



QUALITY  
TOWN  
COUNCIL

# The Town Crier

Quarterly newsletter of  
Dawlish Town Council



Volume 4 Issue 3

December 2006

## Forthcoming Meetings:

### December 2006

5th Town Council  
12th Planning

### January 2007

9th Planning  
10th Town Council  
18th Finance and General  
Purposes

23rd Planning

24th Civic Amenities

### February 2007

5th Planning  
7th Town Council  
15th Finance and General  
Purposes

20th Planning

28th Civic Amenities

### March 2007

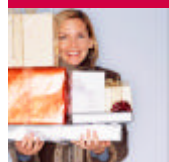
5th Planning  
7th Town Council  
15th Finance and General  
Purposes

20th Planning

28th Civic Amenities

Don't miss the  
**Christmas Fayre**  
in The Strand on  
**December 10th**  
**2006**

This fantastic Christmas  
event, organised by the  
Dawlish Chamber of  
Trade and Commerce, is  
the ideal opportunity to  
purchase your Christmas  
presents



Come  
and join in  
the fun!



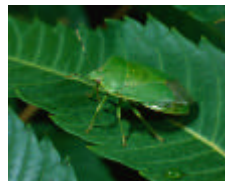
## Where to find us:

The Town Council offices located at:

The Manor House, Old Town Street, Dawlish

Open Monday to Friday 9.30a.m. to 12.30p.m. and  
1.00p.m. to 3.00p.m. or telephone 01626 863388

## Allotments—biodiversity study



Prior to clearance of the site in preparation for allotments, Dawlish Town Council, along with the Teignbridge Biodiversity Officer and members of Dawlish

Conservation Trust carried out an extensive survey of the Brown's Brook site to establish how best to preserve the biodiversity of the area.

There had been reports of possible sightings of the Natterjack toad. The nearest known colony is in the north-east of England and no signs of this extremely rare and endangered species were found. However, it was established that cirl buntings are nesting within a short distance of the Brown's Brook site although not within the field itself.

Following the survey, Dawlish Conservation Trust volunteers constructed various alternative habitats for any species which might be disturbed by the clearance works, including refuges in the hedgerows and around the boundaries of the site.

It has also been agreed with the Teignbridge Biodiversity Officer that a 5 metre 'exclusion zone' will be established at the boundaries of the field. This area will be controlled but not cultivated, to allow wildlife to flourish.

Works at the allotment field are well under way with plots being laid out and haul-ways and pathways laid with turf.

The water supply will be connected by South West Water and stand pipes erected for use by allotment holders.



The Town Council has already contacted the first 30 people on the waiting list to invite them to take up an allotment and it is hoped that they will be able to start cultivating their plots in the early new year.

As soon as all the plots have been filled, the waiting list will be re-opened and names will be taken for plots as and when they become available.



The Parish Maintainer will be a regular visitor to the site to ensure that the allotments are maintained in a safe and tidy condition.

## Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Public consultation on this important piece of new legislation started in June 2006 and ended in November 2006.

The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 gives Parish Councils a range of new powers to tackle environmental crime in their communities and to help reduce:



**litter on our streets**

**graffiti in our shelters**



**dog fouling in our parks**



**fly posting on our streets.**

All these things affect the quality of life for residents and in a holiday town also affect our visitors.

The response to the consultation has been encouraging and Council staff are busy analysing the data collected to establish the views of residents and visitors.

Dawlish Town Council is in a unique position as it already has a Parish Maintainer and a Waterfowl Warden on hand on a daily basis. With the necessary training, they would be able to gather evidence of any offences and issue fixed penalty notices.

## Manor House repairs

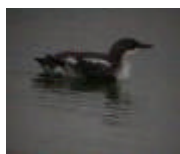


Repairs to the Manor House roof are nearing completion with the final stage of current works now being undertaken at the rear roof of the building.

The Town Council apologises for any inconvenience to users of the building whilst this essential work is being carried out and would like to remind patrons that parking in the Manor House grounds is only available to users of the building whilst they are attending meetings or functions. No overnight parking is permitted and patrons park at

## Rare visitor to Dawlish

Dawlish welcomed several thousand 'twitchers' in November as bird spotters from all over Europe arrived to see the rare long-billed murrelet. This is the first time the bird has ever been sighted in the UK and only the second recorded sighting in Europe. The small black and white bird, native to Russia and Japan had flown off course by over 4000 miles.



## Mayor welcomes four Heads

The Mayor and Mayoress of Dawlish hosted a reception at the Manor House for the new Headmaster of Dawlish Community College, Mr. Andrew Davis.

As well as Councillors and staff, three previous Headmasters of the Community College also attended the reception.

Mr. Davis took over as Headmaster on the retirement of Mr. Roger Kirk in 2006



*The picture shows: (from left to right) Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Mrs. Rosalind Prowse, Mr. Roger Kirk, Mr. Andrew Davis, Mr. John Watson, Mr. Braithwaite and the Mayor of Dawlish Cllr. Rev. Dr. Tom Bush*

## Trip to Westminster

Four members of staff from Dawlish Town Council travelled to the Houses of Parliament on the 7th November to learn about the workings of central Government.



Their trip was hosted by the MP for Teignbridge, Mr. Richard Younger-Ross, who gave staff a tour of the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Some areas were closed off in readiness for the State Opening of Parliament on the 15th November but the trip was hailed as a great success.

The staff also enjoyed the special privilege of lunch in the Strangers Dining Room, courtesy of the Mayor of Dawlish and hosted by Mr. Richard Younger-Ross.

## CCTV installation in Dawlish

Work continues on the installation of the new CCTV system for the town centre. Sophisticated cabling works and the installation of transmitting equipment has been completed and poles installed in readiness for the cameras themselves.

It is hoped that works will be completed by January 2007 with six cameras covering the town centre to assist with crime prevention and detection. Before the system is operational, the Town Council will produce a comprehensive policy covering operational use, data storage and collection in accordance with the latest legislation.



# Welcome to Meetings!



***Dawlish Town Council is keen to encourage public participation at its meetings.***

Members of the public are always welcome to the Council Chamber to listen to debate on issues affecting their town.

The Town Council achieved Quality Status in 2004 and as part of its continuing commitment to open and accountable local government, there is an opportunity at each meeting for members of the public to speak to the Council on any issue they may have, regardless of whether or not it appears on the agenda for the meeting they are attending.

The Town Council does not require advance notice of items to be raised. Agendas are issued at least 4 days before the meeting, to comply with legal requirements

and usually 5-7 days before the meeting takes place. Speakers are given approximately 3-5 minutes to raise their points although this time can be varied at the discretion of the Chairman. This may be because of the number of people wishing to speak or the amount of other business on the agenda. Members of the public can speak under the agenda item:

***“Deferment of Business for comment by the Public.”***

This means that the Council’s debate is temporarily suspended to allow people to raise their points in a calm, open and appropriate manner.

***The Town Council is pleased to welcome people exercising their democratic right to free speech and being fully involved with local government in Dawlish*** but will not tolerate verbal or physical abuse of its Members, Officers and staff. Any such abuse will be

taken seriously and may lead to legal action.

Once an issue has been raised through this process, the Chairman will, where possible, indicate what action will be taken by the Council.

This may include deferral to another Committee for further discussion and, if that is the case, members of the public are welcome to attend and speak at that meeting too. Councillors will not respond immediately to allow for careful consideration and research on all the points raised before the Council can make an informed decision.

No single Councillor is responsible for any decision of the Council: this is democracy at its best.

***The Town Council looks forward to the continuing attendance of Dawlish residents at Council meetings.***

## Annual Accounts for 2005/2006

***The audit of accounts for the Town Council has been concluded.***

District Audit have reviewed the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2006 and have confirmed that no matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

This means that, for the seventh year running, the Town Council’s financial systems have been shown to be in order and the accounts properly kept.



## Become a Town Councillor

**YOUR TOWN COUNCIL**



**In May 2007 local elections will take place for new Councillors in Dawlish.**

All 16 seats on the Council will be up for election.

**Become a Town Councillor and make a difference to your community**

**If you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor contact the Town Clerk for further information.**

**Your Town Council needs you!**

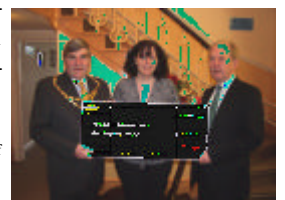
## Grants to local organisations

Dawlish Town Council’s Mayor, Cllr. Rev. Dr. T. Bush, was pleased to present a cheque on behalf of the Council to the Shaftesbury Theatre for £30,000 to assist with the renovation of this much-loved local facility. The money will be used for capital expenditure on new toilets for the disabled and on works to the front of the building.



Dawlish Community Trust were also presented with a cheque for £5,000 by the Town Council to support them in their continuing work on the regeneration of Dawlish

(photos courtesy of Jonathan Wright, Dawlish Gazette)





## Your Councillors and how to contact them:

*Your local Councillors can be contacted at the following telephone numbers.*

*If you are unsure of which Councillor to contact, please call in or telephone the office on 01626 863388 where staff will be pleased to direct your enquiry to the Councillor best able to deal with your enquiry.*

Cllr. Rev. Dr. Tom Bush Mayor of Dawlish Tel: 10626 865704

Cllr. Mrs. Rosalind Prowse Deputy Mayor Tel: 01626 866621

Cllr. John Clatworthy Tel: 01626 864091 **Devon County Councillor** **Teignbridge District Councillor**

Cllr. Humphrey Clemens Tel: 01626 863020 **Teignbridge District Councillor**

Cllr. Mrs. Margaret Dickson Tel: 01626 770893

Cllr. Tom Edwards Contact: 20 Fairlea Close, Dawlish

Cllr. Will Forrow Tel: 01626 863013

Cllr. Ted Hockin Tel: 01626 862088 **Teignbridge District Councillor**

Cllr. Mrs. Valerie Jeffery Tel: 01626 890730

Cllr. Mrs. Helen Humphries Tel: 01626 862233

Cllr. Mrs. Mary Mugford Tel: 01626 863516 **Teignbridge District Councillor**

Cllr. Mrs. Hazel Percy Tel: 01626 865942

Cllr. Graham Price Tel: 01626 867088

Cllr. Wally Protheroe Tel: 01626 863151 **Teignbridge District Councillor**

Cllr. Clive Samuel Tel: 01626 865824

Cllr. Geoff Wills Tel: 01626 888074



### Avian flu

At the present time, there are no reported incidents of Avian flu in Devon. However, the Town Council takes the view that it is sensible to take all necessary steps to avoid the spread of infection and the situation is being constantly monitored.

Birds die all the time for all sorts of reasons and you are likely to come across them from time to time. Current advice is:

- **Do not touch any dead or sick birds.**
- **If you find a dead or sick bird, contact Defra on:  
08459 335577**

### Flood Risk in Dawlish — Exhibition

**On the 10th January 2007 residents of Dawlish, particularly those at risk of flooding, will be able to attend a one day flood risk exhibition on the Lawn in Dawlish.**

Exhibitors will include The Environment Agency, The National Flood Forum, Teignbridge District Council and Dawlish Town Council. This will be an opportunity for local residents to get advice and information on flood risk and prevention.

As well as attending the exhibition, Mary Dhonau, a representative of the National Flood Forum, will give a presentation to Dawlish Town Council at the Town Council meeting on the 10th January 2007, commencing at 7.00p.m. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



### Dawlish Town Council wishes you all a Merry Christmas!

The Town Council offices will be closed for Christmas from **Friday 22nd December 2006 at 12 noon, reopening on Tuesday January 2nd 2007 at 9.30a.m.**



The Manor House will be open for pre-booked events only throughout the Christmas period. (please contact the office).

*We would like to thank all our patrons for their support in 2006 and wish you all a Happy New Year!*

### Civic Awards

The Town Council would like to recognise the unsung efforts of those who work in the voluntary sector or who give service to the community.

If you know of someone whose hard work and dedication has improved the lives of others in Dawlish, nomination forms are now available.

Applications should be forwarded to the Council by 14th February 2007 and will be considered by a small panel of Councillors shortly afterwards. The awards will be made at the Annual Meeting of the Council in May 2007.

