FREE

From the publishers of DEVON LIFE

EXETER LIFE

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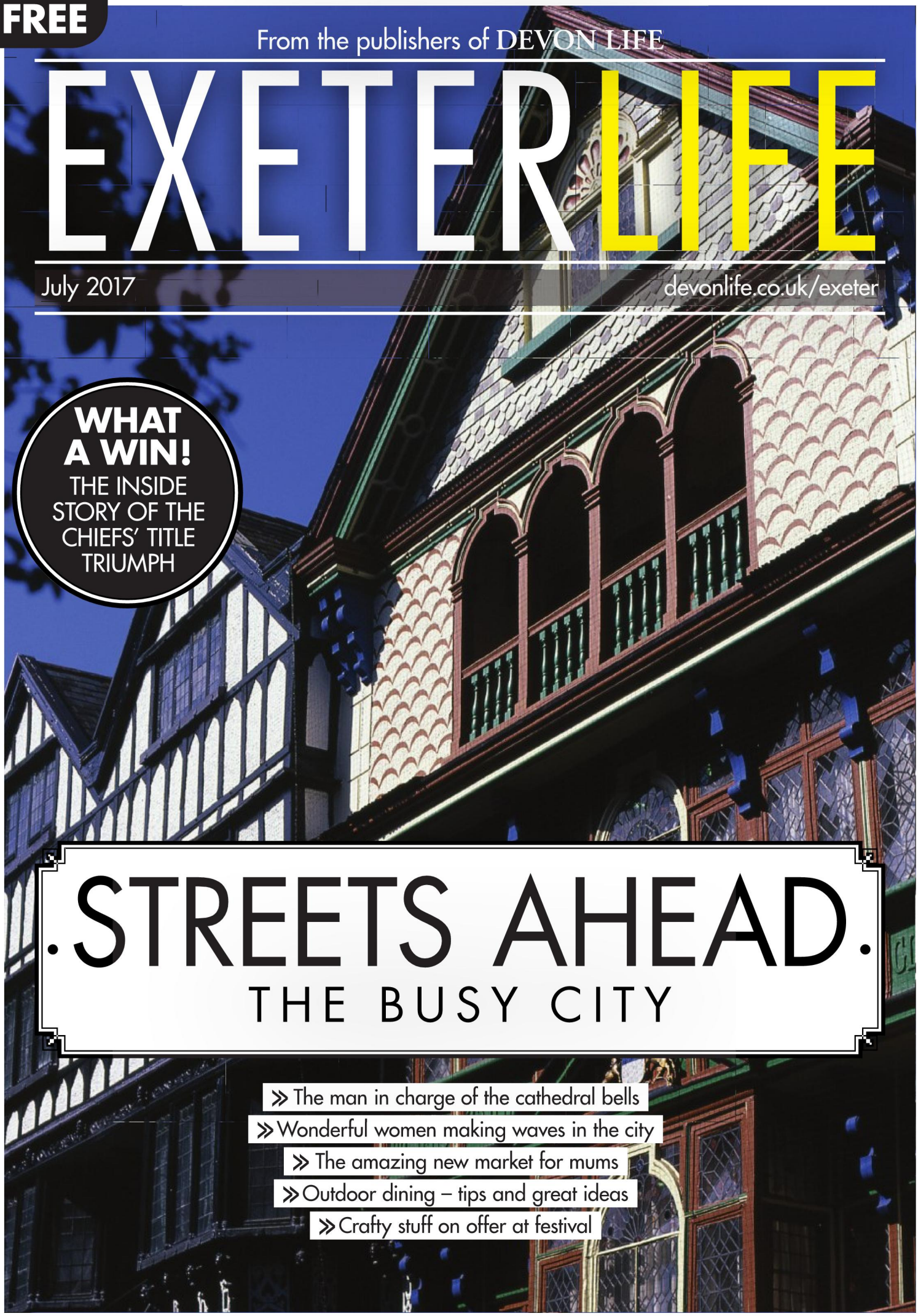
WHAT A WIN!
THE INSIDE STORY OF THE CHIEFS' TITLE TRIUMPH



STREETS AHEAD
THE BUSY CITY

- The man in charge of the cathedral bells
- Wonderful women making waves in the city
- The amazing new market for mums
- Outdoor dining – tips and great ideas
- Crafty stuff on offer at festival

20 QUESTIONS *with* KAREN CHUGG

MANAGING DIRECTOR AT INTELLIGENT ABODES LTD

1. HOW OLD ARE YOU? I'm old enough to know that people and relationships are the most important aspects of my life and young enough to keep up with technology (& rave to David Guetta)

2. WHERE DO YOU LIVE? I am lucky enough to live near the sea in Budleigh Salterton

3. DO YOU HAVE A PARTNER, CHILDREN AND/OR ANY PETS?
I am married to my business partner and we have two amazing children, three cats, a duck, five ducklings and four fish!

4. HOW DID YOU GET INTO YOUR BUSINESS? Having our own home automation business was not on my career plan. I trained as a dietitian and a psychotherapist and had my own weight management business. My husband and I always talked about working together as a team as we get on so well and have complementary skills - so we came up with the idea of home automation. It was early days for the industry in the South West so we were not sure if it would work. Our children were both under two at that stage, so as soon as we realised the interest was positive, we focused all our efforts on one joint business.

5. CAN YOU TELL US A BIT ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS? We design, supply and install home automation which really means we bring the tech to your home in easy to use ways - such as lighting control which allows you to press a switch to create the right lighting to suit the task e.g. cooking, relaxing - no more adjusting individual dimmers! Audio-visual - you have one discreet system that can provide TV and music to any room in the house - keeping rooms looking fresh and contemporary. Answer your door with your mobile phone - nobody knows if you are there or out shopping. Possibilities are endless now, especially with voice control through Apple Siri and Amazon Alexa

6. WHAT'S THE ONE TIP YOU WOULD GIVE TO START-UP BUSINESSES?
Have the confidence to believe you can do it and the determination to keep going when it gets tough!

7. WHAT'S THE ONE OBJECT YOU CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT?
My kitchen appliances - I'm all for anything that saves me time, life is for living and not about spending time doing chores.

8. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF?
Like my favourite drink - Champagne cocktail - a strong spirit that will hopefully warm your heart and a little fizz to keep life exciting.

9. WHY SHOULD PEOPLE COME TO EXETER?

Karen Chugg from Intelligent Abodes

I chose to live in Exeter 20 years ago as I was blown away by the people - warm, friendly with a sense of fun. Its a great place for sports and activities and that added to the beauty of the city and the surrounding area, what more could you ask for?

10. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE CITY IS MISSING/LACKING IN?
A larger music/theatre venue to attract more artists to the area.

11. WHAT IS YOUR GREATEST STRENGTH?
Determination - it has got me up many a hill in life and during the Dartmoor Classic cycling event!

12. WHAT IS YOUR BIGGEST WEAKNESS? Champagne

13. WHERE'S YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY DESTINATION?
Usually the last place I visited. I love travelling and exploring new places, but probably I have been most blown away by Australia - we got married in Sydney, then spent time at Ayres Rock and Barrier Reef, both amazing areas of natural beauty.

14. WHAT BOOK ARE YOU CURRENTLY READING?
The Lauras by Sara Taylor

15. WHAT'S YOUR BEST DINNER PARTY DISH?
Curry - I am always asked to make it!

16. IF YOU COULD INVITE ANY THREE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TO SAID DINNER PARTY, WHO WOULD THEY BE AND WHY?
Joanna Lumley, Will-i-am and Tom Jones - they all exude warmth, energy and humour in different ways and I think the stories would be endless!

17. IF YOU WERE PRIME MINISTER FOR A DAY, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
I was so impressed with the recent One Love concert in Manchester and the Olympic ceremonies, so I would organise events to unite people, support camaraderie and make us proud!

18. IF YOU COULD RE-VISIT YOUR YOUNGER SELF, WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE HIM/HER?
Don't sweat the small stuff in life, focus on what's important - people and relationships, most other things will come together

19. WHAT'S THE CRAZIEST THING THAT'S EVER HAPPENED TO YOU IN BUSINESS?
Working in the technology industry has meant that at many events I was often the only woman - I'm pleased to say that's gradually changing

20. DESCRIBE YOUR PERFECT SUNDAY.
Skiing down a mountain on a crisp sunny day with my family, followed by sharing stories over a delicious lunch.

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