

ILFRACOMBE'S SPRING CLEAN

For the third consecutive year Ilfracombe's residents rolled up their sleeves to give the town a spruce up. Leading the push during Ilfracombe's Spring Clean were Ilfracombe Town Councillors who painted, swept and scrubbed in various locations around the town.

Pictured here are the '3 mayors', Geoff Fowler (Mayor for 08/09), John Swan (his predecessor) and Philip Webb (current Mayor) giving a bus stop on the seafront a much needed lick of paint.

The Spring Clean was the brainchild of district councillor Paul Yabsley, who came to the town council asking for support for the idea three years ago. Mayor of Ilfracombe, Philip Webb, said the spirit of the town's people is what makes the Spring Clean a success. "The more people that pitch in, the more difference we are able to make," he said. "The fact that we had residents of entire streets taking part meant that there was a real sense of community over the weekends when the Spring Clean

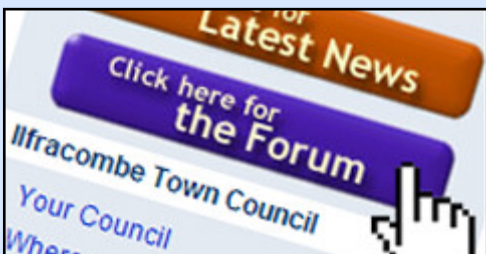


was taking place. While the district and county councils have the responsibility of keeping our town clean I believe that when we all take pride in the area we live in and each do our small bit, it will be

easier to keep the town looking as beautiful as it deserves to be." The Spring Clean took place before the start of the main tourist season in the town with over 50 keen cleaning volunteers taking part.

look inside for...

the forum



centre's anniversary



seachange project



GOT SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THE TOWN?

A major feature of Ilfracombe Town Council's new website is the interactive forum that allows users to have their say on a number of issues, or even start debates of their own. The Forum has been a hugely popular part of the website since it was launched earlier this year and it is a great way to air your views about the town and let your local councillors know what issues are affecting the people of the town. To see what is on The Forum and what people are talking about, simply visit www.theilfracombecentre.co.uk and click on 'The Forum'. To make comments you must register first, but this only takes a minute or two. Your comments or thoughts will be most welcome.



NEW SPORTS FACILITIES COME ONE STEP CLOSER

The appointment of specialist sports consultants has meant that the long-awaited arrival of an all-weather sports pitch in the town has come a significant step closer. Devon County Council has made Sports Solutions GB project managers to ensure every avenue has been explored in order to deliver some much-needed sporting facilities for Ilfracombe. The idea is that Ilfracombe Town Football Club will vacate Marlborough Park and move to a new, purpose-built ground with training facilities and parking at Killacleave. Ilfracombe Arts College and the County Council would then develop the space at Marlborough into sporting facilities, including an all-weather pitch. New Mayor and vice-chairman of the football club, Philip Webb, was hopeful that the project can now get off the ground. He said: "There has been so much talk about this for so long. The appointment of some specialist consultants means we can now have real hope of getting the kind of sporting facilities we desperately deserve in this town."

DOG MESS... POP INTO THE ILFRACOMBE CENTRE TO DO YOUR BIT

It's the perennial problem that just doesn't seem to go away. Dog mess, do-do's, droppings (or a few more unsavoury terms!), whatever you call it, it is perhaps the biggest complaint that people have about the town. However, it is something that will only be resolved if everybody in the town does their bit. Ilfracombe Town Council is helping dog owners to pick up their dog's mess by providing free doggy-do bags to anyone who needs them. However, everyone can help the cause by reporting any unscrupulous owners who may be fouling our roads, footpaths or parks. Ilfracombe Town Council's Litter Warden can distribute on-the-spot fines to those who fail to pick up their dog's mess, but he can't be everywhere at once, so needs your help to identify the problem areas. Come into The Ilfracombe Centre to find out more.

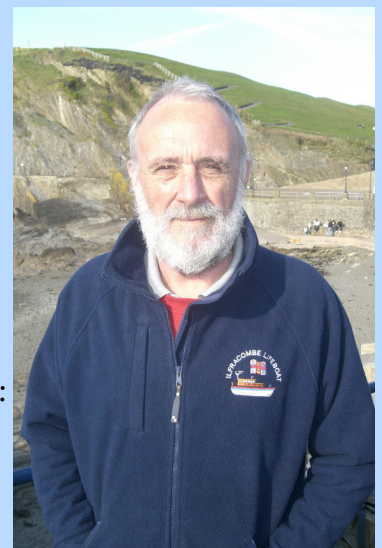


PHILIP WEBB IS TOWN MAYOR FOR 2009/2010

With a passion for football as well as Ilfracombe, Philip Webb is the man who will wear the chains in the town for the coming year. Philip (left) will be supported in his role as Mayor by retired teacher Bob Thompson (right) who is the Deputy Mayor.

Philip is an avid fan of Ilfracombe Town Football Club, for whom he is also the Vice-chairman. He said: "We know Ilfracombe is already a great place to live, but I want to see just how great we can make it.

I want to raise standards and expectations for everyone in our community, and I am really looking forward to the challenge ahead of me and the Town Council."



'PILLARS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY' HONoured AT CEREMONY

One of Geoff Fowler's last duties as outgoing Mayor was to present his final round of Pride in Ilfracombe awards at a ceremony in The Lantern. These awards recognise the good work that goes on in the town, often behind the scenes, and were this time presented to what Geoff Fowler described as "12 pillars of the community." Peter and Shirley Jeffreys received the Act of Kindness Award for running a charity book shop for the last 10 years. Tony and Lesley Rogers received the Youth Award for their dedication to the Royal British Legion Band, which they formed 20 years ago. Peter Robins' award was for his voluntary work, including being a trustee of Ilfracombe Museum. Winner of the Act of Courage Award was Alan Strong

who has been a member of Ilfracombe Lifeboat crew for 30 years. Tony Denby was honoured for his charity work with the local Lions club, including his dedication to the carnival and swimathon events. Janet Wild accepted an award on behalf of the Rajah restaurant, which has been in the top 1% of UK curry houses for the last 10 years. John Stainer was recognised for his tireless charity work and community involvement. Finally, Graham Wetherall picked up an award which the selection panel admitted could have come in a number of categories! Graham spends about 30 hours a week voluntarily helping our Litter Warden clean up the town and is also heavily involved with the Ilfracombe Poverty Action Group and the Samaritans.

Congratulations to all those who received Pride in Ilfracombe Awards. The awards are presented on a quarterly basis, and if you would like to nominate someone who you believe does sterling work to make our town a better place, pick up a nomination form at The Ilfracombe Centre.

ILFRACOMBE CENTRE CELEBRATES 1st ANNIVERSARY

This Spring saw the first anniversary of the opening of The Ilfracombe Centre, and with the current economic climate, it couldn't have come at a better time for many in the town.

In its first year the centre has seen over 22,000 visitors come through the doors to access the services on offer - that's equivalent to more than twice the population of Ilfracombe!

With the credit crunch affecting the whole country, services such as Job Centre Plus and the Citizens Advice Bureau have been particularly busy. However, there are 10 different organisations in total that work from The Ilfracombe Centre. These include North Devon Council, Pathfinder and Ilfracombe Town Council who are available full time in the centre to offer benefits, housing and planning advice plus computer training.



Town Councillor Paul Crabb, having seen the project through to reality said that the town council was keen to use this positive momentum to even greater effect. He said, "It was well-recognised that Ilfracombe needed such a facility and the take-up from residents has proved this to be the case. We'd now like to see if we can continue that success by helping to support new businesses who may be struggling to survive." Centre Manager, Andrea Beacham, concluded, "The Ilfracombe Centre has proved that when organisations work in partnership the results are vastly improved for the customer. The Town Council is proud to have facilitated this vital resource on behalf of the town." Pictured above are representatives from all the organisations using The Ilfracombe Centre with Andrea Beacham and outgoing Mayor for 2008/2009, Geoff Fowler.





COULD THIS BE THE FUTURE OF ILFRACOMBE SEAFRONT?

This May saw the unveiling of exciting new plans for Ilfracombe's seafront. The idea is to transform the museum into a more prominent and iconic building connected to The Landmark as well as develop other public spaces in the seafront area. Members of the public were shown some of the ideas that consultants Perfect Moment had come up with and there now follows a period of consultation to decide which aspects of the plan are popular with the townsfolk.

If endorsed by the public, these plans will form the basis of a £5m regeneration bid for Ilfracombe's seafront. North Devon Council have set up a Seafront Steering Group, chaired by Councillor John Swan. He said: "This scheme increases the prominence of our wonderful museum while linking it to The Landmark to allow them to share resources. The architects have come up with a visually stunning design that will

enhance this area as well as providing further exhibition and discovery spaces. This is certainly a bold programme and is exactly what we hoped they would deliver."

The next stage would be to apply for £1m of funding from CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) with match-funding sought from other sources. However, before that can happen, the public need to deliver their verdict on the plans. You can see the proposed plans in full by visiting our Town Council website at www.theilfracombecentre.co.uk and clicking on the forum. Here you can join the debate and gain a fuller understanding of exactly what is being proposed. So if you would like to see some more public plazas on our seafront or a slide down Capstone hill, why not log on and have your say on these new plans?

your town council

Your town councillors are there to act as your voice in the community. If you have any concerns or questions you would like to put to one of your local councillors, please get in touch.

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