

# TEIGNMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

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## WAVELENGTH

The Parish Newsletter

for **Dec 2021**

Edition No. 3

### Message from the Mayor and leader of the Town Council, Councillor Peter Williams

Hi and welcome to the third edition of **WAVELENGTH**. Since it first appeared in May/June this year the feedback from you all has been very positive. Communicating to the residents of Teignmouth is very important and an area we need to improve upon and **WAVELENGTH** has certainly played a major part in this.

After a very successful summer in the town, we now move on to the winter months, with a positive feeling, towards Christmas. Christmas festivities are planned in the town with the local traders and the Town Council working together to make Christmas happen but still being very mindful of the current situation.



I do not need to remind you to be vigilant and keep an eye on elderly people and those living on their own over the coming cold months, especially with fuel prices escalating the way they are. Please be good neighbours and look out for those who may suffer at this time of the year.

The New Year brings forward many plans for your town that the Town Council have been working on over the last year - including new public toilets throughout the town and new seasonal lighting to replace the lights that have recently had to be removed. The future is looking bright for Teignmouth but it cannot all happen immediately. These are long term projects but you should start seeing positive changes in the New Year.

On behalf of Cate, the Town Council and the team at Bitton House, I wish you all a

**Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year**

### MAYOR'S DIARY

The Mayor and Mayoress have had a busy schedule of events to attend up to Xmas itself, these remain:

20 December to attend St James's Church 200 Sings Christmas 7pm

The Boxing Day walk into the sea has been cancelled.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Pantomime season is coming up..... oh no it isn't, I hear you say? Well, oh yes it is.... our wonderful local theatrical groups, as ever, are going to produce their pantomimes, both being put on at Teignmouth Pavilions:

Teignmouth Players present: **Peter Pan** 27 December – 3 January and

Shaldon Theatre Company present: **Beauty and the Beast** 27 – 30 January '22

You won't get a preview this year because there is no full-scale Xmas Lights Switch-on event, so please go along and support these excellent productions and enjoy some traditional British entertainment.

THE **FULL PROGRAMME OF CHRISTMAS EVENTS IN THE TOWN**, AS BEST WE CAN GATHER UP, IS POSTED ON THE TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE [Visit News and Events](#)

AND ON OUR FACEBOOK NOTICEBOARD PAGE.

Keep an eye out for Santa and his sleigh, assisted by his elves from Teignmouth Rotary Club, who will be visiting the residential areas of Teignmouth and Shaldon in the early evening from Sunday 12 December – Friday 17 December. See the Teignmouth Post or the Facebook Page for the Rotary Club of Teignmouth for details of the route, times, etc.

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On behalf of the **Teignmouth Traders Association**, Keith Underhill, their Chairman, wishes the townsfolk of Teignmouth a very happy Christmas and a Happy New Year and urges us all to continue to support all our local businesses over the festive season. “By shopping local you are maintaining the livelihoods and employment of many residents of the town.” (Note from the editor – don’t discount our local traders as not competitive, they can often match offers in larger stores or online and offer a greener solution to multiple white van deliveries of single items when you can pick up lots of things on one visit to town.)

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## COUNCIL MEETINGS

Against a backdrop of regular meetings of various groups to compile a budget and set the precept for next year, there is still a calendar of regular council meetings. **Please check the website if you want to come to a meeting because times and dates may have to be changed at short notice to accommodate the budget and precept setting in January 2022.** It also outlines the procedures involved in attending meetings

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### January 2022

Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup> January	Planning
Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> January	HR
Tuesday	11 <sup>th</sup> January	Full Council – budget/precept approval
Monday	17 <sup>th</sup> January	Assets & Facilities Sub
Thursday	20 <sup>th</sup> January	Finance
Wednesday	26 <sup>th</sup> January	Planning

### February 2022

Tuesday	1 <sup>st</sup> February	Full Council
Thursday	3 <sup>rd</sup> February	HR
Wednesday	16 <sup>th</sup> February	Planning

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## DO YOU NEED HELP WITH ESSENTIAL BILLS?

Devon County Council has been awarded funding from the Dept. for Work and Pensions for a new **Household Support Fund** which has just opened and will run until 31 March 2022. It’s aiming to help local residents who are struggling to make ends meet and is designed to help households in most need with food, energy and water bills, as well as other essential living costs such as clothing, bedding, fridges, freezers or cookers or other monthly bills that cannot be deferred such as internet or phone bills and essential transport costs – for more details go to the Teignbridge Website, below, as Teignbridge are working with Citizens Advice Teignbridge to provide additional support to residents.

If you are over 16, live in Teignbridge and are struggling financially you can apply online on the Teignbridge Website [Apply for Household Support Fund](#)

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**ORGANISATION SHOWCASE – News from some of the organisations that serve the town**

**History Walk**

Join our guide and  
Learn more about  
West Teignmouth on

**Thursday 28th  
October**

Meet at 11 am.  
at the Museum

**ADULTS £3.00**

29 French Street, Teignmouth (opposite the railway station)  
TQ14 8ST Website: [www.teignheritage.org.uk](http://www.teignheritage.org.uk)  
Email: [info@teignheritage.org.uk](mailto:info@teignheritage.org.uk) Tel: 01626 777041

TEIGN HERITAGE CENTRE HOME TO TEIGNMOUTH & SHALDON MUSEUM CENTRE

**TEIGN HERITAGE CENTRE**

Do you make enough use of your museum and heritage centre?? This edition of *Wavelength* may be too late for this event, but the poster is a great example of the variety of activities and regularly changing exhibitions that the Museum and Heritage Centre has to offer. There is also an education section offering educational activities to groups of all ages specifically geared to the requirements of the particular group. Check out the [website](#) or call in and see what the Museum has to offer 01626 777041. The Museum also houses a shop with a brand new range of items which would make ideal Christmas gifts for those who are hard to buy for. The Museum will also be running a Xmas Charity weekend when they are inviting other charities to take a stall on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November (also National Museum Shops Day!) and Sunday 28 November. So why not fit a visit to the museum into your shopping trip into town.

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For girls aged 10 to 14

**Guides**  
1st Teignmouth Guides

*'Guides is the most adventurous thing... it gives you the opportunity to meet people and see things you wouldn't normally see, and it's just an amazing experience.'*

Bryony

**At Guides you can** explore new places, get involved in leadership opportunities and learn a huge range of new skills.

Find out more about Guides at [girlguiding.org.uk/guides](http://girlguiding.org.uk/guides). Register your daughter at [girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://girlguiding.org.uk/joinus) or call 0800 169 5901.

Teignmouth District  
WE DISCOVER, WE GROW  
**Girlguiding**

**1st TEIGNMOUTH GUIDES HAS SPACES FOR NEW MEMBERS**

Guide is for girls aged 10 – 14. Here are some of the things we get up to: camping, adventure, badges, outdoor cooking, community service, hiking, team buildings, challenge activities and much more.

Teignmouth Guides meet on Tuesday evenings in Central Teignmouth.

[Register to join Teignmouth Guides](#)

Teignmouth District has active Rainbow (aged 5 – 7) Brownie (aged 7 – 11), and Guide (aged 10 – 14) units and Shaldon Trefoil Guildford (adults).

If you run an organisation for young people and want to increase your membership, please let us know.

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N.B Appearing in *WAVELENGTH* is no guarantee re safeguarding and appropriate procedures, parents must satisfy themselves that these systems are in place.

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## SHOP MOBILITY – NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Pandemic has hit lots of voluntary and charity organisations hard, not only in terms of possible income but because they are now drastically short of the volunteer staff to run them. One such, that made its plight known to the Council this December, is the town's Shopmobility organisation which loans Motability scooters to the elderly and disabled residents and visitors to Teignmouth to help them to get about and enjoy the facilities on offer in the town. They also offer services at outside events enabling disabled and elderly people a chance to take part. If you think this is something that you would be able to volunteer some time to, please contact Keith Underhill on 07415 389175 ASAP and definitely before the end of January, when a decision will have to be taken whether to close down completely.

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We are pleased to report that a copy of [WAVELENGTH](#) will also be going out with the 100 Little Bundles of Joy packages that the [ALICE CROSS CENTRE](#) delivers each year to the isolated and vulnerable.

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**Assist Teignbridge** is a charity at the heart of the community of Dawlish and offers a range of services across the whole of Teignbridge, **including Teignmouth**. It promotes volunteering and offers information, advice, help and assistance to elderly and vulnerable people in the locality through the Community Support Project. The service include a [home care & sitting service](#) to support individuals and enable carers to take a break; a [nail trimming service](#) in people's homes and a [home help service](#) for those who struggle to manage household tasks. For more information:

[Visit Assist Teignbridge website](#) or tel. **01626 889288**      **Registered charity no. 1154936**

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## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Arguably u3a could also fit here – they have so many and varied interest groups to encourage people to continue to use their free time well in later life but space precludes inclusion this time.

**HELP FOR OLDER DRIVERS** – KEEPING OLDER PEOPLE ON THE ROAD SAFELY, FOR LONGER - [advice and guidance on all sorts of related issues can be found here.](#)

Their latest offering is a comprehensive guide from the Royal College of Nursing called: [Eyes Right – Older People and Driving.](#)

From **Alzheimer's Research UK** comes a **free guide** about diseases that cause dementia with advice on things you can do to protect your brain health and help reduce your chances of developing dementia – a leaflet called [Your Brain Matters](#) or ring 0800 144 5850

**Infestation of rats or mice:** Teignbridge are able to help if you have an infestation in your own home or garden and also if you wish to make a report about a neighbour's infestation. [Report rats or mice in your home or garden](#) gives more information and this email address: [envc@teignbridge.gov.uk](mailto:envc@teignbridge.gov.uk)  
This has proved invaluable in the St James area where problems occurred a while back, for a variety of reasons –but something you may not have realized: if you put out food for the birds, you may, inadvertently, be sustaining a thriving rat or mice colony so do keep the food protected and don't just throw it on open land – yours or anybody else's! Also make sure your bins are securely closed and clear up any windfall fruit which may provide them with a food source. This works for foxes too. Remove the food source and they will look elsewhere.

This is a repeat of the information in the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition because we are still seeing rats around in St James and when I rang Teignbridge, they said that there seemed to be a lot of rat activity in our town. Not good.

**Recently members of Teignmouth Pride** came to talk to the Council and we agreed that there is little information available on sources of support for members of the LGBTQ+ community. There are several local organisations that I have managed to find **Exmouth Pride** and **Exeter Pride** and in Newton Abbot – [Proud2be](#) and also discovered that **Teignmouth Community School** has a fortnightly Lunch Club meeting for students who feel that they need some support with gender identification and related issues which is well attended – Ms Minty-Dyke is the member of staff to contact for information. [SPACE](#), [Devon County Council's Youth Service](#) can also advise young people about this and many other issues.

A Teignmouth Pride member has also forwarded on that there is the **Yes Centre**, Queen Street in Newton Abbot 01626 774656 where young people can be referred - they are not a specialist service for the LGBTQ+ community but they do signpost to other services. They also refer to a wellbeing café in Newton Abbot which is called **The Change Academy** at 6 Market Street, Newton Abbot 01626 356720. Both of these are appointment only, however. There is also an [online community for young people - Kooth](#), which, although it does not specialise in LGBTQ+ issues may be able to provide information.

Then, on 08006123010 there is the **Intercom Trust** which is a lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans+ charity working across Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and the wider South West, providing:

Help and Support	Advocacy	Counselling	Training
Information	Support Groups	Online Directory	Community Surveys
Conferences and	Consultancy		

Then, in the recent Remembrance Service national TV coverage **Fighting with Pride** was mentioned - there is also a LinkedIn presence for this relatively new charity which supports the health and well-being of veterans, service personnel and their families from the LGBTQ+ community.

In terms of the Council acknowledging different needs, this is being addressed in the new plans for the public toilets and, of course, the visit from the Group has raised our awareness and, by this paragraph, hopefully yours, to the fact that we do have an active **Teignmouth Pride** Group which you can contact via a quick search on Facebook. And a **Teignmouth Pride event has just been announced for 10/11 September 2022.**

## WASTE AND RECYCLING

**Don't forget, all the bin collections change over the Christmas/New Year period and the schedule has already been published in the Teignmouth Post but can also be found on the Teignbridge website.**

**Stick it up near your front door so you know when you need to put which bins out. It takes nearly 3 weeks to get back in sync again.**

[Christmas and New Year bin collection dates](#)

and there is also a list of Christmas Tree recycling sites – please try to recycle your tree there.

Please make sure your waste is securely protected to discourage vermin and seagulls from ripping it open and spreading the contents everywhere.

Thank you

..... And have a very happy and safe holiday.

## LAW AND ORDER, TEIGNMOUTH

**The PCC's new Crime Plan for the next 4 years is available.**

[View Police and Crime Plan 2021-2025](#)

The front page of the [Devon and Cornwall Police](#) give you a Dashboard of how to seek appropriate assistance.

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### WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Here are some safety tips in the run-up to Christmas:

- Keep bags and belongings close by when out and about and stay aware of your surroundings;
- Make sure valuables are out of sight and consider holding bags with the fastening inwards; don't leave gifts or valuables on display inside vehicles, even if you're just stepping away for a brief moment 0 its' surprising just how quickly thieves can target vehicles always lock you r vehicle when you not using it;
- Don't leave gifts in plain view of windows and doors;
- Dispose of boxes at recycling centres rather than in the weekly bin collections as thieves could use this as a reason to target your home;
- If you're away over the festive seasons, take some time to make sure doors and windows are locked and consider using timers to switch on lights in the evening or getting a neighbour to pull curtains and switch on different lights.

But let's not forget too that it's celebration time.....

- Know your limits, be responsible and look out for one another if you're out in a group;
- Stay with your friends and don't allow anyone to leave a gathering alone, or with someone they don't know or trust;
- Plan your journey home and make sure your friends get home safety too – a quick text can help.

More advice is available on [Devon & Cornwall Police website](#)

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**An AVIAN FLU EXCLUSION ZONE has been declared across Britain since 3.11.21** This means that all bird keepers, whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a back yard, are required, **by law**, to take a range of [bio-security precautions](#). If you have poultry, it is your responsibility to keep updated on any outbreaks, and an easy way to do this is to [sign up for animal disease text notifications](#). Please also remind any of your friends in the farming community.

### SCAM ADVICE



Numbers of organisations offer advice on how not to be tricked by scammers, here are just a few that you might like to look at:

- [Devon and Somerset Trading Standards](#)
- [Get Safe Online](#)
- [Which?](#)
- [Action Fraud](#)
- [Devon and Cornwall Police](#)
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There are also useful links here to other sources of information too – REMEMBER 23m people used 123456 as a password (which is so obvious and hackable it is really dangerous) according to the [National Cyber Security Centre](#)

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## WHAT TO DO IF YOU DIAL 999 IN ERROR

To reduce unnecessary demand on operators, Devon and Cornwall Police has issued advice to reduce the number of “abandoned” calls which lead to operators researching the number and associated details to try to ensure that there is no risk to the caller and will ring back several times to check on the caller. This can waste precious time that could otherwise be spend helping someone with an emergency and potentially saving a life. Last financial year 20/21 there were 246,629 to 999, 15,183 of which were abandoned.

Although it's appreciated accident do happen (pocket dialling on mobiles – sometimes even if the phone is locked, etc) it would be appreciated if people would stay on the line to confirm that everything is OK - otherwise valuable resources are taken away from answering other calls. TIPS:

- Keep your phone safe and out of reach of children;
- Lock your phone before you put it in your pocket but be aware that some phones will still call 999 when locked if certain buttons are pressed
- Talk to children about how and when to call for help in an emergency but make them aware that prank calls can have serious consequence both for them as well as others.
- If you dial 999 by mistake, stay on the line otherwise the Police will call you back to check that you're safe, so it saves valuable time because every second can count in responding to 999 calls.

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**Check out this and much more information yourself on:**

[Devon and Cornwall Police](#)

[Neighbourhood Watch](#)

[Police and Crime Commissioner](#)

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## THE HARD TRUTHS ABOUT ON-STREET PARKING

There are many common misconceptions about what is legal/illegal about roadside parking. Here are some facts (more detailed info. is on the DCC Highways website under [Roads and Transport](#))

You have no sole or legal right whatsoever to park your car on the public highway just outside your house; it is a **public highway** and anyone can park there, the clue is in the name **public**. Ownership of the highway doesn't come with living in a property. It is free for anyone to use unless there are already restrictions there, like yellow lines. The Highways Authority is Devon County Council and



they introduce any restrictions such as yellow lines clearways, etc, (through Traffic Orders). If you do not adhere to the restrictions, you

are liable to receive a Penalty Charge Notice.

It is an offence to park or drive onto the pavement – you can be fined up to £1,000 if witnessed by the police who can also fine you for parking across a dropped kerb and/or causing wilful obstruction. [Report pavement parking](#) If a DCC Highways Enforcement Officer comes along, (s)he can give you Penalty Charge Notice or an advisory note. Pavement parking creates hazards for pedestrians, particularly those with visual impairments, children and wheelchair, mobility scooters and pushchair users. You may think you are doing the right thing by making more space available on the road but many emergency vehicles can still not achieve access as they are much larger than they used to be! Pavements aren't designed to carry the weight of a vehicle; parking on pavements causes damage to paving and service manhole covers, all damage which adds to the maintenance costs of our roads.

If there is nowhere legal to park, it is no excuse to park somewhere illegally and think you will get away with it because you had no

other choice! Enforcement officers can be, and are targeted



to work antisocial hours to deal with this sort of offence if repeated obstruction and unauthorised parking justifies it.

You cannot just park your car on someone else's private land like the docks and blocking drives is also unacceptable. Private enforcement contractors don't take prisoners and will pursue fines through the Courts. At Bitton Park, which is private land, we hope to use Devon County Council Civil Enforcement Officers. Some private roads in town have also found the need to use private enforcement contractors to control the parking there, with good success because of their uncompromising policies.

No-one else has a duty to provide you with a place to park your car. It is up to you, like making sure it is taxed, MOT'd and insured – Tax and MOT can be checked online, by anyone, so look out if you don't have your documents in order. Someone could report you.

Many of the areas experiencing parking problems in and around the town centre have steadily got worse over the last 35 years, as car ownership has continued to increase and more multiple-occupancy dwellings been granted planning permission by Teignbridge, despite objections from local people.



Blue Badge Holders can park in Residents Parking Zone areas without a permit but must show their Blue Badge. [Care and health workers permits](#) – a new scheme has been consulted on earlier in 2021 and may have come into being by now – though the website doesn't show this – there is a whole section on parking and permits for careworkers and also about contractors permits and exemptions. All this + more information on the DCC website: [DCC parking permits](#)

and associated links to other topics. For instance, please check out the [Banners on Railings section..... You are supposed to ask permission and abide by the time rules as outlined](#) not just tie them on, in framed boxes, now, apparently, in the dead of night and leave them for weeks and weeks. If you ignore this, you may well have your banner taken down. If you think about the bottom of Exeter Road, you can see that there is a good reason behind this as it is a real distraction when that rail is covered with adverts for events and services of all kinds, often left there for months.

**PLEASE DON'T!** and

Just another thought, [re parking DID YOU KNOW?](#)

[TDC parking permits](#)

**Option 11 Teignbridge Off-Peak, Off-Street Permit.**

There is a Teignbridge £60 **A YEAR** permit which covers you between 4-6 pm and 9–10am Monday to Saturday. So, for less than £1.20 a week you'd be covered overnight till 10 in the morning, TDC have just confirmed that they start charging in the morning from 9am so you'd be covered through to 10am on that permit. Saturday and Sunday are more of a problem, but the Station Car park is believed to be only £3 for the whole day after 10 at the moment and could fill the gap **(NB: it isn't a TDC car park though, it's belongs to Network Rail.)**

You'd need to do the sums to see if that would work for you or make your predicament better.

### **LATEST UPDATES**

As you can imagine, this year has presented the Town Council with many challenges in terms of the COVID restrictions, working from home, Zoom/Teams meetings online, etc. I'm sure you will appreciate that we have done our very best to ensure that as many Council functions as possible have continued to be offered – like events – but some have had to be changed, or even cancelled.

By producing this Newsletter we are trying to make the people of Teignmouth aware of what we are doing on their behalf, by publishing the Minutes of our meetings on our website, we are trying to keep everyone up to date on issues under discussion and decisions made.

Currently, we are focussed on the budget for 2022/3. As ever, we will do our very best. In the larger scheme of things, we are having to work to become carbon-neutral in the next couple of years which will involve considerable expenditure on more energy- efficient systems initially, as well as deal with rising costs like everyone else.

We are also trying hard to make the Town Council much more of a focus for general information about the town and what goes on through [WAVELENGTH](#) but with only quarterly, online production, this means we need information well in advance of many events. We also need to improve our dissemination online, and ensure those who aren't digitally connected know that there are limited numbers of paper copies distributed at hubs around the town. Compared to other places, we have a thriving music, events and entertainment offer but it's no good if no-one knows about it so PLEASE, if you are getting events together contact Cllr Atkins (the creator of [WAVELENGTH](#)). Sadly, there is no time to do a blog at the moment, but it has not been discounted – it would be good to get authoritative and accurate accounts of Council meetings published immediately after they've taken place so that the waters don't get muddied by different versions of what actually happened.

Every effort has been made to ensure that any facts quoted here are accurate at the time of printing. If you find something that you think is not accurate please let Cllr Atkins know. Contact information appears on the Town Council website.

Jla/13.12.21