



*Strength in Later Life*



*Strength in Later Life*

# *Senior Council*

*for*

# *Devon*

# Annual Report

# 2010 - 2011



*Strength in Later Life*



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## Foreword

In spite of the uncertainties associated with future funding and charitable or some other status, the Senior Council for Devon has shown commendable resilience over the past year.

As the Newsletters have reported the SCfD branches across the County have continued to play responsive roles in monitoring the range and quality of the Health and Caring Services. In this context, a Dementia Day was organized in Tiverton and latterly prominence in our publicity has been given to the research of the South West Brain Bank which is part of a national scheme.

During the year, a very successful Assembly meeting was held featuring the future of the NHS. Members of the SCfD have become representatives on the newly-formed GP Commissioning Consortia. The input of our members will give due weight to the views of older people in the community. That said, from its inception the SCfD has seen the importance of working with young people. Consequent upon this, branches of the SCfD have been involved inter generational activities with the youth of Barnstaple, Bideford, Crediton, Culm Valley and Teignmouth.

Central to the remit of the SCfD is working in association with Devon County Council and other Councils across the County. Increasingly, this involvement with Councils is gaining ground and Branches are making proposals on how unallocated funds could be used.

Guided by the Constitution and ethos of the SCfD, Branches have worked in association with other organisations with similar interests to understand and influence NHS and Councils' policy-making. This is our general 'line of march'.

With so much productive foundation work 'under our belts', there is every reason to believe that our organisation can go on to play an increasingly-worthwhile role on behalf of older people and the community as a whole. This it will do, not only with health and social care issues, but also with a range of services that make for a good quality of life.

Bill Jordan  
President  
Senior Council for Devon



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# Chairman's Report

**Gillie Newcombe**

Where has the year gone? Is it my imagination or do they go faster as we get older?

I have to take this opportunity to thank many people who have worked long and tirelessly for the Senior Council for Devon. Firstly Yvonne Wardrop, who not only valiantly stepped up to the mark to take over the Chair at our last AGM but has held the fort on several occasions on my behalf.

Secondly all the Board members. It is quite a commitment and everyone of them undertakes several roles.

Thirdly the leaders and members of all the sub-committees. Thank you so much for the work that you produce as it enables us to be equipped to participate, represent and present the needs, views and services of older people in Devon.

I would also like to express my thanks to all at branch level who continue to astound me with their achievements. I know that it is very often a small group of dedicated members who work tirelessly keeping their branches active. I am aware it can at times be a thankless task but we at Board level can see how much is being achieved across the county. Some branches have struggled this year to survive, at the time of writing a priority on the Board's agenda is to come up with a method of assisting.

My last thank you must go to our three fantastic staff. They are all part time but you would never know it. Without their work and support, the Senior Council for Devon would cease to exist.

This year has seen many changes for us. I guess the most important of these being the end of our three year contract with DCC and NHS Devon. It has been difficult because the contract was our method of funding. When DCC came up with their proposition on joint engagement (a consortium) or the alternative of no financial support at all, we were placed in a position that left little room for negotiation. However the Board, with your support, finally came to the conclusion that we should join the consortium and seek to be a strong and active voice within it. We are now in the process of defining all the partners' positions as no one has a great deal of knowledge on just how the consortium will operate. I believe it is up to us to clearly illustrate the importance of the Senior Council for Devon. Undoubtedly much of our future efforts will be based around health and social care. Hopefully by the time of the AGM we will have much more we can tell you about.

All the current working parties will be making a report to you today. (A report is included from each of the working parties.) These illustrate what the Senior Council has been working on over the last 12 months. We have also undertaken various campaigns on your behalf including against the proposed demise of cheque books, services, snow clearance, advance charging for dental treatment and closure of mental health services respite provision.

We are in the process of forming closer working partnerships with other organisations representing older persons – Age UK, LINK Devon, the Alzheimer’s Society and Parish Councils.

This year the Directors have made every effort to support our local branches and it is our intention to continue this process and assist whenever we can.

During the year we welcomed new members to the Board - Ann Crawford, John Crowter-Jones and Tony Langmead. We are very much aware that there are parts of the county not represented a Board level and this does give some cause for concern. Although at the moment we have no vacancies, we would like to invite those not represented to look at putting someone forward.

Gillie Newcombe  
Chairman

### **Yvonne Wardrop**

As I indicated in my report for 2009 – 2010, the Board was already aware of impending changes. Resulting from the work of the review panel on the Memorandum and Articles of the organisation, the Board have held meetings, apart from the regular monthly business meetings, to develop a strategic policy and business plan to match the current state of the organisation.

The main thrust of this work has been in the creation or regeneration of groups in the county. My thanks to Tim Hall for his efforts in this direction. But, with the Board’s support, he has so many things he wants to do for the promotion of the organisation and much remains in the early stages of development. Throughout the six months of my tenure I have been truly indebted to both Sally and Andrea for their support whenever I have got into difficulty. All three of our part-time staff are gems!

During this six month period I have represented SCfD at events both nationally and within the county as well as showing the support of the board at local events. We still have a battle to win to ensure the existence of SCfD is more widely known, appreciated as an effective organisation, and not just

for the interests of the older person. But I found it was becoming too taxing for my own well-being. So I was profoundly grateful when Gillie took the chairmanship, although I offered to remain as vice-chairman to facilitate a smooth handover.

Gillie had to pick up the planning for our survival at the close of our 3 year contract with DCC/NHS. Her background expertise has been crucial in the negotiations to enter the consortium which is limited to health and social welfare. We have been through some patches of troubled water as changing circumstances have developed throughout the year. But we have won through, I firmly believe in our future and am proud of the worthwhile results we have already achieved.

Yvonne Wardrop  
Chairman, April to November 2010.

# Directors as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

The following Directors were in position.

Chairman	Gillie Newcombe	Exmouth
Vice-Chairman	Yvonne Wardrop	Exmouth
Treasurer	John Stedman	Tiverton
Secretary	Vacant	
Board Members	Cliff Bell	Barnstaple
	Margaret Coles	Holsworthy
	Ann Crawford	Okehampton
	Jean Daley	Exeter
	Margaret Woolacott	Okehampton

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# Secretary's Report

The Senior Council for Devon's second AGM took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011 (delayed due to the uncertainty of impending funding arrangements). An Annual Review Meeting was held in October 2010 at the Exeter Conference Centre, Exeter at which Cllr Stuart Barker gave a thought-provoking talk about the cuts to Devon County Council's budget. He also spoke about what had already been achieved in cost-cutting by changes in Care Homes, libraries, natural wastage of staff and not filling posts. His talk instigated a lively discussion.

There were only eight candidates for the SCfD Board at the AGM in March so the following were elected to the Board unopposed:

Chairman	Gillie Newcombe	Exmouth
Vice-Chairman	Yvonne Wardrop	Exmouth
Treasurer	John Stedman	Tiverton
Secretary	Vacancy	
Board Members	Cliff Bell	Barnstaple
	Margaret Coles	Holsworthy
	Jean Daley	Exeter
	Margaret Woolacott	Okehampton
	Ann Crawford	Okehampton

Two directors resigned, Graham Bowen and Derek Pedder, no Directors were co-opted in their place at the meeting.



Executive Administrator.

# Treasurer's Report

This year saw the end of the three year contract with Devon County Council and the Primary Care Trust. Due to the considerable financial constraints being placed on DCC the level of ongoing funding from them via a subcontract with Fusion will be reduced by almost 50%, from £152,000 to £80,000.

This places new challenges on the organisation to ensure that the optimum use is made of the available funding. This has been addressed in two ways. Firstly, by the development of a Strategic Plan which clearly lays out the SCfD plans for the next three years supported by a detailed budget, and secondly by the formation of a Fund Raising group. This group has now been working hard to raise funds for almost a year, but the financial climate and the low income that Trusts receive from their investments to distribute make this a very challenging task.

The SCfD continues to benefit from the considerable input provided on a voluntary basis both by its Board and members of Groups throughout the County. It now has over 2000 members. This utilisation of valuable age resources contributing a wide range of skills and experience, which has been gained from a lifetime of employment and practice, will continue to play an important role in the improvement of the quality of life of the older generation throughout the county.

This year saw income of £159,863 (£61,940 - 2010) and expenditure of £129,002 (£142,281 - 2010). Staff employment costs increased to £50,404 (£41,691 - 2010) due to the full year employment of a Development Officer. This equates to 39% (29% 2010) of total costs. The administrative team of three part time dedicated staff provide vital support for the organisation. However, although they play such an important role, funding for administrative staff is very difficult to obtain.

In addition to the contract funding, additional funds of £4,250 were received for the SLA Equalities agreement. Other funds generated during the year were made up of £1,000 for the intergenerational conference, £250 for advertisements in the Ivybridge newsletter and a £350 grant for the Seaton car park barrier.

In addition to the £151,598 received from DCC, under the SLA contract. Grants and subsidies included £750 for the information fair, £525 from DCC for memory cafés, £150 from the Bluebird Care Home and £150 for advertising in the main newsletter.

The main items of expenditure during the year were printing, postage and stationery, £16,404 (£15,968 - 2010), newsletter £5,464 (£8,051 - 2010), £13,533 venue hire ( £9,535 2010 ), Travel and subsistence £12,691 (2010 £11,558) Shows and events £4,254 (£2,314 -2010) and £3,040 (£6,386 - 2010) for advertising. Office expenses and telephone and fax costs were £4,034 (£3,370 - 2010). These seven headings accounted for 84% (80% 2010) of general administrative costs. Although the newsletter has grown considerably in size and is distributed to more members it is interesting to note that improved methods of production have resulted in savings of £2,587 compared with the previous year.

The balance sheet remains healthy with a net asset figure of £111,693 (£75,696 - 2010). This included a significant proportion of cash balances held by groups. The bank balance held centrally will help to maintain the administrative service in the year ahead whilst funds are sought by the funding group and the delivery of other services. It has been recognised that much of the computer equipment purchased three years ago is now in need of replacement and upgrading, and funding is being sought to ensure that it is updated.

To ensure that there are adequate funds for future growth, in addition to the formation of the funding group, new ways of generating funds are currently being reviewed as is the most effective and productive development of the SCfD.

John Stedman.

# The Senior Council for Devon

## Profit and Loss Account for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

	2011		2010	
<b>Turnover</b>		159,763		161,860
Fund generation	1,560		10,262	
Grants and subsidies	153,953		151,598	
<b>Administrative expenses</b>		129,002		142,281
Employment costs	50,404		42,089	
Establishment costs	2,047		4,154	
General administrative expenses	71,383		90,610	
Finance charges	24		60	
Depreciation costs	5,144		5,368	
<b>Operating profit</b>				19,579
<b>Other interest receivable and similar income</b>				
Bank interest receivable	100			80
<b>Profit on ordinary activities before taxation</b>	30,861			19,659
Tax due	21			17
<b>Profit on ordinary activities after taxation</b>	30,840			19,642

## Senior Council for Devon

### Balance Sheet for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011

<b>Fixed assets</b>	2011		2010	
	Tangible assets (Computers etc.)		19,068	
<b>Current assets</b>				
Stock (Stationery etc.)	6,017		6,177	
Debtors	1,584		5,499	
Cash at bank and in hand	106,325		73,940	
<b>Creditors:</b>				
<b>Amounts falling due within one year</b>	(2,233)		(9,920)	
<b>Net current assets</b>	111,693			75,696
<b>Net assets</b>	130,671			99,921
<b>Capital and reserves</b>				
Profit and loss reserve	130,761			99,921

## Funding

With the pending reduction in funding from Devon County Council and Devon NHS, the funding group was set up in August. Its first task was to assess what funding was out there and profiles of potential funders produced so that we will be ready to move into action when the partnership details of the Fusion Consortium have been made clear.

Ken Crawford.

# Constitution

The Directors asked the group to re-convene after the Charities Commission (CC) turned down the formal application to register SCfD as a charity. The group considered the information and advice received from the CC as to why the application had failed. The formal Objects of SCfD appeared to be the major stumbling block, despite the fact that these mirrored those of Shropshire who had successfully registered relatively recently. However it was evident that the "rules" had changed and that CC was taking a much more stringent approach to applications.

One of the major reasons for SCfD registering was that it was felt it would open up other funding opportunities available only to charities. The group therefore asked the SCfD Funding group for an update on this. The reply indicated that there were many opportunities currently available to SCfD and that although CC registration would open others it was felt there were plenty that could be pursued meanwhile.

The Constitution Group (CG) noted that to register successfully as a Charity, by amending the Objects in accordance with CC advice, would preclude SCfD from pursuing the majority of the activities currently undertaken and that the Directors would be under an obligation to ensure that any precluded activities did not take place.

In view of the above the CG advised the Board of Directors that it would be unwise to pursue registration but that it would be possible to set up a separate charitable company under the control of SCfD purely for raising funds for the activities that could be undertaken as a Charity. The Directors have decided not to pursue, at present, such registration or setting up a separate charitable company.

Minor alterations to the Articles of Association to reflect this situation and the other constitutional amendments passed at recent General Meetings will be required at some time in the future.

Meanwhile the CG is continuing to advise the Board and staff on constitutional procedures and will be bringing forward proposals for updating the model constitution for the local groups.

Roger Trapani, Alan Rayner and Peter Dunning.

# **Dementia**

The Devon Dementia Partnership Group has continued to work on the Dementia Strategy for Devon; the main changes involve moving the care into the community with the eventual removal of inpatients from some of the specialist units. This has caused some concern.

Early diagnosis is now starting to show benefits.

The SCfD, with others, has worked on a “Map of Medicine” for Dementia, which will enable GPs to access up to date information and diagnostic tools. I first came across these “Maps” in 1960 with one produced for the Flying Doctor Service in Africa, which had over a 95% success rate on diagnosis just by using locally trained technicians. In the hands of GPs this will be a valuable tool and it will be released later this year.

Memory Cafés have been going from strength to strength, with 36 fully functional and a further 8 in the pipeline, 4 of these in Exeter.

Ken Crawford.

# **Mental Health**

The SCfD has been involved with all the three Network Action Groups covering Devon; these have concentrated on the issues of moving the care out into the community. There has been concern over the withdrawal of day services. These will continue where there is a clinical need, but those just providing a place to meet are being withdrawn, the participants being encouraged to work towards self help.

There has been a £5 million spend on refurbishing four Mental Health units to cover Devon and Torbay. These will have separation both between the sexes and will provide the privacy needed, they are all close to other NHS facilities providing emergency help when necessary.

The Crisis Mental Health Teams have had both their funding and staffing increased and now cover the over 65s so the service is far more equitable.

Ken Crawford.

## Health & Social Care

This year has been an interesting and developmental one for our group.

As the subject is so diverse and such an important area for the SCfD we agreed to set up three sub groups who would report back to the main group and then to the Board. (This has not been totally successful yet as the group looking at hospitals and domiciliary care has only met at the same time as the main group.) The three groups coming together quarterly:

Dementia Care:                      Group leader Ken Crawford

Residential Care:                      Group leader Cliff Bell

Hospitals and Dom Care:              Group leader Gillie Newcombe.

All three of the groups have been involved in working with both the NHS and DCC members sitting on all the working parties set up by the authorities in order to put forward the voice of seniors.

The Hospital and Domiciliary Care Group has not been as active as we might have been. However we have been in touch with the authorities and have been present on committees, attended briefings and study days on your behalf:

- End of Life Strategy Planning at Buckfast and as part of the Joint Engagement Board.
- PALS set up group looking at ways of improving communication.
- Attended Network Action Groups in all areas of the County.
- District Meetings on the reorganisation of the Health Authority and its effects on the public.
- The setting up and organisation of the new GP Consortiums.
- Held an Assembly Meeting on the future of Health Services in the County.
- Supported a Dementia Awareness Day held by our Mid-Devon Groups.
- Supported a campaign by our Newton Abbot group to retain beds in the town for dementia sufferers.

- Linked in with other groups on areas of common interest.
- Surveyed our Senior Voice members on their experiences of being discharged from hospital and fed those results into a LINK report.
- Participated in the drawing up of a specification for a Bereavement Service (yet to be released).
- Participating in a group looking at the present provision and needs for respite services. (Report to be published later.)
- Encouraged all Senior Council members to consider becoming members of their patient participation groups.
- All members have been asked to become critical friends when visiting Hospitals, GP surgeries, Nursing or Residential homes or receiving a Domiciliary Care Service.
- We were asked to become members of a panel interviewing for the post of Head of Social Care Provision at Devon County Council. No appointment was made following the first set of interviews; hopefully we will be able to tell you the name of the person appointed at the AGM.
- Had ongoing feedback from DCC on the situation with their Residential Homes and offered suggestions and ideas as to how to proceed.
- We have been asked to become part of an inspection team for DCC's Homes following recent CQC reports via the Fusion Gateway.

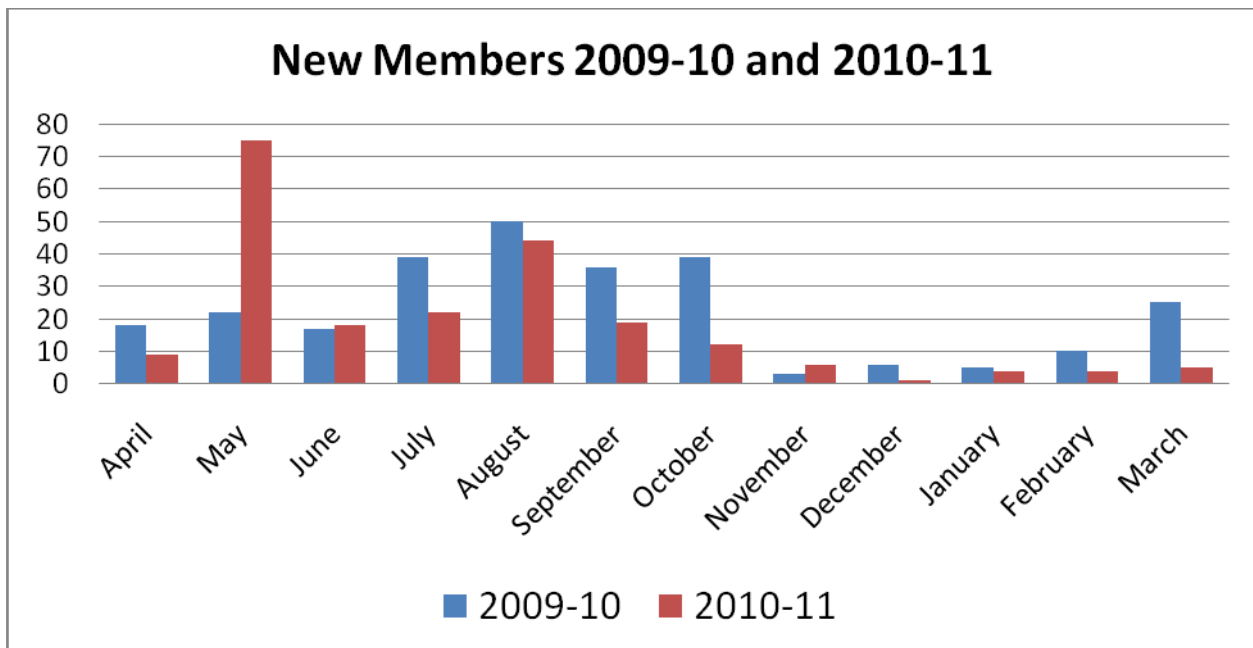
As you can see we have not been completely inactive and I am sure there will be even more work coming our way via the Joint Engagement Board and The Fusion Gateway.

We would ask all of you to report to us not only your concerns about services received from the Health Service or Social Services so that we can raise these with the relevant bodies, but also of good services received and ideas on how you think services could be built upon in the future remembering the current climate of cuts in resources.

Gillie Newcombe.

# Membership

The last year has shown the membership grow to 1700 with a few members resigning due to moving, ill health or in some cases, passing away, but the numbers were still less than the previous year. The cause of this may be because concentration was on re-launching of groups and the funding issue with Devon County Council and the Fusion Consortium, but we still were able to recruit 219 new members.

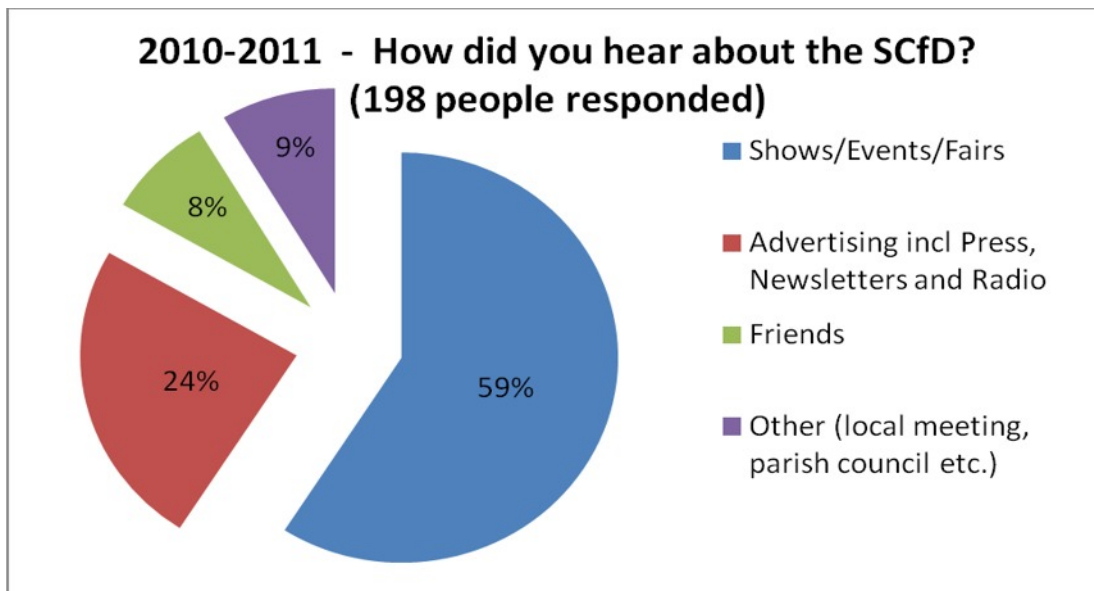
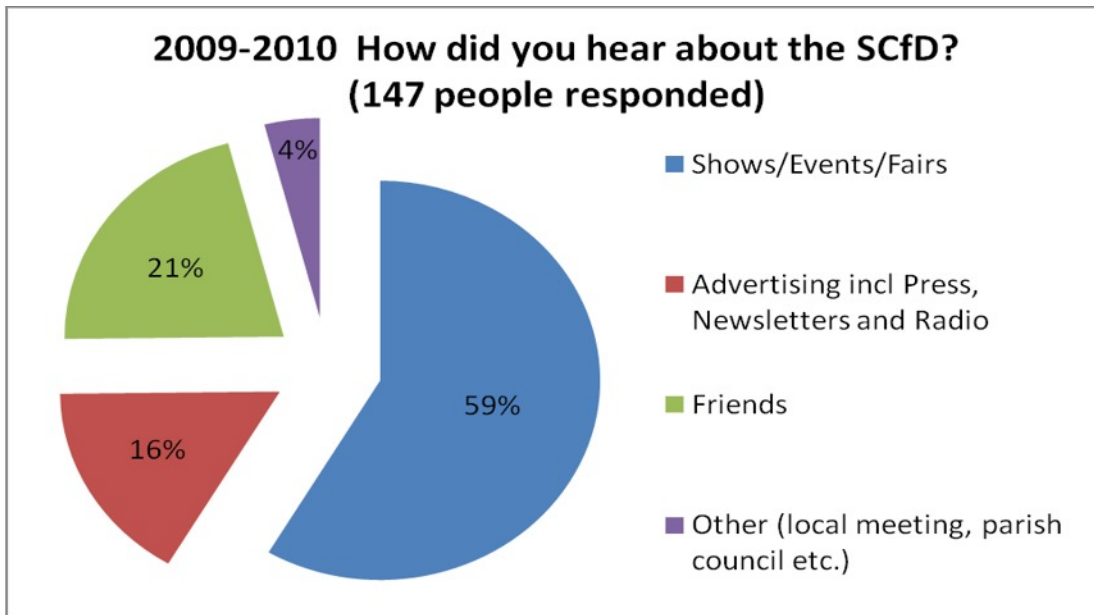


The graph clearly shows that the spring and summer months are the best for recruitment and this is because the annual Shows are held around this time. The spike in May 2010 was due to the excellent number of new members recruited during the Devon County Show. August and September also saw high figures due to the Okehampton Show and the Okehampton Military Heritage Day. Numbers definitely fall off in the winter as less people are out and about and social events and networking calm down.

## How did people hear about the Senior Council for Devon?

Not everyone responded to the question on the membership form, but for those that did their replies have been broken down into four categories: 'Shows, Events and Fairs' (including coffee mornings), 'Advertising' which includes the press and radio, 'Friends' and 'Other' which is branch meetings, talks in libraries or via the parish council who receive the magazine Everyone's Tomorrow each quarter.

The following two graphs are used to show the responses between the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 years:



Even though recruitment levels were down slightly from 2009-2010 and the people who responded to the question went up in 2010-2011, the percentage of those who joined at Shows, Events and Fairs remained the same at 59%, over half of the other three put together. 8% more people last year heard about the Senior Council via advertising which included articles in the local press, members speaking on the local radio and local branch Newsletters, our own magazine and the website, so having our own Publicity and Development Officer has certainly paid off.

A large drop in how many new members had heard about the Senior Council from their friends, from 21% down to 8% so we need to work on 'spreading the word'. Whatever the reason given for joining the Senior Council, thank you to all of those members who have worked hard in recruiting more voices.

Andrea Chick – Administrator.

# Publicity and Development

We are still a relatively new organisation with a great deal to do in terms of Publicity and Development. This area is overseen by a Publicity sub-committee that meet, if possible, quarterly. This past year, I am pleased to say, has been a very productive one.

The new website is now up and running with Andrea doing an excellent job overseeing its contents. Several branches have now been trained to put in their own information. Andrea, for legal reasons, will always have a veto on the contents.

Our new Publicity and Development Officer, Tim Hall, has been busy introducing himself to the groups and has undertaken the huge role of re-establishing groups that have floundered. He is a former journalist with local contacts enabling him to deal appropriately with the media.

The Newsletter is a welcome and vital piece of communication, produced quarterly by our administrators. We are most grateful to Sally and Andrea for all the work that they do on our behalf in this area. It is *your* Newsletter so please keep the contributions coming in. It is also an expensive item, so we may have to consider factors such as taking in adverts in the future.

Information packs for individuals and for the groups, are a current priority. Tim has agreed to re-write the handbook that few groups appear to use, to give a more user-friendly toolkit which will be included in the pack. A welcome innovation!

Many of the Local Shows and Fairs, including Devon County Show, have enabled us to spread the word and sign up new members. This is such an important area that we hope to have a separate Board member overseeing all such events in the future.

We are in a time of great change but we must continue to 'all do our bit' and work together, to ensure the future of the Senior Council.

Margaret Coles.

# Transport

The Transport group was set up to monitor issues and to consider whether to make representations. It acts also as a signpost on other issues but encourages the local SCfD groups to take up the more local issues.

We have met on four occasions since October 2010 but in view of the financial situation in SCfD we propose to meet only three times a year - in September, January and May. We hope also to have our minutes on the SCfD website. Attendance is usually around a dozen in Exeter for two hours but others are welcome to join us on either a one-off or a continuing basis.

We subscribe to Bus User UK and one of our number attends the Travel Watch South West meetings in Taunton. We monitor both 'buses and trains but also have considered the role of Mobility Scooters and ambulances. We encourage local SCfD groups to communicate at a District council level on local issues with their HATOC and Locality committees convened by DCC.

We have had guests from DCC about changes to 'bus services in Spring 2011 and from PALS consulting on changes to patient transport. Other issues discussed have included:

- Winter Highway Maintenance
- Insurance and User Training for Mobility Scooters
- Changes to Blue Badge regulations
- Transfer of Concessionary Fares from Districts to DCC
- Local Transportation Plan - 3 (2011-2026)
- National Express Over-60s concession scheme

Ongoing issues include:

- Reports back from User Panels and other local groups
- News from the DCC HATOC and Locality committees
- Representation concerning Greater Western Franchise renewal in 2013
- DCC Sustainable Transport initiatives
- Status of Disabled markings on the highway

Sadly getting answers to Transport questions is frustrating. It seems that knowing the right people is a factor and so anyone with such "inside" contacts would be very welcome to join us.

Overall we cannot claim to have changed the world significantly but we did influence DCC in the design of their Concessionary Fare scheme to allow pre-09.30am journeys if next journey is after 11.00am. This has made a significant difference in some rural areas - at minimal cost. Otherwise our value has been in ensuring that issues are aired and that there is a route for making representations.

Alan Rayner  
Transport Group Chairman.

# Intergeneration

Without a doubt the highlight for the Intergenerational Group was the Event held in Exeter 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010. This was organised jointly between the Senior Council for Devon and the Youth Service and Young Devon.

John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council opened the Event and a quote from an article by DCC says the Event paves the way for better community cohesion.

The guest speaker for the Event was Patrick Hanfling from the Beth Johnson Foundation – a national organisation that aims to find new ways to improve the lives of older people through intergenerational practice. “Often young people are seen in a certain light in society – a problem”. This is often the same for older people who are increasingly seen as a drain on society. He went on to outline that throughout history youth have always been seen as a problem, as are older people, and intergenerational practice can break down barriers and integrate people into a cohesive society.

He ended by saying we need more positive attitudes to challenge the stereotype images we carry and we all have a right to feel safe.

This was followed by a presentation by Young Devon outlining the activities they have been involved in.

Following this was a presentation by the Devon Youth Service and the launch of “Don’t Judge Us ‘Til You Know Us”.

After Lunch the Conference broke into smaller groups for workshops on specific topics – The Intergenerational Game – Engagement and Participation – The Justice System - Intergenerational Work – Health Issues – Finance.

A great deal of information was fed back after the Event and will be useful in organising this year’s Event which was requested.

Since the Event some of our Branches found creative ways in interacting with young people. Barnstaple in partnership with others hosted an Event when plans for a new school for disadvantaged children were unveiled. Bideford members have taken an interest in a local young people’s project. Cullompton have challenged their young people to table tennis and other games. Okehampton have kept in touch with the young people. I am sure there are many other connections we are not aware of.

Ann Crawford.

## Shows and Events

This year I have been the lead for Shows and Events and I was conscious that there was a need to ensure that all the branches had an opportunity to be represented at them. I am pleased to say that after contacting all the Chairs of each branch the response was very encouraging and as a result we were able to display information from branches across Devon.

As well as the Devon County Show, the Senior Council has attended many of the major shows namely Mid Devon, Totnes, Okehampton, Chagford and Holsworthy where information from our branches has also been displayed. Our membership has increased as a result of attending these Shows.

I think that whilst it is very important to promote the Senior Council as a Devon wide organization, it is equally as important to inform the public of the hard work being done by the individual branches in their area, which gives them a more personalized insight, and could be the motivation they need to become a member.

As well as attending our usual West Devon Connect events, this year I have added some new venues, Lamerton, Chagford, Totnes and Woolwell.

I think that it is important for us as an organization to attend these events in order to tell the public who we are, what we do and even more importantly what we have already achieved.

In a comparatively short time the Senior Council has come a long way and made a lot of difference. We cannot afford to be modest about the successes we have had, with the need for funding we must spread the word and take the credit.

We are the voice for the older population, the more members we have the louder our voice.

Margaret Woolacott.

## Since April 2010 The Senior Council for Devon has:

- Held two political hustings meetings at Tiverton and Culm Valley.
- Set up Memory cafes in Seaton and Hatherleigh and are actively involved in other areas - including Honiton and Axminster.
- Produced a new version of Seaton's 'Local Activities' Booklet.
- Produced a Disability 'Accessibility Guide' to the Dawlish area.
- Been involved in the review of 'Ageing Well in Devon'.
- Had 10 representatives on the Older People's Strategic Partnership.
- Participated in feedback to three DCC Task Groups looking at 'Support for Carers', 'Winter Maintenance of Highways' and 'Rural Access to Health'.
- Instigated a Community Development Project in Bideford.
- Made a successful bid for funds to get a barrier installed at the edge of a car park to deter anti social driving (Seaton Safer Streets group).
- Worked with Seaton's Voice to promote and support an "Older and Bolder" initiative.
- Responded to the Rural Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Teignbridge and Ivybridge).
- Been consulted on the charges for non-residential care (Ivybridge).
- Participated in the consultation on the Teignbridge Core Strategy.
- Engaged with 14 local schools and organised a poetry competition about older relatives (Okehampton).
- Re-launched two groups at Crediton and Newton Abbot.
- In partnership have set up a volunteer befriending service (Holsworthy).
- Initiated the installation of a crossing at the entrance to Co-op car park after consultation/liaison with Co-op departments in Seaton.
- Held a Successful Skills/Pastimes and Hobbies Fair in Ivybridge in October 2010.
- Been involved in a new Village Housing Initiative in South Devon.
- Been involved with setting up the Memory Cafe and Befriending group in conjunction with Torrage in Holsworthy.
- Mobilised support to keep Brunel Lodge or an alternative open for local dementia sufferers (Newton Abbot).

- Held a successful community consultation around plans for a new school in Barnstaple.
- Persuaded a council not to charge people with disabled badges showing when they introduce parking meters to the town (Honiton).
- Held a very successful Intergenerational event in partnership with Devon Youth Service and Young Devon in November which was opened by John Hart, Leader of Devon County Council and attended by 150 older and younger people. Hopefully this is the beginnings of joint working with young people across the county. (A report of the event will be available in early 2011.)
- Started planning a second “Intergenerational Event “ in partnership with Young Devon and the Devon Youth Office.
- Organised a meeting to explore the Alternative Vote in Tiverton.
- Got involved with and have been instrumental in the setting up of outdoor gym equipment for older people using Section 106 funding in Seaton.
- Finally, after months of negotiation, the local group has been instrumental in the setting up of a CAB presence in Seaton.
- Set up a Mid-Devon committee to organise a Dementia Day in Tiverton in July.
- Held 2 ‘End of Life’ meetings in Exmouth.
- Held a very successful Information Fair in Ivybridge.
- Two groups are successfully developing intergenerational work in Bideford and Teignmouth.
- Ivybridge are having some success in getting advertising removed from bus stops to improve safety.
- Ivybridge presented to the Walker Committee Review on water rates.
- Axminster are negotiating the installation of a second handrail on a treacherous slope in the town.

Sally Lougher.



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