

The Knowledge



Ladram Bay
Watercolour by Peter Lightfoot

This week in The Knowledge

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19 September 2008

Out and about

Energetic Walk



Saturday 20 September, 10am - 1.30pm

Join Steve Hagger (01395 442631) on this energetic seven mile walk through countryside, coastal paths and along rivers enjoying fine views. Some strenuous climbs. Organised by the [Otter Valley Association](#). Free.

Beer Quarry Caves Visit

Monday 22 September, 10.50am - 12pm

Join John Scott for this guided tour and talk of the famous Beer Caves. Further details: 01395 446761.



Spider Day at Offwell Woodland Education Centre

Saturday 27 September, 10.30am



Led by Peter Smithers of the Devon Invertebrate Group and University of Plymouth. Ideal for beginners and those with some knowledge of arachnids or insects. Numbers limited, please book in advance: 01404 831373.

Meet the Birds at Seaton Marshes

Friday 3 October, 9am - 12pm

Join James Chubb the Education Ranger in the bird hide for an introduction to birdwatching on the Axe Estuary. [SY249907](#). Free. Further details: 01395 517557. [Seaton Marshes leaflet](#).



East
Devon

District Council

Council Offices
Knowle
Sidmouth
EX10 8HL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

News from the Rural Services Network (RSN)

▶ Watchdog highlights transport challenge



People in the countryside lack adequate access to public transport, the Government's rural watchdog has warned. The Commission for Rural Communities has published five studies putting the spotlight on the transport challenges facing rural areas. Problems range from a lack of accessibility to key services, the effects of technological change and the implications of road pricing.

▶ Lack of transport 'blights young lives'



More than 70% of teachers believe transport problems mean children have difficulty getting to and from school or college. The situation has left pupils unable to get involved in school sports, choirs and orchestras or plays.

▶ Rural housing 15% more expensive

Average house prices are £15% higher in the countryside than in urban areas, says a report. The Halifax Rural Housing Review, which uses pricing data to calculate rural house price movements, covers 123 local authority areas. It shows that the average rural house price is £235,324 - some 15% higher than the average urban house price of £204,290.



▶ Axed Post Office reopens with council help

A closed post office has been reopened following help from a pioneering county council scheme. The branch - in Essex - is the first to reopen having been earmarked for closure under the Post Office's network change programme. A £1.5m scheme developed by Essex County Council could now be used to reopen up to 15 closed branches.

▶ How councils can best combat climate change



The dramatic increase in energy prices is heightening everyone's interest in climate change - there is nothing like saving money to prompt people into action. So what can rural councils and

communities do to tackle the issue? And how can they get local people to join them in taking action? Robert Bullard investigates ways rural councils can tackle climate change.

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>

Sidmouth Concert Society



2008/09 Season Programme

The Sidmouth's Concert Society's forthcoming season starts on Saturday 11 October. Concerts will be held either in the Council Chamber or at the Manor Pavilion Theatre. Full programmes will be on sale at each concert.

Should any Member wish to attend one or more of the concerts, we have a **complimentary season ticket for 2 people** available on a first come first served basis!

Please contact Jill Humphreys (PA to the Chief Executive)

Tel: 01395 517408 (or Ext 2608) Email: jhumphreys@eastdevon.gov.uk

Find out more about funding

▶ Community Matters

This is a national membership organisation supporting community associations, mainly community buildings. Any community group can get free advice, including advice on funding, from their telephone advice line on weekday mornings at 0845 8474253, and members get extra support services.

▶ Free advertising



Google Grants UK is offering free advertising to charities that share Google's philosophy of community

service to help the world in areas such as science and technology, education, global public health, the environment, youth advocacy, and the arts. As a result of this free advertising many charities experience an increase in the recruitment of volunteers and sponsorship. Applications can be made at any time.

▶ Historic buildings



The Architectural Heritage Fund has grants available for community and education facilities, workspaces and homes. The grants are available to voluntary organisations building preservation trusts to regenerate historic buildings. The closing date is 23 October.

▶ Devon Village Halls



The Community Council of Devon has set up a separate website for, and about, village halls and community buildings in Devon. It can help you advertise and promote your village hall, and also provides advice and support to village halls on funding.

▶ Blackdown Hills and East Devon AONB funding

Making it Local has just announced they are to benefit from an injection of £2.4million for investment in the Blackdown Hills and East Devon Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It is anticipated that in 2009 a grant scheme will be available and assessors will be particularly interested in applications concerned with culture, tourism, recreation, using natural resources sustainably and network building/bringing people together. Anyone interested in finding out more about the successful Making It Local bid should visit www.blackdown-hills.net, www.eastdevonaonb.org.uk or call Jenny Archard on 01823 680626.

Jamie Buckley (Engagement and Funding Officer)
Tel: 01395 517569 (or Ext 2769) Email: jbuckley@eastdevon.gov.uk

Portfolio Holder's decision

Decision by Portfolio Holder Members are notified of the following decision

Economy
(P Halse)

Transfer of Council Yard, Beer to Beer Parish Council

Agreeing to the transfer of the Council Yard at Clapps Lane, Beer to Beer Parish Council at nil consideration.

The above decision will become effective on 25 September 2008 at 9.00 am unless "called in". The published procedure for a "call in" is on pages 133-135 of the Council Constitution, or contact Democratic Services for assistance or explanation.

Meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 22 September	9.30am	Council Chamber
Note: there is no meeting of the Licensing & Enforcement Committee – this will now be held on 6 October				
Development Control Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 23 September	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Audit and Corporate Governance Committee	Christopher Holland	Thursday 25 September	4.30pm	Committee Room
Corporate Overview Committee	Chris Lane	Thursday 25 September	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 29 September	9.30am	Postponed until 13 October
Asset Management Forum	Chris Lane	Monday 29 September	10.00am	Committee Room
Manor Pavilion Management Steering Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 30 September	6.00pm	Committee Room
Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board	Rachel Perram	Wednesday 1 October	10.00am and 2.00pm	Committee Room
Executive Board	Diana Vernon	Wednesday 1 October	5.30pm	Council Chamber
Planning Inspections Committee	Christopher Holland	Friday 3 October	TBA	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).

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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Chairman's engagements

Friday 26 September

Chairman attending the Chairman of South Hams Civic Evening at the Langdown Court Country House Hotel, Plymouth.

News from the IDeA (Improvement and Development Agency)

▶ Corporate and district peer review

Peer reviews help councils to evaluate their capacity, demonstrate their achievements and meet their ambitions. Access the fully revised corporate and district peer review pages. Discover why "95% of chief executives" would recommend the IDeA to other councils considering a peer review.

▶ Teenagers get kicks from council activities



Hastings Borough Council is engaging teenagers by getting them to take part in a range of activities aimed at improving physical activity, social skills and self esteem. Young people can choose from over 100

activities, including hip hop street dance, Tai Chi and even bowls.

▶ Local government leadership – creating political value

Read the new collection of essays by political leaders from the three main parties. Published to coincide with the party conferences, the collection presents compelling research pieces alongside a number of different slants on the business of leadership in local government.

▶ Imagination Library



Since Dolly Parton brought her children's book scheme to the UK, over 5,000 children have registered in Rotherham, and more than 20 other UK councils have enquired about joining. Dolly Parton tells the IDeA about bringing her Imagination Library to the UK.

▶ Triumph on the buses

Read how a free Midlands travel service is on target to carry one million passengers. Medlink – a free bus system – connects Nottingham City Hospital and the Queens Medical Centre, providing a quick link between the hospitals. Discover how the bus operator has quickened its journey time from 30 minutes to 10.



▶ New housing provision and the strategic housing role

The importance of delivering sufficient and affordable new housing provision has become one of our national political priorities. Read this new IDeA publication and discover how your council can meet its strategic housing ambition.

EDDC team make a splash for charity!



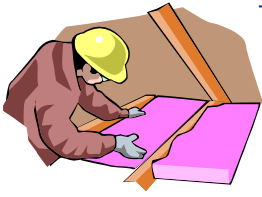
A team from EDDC took part in the 'Help for Heroes' swimathon at Sidmouth Swimming Pool on Sunday 7 September. The group of staff from Knowle – called the **2012 Hopefuls** – swam 183 lengths between them and raised over £500 for the charities supported by Sidmouth Rotary Club.

They were just one of many teams supporting the event, which aims to raise cash for injured service personnel who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The final figure collected is still being counted and will not be known until the end of September.

Photo: The EDDC team are pictured at poolside before their epic swim. Left to right: Mark Williams, Chief Executive; Yvonne Bastyan, Planning Assistant; Suzy Rockey, Customer Service Advisor; Nigel Meynell, Suzy's partner (works for Alcoa Howmet); Kerry Gibbons, Finance Assistant; Leigh Biddulph, Modern Apprentice in the Press Office; Nick Stephen, Press Officer; Judy Greene, Customer Service Advisor; Louise Reed, Customer Service Advisor; Sandra Cody, Customer Service Advisor.

In the press

▶ Energy package called into question



The Government's energy package has been called into question, following hints that energy companies may have to pass on costs to consumers. Industry sources also claimed that fewer than 150,000 new homes could be insulated this winter. The Financial Times also reports that the insulation drive should not cost energy companies very much because the cost can be knocked off their tax bill.

▶ Eco-towns to be tested in court

A judge has ruled that the Government's Eco-Town plans will have to be brought before the High Court as the public was not adequately consulted about the plans.

▶ More teachers suspended



The number of teachers suspended over allegations of pupil mistreatment has almost doubled in four years. There's also

been a rise in false allegations made by pupils and parents, according to teaching unions. 80 councils who answered an FOI (Freedom of Information) request from the BBC spent nearly £14.5 million on suspended teachers' salaries.

▶ Databases on child accusations setup

Councils are setting up databases to record accusations made against staff who work with children, which could see details about allegations held on file until the employee retires.



▶ 'Road clutter' axed

The Government is set to review 'road clutter' in a move that could see thousands of road signs removed.

▶ £60 million on youth crime

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announced a £60million crackdown on youth crime, with more after-school patrols, extra police, youth workers and ex-gang members to tackle troublesome teens.

▶ Pay-as-you-drive on the way

Trials for road pricing schemes will get under way within four months. Seven firms will take part "to help local councils test the technology for congestion charging". Express – 16/09/08

▶ £20 fine for engine idling



Motorists could face £20 on-the-spot fines if they leave their engines running while stuck in traffic. West Sussex Council, which is piloting the scheme, said it would target areas where exhaust emissions build up unnecessarily. Traffic wardens would warn drivers in the first instance, with a fine to follow for repeat offenders.

▶ New war on the motorist



High-tech speed cameras that track cars for up to six miles are being criticised as just another cash cow to swell Government coffers, by "Captain Gatso". The Department for Transport said their use would be decided by road safety partnerships. The Home Office is understood to be giving approval for the cameras in January.

▶ Design threshold for secondary schools

A minimum design threshold is to be applied to the £45bn Building Schools for the Future programme which involves improving or rebuilding 3,500 secondary schools. Schools minister Jim Knight is to announce that teachers and students will join experts in schools architecture to vet designs before they are selected by local authorities.

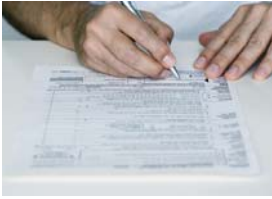
▶ Red tape and tax hurting pubs



A new report from the British Beer and Pub Association warns that many pubs could go out of business unless the Government steps in to reduce bureaucracy and taxes. The report calls for planned increases in tax on beer to be scrapped and plans for a mandatory code of practice to be dropped.

In the press (continued)

▶ Elderly face 'bureaucratic maze' to get help



A report from the Local Government Association (LGA) has stated that the procedures in place for the elderly to gain access to home help are overly complicated and bureaucratic.

LGA spokesman David Rogers is quoted: "It is utterly ridiculous so many administrative obstacles are put in the way of people who need help and support".

▶ Conmen home in on elderly

More than two out of three pensioners are regularly targeted by conmen, a survey for Help the Aged found. The survey found that older people lose £1,261 in the average successful scam, with most falling foul of non-existent lotteries or prize draws.

▶ Children failed



Action for Children has said that children are being failed by an endless stream of policies and laws designed to grab headlines but that ignore their real needs.

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

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:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readmain.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