

The Knowledge



Daffodils - Bowd
Photo: Lynne Jones

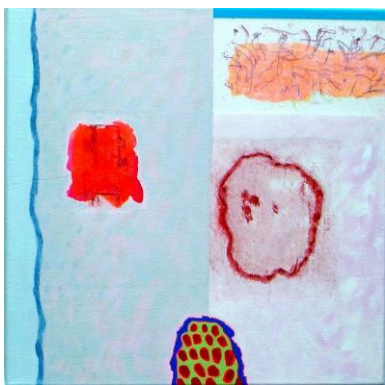
29 February 2008

New exhibition at Thelma Hulbert Gallery

The Thelma Hubert Gallery in Honiton has a new exhibition '7 Artists' opening on 1 March and continuing until 12 April 2008.

During the 1970s, 7 artists living on the Hampshire/Dorset border joined forces to share studios for portrait, figure and still life studies. Early members, Dennis Hill, Jean Lunn and Keyna Emerson have been joined by Michael Gough, Bonnie Brown, Peter Symons and most recently Ursula Leach. The new members bring the group a more contemporary focus whilst retaining a strong painterly approach.

Although individual members have exhibited at the Thelma Hulbert this will be the first group exhibition of their paintings at the gallery.



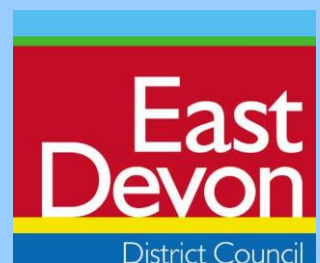
Illustrations: Key Haven by Dennis Hill (top); Wall Poems by Penny Brown (left)

Everyone is welcome to the preview on **Saturday 1 March** between 4pm - 6pm, when you can meet the exhibiting artists.

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

This week in The Knowledge

- Indian dance
- Post Office Network Change – update
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- Rural Services Network
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Council Offices
Knowle
Sidmouth
Devon
EX10 8HL

www.eastdevon.gov.uk

Correction – The Picture featuring on the front cover of the Knowledge last week was Axmouth Harbour and not Seaton Harbour as stated in the caption.

Indian dance

Anusha Subramanyam is a world renowned dancer in the Indian tradition and she, with her dance company Beeja, will be in Devon for just 2 performances.

Performed by 3 dancers, accompanied by live percussion 'Shankara' has been choreographed by Anusha. Beeja creates performances that combine pure dance, mime and theatre with text and music. In 'Shankara' characters, story and sub plots and emotions take on life and colour through a poetry of words, mime, melody and the impulse of movement and rhythm.

The performance explores the many facets of Shiva, the god of destruction and renewal, using the dance language of Bharatanatyam. This is a classical South Indian dance style that is identified with precision, energy and beauty.

Beeja will be at Darts Farm new Estuary Room (near Topsham) on **Friday 14 March** at 7.30pm, with a workshop at Aylesbeare Village Hall at 2.15pm. Full details and tickets £10/£6 from Janet on 01395 239181. Booking is essential as places are very limited, especially for the workshop, and at Darts Farm late-comers cannot be admitted.

Villages in Action has arranged these performances. For details of this and other performances across Devon contact 01363 773660 or email admin@villagesinaction.co.uk



Photo: Vipul Sangoi

Post Office Network Change - update



The Post Office Network Change Programme commenced in Devon on 4 February. Postmasters and Postmistresses are now being interviewed. The Post Office will advise EDDC of any proposed changes on 20 May after which there will be a 6 week consultation period.

Please note that any information about possible "change" before 20 May must remain in confidence in order to protect any compensation that may be due to the office concerned.

EDDC and Devon County Council have advised the Network Change team of our concern at losing any Post Offices .

Chairman's engagements

Saturday 1 March

Chairman and Vice Chairman to attend South Hams District Council Civic Lunch, The Cottage Hotel, Hope Cove.

Funding

The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) has been formally launched in the region by the South West Regional Development Agency, Natural England and the Forestry Commission. The programme will provide

financial support for a wide range of activities in rural areas including environmental stewardship, skills development, farming and forestry diversification, resource management, renewable energy supply chains and community-led development. Read more on the website:

<http://www.rise-sw.co.uk/>

The Brighton Rock Trust supports projects which counter the effects of climate change. Locally based initiatives can apply. Funding will only be provided through accredited third party partners and the Trust will not accept any unsolicited applications. To view the details of this grant visit the website: <http://www.grantsnet.co.uk/>

The Community Sustainable Energy Programme (CSEP) is for those working to help



their local community become more energy efficient. A total of over £10.1 million will enable communities across the UK to reduce their carbon footprint. Groups will be able to apply for grants to install small-scale

energy efficient technology such as wind turbines or solar panels on sites including village halls, visitor centres or schools. Funding to improve building insulation will also be offered. Grants will only be awarded to eligible not-for-profit community-based organisations in England. Project development funding to look at the feasibility of the above measures will also be available. It is anticipated that the Community Sustainable Energy Programme will open for applications in April 2008. For further information visit www.communitysustainable.org.uk or email your contact details to info@communitysustainable.org.uk

Doggone!

Despite much work over recent years by EDDC, dog mess on the streets and in public spaces still remains in the top 5 of public concerns. Now the Council has adopted a different approach to address the problem. In addition to enforcing legislation and giving fixed penalties to offending dog-owners, EDDC is also rewarding people who are 'Caught Doing Right!'.

The new scheme is part of a series of activities to tackle this ongoing problem, which includes supplying and emptying 319 dog bins weekly and focusing on popular dog walking areas. Andrew Ennis, an EDDC Environmental Health Manager, said: "Statistics show the vast majority of dog walkers are doing the right thing. We want to encourage these people to continue picking up, so we are offering them the chance of a reward. Anyone seen picking up after their dog will be handed a Freepost card. This entitles them to enter a draw offering prizes that include a free supply of dog food or a visit to Crufts. We believe this scheme will have a positive impact on the problem of dog fouling. In addition to making sure that they always pick up after their own dogs, members of the public are being encouraged to report in confidence anyone they know who does not. We will target these people and offenders face prosecution with a maximum penalty of a £1,000 fine, although first-time offenders may be offered a £50 fixed penalty as an alternative".

Anyone wishing to report dog fouling issues should call EDDC on 01395 517457 or email:

environmentalhealth@eastdevon.gov.uk

Nick Stephen (Communications Officer)

Tel: 01395 517 559 Email: nstephen@eastdevon.gov.uk



Shoreline Management Plan for South Devon and Dorset

The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) for the coast between Durlston Head, near Swanage and Rame Head, near Plymouth, is currently being reviewed. The plan process, led by Teignbridge District Council on behalf of the South Devon and Dorset Coastal Authorities Group (SDADCAG), will help shape this section of coast over the next 100 years.

There will be consultation events held to ensure that the process adequately deals with issues and concerns of the communities, businesses and organisations. The events most local to this district are:

Monday 3 March – Woodmead, Lyme Regis

Wednesday 5 March – Elizabeth Hall, Exmouth

Each event will be open between 2pm and 7.30pm.

Please ring 01626 215778 or email smp@teignbridge.gov.uk with your preferred date and venue.

Further details of the SMP process and location maps can be accessed at www.sdadcag.org



Nationwide Community and Heritage Awards

Nationwide Community & Heritage Awards

in partnership with the



Help us champion
your local volunteer



Throughout the United Kingdom, there are thousands of people – individuals and groups – who give their time and energy to improve the life of members of the community. Very few of these unsung heroes in our communities expect recognition, but they certainly deserve it. This is why Nationwide Awards for Voluntary Endeavour have been introduced. The scheme has now been successfully running for ten years. In that time, 13,000 nominations have been received – and 1,200 awards presented.

To mark a decade of recognising the importance of volunteering, this year the awards scheme has been extended to encompass the theme of heritage. The Nationwide Community and Heritage Awards are being launched on 18 February 2008.

The awards are designed to recognise the work of local heroes in our communities throughout the UK. Members of the public can nominate people and groups who they feel have given outstanding service in voluntary and community work. Everyone nominated for an award will receive a certificate to mark their achievement.

Leaflets and posters are available in the Members' Area. If you have any queries, please contact Nationwide Building Society on 01793 655139.

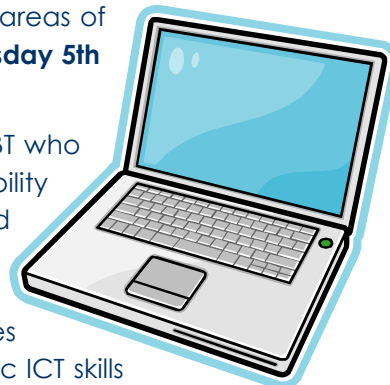
Obituary

Honorary Alderman David Ernest Gibbons born 2 September 1933 passed away on Wednesday 20th February 2008. At his request, the funeral has already taken place. A Remembrance Service is to be arranged at a later date. All enquiries to Richard Gegg 01395 222444

Rural Issues and ICT come together at National Conference

An event focussing on the needs of organisations working in the rural areas of England and how ICT can help in their work is taking place on **Wednesday 5th March 2008 at Lackham College near Chippenham.**

Keynote speakers for the event are Richard Fox and Ben Taylor from BT who will explain their roles in developing the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) agenda and their work on digital inclusion, research and development and being different. Access to Information and Communications Technology (ICT) can open doors to education, jobs, entertainment and personal contacts. Government figures estimate that 60% of existing and 90% of new jobs require at least basic ICT skills meaning that businesses and individuals stand to benefit from a digitally inclusive society wherever they may live.



The event is part of a series of national conferences being promoted by the ICT Hub and Matt Legg from ICT Hub explains "we will see this event addressing rural issues as of utmost importance. Rural groups do have a distinct set of issues as regards the use of ICT. Working with COSMIC and I-Trust in developing and running this event we are passionate about addressing some of these needs and raising awareness of the local and national support and materials available to assist these groups in better understanding how ICT can help solve some of these specific issues."

The conference brings together key players from around the UK in addressing issues of rurality and ICT support, including the national ICT Hub, ruralnet|uk, BT, and key ICT support and service organisations. The event is also being supported by the South West Regional Development Agency which is keen to demonstrate the role of third sector organisations and ICT in developing the regional economy.

For Further information on the event and to book please visit <http://www.cosmic.org.uk/news/145>

Feedback from outside bodies

- **Honiton Library Advice & Information Centre Management Committee** - Minutes of meeting held on 17 January 2008.

The above documents are 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

Economy
(P Halse)

Honiton Street Market – Tolls for 2008/09

To agree that there be no increase in the Market tolls for 2008/09.

Further details: Chris Lane, Democratic Services Officer, Ext 2744.

Devon Water Vole Recovery Project

It was announced on Tuesday 26 February by Joan Ruddock, Minister for Biodiversity, that the water vole is shortly to get full legal protection under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. This is in recognition of the dramatic decline of the water vole over recent years and that any losses could be damaging. Past estimates of the water vole population suggested that in 2005 their population might have fallen to 200,000 from 900,000 in the year 2000 which was in turn down from 7 million in 1989. Other than one reintroduced population, the water vole is thought to be extinct in the wild in Devon and Cornwall.

SITA Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund is supporting East Devon District Council's three year project to encourage the natural re-colonisation of Devon's rivers by water vole. At the moment water voles are present to the north and east of Devon and some of the East Devon rivers like the Axe, the Otter and the Yarty are the next nearest catchments.



The national, regional and local Species Action Plans for water vole reflect the present understanding that overall the species has declined due to the loss of suitable habitat and predation by the introduced American mink. Improving the habitat and its connectivity as well as controlling the mink would give the best chance of water voles re-colonising naturally. Many sites have been identified on the Rivers Axe and Otter which, with suitable practical enhancement work, could provide good habitat for water voles. Such work would include the coppicing of bankside alder, re-pollarding of willows, the fencing of stream and riverside fields to include a buffer strip and the restoration of ponds. Coppicing or pollarding of bankside trees allows more light back on the water and will favour the bankside and aquatic vegetation that water voles need for food and cover.

The practical work along the rivers will of course help many other groups such as fish (salmon, sea trout and brown trout benefiting from cleaner water and better aquatic vegetation growth) and insects which will have more extensive stands of native plants along the margins of rivers and ponds. The project is aiming to protect 11 kilometres of riverbank and to restore 20 ponds as well as to create new ponds and wetland areas. This will be done both with contractors and local volunteers. There will be educational and experiential benefits to young people as many schools and colleges will be approached to give their children the opportunity to help with practical elements of the project. Exeter and Bristol University students are also likely to become involved in aspects of the work.

A network of 'mink rafts' will be monitored on the River Axe and the River Otter as well as on the Lim, the Sid, the Snod, the Beer in addition to Branscombe and other streams. Inside the raft's tunnel there is a panel of soft clay which is marked by the paw prints of each passing animal. The use of these mink rafts has been recommended in all recent best practice advice and facilitates the efficient tracking and subsequent trapping of this problem species.

As well as attracting SITA Trust funding, this work is also supported by the Environment Agency, Natural England and the East Devon AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

Mervyn Newman
Water Vole Project Officer
Devon Water Vole Recovery Project
Tel: 01395 516551 Ext 2061 Email: mnewman@eastdevon.gov.uk

Photo: Terry Whittaker

Rural Services Network

rsnonline
RURAL SERVICES NETWORK



PUBLIC OPINION:
We need ideas, says Jonathan Kestenbaum



TAYLOR REVIEW:
Ensure your views are heard on rural affordable homes



POST OFFICES:
Special report on the future of the rural network

The Rural Services Network (RSN) now has a website: www.rsnonline.org.uk

RSN online acts as a rural consultant at your fingertips, combining dedicated rural news, analysis and briefings with an online forum and web-based document store. Here are the latest news items (click the headings to view the article):

Council's £1.5m bid to save post offices

A lack of clarity is making it almost impossible for rural residents to prevent Post Office closures, warn MPs.

Should public money be used to save post offices?

Participate in our online debate on the future of the rural post office network.

What next for post offices?

An examination of the implications of the Post Office's Network Change Programme, involving the closure of 2,500 Post Office branches.

Planning rules threaten Lakeland economy

National planning policies are stifling the rural economy in the Lake District, the government has been warned.

Police 'failing' in fight against crime

A Suffolk police chief admits that his force is failing to deliver in its attempt to tackle rural crime.

Local or national – who owns planning?

South Lakeland District Council highlights some fundamental challenges faced by rural local authorities dealing with planning.

Planning and Development Control

Discover how well your local authority's planning policies compare with other councils.

Tory leader speaks out on rural services

Vital rural services are being lost in a mountain of red tape and government bureaucracy, Tory leader David Cameron has warned.

Battle escalates over rural schools

Council leaders in Herefordshire are to meet schools minister Jim Knight to argue their case for the protection of rural schools.

The Taylor Review

Help formulate the network's response to the Matthew Taylor Review on rural economy and rural housing.

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>

Licensing Act 2003

http://www.eastdevon.gov.uk/applications_received

Access to new applications received relating to the Licensing Act 2003. On this page you can download information on licensing applications which have been received by the Licensing Authority and are currently within the 28 day period for receipt of representations / objections.

Executive Board: 27 February 2008 Members are notified of the following decisions:

	Item	Decision
163	Housing Review Board Scrutiny Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) that the following decisions be noted: Scrutiny 51, 52, 55, 56, 57 2) that the following recommendations be approved: Housing Review Board: 60, 66, 67, 68 Scrutiny: 50, 54, 58 3) that the following recommendations be referred to Council for approval: Housing Review Board: 62, 63, 64, 65 Scrutiny 53 (subject to recommendation 13 now reading "that a minimum level of ICT competency for all employees and councillors be agreed"
164	Member Development Working Group	That the actions recommended by the group as detailed in the agenda be noted and supported
165	Local Area Agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) that the Board's discussion and feedback on the draft list of Devon Local Area Agreement priorities be referred to the County Council's Community Strategy Officer, 2) that this Council welcomes the opportunity to include an East Devon page within the Local Area Agreement to reflect local issues and service provision sensitive to the local community and environment.
166	Revenue and Capital Monitoring report- month Ten 2007/08	that variances identified as part of the Revenue and Capital Monitoring process for month 10 of 2007/08 be noted, including the effect of the Council's Reserves and Balances
167	Passionate: about people, place and performance	that the report and action plans for service performance improvements be approved.
168	Consultation documents supporting the implementation of the "Strong and Prosperous Communities" White Paper	that the implications of the consultation documents and the expanded roles of partnership and community engagement and empowerment be noted.
169	Procurement Strategy	that the Management Team be asked to consider the staffing structure within the Council to achieve effective procurement and for a robust system of monitoring to be in place to achieve value for money.
170	Up-date on the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act	that the number and type of requests made under the Freedom of Information Act during 2007 be noted,

Executive Board: 27 February 2008 (Continued)

	Item	Decision
171	Independent Remuneration Panel – remit	that, at its forthcoming meeting, the Independent Remuneration Panel be asked to consider the Members' Basic Allowance Payment for 2008/09, to consider the indexation of future payments and whether the costs associated with broadband usage should be included into the Basic Allowance.
172	Request for exemption to standing orders	that the exemption to standing orders for the increase in spend of £8,000 above the threshold limit of £30,000 be agreed.
175	Proposed Marina and Ham Redevelopment, Sidmouth	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) that the Corporate Director be authorised to pursue negotiations with the Trustees of the Army Cadets Force to acquire the existing Drill Hall site and to prepare, in partnership with Sidmouth Town Council, a planning brief for the future redevelopment of the Ham Lane/Port Royal Area, 2) that the proposal to develop a Marina at the eastern end of Sidmouth Esplanade be not pursued, 3) that the EDDC Communications Officer respond to all communications received in respect of the Marina proposal on behalf of Councillors.
176	Acquisition of Office accommodation at Silverdown Office Park, Exeter Airport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) that authority be granted for the Council to acquire additional office accommodation for the East of Exeter Projects Team at Silverdown Office Park, Exeter Airport on a leasehold basis, 2) that the Growth Team report back to the Executive Board on the staffing of these offices.

The above decisions will become effective on Thursday 6 March 2008 at 9.00am unless “called in”. The published procedure for a “call in” is on pages 133-135 of the Council Constitution (as amended at the Annual Meeting of the Council), or contact Democratic Services for assistance or explanation. Recommendations by the Executive Board to Council are not included above, as they are not subject to “call in”.

Forthcoming meetings

Meeting	Officer Contact	Date	Time	Location
Licensing and Enforcement Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 3 March	9.30am	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 3 March	9.30am	Council Chamber
Recycling and Refuse Partnership Board	Rachel Perram	Monday 3 March	2.00pm	Room 1
Exeter Airport Consultative Group	Chris Lane	Wednesday 5 March	2.15pm	Exeter Airport
Planning Task and Finish Forum	Christopher Holland	Wednesday 5 March	4.00pm	Room 1
Scrutiny Committee	Debbie Meakin	Wednesday 5 March	6.30pm	Council Chamber
East Devon Business Forum – Special	Chris Lane	Thursday 6 March	6.00pm	East Devon Business Centre
Housing Review Board	Rachel Perram	Thursday 6 March	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Licensing & Enforcement Sub Committee	Chris Lane	Monday 10 March	9.30am	Council Chamber
Development Control Committee	Christopher Holland	Tuesday 11 March	2.00pm	Council Chamber
Elizabeth Hall Advisory Forum	Chris Lane	Tuesday 11 March	7.00pm	Town Hall, Exmouth
Seaton Town Hall Advisory Forum	Chris Lane / Hannah Jarvis	Wednesday 12 March	7.00pm	Town Hall, Seaton
Local Joint Panel	Hannah Jarvis	Thursday 13 March	9.30am	Members' Area
Exmouth and Seaton Gateway Centres Task and Finish Forum	Debbie Meakin	Thursday 13 March	6.30pm	Council Chamber
Capital Task and Finish Forum	Diana Vernon	Friday 14 March	4.30pm	Members' Area

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.

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, reports and minutes on the Council's website, choose Quick Links (Committee Papers) on the front page of the website.

To view planning applications online, choose Planning on Quick Links, then click the Planning Online logo.

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)

Innovative approaches to rural services



Small grants schemes for local enterprises and electronic customer service points in village halls are just two examples of good practice to have emerged from Defra's

Rural Delivery Pathfinders programme. In this new resource, we look at some of the innovative work done by the eight regional pathfinders to join up service delivery and respond to local priorities.

www.idea.gov.uk

Health and wellbeing in Merton

Nowadays employers are expected to ensure the health of their employees, particularly in the public sector. Find out how the London Borough of Merton is meeting employee expectations by developing its Healthier Workforce programme.

www.idea.gov.uk

Local strategic partnerships: managing performance and resources

The Audit Commission has commissioned York Consulting to carry out a major survey of LSPs. The survey will be sent to all LSP coordinators in March to collect their views and those of their key partners. It will inform the Commission's national study of how LSPs manage performance and resources.

www.idea.gov.uk

Scarborough: sustainable sandcastles

Many of us have memories of idyllic family holidays at the seaside but not all of the UK's resorts are currently flourishing.

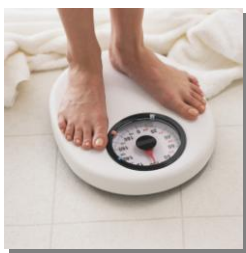
Find out how place shaping can reverse this trend and how the coastal town of Scarborough is very much on the up.

www.idea.gov.uk



In the press

Too fat by five



Almost a quarter of children are too fat by the age of five, a study from the National Child Measurement Programme has revealed. By the time they reach 11, that figure has risen to a third -

and it is feared the problem could be even greater. [Telegraph](#)

Museum ethics

A new code of ethics for museums has been agreed to make sure collections over the long term are put to best use. It gives details of how a museum should expand a collection when resources are limited and how works should be transferred to other, more appropriate public sector collections. [Guardian](#)

Council bans smoking outside pubs

Barnsley Council is set to be the first authority to ban smoking cigarettes outside of pubs. [Mail](#)

Ministers plans for failing schools

Ministers are working on plans to send teams of expert leaders into hundreds of struggling schools or change their status to academies or trusts in a bid to eliminate low performers. Local authorities have been given until the summer to set a deadline to develop action plans. Cllr Les Lawrence, Chairman of the LGA's Children and Young People Board, said: "We haven't had the powers to improve schools for long. We need time to make them work - not more pressure which creates a climate of failure."

School truancy hits record levels



Truancy has soared to record levels with more than 63,000 pupils dodging lessons in England's Kevin Brennan said the rise could be due to schools getting stricter on excuses. [Mirror](#)

Hospitals rig waiting list, Government admits



NHS hospitals across England are systematically rigging their waiting lists to make it look as if they are hitting key Government targets, the Department of Health acknowledged. Many NHS trusts are telling GPs that their lists are full over the next

few weeks and refusing to make advance bookings for later in the year. [Guardian](#)

Drugs strategy to get tough on addicts

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith had unveiled the Government's ten year drug strategy. In a bid to tackle drug crime and addiction, jobless addicts who refuse to have drug treatment will face having their benefits cut and suspected drug dealers will have their assets frozen on arrest. Sir Simon Milton, Chairman of the LGA, is quoted: "Assets confiscated from convicted drug dealers should be ploughed back into the local area".

[Mail](#)

Drug damaged Britain

Illegal drug use cost Britain an estimated £110 billion but only £3 billion a year has been spent on tackling the problem, a report by Addaction has revealed. [Mail](#)

Banish the bag campaign



The Daily Mail kicks off its 'Banish the Bag' the campaign calling on people to put pressure on the Government to ban plastic bags.

[Mail](#)

M&S charge for bags

Marks and Spencer is to charge food customers 5p for every carrier bag they use the chain said last night. [Mirror](#)

Asda gets tough on teenage drinkers

Asda will no longer sell alcohol in its town centre stores between midnight and 6am, and it will no longer stock fruit-flavoured shot-sized "shooters" popular with teenagers. The supermarket said it may also prosecute under-18s who try to buy drink illegally. [Mail](#)

Standard school year could save families £500 a year

Families are being forced to spend hundreds of pounds on childcare to cover extended school holidays because fixed national term times have not been adopted. Parents with children at different schools, sometimes only a mile apart but under different education authorities, have struggled to cover the two weeks over this half-term - and their problems will be worse at Easter. The LGA calculates nine million families could save up to £500 a year on emergency childcare and play schemes if all schools moved to the standardised calendar. [Observer](#)

lose sink schools to encourage social diversity says admissions chief



Secondary schools that have been abandoned by middle class families should be closed to guard against social segregation, according

to Philip Hunter, the chief schools adjudicator. School catchment areas should also be redrawn to force a more socially mixed education system. [Guardian](#)

A third fail to master basics at school

According to new results released today, over a third of children in England are failing to master the basics after three years at secondary school. [Telegraph](#)

Olympic funding squeeze forces art groups to look elsewhere

Arts groups have complained of a further squeeze on resources after being told to look for funding wherever they can find it if they want to



be involved in the cultural events linked to London 2012.

Organisations heard that there was no single pot of money available for the Cultural Olympiad, a four-year festival of culture billed by the Government as central to a successful Olympics. [Times](#)

In the press (continued)

Council to stop shops selling strong beer

Supermarkets and off-licences are joining forces with council officials to tackle street drinking by taking super-strength lager and cider off their shelves. "We should be treating the sale of



alcohol in the same way we treat tobacco - with all the relevant pricing restraints and health warnings," said Sir Simon Milton, leader of Westminster

council, and chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA). Meanwhile, Liverpool councillors plan to ban McDonald's Happy Meals in the city in a bid to cut childhood obesity.

[Independent](#)

Free bus travel will lead to council cuts

Councils face having to cut services after the introduction of free nationwide bus travel, says the LGA. Seaside towns that attract elderly visitors will be badly affected by the Government's failure to pay for the new benefit. The Government has given councils £212 million to fund the scheme but many say that there will be a shortfall. The Times leader says decentralisation is the way forward. David Sparks, chairman of the LGA transport board, said: "Free bus travel is great for millions of older people but will leave many councils in the area where they are travelling to bear much of the cost."



[Times](#)

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

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, please contact Democratic Services.

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