

The Knowledge



Branscombe
Photo: Ben Chesters

18 April 2008

Wheel of the Year – Thelma Hulbert Gallery Exhibition

19 April – 31 May 2008



Last Rays of the Sun - Tricia Hubbard

In 'Wheel of the Year' 9 South West artists have used different forms of paper as a medium to investigate themes of seasons, structure, myth and belief, illustrating a physical and spiritual interconnectedness with our landscape.

Paper is one of the most disposable items in the world, and the ecological problems this can cause are under constant debate. This exhibition explores a deep awareness of nature and a recognition of the need to rethink our relationship with our environment.

The artists in this exhibition are members of the national PaperWEIGHT organisation which focuses on paper as an art form. Exhibits are constructed from recycled paper or paper made from unexpected materials. Techniques on show include free machine embroidery on tissue paper, sculpture created from waste paper, heat bonded and embellished weavings and collages, hand made papers incorporating plants, leaves and grasses, and screen printed surfaces. Everyone is welcome for the opening of the exhibition on **19 April**, 4pm - 6pm.

Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Elmfield House, Dowell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LX. Wednesday - Saturday 10am - 4pm, Wheelchair Accessible. Admission free. Tel: 01404 45006 or email: thelmahulbert@eastdevon.gov.uk



Angler
Margaret Crossley

This week in The Knowledge

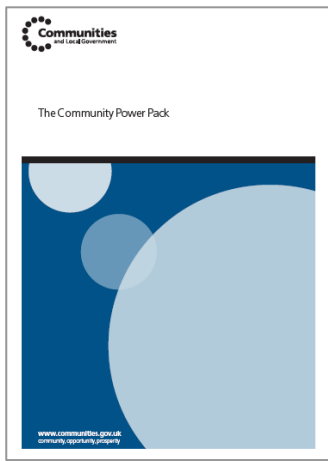
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Community Power Pack



The Community Power Pack has been created by Communities and Local Government with the help of **Involve** to aid local groups organise and facilitate discussions on the topic of empowerment. Your feedback will be used by Communities and Local Government to inform and shape empowerment activities, including the Empowerment White Paper. The pack contains suggestions for the format of the meeting, advice for facilitators and organisers as well as detailed information about key empowerment issues.

Involve is a not for profit and non-partisan organisation which exists to put people at the heart of decision-making. They believe that better public participation can help solve some of the UK's most pressing challenges and lead to the genuine empowerment of people.

The government is committed to involving and empowering ordinary citizens. Now the government wants suggestions on how it can make this commitment a reality through the Empowerment White Paper, due to be published in Summer 2008.

- What kind of democracy do we want to live in?
- How much power should central government have and on what issues?
- How much power should local government have and on what issues?
- How much power should local communities have and on what issues?
- Which decisions should be made locally?

Community-based events provide an excellent way to gather and discuss comments and suggestions on empowerment. This Power Pack contains information on how to run an event around the issue of empowerment, as well as background to the issues and how to feed back your views.

Download the Community Power Pack: <http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents>

Funding



The **Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP)** is a £9m grant scheme aimed at helping schools, village halls and community

organisations install microgeneration and energy saving technologies. A total of £8m is being made available for the installation of technology such as solar thermal systems, heat pumps and small scale wind turbines plus energy efficiency measures including loft and cavity wall insulation. Another £1m is available in Project Development grants - on a first come first served basis - to fund feasibility studies to identify the most appropriate mix of measures for particular buildings.

www.communitysustainable.org.uk

www.hvnplus.co.uk

First Light Movies fund groups of young people



aged 5-19 through various funding schemes. Pilot Award - Funding of up to £5,000 (requiring 20% in-kind match funding) for one short film of up to 5 minutes in

duration. What's the Big Idea? Award - Funding of up to £3,000 (10% in-kind match funding required) for script development projects that team young people with script professionals. Apply online - the forms for the Pilot and What's the Big Idea? Award scheme will be available on 29th April. www.firstlightmovies.com

Sign of the times



Rather than making road signposts as durable as possible so they survive a road crash, why not make them crumple safely so more drivers and passengers survive? This is what the street furniture industry has understood since the 1960s when the lightweight fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) columns were trialled in place of steel ones. But the higher cost of FRP compared with steel at the time, coupled with teething problems in their manufacture led to FRP posts being slow to appear on streets.

As technology in composite materials has improved and the understanding of the mechanism of road crashes has improved, the Highways Agency is now championing the need for "passive safe" signposts on its roads as a way of reducing fatalities in road crashes. "Passively safe signposts are being encouraged as the preferred choice for a replacement sign", says Highways Agency acting major projects director Ginny Clarke. "We are currently looking at extending this initiative and looking to use passively safe lighting columns and traffic signals as well as the signposts."

The system is UK designed and developed. Everything possible has been done to keep installation quick and easy, without needing new equipment or skills. The post can be installed in a similar way to a standard steel post, so it can be sunk directly into concrete or packed into a plastic socket that has previously been set in concrete.

Extract from New Civil Engineer, 27/03/08

See the Rural Housing Trust's plans for new affordable housing in Colyton

The Rural Housing Trust is holding an information session about proposed homes for rent and for shared ownership on **Monday 28 April 2008**, 2.30pm to 7.30pm, at Colyton Town Hall.

Find out more – or even register an interest in one of the proposed homes!

The Rural Housing Trust provides small developments of affordable housing for local people.

For further details, contact Rebecca Beaumont, Tel: 020 7793 8114. Email: info@ruralhousing.org.uk



Marathon man 2008



Flora London Marathon

Congratulations to Councillor Cope who once again took part in the London Marathon. Despite the snow, hail and a torrential downpour his final time of 4 hours 22 minutes 53 seconds was 19 minutes quicker than last year. He has raised a fantastic £1500 for the charity Merlin. You can read more detail about his results on the website: <http://results-2008>

Chairman's engagements

Sunday 20 April - Sid Vale Scouts St George's Day Parade, Parish Church, Sidmouth

Tuesday 22 April - South West Fire Control Service, Taunton - Tour and Lunch

Sunday 27 April - Devon County Council Civic Lunch and Service, Exmouth

Forthcoming meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 21 April	9.30am	CANCELLED
Corporate Overview Committee	Chris Lane	Thursday 24 April	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 28 April	9.30am	Council Chamber
Beach Concessions Task and Finish Forum	Chris Lane	Tuesday 29 April	6.30pm	Committee Room
Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board	Rachel Perram	Wednesday 30 April	2.00pm	Committee Room
Executive Board	Diana Vernon	Wednesday 30 April	5.30pm	Council Chamber
Housing Review Board	Rachel Perram	Thursday 1 May	6.30pm	Committee Room
Member Development Working Group	Diana Vernon	Friday 2 May	9.30am	Council Chamber

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).

To view agendas and minutes on the Council's website, click [here](#).

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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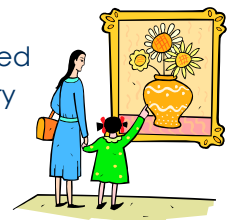
New documents in the Members' Area

Unlocking local treasure

This is a leaflet from the Local Government Association that aims to help elected members and non-specialist staff in local authorities make the most of the very valuable assets that they already own.

It explores the benefits that a well-managed museum or gallery collection brings to a local authority and the people whom it serves. Now available in the Members' Area.

The following websites may also be of help: www.museumsassociation.org www.mla.gov.uk



Feedback from outside bodies

RD&Express – the newsletter for members of the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust – March issue. Includes details of the Trust Governors for 2008.

The above document is in the 'Feedback from Outside Bodies' file on the bookcase in the Members' Area for your information.

Portfolio Holders decisions

Decision put to Portfolio Holder A decision will be published in a future edition of The Knowledge

Environment
(G K Liverton)

Granting of a licence to DCC for the construction of a cycle way at Sidford Playing Fields

To agree the release of a strip of land for the construction of a section of the Sidmouth to Sidford cycle way through the Council's playing fields at Sidford, subject to a 10 year licence agreement at a nominal £1 per annum.

Further details: Rob Speers, Senior Estates Surveyor, Ext 1588

News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

Media relations: award-winning tactics

From catching litter louts with 'robo-rangers' to avoiding a Christmas lights disaster, the way councils handle newsworthy stories is crucial to their reputation. Find out how 2 award-winning councils made these stories, and many others, work for them. www.idea.gov.uk

Country file: the challenge of Foot and Mouth



Since the 2001 outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease, deprivation among farming communities has increased, especially

when compared with the rest of the country. Read how local authorities and primary care trusts in the Derbyshire region aim to reverse this trend. www.idea.gov.uk

Most improved council



The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham has scooped

the 'Most Improved Council of the Year' prize at the Local Government Chronicle's annual national awards. Find out how the council secured this accolade. www.idea.gov.uk

Local Area Agreements (LAAs): Tackling teenage pregnancy



The ongoing LAA negotiations have highlighted the national indicator 'reducing the under-18 conception rate' as a key priority for

many areas. The new 'Partnerships and Places Library' has a wealth of information outlining different approaches to this issue.

www.idea.gov.uk

Leading on knowledge management

Dr Marilyn Leask, former Head of Knowledge and Learning at the IDeA, explains how local government will become more efficient by embracing the concepts of knowledge management. www.idea.gov.uk

Regional support

Regional working is now more important than ever. Regional improvement and efficiency partnerships (RIEPs) are crucial sources of support and funding for English councils and their partners. Find out about the support available in your region.

www.idea.gov.uk



Rural Services Network (RSN)

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

Regeneration scheme extended in Somerset



A 3 year programme to revitalise Somerset's rural economy has won a further £425,000 in funding. A partnership of 20 local agencies, the programme has supported 1,000 businesses since it was set up in 2004. More than 550 people have been able

to gain new skills and the scheme has directly created or safeguarded over 30 jobs.

www.rsnonline.org.uk

Call for support as rural firms struggle

Business leaders have called for more support after a sharp rise in the number of firms going bankrupt. www.rsnonline.org.uk

Cornwall to probe Post Office closures

Cornwall County Council is to investigate ways of overcoming the planned closure of dozens of post offices. Council members voted unanimously in favour of a motion calling on the local authority to investigate how it can keep local post offices open. They also agreed to invite interested parties to discuss ways to improve the viability of Post Office services, including using branches to deliver council services. www.rsnonline.org.uk

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

Neighbourhoods on the slide



A new Government report shows that nearly half of all neighbourhoods in England have become more 'geographically deprived' over the least three years. The closure

of schools, post offices and GP surgeries have had a significant impact. [Telegraph](#)

Government made profit on floods

Campaigners have accused the Government of



making a profit of almost half a billion pounds from the floods that devastated parts of Britain last year. The Tax Payers' Alliance (TPA) says that

because of VAT charged on home repairs, the Treasury made £525 million from taxpayers for work carried out to rebuild damaged property. At the same time, they say that ministers have only put forward £86 million into a fund to help repair damage in areas. [Telegraph](#)

New domestic violence laws not working



New laws to curb domestic violence have backfired and have ended up deterring victims from seeking help, according to a group of judges. Battered women have been reluctant to seek new orders for fear of giving their partners a criminal record.

[Times](#)

Schools to search for knives

Children in South Yorkshire will have to walk through metal detectors at school gates to ensure they are not armed with guns or knives. The pilot screening scheme at secondary schools will not distinguish between tough inner city and suburban areas with little crime. The controversial move by South Yorkshire Police was announced as it was revealed that more than one in 10 youngsters have been affected by gun and knife crime. [Express](#)

Council spy cases hit one thousand a month



More than 1,000 covert surveillance operations are being launched every month to investigate offences such as dog fouling, under age smoking and breaches of planning regulations. Councils and other public bodies are using Regulation of Investigator Powers Act 2000 (Ripa) to 'spy' on people. Last year Councils and Government departments made 12,494 applications for 'directed surveillance' according to figures released by the Office of Surveillance Commissioner. This was almost double the previous year. [Telegraph](#)

Poor performing school funding bias

The best performing schools in the country are receiving up to £1,800 per pupil less than their neighbours. The funding gap has been fuelled by a Government directive ordering councils to spend more on schools with disadvantaged pupils, or face intervention. [Telegraph](#)

Visitors flock to culture capital's museums



Visitor numbers at Liverpool's museums are showing dramatic increases as tourists and locals alike respond to the city's European Capital of Culture programme. The first three months of the year have shown a 40% rise in museum attendance figures compared with last year. [Financial Times](#)

Charters help improve people's view of council services

'Charters' between local communities and councils are restoring pride and improving services. Staffordshire Moorlands district council is one of around 15 councils working with statutory agencies in their areas to develop a 'charter' with local people. In Staffordshire the charter informs residents which agency is responsible for what, and who they should contact if they have problems with everyday issues such as refuse collection, grass cutting and dog fouling. [Guardian](#)

Twin towns expand to every continent

The first comprehensive survey of twinned towns published by the Local Government Association (LGA), shows a growing number of partnerships with places in countries as far as India, China and Indonesia. There are 2,527 towns with links to 87 countries across the world. More than a quarter of areas are now twinned with towns outside Western Europe. Chris White, chair of the LGA's culture, tourism and sport board, is quoted: "The original purpose was to create better understanding between nations that had been devastated by World War Two. Councils and their residents are looking even further afield and forming links with Middle Eastern and Asian countries not only to boost cultural understanding but also to help generate jobs and investment." [Financial Times](#)

New powers needed to tackle litter louts



Ministers are considering whether to extend the powers of councils to tackle the problem of rubbish being dumped from car windows. The aim would be to close a loophole in the law that requires councils to prove the identity of the person who discards litter from a car. Cllr Paul Bettison, chairman of the LGA's environment board, is quoted: "At a time when councils are coming under immense pressure to deal with littering, some of the current legislation is a mire of confusion. Registered keepers of vehicles can be prosecuted for speeding if details of the offender are given, so why not for littering?" [Times](#)

Litter campaign kicks off

The Campaign for the Protection of Rural England has launched its 'Stop the Drop' campaign, designed to clean up local areas and identify local 'grot spots'. Joan Ruddock, the Minister for Waste is considering giving people cash in exchange for returning used bottles. [Times](#)

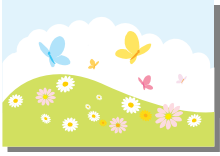
Lack of father figures help gangs recruit



Family breakdown and a lack of father figures could be to blame for pupils joining gangs, according to a report by the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers (NASUWT). [Telegraph](#)

In the press (continued)

Green eco-town plans



Caroline Flint, the housing minister faced with mounting objections to Government plans for 10 eco-towns on Greenfield sites has said that turning fields into housing estates could improve the green environment. She cites Milton Keynes as an example claiming the town is richer in bio-diversity than the Greenfield sites that were there beforehand. [Times](#)

War on motorists stepped up



Motorist groups have warned that the war on motorists is being stepped up with more speed cameras that will track drivers' journeys. They are complaining about speed traps that calculate a driver's average speed over several miles. [Express](#)

Please note that links to some websites will only work correctly if you have Adobe PDF Reader Version 7 or 8 on your computer. You can download this free from the Adobe [website](#).

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

You can access press items by going onto the secure Members' web page of EDDC's website and clicking on the 'In the Press' link. This is updated every Saturday.

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

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, please contact Democratic Services.

Telephone: (01395) 517542 or Extension 2746. Email: knowledge@eastdevon.gov.uk