

The Knowledge



Trees at Bicton
Photo: Ray Steer-Kemp

15 August 2008

Minibeast hunting or a moth breakfast

Axe Estuary Wetland Project

**Wet & Wild Weekend
Fun for Free!**

Friday 29th August, Saturday 30th August
& Sunday 31st August

Come to Seaton Marshes for:

- Meet the Birds
- Plans for the Wetlands
- Minibeast Hunt
- Wetland Plants
- Bird ringing
- Bat Walk
- Wetlands Local History
- plus much more!!

For details call East Devon District Council's
Countryside Service on: 01395 517557

the AEWP is joint partnership between EDDC, EA and NE

A celebration of the wonderful wildlife of the Axe Estuary is planned by EDDC's Countryside Service at Seaton Marshes Local Nature Reserve. The Wet and Wild Weekend will run from **Friday 29 to Sunday 31 August** and will provide a chance to get close to all kinds of wildlife.

Each day you can pond dip, hunt minibeasts and watch birds on the estuary. There will be a nature quiz trail that families can follow to explore corners of the reserve usually closed to the public.

The estuary is bursting with bats in the summer. On Friday evening, you can join the Nature Reserves'

Officer who will be armed with bat detectors to help you find out more about these fascinating creatures. Saturday morning starts early with a moth breakfast – a chance to enjoy a bacon butty whilst looking at the fascinating variety of moths which will have been caught overnight. On Sunday at 8am, you will have a rare chance to see, close up, birds caught by the Axe Ringing Group as part of their on-going survey; the birds are released as soon as they have been weighed, measured and ringed.

Copies of the full programme are available at Seaton and Axminster Tourist Information Centres, local libraries and on the [website](#). You can also phone the Countryside Service on 01395 517557.

This week in The Knowledge

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Litter campaign features in South West case studies



An exciting campaign aimed at reducing litter in three Devon towns is featured in a booklet published by South West Councils. The 'Love Life - Hate Rubbish' campaign, launched in 2007, was a result of partnership working between East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council, Teignbridge District Council and Devon County Council.

Throughout September and early October 2007, a number of high profile channels were used to remind people in Exeter, Exmouth and Newton Abbot that litter is

anti-social, can be dangerous and can lead to a fine. The campaign in each town, which has been lead by Exeter City Council, is aimed at all sectors of the community and includes:

- ❑ Posters on the side of buses, bus shelters, phone kiosks and in shop windows
- ❑ Poster bikes driving home the messages in town and city centre streets
- ❑ Spot prizes (cinema tickets and three grand prizes of £75 cash) for people who dispose of their litter responsibly
- ❑ Special packs of gum wrappers to be given away

Councillor David Cox, EDDC's Portfolio Holder StreetScene, said: "The campaign aimed to remind people not to 'trash the place' by dropping litter. If people love life, they should also hate rubbish and take the responsibility of disposing of litter in the right place. In East Devon there are hundreds of litter bins around for sweet wrappers, cans, bottles and other throwaway items, and over the course of the campaign, special Trashman 'Use Me' stickers have been added to litter bins in the three participating areas to help people locate them. This case study is just one of a number of examples of best practice and partnership working in the booklet."

The four Local Authorities have been working together over the last few years on the Local Public Services Agreement (LPSA) to improve the urban environment. The 'Love Life - Hate Litter' campaign is paid for directly by Government funding connected to the LPSA project. As well as litter, the project looks at improving street cleaning and pavement repairs, as well as tackling litter and dog fouling. Further Government funding can be made available if Local Authorities can demonstrate that they are making a difference. The full casebook can be viewed at:

http://www.southwest-ra.gov.uk/media/SWLGA/South_West_Councils_Casebook.pdf

Chairman's engagements

Sunday 17 August

Chairman to perform the duties of "Lord Patron" at the Exmouth Archers Archery Tournament.

Yearbook amendment



Please note that Councillor Duval-Steer's telephone numbers are as follows:

Home: 01395 223414

Mobile: 07939 485293

Have your say on the Blackdown Hills



Have your say on how the Blackdown Hills is managed over the next five years. The current Blackdown Hills Plan runs out next year and the local community is being asked to help bring it up to date for 2009-2014.

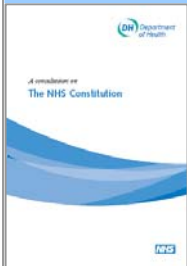
From farming to wildlife habitats, affordable housing to food production, the Consultation Draft reviews all aspects of Blackdown Hills life. Local people - from private individuals to community groups and business organisations - are being canvassed for their views, so they can influence what happens in the next five years.

The Blackdown Hills, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1991, has a management plan which ensures local authorities, organisations and communities work together to look after the landscape and its people.

The Consultation Draft and simple response form are available on the AONB website at www.blackdown-hills.net. Or there will be drop-in sessions held at the AONB Office, St Ivel House, Hemyock, EX15 3SJ on: 3 September, 2pm-5pm; 10 September, 4pm-7pm; 17 September, 10am-1pm; 24 September, 4pm-7pm.

Alternatively, paper copies of the Consultation Draft can be obtained from the AONB office on 01823 680681. The deadline for responses is 30 September, 2008.

NHS constitution



The Department of Health is consulting on a constitution for the NHS. This is a proposed set of pledges and rights for patients about the way they will be treated and what they may expect. The consultation runs until the 17 October and can be accessed on www.dh.gov.uk/consultations.

Peter Jeffs (Corporate Director)

Tel: 01395 517452 (or Ext 2652) Email: pjeffs@eastdevon.gov.uk

Special service – Support Our Soldiers

Exeter Cathedral is to host a special service at the request of the Area Co-Ordinator of the forces charity, [Support Our Soldiers](http://www.supportoursoldiers.org). The purpose of the service is to commemorate the men and women of the armed forces who have served in past, more recent and in present campaigns, including Iraq and Afghanistan.

The service is to be held at Exeter Cathedral on Sunday, **5 October 2008**, at 5.00pm.

All Councillors are invited to attend the service. Please contact Jill Humphreys (PA to Chief Executive) if you are to attend, so she can keep a note for the organisers:

Telephone: 01395 517408 Email: jhumphreys@eastdevon.gov.uk



Find out more about funding

► Funding for events

Promoting good practice in managing volunteers from socially excluded groups



GoldStar has grants of between £100 and £3,000 available to help the voluntary sector organize good practice events in the community. These should particularly involve Black

Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, disabled people or people with a long term limiting illness, or people with no qualifications. The deadline for applications is 26 September 2008.

► Information for Fundraising

The Centre for Nonprofit Success is holding a Fundraising Summit in Leeds on 23 September and London on 24- 25 September for charities that are dependent on funding.

► Supporting the elderly and disabled



The Tesco Charity Trust has grants of up to £4,000 available for supporting the elderly and/ or people with disabilities. The types of projects supported in the past have included; befriending

schemes, luncheon clubs, specialist equipment and day trips/ social trips. The deadline for applications is 30 September 2008.

Jamie Buckley (Engagement and Funding Officer)

Tel: 01395 517569 (or Ext 2769) Email: jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk

► Funding for local charities

Waitrose supermarkets each have £1,000 a month to distribute amongst three local community projects up until August 2009. To be considered for a donation, good causes and charities should contact their local store or can be nominated by customers of Waitrose staff. All Waitrose employees at the store will choose which three benefit and customers will decide how to share out the £1,000 between the three worthy causes.

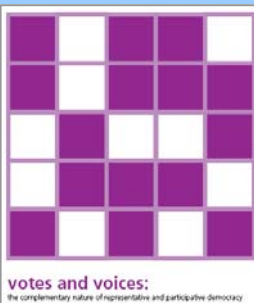
► Funding to Promote Financial Inclusion



The Friends Provident Foundation makes grants of up to

£200,000 to not-for profit organisations for projects that address financial exclusion within disadvantaged communities. Actions previously supported through the Foundation include making money management advice available to young people via mobile phones and interactive digital TV; and a research project to look at the difficulties that people with a learning disability are having in gaining access to banking services. The next closing date for applications is the 24 October 2008.

New documents in the Members' Area



Votes and Voices – the complementary nature of representative and participative democracy.

This is a document from the Local Government Association (LGA) and the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO). It brings together a wide range of views and perspectives on local democracy from across local government, the voluntary sector and academia. The publication can also be downloaded online from the [website](#).

Meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 18 August	9.30am	CANCELLED
Standards (Referrals & Hearings) Sub-Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 19 August	10.00am	CANCELLED
Licensing & Enforcement Sub-Committee	Chris Lane	Tuesday 26 August	9.30am	Council Chamber
Development Control Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 26 August	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Local Development Framework Panel	Christopher Holland	Wednesday 27 August	4.00pm	Room 1
Parish & Town Councils	Debbie Meakin	Wednesday 27 August	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Corporate Overview Committee	Chris Lane	Thursday 28 August	6.30pm	CANCELLED

Would Councillors please pass their apologies to Democratic Services whenever they are unable to attend a meeting so that post can be sent or withheld as appropriate. **Please check your pigeon holes for any post whenever you visit the offices.**

If you would like a copy of the papers relating to any of the above meetings, please contact the relevant Democratic Services Officer. (All the above meetings are at Knowle, unless otherwise specified).

Click [here](#) to view agendas and minutes on the Council's website. Click [here](#) to view planning applications online. Click [here](#) to view new applications received relating to the Licensing Act 2003.

Diana Vernon 01395 517541	Christopher Holland 01395 517543	Hannah Jarvis 01395 517542	Chris Lane 01395 517544	Debbie Meakin 01395 517540	Rachel Perram 01395 517542
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News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)



► Ethical governance toolkit

The Standards Board, the IDeA and the Audit Commission have been working together to update the ethical governance toolkit.

The toolkit now reflects the changes brought about by the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. Find out how well your council is meeting the ethical agenda, and how to improve your arrangements.

► Local Area Agreements (LAAs): Olympic challenge

The media coverage of the Olympic Games in Beijing provides a perfect opportunity for schools to get children from all backgrounds interested in sport and help to tackle the obesity crisis. This case study shows how the national healthy schools programme can support schools to address fitness and activity levels among pupils.

► Reaching out - community engagement and health

This publication is an invaluable tool for all working in public health. Jointly produced by the IDeA's Healthy Communities programme and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), it aims to kickstart community engagement in local areas.

► Local Wellbeing Project - making people happier



Find out about this exciting initiative, which is testing out practical ways of improving public wellbeing through local authorities and their partners in three very different areas of the country - Hertfordshire, Manchester and South Tyneside.

Rural Services Network (RSN)

Here are the latest news items from the [Rural Services Network](#):

▶ Public fears green belt destruction



Destruction of the green belt is the biggest threat facing the countryside today, according to a survey. Some 69% of people rated the threat of green belt destruction above the challenges of population growth (53%), fly tipping (53%), and road building (45%).

▶ Rural sites are 'best for wind turbines'

Rural areas offer most potential for energy-saving wind turbines, says a study. Most electricity and carbon savings are available from small turbines in rural areas - four times as much as urban areas irrespective of costs, researchers found.

▶ Views sought on community transport

RSN is asking for views on plans to relax rules governing community transport. Draft regulations are expected to be made by the Department for Transport - assuming the Local Transport Bill, which is currently before Parliament, receives Royal Assent. A government [consultation has been launched on community transport permits](#) and RSN would like to submit a formal response. Responses are required by 30 August.

▶ Ban sparks fears for postal deliveries

Fears are growing that more rural communities could be left without a postal service after Royal Mail scrapped deliveries to a remote hamlet in the Yorkshire Dales. Postal deliveries were withdrawn from the hamlet of Booze, in the Yorkshire Dales, following a health and safety assessment. Residents were given just 24 hours notice that deliveries were to cease. Some 15 families must now travel to Richmond to collect letters and parcels.

▶ Credit crunch 'hits rural areas hardest'



The rapidly spiralling cost of living is hitting rural areas hardest, says a report. Villages - where many more homes rely on oil for their heating - are suffering the fastest rises in food and fuel prices. Rural residents are being squeezed by their remoteness from supermarkets, longer commutes to work, and lack of access to gas.

Note: Members of the Rural Services Network (which includes Councillors and Council staff) can gain free and full access to RSN Online by registering at <http://tinyurl.com/2y7ssp>

In the press

▶ From food waste to green fuel



East Devon District Council has launched a scheme to use domestic food waste to generate electricity for the National Grid by using the gas from the rotting meat, bones and vegetables.

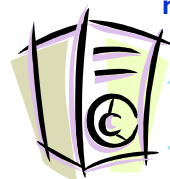
▶ Councillors to vote from home?

Councillors will be excused from turning up at town hall meetings under plans to allow 'remote attendance and voting' through 'audio contact' under plans being considered by Hazel Blears.

▶ Regional agencies panned

A report from the Taxpayers' Alliance claims that more than £15 billion has been 'wasted' on regional development agencies that may have damaged economic growth and cost households £600 each since 1999.

▶ Neighbours' joy as Cher fan faces her music



A Cher fan who drove her neighbours to distraction by playing her songs at full blast has had his stereo and CD collection destroyed by environmental health officers from Rhondda Cynon Taf council.

In the press (continued)

▶ Big rise in loutish behaviour under 24-hour drinking



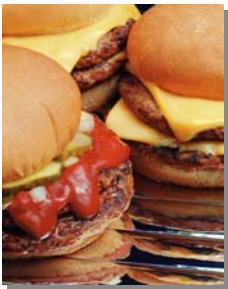
Alcohol-fuelled anti-social behaviour has risen sharply since the introduction of 24-hour

drinking laws, according to crime figures gathered from almost every police force in the country. Chief police officers claim the new regime has led to more problems in the small hours of the morning, whilst the Government denies there has been an increase at all.

▶ MPs in Blitz on cowboy beauticians

Cowboy beauticians and body piercers are facing a crackdown after a horrifying toll of infections and injuries caused by bargain basement salons. The campaign wants to bring in a licensing system for the whole industry.

▶ Fatty foods 'need health warning labels'



A Government adviser, Professor David Hunt, has said that fatty foods should carry official health warnings to combat a growing obesity crisis that threatens to overwhelm the health service. The warnings should

be similar to those already on packets of cigarettes and should be carried on foods that contain high amounts of fat, sugar and salt.

▶ 'Law ends right to noise complaints'

Local people could lose the right to complain about pollution including noise, smell or light resulting from new major building projects under the proposed Planning Bill. LACORS (Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services) has written to Hazel Blears expressing concerns. Chairman Geoffrey Theobald is quoted: "By exempting major infrastructure projects from nuisance laws the Government is tying the hands of councils, leaving them unable to respond to the legitimate concerns of local people."

▶ Spy more, Councils told

Councils have been criticised by the independent Interception of Communications Commissioner for not using powers to check phone and email records enough when investigating crimes. Local Government Association (LGA) chairman Sir Simon Milton is quoted saying councils are using the powers available to them to tackle fly-tippers, rogue traders and those defrauding the taxpayer.

▶ Councils get power to 'spy' on your email and net use



The Home Office wants to store personal communications data – internet use and phone and

text traffic – on a single Government database. Public authorities including councils would have access to the information for use in investigating suspected crime, threats to public health and public safety and even prevention of self-harm.

▶ Mystery shoppers to trap illegal knife vendors

The Home Office has written to every council chief executive and police chief in England urging them to use teenage volunteers to help catch shops which sell knives to kids. Cllr Geoffrey Theobald, chairman of LACORS, said previous operations carried out by trading standards teams showed most shops obeyed the law, but added: "There's still a minority prepared to sell knives to children."

▶ Bangers and cash



The number of old cars abandoned on Britain's streets has fallen as the rise of scrap metal has risen. Official figures show that on average councils removed 800

abandoned cars every day in 2003, but this year the number has fallen to 225. LGA environment spokesman Paul Bettison is quoted: "A triple whammy of cracking down on would-be dumpers, quicker clearing-up by councils and soaring metal prices are helping to win the battle against unsightly old bangers being left on our streets."

In the press (continued)

▶ Great drain robbery



Thieves have nabbed 50,000 drain covers this year to cash in on high scrap metal prices. Councils fear the thefts could lead to serious accidents. Taxpayers are having to pay £1.5million to replace the lids. LGA's Environment Chairman Paul Bettison said: "It is disgusting that mindless thieves are stooping this low".

▶ Building up hope

The credit crunch could herald the return of council housing, with the prospects of greater powers for councils to build homes and keep rental income a growing possibility.

Please note that the Express & Echo web site for press coverage is: www.thisisexeter.co.uk
For Western Morning News stories the web site is: www.thisisdevon.co.uk
For Archant news stories the web site is: www.devon24.co.uk

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<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readermain.html>

If you require further assistance please contact Democratic Services on 01395 517546.

Production Information

The Democratic Services team produces this weekly information sheet every Friday for Members of East Devon District Council. Please contact Diana Vernon if you have any comments about the newsletter. **If you wish to reproduce any of the images used in The Knowledge, please contact the editor who will seek permission from the contributor.**

Telephone: (01395) 517541 or Extension: 2741. Email: dvernon@eastdevon.gov.uk

Submissions: If you have items that you wish to be included in the next issue, contact Democratic Services. Telephone: (01395) 517542 or Extension 2742. Email: knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk