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# Honiton

## TALK OF THE TOWN

THE NEWSLETTER OF HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

December 2019

### CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

The festive season is once again upon us, a time when we reflect back on 2019, make our New Year's resolutions as we look forward to welcoming in the New Year, our hearts full of hope that 2020 will fulfil all our dreams and aspirations.

As Town Mayor I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy prosperous New Year, Honiton is a town we should all be very proud of. A town blessed with a community spirit and dedicated hard working volunteers who provide a vital service for the less fortunate and vulnerable.

I wish to thank the Beehive Community Centre staff and volunteers for all their hard work and commitment throughout 2019 and wish the Beehive a very successful and prosperous New Year.

As we celebrate the festive season, we must not forget those who will be working. All our emergency services, NHS hospital doctors and nurses, our general practitioners, ambulance service, the police, the fire brigade services and care homes staff many who will be busy working throughout the festive season.

2019 has been a busy year for the Town Council with new Councillors elected to serve on the Council. I would like to thank all my fellow Town Councillors, Officers and Staff for all their hard work and dedication in fulfilling their duties throughout the year. With working groups and committees working on projects to protect the town's public footpaths, green open spaces and the provision of allotments, to name but a few. The Christmas lights working group and the Chamber of Commerce have done the town proud with their festive Christmas lights display. The Town Council and it's town management committee are looking forward to supporting the Chamber of Commerce in keeping Honiton a vibrant town that will attract new businesses and investment.

Councillors with special responsibilities are working hard on environmental issues, addressing the use of plastics and climate change. The Council supports local sport groups, organisations and youth services with grant funding. During 2019, Honiton's historic street market Charter Day, Hot Pennies ceremony and Gate to Plate festivities attracted many visitors to the town. Honiton Twinning association hosted members from Gronau, Honiton's twin town in Germany, who were officially welcomed at a civic reception held at the Beehive that was well attended by members of Honiton Twinning Association, the Town Council and Honiton Chamber of Commerce.

As serving Mayor of Honiton I am just a small cog in a much larger wheel driven by dedicated Councillors, Council officers and staff. As Councillors, we are always mindful of our responsibilities as your elected public servants.

**Cllr John Zarczynski—Mayor of Honiton**

**PLEASE NOTE—The Council offices will close at 1:00pm on Friday 20th December, re-opening at 10:00am on Thursday 2nd January 2020**

## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE TOWN CLERK AND ALL WHO WORK FOR HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

It is at this time of year when we are tempted to look back over the year and think "That New Year's resolution never made it past January"! Here in the Council offices at least one resolution has been kept, and that was to try to bring to Honiton a greater variety of markets, with more stalls and a more focused approach.

This year we saw Gate 2 Plate 2 take place in September and a toy fayre along with a late night market at the Christmas tree lights switch on ceremony. The Town Development Manager has been working hard with the National Market Traders Federation to bring events in the near future to Honiton that will, it is hoped, not just bring new traders to town, but also help to support the work that our existing traders do. After all, it is their sterling efforts that have kept the market going over the past few years.

In May a new Council was formed and there is a great deal of passion within the members to look at how the future of Honiton can be secured. 2020 will, it is hoped, bring a number of new initiatives designed to support the community, widen the scope of information available and encourage people who visit the town to come back on a regular basis.

The Council needs your help to suggest ideas for how this can all be built upon. Please keep an eye on the Council's noticeboards, social media and local papers for ways that you can help with this.

The Town Council declared a climate emergency earlier in the year and has already held a meeting to discuss how Honiton can become "Carbon Neutral" sooner rather than later. It is something that we can all do our bit to bring about. So, if there is just one resolution that you make this year, let it be that we all do our bit to reduce our carbon footprint. On our own we can do very little, but together we can make a difference.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Mark Tredwin—Town Clerk**



## Town Management Committee

2019 has been a year of huge transitions for your Council, a year of realisation and personal, private and public reflection. As the town management committee we have started to act effectively on the ideals of the residents, denizens and the ever growing community of Honiton. I am proud to say we have achieved some highly positive contributions.

This year we have successfully put on a great show of Christmas lights, we have worked hard with Honiton's Chamber of Commerce and just a few short weeks ago put on one of the best tree lighting ceremonies in the last 10 years. I offer huge thanks to the Chamber and the many, many companies that came together to support our great town.

The spirit of communities coming together always astounds me and this year I have witnessed so much more of that energy and drive. We have seen local groups being awarded accolades from Buckingham Palace, we have seen local residents being awarded for great works from royal quarters and we continue to see community volunteers striving to support causes bigger than themselves.

This year we have been working hard to be able to present Honiton with the possibility of colourful street art and vibrant artistic installations, we are currently working with a Devon artist to develop and promote the rich culture of our town through a modern aesthetic – more to follow in 2020.

We continue to hold fast our plans of developing a tourism hub in the town centre and more time and effort will be set into exploring social media and traditional media interactions.

Only recently we have turned a vital corner in our budding relationship with the Beehive and we are looking forward with huge excitement to assisting in the development and promotion of this unique facility and the support of it's thousands of users and beneficiaries.

So, 2020 is dawning, a new year, a new start and some fantastic new ideas and opportunities. We look forward to this new year and building on existing relationships and developing new ones for the benefit of our exceptional community.

I wish you all a peaceful, relaxing and happy Christmas.

Best Wishes

**Cllr Duncan Sheridan-Shaw—Deputy Mayor**