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Ilfracombe mourns community champion

Report by **TONY GUSSIN**
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ILFRACOMBE is mourning the death of tireless community volunteer and environmental champion Tim Cox.

Tim, 75, was well known in the town and hugely involved with numerous environmental projects and groups in North Devon, helping to set up many of them.

He had been ill with terminal cancer for some time and died on Friday.

In July he took many of his friends on board the *Ilfracombe Princess* for 'Tim's Sunset Cruise', which proved a magical evening with stunning sunsets and an appearance by 'Dave' the dolphin.

He was a founder member of 361 Energy, a social enterprise which promotes energy saving and renewable energy, but was also part of Trans-Send and many others, also standing as a candidate for the Green Party in local elections.

"Although we knew this was coming, it is still a shock that it has happened so soon," said Paul Rogers of 361 Energy.

"Tim has been one of the most committed environmental and community activists in Devon and has been working full time as a volunteer for no salary for over a decade.

"He was a vital part of our organisation who will be much missed."



◀ Pictured just after 'Tim's Sunset Cruise' is Tim Cox (second left), with Paul Rogers, Thomas Store and Nicola Corrigan, all founder members of 361 Energy.

Tim also set up Ilfracombe Farmers' Markets, was a founding member of Combe Business and won the National Year of the Volunteer (SW) award 2005 and the Pride in Ilfracombe Good Citizen Award in 2006.

Town councillor Frank Pearson, who worked with Tim on many projects, including helping to organise the Ilfracombe May Day celebrations, added: "Tim could write huge funding bids yet was also happy to dig the earth, scythe the grass, and build steps – his last endeavour finished only last week.

"The most delightful instance recently was when a group of young people working on Laston Green community garden approached Tim and said they thought he was a legend ... he was and is."

Ilfracombe district and town councillor Mike Edmunds said Tim 'lived life to the full': "I will certainly miss him as he has been very helpful to me in my role as councillor regarding eco-friendly issues," he said.

"It was only last week I passed him working hard in Laston gardens – he really enjoyed working in the garden and had a great love of nature."

Tim grew up in Oxfordshire and became an engineering draughtsman, working for the British Motor Corporation among others before later moving to the South West.

He spent time as a college lecturer in Plymouth and moved to Ilfracombe in 2001.

It is hoped to organise a community memorial event or celebration of Tim's life in the near future.