

# Honiton

Dulman's

View from



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Tuesday, April 21st 2015

Spotlight  
on..

## Honiton

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## 'Huge leap' in fight to save day centre

PROFESSIONAL day care services for older people could soon be returning to Honiton, after community leaders celebrated a "huge leap forward" in their bid to save the St Michael's day centre.

Dedicated volunteers fighting to secure the building's future have now struck a deal with county council chiefs to provide day care services at the building for three-and-a-half days a week.

They will now seek to establish a community interest company to help them raise enough money to get the project off the ground later this year.

A small group of volunteers came together soon after Devon County Council announced it would no longer be able to cover the cost of day services for older people at St Michael's.

Under a new name – provisionally the 'Honiton 55+ Centre' – the group hopes to recruit two paid members of staff to work alongside an army of volunteers in restoring regular day care services at the building.

The group plans to provide clients with the option of full or half-day visits, with a regular lunch club and coffee mornings also in the pipeline.

Around £6,000 has already been contributed to help kick-start the project, and those leading the scheme say they are confident of raising the money required.

Jackie Wadsworth, whose elderly mother is a former user of the St Michael's day centre, began the project last year and is now being supported by a team of volunteers.

"The idea was first raised at Christmas, when my mother was upset about having to say goodbye to the many friends she had made at St Michael's," she said.

"The first six months is going to be very hard graft for whoever is involved, but we will start slowly and gradually build things up."

John Zarczynski, who was appointed the group's chairman at a meeting last week, said: "We have had promises of substantial donations and will be able to

by Jack Dixon  
jack@pemedi.co.uk

apply for grants from a long list of sources. So we feel we will have enough money to make the commitment as far as staffing is concerned.

"But the important thing is that we have had the offer from the council – we have made a huge leap forward by securing the three-and-a-half days.

"There will be many more hurdles to clear but we have jumped the first one."

As well as providing a service for former clients of St Michael's, Mr Zarczynski said the group wants to extend the building to anyone over the age of 55.

They also want to expand the scope of the service over time, with a long-term vision to provide a benefits clinic and treatment room at the centre.

Mr Zarczynski added: "It sounds like a great deal

for us to organise, but it's something we will be working on and expanding as we go along.

"If we do not lay the foundations now we cannot expect these things to happen in the future."

Devon County Council announced last year that it would be withdrawing its funding for day centres, as part of a programme of cost-cutting measures.

Alternative day care provision has since been arranged for many of the centre's former users.

But Mr Zarczynski said there are "many people

who have been reallocated against their wishes and scattered across the area".

"Some of them will miss their friends and their surroundings. We will give them the chance to come back," he said.

Neil Hurlock, from the TRIP Community Transport Association, has also stepped in to manage the finances.

Mr Hurlock said a substantial donation had already been made towards the project, with some of the money to be used to set up the company and produce a business plan.

And the group is already looking ahead to August, by which time they hope to have the service up and running.

Anyone interested in supporting the project should contact Jackie Wadsworth on jacbar007@btinternet.com or 01404 43935.

■ **COMMUNITY CARE:** Jackie Wadsworth and John Zarczynski, pictured, are leading a project to restore care services to the St Michael's day centre building in Honiton



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## YOUR TOWN, YOUR NEWS...YOUR VIEW – across East Devon



# IN THIS WEEK'S PULMAN'S VIEW

## SPORT

### Indoor bowls

THE closing meet of the season saw Ilminster win the Grainger Cup on the home turf of Ilminster Bowls Club.

Full story on page 66



◆ GRAINGER CUP CHAMPS from right: Matt Hamilton, Peter Mattravers, Colin Spurway, Jason Miles, Alan Holt, Gerry Morris, Steve Turner and Kevin Hamilton

# View 2

The ultimate leisure guide for East Devon & South Somerset

- ▶ AN EVENING OF CLAIRVOYANCE
- ▶ JAZZ JAM GIG
- ▶ LIVELY SHOW AT BEER WURLITZER
- ▶ MURDER MYSTERY ON THE TRAM
- ▶ ROBERTS & LAKEMAN
- ▶ IMAGES FROM LIFE AND MUSIC
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**SEE PAGES 27-33**



## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS



**ILMINSTER:** Andrew Fox organised and hosted the town's inaugural Town Crier Competition



**HONITON:** Jackie Wadsworth founded the now fast-progressing project to bring day care for older people back to the town



**AXMINSTER:** Neil Parish, East Devon Tory parliamentary candidate, updated the public at a meeting over the notorious Hunters Lodge A35 blackspot



**OTTERY:** Helen Harms is the new chief officer of local community services charity the Ottery Help Scheme



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## TOP STORIES FROM ACROSS EAST DEVON AND SOUTH SOMERSET

### SEATON

## Council meet residents over parking issues

**CAMPAIGNERS** behind an 80-strong petition against new parking restrictions won a partial victory when Devon County Council (DCC) agreed to meet them and put their concern on the agenda.

There is no guarantee that the double yellow lines they oppose will be removed but DCC has agreed to meet the residents of Seaton Down Road who object to the yellow lines down a section of the road between Ryall's Court and Cherry Drive.

They claimed to have been "appalled" at the beginning of October to find that parking restrictions had been put in place without warning. DCC denies to have acted without warning, but has agreed to review the matter.

## From the editor's chair Rising to the challenge



**I'VE** spent most of my adult life involved in sport in one way or another.

As a young man I played football and cricket, finishing the former when I was 35 and the latter when I was 55.

I went on to manage a sports publishing company in London where I met many of my sporting idols. Some were decent chaps; others, well put it this way, you wouldn't want your daughter to marry them.

When I returned from London I spent 10 years as chairman of my home-town football club and I am now proud to be a life-member and President.

I've made many friends through sport and enjoyed some fantastic occasions at sporting arenas around the world.

But my greatest regret is that I failed to deliver new sporting facilities in Lyme where the

ill-fated Strawberry Field project to find a new home for Lyme Regis FC failed miserably, never to be resurrected.

So I've taken a great interest in Axminster Town's move to brilliant new facilities in Chard Road, a project that has not been without its problems but at long last seems to be reaching fruition. I wish them well.

I was also interested to hear this week that Ilminster Town FC have fears that their Gooch Pavilion project, with the finance secured, could be jeopardised by alleged misinformation sweeping the town about the club's ability to manage such a facility.

I've always considered Ilminster FC to be one of the best run sporting clubs in the area and have no doubt they are more than capable of rising to the challenge.

Philip Evans

### HONITON

## 'Huge leap' in fight to save day centre

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They will now seek to establish a community interest company to help them raise enough money to get the project off the ground later this year.

And the group is already looking ahead to August, by which time they hope to have the service up and running.

### CREWKERNE

## Schools create outdoor areas with £40,000 grant

**PUPILS** at two primary schools in the Crewkerne area are reaping the benefits of grants totalling almost £40,000.

The Crewkerne and Misterton Federation consists of Ashlands Church of England First School and Misterton Church of England First School.

Both schools have been able to transform outdoor areas thanks to grants from Sport England's Primary Spaces Fund.

School business manager Lisa Carter explained: "The Crewkerne and Misterton Federation is thrilled to have been awarded £17,400 for Ashlands Church of England First School and £18,500 to Misterton Church of England First School.

Lisa added: "The investments have been used to further transform the schools' out-

door spaces, creating vibrant multi-activity games areas including traverse climbing walls that can be used both within the curriculum and outside school hours by local communities."

Carol Wills, who is the headteacher of both schools, said: "The grants have made a huge difference to both schools."

### COLYTON & COLYFORD

## Council agrees to take on the town library

**COLYTON** Parish Council has agreed in principle to take on ownership of the town's library after it was chosen as one of 12 across the county to pilot a community-led scheme.

Following public consultation after it was announced that Devon County Council had to cut its library budget £1.5million over the next four years, Colyton was named as one of 12 libraries across the county to pilot a scheme which would see the local community taking greater responsibility in running the facility.

Devon County Council is working with community groups in the 12 towns to help shape the new organisation and try new ways of involving local people so they can have more say on how their library is run. In Colyton, the council has been working with the Friends of Colyton Library.

Having attended a meeting with the Friends, parish councillor Sheila Smith reported back to the council last week, asking if they would consider taking ownership of the building.

Jane Dauncey of the Friends of Colyton Library said: "We are very pleased the parish council has agreed in principal to take on the building and we look forward to working with them closely in the future.

"This is a major step towards achieving our goal of a secure community library for Colyton."

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