

# NEWSLETTER

Unfortunately you may have heard that the Honiton Chamber of Commerce has ceased to exist, mainly because of an inability to attract officers to run it. They will be putting up the Christmas tree outside St Pauls Church this year and awarding Honitonion of the Year, but that will be their last undertaking, after which Honiton Town Council will take on some of their responsibilities, including issuing the award. Alongside that the Council is going to make their own awards at the Annual Town Meeting next year, so look out for details as we will be seeking nominations.

The Christmas lights have needed some significant repairs this year, costing over £1,800. They have now been installed and are lighting up Honiton. Those in New Street will be replaced with new lights next year, so hopefully our shopping area will look special again for Christmas. The cost of the lights is subsidised with donations from various sources, so we all have to thank them for their generosity.

Our Council notice boards are receiving a makeover. Those in New Street have received a lick of paint and new boards, and there is a brand new one in Lace Walk Car Park. The one in Silver Street has now been passed over to the Beehive, so if you want to know what's going on at our local arts and community centre that's yet another place to find out.

We have set up a Volunteer Working Group, with a view to recruiting volunteers to assist us with jobs around the town such as keeping the verges, flower beds and roundabouts tidy, and the footpaths clear for people to use. So if you might be interested in doing a bit of work to help keep our environment clean and tidy then contact the office on 01404 42957. In fact we have several working groups, including one for allotments, the market and footpaths, all of which can include members of the public, so again if you are interested you know how to contact us.



We have suspended Thursday markets and you may be wondering why. The fact is there were so few stalls that you couldn't really call it a market and it therefore detracted from those on Saturdays and Tuesdays. We are gradually building interest from stallholders on Saturdays and we hope you are starting to see a difference. You may have seen the article in the Midweek Herald recently which was encouraging people to come and use the market – if you do then new stallholders will join the market and stay, building it up to what it has been in the past, which is our ultimate objective.



We have introduced a craft element once a month and we hope to establish antiques on a regular basis in the spring, so if anyone out there sells either then we'd like to see you out on the High Street; our Market Superintendent will be able to help you with information. We have tried to create a Farmers Market, but we are not having any

success in finding suppliers who want to sell their produce – if you might be interested please let us know.

One idea that is being implemented is that of annual ward surgeries, which will give all the residents of each ward, i.e. St. Pauls and St. Michaels, the opportunity to talk to their own ward Councillors and raise issues with them, as well as finding out what the council is spending your precept on. We are refining the details but the first ones should be taking place early in 2025, so watch this space.

Have you noticed the proliferation of posters around the town? Whilst we very much want to allow the promotion of events which various groups are organising, what we don't want (and I'm sure you'll agree) is for the town to be plastered with events which are either out of date or not connected directly with the town. We have therefore resolved to clear as many of them as we can, allowing only those that are in date, for groups and charities within a radius of 3 miles around the town, and excluding commercial advertising. We are asking everyone to comply with this policy and we hope this will make the town look a lot tidier.

One final plea – if you own a dog and walk it in the town, please take dog poo bags with you and clear up after them. We have had reports that the amount of excrement on the pavements has increased significantly lately and we don't want our town looking like a dog toilet. So please be a good citizen and take it home with you.

That's all until next time.

Tony McCollum, Council Chairman

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