



ANNUAL REPORT 2017 / 2018



Councillor Ann Jones

Mayor - 2017/ 2018



Phil Rowe

Town Clerk



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Councillor Ann Jones

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REPORT FROM THE MAYOR ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN COUNCIL 2017/18

This Council year has been an exceptionally busy and varied one for me. I have attended over 150 engagements including opening the new lift at Meadowside, the WorkFit Seminar for The Downs Syndrome Association and the new Cool For Cats Café in Ogdell. Each and every engagement whether civic or public have been a pleasure to do. My husband Chris has been with me on the majority of occasions, however, as he is not very musical my fellow councillor, Carol Bunday, has been with me to the majority of musical engagements including the NADSA concerts. Carol also acted as my escort when I travelled to Besigheim, our twin town, for their Winter Festival. We had a fabulous time.

Our big news this year is the acquisition of the initial funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund which has enabled us to move forward with the planning aspect of Newton's Place. We have now applied to the HLF for the remainder of the funds to enable us to move forward with the restoration and renovation of the old church.

AROUND TOWN

We have had quite a few new shops and salons opened this year, Sally Henley our Town Development Manager has been working extremely hard to get all our shops occupied. The new Summer Nights Food Festivals are a great success. Our thanks should go to her for all the hard work she puts in on the Town's behalf. At this point I have to thank both Phil Rowe, Town Clerk and his Deputy Town Clerk Sam Scott who have given so much to the smooth running of the Town Council. Without them we would be truly lost.

You cannot fail to have seen that TDC are now moving ahead with their planned redevelopment of the Market Walk, Market Square etc. I know it looks awful at the moment, but it can only get better.

Please bear with us as we undergo all these changes.

TOWN EVENTS

All the town events have been very well attended, even in the Christmas period, although at times the weather has been against us.

Our Events Co-ordinators at the Town Hall have worked hard again last year to get all the events up and running. My thanks to them for everything they do. These events are not easy to put together and their smooth running is down to Kelly BurrIDGE and Natalie Hicks. Thank you ladies.

The Mayor's Secretary, Carla Winsborrow, has been amazing. She has kept me on the straight and narrow. My sincere thanks Carla for all you have done for me this year.

I must in this section mention our Carnival. Last year was exceptional and thanks go to the Carnival Committee for all they did to make the week so successful. Special thanks to Mike and Lyn Ryan, Mike Hocking, Carol Bunday, Jimmy Northcott and Kieran Dore for putting together our Carnival Float and being at every carnival during the season.

CIVIC EVENTS

I have held two main events this year, the first being the Civic Service back in October. It was a great occasion and I have to thank The Rural Dean, The Reverend Prebendary Alan White for all his help putting the service together with Carla's invaluable help.

The second was the fantastic Carol Service, held in Market Square, with the Rock Choir in attendance. The support from the people of Newton Abbot was amazing and made it a very special event for me.

Finally, I must thank my long suffering husband and family, Chris, Frankie and Jess, who have been supportive and attended everything I have asked them to. Without their support I would not have been able to do what I have this year. I have tried to do everything that has been asked of me and some things that have been above and beyond the call of duty. I have enjoyed every minute, event and engagement I have done.

I hope that Councillor Ken Purchase and his wife Dulcie good luck for the forthcoming year. I hope they get as much enjoyment out of their year as I have done.

Ann Jones

Newton Abbot Town Mayor 2017/18

MAYORAL YEAR 2017 – 2018 ENGAGEMENTS CARRIED OUT.

MAYOR – COUNCILLOR ANN JONES

Friday 12 th May	Launch of Co-Cars Hire
Saturday 13 th May	Beating of the Borough Bounds
Saturday 13 th May	Royal Naval 60 th Anniversary Dinner
Sunday 14 th May	Band Concert
Thursday 18 th May	Totnes Town Council Mayor Choosing Ceremony
Saturday 20 th May	Christian Aid Walk 50 th Anniversary
Saturday 20 th May	Newton Abbot & District Civic Society Civic Awards Judging
Sunday 21 st May	Lord Mayor of Exeter Sunday Service
Tuesday 23 rd May	Launch of Moor Otters
Friday 26 th May	Crowning of Wolborough School May Queen
Monday 29 th May	Beating of the Bounds
Tuesday 30 th May	Opening of new premises for Blondies Hair Fashions
Thursday 1 st June	Opening of Taji Barber
Sunday 4 th June	Royal British Legion Decoration Day
Saturday 10 th June	Town Centre Classic Motorshow
Saturday 10 th June	Court Leet Ale Tasteing
Sunday 11 th June	Band Concert
Monday 12 th June	Presentation of cheque from Electors Funding Grant to Courtenay Centre
Monday 12 th June	ATC AGM
Saturday 17 th June	Newton Abbot & District Civic Society Civic Awards Presentation
Monday 19 th June	Teignbridge District Council Raising of Armed Forces Flag
Friday 23 rd June	Visit from Besigheim Students
Saturday 24 th June	Coronation of Carnival Queen
Saturday 24 th June	Presentation of Coronation bouquets to residents of St. Benets Care Home

Wednesday 28 th June	Launch of new premises for Eat That Frog
Thursday 29 th June	Devon & Cornwall Police S.D. 50 th Anniversary Celebration
Friday 30 th June	Stover School Speech and Prize Giving
Sunday 2 nd July	Band Concert
Monday 3 rd July	Carnival Quiz
Tuesday 4 th July	Carnival Poohsticks Race
Tuesday 4 th July	Carnival Children Fun and Games evening
Wednesday 5 th July	Carnival Duck Race
Thursday 6 th July	Carnival Tea Dance
Thursday 6 th July	Carnival Bingo
Friday 7 th July	Carnival Charity Fun Run
Saturday 8 th July	Carnival Day
Saturday 8 th July	Carnival Process
Sunday 9 th July	Carnival Praise
Wednesday 12 th July	Newton in Bloom Painting Competition Presentation
Friday 14 th July	Opening of new Westcountry HR Office
Friday 14 th July	Choir 86 Concert
Monday 17 th July	Bi-Annual Inspection Parade of TS Canonteign
Wednesday 19 th July	Avenue Church Coffee Morning
Saturday 29 th July	Newton Abbot Art Group Exhibition
Monday 7 th August	Newton in Bloom Local Competition Presentation evening
Sunday 13 th August	Band Concert
Tuesday 15 th August	Bijoux Boutique opening
Wednesday 16 th August	Shopmobility Challenge
Wednesday 23 rd August	Official opening of lift and new kitchen for Meadowside Residential Home
Thursday 24 th August	St. Benets Residential Home Garden Party
Sunday 27 th August	Judge Classic Motorshow at Ugbrooke House

Sunday 27 th August	Torbay Civic Garden Party
Friday 1 st September	Raiding of the Red Ensign Flag
Saturday 2 nd September	Autumn Fayre
Sunday 3 rd September	Official welcome Service of Rev. Gill Daniel
Saturday 9 th September	Town Criers Competition
Saturday 9 th September	Junior Leaders Regiment Disbandment Dinner
Sunday 10 th September	Band Concert
Wednesday 13 th September To Tuesday 19 th September	Besigheim Visit
Tuesday 26 th September	Inaugural meeting of Reach
Thursday 28 th September	Community Transport Annual Celebration and AGM
Thursday 28 th September	Teignbridge District Scout Council AGM
Friday 29 th September	McMillan Coffee Morning
Sunday 30 th September	Town Centre Motorshow
Sunday 1 st October	Father Pat Costello Leaving Party
Thursday 5 th October	Newton Abbot & District Musical Comedy Society Civic Performance
Sunday 8 th October	Torbay Civic Service
Saturday 14 th October	Cancer Research Autumn Lunch
Saturday 14 th October	Newton Abbot Town Ball
Thursday 19 th October	Totnes Civic Service
Thursday 19 th October	Maids of Honour Presentation
Saturday 21 st October Sunday 22 nd October	Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts Concert Chudleigh Civic Service
Monday 23 rd October	Newton Abbot Fire Station Role on Honour and 45 th Anniversary
Wednesday 25 th October	Launch of new Community Transport vehicle
Saturday 28 th October	Newton Abbot Borough Lawday
Sunday 29 th October	Newton Abbot Civic Service

Wednesday 1 st November	Inline Kitchens Cookery Demonstration
Wednesday 8 th November	Veteran Support Group Remembrance Lunch
Friday 10 th November	Coombeshead Academy Remembrance Assembly
Sunday 12 th November	Remembrance Sunday Service
Friday 17 th November	Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts Concert
Saturday 18 th November	Open New Shop "Its Treat O'Clock"
Saturday 18 th November	Retirement of Majors Hazel and William Slade
Saturday 18 th November	Military Wives Choir Concert
Sunday 19 th November	Dawlish Civic Service
Friday 24 th November	Meadowside Christmas Party
Saturday 25 th November	Christmas Lights Switch On
Monday 27 th November	Opening of Pharmacy Bistro
Friday 1 st December	Judging of Mid Devon Advertiser Colouring Competition
Tuesday 5 th December	National Citizens Service Charity Dinner
Tuesday 5 th December	Rowcroft Light up a Life Service
Wednesday 6 th December	Victorian Evening
Saturday 9 th December	Royal Naval Christmas Lunch
Monday 11 th December	Kingsteignton Civic Carol Service
Tuesday 12 th December	HMP Channings Wood Christmas Carol Service
Wednesday 13 th December	Lantern Parade
Thursday 14 th December	Teignmouth Carol Service
Monday 18 th December	Bovey Tracey Carol Service
Tuesday 19 th December	St. Benets Residential Home
Tuesday 19 th December	Blue Light Carol Service
Wednesday 20 th December	Newton Abbot Carol Service
Thursday 11 th January	Newton Abbot & District Musical Comedy Society Civic Performance

Monday 15 th January	Crime & Disorder Meeting
Sunday 21 st January	Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts Concert
Tuesday 23 rd January	Completion of refurbishment of Southlands Care Home
Friday 26 th January	Holocaust Memorial Service
Sunday 18 th February	NADSA Concert
Sunday 18 th February	ATC Presentation Evening
Friday 23 rd February	Opening of Greggs
Saturday 3 rd March	Searching and Sealing of Leather
Sunday 4 th March	Teignbridge Civic Service
Monday 12 th March	Fly a Flag for Commonwealth
Thursday 15 th March	Down Syndrome Association Workfit Programme
Friday 16 th March	NADSA Concert
Sunday 18 th March	Teignmouth Civic Service
Wednesday 21 st March	Opening of Cat Café
Thursday 22 nd March	Cheque presentation by Tuckers Maltings to Mayor
Friday 23 rd March	Past Mayor's Dinner
Saturday 24 th March	Fire Service Charity Car Wash
Monday 26 th March	Choir 86 Easter Concert

Engagements carried out by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Ken Purchase

Sunday 11 th June	Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts Concert and AGM
Monday 12 th June	Licensing of Rev. Garrett Regan
Sunday 13 th August	Dawlish Carnival Opening Ceremony
Friday 15 th August	Newton Abbot & District Society of Arts Concert
Saturday 4 th November	Court Leet Proclamation of St. Leonard's Fair
Wednesday 8 th November	Stagecoach Launch of new bus
Friday 10 th November	Stover School Remembrance
Sunday 19 th November	South Hams District Civic Service

Wednesday 13 th December	Stover School Carol Service
Sunday 17 th December	Friends of Rowcroft Celebration of Christmas
Monday 18 th December	Choir 86 Christmas Concert
Monday 25 th December	Christmas visit to Newton Abbot Hospital
Tuesday 6 th February	Dyrons Journal Talking Newspaper AGM
Friday 23 rd March	Lord Mayor of Exeter Charity Banquet
Saturday 31 st March	Easter Saturday Funday
Wednesday 4 th April	Unveiling of memorial plaque for Di Nicholls

Councillors, Names, Addresses and Telephone Numbers

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For details of the Devon County Councillors representing the two Newton Abbot electoral divisions and Teignbridge District Councillors representing the four Newton Abbot wards see final page.

OFFICERS

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Monday – Thursday

Mayor's Secretary

Mrs Carla Winsborrow

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Tuesday – Friday

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Miss Kelly Burridge

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Mrs Natalie Hicks
Part Time 3 days a week

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Office Administrator

Miss Kelly Burridge

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Committee Administrator (Tues, Wed & Thurs)

Mrs Alex Robinson

Email: alex.robinson@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

Handyman

Mr Kieran Dore

Mobile: 07870 752725

Housekeeper

Mrs Michele Webber

Newton Abbot and Great Western Museum.

Opening Hours :- April to October
Mon, Tue, Wed, Thurs - 10 am - 4 pm
Fri 10 am – 12 pm
Saturday 2-4 p.m. (Easter-Sept)

Curator: Mrs Felicity Cole
Tuesday - Friday 2a St. Paul's Road,
Newton Abbot
TQ12 2HP

Telephone: (01626) 201121

Email: museum@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.museum-newtonabbot.co.uk and www.devonmuseums.net

Newton Abbot Museum Assistant Job Share

Lisa Gould Email: lisa.gould@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

Charlotte Edwards Email: charlotte.edwards@newtonabbot-tc.gov.uk

Town Development Manager - Sally Henley

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Newton Abbot Community Interest Company

Business & Community Development Officer - Emily Farrell

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Email: manager@newtonabbotcic.org.uk

Community Interest Company Admin Officer - Faith Cummins

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Town Crier

Mr Nigel Kenneison

Email nigelk57@gmail.com

NEWTON ABBOT TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2017 - 2018

Report to the Annual Town Meeting Saturday 7th April 2018

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Since the May 2015 Local Government elections the Council has found itself with two vacancies in the Bushell Ward. There was a very healthy level of interest in the co-options, with a total of five candidates. The Council was delighted to welcome Councillors Rob Hayes and Mike Joyce to its ranks in 2016. The 'Father of the Town Council', Mr Henry Cole as the first Honorary Freeman of Newton Abbot, continued to attend many meetings during the year, bringing his unique brand of insight (in a non-voting capacity). Henry was joined two years ago by town 'stalwart' Mrs Di Nicholls CBE who became Newton Abbot's first lady Freeman and only the second Freeman in the town's history. Sadly, Di passed away on 30th August 2017 at the age of 99. Di was 'True Lady of the People' and will be missed, especially by the Clocktower volunteers!

1.2 The Council had received interesting presentations and reports on a variety of subjects from:-

- Mr Jay Cook, Chairman of the Courtenay Air Raid Shelter Heritage Association on the proposals for the restoration of the Air Raid Shelter in Courtenay Park, Newton Abbot.
- Mr Derek Fishpool, Devon County Council, with an update of the DCC Public Transport Policy for Newton Abbot.
- Mrs Emily Farrell, Manager of Newton Abbot Community Interest Company (CIC), with an update of the work of the CIC in the community.
- Katy Bennie, Museum Education Officer, on proposed educational project on Heritage for Young People.
- Mrs Kate Green, Community Engagement Consultant on the work within the community for the Newton's Place Project and draft proposed Museum Design.
- A presentation from the Newton Abbot branch of the Women's Institute on the activities and work undertaken locally.
- An introductory Cry from Nigel Kenneison newly appointed, Town Crier for Newton Abbot.
- An update from Inspector Adrian Woon of Devon and Cornwall Police on local police and crime matters.
- Mrs Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager gave an update on the work of the Community Safety Partnership in the town.
- Mr Rob Cude, Fire Station Manager, reported on the Fire Service in Newton Abbot.
- Introductory report from Inspector Nigel Yelland, recently appointed as Police Inspector to Newton Abbot.
- Mr Nigel Canham, Strategic Public Relations on the marketing strategy for the Newton's Place Project.

Please note that both Mrs Rebecca Hewitt and Inspector Woon reported on two occasions.

1.3 The other significant developments in the town include:-

- Ongoing involvement in the economic vitality of the town by the Town Development Manager, Mrs Sally Henley;
- The operation of the activities of the Community Interest Company Chairman via Mrs Lynn McElheron;

- Issues with the ongoing development/use of the Community Garden on Town Council land at Vicary's Field by Transition Newton Abbot;
- Continued maintenance of Victoria Gardens (the Rose Garden) following the delivery of the project to totally transform the area into a beautiful and tranquil town centre amenity space, with views of the River Lemon (albeit subject to acts of vandalism, including two of the viewing panes which now have decorative screens erected);
- Ongoing maintenance of two areas of the Mill Leat adjacent to Bradley Manor/Allotments which this year required the repair to a section of the retaining wall following a 4 x 4 vehicle entering the Leat;
- Ongoing delivery of the contract for Christmas Illuminations in Newton Abbot with bespoke features procured by the Town Council delivering both striking Christmas displays and year on year financial savings;
- Ongoing maintenance following the Introduction of CCTV cameras at the completed Phase 2 of redevelopment of the Town Quay. Sat in the shadow of the new cycle/footbridge over the River Teign. The second phase delivered resurfacing, improved lighting, seating cycle racks and picnic tables. A mobile refreshment facility commenced operation in July 2015 and will continue throughout 2018;
- Ongoing maintenance of the refurbished Golden Lion Square at Bank Street;
- Regular updates at Council meetings by County and District Councillors on their activities as they affect Newton Abbot.

1.4 The work of the Council is carried out by delegation to various standing Committees which, in turn, delegate powers and duties to Sub-Committees. The Council has continued to operate a new streamlined Committee structure with ever evolving terms of reference, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. From May 2016 it has operated a revised Committee Structure with more emphasis on community, heritage and improved financial reporting. This new structure was reviewed in late February 2017 when it was decided to continue with the revised structure. Members were of the view the new structure had worked well, and better reflected the current and future vision, aims and objectives of the Council.

1.5 The Council continues to undertake a number of activities and puts forward a number of representations which are suggested for detailed consideration and in many cases actioned by Teignbridge District Council, Devon County Council and other public utility services. In the last four years the Council has been partnering with the Chamber of Trade and Commerce on delivering CCTV through a Newton Abbot Security Trust. The Partnership has worked extremely well. Since 2015, the Town Council has funded the cutting of all grass verges throughout Newton Abbot arising from Devon County Council as Highway Authority cutting the service other than visibility splays for road safety purposes. For 2018, the Town Council will operate a contract to maintain all areas of grass verges (including the visibility splays) and has agreed to increase the number cuts from 4 to 6 throughout the year. From November 2014 the Town Council took over the leasehold ownership and operation of the Newfoundland Way public conveniences. The conveniences have subsequently been redecorated inside and out and continue to provide a valuable facility for residents and visitors alike.

1.6 May 2019 will see local Government Elections held in Teignbridge where all District, parish and town councillors will either seek re-election or retire. It will be interesting to see what changes result in the membership of Newton Abbot Town Council.

2. INVOLVEMENT OF THE COMMUNITY

2.1 The Town Council has once again supported a number of community groups around the Town, including Newton Abbot Community Interest Company.

- 2.2 Newton Abbot Community Interest Company works across the town to seek improvements for the benefit of those living and working in the town. This can be through the direct delivery of projects or by working with other organisations to secure improvements. The main priority for the CIC this year has continued to be to work with other partners to lobby for, and hopefully deliver, the provision of additional infrastructure (shops, community facilities etc.) to meet the needs of the town's growing population. We are actively involved in planning for the provision of facilities at Hele Park on Ashburton Road.
- 2.3 Other projects the CIC are delivering include improvements at Penn Inn Roundabout, where we are working with volunteers to improve the inside area of the roundabout following completion of the flyover. We continue to support the Management Committee at Buckland & Milber Community Centre, and have developed the Centre into a busy venue offering a variety of community activities.

3. HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR, COMMITTEE BY COMMITTEE

- 3.1 **Finance & Audit Committee** (Chairman, Cllr Colin Parker; Vice-Chairman, Cllr David Corney-Walker) and **Policy & Resources Committee**, (Chairman Cllr Mike Ryan, Vice-Chairman, Cllr Colin Parker).

These are the main Committees of the Council which meet on a regular basis to consider:

- ◆ Month by month income and expenditure statements, including balance sheets;
- ◆ Recommend policy to the Council;
- ◆ Recommend budget and Precept to the Council;
- ◆ Consideration of all aspects of the maintenance of property and assets of the Council;
- ◆ Deals with all matters relating to the staff of the Council;
- ◆ Reports from Council representatives that serve on various outside organisations;
- ◆ Regular updates by the Police Inspector based in Newton Abbot;
- ◆ Applications for financial support.

This year detailed consideration has been given to various issues, including the following:

- ◆ Successfully bid for Heritage Lottery Funding to begin work on developing St Leonard's Church in Newton Abbot into a community space, known as 'Newton's Place';
- ◆ Involvement in Newton Abbot Community Trust to own, and maintain the public space, 'Golden Lion Square';
- ◆ Agreed a refurbishment programme for the town's War Memorial;
- ◆ Awarded a number of Shop Front Improvement grants to local business owners;
- ◆ Identified projects to be supported by the Elector's Fund;
- ◆ Ongoing contributions to the funding and management of CCTV facilities in Newton Abbot;
- ◆ Refining relations with the local press;
- ◆ Review of the Town Council's Vision & Priorities;
- ◆ The management of the Neighbourhood Plan Monitoring Group, following the successful outcome of the Referendum for the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan for Newton Abbot;
- ◆ Review of the Council's Standing Orders and other Council policies;
- ◆ Continuation of the Localism Act and its various Regulations;
- ◆ The budget provides £7,400.00 for grants and financial assistance to various organisations in Newton Abbot. This sum includes an amount specifically for environmental projects.

This year grants were made to local organisations including;

- ◆ Heath Rail Link;
- ◆ Newton Abbot Community Interest Company;
- ◆ Newton Abbot Community Transport;
- ◆ Newton Abbot District Society of Arts;
- ◆ Pete's Dragons;
- ◆ Teignbridge Homeless Action Today (THAT) Foodbank;
- ◆ Teignbridge Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Committee had received interesting presentations and reports on a variety of subjects from:-

- ▲ Mrs Rebecca Hewitt, Community Safety and Safeguarding Manager and Inspector Russell Dawe to update Members on the work of the Community Safety Partnership in the town;
- ▲ Mr Rob Cude, Crew Manager from Newton Abbot Fire Station and invited him to update Members, on the service and activities of the Fire Service within Newton Abbot;
- ▲ Inspector Adrian Woon of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary on policing issues in Newton Abbot;
- ▲ Inspector Nigel Yelland and Sergeant Sharon Unsworth, on the local policing issues in the town.

3.2 **The Strategic Planning Forum** has concentrated not only on current budget performance but also budget strategy and the Precept for 2017/18/19, together with setting out guidelines for all committee future budgets over the short and medium term.

3.3 **Community and Heritage Committee** (Chairman, Cllr Mrs Julie Cleave; Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs Lesley Sheffield) has the responsibility for the Events, Museum, Newton in Bloom, (via the Community Engagement Group) and Allotments Sub-Committees, together with environmental issues and Town Council amenities. The Committee has been very active during 2017, details of which are listed as follows:

- ◆ Various events (see Events Sub-Committee);
- ◆ Approved budgets for its Sub-Committees, (Events, Museum and Newton in Bloom);
- ◆ Approved an exciting programme for the Museum, including the Newton Abbot Great War, Threads and the Heart of Oak (HOO) project (see Museum);
- ◆ The establishment of a Community Resilience Forum to undertake the development of an Emergency Plan for Newton Abbot Town Council;
- ◆ Responsibility for maintenance and provision of street furniture within the town;
- ◆ The authorisation of Pavement Cafe Licence applications (for various town centre establishments);
- ◆ The management of the Newfoundland Way Public Conveniences, (a devolved service from Teignbridge District Council);
- ◆ The facilitation of grass verge cutting, (a devolved service from Devon County Council);
- ◆ The maintenance of 40+ public footpaths within the Newton Abbot parish boundaries;
- ◆ The management of the oasis that is Victoria Gardens;
- ◆ Numerous floral displays within the town centre.

The Committee had received interesting presentations and reports on a variety of subjects from:-

- ❖ Mrs Ros Davies, of Devon County Council on the 'Public Rights of Way' and 'P3' scheme, in Newton Abbot. Mrs Davies gave a background to the work of Devon County Council and their involvement in Newton Abbot;
- ❖ Mr Brian Smith, Chairman of Dyrons Talking Newspaper updated Members on the work of the newspaper and its circulation within Newton Abbot. The charity offered a free talking newspaper service to local people who were visually impaired.
- ❖ Ms Katie Steele, Secretary and Treasurer and Mr Jay Cook, Chairman of Courtenay Air Raid Shelter Heritage Association reported the work of the association in respect of the refurbishment of the Air Raid Shelter in Courtenay Park.
- ❖ Mr Derek Fishpool, Manager of the Transport Co-ordination Service at Devon County Council provided an update on the DCC Public Transport Policy for Newton Abbot;
- ❖ Mrs Emily Farrell, Manager of the Newton Abbot Community Interest Company (CIC) apprised the Committee on the recent activities of the CIC within the wards of the town.

3.4 **Community Engagement Group** (Chairman, Cllr Richard Jenks; Vice-Chairman, Cllr Mrs Lesley Sheffield) has the responsibility for matters relating to community engagement within the town and wider community.

As a new Group formed last year, it has brought together matters relating to the Museum, Newton in Bloom, the CIC and other community issues.

The Community Engagement Group meets on a regular basis to discuss the forward plan and museum policies and information concerning Newton Abbot Town & GWR Museum and St. Leonard's Tower's activities and events.

The group have enjoyed a number of presentations this past year; some of which include:

- ❖ Museum Volunteer, Mrs Katy Bennie, who has had a great deal of experience of working within education, (and has responsibility for the Educational Programmes within the Museum), gave a presentation on proposals for a new project; Heritage for Young People;
- ❖ Councillor David Howe updated Members on the potential community use of a building in Decoy Country Park;
- ❖ Museum Volunteer, Mrs Katy Bennie, provided an update on the Heritage for Young People project.

Next year will bring greater opportunity for public engagement and involvement for a wide variety of groups across the community with the development phase for Newton's Place.

Community & Engagement Group – Museum

(Chairman Cllr R. Jenks ; Vice-Chairman Cllr Ms L Sheffield) The Community and engagement committee meets on a regular basis to discuss the forward plan and museum policies and information concerning Newton Abbot Town & GWR Museum and St. Leonard's Tower's activities and events.

Newton Abbot Town & GWR Museum - Annual Report - May 2017 - March 2018

Newton's Place project

Since the museum closed at the end of October 2017 the museum staff and the 'Newton's Place' working group have focussed on the task of writing all the documentation required for the Phase 2 submission for the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This second application to the HLF was submitted on the 1st March 2018.

The HLF board will inform the team by June/July 2018 as to whether we have been successful to proceed with the delivery phase of the project.

During 2017 and early 2018 all the professionals staff required to support the Newton's Place project were interviewed and commissioned including the museum designers. Leach Studio's were the successful candidates, they have a strong background of working on large HLF projects around the UK. The museum team has been working closely with Leach Studios on the design elements for the new museum.



Leach - Museum Design



Barry Yearsley from
Leach Studios

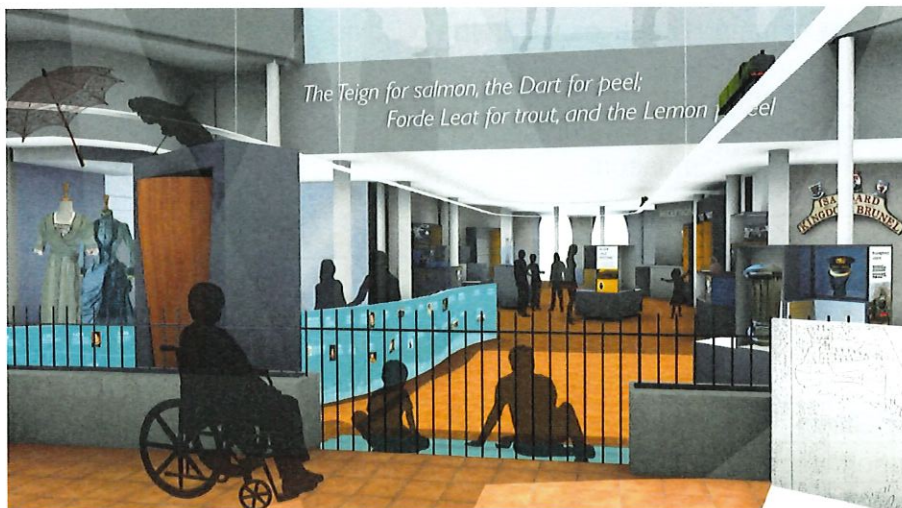
In December 2017 Leach Designs, and the architect for the project, shared draft design sketches and architectural drawings with the local community in the town centre and gathered feedback from the public. The local community showed great enthusiasm for the project, and a new volunteer was enlisted for the ever-growing team of museum volunteers.

At the HLF development stage only one section of the new museum was required to be worked up to any depth of design, colour tones, text. Within the Leach designs submitted they also reflected the principles of design for the rest of the museum space e.g. moveable showcases, different ways to engage the public through high-tech and low-tech making the displays accessible to all, both physically and intellectually.

All these designs have been influenced by the large amount of feedback gathered by Kate Green (Community Engagement Officer) from the local schools and community. The new community space and museum really will be born from the local organisations needs and wishes. We feel that through these designs Leach has painted a comprehensive picture of what the museum can offer visitors, at this stage of development. Post June/July we will have a further year to build/adapt these initial design plans.



**Designs By
Leach Studios**



Fundraising



Funding grants have been diligently sought by a dedicated Newton's Place fund raising team and many applications have been applied for.

During October 2017 a very successful fund raising archival film night was arranged in the former St Leonard's Church with over 200 attendees who gave generously towards the project.

The website Crowdfunding/Spacehive funding scheme was launched to help raise £10,000 by the end of March 2018. This has been achieved!

We still need to raise money for the project and donations, big or small, will continue to be very gratefully received via the Newton's Place website <https://newtonsplace.org/box/> or, cheques can be made out to Newton Abbot Town Council Newton's Place thank you. Please check the website for future events or ring 01626 201121 for further information.

Newton's Place Community Engagement Officer- Kate Green 2017/2018

Throughout 2017 and 2018 our community outreach worker for the Town Council and museum's 'Newton's Place' project, Kate Green, has continued to meet people of all ages and abilities to invite them to share their ideas and ask them what historic stories they would like to see displayed in the new museum. Kate has also been asking how they would like to use the exciting new community spaces within the building.

Kate has engaged with hundreds of individuals about the Newton's Place Project and fed back her findings to inform the development of the community space and designs for the new museum.



Group	Activity
St Leonard's Open day (Saturday)	Engaging the general public at the site of the Newton's place Project
St Leonard's open day (Wednesday)	Engaging the general public at the site of the Newton's place Project
Lifeworks Learning disability Group	Visited museum and shared ideas about the new project
Haytor View School Foundation stage	Visited museum and shared ideas about the new project
Abbotskerswell History Society	Visited museum and shared ideas about the new project
Town Council public meeting	General public
PEC learning disability Group (Barbara Kernick)	Visited museum and shared ideas about the new project
Courtenay Centre	learning disability group
Courtenay Park Carnival	Raising awareness of the project, giving out balloons and bugs, children's activities. Gathering testimonials about what the project means to them

Queens St Fayre	Raising awareness of the project, giving out balloons and bugs, children's activities. Gathering testimonials about what the project means to them
Summer Nights	Raising awareness of the project, giving out balloons and bugs, children's activities, community consultation.
Buckland Centre Coffee Group	Consulted about project, feedback gathered
Kingscare	Coffee, Cake and Conversation group
Kingscare Memory Cafe	Handling box shared, project ideas shared
Wolborough School	Handling box shared, project ideas shared
Oakford Elders (Buckland)	Handling box shared, project ideas shared
Newton Abbot 1 st Brownies	Museum visit and project explored
Fun Palace event Passmore Edwards Library	History-themed activities plus consultation with general public
Pop-Up Museum (2) @ Passmore Edwards Library	Engaging general public with handling box and local stories and consultation.
Oakford Elders – Unicare –	Visit to the museum exploring the museum and consultation
Pop-Up Museum (3) @ Passmore Edwards Library	Engaging general public with handling box and local stories and consultation.
Museum Friends Talk @ the museum	Update on project.
Kingscare Memory cafe	Visit to museum and consultation
Pop-Up Museum 4) @ Passmore Edwards Library	Engaging general public with handling box and local stories and consultation.
Museum Volunteers @ the museum	'Cake with Kate' Sharing of first draft museum designs, consultation/feedback. Handling box activity
Haytor View Primary School (foundation)	Animation workshop – draw your own museum & consultation with parents
Passmore Edwards Centre Teens Group	Met and discussed project
Leach Design Consultation in Courtney Street	General public had the opportunity to see and discuss architectural drawings and exhibition plans
Kingscare Memory Cafe	feedback session re Leach Design panels
Library Teens	feedback session re Leach Design panels
Wolborough School	feedback session re Leach Design panels
Newton Abbot Brownies	feedback session re Leach Design panels
No Limits- disabled youth club evening, the Junction	feedback session re Leach Design panels
Youth Session at the Junction	Project discussed and feedback on design ideas
Asda pop up museum	Plans and handling box shown to the general public
Buckland-	feedback session re Leach Design panels
Transition Town Newton Abbot	feedback session re Leach Design panels
ASDA pop-up museum	Plans and handling box shown to the general public
Friends of the Museum	feedback session re Leach Design panels



Kate with a 'Pop up Museum' in the Library and visits to Haytor View School

Future 'Newton's Place' Community Engagement activities.

Stained Glass Workshops – We are in the process of commissioning a stained-glass artist to work with the community during April, May and June. The project is funded entirely from the Heritage Lottery Delivery Phase enabling the workshops and associated materials to be provided free of charge. There will be 8 targeted groups as well as 3 'open' workshop days for the local community to come and join in with.

Banner Making – A series of Banner Making workshops will be arranged for the local community these will incorporate design and feature and images from the Museum Collection – intended as a bold clear imagery outside the building giving a taster of what is available inside.

Photographic Record - As part of the Planning Permission granted by Teignbridge District Council there is a conditional requirement that a full photographic record is captured of the existing building and in stages as development and construction take place. Newton Abbot Photographic Club has agreed to photograph the progress of the development of the new site as a formal photographic record to be exhibited once the museum is open.

The Museum Continues to connect with local schools

Through contacts made by Katy Bennie, (Museum Education Officer) there was an opportunity for local schools to become part of Historic England's award-winning Heritage Schools Project – the only such opportunity in Devon and Cornwall. Katy organised a session with Michael Gorely, (Local Heritage Education Manager, Historic England) who presented a collection of historical maps from Historic England's collection, along with post-Second World War aerial photographs, to show the development and continuity of the local area through time. He took teachers through techniques for using these resources to aid historical enquiry in the classroom.

Katy and Michael Bennie organised a guided walk through Newton Abbot, giving participants an opportunity to see for themselves how the town has developed and to look for starting points for local heritage enquiries.

Digital copies of Michael Gorely's presentation will be made available to all participating schools. They will also be given access to all the project's resources, which can be used for a wide range of cross-curricular activities, including history, geography, mathematics and English. The day was a great success and very much enjoyed by all who attended.

Katie Bennie has continued to connect with local schools in the area:

- Wolborough Primary School brought 20 year 5 & 6 to visit Newton's Place;
- Haytor View Primary came to the Museum with class 1&2 to study Notable Newtonians;

- A group of 30 School Council Representatives (Year 6) with Assistant Head of Coombeshead College, Brian Whiffen and Emily Farrel visited the Clock Tower and Newton's Place;
- Powerpoint on John Lethbridge for 3 x KS1 classes – 83 children- 16th March 2018.

Volunteers

On the 14th of November we celebrated the end of the final season of the Museum at our current location, and the start of the new phase of the Museum's life with a celebratory buffet lunch. The volunteers received acknowledgement and recognition for all the vital work they have done since 1990- 2017.

Many of the volunteers have been supporting the museum from the early days of the 1990s. In 1990 the museum had just 14 volunteers, (now 54) a curator that worked 2 and half days a week, (now full time) with the museum opening just 3 days a week (now 6 days a week). We have all progressed along the way together and thanks to the volunteers' dedication, both to the town history and their wish to 'give something back' to the town. The museum now has the exciting prospect of moving into a central location in the town with the ever- supportive Town Council. We have been fortunate indeed.



On 30th November and 7th December 2017, the Pop-Up Museum was based in Newton Abbot's ASDA supermarket.

Museum volunteers Marian Jenkins and Pat Wakefield. Were on hand to share the objects history and to listen to their stories. They had a very good response from all the shoppers at Asda and were surprised and delighted to see the pop-up museum in the foyer of the supermarket.

Over 90 people stopped to view the designs and give feedback. The ideas and suggestions gathered have now been passed to the Leach as part of the development process.

Volunteer Tess Walker has continued to offer 'Tess tours' to interested groups and individuals. Donations of £30 for each tour went towards the Newton's Place project. The groups included:

- Liberal Democrats – 18th November
- Monday Club – 22nd May
- Tangent group - 18th May
- Twinning Association – 26th April

Tess is available for further tours in 2018, to continue to raise the museum profile along with encouraging donations to the Newton's Place project.

The 54 museum volunteers continue to contribute a vast amount of time, knowledge and expertise to the project. An added advantage is the raised profile of the museum and the enthusiasm generated by the local community, leading to many more new volunteers coming forwards to help. 9 new volunteers joined the team in 2017 with a further 2 volunteers joining so far this year. These new volunteers are bringing a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will bring innumerable benefits to the project.

Key project tasks for volunteers include:

- Fundraising research and applications
- Membership of the Working Group, Funding Group and Project Board
- Providing building conservation expertise
- Researching, writing and design of leaflets promoting the heritage of Newton's Place
- Photographing and documenting artefacts
- Stewarding of public events
- Providing short talks and tours of Newton's Place during public events
- Researching information for the new displays
- Reviewing and cataloguing museum objects
- Collating and packing items for the move



Christiana Ditchburn, our longest serving volunteer, celebrated her 102nd birthday in October 2017. Chris peacefully passed away on 9th March 2018. She will be remembered as a dedicated, interested, volunteer full of enthusiasm for her home town of Newton Abbot: she was the first volunteer to join the museum prior to its opening in 1990.

Outreach in 2018

Town Talks

Tess Walker has offered a series of 10-minute fund-raising talks to be given in Golden Lion Square and around the town. The intent is to start these as soon as the weather becomes conducive to the idea of standing and listening, with a provisional start date of March.

The topics suggested so far are as follows:

Newton Abbot Buildings-

1. Lloyds Bank and Burtons
2. Newton Abbot Station and Queens Hotel
3. St Leonard's Tower and St Leonard's Church
4. St Leonard's Chapel and The Virgin Mary Chapel
5. Invertere Building and The Pearl Assurance Building
6. Tucker's Maltings and Newton Abbot Power Station
7. The 1939 Building and The Drill Hall
8. Fire Brigade Station and Devon Pottery
9. Wolborough Manor and Lethbridge's house
10. Vicary's Leather Mill and Vicary's Woollen Mill

'On this spot'

1. Election Riots broke out
2. Bread Riots raged
3. Salvation Army fight in the street
4. William of Orange Proclamation read out
5. Hero Bridge hero acted
6. Bakers Park tank & cannon arrived
7. Newton Abbot's three railway stations built
8. All Saints, Highweek, Vicary graves dug

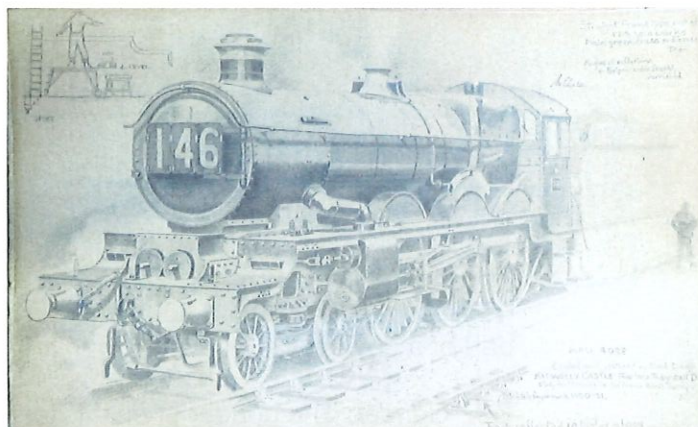
9. Halcyon Road - 1st WW service men lived
10. Heaviside lived

She is currently enlisting enthusiastic individuals to help deliver these weekly al-fresco history snippets- please ring 01626-201121 for more information.

Museum Donations



A wide variety of objects have been donated to the museum this winter. Highlights include a 1920s doll in original costume, and Mr MER Chase's collection of detailed drawings of locomotives, and railwaymen who worked at Newton Abbot Station. The drawings offer a fascinating snapshot of railway life in the period.



St Leonard's Tower volunteers-



This year St Leonard's Clock Tower will officially open on Wednesday 23rd May 2018. It is open throughout the summer season from 10:00-1:00 each Wednesday.

The new Newton Abbot Town Crier will be in attendance every Wednesday with a special "Cry" at noon.

We thank the 'Tower Team' for all their dedication opening up the Tower for visitors every Wednesday morning throughout the summer.

Visitor statistics

A survey of visitors to the museum is undertaken each year, and a summary of the results of the 2017 visitor surveys can be found below.

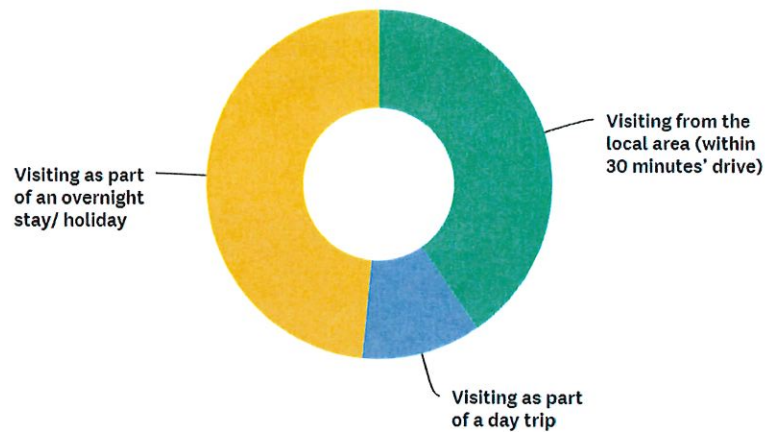
2017 Visitor Survey: 210 responses

Q1. Location: 97% of respondents who answered came from within the UK.

Q2. Type of visit:

Are you...

Answered: 196 Skipped: 14



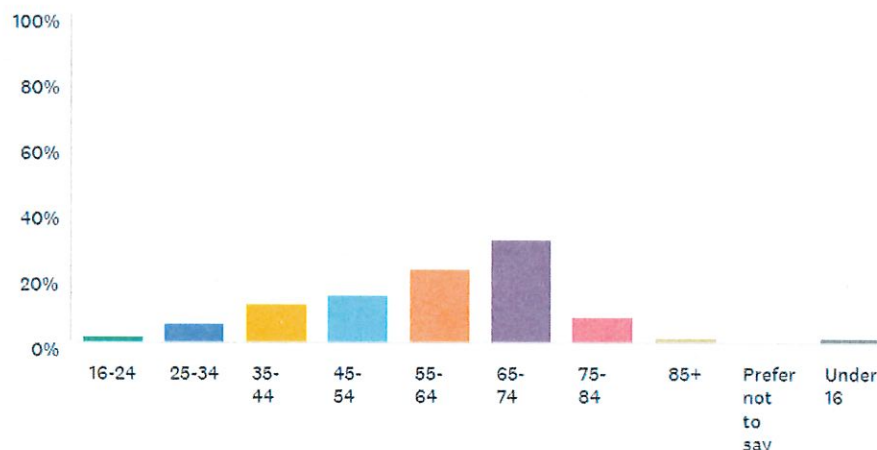
The majority of our visitors (48%) stated they visited as part of an overnight stay/holiday. 40% came from within a 30-minute drive i.e. within the local area. 11% were visiting as part of a day trip.

Q3. Gender: The gender of our visitors breaks down as 44% male and 56% female. Nationally museum visitors tend to break down equally so we have a slightly higher number of female visitors.

Q4. Age: National statistics suggest museums have a slightly older visitor profile in comparison to the population. Our age range question suggests our visitor profile is older still: 64% of our visitors are over 55 and 41% are over 65.

Are you...

Answered: 194 Skipped: 16

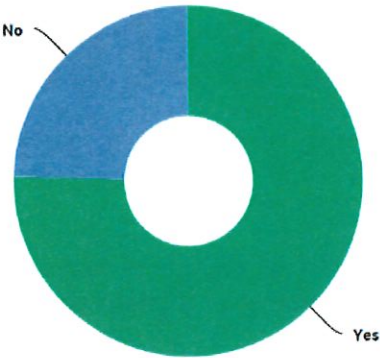


Q5. Visiting with others: 86% of visitors who stated they did visit with other people visited with adults (aged 16 or over). 28% visited with under 16s and 2% came to us as part of an organised group.

The following table shows 2016 visitor data compared to the age population of Devon:

Are you visiting the museum with other people?

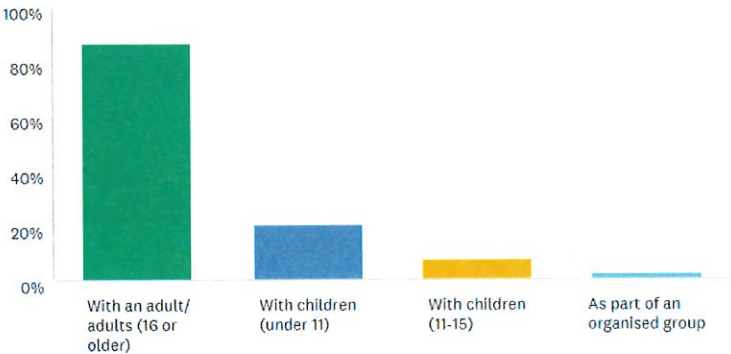
Answered: 204 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	75.49%	154
No	24.51%	50
TOTAL		204

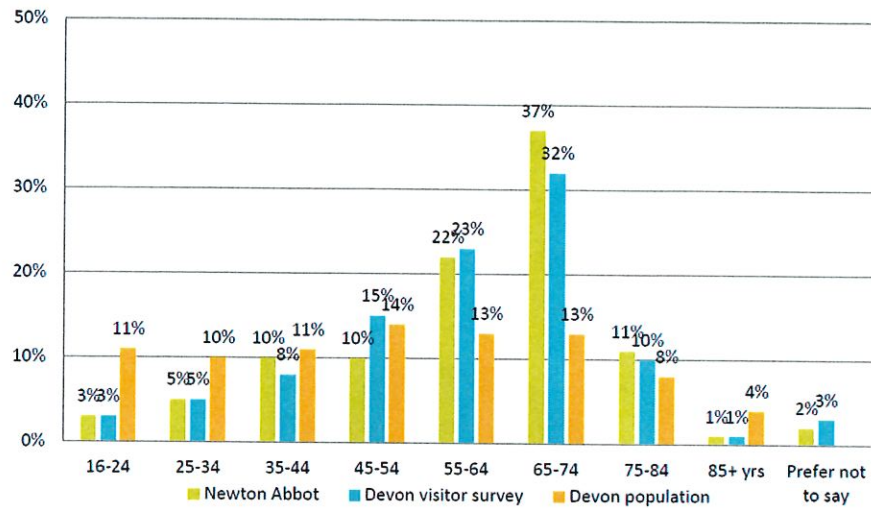
If yes, are you visiting the museum...(tick all that apply)

Answered: 155 Skipped: 55

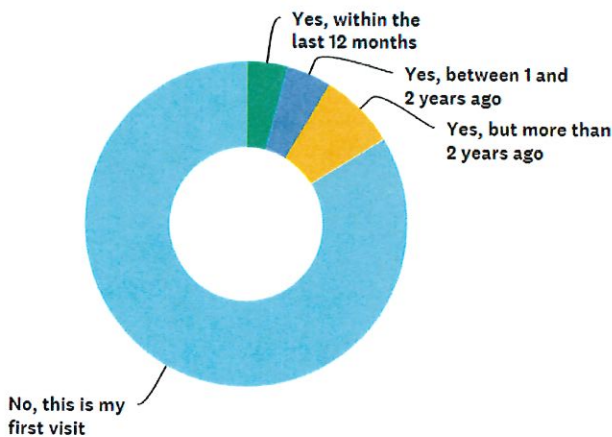


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
With an adult/ adults (16 or older)	86.45%	134
With children (under 11)	20.00%	31
With children (11-15)	7.74%	12
As part of an organised group	1.94%	3
Total Respondents: 155		

Age group compared with Devon population (ONS, 2014)



Q6. Visited the museum before? The majority of respondents were first time visitors to the museum. 5% visited the museum 1 or 2 years ago, 8% more than 2 years ago and just 4% within the last 12 months.



ANSWER CHOICES

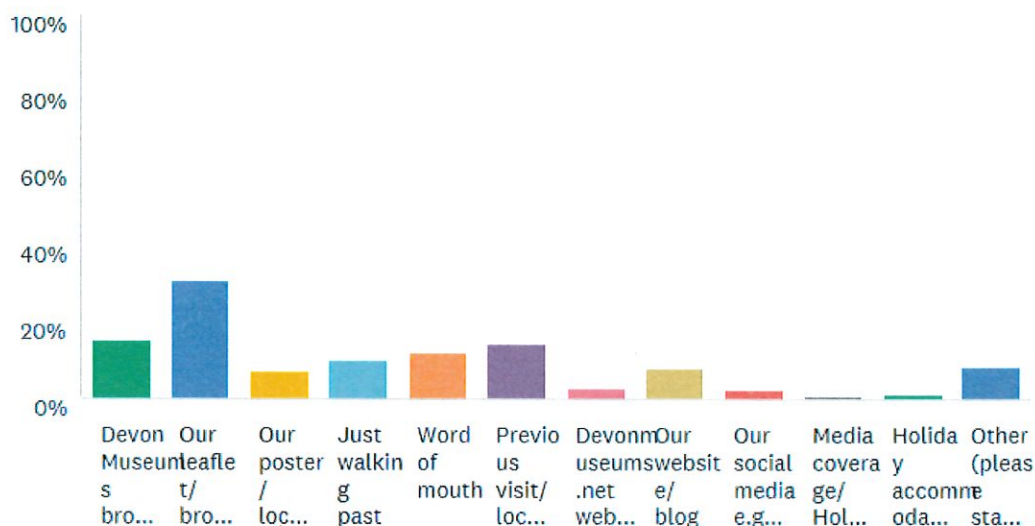
Yes, within the last 12 months
 Yes, between 1 and 2 years ago
 Yes, but more than 2 years ago
 No, this is my first visit

RESPONSES

4.04% 8
 4.55% 9
 7.58% 15
 83.84% 166
198

Q7. Finding out about the museum: Our leaflet seems to be performing well to drive visitors to the museum with 31% of respondents stating that is how they found out about us. 16% found us in the Devon Museum brochure.

Answered: 207 Skipped: 3



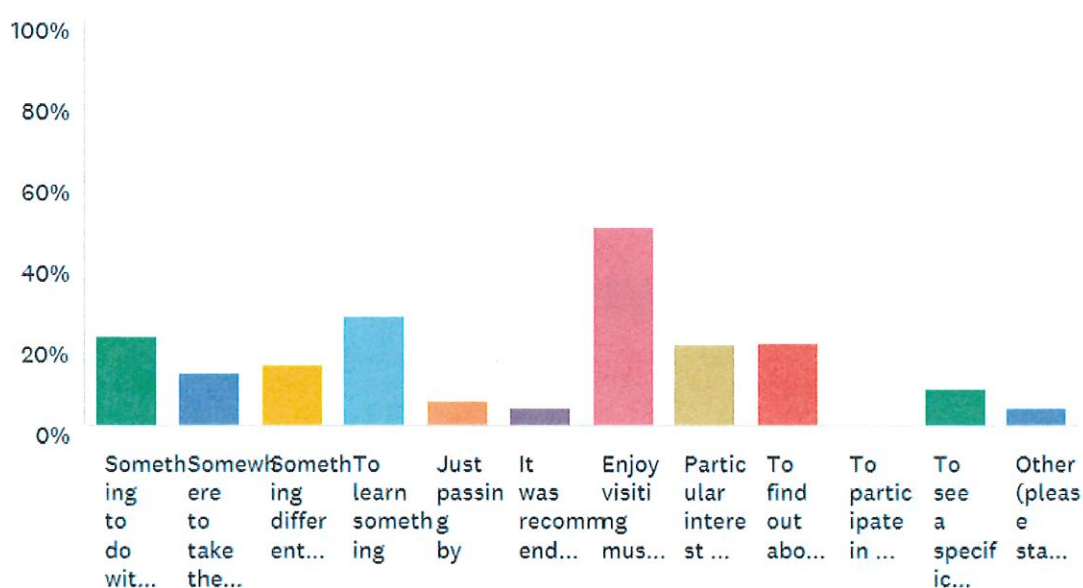
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Devon Museums brochure*	15.46%	32
Our leaflet/ brochure picked up*	30.92%	64
Our poster/ local signage	7.73%	16
Just walking past	10.14%	21
Word of mouth	12.08%	25
Previous visit/ local knowledge	14.49%	30
Devonmuseums.net website	2.90%	6
Our website/ blog	8.21%	17
Our social media e.g. Facebook/ Twitter	2.42%	5
Media coverage/ Holiday Times	0.97%	2
Holiday accommodation	1.45%	3
Other (please state)*	8.70%	18
Total Respondents: 207		

Of the 76 people who used the comments box to state where they found out about us 32% named a location that they found a leaflet, these were mainly names of other Devon towns. 32% named their hotel or campsite. 20% found the leaflet at a Tourist Information Centre. Other methods of finding us included, the library, other museums and internet searches.

The following chart shows 2016 data - how Newton Abbot compares with the other Devon museums. Note that 'poster/local signage' and 'just walking past' scores are low in comparison to other Devon museums.

Q8 Main reason for visiting: The majority of our visitors stated that they come to see us because they already enjoy visiting museums. To learn something was the next popular answer, followed by something to do with friends and family.

Answered: 207 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Something to do with friends/ family	22.22%	46
Somewhere to take the children	13.04%	27
Something different to do	14.98%	31
To learn something	27.05%	56
Just passing by	5.80%	12
It was recommended to me	4.35%	9
Enjoy visiting museums/ galleries generally	48.79%	101
Particular interest in subjects covered here	19.81%	41
To find out about local/family history	20.29%	42
To participate in an event/ activity	0.48%	1
To see a specific exhibition (please state)*	9.18%	19
Other (please state)*	4.35%	9
Total Respondents: 207		

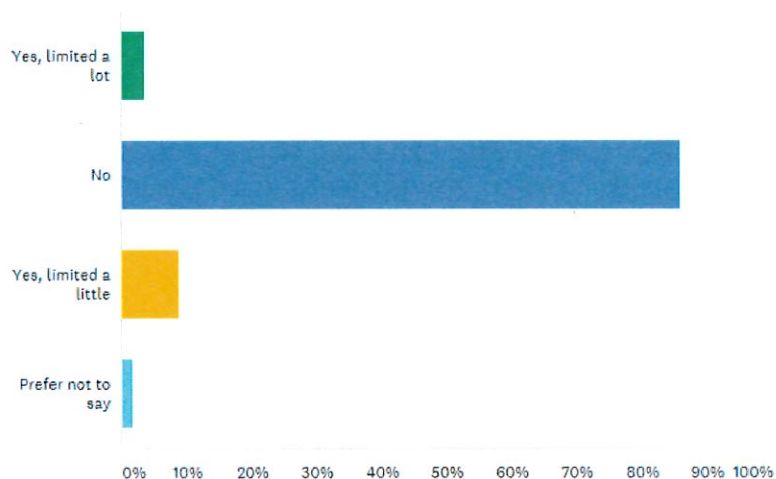
Of those that said they were here for a specific exhibit, the majority stated it was the GWR Room. Other popular reasons were the Sandford Orleigh Overmantle and 'Otter Spotting' (temporary art installation).

Q9. Rating aspects of visits: For this question respondents were asked to rate several aspects of their visit 1-5 (1 being very poor and 5 being excellent). Our scores indicated we performed well in most areas. Signposting needs improvements.

	Average score
Overall Enjoyment	4.6
How friendly and helpful the staff/volunteers were	4.9
Quality of the displays/exhibits	4.6
Ease of physical access in and around the museum	4.5
Activities for the children	4.5
Quality of the gift shop and range	4.2
Signposting to the museum	3.6

Q10. Health problem/disability: Responses indicate we have few visitors with a health problem or disability that limits their day-to-day activities, which may be indicative of our current location and restricted access to the building.

Answered: 170 Skipped: 40

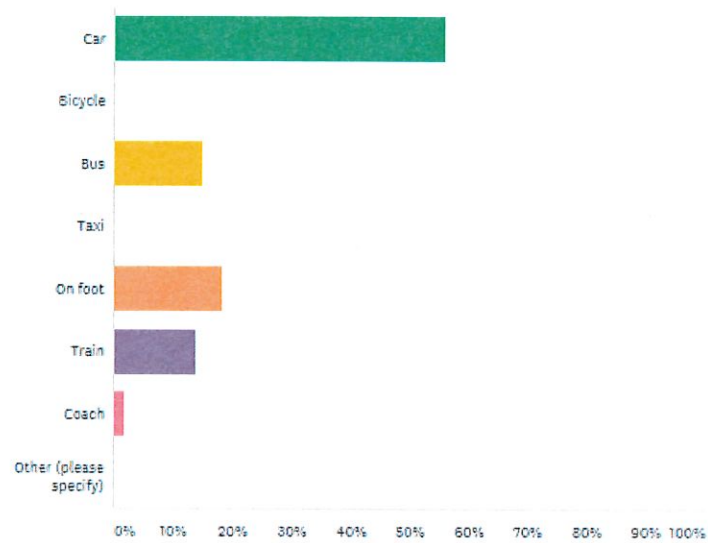


Q11 Method of travel: 56% stated they travelled to the museum by car. 29% used public transport. 18% stated they came here on foot.

Q12

How did you travel here today? (Tick all that apply)

Answered: 207 Skipped: 3

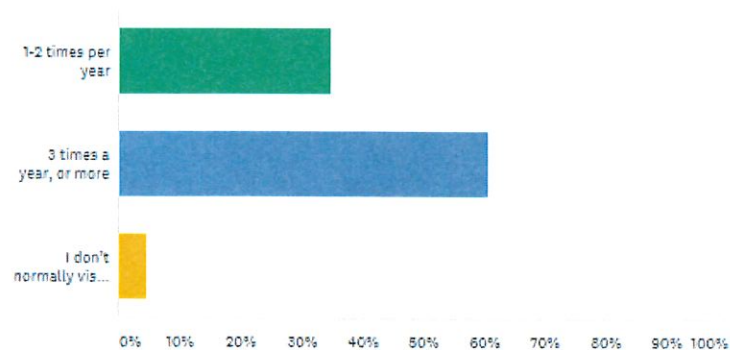


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Car	56.04%	116
Bicycle	0.00%	0
Bus	14.98%	31
Taxi	0.00%	0
On foot	18.36%	38
Train	14.01%	29
Coach	1.93%	4
Other (please specify)	Responses 0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 207		

Q12. Frequency of visiting museums: 129 of our visitors visited museums generally 3 times a year or more, 69 visited once or twice a year with just 9 respondents stating that they don't normally visit museums.

How often do you visit museums generally?

Answered: 199 Skipped: 11



We are not succeeding in bringing significant numbers of non-museum visitors into the museum.

Q13 Ethnic grouping: 93% of respondents were White British, 3% self-identified as white other and 1% as 'other', a further 3% preferred not to say.

Q14. What did you enjoy most about your visit? 84% of visitors chose to leave a comment, showing that the majority of our visitors had a very positive experience with us. 47% of comments concerned a specific exhibit that they enjoyed. 28% complimented the friendly staff and volunteers or stated they enjoyed a warm welcome. 27% expressed satisfaction with the information on display. 14% enjoyed the interactive display elements and activities available.

Sample comments:

- Friendly atmosphere
- All the displays were very well laid out. Also very friendly staff and well informed.
- The range of exhibits - giving a good picture of local life.
- Emphasis on local events and history
- Dedication of staff. Clarity and inventiveness of exhibits.
- Enjoyed all aspects of the museum.
- Being able to actually handle and use the railway exhibit
- Learning about the underwater treasure hunting and having a go in the box with the sand. Trying on the hats and pulling the signals.
- The Diving History and exhibits. Local people's stories on screen. Thank you for your warm welcome to us and the added information.
- The staff were very helpful.

Q15. What could we improve? 49% left a comment, but many of these left positive remarks stating there was nothing they would like to improve. The most common areas for improvement stated were signage, premises, and display suggestions. 21% had issues with poor signage or finding the museum. 19% wanted a bigger museum with more space. 15% had specific feedback on the display, feeling like there wasn't an obvious route through the museum was the most comment problem people experienced.

Sample comments:

- Signing outside could be better
- Lost the sign at one spot and almost gave up (around Argos/Lemon Road)
- Bigger building
- Sign post. Parking
- Written guide/map of museum, more logical layout
- Directional signage thro' town. Great museum and layout but too small! We would love to see the treasures in the vaults!
- Somewhere to relax i.e. café
- There are so many words I just couldn't read anything visiting with 2 children: more summary paragraphs would be nice.
- Working train set
- Larger gift area. More seating?
- Buttons to press!
- Make it more interactive
- Old maps of the town. Early history

Q16. Timing/weather: results were fairly evenly spread and showed no strong trends. People were slightly more likely to visit in the morning and when the weather was cloudy.

3.4 (b) Newton in Bloom

The **Newton in Bloom Competition** is organised through the Community Engagement Group (Chairman Cllr Richard Jenks and Vice Chairman Cllr Lesley Sheffield). Local residents and traders enter the annual competition for a chance to win prizes and trophies within various categories. This is where residents and traders in the town can be judged on their garden or premises displays.

Below are some of the resident entries from 2017:



Below are the winners from the 2017 competition:

PRIVATE RESIDENTS

CLASS	RESULTS	
Championship Class	Suzanne Becker	
Supreme Class Winners from 2015	1 st	Mrs Ann Darke
	2 nd	Mrs Diana Osborne
	3 rd	Robert Leyton
Large Gardens	1 st	Mrs Linda Barr
	2 nd	Mrs Elizabeth Frampton
	3 rd	Mr Shane Tozer
	Com	Shirley Griffin
Small Gardens	1 st	Suzanne Becker
	2 nd	Chris Sage
	3 rd	Mrs Rosemarie Burley
	3 rd	Mr Malcolm Bickham
	HC	David Cooke
	HC	Mandy Wines
Town Terrace House Frontage	1 st	Cheryl Wright
	2 nd	Tara Ruhen & Jackie Fradd
	3 rd	Mrs J Baker
	HC	Jenny Pierson
	HC	Mr David Rogers
Wildlife Garden	1 st	Mr F. Akyol & Mrs H. Mather
Best Hanging Basket and/or Container	1 st	Mr Malcolm Bickham
	2 nd	Jenny Pierson
	3 rd	Mr F. Akyol & Mrs H. Mather
	VHC	Mr David Rogers

TRADERS & PUBLIC SERVICES

CLASS	RESULTS	
Champion Trader	Hometeign House	
Supreme Class Winners from 2016	1 st	Gilberds House
	2 nd	Jolly Farmer
	3 rd	Co-operative Funeral Care
Licensed premises	1 st	Olive Tapas, Union Inn & Rio Grande
	2 nd	Buckland Athletic Football Club
	3 rd	Railway Inn
Traders - Large Frontage	1 st	Austins Department Store
	2 nd	Leonard Coombe
Traders - Small Frontage	1 st	D&S Sewing Machines
	2 nd	The Wool Gallery
Places of Worship	1 st	Spiritualist Church
	2 nd	Kingdom Hall
	3 rd	Places of Worship
Residential Home & Sheltered Accommodation	1 st	Hometeign House
	2 nd	D'arcy Court
	2 nd	Milton House
	HC	Dunmore Residential Home
Industrial Estates	HC	Firewatch
Public Building	1 st	Railway Station
	HC	Bowling Club

Chairmans Choice (personal choice)	Broadlands Court (Nominated by various people. Chairman visited and was extremely impressed by all properties, there were planted displays which were varied and colourful, as well as a beautifully cut lawn. A nice community area)
--	--

SCHOOLS

Certificate of Excellence	Bradley Barton Primary School
	Haytor View Primary School
	Wolborough Primary School
Best Classroom	Bradley Barton Primary School Mr Brown's Class - Herb Garden



Newton in Bloom sponsors 2017



Pictured below – Newton in Bloom winners 2017



PLEASE NOTE:

Following a meeting of the Sub-Committee it has been decided that the Newton in Bloom competition be suspended for the foreseeable future due to a noticeable decline in interest in the competition in recent years.

3.5 Allotments - The Town Council is fortunate that it has a management agreement with the Newton Abbot & District Cooperative Allotments Association Limited which, in turn, is responsible for allotment fields at Decoy, Blake's, Cooke's, Coach Road and Bradley fields. Council representatives meet with the officers of the Association on an annual basis to discuss any issues, and more often if required.

The Town Council also lets part of Vicary's field as allotments and has given over the remainder to Transition Town Newton Abbot as a community garden.

Negotiations continue to be ongoing regarding other sites which may also be created arising from developments commenced and planned at Mile End Road and Hele Park.

Engineering works were required at the Bradley Allotment Field this year due to soil erosion caused by the surface water run-off from Bradley Valley. Following advice from both District Council and County Council Engineers, a scheme was designed by the Town Council which was implemented by the Council's Handyman, Kieran Dore, with the able assistance of Councillors Mike Hocking and Mike Ryan. The Council owes a debt of gratitude to Councillors Ryan and Hocking for giving of their time and expertise voluntarily. This clearly reduced the costs of the scheme considerably (Also a big thank you to Councillor Mrs Bunday for supplying them with copious supplies of hot drinks and bacon butties!).

3.6 Events Sub-Committee (Chairman, Cllr Julie Cleave; Vice-Chairman, Cllr Liz Roberts), the events diary was once again bursting at the seams during 2017, details of which are listed below:-

BAND CONCERTS – MAY TO SEPT 2017



Residents and visitors were again entertained at the Sunday band concerts in Courtenay Park with only one concert being cancelled due to weather conditions and no wet weather venue available due to a double booking.

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Major George W. Braden, Lord of Manorial Borough of Newton Bushell, Buyrite Tyres, Centrax, Fred Christophers and Mr & Mrs M. Davies a variety of performances were enjoyed from local bands including: Spectrum Music Concert Band, Bay Brass, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service Concert Band, Torbay Brass Band and Totnes Brass Band.



The performances raised a total of £690.76 towards the Mayor's Charities "The Towersey Foundation" and "Meadowside Residential Home".

NEWTON ABBOT CARNIVAL – 24th JUNE – 9th JULY



The Newton Abbot Carnival comprised of a schedule of events that began with the crowning of the Carnival Queen on Saturday 24th June, which saw Frankie Jones crowned as the Carnival Queen for 2017. Carnival week was packed with events including a carnival quiz night, band concerts, duck race, bingo, tea dance and a fun run, plus new event a children's fun games evening.

Carnival Saturday on the 8th July saw a number of charity stalls in Courtenay Park selling their wares as well as demonstrations during the day. At the end of the week the Carnival Committee were pleased to donate to their chosen charities which were Shared Lives SW and Homestart.

The organisers would like to thank everyone involved in the event for their hard work, time and generosity and all of the sponsors including: Redrow Homes, Recreational Trust, Tesco, Launa Windows, Andrew Hill, Teignbridge Propellers, Eveline & Mike Davies, Danceworks Devon & GMM Insurance. Many of the carnival raffles would not have happened without the help from local businesses in the area who supported the carnival by donating raffle prizes, so, thank you.



It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and we hope to have another successful carnival in 2018.

AUTUMN FAYRE - SATURDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

The annual parade of the cheese and onion trolley processed through Courtenay Street, Bank Street, Market Square through to Market Walk and concluding back in Courtenay Street for the proclamation. The event had a number of elements including local painter, craft stalls, free face painting and balloon modelling. There was also live music outside of Austins The Globe from 'Cahoots'.

Two large pasties and accompanying mini pasties were very kindly baked and donated by 'Homebake' who are located in the Indoor Market.

Best presented indoor & outdoor stalls were judged by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Crier:

- Indoor Market – Cally's Accessories (meal voucher for the Olive Restaurant)
- Outdoor Market – Shute Lane (prize of a Toby Carvery voucher)



Winner of the Bake Off Allie Clark (left)



Winners of the cheese curling competition



The 'Cheese Curling' competition was situated in Market Walk and was extremely popular throughout the day again. First place of the adult category went to Mr Simms and first place of the child category went to Max Prideaux. Newton Abbot Bake Off was back by popular demand. Members of the public together with café & restaurant owners were invited to bring along their Victoria Sponges for a chance to be judged. First place went to Allie Clark, second place Liz Roberts and third place Margaret Pullen.

TOWN CRIER'S COMPETITION – SATURDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Newton Abbot once again played host to members of the Ancient & Honourable Guild of Town Crier's held on Saturday 9th September. 14 Criers took part in the competition, which was held in front of Austins the Globe throughout the day.

The competition involved 2 cries – the 'Home Cry' and the second cry was based on 'Newton Abbot's connections with Newfoundland'.

Winners as follows:

1 st PLACE – CRIER	Mark Wylie	Calne
2 nd PLACE – CRIER	Andrew Fox	Ilminster
3 rd PLACE – CRIER	Les ellis	Dartmouth
DEVON CHAMPIONSHIP	Les Ellis	Dartmouth

BEST DRESSED CRIER	Jackie Edwards	Kingsteignton
BEST DRESSED ESCORT	Liz Ellis	Dartmouth
BEST DRESSED COUPLE	Roy & Bee Goodwin	Ilfracombe

Many thanks need to go to a number of people, who have made the event possible.



CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON – SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER

The start of the Christmas celebrations began on Saturday 25th November in front of St Leonard's Clock Tower with the annual light switch on.

Earlier in the day, Coombeshead Academy students entertained the shoppers with live music, there was also free balloon modelling and face painting for the children. At 4.30 p.m. the Christmas parade began from the War Memorial down Queen Street with Father Christmas, the Mayor, the Town Crier and Borough Criers, the winter carnival float carrying the Carnival Queen and attendants and the Carnival fair maidens. Black Bess Morris Dancers & Heather & Gorse Clog Dancers were already at the Clock Tower entertaining crowds until the parade arrived.



Santa made his way up to the Clock Tower for the switch on at 5.30 p.m. Once the lights had been switched on the evening ended with a fantastic firework finale to from Wolborough Hill at 6pm. The Town Council are grateful to Newton Abbot Rotary Club, the Carnival Committee, Town Councillors and volunteers who put so much time, effort and enthusiasm into making this event such a lovely experience for families each year. We are also extremely grateful to businesses, for making contributions to the Christmas lights fund.



VICTORIAN EVENING – WEDNESDAY 6th DECEMBER

Wednesday 6th December saw the annual Victorian Evening take place in Newton Abbot in the Market Square and Walk. It is a well-known event now in the South Devon area and everyone looks forward to the charity evening with the Victorian atmosphere.

Shoppers were also entertained in Market Square by Stagecoach Choir singing festive songs & Victorian Classics.



Once again the Market Square and Market Walk was jam packed with local charity stalls selling their wares. In total there were 40 stalls selling Christmas items from tree decorations, homemade cakes and buns to Christmas cards.

This year the 'best dressed stall' trophy went to 'Kingscare League of Friends' they received a trophy as well as a cheque for £50 for their charity.

The stilt walking policeman was also in the town centre again entertaining the general public throughout the evening. Children were also entertained by a gentleman on a penny farthing who was making balloon models for the children, bell ringing, walk about magic and stalls selling world food in Courtenay Street.

Santa was in residence in his Clock Tower grotto all evening also.



NEWTON ABBOT LANTERN PARADE – WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER

Newton Abbot town centre was bursting with excitement on Wednesday 13th December, thanks to the lantern parade in the town. Over 200 pupils from Bearnese, Wolborough, All Saints, Decoy, Bradley Barton, Haytor View, St Josephs and Highweek Primary Schools took pride in parading their colourful Christmas lanterns through the streets of Newton Abbot towards the Clock Tower. The theme this year was 'Under the Sea'. A big thank you to local artist Tony Gee and other members of the Creation Myth Puppets Company who were able to make this fantastic event possible once again, working in partnership with the Town Council.

The town was also bustling with activity as shoppers visited the first Wednesday of the popular Christmas street fayre. The town was a hive of activity as shoppers visited the popular Christmas street fayre with live entertainment throughout the night, and also the magical Santa's Grotto at St Leonards Clock Tower.



CAROL SERVICE

This year it was decided to hold the service in Market Square.



The Service was led by the Mayor's Chaplain, Prebendary Rev. Alan White.

The Rock Choir assisted with singing and also performed a solo.



Hot chocolate and mince pies were offered for a donation to the Mayor's Charities and a total of £54.24 was collected. A further £106.13 was collected by Cadets with buckets

SANTA'S GROTTTO

Following all visits to Father Christmas during the winter months, a grand total of £204.29 was raised. All donations went to the Mayor's charities.



3.7 Planning Committee (Chairman Cllr David Howe)

Planning Committee (Chairman Cllr David Howe; Vice-Chairman, Cllr Ken Purchase) meets every three weeks and looks in detail at all the planning applications affecting properties in Newton Abbot and its borders. During the past year it has considered and made recommendations to the Planning Authority, Teignbridge District Council on 251 planning applications. With the exception of 18 all recommendations have been implemented by the Planning Authority.

A further 46 applications affecting trees in conservation areas, or subject to tree preservation orders have been commented upon.

As further proof of the Council's involvement with the community, the Planning Committee would like to place on record its thanks to Eric Collar the Tree Warden.

The Planning Committee has during 2017 – 2018 had preliminary discussions and deliberations on a number major applications, including the following applications: -

- ❖ 17/00948/MAJ Ian Perry
BRADLEY - Land at Hele Park, Ashburton Road, Newton Abbot
Approval of details for 52 dwellings, public open space and landscaping (approval sought for layout, scale and appearance and landscaping) relating to outline permission 12/00301/MAJ for Taylor Wimpey Homes (Exeter)

- ❖ 17/00618/MAJ Angharad Williams
BRADLEY - Western House, 10 Howton Road, Newton Abbot
Outline – erection of 34 dwellings including incidental open space, landscaping and an area of strategic green infrastructure (all matters reserved for future consideration) for Mrs A. Mackeig-Jones

- ❖ 16/01336/DCR3 Angharad Williams
West of Newton Abbot – Between Drumbridges Roundabout on The A38 and West Golds Way, Newton Abbot
Consultation from Devon County Council (DCC/3851/2016) under Town & Country Planning General Regulations 1992 – Regulation 3 for alterations to widen, as well as straighten the horizontal and vertical alignment of the A382. Proposal for a dual carriageway between Drumbridges and Trago Mills Roundabout, and widening of the carriageway to 10 metres from Trago Mills Roundabout to White Hills Croft. Associated provision of a 3 metres wide pedestrian and cycle way alongside the widened road, landscaping and drainage. Provision of a new route connecting the A382 to West Golds Way near the new Newton Abbot Hospital site (Jetty Marsh II) for Devon County Council.

- ❖ 17/01542/MAJ Ian Perry
COLLEGE - Land at Wolborough Barton, Coach Road
Mixed use development comprising up to 1,275 dwellings, a primary school, up to 3,500 sq. Metres of employment floor space, two care home, community facilities and local centre for Messrs A & S & MS J Rew

- ❖ 17/01971/MAJ Donna Crabtree
BUCKLAND - Land at Buckland Barton, Newton Abbot
Variation of condition 2 on planning permission 15/00184/MAJ to add patios and balconies to plots 28-41 for Miss J. Duffield

- ❖ 17/01542/MAJ
COLLEGE - 83 - Land At Wolborough Barton, Coach Road
Mixed Use (Hybrid Application) Proposal Involving: Outline - Mixed Use Development Comprising Up To 1,275 Dwellings (C3), A Primary School (D1), Up To 3,500 Sq. M Of Employment Floorspace (B1), Two Care Homes (C2) Providing Up To 5,500 Sq. M Of Floorspace for Messrs A & S & Ms J Rew

- ❖ 17/02166/MAJ Angharad Williams
BRADLEY - Land at NGR 282955 72746 Howton Road, Newton Abbot
Outline application for up to 20 custom build dwellings (approval sought for means of access) for Devon County Council

- ❖ 17/02715/MAJ Donna Crabtree
COLLEGE - Development site, 22 – 26 Wolborough Street, Newton Abbot
Erection of part four, part five-storey building providing 38 retirement apartments (Class C3), and associated facilities with retail accommodation at ground floor level (units with flexible uses in Classes A1 to A5) for Newton Abbot Developments Ltd

- ❖ 17/02886/MAJ Rosalyn Eastman
BRADLEY - Ilford Park, Stover
Variation of conditions 1,4,9,10,12,13,14,15,16,17,18,23,25 and 26 on planning permission 14/02580/MAJ (Outline application for a mixed use development comprising B2 and B8 employment development (with ancillary B1 office); restaurant/public house; and residential development (including demolition of existing dwellings at Gaverick Court) together with associated landscaping, play space, drainage, car parking and access, approval sought for access) introduce an early infrastructure phase for Mr I Foll
- ❖ 18/00012/MAJ Claire Boobier
BRADLEY - Bradley Barton Farm, Ogwell Mill Road, Newton Abbot
Erection of 109 dwellings including public open space, landscaping and surface water attenuation for Persimmon Homes

The Committee continues to monitor closely the various policies and application of the Teignbridge Local Development Framework and Core Strategy which had been approved by the Planning Inspector in 2014. This Plan is now in the process of being reviewed and the Town Council will closely monitor this review and comment as appropriate. The Committee noted that the Newton Abbot Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was adopted in June 2016 following a public Referendum in May 2016. During 2017 a new plan was introduced, the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan (GESP). This plan will provide an overarching layer of planning control/direction above both Plan Teignbridge and the Newton Abbot NDP. Again, the Town Council will follow the creation of this plan very closely, feeding into the consultation process on behalf of its implications for Newton Abbot.

4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Town Council encourages members of the public to attend its meetings and its Committees in order to listen to the debate, recommendations and decisions of the authority. It is pointed out that on every Agenda there is a business item entitled "Public Participation".

5. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I take this opportunity to thank all members of staff for their support during the past twelve months. In particular, Samantha Scott's contribution as Deputy Town Clerk. And, of course, all Members of the Council at the various committees, sub-committees and working parties on which they have served. Those Members who joined the Council at the Elections in May 2015 are now settled into the Council, are enjoying their role in the community. All Councillors I believe continue to work together positively on behalf of the community of Newton Abbot.

Yet again I am able to confirm that none of the 18 Members of the Town Council receive any allowances when they act as Town Councillor. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor do however receive an allowance for their year of office.

P A Rowe
Town Clerk
April 2018

Newton Abbot Town Council 2016/17

Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2017

31st March 2016		31st March 2017
	Income Summary	
504,934	Precept	629,913
504,934	Sub Total	629,913
	Operating Income	
0	Admin F&A	1,098
92,095	Administration	101,076
3,697	Town Hall	5,080
777	Civic	216
9,215	Town Development Manager	7,985
778	St Leonard's Tower	680
0	War Memorial	0
14,906	Victoria Gardens	0
92,276	Golden Lion Square	479
0	CIC	8,630
3,106	Museum	3,840
3,406	Events	2,507
3,264	Newton In Bloom	2,206
1,157	Allotments	939
1,508	Footpaths	1,500
0	Town Quay	0
0	Other Amenities	24,357
0	Newton's Place	1,467
731,118	Total Income	791,971
	Running Costs	
0	Admin F&A	45,221
388,966	Administration	401,359
46,421	Town Hall	35,659
10,409	Civic	5,637
10,591	Town Development Manager	21,534
5,311	St Leonard's Tower	2,889
2,050	War Memorial	2,971
9,400	Victoria Gardens	5,501
131,303	Golden Lion Square	4,451
13	Newton Abbot Community Trust	13
24,801	CIC	15,945
32,931	Museum	43,184
19,641	Events	18,010
17,274	Newton In Bloom	19,871
2,613	Allotments	4,466
307	Footpaths	948
0	Bradley Leat	466
27,347	Town Quay	4,194
16,049	Other Amenities	63,291
0	Newton's Place	261,516
0	EMR - Election	0
0	EMR	0
745,427	Total Expenditure	957,127

Newton Abbot Town Council 2016/17

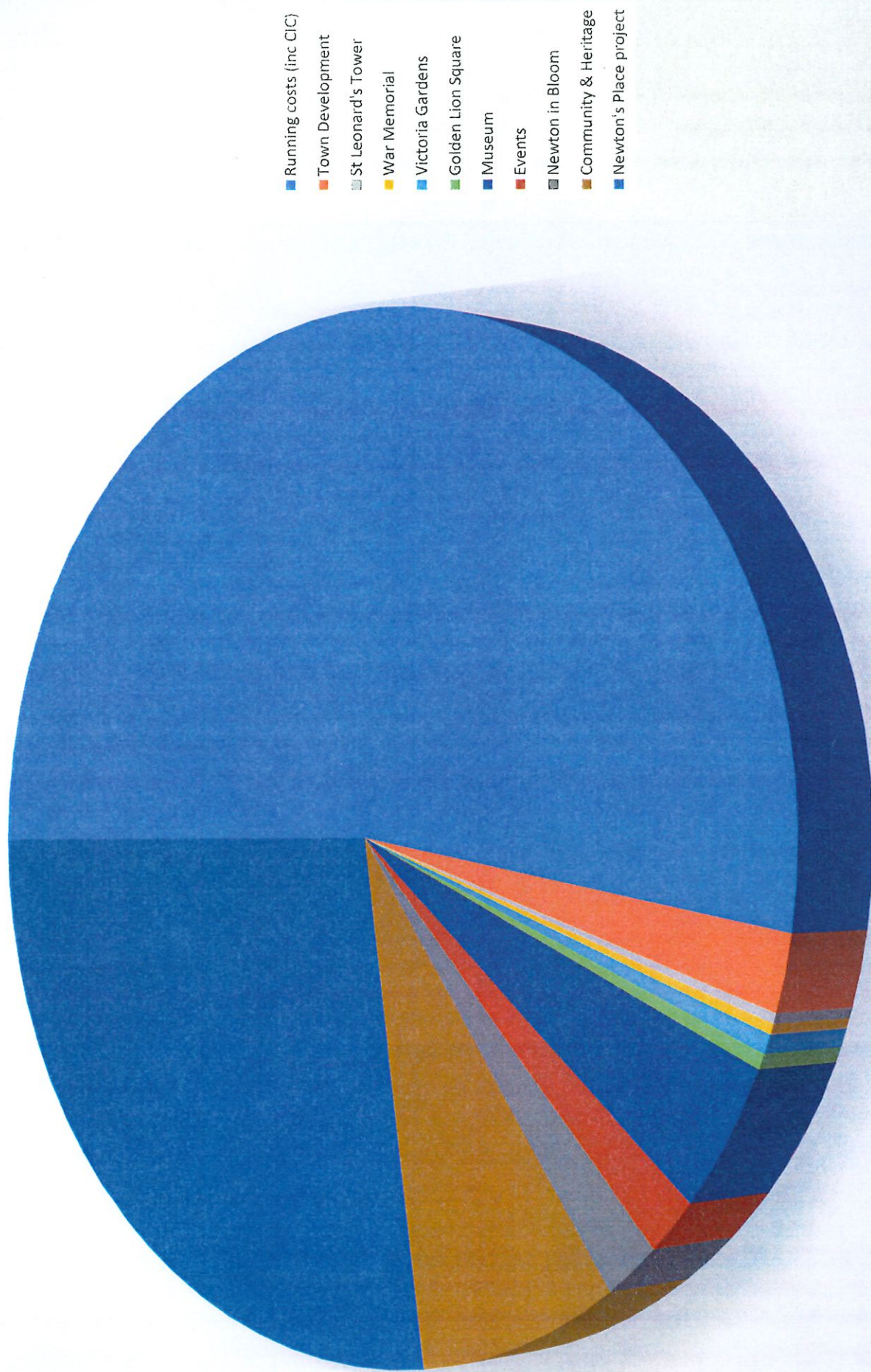
Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st March 2017

31st March 2016

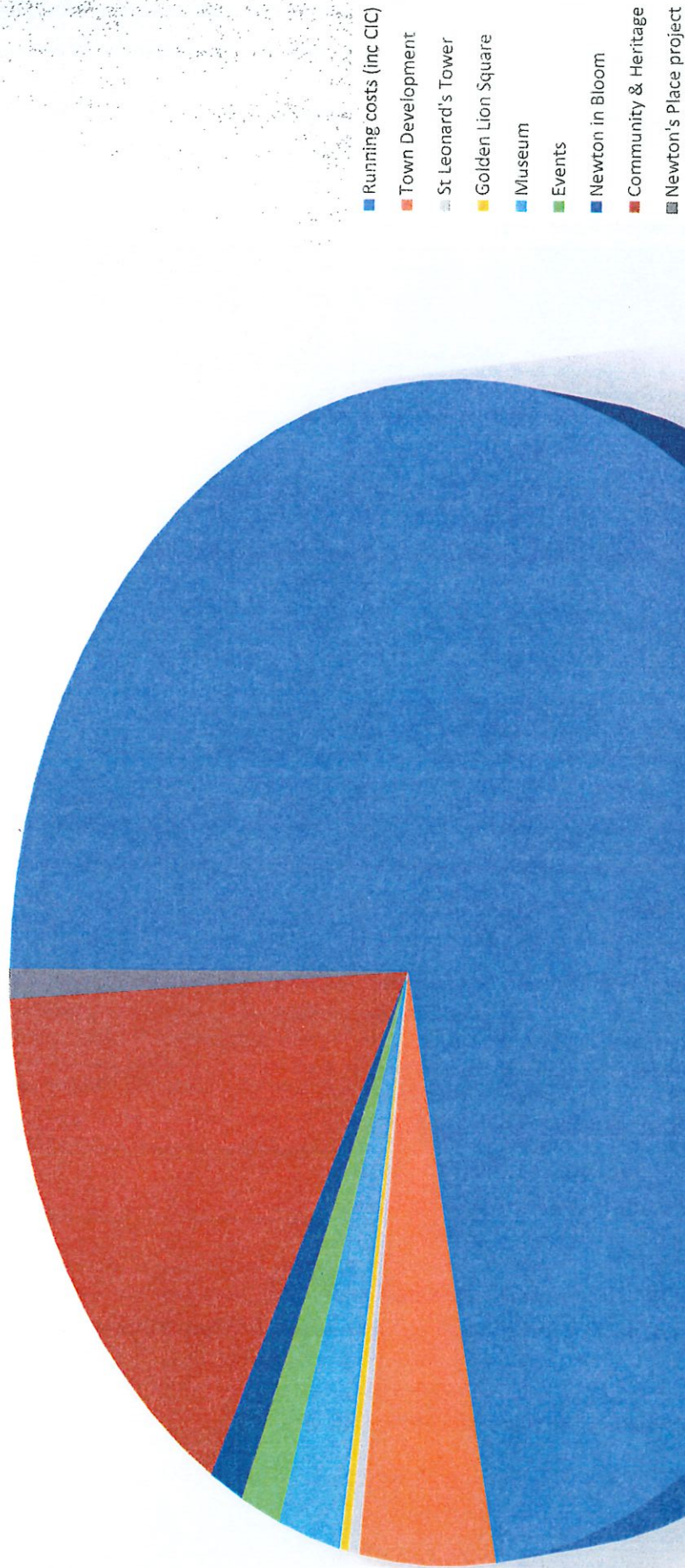
31st March 2017

	General Fund Analysis	
46,027	Opening Balance	28,718
731,118	Plus : Income for Year	791,971
<hr/> 777,146		<hr/> 820,689
745,427	Less : Expenditure for Year	957,127
<hr/> 31,718		<hr/> -136,438
3,000	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	-184,719
<hr/> 28,718	Closing Balance	<hr/> 48,281

Newton Abbot Town Council Expenditure for the Year Ended 31st March 2017



Newton Abbot Town Council Income for the Year Ended 31st March 2017



Newton Abbot Town Development Managers Report 2018.

In my role as Town Development Manager for Newton Abbot it is a privilege to work with a wide range of fantastic local and national businesses and with councillors and officers from the 3 local authorities. I also collaborate with a huge number of local organisations, clubs and groups and there is a wonderful sense of community within the town. Communication is key - and residents, shoppers and businesses know that they can always contact me if they need help or support. If I can't help - I'm pretty sure that I will know someone who can! I am always found out and about in the town, or knee deep in an event or town centre promotion and that's where I like to be, helping to make sure that we always have our best foot forward.



Newton Abbot, the 'Capital of Teignbridge' is a vibrant and growing town. Whilst it is an ancient Market Town it is also a place where the cutting edge and the contemporary sit very comfortably alongside its heritage. 2018 is likely to prove one for the history books with work commencing on three centrally located development sites. Within 18 months, where once there were weeds and hordings, we will see residential flats, a purpose built budget supermarket and a retail and retirement flats complex. Once these gaps are filled and the first stage of the regeneration works on Market Walk shopping Centre are complete too, the final piece of the jigsaw will come in the form of the proposed new museum and community space, to be built in the former St Leonard's Church. After nearly a decade in post and from where I stand, the future of Newton Abbot has never looked more positive. Work has started on the regeneration of Market Walk this spring with the old canopies having been removed and it's instantly made the centre so much lighter and brighter and I really look forward to this progressive scheme taking shape. Our beautiful Austins Globe store has been shrouded in scaffolding for many months and it will be a day of celebration when the building is revealed in all its splendid refurbished glory.

Newton Abbot continues to buck the trend when it comes to looking at commercial property to let, as the town centre has a ground floor vacancy rate of a mere 2% compared with the South West at 7.6% and the UK at 8.9% (source Springboard January 2018). Vibrant town centres do not stand still and whilst there are those that hark back to how things were 'in the old days', we know that it's unlikely that those days will ever come again. The internet and mobile technology have been embraced and our work and social lives look very different now, compared with even a decade ago. Despite the well documented increase in people shopping on line, there is still a lot of local shopping going on! Newton Abbot town centre continues to boast a huge array of national chains and independent shops alike and it's a town centre where you can still buy most things which you need in day to day life, as well as more specialist items, such as a kitchen or a new saddle! The Historic indoor market and the twice weekly outdoor markets are also places where you can enjoy a browse amongst a myriad of items and support local traders whilst you do so. The growing population of Newton Abbot is also able to enjoy a significantly increased choice of cafes and restaurants, with recent investment coming from both the national chains and also from local independent operators. Hair, beauty and men's grooming is another booming sector, where the offer in Newton Abbot is enviable and of a very high standard.

The best towns are those which not only have a great range of shops and businesses, but those which also have a robust infrastructure to compliment it. Transport links into Newton Abbot are excellent and those travelling by car can always find an accessible and reasonably priced car park, with free parking every Sunday to boot! Our town, some would say, has had more than its fair share of road works and it's true that this has been a challenge, but I think we are coming out the other side now and looking forward to a very busy summer! Here in Newton Abbot, we help keep people and property safe by supporting CCTV and it's fantastic that the Town Councillors recognise what a crucial service this is for the community and continues to contribute financially to its running costs. The Chamber of Trade is another body which contributes funds to CCTV, but it is a source of frustration that no other public body does so, when they take for granted the fact that it is there.

The town centre is enhanced at Christmas by a superb festive lighting scheme and our new provider really pulled out all of the stops last year, with the town having never looked better. Christmas is a big deal in our town and I'm so grateful to the carnival committee for putting on a fantastic parade on Switch On night and to all of the councillors and volunteers from the community who come on out to make sure our late night shopping events go with a swing. I look at the Christmas lights and the colourful hanging baskets and planters and neat grass verges in the summer too - and give thanks that the Town Council makes all of this happen as these are things which are a source of great pride when other towns are dark at Christmas and knee deep in grass and weeds in the summer.

There is always something going on to provide entertainment to go with the shopping and with an annual calendar of music and free events ranging from classic car shows, to the town criers competition, to evening street food events; there is something for everyone! We also had eight otter visitors to Newton Abbot last summer as local businesses supported Dartmoor National Park's latest fundraising initiative. These cute characters created a lot of interest during the summer holidays driving lots of additional footfall to all four corners of the town. I was particularly delighted with the response to 'Summer Nights' our new evening street food events, introduced last year and I know that people are looking forward to three more events this summer. It was great to see whole families out enjoying themselves in the town and if you didn't make it to Summer Nights last year, do try to make it this year!



(Left) Stilt Walkers at the Summer Nights event

(Right) Busy town centre at the August Summer Nights



(Below) Otters and Sponsors

