

# Kingsbridge

## MATTERS

Issue No: 12  
AUGUST 2005

Kingsbridge  
Town Council  
Quarterly  
Newsletter

## Contents

### Page 2

- Introducing...  
Sir Simon Day &  
Julian Brazil



- Bits 'n' Pieces
- Twinning  
Association
- Quirky Council Facts

### Page 3

- Bits 'n' pieces
- Know Your  
Councillor  
- Ken  
Prowse
- Everyone's Beating  
a Path to the One-  
Stop-Shop
- New Website

### Back Page

- The Community  
Garden



- Future of Quay  
House

## Busy Year Brings Results

**Annual review shows that Quality Parish  
Council status gets results**

Kingsbridge's newly acquired Quality Parish Council status kick-started another very busy year for your town council. The council year, which ran from May 2004-May 2005, brought about some major successes to make the town a safer place.

In particular, councillors lobbied strongly on a number of community issues, including the introduction of an alcohol designation order, a 20 mph speed limit in the town centre and a safer Fore Street.

Special lobbying also focused on road, footpath & street lighting improvements, cheaper car parking charges and the development of the Cattle Market car park. Other hot topics on the agenda included listed building repairs, improved Sunday street cleaning, and a better Christmas lights display.

Mayor Bob Freeman, entered his second term as Chairman of the town council, and has been joined by Rufus Gilbert as Deputy Chairman.

Bob said: "It can be a great struggle persuading the authorities to agree or prioritise the improvements we want to see in the town. Getting our quality award in early 2004 really boosted morale and has given us

the  
greater  
voice we  
need to  
get matters  
sorted at  
district and  
county level.

"There's no  
doubt that the  
town council  
has been taken  
more seriously  
because of its  
robust and  
unified approach. However, we can't rest on  
our laurels - it's actions, not titles, that will  
make a difference.

"The council will be judged by the actual  
service it provides - our job is to listen to the  
community's needs and try, whenever and  
wherever we can, to make sure that  
something is done about it."

*If you would like to raise any matters which  
you think could improve life in Kingsbridge,  
then please contact your ward councillor or  
the town clerk.*



Town Councillors looking at  
planning applications

## Best Local Foods Awards 2005

*We need your help to put a winning entry together*

Kingsbridge has been entered into a major new competition to find the South West community that does most to support local food producers.

Forty communities of all sizes across the region are taking part in the competition - to be launched later this year. The event aims to show the benefits of eating local, fresh produce, and at the same time boost the South West's reputation as a region of excellence for food.

It's a great chance to highlight the many different food producers that make us a community to be proud of. Competition sponsors include ITV Westcountry, Southwest Tourism, and the Western

Morning News. Judging starts on 1 November, and from that date the Western Morning News will run a regular feature on the entries, until the winners are announced in March/April 2006.

The judges will want to see as many businesses, restaurants and establishments as possible that use local produce.

The council is co-ordinating the Kingsbridge entry. Our aim is to show how our local suppliers can provide a complete service - from 'hoof to plate'.

To do this we need a 'competition committee' of volunteers, who have direct experience of local food production (for example - farmers, bakers, butchers, shop or restaurant managers).

If you can help, please call Martin Johnson (01548 857073) or Alan Stapleton (01548 857640).



# bits 'n' pieces

## Your council working for you

■ **FORE STREET TRAFFIC.** The high volume of traffic in Fore Street causes car parking problems, damage to the pavement; and difficulties for lorries unloading to shops. Council members are actively seeking to address these issues and are negotiating with Devon County Council and the police to seek solutions.

■ **CATTLE MARKET CAR PARK.** Following lobbying by the town council, South Hams District Council took a U-turn in their decision-making and released the funding to allow the site to be fully developed to 115 car and 4 coach spaces. The additional car parking spaces will be a major plus to the town. Signs have been requested for Ilbert Road to direct motorists to the newly enhanced car park.

■ **CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005.** This Act will allow town and parish councils to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, graffiti, fly posting and dog fouling. The parishes can decide how far they want to exercise these new powers. Still in draft stage, the Act will be in force by mid-2006.

■ **COUNCIL OPEN DAY.** An Open Day at Quay House is scheduled for September 2005 to give townsfolk the opportunity to meet the Mayor, councillors and staff, to answer your queries and to show you what we do!

■ **ANNUAL TOWN INSPECTION.** Each year councillors make a 'formal' inspection of the town to identify any areas of concern. As a result of this year's inspection target areas earmarked for action include the repair of seating & replanting of trees in the town square; improved footpath access to and from the Cattle Market; and repainting of the recreation ground's play area.

## New County Councillors serving Kingsbridge

Kingsbridge now has two county councillors instead of one, thanks to a change in ward systems at the recent county elections. Julian Brazil and Sir Simon Day have now taken over from Owen Masters, who served as the town's county councillor for eight years. Owen has championed many causes on behalf of the Kingsbridge community, and we wish him well for the future.

Julian Brazil represents the new county ward of 'Kingsbridge & Stokenham'. He already sits on Chivelstone Parish Council and South Hams District Council so he has a keen insight into life in the area. Having lived here for most of his life, Julian was delighted and honoured to be elected as a county councillor for the town. On appointment he said: "It is essential that local government works for local people."

Sir Simon has been a member of the county council for many years but has only begun representing Kingsbridge Westville as councillor for 'Thurlestone, Salcombe & Allington' since May 2005. A former Leader and Chairman of the County Council, Sir Simon has also served on, and chaired, several of its major committees. He lives and farms in the South Hams and is keen to see 'safer roads through lower speed limits and the banning of heavy lorries from unsuitable routes.'

Julian Brazil can be contacted on 01548.511109 or email [julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk](mailto:julian.brazil@devon.gov.uk) while Sir Simon Day's contact details are 01752.691212 or email [simon.day@devon.gov.uk](mailto:simon.day@devon.gov.uk).

We look forward to working with them both over the next four years.



## Kingsbridge Twinning Association

*A chance to get closer to our continental cousins*



Kingsbridge has a pair of twin towns - Isigny Sur Mer in France and Weilerbach in Germany. The local twinning association was set up to foster friendship between the residents of the three communities, and so far it has been a great success.

Earlier this year a party of French visitors from Isigny had a great time in our town, and next year they will be acting as hosts to Kingsbridge families.

Weilerbach is the destination for our next twinning visit - in late August, when German families will open their homes to a Kingsbridge party, and host families are being sought to return the gesture and host our German guests in 2006.

The Association doesn't only come to life at the time of visits - there's an exciting programme of social events throughout the year. If you would like to visit France or Germany to sample everyday life - or would like to host visitors, then please call Frances Raymond on 01548 531214 for further information.

## QUIRKY COUNCIL FACTS

### How our forefathers tackled Fore Street traffic congestion - could it work again?!

Fore Street is the centre of our town and is just as it should be - a lively and bustling place - the very heartbeat of our community. Unfortunately, the downside is that it is also home to traffic congestion and car parking problems, which are at their worst during the busy summer months.

But this isn't as modern a problem as one might think. About 50 years ago, in the days of the old Kingsbridge Urban District Council, a radical initiative to tackle road

congestion was introduced - 'unilateral car parking'. On even days of the week cars were only allowed to park on the west side of the street; and on odd days cars had to park on the east side. Advisory plates were fixed on posts at the top and bottom of Fore Street to remind motorists which side to park on each day, and the street cleaner had to change the signs over first thing every morning. Let's hope he never slept in.....

Ken became councillor for Kingsbridge North in May 2003. He was born and raised in Salcombe, attended Kingsbridge Grammar School and eventually moved to the town in 1977.

Having lived and worked in the area all his life his local knowledge is invaluable. He also has first hand experience of local business - he currently runs Ken Stores in Fore Street. Some people may remember his father, Harold, who was the first traffic warden in Kingsbridge.

Cultural buffs may have spotted Ken over the years - either in one of the many Kingsbridge Amateur Theatre Society productions, or as singer in local sixties band,

## Know your councillor

# Ken Prowse



Rockwood. Now retired from the entertainment scene, his other claim to

fame was, as he puts it, being a major star for Kingsbridge Football Club - although this cannot be substantiated!

When asked why he joined the town council Ken said he was fed up with the apparent lack of action by local authorities. His pet hates are waste and bureaucracy. Among other things he would very much like to see a community centre in Kingsbridge, but not 'another Theatre Royal.'

Ken says that to make Kingsbridge come alive the town's housing and car parking issues must be tackled. He believes strongly that the two go hand-in-hand. He said: "There is no point building houses if people cannot park."

## bits 'n' pieces

■ **GRANT AID.** The town council's grant aid scheme makes small monetary grants to local organisations involved in recreational, social or cultural pursuits.

This year grants were made to nine good causes including: the Cookworthy Museum to part-fund their 'South Hams At War' exhibition; Kingsbridge Community College's 'Exmoor Challenge'; Kingsbridge Archers for coaching courses; and Kingsbridge Gymnastics Club to replace their flooring.

Anyone wishing to apply for a grant next year should ring the council offices on 01548 853296 for more information.

■ **COUNCIL TO CAB'S RESCUE.** South Hams Citizens Advice Bureau's outreach service to Kingsbridge has been rescued by the town council. A shortage of funds meant that the bureau's outreach service to a number of communities had to be cut. The council has stepped in and offered a meeting room in Quay House and a small grant to keep this vital service going. To make an appointment with South Hams CAB call 01803 862392.

■ **TALKING NEWSPAPERS FOR THE BLIND.** The Kingsbridge Matters newsletter is now transcribed onto tape by Talking Newspapers for people with a visual impairment.

■ **SUMMER CONCERTS 2005.** The concert season is well underway; the programme can be viewed on the council's new website or you can pick up a brochure from Quay House Reception. This year the council is introducing events on a couple of Saturdays rather than the traditional Sunday slot.

## Everyone's beating a path to the One-Stop-Shop

Quay House is the home of the town council, but it isn't just a place for debate and decision-making. Residents can arrange to meet their town councillor in one of the meeting rooms, planning applications can be inspected there, and a district planning officer visits fortnightly to answer questions on planning matters. And of course the public are entitled, and welcome, to attend any of the council's meetings.

The Reception office has become a 'one-stop-shop'. Residents and visitors alike are using it to get information about anything from waste collections to wedding facilities. You can pick up bus and train timetables - and even a Devonwide bus pass there. The staff are a real mine of information, so tap into it!

The town council's new website [www.kingsbridge.gov.uk](http://www.kingsbridge.gov.uk) was launched in April 2005 and is packed full of information on town council matters. The site includes a diary of all forthcoming council and committee meetings with agendas, plus an archive of minutes from past meetings. The aim is to get all meeting minutes on-line within 72 hours of a meeting.

The site also contains the council's annual report for 2004/05 (including details of the year's income and expenditure), along with contact details and biographies of all town councillors. Apart from covering official business, the site provides links to other local community organisations, and carries the calendar for Bandstand Summer Concerts.

So next time you're surfing why not spare a few minutes to check out the council website - and tell us what you think - it is only when we receive feedback that we know whether we've got it right.

## New Website

*Keeping up with the times  
(or rather the minutes)*



Martin Johnson, Town Clerk, and Louise Taylor, Head of Reception, working on the website.

## how to contact your councillor

### KINGSBRIDGE EAST

Cllr. Rufus Gilbert  
(Deputy Mayor)  
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  
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 Community Garden Fore Street, Kingsbridge

*Not many people know about the little 'Eden' hiding at the top of Fore Street...*

Tucked away behind Tressilian House lurks a hive of green-fingered activity - the Community Garden. Manned by volunteers and a part-time organic gardener, the garden produces a variety of vegetables and salads, seedling plants and other good things - all for sale at reasonable prices.

Funded by donations and grants, the garden also acts as a very successful community resource. Volunteers get the chance to learn different gardening skills and try unusual varieties of plants and produce - black tomatoes and purple chilli peppers to name but a few.

It's also a popular place for Community College students to carry out work experience and community service. Two enterprising youngsters have even used the



*Angel Robinson has her own plot in the Community Garden*

garden to launch a worm farming microbusiness; others have gained horticultural qualifications and certificates in First Aid at Work.

But it's not all about work. A tranquillity garden has been set aside for spiritual and artistic inspiration, and wildlife will benefit from the masses of shrubs, trees, and perennial plants recently planted in this

special place.

Garden Trustee, John Speed, said: "Helpers get a real thrill from learning and achieving in the garden. What's especially nice is the wide age-range of volunteers. It's a chance for everyone, young and old, visitors and volunteers alike, to get together and enjoy a mutual love of gardens and gardening."

Open weekdays from 9am - 5pm, the garden has its own website: [www.kingsbridgegarden.co.uk](http://www.kingsbridgegarden.co.uk) Sponsors include Carlton TV, the Esmie Fairburn Foundation, Kingsbridge Estuary Rotarians and the Town Council.

Donations towards running costs are always welcome - visit the garden and see if you can find the donation box. Anyone wanting to volunteer on a regular basis please contact Rosemary Speed on 01548 853759.



## The Future of Quay House - how you voted

In the last edition of 'Kingsbridge Matters' we asked you to help the council decide on the future of Quay House - a listed building which suffers from some ancient facilities and needs some serious maintenance work to keep it in good order.

We wanted your views on a range of options, from doing nothing, to selling the building off and finding new offices for the council. You voted overwhelmingly for the house to be developed to make full use of its facilities, with better access for the disabled.

As a result the council offices will remain at Quay House, and a development programme will now get under way.

## Blooming Marvellous!

Quay House has won the South Hams in Bloom 'business category' for 2005 sponsored by South Hams Radio and Avon Mill Garden Centre, Loddiswell. The prize of £100 in garden vouchers will be put towards future floral displays in the town.



*Ann Gomm in Reception and Alan Kennedy, Caretaker, were responsible for this year's stunning display*

## Kingsbridge Town Council contact details:

Quay House, Ilbert Road, Kingsbridge TQ7 1TZ. **Telephone/Fax No.** 01548 853296. **E-mail:** [mail@kingsbridge.net](mailto:mail@kingsbridge.net) **Website:** [www.kingsbridge.gov.uk](http://www.kingsbridge.gov.uk) 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 council's website.