

Lifelong Learning for Seniors

Bulgaria
May 2010

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Where is Devon?



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Sidmouth



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Dartmoor Ponies



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Library facts & figures

- Total population: 1.1 million
- Population over 55: 30%
- 50 libraries + 11 mobiles + Three Prison Libraries
- Library members: 500,000
- Library members over 55: 40%

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Libraries in Devon



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Mobile Library



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More facts and Figures

- Devon has 340 reading Groups
- 35 are based in a library often led by the librarian
- One reading group is specifically for blind and partially sighted people and has been going for 25 years!
- 305 meet in private homes and community centres and are supported by the library – reading group tickets

More facts and Figures

- There are 39 WRVS groups all except 2 working out of a library providing an 'At Home' library service to over 600 people
- The library services pays the subscription for 805 members of the RNIB Talking Book Service. This enables blind and partially sighted people to have spoken word delivered by post to their homes free of charge.
- Silver surfing sessions take place in many libraries.

St Thomas Library



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IT Resources



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Policy

UK Government priorities for seniors:

- Skills & Health

Devon County Council:

‘Enabling more elderly people to stay safe and healthy in their own homes’



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Devon's Library Vision



Our aim is to help people of all ages with their reading, learning and information interests. We believe that Devon's libraries have the power to enrich and change people's lives.

We are working towards delivering a 21st century library experience with great buildings, friendly staff and excellent facilities. Our ambition is to be one of the best county public library services in the country.

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Customer view

Libraries attract high use by seniors who value:

- Easy access, automatic doors and ramps
- Opening hours are user friendly
- Core services are free
- Good customer service
- Large print and audio books
- Positive and responsive and helpful staff
- Supported IT sessions



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Library services for seniors



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Dawlish V.I.P Group



- Run by Library staff and senior age volunteers
- Supported by Calibre Audio Library
- Supports housebound members
- Sponsorship received from RNIB & Devon County Association for the Blind
- Sharing information & experiences

Library services for seniors



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Can We Do Better?

We Can:

- Improve communications
- Reach non-users
- Improve provision
- Partnership working
- Online services

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Hopes for LL4S

- Areas of interest:
- Services to rural areas
- Seniors and technology
- Seniors and information literacy
- Evaluation of informal learning
- Partnership working
- Making friends!

Exeter Cathedral



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Thatched cottages



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Holne Bridge, Dartmoor



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