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Cllr Peter Halse
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Cllr Vera Howard
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Cllr Anne Mountjoy
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Cllr Graham Smith
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Cllr Sheila Edwards
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Cllr Luke Harvey-Ingram
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Cllr Ken Hopkins
1 Riverside Cottages
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Cllr Jill McNally
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EX14 2FY
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Cllr David Perkins
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EX14 2DB
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Cllr Jackie Wadsworth
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Cllr John Zarczynski
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Honiton

TALK OF THE TOWN

THE NEWSLETTER OF HONITON TOWN COUNCIL

December 2016

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

I am delighted to be sending my compliments of the season on behalf of the Members and Officers of Honiton Town Council to all in our local community.

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 for a second term of Office. I have been involved with many community groups and local businesses this year supporting the work that they do in adding value to our community. As always we have much to be proud of and the commitment, goodwill and generosity of local people never fails to astound me.

Again, 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.

I'm delighted to have been part of the Dementia Friendly Steering Group from its inception and when originally elected Mayor, one of the achievements I wanted to see for the Town was Dementia Friendly Status. This was achieved last year, with this outstanding work recognised by a recent National Award. More information regarding this can be found in this newsletter.

However, I know my disappointment in learning about the proposed closure of our local Hospital medical beds is shared by all. A steering group has been set up which is supported by myself and the Town Council and together we continue to lobby the right people including our MP.

The Town Council continues to work hard for our community. We have been working on the Neighbourhood Plan with questionnaires to follow in the New Year, responded to numerous consultations which will have a significant impact on our community, run a successful Charter Day and Hot Pennies, provided flowers in the Summer, Christmas lights in the Winter and a new Christmas market running every Friday in December. Much of this work has been completed with help from other organisations in the town who we will continue to work closely with for the benefit of the community. Further details of all of this and other work can be found on the Honiton Town Council website.

As always my special thanks goes to all those people who will be working over the Christmas period in the emergency services, hospitals, power stations and all other essential services as well as those volunteering to make this time of year more special for people who are lonely, homeless or vulnerable.

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





Honiton Neighbourhood Plan

Time to have your say on the future of Honiton

You may have seen in the last issue of Talk of the Town that the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will be sending out a questionnaire to ask the local community what it wants for the future of Honiton.

The questionnaire will be sent to households and available for all residents early in January. The Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group says "It is really important that everyone in the community both young and old has their say. If we don't know what local people want or need for the future, we can't tell the Local Planning Authority! We would also like to hear from people who come to Honiton to work or to use the town's facilities".

The responses and comments from the questionnaire will enable the Steering Group to start to draft the Neighbourhood Plan. There will be more opportunities to have your say on the draft Plan as it develops. The final Neighbourhood Plan, which may take up to two years to complete, will be a planning document which sets out the vision for the town and parish of Honiton and contains policies for the development and use of land in the area

Please look out for the questionnaire in January as it is time to have your say

Christmas Lights in Honiton—helping us all to get in the spirit!

The Christmas lights this year have been a huge success making our town a magnificent beacon to shoppers to make Honiton a truly magical Christmas destination. With the cheaper parking and so many individual businesses mixed in with the larger nationals, Honiton is a must to come and shop for that special present.

It has taken us all to achieve this impressive display by raising the funds required and through individual contributions, support of local businesses and organisations, the Chamber of Commerce and Honiton Town Council. Additional lights were purchased from Parishes Together funding provided by Devon County Council and East Devon District Council.

Now that all the lighting equipment has been purchased and the support of the Chamber of Commerce and Honiton Town Council the provision of lights over the festive season is assured for many years to come.



Dates for your diary

Annual Town Meeting at the Beehive - all welcome Tues 18 April 2017 at 7pm

Charter Day Sat 22 July 2017

Hot Pennies Tues 25 July 2017

Honoured Citizens

Honoured Citizen status is reviewed annually and is awarded to people who have given exceptional and distinguished service to the town. Nominations can be made by either a member of the Council or by any Honiton resident. Nominations for 2017 are invited. Successful nominees will receive their award at the Mayor Making ceremony in May 2017.

Honiton Dementia Action Alliance wins an award

Honiton Dementia Action Alliance (HDAA) was enormously proud to be named Dementia Friendly Rural Community of the year at the annual Alzheimer's Society Awards ceremony at Church House, Westminster on 30th November. The Dementia Friendly Awards are about celebrating the people projects and organisations who understand the challenge of dementia and are making the changes much needed in their communities.

Representing HDAA and to receive the award were Chairman Heather Penwarden along with Min Rennolds Honiton Memory Café Coordinator and Ben Willis and Victoria Price Honiton Community College 6th form students who volunteer at the Honiton Memory Café.

Following a formal on stage presentation of the award Heather said: 'this is truly an award for a community—our community—where individuals of all ages, voluntary groups, businesses and organisations all understand that life does not end with a diagnosis of dementia and do amazing things to help people live well with dementia'. Heather went on to add: 'the national spotlight is firmly focussed on Honiton now as a successful model of how to galvanise the community to work towards a common cause. This means that we will have to raise the bar even higher on what we want to achieve'

Heather paid tribute to the whole community of Honiton for working together to help people live well with dementia and feel safe and included in their daily lives.

Christmas tree recycling

Christmas trees can be taken to the Lace Walk car park, Honiton for recycling on Thursday 5th January 2017 8.30am to 11.30am. Artificial trees or other waste will not be accepted.

Christmas tree festival

Honiton Town Council participated with other local organisations, businesses and charities in the Honiton Christmas Tree Festival at St. Paul's Church in early December.

With around 40 Christmas trees on display the festival is a popular event in the town.

