Council at this time. Look out on the town's noticeboards for more events as they are notified to us.



And When It's All Over - Tree Recycling

East Devon District Council will be on hand to recycle your Christmas trees for you in the new year. Bring your trees to Dowell Street car park between 9am and 1.30am on Wednesday 9 January 2013.



TIME TO APPLY FOR A TOWN COUNCIL GRANT...

Every year Honiton Town Council awards a series of funding grants to organisations working for or helping the people of Honiton. Application forms are now available for grants payable in April 2013 either from the Town Council office in New Street or downloadable from the Council website - www.honiton.gov.uk together with the policy document setting out the criteria.

Applications must be returned by 31st December for consideration by the Council at its Finance meeting in January.

ROUNDBALL WOOD

Autumn is the time for the Roundball Wood's Wardens to renew their work in the woods coppicing hazel and holly and creating new raised walkways. Unsurprising, considering our recent weather, the woods are unusually wet and the wardens and volunteer helpers have started building new raised walkways through some of the wettest areas. A new initiative has seen the brush from the coppiced trees used as 'dead hedging'. This technique, which you can also see being used in Coombe Woods, uses the smaller branches from the coppiced trees to create hedges to encourage invertebrates and help some of the well worn areas regenerate.



The Roundball team meets once a month on a Saturday morning. If you would like to help out in what is a muddy but enjoyable morning please contact the Town Council on 01404 42957 or email deputyclerk@honiton.gov.uk. A walk over the top of Roundball is good at any time of the year but November is particularly good for fungi and especially wax caps. Look out for red and yellow fungi on your next walk.



Sheila Whitlock, Dave Witt and Nick Bogan take a break from building raised walkways in Roundball Wood

CONTRACTOR SHORTLY TO BE APPOINTED FOR BEEHIVE

Following a rigorous selection process, the Town Council is currently awaiting tender applications for the building of the Beehive Community Complex, which is due to start at the end of January next year. All potential contractors are based within 40 miles of Honiton and the process has included the potential of using locally-based sub-contractors and benefits to the local economy and community. Details of the successful contractor will be published in the new year.

During the closure of Dowell Street car park from the end of January EDDC is making provision for all coaches, minibuses, cars and resident parking. Details of this will be publicised shortly.



PRECEPT SET FOR NEXT YEAR

Honiton Town Council has agreed the level of the precept (part of the Council Tax that comes to the Town Council) for next year. This will be £176,143 which is equivalent to approximately £42.57 per Band D household. This represents a small increase on last year of £2 per year and is the result of the Town Council needing to make changes to its staffing arrangements, particularly with regard to the introduction of pension provision in line with recent legislation plus responsibility being passed to the Town Council from other authorities with regard to road closure marshalling and emergency planning.

NEW CLERK APPOINTED

Following the announcement by Mrs Lyn Hargood, the present Town Clerk, of her retirement in early 2013, Honiton Town Council has appointed Mrs Chetna Jones to be its new Clerk with effect from 1 January 2013.

Chetna is currently the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Branscombe Parish Council as well as being the Senior Branch Advisor at the Honiton branch of Britannia.

Commenting on the appointment, the Mayor Cllr David Foster said : “ We are very much looking forward to working with Chetna who brings a great deal of experience not only in terms of clerking and financial management but also in respect of a range of business knowledge. We have been very fortunate in having a knowledgeable and efficient Town Clerk in Lyn for the past five years and believe that Chetna can build on this experience as the Town Council moves forward.”

The role of the Town Clerk is very varied and provides the main focus of officer support for the Town Council. Clerks are qualified through the Certificate of Local Council Administration which ensures their knowledge of Local Government structure and practices, advising and servicing of committees, representation of the Council to the public, financial management, staff management and organisational skills.

Lyn joined the Council as its Town Clerk in February 2008 having previously run a number of private sector and charitable companies. During the past five years she has overseen many changes affecting the Town Council and has been particularly instrumental in developing the business model and the fundraising strategy for the new Beehive Community Complex, which is due to be started in January 2013.



TOWN CLERK: Mrs. Lyn Hargood
DEPUTY CLERK: Mrs. Sarah Jenkins
Town Council Offices, New Street, Honiton EX14 1EY
Tel/Fax: 01404 42957 town council@honiton.gov.uk
www.honiton.gov.uk

COUNCIL MEMBERS

ST. MICHAEL'S WARD

M.R. ALLEN	50 Marker Way, Honiton, EX14 2EN	46755
N. CORNWELL	15 Woodmans Crescent, EX14 2DY	47478
G. ELLIOT	Bon Heur, Sidmouth Road, EX14 1BE	42968
D FOSTER	17 Roundball Close EX14 2NU	45106
Mrs. S. GROVES	8 Gronau Close, EX14 2YT	47654
P. HALSE	Eddystone, Langford Road EX14 1QA	43854
Mrs. S. PAVEY	59 Hazelwood Close, EX14 2XA	07447 597390
J.B. TAYLOR	The Annexe, Beechwood, Feniton, EX14 3ED	07742 559244
V.C. WHITLOCK	30 Rosemount Lane, EX14 1RJ	43959

ST. PAUL'S WARD

Miss V. ASH	3 Hillside, Combe Raleigh, Honiton EX14 4TJ	42028
L.G. BAYLISS	69 Langford Avenue EX14 1QE	42450
R.E. COOMBS	9 Hill Crescent, EX14 2HY	47347
J.P.CORKE	19 The Orchard, Otter Valley Park EX14 4PT	47437
Miss M.V. HARMAN	12 Mount Close, Honiton EX14 1QZ	41585
Mrs V.A. HOWARD	Hale Farm Cottage, Axminster Road Honiton, EX14 9TQ	47127
L.J. LUNT	15 Cotfield Close, Honiton EX14 1QX	41205
Mrs E. TIRARD	7 Shute House, Shute, Axminster EX3 7NY	01297 631426
J.Z. ZARCZYNSKI	74 Streamers Meadow, EX14 2DL	234087