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**ILFRACOMBE**  
magazine

January 2024

MAJOR HOTEL  
TAKEOVER - P8



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# THIS MONTH...

## Hotel Takeover

P8 - Major hotel taken over by international hospitality group

## Boost For Nurses

P10 - £11,000 donation provides helpful supplies for local health workers

8



P5: A Word From  
The Editor  
P8 & 10: Local News  
P14: The View

10



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Life is like riding a bicycle.  
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Albert Einstein





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Happy new year one and all - and a warm welcome to the very first edition of 2024 for The Ilfracombe Magazine. I trust you all had a pleasant festive period and New Year's Eve and hopefully you managed to get some rest to invigorate you for a fresh start. As always, we are here to provide you with a directory of the best local businesses and services - as well as the latest news from the town. This month we report

on the new owners of one of the town's biggest and best-known hotels - The Dilkhusa Grand on Wilder Road. With many of the larger hotels in the town disappearing over recent years, it's encouraging to hear that the Dilk has been snapped up by a hospitality group base in Southeast Asia who have big plans to expand the venue's opportunities. Read more about this on page 8. We also bring news on the medical

front as local nurses have been supplied with innovative new medical bags thanks to a hefty donation from the Tyrrell Hospital's League of Friends group. This fantastic local team make donations which come from the sales of clothes, books and other items at its charity shop in Church Street - so do pop in and have a browse!

*Leo*  
The Ilfracombe Magazine

## 6 NEW TWIST ON COMEDY CLASSIC COMES TO NORTH DEVON



After phenomenally critically acclaimed Edinburgh Fringe runs, the hugely popular 'The Importance of Being... Earnest?' is coming to the Queens Theatre, Barnstaple from Friday, 2 February to Sunday, 4 February 2024. The play's debut UK tour has a cast that includes the cream of the crop of UK improv including Lucy Trodd (a founding member of Olivier Award-winning Showstopper! The Improvised Musical), Amy Cooke-Hodgeson, (a founding member of award-winning comedy hit Austentatious, who has starred in multiple UK tours, Edinburgh Fringe runs and on BBC Radio 4's

recording of the show) and Tom Bulpett (who starred in The Play That Goes Wrong at the Duchess Theatre in the West End). In this riotous twist on a much-loved classic the show opens to looming disaster; the actor playing Ernest in Oscar Wilde's famed farce fails to arrive on cue. In a monumental effort to 'save the show', a real audience member is quickly cast in the lead role. But this impetuous recasting sets off a hilarious chain of events that, one-by-one, renders the rest of the cast unable to continue their performances. As more audience members are encouraged to step into the spotlight,

led backstage for costume and make-up, impromptu auditions, the painting of portraits, the chanting of mantras; doing whatever's needed to help the show go on, an absurd controlled madness ensues – until it feels as if there are almost as many audience members in the cast as there are in the ... audience. This is a comedic masterpiece of meticulous logistics, meritoriously involved audiences and masterful stage management. The Importance of Being... Earnest? Is an exciting and hilarious experience both to watch and be part of. For more information visit [queenstheatre-barnstaple.com](http://queenstheatre-barnstaple.com).

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## 8 ILFRACOMBE HOTEL ACQUIRED BY INTERNATIONAL GROUP



An Ilfracombe hotel has been purchased by a Southeast Asian hotel chain. The 99-bedroom Dilkhusa Hotel, which was also briefly used as a centre to house refugees, is now part of the Compass Hospitality group, making it the 21st hotel that the business operates in the United Kingdom. The company says the acquisition reflects their commitment to growth and investment in the UK's hospitality sector. According to a press release issued by

the company, The Dilkhusa was originally a private house and takes its name from Hindi meaning "House of the Happy Heart". The hotel's location on the Victorian seafront, close to the harbour, adds to its charm and historical significance. Compass Hospitality say they are looking to diversify the hotel business by catering to a more varied mix of guests, including corporate visitors and hosting meetings and events. A spokesman said: "This shift in

strategy reflects the positive performance trends in the UK market and the hotel's commitment to adapting to changing demands." Compass Hospitality operates under several brands including Compass, Citrus, Citin, Ananda, and the Compass Collection which includes individually branded hotels and resorts. Their range of properties includes hotels, resorts, executive apartments and spas in countries such as Thailand, Malaysia & Sri Lanka.



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## 10 'COMBE NURSES GET KIT BOOST THANKS TO LOCAL DONATIONS



Community nurses in and around Ilfracombe have been equipped with innovative new medical bags that are literally easing the load on frontline NHS staff. Funded by a donation of over £11,000 from the town's League of Friends of Tyrrell Hospital, the 40 bags are helping nurses caring for patients at home in Ilfracombe, Berrynarbor, Combe Martin, Lynton, Braunton, Woolacombe, Georgeham and Croyde. Each bag contains six coloured pouches where

nurses can store the kit for specific tasks, such as wound care, taking blood samples or blood glucose monitoring. "The bags are amazing and the nurses definitely like them," says Charlene Cooper, Community Hospital & Hub Manager at Tyrrell Hospital. "The bag fits neatly into the boot of a car, so there is nothing rolling around in the back, and the nurse can just take out the pouch they need for a particular patient - rather than having to lug the whole bag around, or dig about

in the boot when it's dark, raining, and maybe they've had to park up on the kerb. Our nurses are working so hard the whole time that anything that's lighter to carry, that saves their backs and makes them more comfortable when they're working is a really big thing for them."

Leanne Pridmore, Community Nurse Team Manager at the Tyrrell Hospital, echoed that view, adding: "It just makes my working day so much easier. I know I have got everything I need, when I need it." Designed with the help of community nurses in the Northern Services team at Royal Devon University Healthcare Foundation Trust, the bags are made by Gloucestershire-based CorrMed and were shortlisted for the national Primary and Community Care Innovation of the Year award at the Health Service Journal Awards. "We are extremely lucky to have the League of Friends of the Tyrrell Hospital to help provide these bags - and a lot more equipment over the years," says Cooper. "Not all hospitals have Leagues, and ours makes an enormous difference. By helping nurses to do their jobs, it really is helping to make local people better."

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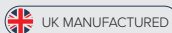
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**Email [hodgkissnigel2@gmail.com](mailto:hodgkissnigel2@gmail.com)**  
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