

Well & Warm this Winter
How off grid customers can save and earn extra benefits.

Smart Meter Awareness
Project reaches deep into the rural community - results announced.

Social Enterprise Cares
A focus on two services supporting the elderly and vulnerable in Devon.

Rural Futures Conference
A date for your diary - introducing the 2017 conference.

Village Green

community news & views : Issue 146



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Issue 146

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THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND



Devon Communities Together is the operating name for The Community Council of Devon

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"Our vision
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futures."

Village Green

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Contribute: We welcome all contributions to Village Green but regret that we cannot guarantee publication and we reserve the right to edit for reasons of space or style.

President: John Lee OBE
Chair: Teresa Butchers FCIH
Chief Executive: Elaine Cook

Contact:

01392 248919

info@devoncommunities.org.uk

www.devoncommunities.org.uk



FROM THE CHIEF EXEC'S DESK

Welcome to our winter edition of Village Green. I am writing this on my first day back in the office following the Christmas and New Year break and was reminded this morning of just how cold Devon can get when at 7.30 a.m. in -5° I not only had to de-ice my windscreen and windows but also my frozen car doors and locks. Not only must I remember to put my winter weather kit (torch, blanket, shovel etc.) in to the car but also not to leave my de-icer and scraper in the boot which was also frozen shut.

It's this time of year when our Devon Oil Collective (DOC) really comes in to its own. Now 4 years old DOC's bulk oil buying power is getting the very best oil prices for its members. Currently we are looking for local co-ordinators. If you could volunteer some time to

help people in your local community access the benefits of DOC or would like to become a member yourself or use DOC for your organisation's oil buying needs please do get in touch.

This winter we have been working on a couple of energy saving initiatives. Our Smart Meter Awareness Campaign was rolled out over three months and reached nearly 21,000 people - so many thanks to Devon Senior Voice and all the many local organisations who supported this campaign.

The challenges that both health and social care are facing this winter are making headlines on a daily basis. It's great to be able to show case two organisations who are supporting the needs of people with dementia and those who rely on social

care for their daily needs. NEDCARE is a wonderful example of how local people responded to the loss of beds in their local community hospital. Also well done to Tiverton Town Council on their Dementia Friendly Community commitment.

Finally the recent rainfall in November is a timely reminder that we are still vulnerable to severe weather events. My own home town hit the national news when residents of our local Home Park had to be evacuated in the dead of night as the river broke its banks. Topsham is well prepared for such incidents with a good plan and a team of volunteer flood wardens. If you need tips for your community on being prepared take a look at our check list on P 11. Happy New Year

E. B. Cook



Devon Communities Together MEMBERSHIP

As well as all member benefits, such as discounts on training hub courses, venue hire, insurance, events, funding updates, advice and support - your subscriptions are vital for securing our much needed services to communities in Devon.



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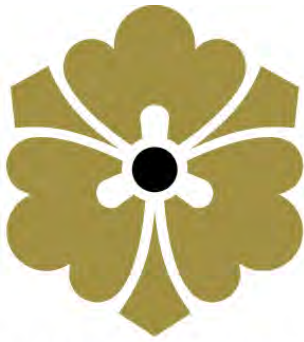
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THE PRINCE'S COUNTRYSIDE FUND

PRINCE BACKS DEVON'S ENTREPRENEURS

We're delighted to announce that we've just been awarded funding from the Prince's Countryside Fund to deliver an 18 month project to encourage rural enterprise. We'll be working with the School for Social Entrepreneurs (SSE, www.the-sse.org) to deliver a comprehensive package of support and training across four key rural areas: Torridge; Teignbridge; Mid and West Devon.

The project will be delivered through a programme of local networking events and this is an early opportunity for our readers to register an interest.

As Mike Felstead, the project's Manager explains, *"We'll be encouraging the creation and development of community-based rural enterprise initiatives and entrepreneurial start-ups. As individual projects emerge, a tailored package of progressive business advice and support will be available to encourage their development and growth. To support this work we'll be creating a web-based Rural Enterprise Hub, an online peer support network, enabling communities to collaborate and share their experiences of developing their projects."*

The project will be connecting with a wide range of learning providers, employers, and existing rural networks, such as the NFU and Devon Young Farmers, to further ensure the development of long-lasting, collaborative and supportive networks.

"With over 50 years' experience of supporting rural economic development across Devon, we knew that the objectives outlined in this Prince's Countryside Fund initiative were important and highly relevant to the communities we work with." explained Elaine Cook, DCT CEO, *"This is an exciting project for DCT and we are delighted to have secured this generous grant which will enable rural businesses and entrepreneurs across Devon to access additional business advice, training and support, and to help assist our farming community with business diversification activity"*.

The project is aligned to the Prince's Countryside Fund objectives of sustaining rural communities and driving economic vibrancy. Established by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2010, The Prince's Countryside Fund exists to improve the prospects of family farm businesses and the quality of rural life.

To be kept informed of the programme of events and opportunities email mike@devoncommunities.org.uk



OPEN DATA

In 2015, Devon Communities Together initiated and began hosting a multi-agency working group, made up of partners interested in exploring ways of harnessing the benefits of open data for the benefit of Devon communities.

The Devon Open Data Working Group has 14 members, including Devon County Council; Exeter and Plymouth City Councils; Devon District Councils; Devon Communities Together; Exeter University; Healthwatch Devon; COSMIC; Co-Cars; Dartmoor National Park Authority. The Group has been looking at practical applications for open data to support community activity and the needs of individuals in rural areas, particularly those who are vulnerable; elderly, disabled, unwell or isolated.

A pilot project was developed which focused on community transport and access to primary health and care services in the absence of a single repository of open source data for community led transport in Devon. In partnership with Q - Step at Exeter University, DCT hosted an undergraduate student on placement to progress this work between September and November this year. Our student, Harry Cronk, has been working on pulling a range of separate open source data around transport access to health and care services across the county into one data set, including:

- Hospital locations
- GP surgeries & primary healthcare provision
- Opticians
- Patient car schemes
- Community transport services
- Bus stops (there are 6,300 of them in Devon)
- Co - Car locations

This multiple open data source mapping can give us useful insight into which Devon localities are most in need re accessing primary health & care services and this will be valuable in identifying, comparing and testing barriers re access to primary health & social care services locality by locality (proximity to services/ transport links and community-based schemes etc). The group is now actively seeking funding sources to continue the work with the ultimate aim of developing an app for general use to help people to better plan and manage journeys to health and care appointments.

If you are interested in joining the Devon Open Data Working Group or finding out more about this pilot project, please call 01392 248919 or email info@devoncommunities.org.uk



BIG LOTTERY FUND AWARD £778,100 TO DEVON CHARITY

The Estuary League of Friends, Topsham are delighted to announce they have been awarded £778,100 by the Big Lottery Fund to develop their community hub and library.

The charity, responding to an increasing demand on their services, is renovating their existing premises to open a new hub to better serve their community.

Tackling issues from social isolation through to stroke rehabilitation and youth unemployment, they facilitate cross-generational activities and provide a central resource for those most in need.

This year they have helped 1,383 people with the aid of staff and 160 local volunteers. By the time the hub reopens in 2018 they expect to see an increase to 4,200 visitors with 2,500 of them vulnerable people.

Interviews can be arranged with Rachel Gilpin, Chief Executive, by calling 01392 879009 or emailing Rachel.estuary@gmail.com.

During conception of this initiative, Devon Communities Together provided the Estuary League of Friends committee with a development diagnostic, then planned and delivered a community engagement exercise in partnership with the libraries service and recently have provided support with their business plan and funding bids.

We are delighted to celebrate this success with them and look forward to following their continued success.

Other projects awarded include:

- Newton & Noss Parish Council - outdoor leisure equipment
- Zeal Monochorum Village Hall - playground resurfacing
- East Worlington Parish Hall - audio visual equipment
- Cheriton Fitzpaine Parish Hall - refurbishment programme

For funding advice and support please call 01392 248919



LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

WINKLEIGH COMMUNITY (PARISH) PLAN

It was five years ago that we first helped Winkleigh get a Community (Parish) Plan underway and what they produced in 2014 has been used as a model by other communities.

Now, after a further two years' work, they have fulfilled one of their major Community Plan goals and published a Village Design Statement (VDS). They have been rewarded for their efforts as Torrington District Council will use the VDS as material planning consideration for new development proposals. A VDS is about retaining a community's 'sense of place', protecting and enhancing local distinctiveness and guarding against a too suburban influence. Devon Communities Together provides advice on producing Statements as part of its community led planning service.

To see the Winkleigh Village Design Statement go online to www.winkleighpc.org.uk

For more information on village design statements contact Martin Rich, martin@devoncommunities.org.uk 01392 248919 ext 7141



For support with Community/ Neighbourhood Planning please call 01392 248919

COMING TO A HALL NEAR YOU...

INFORMATION AND ADVICE DROP IN EVENTS

**Filleigh Village Hall
Wednesday 8th March
1pm -7pm**

**Ugborough Village Hall
Wednesday 22nd March
1pm -7pm**

We have been back 'on-the-road' this winter with our drop-in surgeries. This is one of the ways in which we bring Devon Communities Together closer to you.

We set up in a village hall or community building somewhere in Devon, having promoted the event to our members and other organisations that might be interested in our services.

We have a team of staff who come prepared to provide the answers to whatever you want help with. We usually run the sessions from early afternoon to mid-evening. This allows visitors to travel in daylight in the winter months and for those who work during the day to get to us.

Whilst the idea is to rotate the events around different areas of the County, we are amazed at how far people are prepared to travel to get help and advice from us. Earlier this year our first visitors at the Ashburton surgery were from Berrynarbor, the length of the county away!

Our recent surgeries have been at Crediton and the village hall with the best view in Devon, Bridestowe.* We have been joined at these events by a number of other organisations including DARE, CVS, Devon Fire & Rescue, Involve and Devon Senior Voice. The list of topics we have been asked about is quite challenging for our team, but reflects the breadth of rural and community issues that Devon Communities Together is able to engage with.

For more information please call Martin Rich 01392 248919 EXT 7141 or Aggie EXT 7180

TOPICS RAISED AND ADVICE GIVEN HAS INCLUDED:

Starting a community shop

researching community support, learning from others, legal structures, business planning, financing, operating practices

Running a village hall or community hub

funding capital works, governance and trustee liability, policies and practices, budgeting, insurance, compliance, hiring arrangements and agreements, safety, green energy, equipment and furnishings

Community led planning

options: parish or neighbourhood plans, process, public engagement, working with service providers, surveys, action plans,

Community development projects

building partnerships, public engagement, creating a plan, funding, governance

Lobbying for community interests

Defining objectives, strategy planning, public engagement, effective communication, media management, use of social networks

Sport & Play facilities

Development strategies, engaging with governing bodies, materials choices, funding, management, sport development, youth provisions, adult play, partnerships

What else do we get asked about?

Affordable rural housing - Emergency planning - Help for parish councils - Reducing energy costs - Rural broadband - Rural enterprises and lots more!!

*Bridestowe boasts the most picturesque view of any village hall in Devon. Think you have a better view? Send your photos to marketing@devoncommunities.org.uk





MID DEVON SHOW CHARITY OF THE YEAR



We're delighted to announce that we've been selected as the Charity of the Year for this year's show. Dame Sarah Mullally, Bishop of Crediton, the current Show President, nominated us and our selection was confirmed at the show's AGM on Friday 6th January.

Presenting Devon Communities Together to an audience of over 100 members at the AGM, our CEO Elaine Cook warmly thanked Dame Sarah and the show committee for our nomination and went on to explain a little more about our work, history and plans for the show. The key message for the show was our plan to take part under our 'LOVE Devon' brand.

"Our work is diverse and widespread. We cover so many themes and topics it's often difficult for us to quickly outline what we do." explained Elaine. "But whatever we are working on and whoever we are working with, we do it because we LOVE Devon."

"We see the show as a major opportunity to get the message out about who we are and what we do. Collecting donations via the familiar charity bucket is a fund-raising activity that we don't normally do." said Elaine "But we're looking forward to working with the MDS committee and readying ourselves to make the very best of this wonderful opportunity."

We trademarked the Love Devon logo last year and we're in the process of rolling it out as a brand and an easily-remembered tag to identify all of our works across the county. Whether we're advising a Parish Council about staff recruitment, helping a community seek funds for a new village hall, or providing training and networking skills for rural entrepreneurs, we are doing it for Devon because we LOVE Devon.

The scope of this campaign is expanding as we initiate dialogues with key members of the tourism and food and drink industries in Devon, exploring opportunities to work together under the Love Devon brand.

For more information please visit our Love Devon web pages [here](#) or call 01392 248919.

LOVETM DEVON



Martin Rich regularly represents DCT at the show - this was 2015



Chair, Teresa and Trustee, Mike sign up Love Devon supporters



*Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
Where wealth accumulates, and men decay:
Princes and lords may flourish, or may fade—
A breath can make them, as a breath has made:
But a bold peasantry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed, can never be supplied.*

Oliver Goldsmith, *The Deserted Village*, c1770



RURAL FUTURES CONFERENCE

'THRIVING AND HEALTHY'

CELEBRATING THE SUCCESS OF 2016 THE WATERMARK CENTRE, IVYBRIDGE

Examining some key elements affecting the vitality of Devon's communities, delegates joined with Devon Communities Together (DCT) Trustees and staff to enjoy a variety of inspirational presentations.

Stewart Horne, West Devon Business Information Point spoke about 'Enterprising Devon a Rural Perspective'. Self employment levels have always been high in rural Devon, with 1 year survival rates much higher than the national average of 92%.

'Work Related Learning for Young People' was the topic for Adele Dawson and Jonny Standing from South Devon College. Young people 'learn by doing' and James, a former apprentice and now a carpentry technician at the College, explained how the programme had helped him.

The South West Academic Health Science Network spreads 'Innovation in Health and Care' across the South West. Jon Siddall, Director of Innovation, explained that whilst creativity is thinking new things, innovation is doing new things.

Sue Southwell, Rural Housing Enabler DCT, referred to the challenges of developing 'Affordable Housing in Rural Devon'. Sue also presented The Devon Rural Housing Awards which recognises excellence in delivering affordable housing. The 2016 award for Best Rural Development went to the community of Dalwood and Yarlington Housing Group for the Newberys development.

Dan Janota, Senior Planner Dartmoor National Park and Chris Park, a local architect, introduced the 'Keeping a Sense of Place' topic, looking at the journey of the new community inspired development in Chagford.

The finale was Ed Parr Ferris for the Devon Wildlife Trust who spoke about 'Bringing People Closer to Nature' - why we need nature and why nature needs us, drawing on the example of the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat project. Visit devonbatproject.org for a fascinating insight into the bat world and details of how everyone can get involved.

All the speakers' presentations from the day are available on www.devoncommunities.org.uk

NEW YEAR, NEW THEME

BOOK NOW

THURSDAY 28TH SEPTEMBER WESTPOINT CONFERENCE CENTRE, CLYST ST MARY, EXETER

Has Europe protected our rural communities from world economic social, political, environmental, and cultural impacts? As the UK prepares to face the realities of the world outside of the European Union, what will be the impact of the full exposure to the forces of globalisation? As we try to find our way in a world of trade agreements, protectionism and transnational corporations, how will our rural communities fare?

Sparsely populated and isolated rural communities lack the social and financial resources of urban areas and sometimes seem to be at the end of the queue for local and national government support.

Agriculture is becoming increasingly industrialised, with smaller family run farms continuing to struggle. Prices are set by global, not local markets. As the number of family farms decline so does the support base for other rural businesses. The impact can be low wages, depopulation, a decrease in the local tax base and the centralisation of services into larger centres.

Our 'rural ideal' is at risk of commodification by tourism and retirement industries.

Are we moving towards a world where:

- There is less access to quality education and healthcare
- Social institutions are in decline
- Population movements destabilise economies, pressure resources and cause social tensions
- The natural environment is depleted and exploited.

A depressing reality? Goodbye to what we value? Or, is there another way? Can Devon thrive and retain its 'sense of place', its environment, culture, way of life and values?

This year's Rural Futures Conference will attempt to map a path through the risks and opportunities that the emerging new political economic dynamics of the UK will present for our county.

To book your delegate place or stand please call 01392 248919 or email info@devoncommunities.org.uk

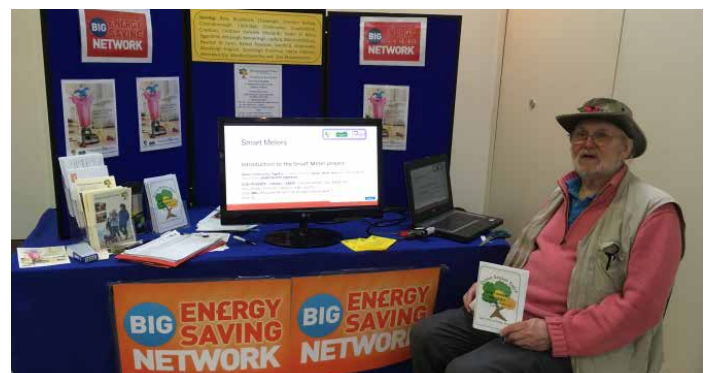


Smart Meter Awareness - 20,990 reached

BY NATALI PURDY-GUEVARA

Smart Energy GB wanted to promote Britain's smart meter rollout in Devon to accelerate understanding of smart meters amongst older and more vulnerable residents.

The Devon Smart Meters Rollout Campaign was run by Devon Communities Together in partnership with Devon Senior Voice from October to December 2016. We visited 33 local groups, organised 8 roadshows, 29 displays all within Devon. At the same time as part of the campaign we organised different social media activities, magazine and newsletter publications as well as email campaigns. Different organisations that we engaged with during the project added information about our campaign on their social media and 'One Ilfracombe' even dedicated their Community Connector who is based once a week at the local GP surgery, to give advice on smart meters. The total reach of the campaign was 20, 990 people across Devon.



Devon Communities Together would like to thank all the organisations and groups that kindly opened the doors to this project and to all the volunteers for over exceeding our original targeted numbers.

Finally, thank you to Natali Purdy-Guevara - Project Manager, who has been so dedicated to the success of this project and to Sally Lougher and the Devon Senior Voice volunteers for their huge contribution.





DEVON OIL COLLECTIVE

As our new purchasing arrangements and savings scheme are bedding in and as new members find the competitive pricing and convenience of the scheme saves them both money and effort, we are keen to recruit local co-ordinators to encourage others to join the scheme and help organise local orders. A number of our present co-ordinators do sterling work in helping some of the less-able members of their communities avoid the pitfalls of oil purchasing and ensure that they are well supplied. If you would like to find out more and the 'rewards' for helping us build the service across Devon, then please get in touch.

Are you running a local collective and finding it a burden? Often a good idea turns into a bit of a monkey-on-your-back and integrating with our scheme might be a help. If you would like to explore a transfer of membership, then give us a call.

01392 248919

info@devoncommunities.org.uk



BIG ENERGY SAVINGS NETWORK

FREE HELP AND ADVICE - call now

Whilst 'fuel poverty' is a significant factor in Devon, we know that campaigning advertising is ignored by most people and they only take notice when they have direct contact with someone who is trusted, knowledgeable and may have had some experience themselves. So we are recruiting 'community leaders' to help us get close to their communities and organise one-to-one advice sessions for those who might benefit from a review of their energy use and purchasing.

We are offering a 'toolkit' for those who interface with potential beneficiaries through local organisations and activities, as carers and helpers to family, friends and neighbours.

Working in partnership with Devon Senior Voice we can provide local workshops and advice sessions.

Since we first circulated an introduction to this project we have had a number of invitations to talk to groups of parish councillors and community groups.

We would really like to book a visit to come and talk to your group.

PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TODAY

Call Martin Rich on 01392 248919 ext 7141

email martin@devoncommunities.org.uk



Devon Community Resilience Forum

BE RESILIENT - BE PREPARED

A checklist for parish and town councils helping you keep your communities safe this winter.

1. Link your parish or town council / community web pages to the *Get ready for winter* website

This provides information and advice on how to prepare for winter weather including health and wellbeing advice. <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/barometer/get-ready-for-winter>.

2. Be aware of the risks this winter for your community:

Are you aware of the emergency risks in your area? Your local resilience forum has a community risk register outlining the risks in your local police force area. Contact details for your local resilience forum: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-resilience-forums-contact-details>

3. Check your local flood risks including coastal, river and rainfall /surface water:

<https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk>

4. Sign up for flood warnings and weather alerts:

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>

<https://service.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKMETOFFICE/subscriber/new>

5. The British Red Cross has developed an emergency app that provides local alerts for severe weather and other emergencies near you, and provides practical advice on how to prepare, respond and recovery from a range of emergencies including severe weather.

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Emergency-response/Emergency-app-landing>

6. Produce a community emergency plan:

- Have you looked at the Preparing for emergencies website for advice? <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-emergencies/preparing-for-emergencies>
- Developing a community emergency plan will help your parish work together to be prepared for the emergencies and risks you might face. It's also a great way to raise local emergency issues with the emergency services and agree how you can work better together before an emergency happens.

7. A community emergency plan:

Sets out what to do during an emergency with clear roles and responsibilities, including for flood or area wardens; lists the actions that allow key activities to continue in difficult circumstances; includes a list of the local assets/equipment that can be accessed during an emergency i.e. 4x4 vehicles; is clear on how you will identify vulnerable residents that might need extra help in a winter emergency; identifies facilities available for rest / welfare centres for residents that have to evacuate their homes due to flooding, power failure or another winter emergency.



WINTER WEATHER WITH US ONCE AGAIN

BY RICHARD HORNE

November's heavy rain and strong winds were a timely reminder, if we needed one, that winter is now well and truly with us.

Between Saturday 19th and Monday 21st November the Met Office reported Exeter receiving nearly 100 mm of rain – getting on for 4" in old currency – which succeeded in washing away the aggregate forming the base of the main Exeter – Taunton railway, hence 'cutting off' Devon and Cornwall from London, as the tabloid headlines shrieked!

Fortunately for Topsham, the impact was less severe. Tides at that time were low, between 3 – 3.5 metres, despite huge volumes of water pouring down the Rivers Exe there was no widespread flooding. The Clyst Valley was not so lucky, once again the road across Topsham flats to Darts Farm was flooded and closed for one and a half days – four years to the day since the last time it flooded. Back in Topsham, there was a problem with a drain overflowing near 40 The Strand, but the rest of the town was largely unaffected.

The Topsham Emergency Group (part of the TCA) keeps a weather-eye on the weather, tide levels, swell and wind direction, issuing a local assessment flood risk to residents, property owners who live in the flood zone, ie Ferry Rd, Strand and Riversmeet.

Under the auspices of the Group, we have a dozen or so trained Flood Wardens, whose main role is to help residents to deploy flood defences during Flood Alerts and Warnings, also to inform and re-assure the more vulnerable. Topsham also has its own emergency plan, recently updated, which can be found on the website. The purpose of the plan is to ensure the community is ready to assist the emergency services during an emergency, and to act as a point of initial reference during a developing situation, particularly flooding, where emergency response resources are likely to be stretched.

Richard Horne is Topsham's Emergency Group Coordinator.

The Devon Community Resilience Forum supports Devon's communities by holding free events and providing resources on our website including Emergency Plan templates and case studies, such as Topsham's. For event dates and resources visit our website [here](#)

DEVON PUB PLOUGHS SERVICES BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY

Sarah and Ted Williams at the Old Plough Inn at Bere Ferrers in Devon have re-vamped an unloved and unused family room into a café and gift shop with the support of rural pub champions, Pub is The Hub.

The café and shop caters for the local and tourist trade in their remote location, situated on the peninsula between the river Tamar and Tavy. It's speciality is in serving Devon-made ice cream from Salcombe Dairy.

"Our re-vamped family room gives us the opportunity for long-term viability and an outlet for selling locally made or sourced produce from Devon and we can't thank Reg and Pub is The Hub enough for the help. Apart from anything, we have the best ice cream for miles around!"



Reg Clarke, an advisor from Pub is The Hub worked with Sarah and Ted to upgrade their facilities and contributed a grant of £800 from Pub is The Hub's Community Services Fund towards the scheme. Together they decided to relaunch the shop as a gift shop selling Devon-themed gifts as well as home-made chutneys and jams, locally pressed apple juice and an even wider range of Salcombe ice creams.

Sarah said: *"We have been in this beautiful pub for eight years and we are trying hard to maintain business and provide a great local hub for our community. We are first and foremost a community centre for our village, providing regular events and serving good pub food, but we also have to be attractive to the many visitors that we see in this area during the summer months as well."*

The four hundred year old pub sits at the end of a railway line from Plymouth and Sarah and Ted also host regular visits from the 'Friends of Devonport Park' which aims to support people who enjoy gardening as therapy or for relaxation. Every two to three weeks a group of volunteers from the organisation travel by train from Plymouth to the pub to tend the garden. In return Sarah and Ted pay for the train fare and host a pub lunch.

Reg Clarke for Pub is The Hub added: *"Sarah and Ted have diversified their business to maintain its success and to embed themselves in the heart of their community. I wish them well."*

Devon Communities Together is supporting the promotion of the Pub is the Hub initiative throughout Devon.

For more information about Pub is The Hub telephone the office on 01423 546165 www.pubisthehub.org.uk





NEDCARE

COMMUNITY-LED CARE IN
NORTH EAST DARTMOOR



SOCIAL ENTERPRISE *a great example!* CARING FOR THE ELDERLY AND VULNERABLE ON DARTMOOR

North East Dartmoor Care, known as 'NEDCare,' began as a community project in the autumn of 2014, when the NEW Devon Clinical Commissioning Group was consulting about losing the beds at the Moretonhampstead Community Hospital.

Moretonhampstead Development Trust (MDT) was concerned about the impact the loss of beds would have, particularly on elderly people who were already experiencing great difficulty in finding home care services in the area. MDT put together a working group to assess the state of social care locally.

Within months the group had secured a small grant from Department of Communities and Local Government to support their work. Funding enabled NEDCare to run an extensive consultation, engagement and research exercise working with the local community, GP's, voluntary groups, Parish Councils, Devon County Council and other stakeholders.

The resulting in-depth needs analysis concluded that North East Dartmoor was in 'market failure' for adult social care – essentially meaning that people who needed care in the area couldn't find any and the impact was sometimes catastrophic.

MDT went on to incorporate NEDCare as a not-for-profit Community Interest Company and employed a Development Manager to complete a business plan to establish what is thought to be the first regulated, community-owned care agency in the UK.

Start-up costs for the new regulated agency were substantial, so in the spring of 2016, whilst the team got busy fundraising, NEDCare also established a Carer Introduction Service. This 'quick-win' project facilitated the matching of self-employed carers to those in need. Over the course of 2016, this service has proved vital, making 2-3 care matches every week and enabling over 600 hours of care per week, to date.

The service had enabled NEDCare to raise its profile, introduced the organisation to new clients and has built a database of over 30 carers across the north east Dartmoor area. Julia Darby, NEDCare Development Manager, stresses the significance of their carers database.

"Recruitment and retention of carers is a major issue for care agencies. Finding staff can be really difficult, but we have built up strong community networks which have proven to be a real asset when it comes to finding people."

The priority for NEDCare now is to establish a home care service that is registered with the Care Quality Commission. This will enable NEDCare to provide services to some of the most vulnerable local residents by working as a subcontractor for Lead Providers that under contract with Devon County Council.

During summer 2016 NEDCare ran a crowdfunding campaign to raise start-up costs for the regulated agency, raising just over £10,000 from over 70 local donors.

Match funding proved a challenge to secure until, almost two years to the day since the project was conceived, NEDCare presented an impressive Impact Report, covering the benefits of the Introductions Service, to the Moretonhampstead Hospital League of Friends. The proven impact, alongside overwhelming local community support, demonstrated by the crowd funding campaign, persuaded the League to award the remaining start-up funding required.

Developing a project to address a social issue in your community?
For FREE advice call Dawn, Social Enterprise Advisor on 01392 248919



TIVERTON "DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY" COMMITMENT

Gin and Jam W.I. taking part in a Dementia Friends awareness session

Sue Moore was recently appointed as Tiverton's Dementia Action Alliance Co-ordinator. She is working with local people with dementia, their family carers, local businesses, organisations and statutory services to create the Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) and to help make Tiverton a dementia friendly community.

Sue explained that often such a role would be voluntary, but that the town council was very forward thinking in employing someone in the post.

Sue has hit the ground running, consulting with local people with dementia and their families, collating views on how Tiverton can become more dementia accessible and has been delivering Dementia Friends sessions, networking events and working sessions with individuals and businesses to raise awareness and provide support.

"I'm passionate about raising awareness of dementia and helping people to understand that it's possible to live a good life with dementia if you have the right support and understanding"

Sue Moore

In particular, Sue and the team held a small dementia information event at New Hall, Tiverton in September, which was open to anyone with dementia or caring for someone with dementia, so they could come and get information and advice from representatives of local organisations.

Representatives from the Alzheimer's Society, Tiverton Community Transport, Upstream, Age UK Mid Devon, Unite Carers, Devon Carers, the Stroke Association and Tiverton Museum were there.

"The idea of making Tiverton a Dementia Friendly Community came about when Ian Sherriff, Academic Partnership Lead for Dementia with Plymouth University, was the guest speaker at our Annual Council meeting in 2015. It very soon became evident that we would need a co-ordinator to set this in motion, and I understand we may be one of the first town councils to have taken the administration of this on board"

John Vanderwolfe, Town Clerk

We have also been working with Hotel Staff at Best Western Hotel in Tiverton, Community Transport volunteers and the Gin & Jam section of the Women's Institute to deliver awareness sessions for all staff.

The Alliance works with all sectors of the community

- Running awareness sessions with church groups
- Working with the Older Persons Mental Health Team locally
- Consulting with local people with dementia and their families
- Raising awareness among children and young people by working with local schools

They also have a Facebook page - Tiverton Dementia Action Alliance

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT

Explains what a DAA is : www.dementiaaction.org.uk

Explains what a Local DAA does: www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances

Tiverton Local DAA information and events: http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances/17743_tiverton_dementia_action_alliance

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TEAM NEWS



Top Left: Ian Cowling has joined the Board as Trustee. Top Middle: Isaac Butterfield-Kendall joined the team as Marketing Apprentice through a Level 3 programme with PGL Training. Top Right: Jessica Oates, Marketing Executive is leaving at the end of January to explore a new career. Bottom Left: Mike Felstead joined the team in December as Project Manager. Bottom Middle: Pauline Moore, Facilities Coordinator is retiring. Bottom right: Jon Freeman has joined as Health & Safety & Support Services Officer.

Beekeeping Experience Day

At one of the UK's leading Honey Farms!



We all know how important bees are but have you ever wondered what goes on inside a beehive? Our experience day offers you a complete introduction to the craft, helping you to understand the whole process from start to finish.

The course is perfect for anyone interested in bees and it's a great introduction to beekeeping before committing to keeping bees yourself.

Buy for yourself or as a gift
£135 for a full day experience
10am-5pm including lunch

For more info or to book please phone or email
(01769) 572401 info@quincehoneyfarm.co.uk
See website to find your preferred date
www.quincehoneyfarm.co.uk



North Rd, South Molton, Devon EX36 3AZ

Devon's TOP Attractions



**BOOK YOUR
FREE PLACE
TODAY**

PREVENTING CYBER CRIME AGAINST BUSINESS (SME) AND THE NEW GDPR

FREE TRAINING COURSE - 25TH JANUARY 2017, 0900 to 1545

We are calling all businesses, including Parish and Town Councils, to attend this FREE course and benefit from understanding cyber threats and online fraud.

Devon Communities Together is working with Devon and Cornwall Police to develop free training courses to help VCSE organisations and Devon Parish and Town Council staff and Councillors to understand online threats and how to protect business data, money and reputation.

The General Data Protection Requirement (GDPR) will come into effect in 2018. It will change how organisations can collect, use and transfer personal data.

The course will undertake to develop awareness and understanding on the issues listed below.

Attendees will depart with improved knowledge and the information/support to enable action in their own workplace to mitigate risk.

- Digital (Cyber) crime – an overview of what it is, how it impacts on SME's and what you can do to mitigate the risk.
- How to recognise some of the more common cyber threats and information on the steps to take to reduce the chances that they will happen.
- Policy and procedure considerations for your business and staff who work within it.
- Understanding rules around legal requirements for collecting and using personal data.
- Advice on procedures in the event of digital data breaches
- New Data Protection legislation – The General Data Protection Requirement (GDPR)
- The secure transmission of documents and integrity of email correspondence.
- With cyber security often in the news today, the training will also frame your online safety in the context of the wider world.

YOUR TUTORS

A number of experts in their field will be brought together to deliver this unique opportunity for those who seek to take action to protect themselves, their business (SME) and staff from cyber related crime, including representatives from Get Safe Online (GSOL), SW Cyber Security Cluster (SWCSC), Regional Police Cyber Crime Unit (RCCU)

To book your place simply call 01392 248919 or email info@devoncommunities.org.uk.

FOR DETAILS OF THE LATEST COURSES AT THE TRAINING HUB PLEASE VISIT WWW.DEVONCOMMUNITIES.ORG.UK



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