

Ivybridge Town Council Autumn 2010 Newsletter



Here we are with a distinct nip in the air and the days getting shorter again, I do hope however that you all enjoyed a good summer holiday period. The weeks seem, as ever, to be flying and of course it is now time to look forward to Christmas. This year we are planning something really special – we shall have The Watermark open on Christmas Day with an invitation to people who would otherwise be on their own (young or old) to come along to join with others for company, a splendid festive dinner and a variety of entertainment.

This idea came from the Town Hall staff and quite a few of them will be on hand to help run the day; there will also be volunteers to collect our less mobile guests and run them home again afterwards. So if you, or someone you know, is dreading the thought of a solo Christmas Day then please get in touch – to book a place at the Watermark please contact the Town Hall (893815) or call me on 893952.

We will of course need the help of the community with the Christmas Day event – businesses may like to make donations or individuals or groups might like to consider volunteering on the day to help with serving our guests, giving lifts etc. Similarly if you are a musician or other type of performer (singer, magician, juggler etc) you may wish to give of your time on the day to entertain our guests. If you wish to discuss how you could contribute to what promises to be a really worthwhile event then please make contact as above.



Turning to quite another matter, a few weeks ago the Deputy Town Mayor, Cllr Trevor Parsons, and I had a look around the new allotments at Filham Park and chatted to a few of the plot holders; we were amazed at how well the crops were doing after so short a time - so congratulations to you all, particularly those who are new to vegetable gardening.

I look forward to seeing you all around the town.

With Very Best Wishes, Cllr Mrs Frances Reeve, Town Mayor

Ivybridge Town Council, Town Hall, Erme Court, Leonards Road, Ivybridge,
PL21 0SZ Tel 01752 893815 e-mail townclerk@ivybridge.gov.uk

HEALTH SERVICES IN IVYBRIDGE

There has been quite a bit of publicity recently about the proposals to locate a new GP surgery on MacAndrews Field and many people will have completed questionnaires at the Ivybridge Health Centre about the type of additional services they would wish to see delivered in the town. It is important that residents are aware that the GPs have been searching for a suitable site within the town for several years and that any money raised from the Town Council selling part of MacAndrews Field for a new GP Practice will be reinvested back into the town thereby benefiting the community in two ways.

Discussions are continuing and the GPs have appointed Grainge Architects to prepare plans in readiness for their submission to the District Council as part of the planning process. We would hope that the timetable would enable building designs to be available for viewing and comments by early Autumn, followed by a planning application to the District and the building phase taking up to one year so that the opening would be in early 2012.

There are many people who would benefit hugely from having a wider range of health services in the town and it is hoped that we can be united as a community in trying to ensure that they can be delivered in Ivybridge, rather than losing this opportunity.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING

The County Council is keen that all parishes and towns in Devon have strategies in place to help mitigate the effect of emergencies such as deep snow, power outage or major incident whilst they await the arrival of outside assistance (which may be overwhelmed if the emergency situation is wide-spread) – in other words for towns such as ours to be able to look to a degree of self-help from within the community. The Town Council has therefore appointed an Emergency Planning Group headed by Cllr Dave Gray-Taylor; the Group is currently gathering data to enable them to draw up an Emergency Plan for Ivybridge – details of this Plan will be published in due course. In the meantime the Group would like to highlight several useful steps that residents might like to consider with regard to their own personal and household emergency planning, namely –

- use of ICE on your mobile phone – ICE stands for “In Case of Emergency” – store a number on your mobile under “ICE” for the person that the emergency services should contact in the event of an accident etc;
- subscribe to Devon & Cornwall Constabulary’s Community Messaging Scheme – receive immediate notification of emergencies and other incidents (including criminal activity) in your neighbourhood; you can choose to receive alerts by e/mail, landline/mobile, fax etc. To register on-line visit the Constabulary’s website at www.devon-cornwall.police.uk or contact the Community Messaging Officer at Paignton Police Station on 01803 841278.



THE POWER OF WELLBEING

This phrase sounds pretty obscure – perhaps akin to “The Big Society” which causes similar confusion, but Ivybridge Town Council is taking the necessary steps to adopt the Power of Well Being as it provides a legal power to spend money on anything which is considered likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area. It is clear that this is a very broad remit and it is understood that the Government may be considering a Power of General Competence in future which would do the same thing but without the necessary qualifications currently required.

To adopt the Well Being Power at local council level, Councillors need to have training and adopt a Community Engagement strategy, as well as having public participation sessions at Council meetings and a specific training module completed by the Clerk. County and District Councils already have this Well Being Power but without the need for specific Councillor training and the other criteria, although it is understood that few of the Principal councils have used this so far.

The idea of hydro power and the development of other community energy schemes would fall into this Well Being Power category so this is one example of where it could be beneficial.

Ivybridge Town Council already meets the standards required to be a Quality Council and this new power potentially enables it to respond to the challenges of developing community services in a time when Government is looking towards communities to be more self sufficient.

Anyone who is interested in this aspect of our work or who wants to assist in helping to encourage greater community sustainability is welcome to get in touch.

IVYBRIDGE – THE FRIENDLY FACE OF SHOPPING

The Ivybridge Chamber of Trade is producing a new guide to the businesses and services available in the town centre. It is designed to improve awareness of all the current town centre businesses to both residents and visitors alike. A surprising number of Ivybridge residents are unaware of the variety of businesses in the town and one of the main aims is to encourage them to use the businesses on their doorstep. The guide includes a map of the town centre and highlights the friendliness and quality of service offered by small, independent businesses. The guide will be freely available very soon – look out for your copy!

Martin Coard, Ivybridge Chamber of Trade



A mock-up front cover

WOULD YOU CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING FOR THE “P3” SCHEME?

Have you ever thought you would like to do something for our town but not sure what to do? Helping to maintain the Public Rights of Way footpaths in Ivybridge could provide an opportunity to become involved in supporting and improving an important community asset without the need to make a large commitment or to become a councillor.



There are four main Public Rights of Way footpaths across Ivybridge which are marked on the Ordinance Survey map as being definitive rights of way. These are managed by Devon County Council under the P3 (Parish Paths Partnership) scheme working in partnership with the Town Council; the scheme relies largely on the input of volunteers for its success. Volunteer P3 work here in Ivybridge

consists mostly of walking the paths regularly and reporting on problems.

Please contact me if you are interested in finding out more about Ivybridge’s public footpaths or indeed in becoming a volunteer for the P3 scheme; I look forward to hearing from you.

Cllr Mrs Carol Beeson, P3 Co-ordinator

KEEPING ON TRACK WITH IVYBRIDGE RAIL USERS’ GROUP

Rail passenger numbers in the area covering Exeter, Paignton and Plymouth have shown an increase this year to date of in excess of 20% over the same period last year, and, judging by the number of cars seen in the park and ride car park, Ivybridge is playing its part in this success story.

With our new attractive shelter against the elements on the Exeter-bound platform and the imminent installation of additional seating on the Plymouth platform, the station is as smart as the day it was opened. The group's 'Days Out' leaflet produced in time for the school holidays has proven to be as popular as ever and it has been gratifying to see the numbers of children taking their parents out for a day at the seaside on the train!

First Great Western have kindly agreed to supply two first class tickets to London to celebrate the new 09.06 high speed service to Paddington scheduled to commence in December. These will be subject to a draw organised through The Watermark.

Cllr Phillip Dredge, Chairman, IRUG

The Watermark

**Christmas Party Night
December 17th 2010**



Looking for an Unforgettable Office Christmas Party?

Then come to The Watermark, Ivybridge for a night to remember.

@ Just £27.50 Per Person

Call Babs for more details! 01752 892220

IVYBRIDGE DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP

The Ivybridge Dementia Support Group meet at the Methodist Church, Fore Street once every two weeks for our Memory Café; we are, as our name states, a group to help people with memory problems and also people with Dementia. Not only do we have a fun afternoon at the "Café" but we also go out to lunch from time to time. At the end of November we will, we hope, be putting on a show in The Watermark aimed at both raising funds (whilst having a good time!) and increasing awareness of Dementia - look out for our posters in due course!

Cllr Mrs Frances Reeve, Town Mayor, tel 893952

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Town Council has formally adopted a "Community Engagement Strategy". This recognises the need for a successful and truly representational Town Council to (a) operate a range of mechanisms for communicating and consulting with local residents and (b) conversely provide a number of easily accessible means through which the community can feed back its views and aspirations.

If you would like a copy of the Community Engagement Strategy then please ask at the Watermark Information Centre or telephone the Town Hall on 01752 893815; alternatively visit the Town Council website on www.ivybridge.gov.uk

LONGTIMBER WOODS

Longtimber Woods, on the edge of Dartmoor, is owned by the Town Council but is managed by Dartmoor National Park Authority as part of a 20 year Management Agreement. The woods are classified as Ancient Woodland and to enable more native trees to reforest some of the areas spruce and other planting has been removed.

Trees removed have been sold on for a variety of purposes as part of the agreement with DNPA and with the money reinvested in the upkeep of the woods. This winter's wood chip stack has been sold to Brimpts Farm Woodfuel Cluster, and 40 tonnes of larch has already been removed mainly for fencing materials, stakes, struts and posts. DNPA also retained some long thin 28 foot (8.3m) tepee poles which were removed to peel and are currently in the process of being sold on.

Rupert Lane, DNPA, explained that "A small pile of hardwood timber from last winter's safety work is intended to be milled for finger and sign boards, with the possibility of offering a demonstration to anyone interested – but we are just waiting to sort out the new drying shed before doing this."

Fortunately 2009/10 was a quiet winter but whilst the work to kill off the laurel has been effective it will probably have to be removed from site as it does not look attractive. It could be that the felled dead laurel will find its way into wood burning stoves though it is worth pointing out that laurel should not be burnt in an open fire - only in closed wood burners - due to low noxious fumes given off during combustion.

So sustainable woodland work being carried out in Longtimber Woods not only enhances this community asset but also provides useful materials in the process.

IVYBRIDGE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2010

The Town Council is once again delighted to announce that it is seeking nominations for the Ivybridge Citizen of the Year Award 2010. Please telephone Susan Hocking at the Town Hall on 893815 for further details or visit our website www.ivybridge.gov.uk

YOUR TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS 2007 - 2011

Town Mayor : **Cllr Mrs Frances Reeve**
Deputy Mayor : **Cllr Trevor Parsons**

Filham Ward

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Cllr Christopher Childs | Ermechote, Exeter Road, Ivybridge, PL21 0BD |
| Cllr Phillip Dredge | 34 Cole Lane, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0PN |
| Cllr Mrs Bridy Malin | The Exchange, 3 Fore Street, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9AB |
| Cllr Trevor Parsons | 7 Paper Makers Lane, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0JZ |
| Cllr Mrs Frances Reeve | 37 Mill Meadow, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0AW |
| Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Silsbury | 22 Brook Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0AX |

Central Ward

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|---------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Cllr Thomas Bowden | 19 Marshall Drive, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0UQ |
| Cllr Melvyn Vincent | 27 Western Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9AN |
| Cllr Alan Wright | 120 Blachford Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0AE |

Woodland Ward

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Cllr Mrs Carol Beeson | 10 The Spinney, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9TU |
| Cllr David Gray-Taylor | 24 Julian Road, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9BU |
| Cllr Anthony Khong | 71 Trematon Drive, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0HT |
| Cllr Jim Lloyd | 57 Holtwood Drive, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 9TH |
| Cllr Mark Walker | Blackadon Farm, Ivybridge, Devon, PL21 0HB |
| Cllr Ray Wilson | The Imperial, 28 Western Road, Ivybridge, PL21 9AN |

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Your comments are always welcomed by the Town Council ~

If you would like a response please give your name and a means of contact –