

TALK OF THE TOWN

THE NEWSLETTER OF HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2010

DECEMBER 2010 EVENTS

3rd December from 5.30 pm outside St Paul's - Lighting of the Christmas Tree by the Mayor followed by a carol service (with the Town Band).

Charity Market, hot drinks and Father Christmas in the Mackarness Hall

4th December 4.00 pm St Paul's - Honiton Lions Carol Service

8th December 8.00 pm St Michael's - Hospiscare Service of Light

12th December 4.00 pm St Paul's - Christingle Service

13th December - evening. Children are invited to accompany the donkey in traditional nativity dress in the procession from the Church of the Holy Family to St Pauls.

18th December 7.30 pm St Pauls - Sheldon Singers – Christmas Concert “Hark the Herald” including carols old and new

19th December 2 to 4pm Mackarness Hall - All children are invited to join in the “Scratch Nativity”

24th December 2.30 pm St Pauls - Children's Crib Service

Christmas Street Market High Street, Honiton

10.30pm St Pauls - Carols followed by Midnight Communion at 11.00 pm

Local Development Framework—Thank you

Honiton Town Council would like to thank all residents who came to the public meeting on 1st November, talked to Councillors outside St Paul's on 30th October and 9th November, or completed the questionnaire printed in the local press. This enabled the Council to properly reflect the views of residents when submitting its response to the East Devon District Council consultation on the Local Development Framework Preferred Options document which sets out plans for the area and the town up until 2026.

The main concern expressed by the Town Council was that no further development should take place until sufficient infrastructure and services are put in place as it feels that this opportunity was missed when the bulk of Honiton's expansion took place. In addition the Council flagged up issues over housing, employment, roads and transport, cultural and sporting facilities, health and wellbeing, and green spaces.

With regard to housing the Town Council agreed that there should be no significant development outside the current boundaries and priority should be given to one and two-bedroom developments which would be suitable for both young and older people. In addition it said it would like to see higher grade or non-retail employment opportunities in the town.

A copy of the Town Council's full response is available on www.honiton.gov.uk or from the Council office.



Don't forget the Christmas Eve street market

Christmas Lights

Honiton is now lit up with colourful Christmas trees, making the town centre very festive.

As a change to the traditional lights, The Town Council and Chamber of Commerce have worked together and approached businesses along the High Street and New Street who have been enthusiastic about the changes.

So as well as saving money and developing a more environmentally sustainable solution to the decorations, we hope you like the new look for the town centre. The Town Council wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE MAYOR

I wish you all a warm welcome. 7th June was wet and warm at the start of my term of office as Mayor. Today, as I write this it is dry, sunny and cold with the threat of snow and I am still enjoying being your Mayor.

It has been a very busy six months, not easy at times but very enjoyable. A number of things have happened in that time, or not, in some cases! Honiton's first Armed Forces Day was a success, which will be repeated during June 2011. Along similar lines "The March of Honour" came through Honiton during November in recognition of War Heroes that have lost their lives. A very warm welcome and farewell was given to the participants. Charter Day, which is becoming another important day in the Honiton calendar of events was a success the same as Hot Pennies Day, the Honiton Show and the Carnival. The Tour of Britain Cycle Race was well supported by the people of the town - this is the second year in a row that Honiton area has featured in this race.

The working relationship the Town Council has with the Chamber of Commerce and the Tourist Information Centre has benefited considerably due to the involvement of Colin Wright and his teams who have greatly assisted with the new town logo and promotion of the Town. I would like to thank them all for their hard work.

Alan Rowe "launched the Baton" in October 2009. Since then it has become known all over the world and has travelled to many places. In promoting "the Baton", Alan is also promoting Honiton, which is good news for the Town. Thank you Alan for the work you do in marketing Honiton.

There are many other people in this town of all ages, who do so much for the benefit of the town and its people who go un-noticed/unrewarded. Your contributions are very much appreciated and on behalf of the Town Council I thank you.

I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for the support they have given me and the time they give to try and make Honiton a better place. It is not an easy task being a Councillor, decisions have to be made which are not going to be popular. Even as Councillors we are affected by these decisions. I would like to say a special thank you to Cllr. Sally Casson. Sally is always there to support any cause and attends all functions whether high or low profile, she is an asset to Honiton. Without the support of the Town Clerk Lyn, her deputy Sarah along with the two office assistants Carolyn and Cherie the Town Council could not function. On behalf of the Town Council and the community I would like to thank you for all your good work. Honiton's market manager Tony McCollum is doing an excellent job developing the market, I would like to thank both Tony and his assistant Dave Smyth for their exemplary hard work.

Lastly, by not least, I would like to thank Dave Retter, Mace Bearer and Town Crier who has guided me through the civic functions of being Town Mayor together with my trusted Army and Air Corps cadets Ryan and Chris.

I know next year is not going to be easy but I wish you all a happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas.

Peter Fleming
Town Mayor



TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS

Every year the Town Council awards a series of funding grants to organisations working for or helping the people of Honiton.

Application forms are now available from the Town Council Office or online at www.honiton.gov.uk for grants payable in April 2011. The closing date is 28th January 2011; and will be considered by the Council at their February meeting.

IMPORTANT DISTRICT & TOWN COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2011

Local elections are to be held on Thursday 5th May 2011 and it is important that we encourage as many of the electorate as possible to participate, including those who are eligible for their “first vote” and those who are new to the area and will need to register themselves at East Devon District Council to be included on the electoral roll www.easdevon.gov.uk/elections (01404 517543). For further information look at www.aboutmyvote.co.uk which has further details you may need to know.

The reality is that if you vote - you decide what gets done. By selectively choosing who will take decisions on your behalf it is important that the opinions of who you vote for reflect your personal views. From the right to make representations on planning applications, to the state of footpaths and street lighting, town councils have a wide range of ever increasing responsibilities and duties. These decisions affect your every day life. Find out more about your local council and help them to understand and represent your community needs.

Town and parish councils are the closest tier of local government to the man and woman in the street. Town councils represent the concerns and aspirations of a genuine local community; they live within it. They are not a voluntary organisation, not a charity nor anything to do with the Church.

More and more services are being delegated to town and parish councils from their District councils including leisure facilities, support for museums, Tourist Information Centres, town centre closed-circuit television systems, as well as services such as providing halls and allotments.

Councils can only act within the law by exercising their powers and functions which have been conferred on them by Acts of Parliament (Statutes). These Statutes continue to change and proposals announced by the new coalition government especially in relation to “Decentralisation and Localism” gives a clear indication about the Government’s plans to reinvigorate local politics by giving more power to Councils and communities. Already Local Council responsibilities are many and varied, including the purchase of land and buildings, providing and maintaining local life.

You may be thinking of standing as a Councillor; to get a chance to make a difference, to shape the future of the area you live in and meet some interesting colleagues and learn a bit along the way. Why not give it a try?

Surveys have shown that many people wish to become involved in local governance, but do not know how to begin. Whilst a relatively easy process it is strict and if not followed exactly will result in disappointment and rejection for the wrong reasons. Councillors are elected by the public and serve four year terms in office; these were unpaid positions until 2004 when allowance schemes were introduced to encourage more people to stand for election. Allowances are at the discretion of the individual councils.

Eligibility: You need to be:

- Over 18 years of age,
- A British citizen, a qualifying Commonwealth citizen, or a citizen of any other member state of the European Union.
- On the Electoral Register for the council area for which you wish to stand.
- A local government elector of the parish; or a person who during the whole of the twelve months before nomination as a candidate occupied land OR other premises as owner or tenant in the parish, OR has, during the same period, resided in that area or within three miles thereof; OR has during the same period had a principal place of work in that area.

More information available from the Town Council Office in New Street.

MAYOR'S ANNUAL CHARITIES



CENSUS 2011 - 27th March 2011

The 2011 Census is a major public event and will be the biggest in the UK this side of the 2012 Olympics. Many of the services we take for granted every day depend on it. That's why we all have to play our part in making it successful.

Government, local authorities, healthcare, education, academics, commercial business, professional organisations need to know and understand the make-up of the population so that they can plan services that reflect the needs of local communities and the nation as a whole. For more than two hundred years, the benchmark for this information has come from the census.

The design for the 2011 Census builds upon lessons learned from the past, steadily helping to understand more about what we need to do to get everyone interested and involved - and to help make sure everyone's needs are accounted for. - and we mean everyone. Census statistics are used to help plan and deliver the services we all need. Whoever we are. Wherever we live.

Isn't the census simply a matter of filling in a questionnaire?

Well, that's exactly how the Government want you to feel about it. Something you'll just do as a matter of course.

Behind that very simple idea, is a vast and complex operation, underlined by many procedures. It's a very big thing - plans started in 2001, directly after the last one!

We will be giving you further information in our next newsletter or find out more at www.2011.census.gov.uk/2011Howthecensusworks.



COUNCIL MEMBERS

St. Michael's Ward

M.R. ALLEN	50 Marker Way, Honiton, EX14 2EN	46755
A.B. BOOM	1 Lilley Walk, EX14 2EA	548745
Mrs S.A. CASSON	2 Bramble Lane, Exeter Road EX14 1AS	45367
N. J. CORNWELL	15 Woodmans Cres. EX14 2DY	47478
P.J. FLEMING	3 Glanvill Way, EX14 2GD	43388
M. McGUIRE	208 High Street, EX14 1AJ	46266
J.B. TAYLOR	The Annexe, Beechwood, Feniton, EX14 3ED	
M.J. TEARE	18 Cypress Close, EX14 2YW	46463
V.C. WHITLOCK	30 Rosemount Lane, EX14 1RJ	43959

St. Paul's Ward

Miss V. ASH	3 Hillside, Combe Raleigh Honiton EX14 4TJ	42028
R.E. COOMBS	9 Hill Crescent, EX14 2HY	47347
J.P. CORKE	19 The Orchard, Otter Valley Park EX14 4PT	47437
R.A. FARNHAM	Golesworthy Cottage, 16 Dowell Street EX14 1LT	44723
D FOSTER	17 Roundball Close EX14 2NU	07868 335612
Mrs S. GROVES	8 Gronau Close, EX14 2YT	47654
P. HALSE	Eddystone, Langford Road EX14 1QA	43854
Mrs V.A. HOWARD	Hale Farm Cottage Axminster Road, EX14 9TQ	47127
Mrs M.D. MORGAN	8 Kings Road, EX14 1HW	46933

Mrs L.Hargood	Town Clerk	42957
Mrs S Jenkins	Deputy Clerk	42957
Mrs C. Bowles	Town Clerk's Assistant	42957
Mrs C. Batty	Town Clerk's Assistant	42957
Mr. T. McCollum	Market Manager	07980 922696

The Town Council office will be closed from 28th December 2008 to 3rd January 2011 inclusive.