



60 V
DCT

D
A

AND MUCH MORE ...



MEET DEVON



60
Devon Communities
Together
1961 • 2021
Helping Communities Help
Themselves for 60 Years

MEET DEVON ARTIST, LAURA WALL



Village Hall Insurance and the home of *VillageGuard*

As the largest provider of village hall insurance in the UK, thousands of trustees put their faith and trust in our policy, customer support, and dedicated claims handlers as and when required.

Contact us about your village hall.

01937 845245

www.villageguard.com

insurance@alliedwestminister.com

Headline sponsor of www.TheVillageHallsPodcast.com

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) registration number 308386

WELCOME



This is the fifth edition of LOVE Devon magazine, which started as way of sharing some of the amazing stories we come across when we're out and about supporting Devon's wonderful communities. This year we've not been able to get out and about as usual (instead working remotely to ensure our services and projects would continue, uninterrupted) but this hasn't meant a lack of news or stories to share – quite the opposite, in fact!

In what has been the most challenging period for many of our communities in DCT's 60 year history due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we've been hugely inspired by the spirit, resilience and togetherness of our communities. We spoke to many different people for this magazine, from young people starting off in their careers to people in later life reminiscing about their

Devon childhoods; from local businesses determined to look to the future, to people committed to addressing the climate change emergency. Without exception we have been struck by the positivity and optimism of all of these and we hope that you are too.

2021 marks the 60th anniversary of Devon Communities Together and as part of our celebrations, we are delighted to feature artwork on the cover from our young competition winner, 9-year-old Marcy Ridout (see pg. 12). Her lovely illustration of Otterton depicts what she finds special about her community and evokes what a positive impact a thriving local community can have on people's lives. I hope you enjoy the read.

Nora

**Nora Corkery, Chief Executive,
Devon Communities Together**

CONTENTS

2	14-15
WELCOME	GROWING UP IN RURAL DEVON
4	16-17
DEVON DIAMONDS: CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ACTION	FORGING A CAREER IN DEVON
6	18
COMMUNITY TOGETHERNESS DURING THE TOUGHEST OF TIMES	PATH TO PROPERTY FLOOD PROTECTION
7-8	19
DEVON BUSINESSES: BOUNCING BACK!	TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
9	20
ADVERTORIAL: JASON'S STORY	RURAL HOUSING: LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE
10-11	22
CREATIVE DEVON: LAURA WALL	QUIZ: HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW DEVON?
12-13	23
COMPETITION WINNERS: MY FAVOURITE PLACE IN DEVON!	SPECTACULAR DARTMOOR: PEPPERDON DOWN AND MARDON DOWN WALK

ADVERTISE:

If you would like to advertise
in LOVE Devon please
contact our marketing department
Tel: 01392 248919
Email: marketing@devoncommunities.org.uk

CONTRIBUTE:

We welcome all contributions to
LOVE Devon but we regret we
cannot guarantee a publication
and we reserve the right to edit for
reasons of space and style.

Email: marketing@devoncommunities.org.uk

President: HM Lord Lieutenant of
Devon, David Fusrdon

Chair: Nicola Gurr

Chief Executive: Nora Corkery

CONTACT:

01392 248919

info@devoncommunities.org.uk
www.devoncommunities.org.uk



@DevComsTogether
@LOVEDevon



/devoncommunitiestogether
/LoveDevon2016



@DevCommsTogether
@Loving_Devon

PRINTED ON A FSC ACCREDITED
100% RECYCLED PAPER

Devon Communities Together is the operating name of the Community Council of Devon.

Registered Charity No: 1074047. VAT Reg No: 942 0496 27. Company Limited by Guarantee No: 3694095. 73 & 74 Basepoint Business Centre, Yeoford Way Exeter, EX2 8LB.

LOVE Devon magazine is printed by Exe Valley Design & Print, Exeter. Tel: 01392 426464 www.exeprint.co.uk

The contents of LOVE Devon do not necessarily represent the views of the publisher or Devon Communities Together.



DEVON DIAMONDS: CELEBRATING 60

Devon Communities Together is 60! 2021 marks 60 years of our independent charity supporting communities all over Devon and although we're in the midst of a hugely challenging time due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we still think it's important to celebrate our special diamond anniversary.

Where it all began ...

Established in 1961 as Devon Community Council, the organisation became (and remains) Devon's Rural Community Council (one of 38 in England), with a special care for rural communities in the county.

On 1st November 1960, a memorandum was circulated by H. G Godsall, Clerk of Devon County Council, which detailed plans for the formation of a new organisation 'Devon Community Council'.

Led by a single co-ordinator (with support drawn from various departments of Devon County Council), Devon Community Council was to bring together the Devon Playing Fields Association; Devon Old People's Welfare Committee; Devon Rural Industries Committee; and Devon Parish Councils Association.

"The establishing of a Community Council would, I feel, provide for the continuance of all the good work which is now done, voluntary or otherwise, by these four

organisations, and more important, make more readily and easily available the help and resources of the County Council's services in their development.

"It is clear to me that a grouping of the services of these organisations, which the Community Council will provide, will ensure that their work ... will be developed even more effectively with the necessary freedom, combined with efficiency and economy." H. G. Godsall, Clerk of the Peace and Clerk of the County Council



Fast forward to 17th March 1961 and the inaugural meeting of Devon Community Council took place at Exeter Castle. Then, on 1st April 1961, Devon Community Council was officially launched, with an L.K Elmhurst of Dartington Hall installed as Chair (he would resign in May 1961 due to ill health and other commitments).

Over the past 60 years Devon Communities Together has grown from a single coordinator to a team of over 20 specialist staff, but our underlying aims remain the same: supporting people in Devon to overcome a whole variety of challenges they might be facing and creating sustainable, thriving communities.

SHOW US HOW MUCH YOU LOVE DEVON BY SUPPORTING OUR WORK

The Coronavirus pandemic has led to a whole set of new challenges for Devon's communities, as well as exacerbating many of the existing issues that arise from living in predominantly rural communities. As an independent charity we need your support now more than ever to help Devon 'build back better'.

Donate securely online (one-off amount or a regular donation) at www.devoncommunities.org.uk/donate or by cheque (payable to: Devon Communities Together) sent to the address on pg.3.



YEARS OF COMMUNITY ACTION

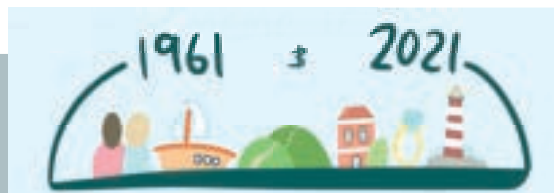
Be a part of our

**community
CHRONICLES**

What's your best memory in Devon between 1961-2021?

Did you... Get engaged on Dartmoor? Buy your first house in Devon? Swim in the sea for the first time here? Whatever your special memories of Devon are from the last 60 years, we'd love to hear them.

Here at Devon Communities Together, we LOVE Devon and we know lots of other people do too! So, as part of our celebratory activities for our 60th year, we're inviting you to share a special memory in Devon, which



will contribute to the Devon Community Chronicles.

The Community Chronicles is planned to be a collaborative timeline of special memories from across Devon over the last 60 years, that will be published and shared in Devon communities towards the end of 2021.

If you'd like to contribute to the Community Chronicles, you can do so online here:

www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/communitychronicles

If you'd like to contribute but can't access the website, please call us on 01392 248919.



**Nominate your
#DevonDiamonds!**

Do you know a 'Devon Diamond'? To celebrate our Diamond year we are seeking nominations for 'Devon Diamonds' who have been involved with Devon Communities Together over the past 60 years.

We'd love to hear from people who have a story to tell about Devon Communities Together since 1961.

You may also remember us as Devon Community Council or Community Council of Devon. Maybe we helped you build your village hall? Perhaps you turned to us to help establish a village shop, pub or other community facility? Maybe you participated in a community project we set up? You might even be an ex-employee or trustee?

By December 2021, we're aiming to create a collection of 60 'Devon Diamonds' who have links to Devon Communities Together and who have created positive change in their communities.

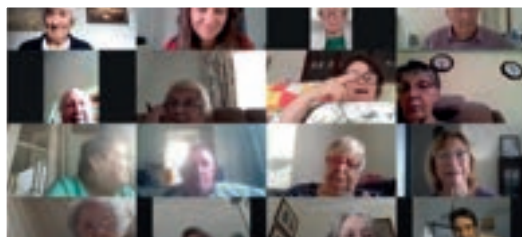
These Devon Diamonds are showcased on our website and on our social media - search **#DevonDiamonds**. To nominate a Devon Diamond, please email info@devoncommunities.org.uk or call 01392 248919.

COMMUNITY TOGETHERNESS DURING THE TOUGHEST OF TIMES

When planning our 60th anniversary celebrations, little did we know that we would be heading into what has been arguably the toughest time any of us have faced over the past six decades.

Since the pandemic began we have worked with communities all over Devon to provide a whole range of support, from a dedicated Coronavirus helpline which has dealt with **over 1,000 enquiries from Devon's communities**, to facilitating **more than 170 online social groups and over 670 befriending phonecalls** to ensure older people weren't lonely during lockdown. We also supported **over 170 people to reduce their fuel bills** as well as **coaching 27 small business owners** to help them adapt their business models – and much more.

Every single person in Devon has been affected by Coronavirus. Yet, despite all the challenges we have witnessed, we



have also been privileged and proud to see some amazing stories of community action, resilience and togetherness in Devon. From communities coming together to ensure no vulnerable or shielding households would go hungry (see [Catch77.org](https://www.catch77.org) for a fabulous scheme in Bradninch), to community building committees going above and beyond to ensure that vital services in rural communities could continue. To read more of these stories and find out how Devon Communities Together has supported communities during lockdown, take a look at our **Annual Impact Report 2020-21**: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/case-studies



BUILDING BACK BETTER

Village halls are at the heart of many rural communities but they were hugely impacted throughout lockdown, with streams of booking cancellations and ever-changing restrictions to manage. We were so inspired by the energy of the hall committees in Devon, who were totally committed to being there for their communities in whatever way they could, as well as planning for brighter futures. Take Abbotskerswell, for example ...

Pre-Covid, Abbotskerswell Village Hall Trustees were raising funds for major improvements. With funding streams drying up due to Covid, DCT was pleased to support them to secure a £20.5k ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) managed loan to be able

to get the work underway and provide an improved building for the community to enjoy as it emerges from the pandemic – the perfect example of 'building back better'!

"The plan was to change the use of the small kitchen to a dedicated office/storage space for the preschool and build a bigger kitchen and storage area enabling larger events to take place, thus bringing in more revenue, enabling the pre-school to offer hot lunches and improving the function of the hall as a refuge centre in times of emergency." Trustee

Visit www.devoncommunities.org.uk or call 01392 248919 to find out how we can support your community building, group or organisation to recover and rebuild after Coronavirus.

DEVON BUSINESSES: BOUNCING BACK!

The Coronavirus has meant many small business owners have faced the biggest challenges of their lives but for some a re-model of business plans together with a determined and positive outlook has meant they've come back stronger than ever...

Take Tavistock-based Flapjackery for example; a business specialising in making luxury, gluten free flapjacks, which prior to lockdown sold the vast majority of them at shows and events across the country. In 2020 they had more than 650 trading days booked.

When outdoor events came to an abrupt halt in March 2020, and with their Tavistock shop shut, they had to rethink their business quickly by developing their direct-to-consumer business via their website. Carol Myott, who owns Flapjackery with her business partner Sally Jenkin, said: "Emotionally it was a very difficult time as we had to make many of our staff redundant. We also knew we had to make the online business work in order to survive, so we employed an agency to develop this side of the business, sent out newsletters to

our customers who were all very supportive and spend the first three months packing and sending out flapjacks with the help of some friends. We very lucky as we do have a good customer base and because they weren't going to shows, they were looking for the same companies online.

"We...knew we had to make the online business work in order to survive"

"We decided we needed to change our stance and go into retail as we knew that if we went to the right locations with high footfall and a lot of tourist activity we'd do well, and that's proving to be the case," says Carol.

In September they invested their two bounce back loans into new shops in Wells and Minehead which opened in April and May 2021 year respectively. Their projected forecasts are now 40% up on pre-pandemic figures - having plummeted to just 25% of their turnover at the start of lockdown - and they now employ 23 staff compared to 12 before.

Carol said: "We will go back to the shows, but not to the same extent as before, and will attend just the bigger ones like Royal Windsor and The Game Fair, although we will still go to the smaller events in Devon. Eventually, we'd like to franchise the business, and we are also considering opening another shop in another well-known tourist hotspot."

For Jill Taylor, who owns South View Lodges near Exeter with her husband Andrew. Devon Communities Together was pleased to welcome Jill as a speaker at one of the many business support webinars we facilitated during lockdown as part of our commitment to supporting businesses and social enterprises in Devon.

The pandemic gave Jill and Andrew an opportunity to take a fresh look at their business, and reinvest capital where it was needed. The couple own five luxury lodges which are set deep in glorious Devon countryside. Before lockdown, they were fully booked, and had already spent the money they'd been paid for early spring and Easter bookings on renovations. Jill said: "We knew that we would have to refund everyone. At that point we were still running on our own terms

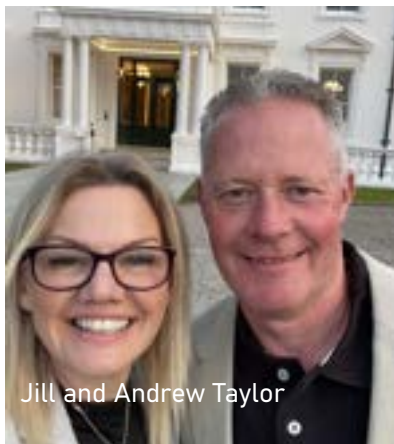


Sally Jenkin and Carol Myott

and conditions so contacted our guests asking if they would help protect us and consider re-booking their holiday. Everyone bar one re-booked. We were extremely lucky and were blown away by people's kindness.

"It was over the coming days that Boris Johnson announced there would be financial help, and this really protected us. We decided to re-invest the three grants we received into the business as we wanted guests to go 'wow' when they returned.

"We also took a bounce back loan as well. We obviously lost a lot of money but it gave us time to reevaluate as a business, look at the lodges and see what needed changing. For example we stayed in one of the lodges



Jill and Andrew Taylor

last Easter with the kids, sat down with a glass of wine on the decking and realised we were looking through a wooden balustrade which felt like a prison. We've replaced this with glass at a cost of £15,000."

The Taylors are now planning for lodge number six, which they say will be bigger and better than ever. "Then we will carry on running the businesses

as we are, maintaining our high standards, staying happy and healthy, and with many of our guests returning. We're fully booked this summer, and the quiet shoulder season, from November until March, is already very busy too," said Jill.

SUPPORTING ENTERPRISE

Devon Communities Together runs a number of projects and ongoing services that support local businesses and social enterprises in a range of ways, from free coaching programmes, to accessible training courses, networking opportunities and peer support networks. Visit: www.devoncommunities.org.uk/services/enterprise-support to see how we can help you.

One enterprise we have supported is Charlotte and Bruce Ellis' Seaglass Gallery in Lymington, a fledgling business that opened in June 2021. After having participated in a previous Rural Enterprise Support project we ran, Charlotte has recently taken advantage of 12 hours' free business coaching as part of our New Start Devon programme.

With its focus on nature, creativity and wellbeing in the community, Seaglass Gallery is a business that has really found its place post-Covid, with visitors finding solace both in the stunning art on display and the art and wellbeing workshops.

Charlotte said: "In the way that seaglass becomes a thing of beauty as time passes, our seed of an idea has grown into a treasure that we are excited to share with you.

"Seaglass Gallery, our independent family business, is a calm and restful space full of beautiful art pieces that will inspire and bring joy. We exhibit and sell local artists' work and run art workshops with a focus on wellbeing through nature and art in a sustainable and environmentally friendly way."



Seaglass Gallery

ONE SMALL STEP: JASON'S STORY



OneSmallStep (OSS) is a health service funded by Devon County Council that offers free support to help Devon residents to lead healthier lives through quitting smoking, managing a healthy weight, drinking less and moving more.

The pandemic has had a far-reaching affect upon all aspects of our health and wellbeing. As we start to make our way out of lockdown, now is the perfect time to prioritise your health.

Jason quit smoking during lockdown with the support of OneSmallStep, here, he shares his inspiring story...

"I had a car accident when I was 17. I suffered a head injury resulting in me becoming partially sighted. I turned to alcohol and cigarettes, smoking up to 40 a day. I recently quit alcohol with the help of Alcoholics Anonymous and then decided to address my smoking habit.

I used to clean out the ashtray and think to myself, 'that's what's inside my lungs now'. I felt disgusted. But part of me also liked smoking...

it was who I was, it was my friend. It would wake me up, it would wait for a bus and an appointment with me, it was there if I did not know what to do. I had tried 2 or 3 times before and failed, I was worried that maybe this was just something that I could not do.

After speaking to my Stop Smoking Advisor, I realised that I smoked quite regularly at night. We decided that the 24-hour patches would be perfect for me, alongside some lozenges. We got on so well, she always supported me with the right advice and kept me on track. She helped me to address some of the associations and habits that I had with smoking.

I have now been smoke-free for 7 weeks! I feel so much better, I'm now more active and I've got my 'get up and go' back. I have started to walk daily, making sure I get my 10,000 steps a day.

I am saving over £20 a day - I was able to visit London for the first time with the money I have saved. I now have new opportunities opening for me. I am looking forward to my future - it's like my life is starting again."

For more information about OneSmallStep please visit: www.onesmallstep.org.uk

You can refer people through to the service using this link:

<https://onesmallstep.org.uk/professionals-2/professional-referral-form/>



CREATIVE DEVON: LAURA WALL

Stunning surroundings have proved a daily tonic for Devon artist Laura Wall who says hard work and determination have been the cornerstones of her success. LOVE Devon finds out more...

You absolutely can have a creative career but you have to keep imagining that end goal, visualise it, and know in your heart that it can and will happen," says renowned artist and business woman Laura Wall who ten years ago left a successful career in TV to pursue her love of art.

Determination and a very strong work ethic have stood Laura in good stead, and with the guidance in the early days of her mentors Fiona and Paul Haddon, who own a gallery in Torquay, and the continued support of her husband and business partner Dave Butt, she has built up a thriving art gallery in Teignmouth. It's an emporium of creativity brimming with all sorts of lovely things aside from her own illustrations, like cushions, mugs and umbrellas, all with her unique designs. She's also the creator of Goose & Friends children's books which are published in over 40 countries.

Bubbling with energy and with an infectious smile, Laura still marvels at the beauty of Devon with the moors and the sea proving a constant inspiration for her business success. But the pandemic proved a drain on her artistic resourcefulness, and having adapted the businesses to online-only, delivering up to 200 packages a week, she found the pressure of keeping up with packing and driving left no time for painting. "I think I managed just one painting 'Times We Won't Forget' of a cruise ship sat in the bay. We put that on social media and it went nuts. It was a good problem to have but it was

wonderful to open the gallery and see people again," she says.

Today, she has regained the balance, spending two full days a week in her studio painting; her Devon surroundings inspiring her everyday.

"It's just spectacular with the moors and the sea. I moved here 20 years ago and I was absolutely gobsmacked at how stunning it was and I couldn't stop painting. The light here is fantastic so it always feels like a very uplifting place to be. There's so much colour and whenever I go away - we travel for three months of the year on book tours - it's always the place I want to come back to. We're so lucky to live here," she says, adding: "Every weekend we love to walk, and we take our camper van up to the moors with our dog Roxy and walk about 15 miles. You don't need to walk very far before you're in a place with no other people and you can walk for miles without seeing a soul."

"I moved here 20 years ago and I was absolutely gobsmacked at how stunning it was and I couldn't stop painting."





Laura's incredible talent as an artist has been a driving factor in her work – she studied fine art and illustration at university – but in equal measure her desire to succeed and belief in herself have been just as important. With her career in television gathering pace, she decided to give it up and pursue her dream of earning a living from her art.

“TV is a very tough industry where you really have to earn your way, and it made me realise that a strong work ethic is essential if you want to be a success in business. After I decided to leave I painted my heart out, worked at Haddon Gallery so that I could really understand every aspect of the business and pitched my work to a lot of galleries. I got a lot of ‘nos,’ but that didn’t deter me. In my mind I was so determined to make it work,” she says.

She paints with a unique style and her paintings are full of life, vibrancy, fun and playfulness which is perhaps a reflection of her own approach to life. Post pandemic things are slowly returning to normal, the customers she loves to meet are browsing in the gallery, and a new and exciting lifestyle range is being prepared for a spring 2022 launch.

With her unique art, love of life, and strong business acumen Laura feels truly blessed to be living and working in Devon and while she reaps the rewards of success her door is always open to offer advice to budding young artists, just starting out on their careers.

For more information on Laura Wall, visit: www.laurawall.com.

Talking of budding young artists, turn to pg. 10 to take a look at some wonderful artwork from Devon schoolchildren!



Left: Time We Won't Forget, by Laura Wall

MY FAVOURITE PLACE IN DEVON!

As part of our 60th anniversary celebrations Devon Communities Together wanted to celebrate not only our past but the generations that will look after our beautiful county for the next 60 years and beyond. That's why we asked children in Devon to create a picture that shows us their favourite part of Devon and why they love it. With some fabulous prizes up for grabs we were thrilled to pick our winners with the help of some of our Trustees ...

YOUNGER AGE GROUP (4-11) AND OVERALL WINNER

1. You've already seen our overall winner, which is proudly featured on the front cover of this magazine! A huge congratulations to 9-year old Marcy Ridout from Drakes School in East Budleigh, for her amazing illustration of her home village, Otterton! The judges felt that Marcy's creation really showed her love for her community, as well as being a very accomplished drawing.

"I have painted this map of my village showing all the places that make it so special to me. Including the Milk machine and the River Otter where we walk our dogs and watch the beavers."

OLDER AGE GROUP (12+) WINNER

2. Well done to Holly Emerson, aged 14, from Newton Abbot, who was chosen as the winner of our older age group. The judges loved her atmospheric painting of Newton Abbot Town Quay.

"This picture represents the town quay, I love the quay because there is so much nature and colour especially when the sun sets."

RUNNERS UP

We were pleased to choose eight amazing runners up, who all impressed the judges with their amazing depictions of their favourite Devon spots.

3. (l-r) Fliss (9), Gracie (8), Rebecca (8) and



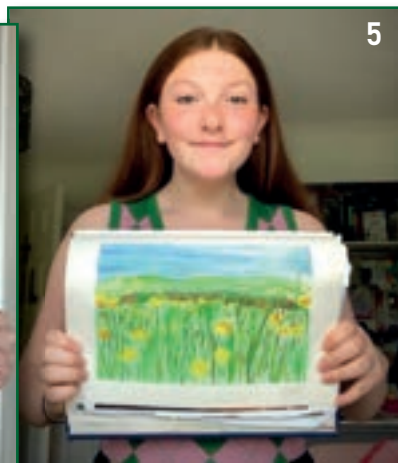
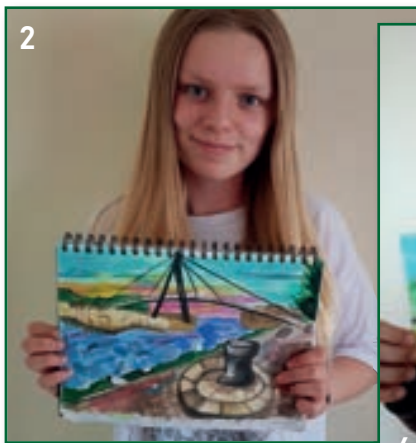
Eva (8) from Fernworthy Class at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast created some amazing Dartmoor pictures.

4. Dylan Vakharia, aged 11, from St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Buckfast, submitted a wonderful picture of Hembury Woods.

5. Lilia Miles, aged 14, painted the view from the church fields in Highweek Newton Abbot.

6. Luca Hatton, age 5, from Kingskerswell C of E Primary School, painted himself, his brother and his Dad on the beach at Batham.

7. Madeleine D'Auria, from Alphington Primary School in Exeter, was selected as a runner up for her wonderful painting of sunset on Dartmoor.



Thank you to the local businesses that have supported this competition by donating some fantastic prizes:

2 tickets to Pennywell Farm; Go Ape gift card (kindly donated by Chris Coward); 2 tickets to Combe Martin Wildlife and Dinosaur Park; an adult and child pottery experience from Tarka Pottery; a child's workshop prize from Costal Craft; 4 x family tickets (2x adults 2x children) to Bickton Park Botanical Gardens; and a £25 ice cream voucher from Orange Elephant Ice Cream Parlour.

NORRIS & FISHER
INSURANCE BROKERS LTD

Specialists in Charity Insurance

Prompt, competitive insurance quotations provided for:

- Parish Councils •
- Charity & Voluntary Groups •
- Village Halls •

Call us on 023 8026 9009
or visit us at
www.norrisandfisher.com

GROWING UP IN RURAL DEVON

Life in Devon has changed a lot over the past 60+ years. Meet Devon born and bred Margaret Brealey 85, who calls herself a proper Devonshire Dumpling and Gregory Johnson, OBE...

Where were you born?

M: I was born in Moretonhampstead. My mother was from Wales but when her father lost his job as a miner, she left home at 15 to work for an old lady in Chagford. She met my dad when she worked in Lustleigh.

G: Frogmore, at the very top of the creek where I lived until I was three and then we moved to Modbury.

Where did you grow up?

M: Until I was nine, I was at school in Moretonhampstead. There were about 40 shops in the town then, and a steam train linking Moretonhampstead with Newton Abbot.

We had a lot of wartime evacuees from London and we got on nicely with them. Above my grandparents' farm on Mardon Common, the black American soldiers lived under canvas while the white soldiers were billeted in Moretonhampstead. They had to be kept apart. Thank goodness you wouldn't get this now because it was a terrible thing. They'd drive past us and we'd shout "got any gum, chum" and they'd throw us candy, as they called it.

I didn't realise until a few years ago, that a lot of them were killed at Slapton during Exercise Tiger, the rehearsal for the D-Day landings. I'm glad I didn't know it at the time as I'd have been really upset.

G: I went to Modbury Primary School and they were very happy days. We had wonderful teachers and an outstanding headmaster called George Close who had a great love of the countryside and an in-depth knowledge of its flora and fauna. As a class we were taken on regular nature walks around the environs of Modbury. The school centered on a wonderful garden full of flowers and vegetables cultivated to a very high standard. .

What was a Devon childhood like?

M: It was very different and I look back almost with a pang. I was three when war broke out and nine when it finished and I can remember it like it was yesterday. Even though there was a war, things were more innocent somehow. People were more neighbourly and looked out for each other.

My father served in the army and was a prisoner of war in Japan. He was missing for 18 months, presumed dead, and I'd pray every night for him. One morning the postman arrived waving a postcard, shouting for mum. All the post card said was 'safe and well' but at least we knew he was alive.

I loved reading, we had games like Ludo and we were always playing outside. In our cottage we had an outside toilet and a coal fire but we didn't have electricity and we'd use a big tin bath in front of the fire. We always had meal times together and my mum made all my clothes.

G: For me it was a very happy, peaceful period, almost idyllic, and everything revolved around the outstandingly beautiful countryside.

My Father was an officer in the Royal Navy and he was badly injured at Dunkirk when serving on the destroyer HMS Jaguar. Following this, after recuperating in East Africa, he spent much of the war on convoys.

I used to do a lot of fishing in the streams around the area and can remember catching my first trout off the bridge at Sheephams when I was about seven. My father had made me a reel and a rod out of an old tank aerial. I also started riding ponies when I was very young.

We were always outside playing. Everyone knew everyone in the village and there was a great sense of being together, with the church playing a big part.



What are your favourite memories?

M: Dad coming home is my best memory. He was absolutely fine when he got back and we were given a month's holiday so that we could spend time with him.

G: Guy Fawkes night was always a great time and we'd spend weeks building a bonfire on the green opposite the school.

We always looked forward to Gardeners Fair which came every year.

Social evenings pre-television were held regularly in the Memorial Hall, cycle speedway was held on the football field and we supported Modbury Rovers Football Club on a Saturday afternoon. I can remember big celebrations for the coronation of the Queen in 1953 and all the children were invited to Mr Frankie May's house at Penparks because he had the only television in Modbury. Unfortunately, it proved a disaster because all you could see was white snow on the screen, but we were all given tea!

Were there any challenges?

M: The cold, snowy winters were difficult. The pipes would freeze at school and we'd have to have days off. We were on food rations for many years after the war, but my mum was so calm, that I never felt deprived or in fear. It was a different world altogether from today's.

G: The challenge was you had to make the best of things because we lived in a very isolated community. I can remember the blizzards of '47 and '63 when Modbury was cut off from the rest of the world for weeks. A lot of people were born here, worked here and died here and that was a challenge

because they didn't travel. That was it and they had to make the best of it.

How do you think Devon and people have changed over the years?

M: It was a much simpler life back then. During the war you couldn't have any expectations - you were just glad to wake up alive.

Devon has got so busy and with a lot of people moving to the area. To a certain extent, young people are being forced out of the Westcountry.

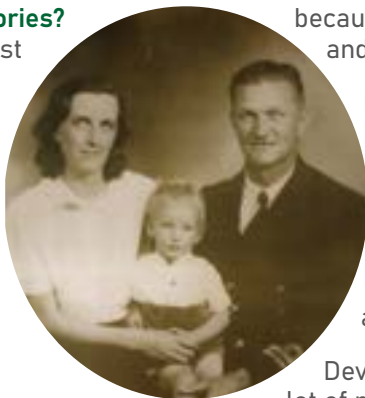
G: The saddest thing of all is the destruction of the countryside through over development. Vast areas of green fields have disappeared under concrete..

What has community meant to you over the years?

M: Family and community have always meant everything to me and we have a good community here in Exmouth where I live now. I think this pandemic might have changed things a bit, and there's a feeling that everybody is looking out for each other a little more.

G: When I was growing up there was a feeling of belonging, there's no doubt about that. I've made many friends in Modbury over the years and they remain so. But things have changed so much. There's a danger we're losing what we once had - that sense of belonging where we all look out for each other. It was tangible years ago.

But having said that, its good to see many of the newcomers have taken Modbury to heart and have a real appreciation of its rural values.



Gregory Johnson OBE (second left) on Wonwell Beach, 1963

FORGING A CAREER IN DEVON

Each year, thousands of young people finish school, college and university and are faced with big decisions about their future. We spoke to three young people to find out how they set out on their chosen career paths right here in Devon, by undertaking local apprenticeships ...

Shona Plunkett (24) grew up, and still lives in, Teignmouth. She is currently working at Devon Communities Together as a Data Analysis Apprentice, attending Exeter College part-time alongside her work.

Shona's early career was somewhat different to her current one, as she fulfilled her childhood dream by travelling the world working on cruise ships as a dancer. "After school I started working on cruise ships and found various jobs like waitressing, working in a shop and babysitting for time off in between the cruise ship contracts. I spent five years doing this before deciding to retrain as a Data Analyst, choosing an apprenticeship to do this so I could learn on the job rather than studying full time."

Jack Vaughan (23) from Kingsteignton, on the other hand, has always known that he wanted to be a painter and decorator. That's why, upon leaving school he applied to South Devon College to study his chosen vocation. He subsequently began an apprenticeship with Constructing Futures Devon, which is a subsidiary company of Devon Communities Together that purchases properties to renovate and re-sell, giving opportunities to dozens of young construction learners to practice their trades on real construction sites. "The apprenticeship has been great," said Jack. "When I get to work on-site in our properties it's like a chance to learn my skills again but in a real situation instead of a workshop."

Bradley Hall (20) from Crediton, was not content with just one apprenticeship - he's currently working on his second! Since leaving secondary school he attended Exeter College to study Business, embarking on a Business Administration apprenticeship, which he completed in April 2021 before beginning a Digital Marketing Apprenticeship with Devon Communities Together. He didn't always



"Devon ... is a fantastic place for young people to kickstart their career."

want to work in business and marketing, however: "I had two dream jobs when I was younger - an architect or a professional footballer!".

Despite the well documented challenges of living in a more rural county versus larger cities when it comes to diversity of career opportunities, all three are in agreement that the opportunities are out there locally if you seek the right support.

"I think career opportunities in Devon are improving massively," says Shona, who intends to become a full-time data analyst when she finishes her apprenticeship and has plans to turn her Level 4 apprenticeship into a Level 6 (degree level) qualification. "Whilst there are many smaller local businesses there are also national names such as the Met office based in Exeter."

Jack agrees: "I love living in Devon and South Devon College is great. There's nothing I don't like about life here and I think the apprenticeship I've done will help me achieve my future ambition of getting a full-time job before eventually becoming self-employed."

Bradley would also like to run his own business one day but acknowledges that he will need to develop his career with skill- and knowledge-building jobs before he's ready for that. "Surprisingly, there are a wide variety of career opportunities for young people in Devon and it is a fantastic place for young people to kickstart their career," he says.

So what advice would they give other young people who are considering their next steps?

"A career isn't a simple straight path," says Shona. "So if you don't know what you want to do, don't worry! If you take up opportunities and work hard you will end up on the right path eventually."

Bradley echoes the need to find out what you really want to do. "Find something that you enjoy and that you have a passion for. Working in a role or for a company that you genuinely have an interest in makes the job easier and more enjoyable."

"I would advise people interested in a certain career to contact their local college to see if there's a course or even the opportunity of an apprenticeship," said Jack. "Continuing my education and working towards my career at the same time has been great for me."

Devon Communities Together works with partners to support hundreds of young people all over Devon through a number of funded projects and ongoing services; from supporting young people who are NEET (not in education, employment or training) to providing business coaching to young entrepreneurs. For up to date information on our current projects, visit www.devoncommunities.org.uk.

To explore apprenticeship opportunities, www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk is a great place to start!



PATH TO PROPERTY FLOOD PROTECTION

LOVE Devon hears from the Pathfinder Property Flood Resilience (PFR) project to find out how it is supporting homes and businesses to protect themselves against flood damage...

BeFloodReady

Here in the South West, we are busy helping households,

businesses, voluntary groups, and other organisations, including the private sector, to 'BeFloodReady' (see www.befloodready.uk).

We are working hard to raise awareness about Property Flood Resilience – PFR, for short. PFR is the term used to describe measures that help to reduce flood risk to people and property.

Using PFR enables households and businesses to reduce the damage caused by floods, making the process of recovery and reoccupation easier.

We are reaching out to all audiences in many ways, including providing:



Workshops and training – for individuals, volunteers, planners, developers, and businesses, from small local businesses through to multi-national organisations



Our www.befloodready.uk website has many resources – booklets, flooding information, testimonials, animations of PFR products, explanations of PFR & technical information



A community hub – for individuals and groups to have a safe space to discuss flooding, and share experiences and advice Community Hub (see www.befloodready.uk)



Direct community engagement, through tours around the South West with our 'Flood Pod', and our demonstration site at Heartlands World Heritage Site in Cornwall Heartlands Cornish visitor attraction and Mining World Heritage Site (www.heartlandscornwall.com) which we are also hoping you will be able to visit digitally, wherever you live



We are delighted to share with you our collaboration with Aardman Animations – 'BeFloodReady, Missy's Tale'.

Our short film raises awareness of PFR, and the shot to the left gives a taste of our stars in action! Our furry friends Missy and Archie are definitely flood ready – and their BeFloodReady leaflet has now been duly read and actioned by their owners!

Click here to see their adventure: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kKJhttx0kCia>

The Defra-funded South West PFR Pathfinder, is being led by Cornwall Council, and supported by Devon Communities Together, Devon County Council, Council of the Isles of Scilly, Plymouth City Council, Torbay Council, and JBA Consulting. Working in partnership with the Environment Agency and Risk Management Authorities across the South West, this project aims to support individuals, businesses and communities at flood risk. www.devoncommunities.org.uk/projects/pathfinder-be-flood-ready

TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE



The Devon Climate Emergency (DCE) partnership is working to tackle climate change by reducing carbon emissions, improving our environment and getting Devon's communities ready for a changing world.

DCE is creating the Devon Carbon Plan, which outlines the actions needed to reduce Devon's emissions to net-zero and create a fairer, healthier and happier society. Many people in Devon have contributed to help produce the plan, but some big challenges remain. Therefore, DCE is holding a citizens' assembly to put the views of the general public at the centre of Devon's action on climate change. A representative sample of Devon's citizens from different social backgrounds, including young people over the age of 16 will form the Devon Climate Assembly. The assembly met for the first time in June 2021 to discuss 3 big challenges: onshore wind, road capacity and car use and building retrofit. This is an exciting opportunity bringing deliberative democracy into Devon's action on climate change.

However, as we are seeing more and more, the climate is already changing, and we all need to prepare to live in a warmer world. DCE is also working on an adaptation plan for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This will show how individuals, organisations and authorities all need to adapt to the present and future impacts of climate change.

HOW CAN YOU TAKE ACTION?

We are in a global climate and ecological emergency and it is easy to feel overwhelmed by the scale of the problem. However, our individual actions do have an impact and there are lots of ways that we can all make a difference in our day to day lives.

Calculating your personal carbon footprint is a good place to start. Your carbon footprint is a good estimate of the impact your lifestyle choices have on the planet. Simply answer a few quick questions about your lifestyle, diet and transport habits to find your footprint. Once you know how big your footprint is, you can see which areas of your lifestyle have the biggest environmental impact.

Calculate your footprint here:
carbonsavvy.uk/calculator/

If we all made a few small changes collectively we have a massive impact. For example, reducing your room temperature by 1°C could cut your heating bills by up to 10% and save you around £50 per year. If every household in Devon turned their thermostat down by 1°C, we would save 75,000 tonnes of CO2 every year! In some cases, talking can be just as powerful as doing. Remember that everything we purchase has a carbon footprint. Be a conscious consumer, do you really need to make that new purchase. Could you repair or buy secondhand instead? Finally, talk to your family, friends and colleagues about what the climate crisis is and what you're doing as an individual to reduce your footprint.

Take a look at the Devon Climate Emergency website for more tips. If you're on social media, check out the #DevonActs for more tips on how you can make choices that have a meaningful, positive climate impact.

devonclimateemergency.org.uk

LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

A shortage of affordable homes in rural communities can mean that people are forced to move away from the communities they love to seek suitable housing; dividing generations of families and negatively impacting the diversity of communities. Devon Rural Housing Partnership supports Community Led Housing projects that create quality affordable homes for local people.



"It has given me and my husband great peace of mind to know that we can stay here."

North Devon Homes spoke to Mrs Cook, a tenant living in a new development, Marine Parade in Instow, which was developed by Chichester Homes and handed over to North Devon Homes in August 2020, when she moved in.

"We love living and working in Instow," she said. "I have lived and worked here for over 12 years. Our new home is perfect and when I received the call to say my bid was successful, I felt as though we had won the lottery."

Like many people, she had previously found local properties unaffordable. "We were still renting privately, properties are very hard to find here and very expensive," added Mrs Cook. "We previously rented an expensive, cold and damp property in Instow. The heating was oil-fired and very expensive to run, and the cost in winter is similar to a whole year of heating at my new house."

Demonstrating what a positive impact quality, affordable housing can have, she explains how thrilled she is with her new home after nearly a year. "The layout and size is just right. Having the doors from the living space directly into the garden is perfect when the grand children visit. We are very lucky to have a parking area as there are many properties in Instow without this.

"It has given me and my husband great peace of mind to know that we can stay here. We have several friends and a great support network in Instow. When I retire I can continue to work in the local shop and comfortably afford our rent and bills now that we are in an affordable home."

Another tenant shared her thoughts as a young mum: "As a single parent, it was difficult trying to balance earning enough to provide and balancing the time I spent with my children. I got to the point where my household was not sustainable and it was time to think about moving. There were not that many options available to me at the time as we really did not want to move away from Instow as I had raised my children here for 11 years.



"Living in Instow had been great for my children as they were schooled in Instow and they knew everyone in the village and felt safe and part of the community. They also had family in Instow so it was important for them to stay close. As time passed I reluctantly started looking for properties outside of Instow, then NDH came along. I honestly felt the greatest relief to know that I could affordably remain in Instow. We have now been in our new home for 8 months and we have 2 happy children and a very less stressed mummy."

During 2021, Devon Communities Together is facilitating the launch of a new digital hub for Devon Rural Housing Partnership's Community Led Housing services. Keep an eye on www.devoncommunities.org.uk to find out more!

FROM
£14.00

Make your own compost at home
It's free and easy

**GET A
BLOOMING
BARGAIN
COMPOST
BIN TODAY**

BUY ONE
GET ONE
**HALF
PRICE**

- ✓ YOU CAN **COMPOST**
MOST FOOD AND
GARDEN WASTE
- ✓ **ORDER ONLINE**
DELIVERY DIRECT
TO YOUR DOOR
- ✓ SIMPLY ORDER YOUR
COMPOST BIN FROM
getcomposting.com

For compost tips and more visit **recycledevon.org**


**Recycle
Devon**

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW DEVON...?

Just for fun! Can you answer these Devon-themed general knowledge questions? Answers on the back page...

1. How many National Parks are there in Devon?
2. Which brand of food products was advertised with the strapline, "Devon knows how they make it so creamy"?
3. Which village in Devon has an exclamation mark as part of its name?
4. Name the walking route which follows the line of the Stover Canal, which was once used to transport clay and granite to the coast?
5. Torbay's sandy beaches and mild climate have given rise to which nickname?
6. Which present-day place featured the most south-westerly Roman fortified settlement in Britain?
7. Name the largest island in the Bristol Channel, that lies 12 miles off the coast of Devon?
8. Which novel, also known as A Romance of Exmoor, was written by Richard Blackmore, in 1869?
9. Lynton on the Exmoor coast, stands on top of the cliffs above which picturesque harbour village?
10. Ottery St Mary was the birthplace of which Romantic poet in 1772?
11. Who created the stainless steel and bronze statue 'Verity', which stands on the pier at the entrance to the harbour in Ilfracombe?
12. Which town is home to the Royal Navy's officer training college?
13. Which World Heritage Site on the English Channel coast stretches from Exmouth in East Devon, to Studland Bay in Dorset?
14. The decisive battle of the south-western campaign of the First English Civil War took place in which Devon market town in 1646?
15. There's a replica of The Golden Hind in Brixham Harbour, but who sailed around the world on the original?
16. The moorland on Dartmoor is capped with many exposed granite hilltops known by what word?
17. Michael Morpurgo was inspired to write which book after meeting some veterans at his local pub, The Duke of York, in Iddesleigh, Dartmoor?
18. Which Devon island is accessible at high tide by sea tractor?
19. Which male Olympic diver was born in Plymouth?

Devon Oil Collective
Heat Your Home for Less

- Discounted heating oil
- Single point of contact - no shopping around!
- Friendly, accessible customer service team
- Raise money for Devon Communities Together!

JOIN TODAY!

NO FIXED MEMBERSHIP FEE!

20. Rearrange the letters to spell out some popular places to visit in Devon.

Xeeret
Eve pooch
Cola web moo
Wish lad
Mad rotor
Coy yet brave
Honk mop tea



Haytor from Mardon Down

SPECTACULAR DARTMOOR

Each edition of LOVE Devon we look forward to sharing a favourite Dartmoor Walk. This year it's Pepperdon Down and Mardon Down.

This lovely circular walk explores moorland outliers near Moretonhampstead. On Mardon Down you'll find the largest Bronze Age stone circle on the Moor (and numerous cists), medieval reaves, and grassed-over structures dating from military training during the Second World War.

Start/finish:

Moretonhampstead VIC SX 753860

Distance: 6 miles (9.6km)

Time: 3 hours

Terrain: lanes, field and moorland paths: steady ascent to Pepperdon Down

Toilets: Court Street car park

Parking: pay & display car parks

Dogs: under control at all times; on leads 1 Mar–31 Jul

Map: OS Explorer OL28; OS Landranger 191 Okehampton & North Dartmoor

1. With your back to the VIC turn right; by the Coop cross

the road and head down Pound Street. Where the lane bears right turn left down Brinning Lane. At the bottom turn left onto the Wray Valley Trail (WVT), and follow it to the drive to Budleigh Farm.

2. Turn left; the footpath turns left past the converted farmyard, then right, behind the farm. Ascend through fields and oak woodland – keep a close eye out occasional yellow splodges – eventually climbing more steeply then bearing left into a field. Head for a gate in the far hedge, then turn left. Follow the right edge of the next two fields, to reach the lane on Pepperdon Down. Turn right.

3. Opposite a five-bar gate turn left on an ascending path with wonderful views. Reach a crossroads by a triangular rock and turn left up to the lane. Turn left along the lane to Cossick Cross.

4. Head up the lane opposite. Over the cattle grid, from the lane corner, head up a broad grassy way for 75yd, then turn right. Pass a small parking area, then cross a broad path, to reach a path T-junction.

5. Turn left, uphill. (Look out for a stone circle to the right of the path – worth a closer

look.) The path bears left along the top of the Down, passing through Dartmoor's biggest stone circle. The views are fantastic!

Descend gently. At a fork keep right; take a small path right and descend to the lane.

6. Cross over; follow the bridlepath downhill to reach a tarmac lane; turn right, downhill. Where the track bears left keep straight ahead through a gate. Follow the footpath downhill (the old 'road' to Exeter) and through a gate at the bottom. Take the right of two tracks, between farm buildings, then pass through a gate ahead. The footpath descends to reach buildings behind Mardon House. Here bear left; the next stile gains a path junction on the edge of the Sentry.

Follow the path ahead, curving steeply uphill. Go through a gate, and another left of the church. Emerge by Green Hill Arts, in the old school. Walk down Fore Street; cross the A382 to return to the VIC.

Words and photographs Sue Vickers, Dartmoor Magazine.

www.dartmoormagazine.co.uk



DEVON COMMUNITIES TOGETHER MEMBERSHIP

Join us today – support our charity's work and receive a number of exclusive benefits ...

We're here to help communities as Devon emerges from the Coronavirus pandemic and begins to rebuild. Join us and be a part of the recovery.

- Get the latest updates from our network, publications and e-newsletters
- Join the debate! We are frequently consulted on rural issues and regularly report on the needs of rural communities
- Save on advertising in our LOVE Devon magazine
- Advice on: Community engagement
Community projects Social & community enterprise Funding
- Information sheets & toolkits
- Model documents & templates

PLUS: FOR VILLAGE HALLS/COMMUNITY BUILDINGS:

- Free listing on Devon Village Halls webpage – national exposure showing your facilities
- Access to a community buildings loan scheme
- Hallmark quality assurance scheme & support with accreditation
- Peer support from a local network of community buildings
- Discounts on insurance and other commercial services

BIG SAVINGS
on courses from the
Devon Community
Learning Academy



Create positive change with professional support and expertise from Catalyst consultancy.

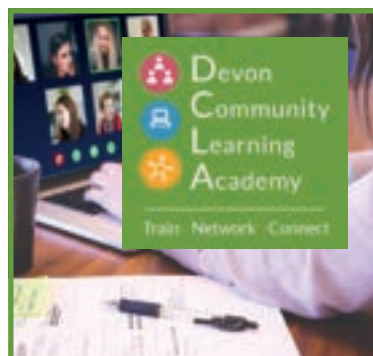
We're here to help Devon emerge from Covid-19 and begin to rebuild. Speak to our team today about your challenges.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fundraising Strategies• Feasibility Studies• Stakeholder Consultation• Governance & Legal Structures• Community Owned Assets• Positive Community Engagement• Design & Facilitation of Partnership Forums• Design Led Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rural Housing Services• Community Land Trusts• Neighbourhood Planning & Localism Powers• Sustainability Initiatives• Training & Mentoring• Marketing• Business Plans & Business Coaching• Evaluation & Impact Assessment & Monitoring
---	--

Draw on 60 years of in-house expertise and a diverse network of associates. Let us make a real difference to your business, organisation or project.



www.devoncommunities.org.uk/catalyst-consultancy



Online and face-to-face training, learning and networking opportunities for community groups, local councils, businesses, social enterprises, voluntary organisations and more.

www.devoncommunities.org.uk/courses

Answers from pg. 22: 1. Two (Dartmoor and Exmoor National Parks); 2. Ambrosia; 3. Westward Ho!; 4. The Templar Way; 5. The English Riviera; 6. Exeter; 7. Lundy; 8. Lorna Doone; 9. Lynmouth; 10. Samuel Taylor Coleridge; 11. Damien Hirst; 12. Dartmouth; 13. The Jurassic Coast; 14. Torrington; 15. Sir Francis Drake; 16. Tors; 17. War Horse; 18. Burgh Island; 19. Tom Daley; 20. Exeter, Hope Cove, Woolacombe, Dawlish, Dartmoor, Bovey Tracey, Okehampton