



Senior Council for Devon

Everyone's Tomorrow



Issue No 11

July 2011

The Newsletter of the Senior Council for Devon - The Organisation keeping the over 50s involved in having a say about services and service delivery

Keep writing to us!

Everyone's Tomorrow is the newsletter of the Senior Council for Devon. The last three months have been taken up with representatives from the Board negotiating with Devon County Council around continued funding for the organisation in the climate of cuts (see page 2), and with the fundraising group working hard on submitting applications for alternative sources of income (see page 8). Please keep those interesting articles and news items coming in for the next Newsletter by the 1st September for the October edition. Address, email and telephone details for Sally and Andrea are on the bottom right hand side of this page so please do not hesitate to contact us.



Sally Lougher, Editor

Devon County Show 2011

THE Senior Council groups from all over Devon were represented at the Devon County Show this year. As well as introducing the public to the Senior Council for Devon it provided the opportunity to tell them about the active Branches in their areas. We had a wide range of information available to hand out, Carer's Pathways, easy ready meals, appliances for the disabled and information from the Office of Fair Trading on how to spot a Scam, all of which attracted a lot of interest.

I should like to thank all the Branches who participated and provided pictures and information for the stand, and the helpers who put up and took down the displays before and after the show. This was your show and you did it proud. Thank you. *Margaret Woolacott - Shows, Events and Conferences.*



**Senior Council
Office Open**
Monday to
Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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Achievements since April 2011

SINCE April 2011 the Senior Council for Devon groups have:

- Organised an intergenerational event in partnership with young people in Cridton
- Continued to be active in the setting up of outdoor gym equipment in Seaton and Exmouth
- Set up a Mid-Devon committee to organise a Dementia Day in Tiverton in July
- Exhibited at the Devon County Show
- Planned a 'How to Improve Yourself for Your Future' Information Day in Exmouth
- Participated in organising a Generations Together Day - 'Eats and Treats' in Barnstaple
- Entered into a Joint Engagement Consortium to secure continued funding from DCC
- Held a very successful and enlightening Assembly on the future of Health Services
- Members have become reps on their newly formed GP commissioning consortiums
- Groups have become involved with Town Councils on how to use unallocated funds
- Engaged in Intergenerational activities with young people in Culm Valley, Bideford and Teignmouth

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An Update on Funding and the Fusion Consortium



As you are all very aware, our 3 year funding from DCC/NHS ran out at the end of March. DCC funded us for three further months until the end of June as they had not sorted out the new arrangements in time. Those days of straightforward grants have now gone. In future, we will now have to get involved in projects and bid for funds from various sources. Life has become more complicated!

DCC suggested that one way we could get any funding from them in the future was by joining the Fusion Consortium in their bid to provide an 'Engagement Service' for Devon from Health and Social Care Funding. We are the voice of the over 50s, picking up the issues relevant to our members, and these cover a far broader range than just Health and Care! Joining the Fusion Consortium would not be ideal but at least it would provide funding for part of our work!

The last six months have been hectic as we have endeavoured to find out exactly what joining Fusion would mean. It has been a stressful and difficult time as we try to understand how we would fit in with our new partners whilst trying to protect our organisation.

After taking legal advice, the Board finally made the decision to become a partner, representing Older People, in the Fusion bid. We were invited, along with our partners, to help in formulating the bid which went in at the end of May. This was then marked successfully by the Commissioners, and we were then invited to make a presentation with our partners to a panel set up by them on 15th June. This was successfully completed and we now wait to hear whether Fusion has been awarded the contract. If all has gone to plan, it will come into force on the 1st July.

If all goes to plan, we will become part of the delivery team for The Devon Countywide Engagement Service. The delivery team is made up of:- The Senior Council for Devon, with our expertise in relation to older people; Devon People First and Devon Link Up who involve with people with Learning Disabilities through the Parliaments; Westbank in relation to Carers; Living Options Devon for people with Physical and Sensory disabilities including the Deaf community and people with Acquired Brain Injury; Be Involved Devon will be engaging with people who have experience of Mental Health Services and Fusion whose remit is to provide the co-ordination and to support User led Organisations across Devon. Our commitment in this will be to fulfil our part of the Engagement Contract. We will still keep our own structure and staffing and can continue with all our other activities, provided we can find funding for them. The Funding Group has been set up for this purpose.

We now have to sort out all the practical implications of how we will work within those areas that are part of this new Engagement Service. Systems for monitoring will need to be put in place to enable us to gather the evidence that will be required.

Also all those issues that arise that fall under the Engagement umbrella will need to be channelled via the 'Fusion Gateway'. This is a process that has been set up to deal with all the requests that come in and decide which partners would best be involved in carrying them out. This should avoid duplication and ensure a comprehensive cover for the issues raised. A survey on care issues for example, could be carried out by all the partners dealing with people in need of care. Areas that do not fall within the remit of this contract will need to be funded separately, which could be to our advantage.

We will be funded for the rest of this financial year- £60,000. The contract can be terminated by either side at 3 months notice. Next year's contract would be for £80,000 if it continued as in this year. That would be up for negotiation but currently no changes to this year's formula are envisaged.

The Engagement Service will be setting up a website and a 'phone line to channel the enquiries that come in from the public sector. The partner organisations will still use their own forms of communication as before. A launch event will be held in the autumn to advertise the existence of the partnership.

It is important that we do not lose sight of all that we have built up over the past three years. We still have a long way to go, but we have achieved a great deal countywide and particularly locally. We are entering an unknown world, but we must try to make change a rewarding challenge.

Margaret Coles - Director and Holsworthy

Honiton Branch



**Members of Honiton Senior Council
with Tony Benn**

CHAIRMAN Tony Smith and members of Senior Council for Honiton with Tony Benn who spoke at an interesting day seminar on 'Democracy and Older People' organised by Ottery St Mary Later Life Forum. Secretary Tony Simpson called for more co-operation and unity among bodies representing older people in Devon.

On May 9th SCfD held a 'live demonstration' in aid of West Country charity Shelterbox in the hall of the local British Legion. Rotarian David Guy showed members the contents of an actual Shelterbox and members were able to move among the various exhibits including a tent capable of sheltering a family of 15 and a collapsible stove capable of using a variety of local fuels - including debris and animal dung!

The event was given wide publicity including Honiton Library Newsletter and local press. Chairman Tony Smith said members had helped sponsor local Marathon runners fireman Warren Oak, post-woman Jo Davey and mechanic Steve Davey which had collected

enough for three shelter boxes to be sent to the earthquake and nuclear meltdown zone in Fukushima, Japan. SCfD also collects at each event to support Honiton Memory Cafe which Senior Council helped to found and where Chairman Tony Smith is a regular volunteer, especially among those wishing to discuss football and sports events. Honiton Senior Council plan their regular stall at the Town's Charter Day on July 23rd and also hope to use their recently acquired gazebo at future shows.

Seaton and Area Branch



SEATON and Area branch have been involved in an exciting project for older people namely the installation of an outdoor gym especially designed for older people to use. The equipment is robust and easy to use, even for those with no experience. It is designed to be safe to both get on and get off and also encourages social intercourse.

One of our Executive Members, Joyce West, saw and used such equipment whilst on a visit to Brighton. This coincided with a public consultation exercise on the use of Section 106 money for Seaton. SCfD put forward the idea and to our pleasure it was one of the schemes chosen by the public. Since then a small group comprising East Devon District Council Officers and Councillors, the Town Clerk and SCfD members (including myself), have worked on selecting a site and producing the detail necessary for the tender documents. Tenders are about to be scrutinised to ensure they meet the requirements and then there will be a further public consultation exercise when members of the public will vote for one of these schemes. The contractor with the most votes will be awarded the contract. By the time this newsletter goes out we hope the equipment will have been installed.

Anyone interested in further details such as how to get brochures showing the equipment, should contact Roger Trapani on 01297 21788 or email on trapandtina@yahoo.com

Roger and Tina Trapani



Barnstaple Branch

THE Barnstaple Branch arranged a Public Conversation Meeting at the Roundswell Community Centre, Barnstaple, on 23 October 2010, to provide people living in Roundswell Village and members of the local business community, with information concerning a Devon County Council (DCC) planning application to construct an integrated special and additional needs education centre on the Roundswell Business Park.

At the well attended meeting, estimated at about 85 people present, it was explained that SCfD would be acting as an 'independent communication channel', and would send information on the outcome of the meeting to DCC. A main concern was a perceived lack of local consultation by DCC in respect of the development.

Following the meeting a DCC supported 'Roundswell Liaison Group (RLG)' was established, to help foster a 'good neighbour' policy between local families, the business community and the new education centre for children and young people. Brian Clifton, Chair of SCfD Barnstaple Group was appointed Chair of the RLG and is independent in that role. John Maycock, Vice-Chair of SCfD Barnstaple is the SCfD representative on the RLG.

The RLG, in partnership with Community Action North Devon and SCfD, have organised an 'Eats & Treats' - Generations Together event at the Roundswell Community Centre on Saturday 18 June 2011 from 10am to 1 pm. This special free event for the residents of Roundswell will celebrate the achievements of children and young people who have been enrolled in a personalised learning programme and will include: Cooking display with free healthy eating snacks, Music Workshop, Arts and Crafts display with face painting and a photography competition with a prize awarded by Community Action North Devon. The activities will be presented by the children and young people. The new educational centre is expected to open towards the end of 2011.

Brian Clifton who is also a member of the Devon Partnership NHS Trust (DPT) has been awarded a £500 Bursary to produce a short film on 'Art and Recovery'. The film project is managed by mh20-visuals in association with the Devon Recovery Research and Innovations Group (D-RRIG). The group are hosted and funded by the DPT- R & D department.

The film will be presenting Art as a means of helping to improve mental health outcomes in conjunction with GP treatments. Brian is working in partnership with the PETROC Barnstaple campus, through the programme manager, Arts and Health department. An Art Tutor at PETROC with previous experience of film production has been engaged to direct the film and arrange production.

It has been arranged for the film to include interviews with people who have attended 'Art on Prescription' courses at PETROC. They will talk about how 'Art on Prescription' has helped them on the road to recovery.

The premiere of the film will be held on the 30 June 2011 at 'The Bike Shed Theatre' Exeter, as part of the Exeter Fringe Festival. The film will be one of a collection of films shown from 4pm to 6pm, under the title of 'Recovery at the Cinema' - Devon Partnership NHS Trust.

Brian Clifton – Chair, SCfD Barnstaple Area Group

Teignmouth Branch



THERE will be an opportunity to hear all about the local lifeboat in Teignmouth this month (July).

Barrie Behenna, secretary of the town's RNLI fund raising team and of the Lifeboat Management Group, will give a talk to Teignmouth Senior Council. A lifeboat station was originally opened at Teignmouth in 1856 and it gave continuous service until 1940. The station, which was reopened in 1990, operated a new inshore lifeboat which was replaced in 2006 by its current craft The Two Anne's. It goes out on service 40-50 times a year.

In the last few months, Teignmouth Senior Council has heard talks about SWAPS - an organisation which arranges for carers to welcome people in need of care into their homes - and from Nina Parnell of Age UK.

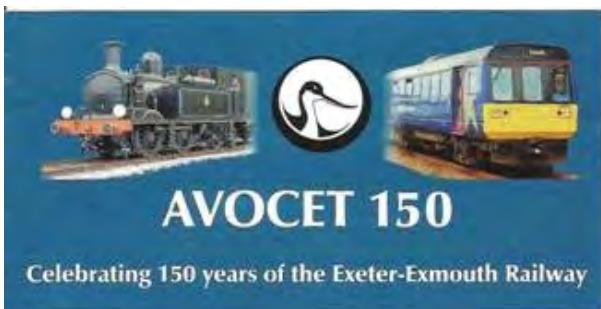
The Senior Council for Devon chairman Gillie Newcombe spoke about the organisation's role at the Teignmouth AGM in April when local chairman Professor Frank Hartley gave an encouraging review of the year's activities.

Professor Hartley was re-elected chairman and treasurer, with Jim Corben vice-chairman, Paul Fluck as publicity officer and Eileen Brierley, Pam Martin and John Vaughan as committee members.

Barrie Behenna's talk is at the Carlton Theatre at 2pm on Friday, July 15 when refreshments will be available from 1.30pm.
Paul Fluck, Publicity Officer

Exmouth Branch

ON the first Sunday in May 1st, the Avocet line that runs from Exeter to Exmouth celebrated 150 years since its inauguration. Along with other transport oriented organisations we had a stand in the newly designed Strand Gardens to make people aware of our existence and our aims. The photo shows our committee member, Roma Patten, and myself at the stand. Roma is in Victorian costume because she travelled on the train drawn by a 125 locomotive from Exeter to Exmouth with the VIPs. We are both members of the club for all travellers on the line ALRUG (Avocet Line Rail Users Group) – but she is more actively involved than I because she has the contacts with officers of the rail services and the bus services.



Roma and Yvonne at the Avocet Line celebrations

Following up an appeal from the Town and East Devon Councils for sports-related ideas to utilise a £150,000 source of funding, the committee came up with 3 ideas, namely:

- Purchase the Rolle Playing Fields
- Build a skate-board park close to the town centre. This is intended to divert youngsters from using the war memorial in our re-designed Strand Gardens.
- Establish adult exercise areas alongside existing children's play areas.

We did a good recruiting drive on May 1st at the Transport Fayre in the Strand Gardens to celebrate the 150 years of the Avocet rail line from Exeter to Exmouth.

What did you feel about our entry on the SCfD stand at the County Show? We are currently finalising the information to accompany the Lion's Club message in a bottle on Dying Matters. This is a "to do" list starting when you are fit and healthy and ending after your dignified departure.

Our last meeting in the Council Chamber, Exmouth Town Hall was on June 6th and a talk was given by Roma, one of our committee members, on "Around the UN in 14 days".

We are very busy gathering exhibitors for an Information Fair to run alongside the workshops based on the theme "Improving your future for yourself". This event will be in the Elizabeth Hall on the seafront at Exmouth on Saturday July 9th (10am-4pm). It is an open meeting where you are advised to bring a packed lunch and teas/coffees will be provided.

Yvonne Wardrop - Chairman, Exmouth and Area

Crediton and Area Branch



FOR their third Open Meeting, Crediton were fortunate in obtaining a presentation by Dr David Jenner, Chair of the Mid Devon Consortium, entitled "The New NHS - Risk or Opportunity".

He opened with a forty minute talk, accompanied by a Power-Point presentation illuminating several salient points. There followed a 25 minute comfort break to be concluded with a Q and A session lasting 1 hour and 25 minutes.

Perhaps the following extract from one of the feedback forms summaries the event "I thought Dr Jenner was excellent. He was very knowledgeable and also very approachable. However, the presentation was maybe a little too long and also, maybe, a little too complex. A very well attended meeting. Dr Jenner certainly has excellent pulling power in terms of number of attendees."



Crediton Executive with Dr David Jenner

Ron Cuthbertson, Publicity and Membership Officer

Great Torrington Branch

THE meeting held on Wednesday 11th May was again on a very interesting subject, that of transport for the people that do not have any transport of their own. The speaker was Duncan Goodman of Torrridge Community Transport. The number of ways in which they can help anyone is numerous and cannot be described in this article. However if you need help to visit the hospital, go shopping or would like a daytrip out somewhere give them a call but with a few days notice. That is what one of our member couples Ray and Nora did, and they gave a good report on the services that were on offer. Make that telephone call now and see what Torrridge Community Transport can do for you.

Torrridge Community Transport 01237 423232

MEMORY CAFE

The Mayor of Great Torrington for the last two years Councillor Sue Mills, who has now handed the position of Mayor over to Councillor Richard Rumbold, nominated the Memory Café as one of her chosen charities. On Tuesday 17th May a cheque for £690.50 was presented to Graham Bowen Chairman of the Great Torrington Senior Council for Devon, on behalf of the Torrington Memory Café. Everyone involved with the Memory Cafe would like to thank Councillor Sue Mills for her generosity and support.

What is the purpose of a Memory Café?

A Memory Café is somewhere where people with dementia/memory loss and their families/friends can visit to support each other and share information and experiences. Health, Social Care and Carer Support professionals are also on hand to answer any questions and provide support as well as signpost to other services. If required telephone contact numbers are as follows:-

TAW AND TORRIDGE VOLUNTARY SERVICES 01237 420136

COMMUNITY HEALTH TEAM 01237 473049

BRIAN COLESHILL 01805 625383 Secretary

GRAHAM BOWEN 01805 625801 Chairman

The Memory Café meets the second Thursday of each month in the Gallery room at the Plough Arts Centre, Fore Street Great Torrington from 10.00am until 12.00 noon. Come along and have a break from routine and a friendly chat.

Graham Bowen, Chairman



Councillor Sue Mills handing the cheque to The Chairman of the Great Torrington Branch Graham Bowen

Culm Valley Branch



FOLLOWING our recent successes in mounting sessions on “Wills & Powers of Attorney” and “What to do in an Emergency”, we now look forward to an interesting and entertaining few months with opportunities to meet friends, learn new skills and look to the future. The committee encourages our members to join in considering the reappraisal of “Ageing Well...”

In the next of a series of “Regain your youth” activity afternoons in Cullompton (June 14) we shall be taught to Wii by teenage youth club members. Presumably we will try to teach them to suck eggs. We welcome this opportunity for contact across the generations, and hope that they won’t Wii all over us. The next such opportunity will be on July 12.

Next on the agenda, and somewhat more serious, the Dementia Awareness conference will be on July 7 at the Tiverton Hotel. Admission is free and a buffet lunch will be available at £5.00. As places will be limited (and at a premium), pre-booking is recommended. Contact UNITE on 01884 257511 or events@unitemd.org.uk



*Outline plans for the autumn are focused on various aspects of finances... Are you using your resources wisely?... Are you receiving what you’re entitled to? In short, a Finance Fair, where items as diverse as benefits entitlement and equity release will be up for discussion.

Meet us at the Mid Devon Show if not before...

Tim Butters, Secretary for Culm Valley Senior Council

Axminster & District Seniors’ Forum

AXMINSTER and District Senior’s Forum have written to their local Doctor with their concerns about the local Hospital being governed by the North Devon Healthcare Trust and the large area this covers. This has resulted in the Forum being invited to attend a meeting of the League of Friends of the Hospital at the Guildhall in June when they have been invited to listen to a speaker and ask questions. The catchment area is so large the great concern is that we will lose services. We will be interested to see what changes will be about to take place.

Though we have lost our acting Chairman, Sue is keeping us up to date on NHS matters and the secretary is combining the two roles until we find a willing volunteer.

This year we will not be taking a stand at the local Festival for the Senior’s Forum as it was felt that last year we really did not generate much interest and the work load fell onto Sue’s shoulders as several of us are busy with the Axminster Horticultural Society show and cannot divide the time equally. There was a keen interest in the Memory Café and perhaps we could take this into the Spirit of the Community Marquee next year as this is where much of Axminster’s commercial and community stands are based. We hope the weather will be kind and if you are in the area on the 25th or 26th June why not make a visit.

Our meetings have had several interesting speakers such as Graham Mallaband, Chairman of the Sid Vale & East Devon Talking Newspaper, Sarah Croft – Devon Disability Network and this month we will have Michael Micklethwaite from the local Solicitors talking about Wills etc.

Pamela and David Johnson went to the SCfD stand at the Devon County Show and we hope that this was a great success for Margaret Woolacott. We realise the hard work that is involved with a stand especially at the County Show. We hope that all the members of the other branches of the SCfD enjoy the summer where ever they may spend it.



Margaret Spencer-Brown, Secretary

Stop Press ... News from the Exeter Branch

WE have recently heard that Peter Dunning, Executive member and former Chair of the Exeter Group has been awarded an MBE for his services to rural communities. Many congratulations to Peter on this achievement!

Kingsbridge Branch



SINCE Kingsbridge Senior Council contributed a Newsletter eighteen months ago, situations have changed for many members so that a boost in attendees at meetings in 2009 has since rather shrivelled away. Some members have illness themselves or family problems, some are able to take more holiday and some think their efforts are more effective working in various other charities.

The Branch has always been concerned with Public Transport and created a plan for the immediate and long term improvements to Kingsbridge bus station. This plan was presented to the Town Council which expressed great interest but unfortunately had no funding available.

The other topic of great concern was the demise of Adult Education Classes in Kingsbridge and surrounding villages. So in October 2010 we invited Annie Raine of Devon Adult Community Learning to come and tell us the current situation. Her talk was very informative as to how things have been reorganised so they have no part in Devon County Education but are funded by Central Government. A new staff team was appointed in April 2010 to decide on courses with the administrative staff in Totnes. We began to realise that we must organise any courses we want and the name of the U3A was mentioned.

Elizabeth Jennings from the committee of Dart Valley U3A came to our February meeting to explain how the U3A works and it was decided to call a meeting in Kingsbridge to ask if there was any interest in forming a group. Our Chairman John Cowling arranged a meeting during May 2011 when over sixty people came to hear Jennifer Gegg talk about Plymouth U3A which she chairs. As a result a steering committee is in the process of starting Kingsbridge Estuary U3A.

Does this mean a "natural break" for Kingsbridge Senior Council? We still intend to have a presence at the Kingsbridge Show so wait and see.

Tavistock Branch

IN recent months, we have been working more closely with our colleagues in the Okehampton branch. We have been encouraged by their support and we trust that they also have benefited from this closer collaboration.

There has also been closer working with TaVi (Tavistock and Villages Forum) and the May meeting of TaVi focused on the needs of older people in our community. The June meeting will be held in one of the local villages with the intention of seeking the views of those in more rural areas. A previous meeting had been held with the youth to facilitate intergenerational working.

Following the issues raised at the Assembly last December, we have invited responses to the list of social care and health questions which were the subject of concern. With the valuable help of Tim Hall, we secured the inclusion of an article in the local press. Responses have not been overwhelming to date but comments received are nevertheless producing related issues and food for thought.

The Big Society - SCfD Expenses - to claim or not to claim - that is the question!

The Senior Council like the voluntary sector relies completely on the generosity, in both time and money, donated by its members. How many times have you heard a colleague mention that they don't claim any expenses? Do you hear, in the same breath, from that colleague, "by my action I have undervalued the organisation"? That friends, is the true outcome of their generosity and altruistic nature. Successful outcomes evolve from evidenced based incomes. So, speaking as a member of the Funding Group, there is no space on a balance sheet or business plan to record 'generosity' which makes our task more difficult when preparing a bid for a particular project. With the draconian cuts introduced by the statutory funders, we need all the evidence we can muster to support our bids from funders. The result of your generosity appears on one side of the equation, we need the evidence to maintain a balance or tip the scales in our favour. Bear in mind that once an expense claim has been made and duly reimbursed, the claimant then has a choice of whether they want to donate that sum of money back to the Senior Council for Devon - or your local branch - if their need for altruism remains unsatisfied. I know it can be a real nuisance at times having to complete the paperwork, but we want to strengthen the data in support of our bids.

Ron Cuthbertson, Vice-chair, Crediton

Funding Update July 2011



HAVING now officially joined the Fusion Consortium our funding from them will only be for maintaining our network of Local Groups in the area of Health and Social Care. All our other funding has to come from elsewhere

The Funding Group has now put in three bids and are working in partnership with Exeter College and "Upstream" on a joint bid; we have had our first failure with a refusal from Nominet for our bid for IT for older people. This is a difficult area where Age UK and others have been involved, and it may be that that has caused the rejection.

Bids are in to "Awards for All" for Intergenerational work for a conference and workshops in Crediton around the theme "From Little Acorns" leading to an Olympic themed conference in October 2012 to "Comic Relief" for development under the title "New Shoots".

What has pleased us is that Exeter College has asked us to partner them in a bid for funds to establish additional Adult Learning in Exeter and Devon. We are looking at three areas initially, one of the deprived areas of Exeter, Cullompton/Tiverton and Crediton.

These bids are for approximately £70,000 over the next three years, it's not guaranteed and we will be putting in further bids. We really need to be bidding for in excess of £300,000 to stand a chance of maintaining our funding.

The Fusion Consortium should deliver us some income from additional Devon County Council and Devon NHS contracts.

What we need from you is IDEAS, the WILDER the BETTER as funders are looking for something UNIQUE.

Ken Crawford, Chair of Funding Group

Devon NHS Foundation Trust

ALL the current NH Trusts have to apply for Foundation status by 2012, and Devon is in the process of doing this. The Trust has already set up a set of shadow Governors. The new Foundation will have more responsibility to the Strategic Health Authority, and will bypass the Secretary of State which will give it more local autonomy and the Board of Governors will also have more autonomy, as the Chair of the Foundation will no longer chair the Governors. This gives the Governors greater power in the running of the Foundation. Anyone can be a Governor, but they are all individuals and do not represent any particular group, there will be elections for the first full Board of Governors later in September; in order to vote you must be a member of the Foundation. Every member of the SCfD needs to be a member of the Foundation Trust so we can ensure that older people are represented, so please sign up in your local area. If you have access to the internet, the following links will take you to the application form and to more information about becoming a member:

Application form: <http://www.devonpartnership.nhs.uk/index.php?id=203>

Membership information: <http://www.devonpartnership.nhs.uk/index.php?id=205>

If you would like a hard copy of the application form, please contact Sally or Andrea on 01803 732678.

Ken Crawford

Free Cancer Treatment in Devon

SOME people with cancer in Devon are still needlessly paying for their much-needed medicines, according to Macmillan Cancer Support. The news comes two years after Macmillan's successful campaign to get exemption from prescription charges for any medication relating to their cancer, its treatments and the effects of the treatment.

Recent figures from the National Cancer Patient Experience Survey show that an average of 28.5% of people receiving treatment for cancer in Devon were not told that they were eligible for free prescriptions. To claim free prescriptions, patients must apply for an exemption certificate.

But despite the availability of the certificates, many cancer patients are still not aware of the help available and are continuing to cut back on essential items such as food or heating just to pay for their prescriptions.

David Crosby, general manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, said: "To get your application form please visit your GP or oncology clinic and ask for the FP92A form.

"Once issued, your certificate will last for five years and could save you hundreds of pounds.

"We know that many people have financial concerns following a cancer diagnosis, but paying for prescription medicines is a worry they do not have to cope with."

Senior Council continues to campaign against the withdrawal of cheques



The Senior Council continues its campaign to safeguard the use of cheques for older people, small businesses and charities particularly. After surveying our Senior Voice members last year and having hard evidence that older people continue to rely on cheque payments, the Board wrote to all the banks and followed this up with a letter to the Payments council copied in to all the Devon MPs. This is the response we have received from the Payments Council:

Dear Ms Newcombe,

Thank you for your email of 5th April, on behalf of the Senior Council for Devon. It is clear that there is a very strong feeling among people in your area on cheques, and I hope I can provide you with some reassurance on the subject.



The Payments Council has committed to making sure that alternatives are in place before the cheque clearing system can be closed. Furthermore, we have said that these alternatives will have to meet the needs of the customers who currently rely on cheques, that those customers must be aware of them, and that customers must actually be using them. We will not make a final decision on closing cheque clearing until 2016, and will do so based on these criteria. We will also publish specific measures for these criteria well before any decision is taken.

This means that in the short term there will be no change to how people use cheques, and that in the long term we will not force customers to use methods of payments with which they feel uncomfortable. We completely understand that many people do not have sufficient access to some payment methods, like telephone and internet banking, or find these services difficult to use, and we will not insist that all customers switch over to them in the coming years. We also do not see cash as an acceptable alternative for those instances where customers would use a cheque for payment now. There are some situations in which older people do not have obvious alternatives to the cheque at the moment; we accept that, and we are committed to filling those gaps before making a final decision on cheques.

The Payments Council's own work is focusing particularly on identifying the needs of those older people, small businesses, charities, clubs and societies who rely on cheques. Last year we met with over 300 small businesses and organisations to discuss their needs, and this year we are continuing this work to ensure these requirements are properly addressed. In the autumn we ran a series of workshops with a range of small charities, clubs and societies like yours, the results of which were published by independent research firm Optimisa. I have enclosed a summary of their report for your interest. The full report is available from our website or directly on request.

During the process of developing alternatives to cheques, the Payments Council is absolutely committed to openness and accountability. This is why we publish a quarterly newsletter, Communiqué, which keeps our stakeholders and the public up to date with our progress. The newsletter is available for free, either electronically or in print. If you or any members of the Senior Council for Devon would like a copy, I can either pass on a bundle of paper copies to you, or they are available from our website. We have also published a detailed progress report on our work in 2010, and our aims for 2011, and this is available free from our website or on request.

Thank you again for contacting us, and please feel free to contact me again if you have more questions about the work we are doing.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Johnson

Public Affairs Assistant





WORRIED ABOUT PAYING CARE FEES? PROTECTING CAPITAL?

I am a professionally qualified care fees specialist and a member of the Society of Later Life Advisers.
Over the last 16 years I have provided care fee solutions to many families in Devon.

I can give advice on areas such as Enduring and Lasting Powers of Attorney, State Benefits,
Ownership of Property, Wills and Probate.

I will gather information and guide you through the process and prepare a report on funding options.

To obtain a FREE copy of our Guide to Care Fees Planning, please contact me by telephone or via email.

Ray Hanratty Cert PFS, R.Inst.Pa
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Intergenerational Conference - Crediton Nov '11



The 'Dream Team' made up of young people and SCfD Members are organising an Intergenerational Conference in Crediton on Saturday 12th November 2011 with a title "From Little Acorns". This event will include thought provoking ideas as to how what we do and say affects each other, presentations and practical workshops around the environment and an Information Fair. Book your place now as it promises to be an interesting and fun event.

GENERATIONS TOGETHER

FOLLOWING on from the November 2010 Conference I am delighted to hear that several of the Branches have engaged with the young people in their area.

Barnstaple have assisted in hosting a day for a new School which has been built in the area. Culm Valley are challenging the members of the local youth service to snooker and billiards. Teignmouth are engaged in partnership with others in IT Skills. Okehampton followed up Holsworthy's Grandparents Poems. Crediton are organising a second Conference in 2011. Please put this date in your diary and come and join in. It is entitled "From little Acorns..." and will explore the philosophy behind how we treat the acorn and each other affects growth. We are applying for funds for this which is a pre-runner to September 2012 which will be a celebration of the Olympics and Devon's contribution. This year's Conference has an interesting and exciting programme and one of the workshops will to be collect ideas for the Olympics.

If you have engaged in any Intergenerational activity I would love to hear about it.

Ann R. Crawford: arc.southtawton@virgin.net

NHS Listening Exercise

Due to pressure from doctors, nurses and organisations like the SCfD, the "Liberating the NHS" exercise was paused for further consultation, this allowed further comments to be sent and the SCfD was not slow in doing this. May I thank all those that sent in comments; the final document is available on the SCfD website or from Sally.

We had concerns on the GP Consortia, Patients and the Public, GP Commissioning, the NHS Commissioning Board HealthWatch and Rurality.

We were particularly concerned that transport in rural areas is a major problem in getting to Health Care, that Health and Social Care must be one and the same, and that the voluntary sector needs to be involved at all levels. Responding to these consultations is one of the SCfD's strengths and does much to increase our standing both in Devon and Nationally.

Ken Crawford

To make you smile...

Bless her little heart... How sweet...

The secret to long life...

A doctor on his morning walk, noticed the old lady pictured.

She was sitting on her front step smoking a cigar, so he walked up to her and said,

"I couldn't help but notice how happy you look! What is your secret?"

"I smoke ten cigars a day," she said. "Before I go to bed, I smoke a nice big joint. Apart from that, I drink a whole bottle of Jack Daniels every week, and eat only junk food. On weekends, I pop pills, have sex, and I don't exercise at all."

"That is absolutely amazing! How old are you?"

"Forty," she replied.



Volunteering Opportunities at Haldon Forest Park



ARE you looking for a challenging yet enjoyable volunteering opportunity? Do you enjoy spending time in the great outdoors and meeting new people? If so, becoming a visitor services volunteer at the Forestry Commission's Haldon Forest Park could be just what you are looking for.

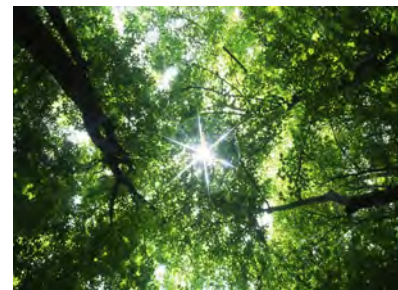
The main role for volunteers will be acting as a point of contact for visitors. This will include 'meeting and greeting' the public, helping with their enquiries and generally ensuring that they enjoy their time at Haldon.

In addition, volunteers will assist the rangers with other duties such as, managing the car park selling Discovery Passes and checking trails.

Louise Bell, Haldon Forest Park Manager says: "Not only is 2011 is the International Year of Volunteering it is also the International Year of the Forest, so it really is the perfect time for anyone who has been thinking about volunteering it to give it a go. Ideally we would like volunteers who could commit to around three days a month all year round initially, which would be predominately weekends. This would allow them to get really involved in the running of the park and with the team and would help deliver great customer service to our visitors. In return volunteers will gain valuable experience and training in a customer focused environment, be part of a great team and get to work in a beautiful setting.

The role may suit someone who is retired, but who enjoys spending time in an 'outdoor' environment and meeting new people."

People who are interested should contact Emily McCarthy at Exeter CVS on 01392 202055 or by email Emily.Mccarthy@exetercv.org.uk



Mental Health

NETWORK Action Groups continue to take place across the County so if you are interested in Mental Health, then these are a way to learn what is going on and get your voice heard.

Personalisation will be with us shortly, it is a new way of providing social care services which will be developed around the requirements of the person, it's a move away from being assessed and being told what you need and who will provide it.

You decide what will be best for you, day centre, meeting friends, joining groups, respite breaks, enabling support in your home, help with transport etc. and one off grants. **Some of these will be subject to a financial assessment!** Each person will have a Personalised Support Plan (CPA), agreed with yourself and your carers, payments can be by a Personal Budget which is managed for you, or Direct Payments which you control yourself.

Ken Crawford

Checking the results – A personal budget survey

What's working well and what's not?

Understanding the real effect of the changes being made is one of the key challenges facing Devon County Council today. The National Personal Budget Survey will provide us with the data we need to demonstrate the real impact we are having on the lives of local people and will allow us to listen to and respond to your views and experiences. **What effect are personal budgets having on the lives of people who need support?**

Nationally - The self-directed support charity **In Control** has been working closely with the Putting People First Consortium and Lancaster University to develop a short survey, to help them understand what is working well and what needs to be improved about personal budgets. The **easy-to-use, online survey** will provide evidence of the impact that personal budgets are having on the lives of both the person and their family.

Locally – You and your members can help us to understand how well personal budgets are working in Devon and to demonstrate in a co-ordinated way, clear evidence of the benefits being delivered.

Who can complete the survey?

People who have had a personal budget from DCC to pay for social care for at least three months including people who get a direct payment. There is a second version for people who provide care or support for a relative, friend or neighbour who gets a personal budget.

The information is confidential and names will not be stored.

Personal budget holders and their carers can complete it online at www.devon.gov.uk/pb-survey (contd)



The hard copy version of the survey is in easy read format. User-led organisation Fusion will provide printed copies, support with form filling, and telephone access. Please contact the social care survey helpline initially on telephone **0345 155 1012**. Hard copy easy-read versions are also available for personal budgets holders and carers and can be downloaded from the web page www.devon.gov.uk/pb-survey The survey will run for just one year **from 1st April 2011** and will be collated anonymously by Lancaster University. People can see the results online so they can benchmark DCC against other local authorities.



Readers' Contributions - Safety Slot

DID you know? The first recorded road death in a motor accident in Britain was in London 110 years ago. More than a century ago, roads may be busier than ever, but are they any safer?

On 17th August 1896 a South London housewife entered the history books by being run over. Bridget Driscoll, 44, became the first person recorded to have died in a motor accident in Britain, when her visit to a fete in Crystal Palace ended in tragedy. She apparently froze with fear at the sight of a Roger-Benz approaching and was knocked down by motorist Arthur Edsell going at 4 mph. The 20 year old driver was a car company worker and there were reports he had adjusted the engine to increase its maximum speed to 8 mph!

Spy Sticks

Lollipop ladies have often complained to me that motorists do not stop at their crossings. Now if the trials are successful they have a new weapon. A secret camera on the pole will snap any motorist who ignores the lollipop ladies' requests to stop. Some selfish drivers are willing to put children's lives at risk by refusing to pause of 30 seconds at the school crossing. It is hoped the new technology will prove an effective deterrent. Lollipop men and women do a good job day after day in all weathers and well deserve this extra aid.



By the way, an interesting note has been given to me by Bob and Liz. St. Pancras Church in the Guildhall shopping precinct in Exeter is dedicated to a teenage boy who was martyred in Road in 304 AD. A communion service is held every Tuesday at 1.05 pm and a lay-led meditation with Taize music is held on the third Friday of each month at 7 pm in this church's peaceful interior.

Nina Morgan – Safety First not Last, Road Safety Exeter

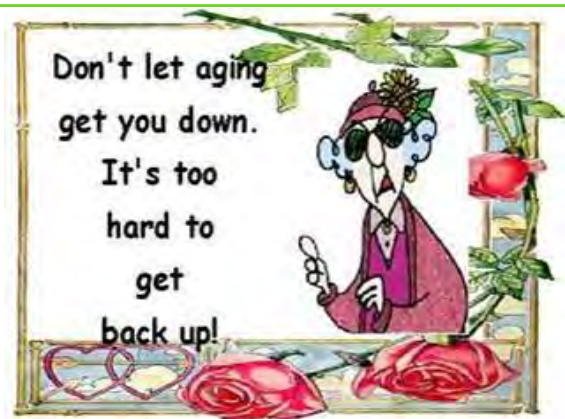
To make you smile...

The Computer Swallowed Grandma - Post-script

I searched around the 'internet'
 With poor Grandma in mind
 I will soon find her, I am willing to bet
 But with Grandmas one never knows
 What kind of problems they will pose,
 So I started to look through 'Windows'
 To see if she had fallen out.
 Then suddenly, from my 'In box', I heard a shout
 Great news readers, I found her sleeping.

So now you can all stop weeping
 'cos the computer that swallowed Grandma
 Managed to 'Text' her to me! Ha! Ha!
 She was trying to hang out her washing 'On line'
 As it was raining outside you see
 No! the 'Virus' ate the 'Worm' not Grandma,
 She was safely 'E-Mailed' to me
 So I will send her back shortly
 After she has had a cup of tea.

Barbara Errington, Kingsteignton



THE MORE A THING CHANGES...



PEOPLE who thirty years ago were associated with Family Practitioner Committees, Family Health Service Authorities, Community Health Councils and Joint Council and Health Authority Committees will no doubt be thinking what is so revolutionary about the current NHS proposals (on hold) being considered by Parliament.

Taking the above services as a whole, a comprehensive mechanism for monitoring the NHS in an on-going way was achieved. The Family Practitioner Committee, for example, had a complement of GPs, pharmacists, Local Council, hospital and trade union representation.

Community Health Councils were judged to be very helpful vehicles for dealing with complaints and monitoring standards.

Of course, standard good management practices should apply to the NHS, especially as it is one of the largest organisations in the world. Being one of the largest organisations means that it is very easy to highlight a failing somewhere in the system. Failings should be identified and rectified, particularly if they apply to other parts of the Health Service.

That said, there are certain sections of the media which are predisposed to generalise on a particular shortcoming and hence give an unbalanced view of the general workings of the NHS. Let us hope that, as the future of the NHS proceeds in Parliament, the words of Oscar Wilde's character Lord Darlington will be heeded, namely the danger of knowing the price of everything and the value of nothing.

Bill Jordan, President

What Has Happened To Nonsense?

THE English have a great tradition of nonsense humour starting with Edward Lear and Lewis Carrol, running through stage Variety to The Goons and Monty Python. It can be termed as illogical logicalities. Something that sounds right at first hearing but, on closer examination, proves to be nonsense.

Thus Will Hay: "What's your name?"

"Watt?"

"That's what I'm trying to find out."

"No, Watt is my name?"

"You'll have to ask your mother. Where do you live?"

"Ware,"

"Yes. Where?"

"I just told you Ware."

This could go on forever!

Then there was Harry Tate with "If I was going to Brighton I wouldn't start from here."

And Jimmy James with "Have you been putting it around that I'm barmy?"

"Why, did you want it kept a secret?"

There's a glimpse of it in Sid Field's famous golfing sketch:

Jerry Desmond: "Come on. Let's make the tee."

Field "I thought we were going to play."

Desmond. "We are going to play. Make the tee, with the sand,"

Field "I'm not drinking that stuff."

Since Morecambe and Wise died we seem to have passed into a kind of a nasty snide humour that pokes fun at the human condition, that is frequently offensive and lacks the nonsense element.

The real secret of English humour is to take silly things seriously, like the Ministry of Funny Walks and Flanders and Swann's Hippopotamus, with its chorus "Mud, mud, glorious mud." It is particularly English, although Chico Marx got close with "there ain't no Sanity Clause." It's a kind of "you can't get there from here", Wodehouse "He looked like a man who, while chasing a rainbow, had one turn and bite him in the leg." There are still elements of nonsense to be seen in Ken Dodd, although he does indulge himself in whimsy and the singing is painful.

The long lamented Beachcomber added to the tradition with his Twelve Red Bearded Dwarfs, who kept getting shoved through letter boxes and charged with breaking and entering. No wonder Justice Cocklecarrot set the Court on fire. Tom Lerher, the American satirist, says he was inspired by the lyrical master of gibberish W.S. Gilbert, who has a lot to answer for.

Allen Saddler, Totnes



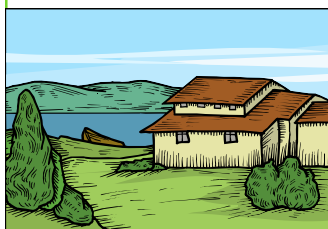
CAN WE CONTINUE TO LIVE IN OUR EXISTING COMMUNITY AS WE AGE?



THE Senior Council for Devon (SCfD) recently received a report from the Devon Rural Housing Partnership in regard to the **Housing Aspirations of Older People Living in Rural Devon**. Senior Council welcomed the report and supports its recommendations for urgent consideration to be given to tackling the many housing issues facing the needs of older people in Devon.

It is of particular interest to Senior Council as it addresses the issue of the needs of older people for affordable housing. The latest figures obtained from the Local Housing Authority state that the active list of applicants waiting for housing across Devon is 33,308 of which 55% are over 50.

The Devon Rural Housing Partnership (DRHP) does not operate in North Devon and therefore no survey data for this area of the county is included in the report. However, as SCfD operates across the whole of Devon, we have offered assistance in any further data collection if this was required and considered feasible.



Survey Results.

DRHP carry out about 24 community - normally parish - housing needs surveys every year; and one of the important achievements of the report is that it highlights publically the desire and aspirations of older people to remain and live in their existing community as they age.

How many times do we hear talk of “well they are getting older and they will have to go into a care home”, when in fact the opposite is true. They need help by organisations like ourselves to alert the Parish Councils, Housing Authorities and Planning Authorities to the true issues. There are many alternative solutions that could be available if there were more awareness by the “providers” of what older people actually need on the ground. Remaining in their local community with their friends and perhaps near their families is critical for their quality of life in later years.

Type of accommodation needed.

The report states that there is a clear preference for bungalows as a type of accommodation. This is not unexpected. However, what is worrying is that the report suggests under Key Findings of the survey that if the planning authorities do not amend planning policy which restricts open market housing development for older people in rural villages, then older persons may be forced to move away from their community support networks. This would clearly be in conflict with other Key Findings that the majority desire to stay within their existing community as they age. An additional consideration that may need to be taken into account is the desire for better security and access for the disabled.

Future moving plans - What influences our choice

The most important factor influencing the next move was the desire for “a home easy to maintain”. This highlights the growing awareness of the older generation of the cost of maintenance of our homes including good insulation in order to reduce heating costs. This issue in an ever increasing age group, many on fixed incomes, is likely to be an increasingly major problem. Perhaps the issue to be addressed, as a matter of some urgency, is the need to alert the Planning Authorities and the Parish Councils (as the report suggests), that “the new localism provides an opportunity for communities to create bottom up solutions for how to support older residents to stay in their community”. The Senior Council believe that this is an area where we could support and actively engage with the DRHP.

Senior Council propose to contact the Local Planning Authorities in Devon and endeavour to engage in meaningful dialogue in order to make awareness to the problems with particular emphasis given for the need for additional bungalows in the rural communities and endeavour to have planning policy documents amended. It may be possible to include small clusters of bungalow development protected by legal Section 106 Agreements for local needs people. Perhaps we should look specifically at the new concept of emerging Neighbourhood Plans that is being proposed by the new coalition government under the Localism agenda. We understand that government is proposing to pilot a project at Dawlish. Senior Council is offering to engage with the Dawlish Council in the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan.

*Graham Rogers, Rural Housing Representative
Senior Council for Devon.*

Crisis of Care Deepens



'WE used to have time to care . Our pay is one pence over the minimum wage. Directors have made millions from favourable share options. Nobody has got it right - our residents are seen as a drain on the country's resources.'

Helen Ewan, Southern Cross care worker, June 6th at GMB Conference.

As we go to press 31,000 residents of Southern Cross care homes, along with their families - and over 40,000 care staff (3,000 of whom have been made redundant) - face an uncertain future; there are calls for the Government to intervene. Southern Cross, the UK's biggest care home company, responsible for 10% of those in care, is said to be facing 'financial meltdown.' from 'ruthless City speculators' (D.Mail, June 2nd). It is a sobering story and one that should mobilise Senior Council and all bodies representing older citizens to action.

Southern Cross, which has seven homes in Devon including one on Honiton High Street, is only the tip of a large iceberg which has been growing since privatisation of residential care was introduced John Major's government in 1990. Local authorities were encouraged stop being providers and switch to becoming mere purchasers of care; Councils divested almost 100,000 homes leading to a similar expansion in private care. Devon County Council is among those which has still not found a suitable 'purchaser'; I recall being told at a SCFD Assembly that what mattered was not ownership but quality of care. My reply was that both are vital.

Many hoped the big sell off would result in small local providers and charities providing the majority of quality care. Many are now struggling and an increasingly large number of care homes with tens of thousands of elderly people have become subject to bigger players, private equity speculators and companies subject to the vagaries of the stock market.

Care becomes a 'commodity'

Southern Cross has accumulated a huge 'portfolio' of 750 care homes which, according to the Times, has become a 'commodity that the market believed could only go up in value...with ever increasing income from local authorities', basically a continuing transfer of assets from the public to the private sector. Incredibly, the use of crude market based provider strategies is now being touted for the NHS and Social Care Bill. No wonder even the Prime Minister is being forced to face the contradictions of profit driven healthcare.

My mother was a resident of Southern Cross in 2004 when an American private equity firm called Blackstone took over under Chief Executive Stephen Schwartzman. Blackstone is a prime example of multi-national companies that would like to acquire large chunks of our welfare state. They paid £162m for a package of care homes, leases and various 'brands' like Active Care. To Blackstone it was simply business since they also purchased British theme parks like Alton Towers and London Eye. Schwartzman's company was at first spectacularly successful and is said to have quadrupled its investment in three years leasing its properties to companies like NHP, Bondcare and Four Seasons. It expanded by borrowing money thus also contributing to the banking crisis. Though the Mail correctly describes the system as 'predatory, unethical greed' - Southern Cross's Bill Colvin received £36 millions in share sales - the Mail seems more pre-occupied about how this 'plays into the hands of left wingers who say the private sector can't be trusted with social care'. Yet even the Times describes 'how the care home gamble backfired' and West Country MP and doctor Sarah Woolaston told the Mail that 'it can't be right that people can make a fast buck and clear out'. Vince Cable faces calls to investigate Blackstone, but MPs know the problem goes further. Stephen Dorrell, Tory MP and Chair of the Health Select Committee is to hold hearings into the 'failures' in the care sector.

A system at 'breaking point'

Not only had the Southern Cross financial model failed; one in six of their homes was graded poor or adequate by CQC; occupancy rates have fallen to 85%. A letter to Downing Street from the Local Government Commission, Age UK and BUPA (!) says pressure on public finances (the cuts) is adding to the problem by 'pushing an overburdened system to breaking point ... it is frail, older people who will suffer unless the issue is resolved'. With Southern Cross having unilaterally cuts its rentals by 30%, residents face the takeover of their homes by landlords, homes being sold or in some cases being closed. Local authorities, having sold off their homes, could even be forced to intervene at an estimated cost to taxpayers of £600m. Who says ownership is not an issue? Ownership of Winterbourne View, Bristol is certainly an issue as Panorama reported serious abuses of adults with learning difficulties. Run by Castlebeck, this private hospital charges £3,500 per patient yet has been described as 'a Dickensian scandal' (Mail).

Tim Shipman says Southern Cross is part of 'a bleak picture across the care home sector'. Some of the companies being looked to resolve the Southern Cross crisis are also subject to market failures. Four Seasons Healthcare, acquired by a middle east company, has 400 elderly care homes with almost 20,000 resident, has debts of over £700million. Care UK which runs 57 homes and other services for the elderly has debts of £127 million. Private companies provide mental health care for adults such as Craegmoor (174 homes) and Care Principles (17 homes) are also facing huge debts.

Lessons

Sarah Woolaston MP points out that 'unless the government gets to grips with the crisis it will undermine its planned reform of the NHS which promotes a market for private firms providing health services.' GPs could face enormous pressures to buy in private healthcare especially with plans to pay them cash incentives to get quick results. A correspondent to the Times (Dan Murphy, June 2nd) asks if 'the pursuit of short term profit and shareholder value is always going to be at odds with the concept of social service'? Prof John Williams of Aberystwyth University Law Faculty provides a thought provoking answer by stating 'Caring is not a business. It is something that is provided out of compassion and a commitment to help and should be nothing to do with the choice of business models'. While this is in the spirit the NHS Constitution it runs against business models which are failing us. It seems we can afford to engage in another costly war spending £millions every day on bombs. We can afford to build a new generation of nuclear weapons, we can afford to subsidise the banks whose directors are paying themselves obscene bonuses. But we cannot afford to provide decent care for vulnerable citizens. I believe the entire care sector is crying out for reform. What do members think?

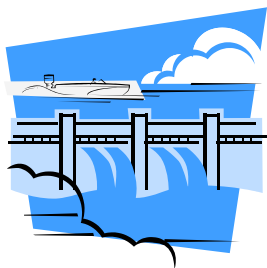
Following a successful Open Meeting Senior Council for Honiton has agreed to co-sponsor a public meeting on the wider implications of the care crisis for the NHS and Social Care Bill.

Tony Simpson, Secretary Honiton

Power from the Erme



AS you will know, if you have followed my articles on this subject, things seemed to have come to a standstill. The two suggested projects below the road bridge and the two above the road bridge in Longtimber woods and adjacent to the road bridge came to nothing because of either not enough flow or height or would not be approved by the Environment Agency. During this time the attitude by the Environment Agency was claimed to have changed. This does seem to be the case. However as some of you will have seen recently on the BBC some freshwater fishermen have been concerned about river flows and the consequent effect on fish movement. They need not worry, since the Agency are still heavily protecting their interests. I recently visited the National Trust water generator site at Cotehele Mill which was officially opened by Dick Strawbridge about three weeks before my visit. It had still not turned a blade. Apparently there were two items on a list which the agency were not happy about. I cannot believe that they will not allow it to be used but when the modifications are carried out I am sure it will run. So rest assured the Agency are looking after the fish! The ultimate aim of all this control is to return rivers as near as possible to their original flow which we would all agree with. I just wish they would get on with it.!



Just last week I was invited to a meeting with Lesley Hughes, the Town Clerk, together with a company representative from Heidra (water engineers) a builder, Richard Pymm, surveyor and the chief engineer from Arjo Wiggins. After establishing the willingness of Arjo Wiggins to allow a joint venture between them and Ivybridge Town Council we visited all the potential opportunities at the mill. It seems that very little of the water extracted by the mill is actually used by them and the majority of it flows back into the river. I was particularly impressed by their water re-cycling system which ensures that all the process water that is used flows back into the leat. The ultimate height was good and so was the flow. So it looks very likely now that a full feasibility study will be carried out during the summer. I must say I am very hopeful of this being successful mainly due to the attitude of Arjo Wiggins. To be continued...

Mike Bradley, Ivybridge Group

Mike Bradley - Response to Miriam Brown - Issue 10

I am grateful for Miriam Brown's response. I had hoped that someone would feel stirred to write. The profile of this subject is not high enough on most government agendas internationally. I think, however Miriam's first paragraph in the April 2011 issue of Everyone's Tomorrow needs clarifying. It is the international birth-rate that is increasing exponentially. Twenty years ago the world population was six billion and it was then predicted that by 2050 it would be 9 billion. Well here we are at 2011 and it is already approaching seven billion. Apparently there is not enough practical land to grow food for this size of population so it obvious that not only are food prices going to rise even further but there simply will not be enough for all!

Most of the Middle East disturbances currently occurring are because people cannot afford the increased food prices caused by last year's poor harvest in Russia. So it only takes a 'glitch' even now to cause chaos. Of course this is not the whole picture. We all know that these countries have been catapulted into the 21st century by western interference and yet they are still run by political despots or religious zealots with a highly remunerated clique around them who keep the general population under control normally but when people cannot even afford food the whole situation changes. The knock-on effect is higher fuel prices (because of market speculation) and consequently higher and higher food prices.

Our particular problem in the U.K. is immigration as Miriam has confirmed. I also agree that we should choose carefully who we allow in because; firstly, we are an island with a finite amount of practical space and secondly, if it's so good here we can be very choosy who we allow to enter.

Regarding travel, in relation to increasing population and subsequent climate change, air travel is very costly to the environment and I am pleased to see that the E.U. are rapidly improving rail links across Europe to cut down on internal flying. Other things however, could be done. Already commercial vehicles are restricted by speed limiters in the engine management system, and there is a proposal at present to do the same thing to 'white van man' but would it be so difficult for the same available technology to be applied to private motor cars which would after all save all private motorists a lot of money as well as carbon emissions!?

Mike Bradley

Editor's note: The views expressed in these articles are the opinions of the writers and should in no way be attributed to the Senior Council for Devon Board or staff members.

Fun/Useful Websites

Senior Council for Devon Diary Dates



Websites for 50s+

www.life-over-50.com
 www.sagazone.co.uk
 www.silversurfers.net
 www.saga.co.uk
 www.moneysavingexpert.com
 www.tasstavistock.org.uk
 www.ageuk.org.uk
 www.u3a.org.uk
 The Devonshire Association (notably Folklore & Dialect) - www.devonassoc.org.uk
 The Association of Retired Professional and Business Personnel www.ukprobus.org
 Care Direct www.devon.gov.uk/caredirect.html
 Devon County Council Leaflets and Factsheets: www.devon.gov.uk/index/socialcarehealth/factsheets.htm

Don't forget to have a look at our website at home or in the library:
www.seniorcouncildevon.org.uk

Board Meetings 2011 Fridays
 29th July, 19th August, 30th September, 28th October, 25th November, 16th December

Mid Devon Dementia Day
 7th July 2011 at the Tiverton Hotel EX16 4DB

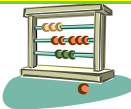
Exmouth Information Fair
 'Improving Yourself for your Future'
 9th July Elizabeth Hall, EX8 2BA, 10 - 4.00

Crediton Intergenerational Conference
 12th November, Boniface Centre, Crediton EX17 2AH

AGM - 25th October Isca Centre (see below)

Assembly Meetings - February 2012
 Isca Centre, Summer Lane, Exeter EX4 8NT

And finally - Use it or lose it!!



A) Make 2 7 letter words from the following:

ALHGOISTGCLAOE



B) Numbers Game
 What comes next?

1	1	2	3	5	8	13	21	?
2	3	5	7	11	13	17	19	?

LAST									DOGS
BLOOD									CAR
BURN									BULLETS
CREAM									CAKE
TV									KILLER
DOG									QUALITY
SECOND									STICKS
BOX									DICK
LAST									HAND
FIRST									YEAR
BREAST									PLAY
COMMON									HOG

C) Find words that can follow those on the left and precede those on the right and discover the famous person in one of the columns.

The Last Laugh ...



Answers: A) Hostage/Logical B) 34 Each number is the sum of the previous numbers, 23 the numbers are prime numbers C) straw, sports, rubber, cheese, serial, star, fiddle, clever, minute, light, stroke, ground. Robert de Niro