



After selling Exeter International Airport last year for £60 million, Devon County Council has made available £48 million to enable hundreds of projects to take off. Here, *DevonTalk* features some of the initial beneficiaries from one-off cash grants in Mid Devon ...

### More visible presence

THE Arts Centre at Crediton will have a more inviting entrance and visible presence in the town thanks to a £16,885 award.

The money will go towards a bigger foyer and box office, new double glazed doors and a large awning outside to protect visitors from inclement weather. It is envisaged that the improvements will increase income to the centre as it will be a more attractive venue.

### Contribution to transport

SIX local County Councillors have made contributions from their funding allocations towards a new people carrier for the Mid Devon and Torridge youth service.

The award of £7,350, along with another £7,350 coming from Torridge County Committee, will pay for a new car to replace the existing nine-year-old vehicle.

### Kitchen makeover

BURLESCOMBE and Westleigh Community Hall has been awarded £2,000 towards a new kitchen. The funding will pay for new kitchen cupboards and the hall committee has raised cash to buy the kitchen equipment and sinks.

# Help to save historic building

ONE of Devon's finest historic town houses is to receive a County Council grant of £250,000 to help save it from serious disrepair.

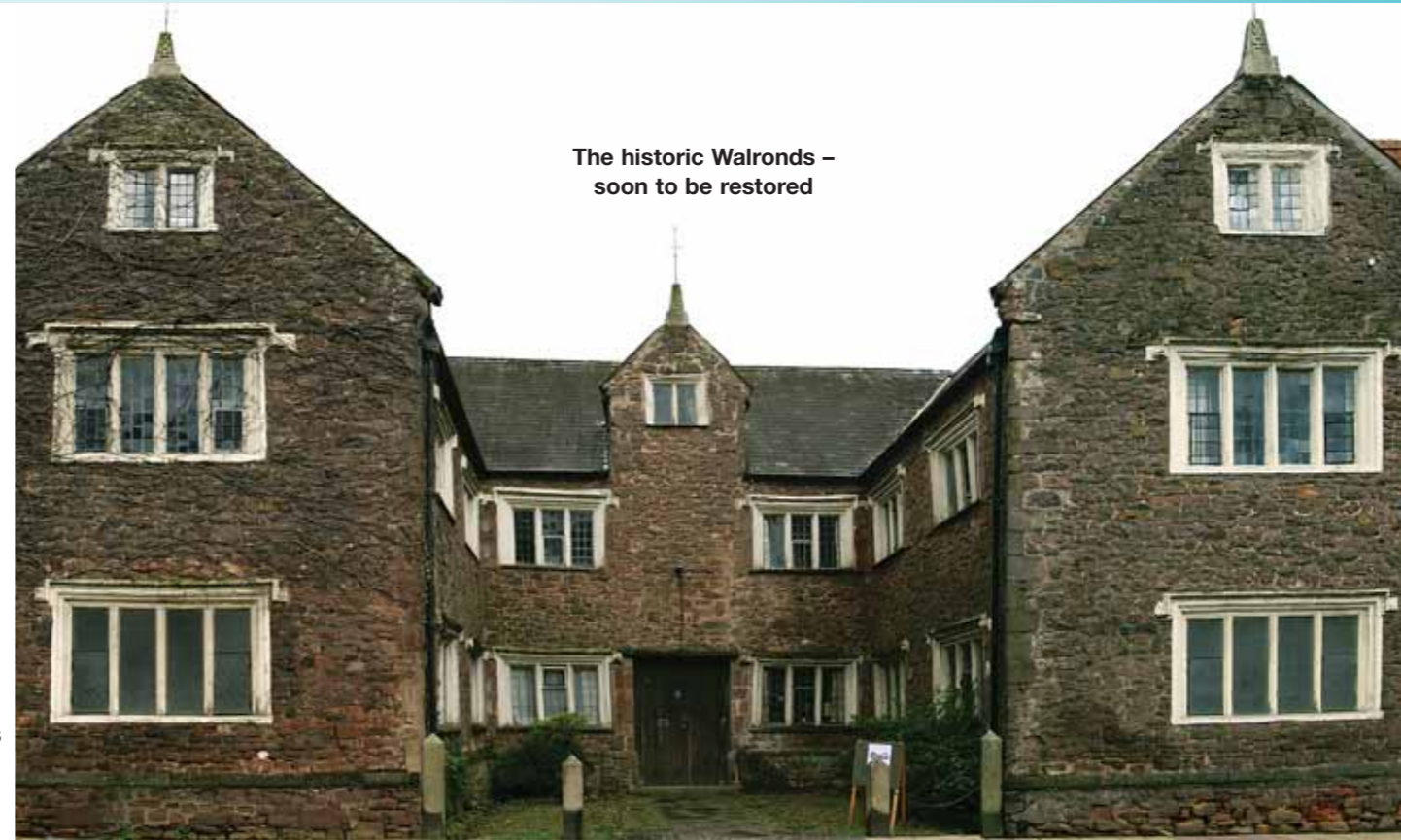
The Walronds, a 17th century Grade 1 listed property in the centre of Cullompton, is currently on the English Heritage At Risk register because of its deteriorating condition.

The Walronds Preservation Trust is raising funds for essential repairs – which include dealing with a leaking roof and structural repairs to plaster

ceilings and other historic fabric.

The aim is to transform the increasingly derelict and hazardous building into a major asset with possibilities for education and community use, as well as offering facilities that will generate income for its long-term maintenance.

Cllr Sheila Hobden, Executive Member for Culture, said: "The Walronds is a stunning building with the potential to be an excellent focal point for the community in Cullompton. "We are pleased to be able to help



The historic Walronds – soon to be restored

with this nationally important project."

Mid Devon District Council has allocated £100,000 to the regeneration project and a bid is being made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to support an overall repair package of £2.4 million.

Local County Councillor John Berry

said: "I am delighted that Devon County Council will fund this project to regenerate such an old building and bring it back to life again for the people of Cullompton.

"It is already used as meeting rooms and for conferences, and I hope the

use will increase. We need to treasure the wonderful buildings that our forefathers built.

"I hope this helps the regeneration of Cullompton, and that people will come to use and admire this building for many generations to come."



The Grand Western Canal is popular with local people and tourists

## Canal visitor centre plans move forward

A NEW visitor centre for the Grand Western Canal Visitors Centre is one step closer after £240,000 has been allocated to the project.

The new centre, which will be located at the canal basin in Tiverton, will replace a small portacabin which is in poor condition.

The current visitors' facility has a limited range of information about the history of the canal, but nothing about the wildlife of the country park. Currently 15,000 people visit the centre

every year but the portacabin is too small to accommodate school groups and visitors who arrive using the horse-drawn boat.

The aim of the new larger visitor centre will be to provide a better interpretation of the canal including a wider historical perspective. This will include artefacts and research capturing memories and reminiscences from local people who can remember the working canal.

Local Councillor Des Hannon said: "This funding is

a big step towards the new visitor's centre as we will now be able to apply for funding from other sources.

"A new centre will bring more local people in to enjoy our heritage. Crucially in these tougher times, we'll also be able to welcome more visitors from further afield who will in turn boost our local businesses and jobs."

The new centre will be situated next to the tow path and will be accessed by foot and cycle as well as the horse-drawn boat.

### Sustainable classroom

CHILDREN at Sandford School will have a new classroom space next year which will be built with sustainability in mind.

The new classroom will have a minimal carbon footprint and will use local labour and materials and the pupils will be able to personalise the new area. The £100,000 allocated for the project will allow the school to use existing space more productively and help increase the library and ICT provision.

### New surface for car park

NEWTON St Cyres parish council has been awarded £4,000 towards the cost of resurfacing the village's car park.

The car park is well used by villagers and visitors alike and has been in need of attention for a while. Once resurfaced it will greatly enhance the appearance of the village.

### Old roof to be replaced

THE roof of Old Heathcoat School Community Centre can now be replaced with £67,000 awarded to the project. The roof was originally constructed in 1912 but is now deteriorating and needs to be replaced.

The original slates will be used where possible and a modern roofing membrane will minimise heat loss.