



**Annual report 2011-2012 by mayor,  
Cllr . VERNON WHITLOCK**

The past year has been one in which your Town Council has been in the local papers almost every week. Sometimes this has been positive news and sometimes there has been criticism. There is no doubt however that we have been making the news.

There is a saying that the 'best way to keep out of the paper is to do nothing'. Looking back at the number of news stories in the past year confirms my view that it has been one of the busiest in the Town Council's history. It has certainly been the busiest in my 10 years as a Town Councillor.

This past year has seen new councillors elected and co-opted to the Council and student advisors sitting in at Council Meetings. Although not having a vote, the student advisors from the Community College provide a valued input to our discussions and enable us to hear the voice of young people from our town.

One of the biggest changes in the past few years has been the increase in partnership working and the active support of community groups.



The Marketing Group is a partnership of the Town Council working closely with the Chamber of Commerce, Community College, Allhallows Museum, Library, Thelma Hulbert Gallery, East Devon District Council and others including the antiques community. We have been working together to promote the town and have been successful in getting positive articles in both local and regional publications. Our promotion of the town as 'An ideal place to take a break' and 'The place for a unique shopping experience' has proved to be very successful. Last year saw Honiton run an Antiques Festival which was a great success and which will now be an annual event. This year should also see a Local Wine Festival which again raises the profile of the town.

TOWN CLERK: Mrs. Lyn Hargood

DEPUTY CLERK: Mrs. Sarah Jenkins

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Town Councillors are also involved in the Community Cinema, Charter Day, Armed Forces Day, Hot Pennies and The Senior Council. They also play a key role in supporting many other essential community organisations.

This year has seen improvements in the town with increased CCTV coverage and new play equipment at Allhallows. There are new notice boards at Old Elm Road and Littletown School and improved access for families now in place at Battishorne Way Nature Reserve. We will shortly see a new loading bay in New Street to help local businesses.

The past year has seen improvements in the Street Market with increased numbers of traders and entertainers in the town on market days. There are also plans in place which will see regular Thursday Markets in addition to Tuesdays and Saturdays. This is an indication of the hard work that the Market Manager and his assistant have done throughout the year.



One of the key roles of the Town Council is lobbying. We have been successful in arguing against parking meters in the High Street. We are continuing to press our case nationally and locally for improved rail services. We have been meeting with senior NHS managers to discuss maintaining 24hr Minor Injury Unit services at Honiton Hospital and we have met with Devon County Education Chiefs to voice our concern about Mill Water School's proposed move to Bicton.

The ongoing work maintaining footpaths continues, and we are working closely with the Chamber of Commerce to maintain floral displays in the town and festive illuminations at Christmas. We are working with community groups at Roundball Wood and The Glen and are getting more involved in issues relating to recycling and Emergency Planning.

The closure of The Royal British Legion Hall and their decision to sell the site for development, the demolition of the Red Cross Hall and the closure of training rooms at the hospital have made the need for community facilities even more pressing. It is therefore good news that the Community Complex has received planning permission and renewed support from East Devon District Council.

We are pleased that we have been able to make provision to fund the loan for the complex with no increase in the community charge. We are currently one of the lowest charging Town Councils in East Devon and will not need to raise the precept in future years to repay the loan. We have started active fundraising and are receiving tremendous support from the town. You will be hearing a lot more about the Beehive in the coming year.

The Town Council has been able again this year to assist many local groups with grants. These organisations and groups are essential to the community and provide a valuable role in the town. There are many unsung community heroes who work hard to run and support these groups and I would like to thank them on behalf of all of us for all they do. Many of the groups that we support are those working with young people and we are pleased to be able to fund the Youth Centre to enable it to open for additional hours.

As you can see there has been a lot happening and this could not have happened without a lot of hard work by your Councillors. I would like to thank them for that work and their personal support for me in the past year. I would particularly like to thank the Deputy Mayor David Foster for his support and encouragement, and Nick Cornwell for chairing both the Policy and Finance Committee and the Community Complex Group. His leadership and wise counsel are appreciated by all the Council. I would also like to thank Liz Tirard for her work on planning, The Planning Committee has had a busy year as usual and has received praise from the community for the way it has dealt with issues such as the Holyshute House application.

I should also thank the Town Crier Dave Retter who is always there to shout about the town and who is an ambassador for Honiton across the country through his involvement in Town Crier competitions.

Finally I want to thank the council staff. The Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk have provided valuable support, guidance and encouragement and are a real asset to the Council. The office support staff provide an essential role and man a busy office supporting the Council and dealing with many enquiries from the public every day. The final boost to the year has been the Council being re-accredited as a Quality Council for the next four years.

Although this year has been a busy one for the Council I suspect that the coming year will be even busier.

*Cllr Vernon Whitlock  
May 2012*

#### **Income & Expenditure Account for the year to 31st March 2012**

<b>Income</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Precept	139,993.00	167,793.00
Street Market Income	32,785.95	44,510.16
Bank Interest	561.71	2,290.78
Fund Raising, Donations & Grants	11,279.09	14,822.00
Refunds	284.75	0.00
Insurance Claims	0.0	4,879.22
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>£184,904.50</b>	<b>£234,295.16</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Council Expenses	8,216.27	6,694.32
Subscriptions	1,535.78	1,488.50
Environment & Tourism	39,737.39	36,858.20
Promotion	3,579.49	8,502.62
Grants	21,493.08	23,964.69
Democratic Core Services	11,780.39	15,689.23
Premises	6,234.03	11,107.56
Staffing Costs	66,644.82	69,984.91
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>£159,221.25</b>	<b>£174,290.03</b>
<b>Net Income/Expenditure</b>	<b>£ 25,683.25</b>	<b>£ 60,005.13</b>

**HONITON TOWN COUNCILLORS 2011 - 2012**



**Cllr. Mike Allen\*\***  
01404 46755  
St. Michael's Ward



**Cllr. Nick Cornwell**  
01404 47478  
St. Michael's Ward



**Cllr. David Foster**  
Deputy Mayor  
01404 45106  
St. Michael's Ward



**Cllr. Sue Groves**  
01404 47654  
St. Michael's Ward



**Cllr. Peter Halse\*\***  
01404 43854  
St. Michael's Ward



**Cllr. Sharon Pavey**  
07740 973990  
St. Michael's Ward



**Cllr. Gary Elliot**  
01404 42968  
St. Michael's Ward



**Cllr. John Taylor**  
07742 559244  
St. Michael's Ward



**Cllr. Vernon Whitlock**  
Mayor  
01404 43959  
St. Michael's Ward



**Cllr. Vivienne Ash**  
01404 42028  
St. Paul's Ward



**Cllr. Roy Coombs**  
01404 47347  
St. Paul's Ward



**Cllr. Les Bayliss**  
01404 42450  
St. Paul's Ward



**Cllr. Peter Corke**  
01404 47437  
St. Paul's Ward



**Cllr. Ron Farnham**  
01404 44723  
St. Paul's Ward



**Cllr. Marianne Harman**  
01404 47127  
St. Paul's Ward



**Cllr. Vera Howard**  
01404 47127  
St. Paul's Ward

\*\* Also District Councillor



**Cllr. Liz Tirard**  
01404 47361  
St. Paul's Ward



**Cllr. John Zarczynski**  
01404 41215  
St. Paul's Ward



**Lyn Hargood**  
Town Clerk  
01404 42957



**Sarah Jenkins**  
Deputy Clerk  
01404 42957



**Carolyn Bowles**  
Town Clerk's Assistant  
01404 42957



**Cherie Batty**  
Town Clerk's Assistant  
01404 42957



**Tony McCollum**  
Market Manager  
07980 922696



**Dave Smyth**  
Market Assistant  
(calls via Market Manager)