

COUNCILLORS

St Paul's Ward

Cllr Henry Brown
18 Pine Park Road
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Cllr Roy Coombs
9 Hill Crescent
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EX14 2HY
01404 47347

Cllr Peter Halse
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EX14 1QA
01404 43854

Cllr Vera Howard
Hale Farm Cottage
Axminster Road
Honiton
EX14 9TQ
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Cllr Caroline Kolek
18 Pine Park Road
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Cllr Julia Lake
23 Glenview
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Cllr Anne Mountjoy
5 Minifie Road
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EX14 1NF
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Cllr Graham Smith
10 Ashleigh Road
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EX14 1TD
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Cllr Kim Smith
Homestead
1 Monkton Road
Honiton
EX14 1PZ
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St Michael's Ward

Cllr Ashley Alder
Cowley Lodge
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EX14 1AU
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Cllr Sheila Edwards
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EX14 2DB
01404 548430

Cllr Luke Harvey-Ingram
1 The Barnfield
Jerrard Close
Honiton
EX14 1DX
01404 549840

Cllr Ken Hopkins
1 Riverside Cottages
Gittisham
Honiton
EX14 3AE
01404 850550

Cllr Jill McNally
79 Willow Walk
Honiton
EX14 2FY
01404 44073

Cllr Clare Melbourne
61 Willow Walk
Honiton
EX14 2FY
01404 45687

Cllr David Perkins
45 Church Hill
Honiton
EX14 2DB
01404 548430

Cllr John Taylor
3 St John
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EX14 3ED
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Cllr Jackie Wadsworth
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STAFF

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www.honiton.gov.uk

Honiton

TALK OF THE TOWN

THE NEWSLETTER OF HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

December 2015

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

On behalf of the Members and Officers of Honiton Town Council, I would like to send my compliments of the season to all residents at this special time of year.

It is a great privilege to serve as Mayor of our Town and I feel very proud and honoured to have been chosen for this civic role. I have met hundreds of wonderful people and I look forward to meeting many more over the coming months.

We have so much to be proud of in our town and I am immensely impressed by the generosity and kindness within Honiton through those people who are involved in caring and supporting the less fortunate in our society.

I have seen at first hand the service given to the community by the armies of volunteers who work selflessly all year round to help others or raise money for charities. These are wonderful people involved in the numerous community groups and charitable organisations supporting people of all ages.

It is this collective contribution that makes Honiton such a wonderful community and my heartfelt admiration goes out to everyone - I thank every one of you who so selflessly gives your time and energy to make life better for others.

We know, of course, that some people will not be with their loved ones this Christmas and to them we send our special good wishes. We remember with particular gratitude those who have given their lives in the service of helping and protecting others and the families they have left behind.

Following my most recent visit to Auschwitz leading a school trip, the horrors of the holocaust and the suffering of so many people remain on my mind. This brought tears to my eyes when listening to the children singing and reading poems at the Tree lighting carol service a few days later. Our children are our future and I send the youngest members of our community my very best wishes this Christmas.

Special thanks are due to all those people who will be working over the Christmas period in our emergency services, hospitals, Armed Forces, power stations and all other essential services.

I will end by wishing you all a Christmas that is safe, warm and comfortable. Season's greetings and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year to you all.

Caroline Kolek
Mayor of Honiton



Roundball Wood

Roundball Wood can be found on the Southern side of Honiton, skirting the top of Round Ball Hill. You can get to the wood via a kissing gate at the bottom of Battishorne Way, and then walking up through a field to another kissing gate at the edge of the wood.

Once you enter the wood there is a circular path which will lead you right round the edge, the centre of the wood is very boggy and not really accessible.

Due to the many springs and small streams the wardens and volunteers have constructed bridges and walk ways where the path has become very boggy, but as is the nature of this type of wood the springs seem to move from year to year, so the path can be quite muddy.

Because of its height, the views through the trees down towards Honiton and beyond are worth the climb, but the wood has much more to offer. Because it's quite wet and difficult to get to, the wood has been left to its own devices for some considerable time and this means a number of interesting habitats have had time to develop.

There are many dead trees, some still standing, which provide homes for wood peckers and other birds and provide habitats for many types of insects. The wetter areas are ideal for amphibians such as frogs and newts and plants that require a boggy environment.

Badgers also make the wood their home, and during the summer, bats use the many crevices in the trees to roost in.

There are blue bells in the spring and wild garlic and wild orchids flowering in the meadow just above the wood, which is cut every other year.

The wardens and volunteers try to keep the paths and fences in good repair, but due to the difficulty of access, and of increasing age this can prove quite a challenge. The Town Council has commissioned a splendid new section of fence and this is a great improvement on both the appearance and safety of the area.

We have a number of ongoing projects, such as cutting back some of the Holly to allow more light in, and coppicing more of the Hazel. This is done to provide an even greater diversity of habitat.

If you know anyone who would like to save money on going to the gym, and at the same time improve the environment, we are always looking for more volunteers and wardens for the wood, and new ideas.

Give me a ring, Nick Boggon on 01404 41800, or contact the Town Council on 01404 42957. Email towncouncil@honiton.gov.uk



Volunteers on task

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 together with the policy document setting out the criteria required to qualify for a grant, will be available in the New Year, either from the Town Council office in the Beehive, Dowell Street or by downloading one from the Council website - www.honiton.gov.uk Grant payments will be made in May 2016.

Your Councillors at work supporting our local community

Cllr Harvey-Ingram and Cllr Brown have continued to work hard with the Youth Services Volunteer Group which attracts at least 40 youngsters per session.

The Deputy Mayor - Cllr Wadsworth represents the Town Council on the Local Action Group which meets regularly. She has been a stalwart in getting the 55+ Centre up and running.

As a Beehive Director Cllr Perkins keeps the Council updated with progress and successes of the Community Centre.

With upcoming changes to our Library Cllr McNally is liaising with the Library on behalf of the Council. She is also our second Tree Warden alongside Cllr Coombs.

Cllr Melbourne is leading a working group in how we improve our open spaces and sports facilities.

Cllr G Smith has been busy cleaning drains in the High Street and is putting together a group of volunteers to assist in this activity on a regular basis. He is also planning to attend a weed spraying training session in order to make our town look better.

With the festive season fast approaching Cllr Alder has been heavily involved in providing Christmas lights and activities for our town. She is also the Council representative to the Chamber of Commerce and Museum.

Cllr Coombs continues to monitor our public footpaths and public rights of way to ensure they are safe and accessible. He is also a very active and knowledgeable Tree Warden.

Cllr Mountjoy, Cllr Lake and Cllr K Smith have teamed up to engage the people of Honiton on how they are affected by Devon County Council changes and at the same time gathered information for our Local Neighbourhood Plan. Furthermore this information has also assisted the Town Council in compiling projects with budget proposals for the upcoming year.

Cllr Edwards is a very active member of the Policy Committee and its sub-groups by ensuring the activities of the Council are in line with ever-changing legislation and procedures.

The Mayor—Cllr Kolek together with Cllr G Smith have represented the Council on the group that has ensured Honiton has achieved dementia status. Cllr Kolek has also been busy meeting groups and local business to increase and assist in awareness of their organisation's activities and involvement with the Town Council.

What does Honiton Town Council do?

- Represents and promotes Honiton.
- Provides a forum for residents to raise issues.
- Provides help to residents with queries.
- Works with businesses and local organisations.
- Manages the Street Market.
- Represents Honiton at Remembrance Day Ceremonies and Armed Forces Day.
- Advises on Planning Applications.
- Approves advertising signs for shops.
- Maintains and improves public footpaths.
- Leads on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Manages Roundball Wood.
- Organises Charter Day and Hot Pennies Ceremony.
- Liaises with the local Police.
- Recommends action to be taken on protected trees.
- Represents Honiton at Twinning events.
- Leads on allotment provision.
- And much more!

Responsibilities of East Devon District Council include

Local planning, council housing, refuse collection, sports and leisure facilities, street cleaning and maintaining the electoral register

Responsibilities of Devon County Council include

Schools, social care for the elderly and vulnerable, road maintenance, libraries, trading standards, economic development and regeneration, emergency planning, tourism promotion and coastal protection.