

NEWS RELEASE from

**devon renaissance**  
working for rural prosperity



**5 November 2008**

**Devon Renaissance welcomes opening of Amory Centre**

Devon Renaissance welcomed the opening of the new Amory Centre in South Molton on Monday as a superb new facility for the whole community.

Fiona Edwards, project officer for Devon Renaissance, attended the opening ceremony and was very impressed by the new facilities it offered, "The Amory Centre is an excellent concept and will be a major step forward in helping people in a rural area to access knowledge, information and assistance."

Devon Renaissance, the regeneration partnership organisation for the county, has contributed £65,000 to the project, which as a facility will centralise services and information for the rural community of South Molton and the surrounding twenty-six parishes, making them more accessible and easier to use. Community facilities were previously in scattered, cramped buildings and were unsuitable for the disabled.

The 1.24 million project has been funded by Devon County Council, South Molton Town Council, North Devon District Council and Devon Renaissance to create a one-stop-shop for residents, by bringing the three councils and the services they provide under one roof. The Amory Centre will also house a new library, a computer suite, meeting and conference rooms and a reception area.

While the existing features of the town house have been preserved in the rebuilding, the latest techniques have been employed to construct an energy efficient building with a modern interior.

The new centralised reception area will have staff trained in aspects of all the agencies based at the Amory Centre to help residents find the information they need or put them in touch with the relevant department. Improvements to the Community website and newsletter will improve online access to services and information, and residents will be able to use the new IT facilities in the Library's multifunctional resource centre. The conference facilities will also include a much needed training and Learn Direct suite with online and tutor led training.

In addition the new centre allows for flexible accommodation, which will provide rural outreach facilities for both existing and new agencies such as the Pensions Agency, Cruse Bereavement Care, Relate Counselling and Family Mediation.

Ends

**NOTES TO EDITORS**

Devon Renaissance is the rural regeneration partnership organisation for the county. It is a not for profit partnership of the private sector, local authorities and community-based organisations. The organisation is funded by the South West Regional Development Agency, Devon County Council, and North Devon, Torridge, West Devon, South Hams, East Devon and Teignbridge district and borough councils. Devon Renaissance provides grant funding and works with projects to help create prosperity and jobs and improve access to services in

rural areas. It has funding of £7 million over three years which is estimated to be worth £25 million to the Devon economy with match funding.

[www.ruraldevon.org](http://www.ruraldevon.org)

Release issued by pr dogs limited, public relations consultants, on behalf of Devon Renaissance.

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