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Kingsbridge
Town Council
Quarterly
Newsletter

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Kingsbridge Citizen of the Year 2005

Peter Trembath was awarded 'Kingsbridge Citizen of the Year 2005' at the town's annual civic dinner on Friday 4 March.

Sponsored by the town council, the award recognises an individual's good works in the community. Peter's unrelenting work as organiser of Kingsbridge Fair Week made him an obvious choice for recognition.

For more than ten years he has been involved with the annual Fair Week. He joined the committee in 1994, at the tender age of 16, and was elected as Chairman in 2003. This is his third year in the chair – a voluntary post which he fills with enthusiasm, despite a demanding job with BBC News based in Plymouth.

Whilst stage-managing the entire event, Peter still has a 'hands-on' role. He co-ordinates the PA systems and lighting, and sorts out the road closures, public safety, and movement of boats, including the fireworks barge. If that's not enough, he organises the grand finale firework display.

But that's not all... Peter is also responsible for the Kingsbridge carnival float. For the last



Peter receives his award - a painting of the Kingsbridge estuary - from Mayor Bob Freeman.

few years he has helped to build it, and drives it, not only at Kingsbridge Carnival, but to all the 'away' carnivals too (thirteen at the last count!).

Cllr Bob Freeman, Kingsbridge Mayor, said: "It's difficult to imagine a Fair Week without Peter being at the helm.

"It's thanks to his efforts and devotion that the recent fairs have been so successful. He is a very worthy winner of Kingsbridge Citizen of the Year for 2005."

A touch of France is coming to town!

No need to take that trip across the channel because a French market is coming to Kingsbridge!

Lovers of continental cuisine are in for a treat when a traditional Normandy Market visits the town square on **Friday, 6 May**. Twenty four stalls selling French foods, flowers and clothes will fill the town square.

Each one of the market stalls will offer something distinctive. Not only will fabulous food be on offer – but a whole range of other products including Breton clothes, linen, soaps, lavender, and jewellery.

The stall holders work closely with the Normandy Agricultural Chamber, which encourages the promotion of local quality produce. Specially cured hams and sausages will be up for grabs, along with traditional cheeses, dried and glazed fruits, rare spices, mustards, cider, honey and jams. If that's not enough, shoppers will be able to enjoy warm pastries and fresh country bread baked on site.

This speciality market will bring a real holiday atmosphere to the town centre. So keep the date free and plan some time to enjoy a touch of France without leaving town.



bits 'n' pieces

Your council working for you

ROAD, FOOTPATH AND STREET LIGHTING IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN

The council has recently lobbied Devon County Council strongly for a footpath and more street lighting at the Ilbert Road end of Ropewalk, and repair of potholes and general road maintenance, especially on Embankment Road & West Alvington Hill. We have also requested the re-marking of zebra crossings, and completion of the road widening scheme on the Plymouth Road.

SUNDAY STREET CLEANING

South Hams District Council was asked to review its 'no cleaning on Sundays' policy in the town. The council is now employing a 'first aid' team to tackle any problems on a Sunday morning.

REVISED CAR PARKING CHARGES

Parking charges are to be increased from 1 April 2005. The town council has made objections to the district council and asked for the Cattle Market car park to be economy-priced all year round, rather than on a seasonal basis (at the time of going to press a decision is awaited).

A-FRAME SIGNS IN FORE STREET The town council has asked shops to carefully look at how they use A-frame advertising signs which they place on the pavement in front of their premises.

All signs on public land have to comply with Devon County Council regulations and the Disability Discrimination Act - which affects access to goods, facilities, services and premises. We don't want to see shopkeepers prosecuted for causing an obstruction or accident.

SPEED LIMIT WITHIN THE TOWN Although the town council originally requested a blanket 20mph speed limit for the town, the county council has only sanctioned 20mph for parts of the town centre, in accordance with a central government directive.



Know your councillor John Cowling

John is the 'new boy on the block' - he joined the council last September when he began representing the Westville ward.

The Cowling family moved to Kingsbridge in 1998, having spent many a happy holiday in the area. John brings with him years of experience in industry and the civil service - he has held several senior posts in a variety of councils. He currently works for Plymouth City Council, where one of his responsibilities is training councillors and managers.

Voluntary work has played a big part in John's life. He

spent fourteen years in the special constabulary and then set up and ran a search and rescue group working with his local police service. Previous voluntary roles include running a youth club, chairing the governors of a large primary school, and working as managing director for several charitable companies in the education field.

He has recently become involved with the twinning association, and hopes to work on some of the council committees. His special areas of interest are affordable housing for young families, and support for the elderly at home. With an elderly

disabled mother-in-law and two sons still living at home, John is fully aware of the need to improve facilities for young and old sectors of the community alike.

John joined Kingsbridge council because he wanted to help keep Kingsbridge as a thriving market town with facilities for all age groups.

He already enjoys serving the Kingsbridge community and wants to encourage local people to get involved, not only in the work of the council, but to understand and support the workings of local democracy.

QUIRKY COUNCIL FACTS

The Mayor's chain of office

Every time that Bob Freeman represents the town in an official capacity he wears his mayoral chain of office.

At over 100 years old, it carries a lot of history. Each of the 36 links bears the name of a past mayor, dating right back to 1894. Bob's name now proudly sits alongside those of previous mayors.

How long the chain can grow is a matter for common sense and gravity to decide! Currently it is 120 centimetres long (about 4ft), but weighs less than 2lb.

Martin Johnson, town clerk, says: "I think realistically we can probably ask mayors to wear the chain for another 15 years, before it gets too long, or too heavy, or both. We'll then have to start thinking about what to do next!"

National newspaper, The Independent, recently asked readers if they were aware of the origins of mayoral chains. Here are some of the replies:

- 'To keep mayors honest - looped around their necks to remind them of the hangman's noose for fraudulent mayors.'
- 'It contains a tracker device for when they get lost in the labyrinth of town council corridors.'
- 'Attach helium balloons to the links and Mary-Poppins his worship to safety when angry residents picket the town council meetings.'
- 'Reminder of the yoke of Aztecs - kings for a year and slaughtered on midsummer's day.'

Can you think of any more?



Mayor's charity

The Devon Air Ambulance Trust

One of the Mayor's charities this year is the Devon Air Ambulance. Always in need of funds, we take a look at how it can help our community in an emergency.

The red helicopter is a common sight above the Kingsbridge sky, but not many people know the air ambulance is paid for entirely by charitable contributions. The trust has to raise £1.7million each year (**£4,500 every day**) to keep it flying.

Speedy response saves lives

Devon's massive road network (more than 9,200 miles), combined with remote areas and narrow lanes, means speedy access to an incident can be very difficult. This is where the Air Ambulance comes into its own. From its base at Exeter Airport, the helicopter can be in Kingsbridge in just 18 minutes. By car this same journey would take about an hour – and a precious life could be lost

From any location in the county, the helicopter is less than 9 minutes away from a major trauma hospital. It can also fly patients directly to a specialist hospital. For example, a patient

with head injuries could be taken straight to the specialist head injuries unit at Derriford, rather than to the nearest trauma unit.

So how does it all work?

The Westcountry Ambulance Service NHS Trust operates the helicopter. It decides when and where the helicopter should be deployed, and provides the paramedics and drugs. The helicopter is leased from Bond Air Services, who in turn provide the pilots and engineer, and carry out the maintenance work. Bond also provide a relief aircraft to cover any aircraft downtime during maintenance and repair work. The Trust (that's the charity) pays for everything.

Since the service started in 1992, the helicopter has flown an amazing 7,800 missions. The most recent air ambulance was launched in 2003 and provides an extra seat so that a parent or carer can be on board – a great comfort for poorly patients, especially children, who need extra reassurance and a familiar face.

How you can help keep the air ambulance flying

AIR AMBULANCE LOTTERY

Only £1 per entry per week – with a weekly jackpot of £1,350 and other prizes – through your local agents:- Nicola's, Fore Street, Kingsbridge; Strete Post Office; Chillington Post Office & Stores; Shipwrights, Fore Street, Salcombe; and Loddiswell Post Office - or contact the Trust for joining details

COLLECTION BOXES, FUNDRAISING OR SPONSORED EVENTS – ask the Trust for help

DONATIONS AND BEQUESTS – send a cheque made payable to Devon Air Ambulance Trust, or why not remember the DAAT in your will?

BECOME A MEMBER – and get the 'Helipad' quarterly magazine – juniors have their own special Crew Club for 0-15 year olds

BUY SOME MERCHANDISE – Take a look at 'The Hangar' merchandise catalogue – and place an order!



Devon Air Ambulance Trust,
Unit 5, Sandpiper Court,
Harrington Lane,
Exeter, EX4 8NS



01392 466666 or fax 01392 464329



Log onto www.daat.org
or email info@daat.org



bits 'n' pieces

■ **CATTLE MARKET CAR PARK** South Hams Council has deferred plans to create more car parking at the Cattle Market until other car parking issues in the town have been resolved. The town council has requested that the allocated funding be released now and the development takes place without delay.

■ **SKATEPARK** Members of the town council, district councillors, SHDC staff, youth workers and local police form the Skatepark Working Group. The group's aim is to find a new permanent site for the skatepark, following closure of the Cattle Market temporary site at the end of last year.

■ **COMMUNITY POLICING** Members of the town council meet with Inspector Antill and his team once a month to discuss any policing issues in the town and hear about regional police business.

■ **LISTED BUILDING REPAIRS** Following strong lobbying by the town council, a dilapidated listed building in Fore Street has now had a structural report which sets out ideas to bring the building back to its former glory.

■ **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS** The council put £400 towards this year's illuminations alongside donations from the Tourist Information Office and local traders, but the display was criticised for 'not coming up to the standard of previous years.' We will be working along with the supplier, traders, the Chamber of Commerce and the public to produce a much better show for December 2005.

■ **PUBLIC SEATING ON COOKWORTHY ROAD** The town council recently organised the placement of a public bench along Cookworthy Road which was kindly donated by Mr & Mrs Langshaw of Tacket Wood. SWH Roads believed this to be an excellent idea and waived their construction costs.

■ **TREE SURGERY AT TREBBLE PARK ALLOTMENTS** A large number of trees which were blocking out the sun in the centre and western border of the allotments have been cut back to allow for bumper crops this summer!

how to contact your councillor

KINGSBRIDGE EAST

Cllr. Rufus Gilbert
Washbrook Farm
Dodbrooke
Kingsbridge TQ7 1NN
01548 856659

Cllr. Eric Heavisides
13 Higher Warren Road
Kingsbridge TQ7 1LH
01548 853536

Cllr. Lesley Hurrell
27 Rack Park Road
Kingsbridge TQ7 1DQ
01548 853528

Cllr. Eric Johnson
16 Linhey Close
Kingsbridge TQ7 1LL
01548 856171

Cllr. David Thorning
14 Linhey Close
Kingsbridge TQ7 1LL
01548 856024

KINGSBRIDGE NORTH

Cllr. Bob Freeman (Mayor)
9 Beechwood Drive
Kingsbridge TQ7 1RR
01548 854068

Cllr. Rev. Derek Hill
9 Windsor Road
Kingsbridge TQ7 1BX
01548 857601

Cllr. Dennis Holwill
(Deputy Mayor)
6 Green Close
Kingsbridge TQ7 1NH
01548 856452

Cllr. Ken Prowse
15 Northville Park
Kingsbridge TQ7 1AR
01548 857075

Cllr. Keith Wingate
Nippers Rest
Waterloo Place
Duncombe Street
Kingsbridge TQ7 1LX
01548 857513

KINGSBRIDGE WESTVILLE

Cllr. Tony Child
5 Hillside Drive
Kingsbridge TQ7 1JT
01548 856524

Cllr. John Cowling
18 Linhey Close
Kingsbridge TQ7 1LL
01548 853876

Cllr. Beryl Washington
Bridge Meadow
Kingsway Park
Kingsbridge
TQ7 1HJ
01548 856395

The Future of Quay House - help us decide

The council is taking a long, hard look at the future of Quay House and would like to involve you in the decision-making process.

A couple of issues ago this newsletter talked about the future of Quay House - currently the home of the town council.

Built in 1789, and located in an outstanding location next to the quay, the house is Grade II listed because of its age and heritage.

Unfortunately, internally the house doesn't live up to its imposing façade. It's a rabbit warren of small rooms - which all need updating, and the building doesn't conform to disabled access requirements. An audit is now under way to find how these access problems can be overcome.

Quay House needs regular maintenance. Renting out rooms to local organisations has, up until now, offset maintenance costs, but this could change if costs continue to increase.

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Does the council need to stay at Quay House?

Not necessarily, but the council must have accommodation big enough to allow the public to participate in council and committee meetings. It would also need a reception area for visitors, an office for the town clerk, and space for toilets, a store room and kitchenette. Finding alternative suitable space in the town will be challenging.

Do we have a responsibility to provide facilities for other organisations?

Not really. At the moment the council rents out office space and meeting rooms to other organisations and encourages the local community to use Quay House. Although it would wish to continue with this service to the community, it isn't a compulsory duty.

Can we find the funds to bring Quay House right up to scratch?

Hopefully. The proposed sale of former allotment land at Rack Park (which has outline planning permission for three new homes) could generate substantial funds to upgrade Quay House.

Tell us what you think

There are five options open to your council:

- (a) Do nothing i.e. retain Quay House with an ongoing income/expenditure programme.
- (b) Midi-upgrade - to conform with the Disability Discrimination Act. This will probably mean, amongst others, installing a lift to the upper floors.
- (c) Maxi-upgrade - a complete refit of Quay House to release its full potential which could include bigger, better meeting rooms and offices for use by the community.
- (d) Sell Quay House, or lease it out to raise money to rent, or buy a smaller, more modern building elsewhere.
- (e) Form a working partnership with other agencies to share cost, ownership and use of Quay House.

You can help us decide the fate of Quay House by placing a tick in one of the above boxes. Please return the form to Kingsbridge Town Council, Quay House, Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge, TQ7 1DZ by **Friday 22 April 2005**.



Kingsbridge Town Council contact details:

Quay House, Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1TZ. **Telephone/Fax No.** 01548 853296.
E-mail: mail@kingsbridge.net **Website:** www.kingsbridge.net. Opening hours: 9.30am-1pm, Mon-Fri. Town Clerk - Martin Johnson.

The town council meets in the council chamber at Quay House on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7pm, except during August. All meetings are open to the public, and start with a public forum when Kingsbridge electors can ask questions or make statements.

Minutes of all the town council meetings are available at Quay House and on the community website.