

Community projects can tap into funding

A FUNDING project bringing together county, district, town and parish councils is kickstarting community projects across Devon — and hopes to do more in 2015.

The 'Town and Parish Fund', or TAP, is the name given to the initiative whereby Devon County Council allocates £1 per elector per annum and district councils contribute 10p per elector, totalling around £600,000.

This money is available for towns and parishes to join together to apply for funding that can make a difference to their communities.

Well over half-a-million pounds was allocated to a huge range of projects last year, from village hall improvements to new footpaths. It also funded emergency drainage clearance, a community bee-keeping project and community defibrillators.

The idea behind the TAP fund is to stimulate ideas and encourage

parishes and communities to work together.

Organisations are also encouraged to make a financial contribution to allow them to be more proactive and to take a lead in creating greater community resilience.

The funding is administered by district councils.

Devon County Council leader John Hart, said: 'Devon County Council is continuing to make funds available to communities to use how they see best.'

'This money is available to parish and town councils to spend in ways that will benefit their communities.'

'I firmly believe decisions should be made as locally as possible to encourage local accountability and I have always advocated more partnership with our district, town and parish colleagues.'

'If we believe in the resilience of our smaller communities, then this is one way of pump-priming activity.'

Cabinet member for

performance and engagement, Cllr Barry Parsons, said: 'This is a good opportunity for town and parish councils to get together and make a local investment in their area towards the things that matter and are important to them.'

'There have been plenty of examples where parish councils have collaborated, providing more impetus to their project, fostering partnerships and making successful applications, so I would certainly recommend this way of working.'

Lesley Smith, from the Devon Association of Local Councils, said: 'The TAP funding is giving a real boost to projects in the county and we can see long lasting effects which in turn are prompting a feeling of optimism and closer working relationships within communities.'

'In many cases, they've been the catalyst to encourage more volunteering in a particular area and cross

parish working which would not have happened otherwise.'

In West Devon, approximately £42,000 has been ploughed into a variety of community initiatives, including wi-fi for village halls in Exbourne and Jacobstowe and Belstone and South Tawton; defibrillators and training for Buckland Monachorum and Dartmoor Forest and in the parishes of Sticklepath, Belstone and Sampford Courtenay; improvements have been made to the 1st South Zeal Scout Hut.

Other examples of projects which have been helped throughout the county include a Saturday morning sport club, play area improvements, lengthsman work, grass/weed cutting, dog bins, a noticeboard, town band uniforms, a community bee-keeping project and a tree survey.

For more information about TAP funding, go to <http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/2768/TAP-Town-Parish-Fund>



● Bowerman's Nose on Dartmoor — an image which could certainly apply to one of the moor's new Chinese names — which translates as 'Quirky Wilderness'.

Picture by Thomas Dobner

Qi Qu Yuan Ye — will it spark a tourism boom?

AFTER ten weeks of voting in China, VisitBritain has revealed the new Mandarin names for 101 points of interest across Britain, including Dartmoor, suggested by the Chinese public for the 'Great Names for Great Britain' campaign.

The campaign was designed to encourage Chinese people to learn more about Britain by giving places and experiences they might not be familiar with a new Chinese name.

In China it is popular to give Chinese names to favourite celebrities, places and foods.

There were three naming suggestions chosen by the Chinese public for Dartmoor: Ta Mao Guang Yuan, translated in English as 'Grazing on fertile grasslands', Duo Te Mei Qi Jing, meaning 'Multiple Beauty' and Qi Qu Yuan Ye, translated as 'Quirky Wilderness'.

Now that the winning names have been revealed, VisitBritain has been working together with all the attractions to decide how

they might use the results and the publicity that the campaign has generated.

China is now the world's largest outbound market, with visitors to Britain already spending £500-million. VisitBritain has ambitious plans to double the value of that market by 2020 and to ensure that growth is spread across the nations and regions.

Joss Croft, marketing director at VisitBritain, said: 'The campaign has given Dartmoor huge exposure across China and the opportunity to create a unique affinity with potential Chinese tourists. 'We hope Dartmoor's new Mandarin names raise its profile and enables it to compete effectively for the world's biggest outbound market, which will deliver local growth and jobs across the South West.'

Jenny How of VisitDartmoor said: 'We are delighted to have been involved in the VisitBritain campaign and to

be promoting Dartmoor in China with The Great Naming campaign.

'To think that people over in China have been considering the natural beauty and wonder of Dartmoor in their own language is a unique and special opportunity for Dartmoor awareness across the world.'

'The reaction by locals on social media has been very positive and people particularly like the translation of Qi Qu Yuan Ye as Quirky Wilderness — we all know and love Dartmoor for its captivating beauty and magical atmosphere.'

VisitDartmoor has chosen to embrace its new Mandarin names and has plans to run a competition to choose the most popular name out of the three and will be adding the new Chinese name to websites and social media.



● West Devon Explorer Scouts are pictured after their recent craft activity when they made bat boxes, which will be placed on farms around the borough. The scouts are pictured with assistant scout leader Ian Meneer. Anyone wishing to get involved in the Explorer Scouts or interested in becoming a scout leader should call Jennie Humphrey on 07850 341217.

Plea to 'missing voters'

WEST Devon voters who have moved recently or those who are planning to cast their first ever votes in local and general elections this May 7 could be among voters 'missing' off the new electoral register.

It takes just five minutes to register online by putting in your name, address, date of birth, and National Insurance number.

West Devon elections office staff are keen to ensure that everyone who is eligible to vote in the parish, borough and

general elections do not miss out on their opportunity to have a say in who helps run their parish, borough or country.

The easiest and quickest way to register is online at www.gov.uk/register2ovote

Provided your details match up with the information held by the Department for Work and Pensions you will be successfully registered.

Elections officer Clare Chapman said: 'We are trying to ensure any "missing" voters in West

Devon do not lose out.

'A significant number have responded following a letter sent out to more than 25,000 West Devon households earlier this month which indicated the persons currently registered for the property — but there may still be more who may not have registered.'

'Among those people we are trying to capture are those young people voting for the first time.'

'They will be 18 either on or before May 7 and we want to encourage them to spend just five

minutes to register to vote online.

'People who have recently moved may also be amongst the "missing" voters and should also take the time to register.'

'Those people who are already registered do not need to do anything and will receive a polling card in April.'

April 20, 2015 is the last date for registration for the elections on May 7.

If you do not know your National Insurance number call 0300 200 3502.

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Help for Heroes training camp

HELP for Heroes and GB Swimming came together this weekend to host a unique training camp in Plymouth for the wounded, injured and sick.

The camp, which forms part of Help for Heroes' Sports Recovery programme, provided the opportunity for Help for Heroes beneficiaries to train alongside the GB Swimming Team and work alongside some of the country's best swimming coaches, practitioners and athletes.

The camp was open to people of all abilities to provide a grass roots opportunity to get involved in swimming and also supporting educational workshops around how best to perform in sport and get the most out of their training.

The camp formed part of the Help for Heroes partnership with the British Paralympic Association to introduce military personnel to Paralympic sport.

Help for Heroes has been involved with Sports Recovery since 2008 and in the past year alone has offered 300 events across 50 different sports enabling over 2,100 wounded, injured and sick service personnel and veterans to take part in adaptive sports from grass roots through to performance level.

Twilight walk through town

TOWN guide Simon Dell will be leading another of his 'Tavistock by Twilight' walks this Sunday (March 1) due to popular demand.

Meeting outside the Bedford Hotel on Plymouth Road at 7pm, Simon will be taking a stroll around Tavistock looking at myths, legends and a few historical facts with a few darker stories of the town's turbulent history thrown in for good measure.

The walk will last until about 8.30pm.

Dress appropriately for a March evening.

The cost is £2 for adults and £1 for accompanied young people under 16 years.

Further details of the walk and all Moorland Guides walks can be obtained from Simon on 07845 176870 or you can go to the website at www.moorlandguides.co.uk

Simon and fellow town guide Andrew Thompson, of Okehampton's Museum of Dartmoor Life, will again be doing their regular Friday afternoon town walks from the start of April, running until the end of October this year.

Got a story?

Call our Tavistock reporters on 01822 614555/01822 613660 or Tom French in Okehampton on 01837 53640