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Whether a Royalist or not, you cannot help but have been moved by the events over the past month as we all said farewell to Queen Elizabeth II - for most of us the only monarch we have known - and welcomed King Charles III, a man with deep and long association and affection for the West Country.

Here in our special part of Devon we now concentrate on the autumn and the coming winter. It is so good to see so many voluntary and charitable groups picking themselves up after the privations of the past two years and offering a range of interesting things to do. Please support them whenever you can.

With thoughts of the coming winter, though, Chris continues his series of articles about how to cope with rising fuel costs and there are also various helpful articles from many different organisations locally offering help of one type or another - a true example of how our community comes together to help each other.



**Please note that copy date is
16th of the month preceding
publication**

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Awliscombe-The Honiton Inn

Broadhembury- Post Office and Store -
Drewe Arms

Buckerell- via Splatthayes -Telephone Box

Churchinford-The York Inn -The Community Shop

Combe Raleigh- Village Hall Telephone Box

Dalwood- Community Shop

Dunkeswell- Highfield Stores - Highfield
Garage - Connetts Farm

Feniton- Spar Shop - Envious Creative Hair -
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Honiton Lace Walk- Co-op - Joe Gilson
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Honiton High Street - Stitched-up! - Coffee #1
- Little Shop of Seasons - Alan Rowe - St
Paul's Church - Allhallows Museum - Wine
World - RKL - Pearl Nails - 4 You from Me -
Shades - Park Life - Bits & Bobs - Hybrid
Gallery

Honiton- Tesco Stores - The Beehive -
Thelma Hulbert Gallery - Hillside Garage (King
Street)

Offwell- Windmill Garage

Payhembury- Community Shop - Sawmill

Plymtree- Community Shop

Smeatharpe- Highlands

Stockland- King's Arms - Telephone Box

Talaton- Community Shop

Upton- Sidmouth Arms

Upton- delivered ex Payhembury

Weston- Heron Farm Shop

Yarcombe- Village Hall

Farewell Your Majesty



Many people took the opportunity to pay tribute across our area to the late Queen by lowering flags to half mast, attending commemorative church services, laying floral tributes, signing books of condolence. Many shops large and small shut for the day of the funeral



Photo courtesy of Nick Boggan



1926 - 2022

A Special Did You Know

Queen Elizabeth was born at 2.40am on 21 April 1926, became our Monarch on 6 February 1952 on the death of her father King George VI and was crowned Queen on 2 June 1953

She was the longest reigning monarch ever in Britain

She was served by 15 Prime Ministers, starting with Winston Churchill

She was the only person in the UK allowed to drive without a licence

She first sent an email in 1976 and published her first Instagram post in 2019. She made her first radio broadcast in October 1940 during World War II

She became a home owner at six years old when the people of Wales gifted her a house in the ground of Windsor's Royal Lodge. It was named Y Bwthyn Bach which means "little cottage"

In her lifetime the Queen sent around 50,000 Christmas cards

She owned an elephant, two giant turtles, a jaguar and a pair of sloths (presents from other countries - all now living at London Zoo)

And Thank You

God Save The King

Photos courtesy of Nick Boggan



The official party of (left to right) Deputy Mayor Cllr Helen Hurford, Town Crier Dave Retter and Mayor of Honiton Cllr Serena Sexton



The Mayor reads the Proclamation to the people



The Town Crier calls for three cheers for the new King



Members of Honiton Band played the National Anthem as the crowd sang

"Whereas it has pleased almighty God to call to his mercy our late Sovereign lady Queen Elizabeth II of blessed and glorious memory, by whose decease the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the Prince Charles Philip Arthur George.

"We, therefore, the lords spiritual and temporal of this realm, and members of the House of Commons, together with other members of Her late Majesty's Privy Council, and representatives of the realms and territories, aldermen, and citizens of London and others, do now hereby, with one voice and consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim that the Prince Charles Philip Arthur George, is now, by the death of our late Sovereign of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege lord, Charles III, by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, and of his other realms and territories, King, head of the Commonwealth, defender of the faith, to whom we do acknowledge all faith and obedience with humble affection, beseeching God, by whom kings and queens do reign, to bless His Majesty with long and happy years to reign over us."

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A View From The Hills

by Miranda Gudenian



The gentle discourse of woodpigeons soothes the hours. My mother and I have always loved the sound. She often told me that as a baby I made the same sound, lying in my pram in the garden while she pruned roses or weeded borders, and the woodpigeons murmured from the oak trees that surrounded the house.

My beloved mother's life on this earth ended on August 10th. The following day would have been her 98th birthday. We have shared house always, in greatest harmony. As I stumbled through the ensuing days, I became aware of the woodpigeons. They reside in the Norway Spruce near the house. The tree was planted some sixty years ago. One Christmas Eve our predecessors dug up the little tree from a friend's plantation and brought it home; they set it in a tub by the inglenook and decked the branches with baubles and paper chains. In the New Year they planted the tree in the garden. Today it towers over house and garden and, every year, for the thirty-five years we have lived here, the woodpigeons have nested in its branches. Their gentle crooning forms part of our lives but in the past month those sounds have been intensified, a constant presence from dawn to dusk except for one day of silence - and that was the day of my mother's funeral.

Country lore has it that when someone deep-rooted in their corner of the land passes from this world, the natural world acknowledges it. My mother and I are deep-rooted in this house, this garden, this hillside, this village, this valley. Perhaps in some beautiful way the woodpigeons are acknowledging this. Strange things do happen. A friend of ours loved owls, taking in injured owls, caring for them, releasing them back into the wild. He was known far and wide as the Owl Man. A few minutes after he died - at home, one bitter January night - tawny owls began to hoot: first one, then a second joining in, then another two or three, until eight or nine owls surrounded the house. The cacophony of hooting lasted for nearly half an hour, stopping as suddenly as it began. A parliament of owls had gathered to honour the Owl Man, while inside the house his grieving son and daughter-in-law sat awed by this mysterious acknowledgement from the avian world.

The murmur of woodpigeons is a comfort now as I work in the garden. My mother and I always gardened together, sharing tasks. Gardening has been pivotal to our lives. When we viewed the house for the first time in August 1987, my mother was the one who lay awake all that night planning the garden, filling sheets of paper with ideas, so that, in the morning when she showed us, we knew we had found the right place.

She and I gardened together until, in 2009, she suffered a stroke which robbed her of much of her sight. From that moment she could only garden in her thoughts. She had the first of many falls that compromised her mobility and she ventured outside less and less, relying on me to tell her about the garden. I would bring her the first snowdrops, posies of sweet violets, primroses, then a few sprigs of lilac and the early buds of roses.

My mother was the nearest to a rose of any human being I have known. From her, I gained my love of roses. We were planning to plant more roses, planning alterations to the garden as, after thirty-five years, it needs to be rejuvenated. For me, this was also a way to keep my mother looking forward. "I must come and see it," she would say as we talked over our plans in those final weeks together. Unable to walk now, she had not left her bedroom for three years.

'Death is nothing at all', writes Henry Scott-Holland in his verse All Is Well. "Whatever we were to each other, that we are still...Call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way which you always used...'

I will make the changes to the garden that we planned. I shall plant the roses that we chose, poring over catalogues earlier this summer. I shall send new clematis to swarm over walls where aged ones have faded. I shall fill new borders with froths of lavender and catmint, clove-scented pinks, dusky-hued salvias and irises. Finally, I shall create a tiny knot garden of interwoven hedges forming our initials, M and M, for Margaret and Miranda. It will be a labour of love, this tribute to my beloved mother.

And as the sun dips down on a gardening day and I get to my feet and straighten my back, I shall say out loud to her, "Well, what do you think? Does it look alright?"

In some way, I hope, an answer will come to me, a whisper on the breeze, assuring me that all is well.



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The Importance of Records

It's now coming to the end of the season for some of the wildlife surveys I carry out on a monthly basis and this year has seen changes from the pattern of previous years. There are two dormouse box monitoring schemes in our area, one at Offwell Woods and another at Dumpdon Hill. Each scheme has 50 nest boxes attached to trees and a monthly check helps monitor the national population of this endangered species. The monitoring schemes run from April until October and involve checking the boxes for their inhabitants and submitting records to The Peoples Trust for Endangered Species who produce a national picture of the health of the species. This year has seen a marked difference in the animals' behaviour.

After emerging from hibernation in April we normally find Dormice using our boxes as day nests with a minimal amount of bedding, and this year was no exception. The difference from previous years became evident in the following months when the numbers of occupants of the boxes were drastically down from previous years. This was not only true for dormice but also Field Mice which we also regularly see in the boxes. Locally we are assuming that this is merely a change in behaviour caused by the extreme heat of the summer causing the animals to find somewhere cooler to nest than a wooden box attached to a tree trunk.



National records and surveys in the coming years will provide us with more information as to whether this is a national or just a local experience, but as May so eloquently describes in her article in this magazine, climate change is altering our world. How this works out for our local wildlife is yet to be seen but the regular surveys carried out by local people are key to informing us of the changes.

Local butterfly surveys have shown good numbers following a poor show in the spring. Bumblebees have also had a good year after a slow start. Populations of insects vary greatly from year to year and have always done so, affected not only by the weather in spring but also the effects of parasites, which in the case of some species of butterfly can result in regular ups and downs in population. However there is no doubt that we are seeing a serious decline in insect populations.

What has become very evident to me this year is the value of gardens in providing sources of pollen and nectar for butterflies and bees. My records from monthly Bumblebee recording walks around Dumpdon reveal, unsurprisingly, that populations depend on the flowers available. Early spring flowers held reasonable populations which rose dramatically when clover came into flower. However the value of pollen and nectar producing plants in our gardens became evident as I inevitably found more Bumblebees in my small garden than I found on the whole of my walk around Dumpdon.

Now for the good news. I also carry out a monthly otter survey for the Devon Wildlife Trust and the populations on the River Otter appear to be very healthy. In the past year we have found evidence of them regularly visiting the River Gissage which runs under the High Street and Whitebridges, emerging further up the valley beside the footpath to Weatherill Way.

The method of monitoring otters involves looking for their poo or spraint, to give it its proper name. Male otters mark their territory by depositing spraint on raised ground under bridges and where streams join the river. The other good news is that mink populations have greatly reduced over the past years. For those who may be interested there is a good way of telling the difference between mink and otter spraint, and that is to have a good sniff. Otter spraint has a sweet fishy smell, whilst mink spraint stinks!



We are fortunate to have not only otters but also beavers regularly passing through the town, but with climate change a reality, records are important to inform national changes in habits and populations. If you have time, Butterfly Conservation, Bumblebee Conservation and other organisations are always looking for volunteers to carry out surveys, and why not plant some nectar producing plants and enjoy the wildlife it brings to your garden.

View From The Tower - St Michael & All Angels, Stockland



The Ramblings Of Gertie From Gittisham

Dear Readers, as you can imagine my letterbox has been inundated with so much mail in this last month and rightly so . . . Our beloved Queen who has been the figurehead of this nation for the whole of my life, and the lives of so many of you, has died, and so we join together in such a collective wave of immense sadness. What frail mortal bodies we possess, and the wings of time convey to us how very fleeting is the allocated period granted to us on this Earth.

Hester MacNeil, in her very emotive missive of such personal outpourings addressed to me, perfectly conveys the shock, dismay and conflicting sorrows I am sure many of us are experiencing in these dark days of mourning. Hester encapsulates so many heartfelt sentiments when she writes, "What a beautiful young Queen she was and she gave up her own personal life for our country. There will never be anyone like her ever again. She can now go and see her beloved husband, her mother and father and her dear sister, Princess Margaret. We can all agree that our world is upside down right now, but we have got to stand strong like our Queen always did. God bless the Queen and grant her beautiful and sweet soul eternal rest." Thank you Hester and all my dear readers who have confided to me their very own personal tributes.

Naturally, there were other letters concerned with the rising cost of living, which does deeply affect so many of us on, shall we say, somewhat limited incomes. One such document was hand-delivered and pushed through my letterbox in a makeshift envelope of some dilapidation. Initially, I thought it was from my sister, Birdie, but on reading, I realised it was from someone emulating Birdie's lifestyle as a means of making ends meet in these trying times. Enid Jessop, the sender of the above, is, I quickly realised, someone of enormous fortitude and imagination. Likening herself to the Bohemians of the early 20th Century, I could immediately see that this winter she will be emulating such greats as Augustus John, Dylan and Caitlin Thomas, Richard Adlington and the like. Harkening back, also to the days of my youth, Enid Jessop believes the way to beat the rising energy costs is to abide by the following: "Nothing, but nothing will be used unnecessarily in my cottage. I shall wash myself in a washing up bowl only

when I am dirty. The kettle will boil my water for tea, washing-up and my own ablutions. I am going to line all my water pipes with old newspapers and I intend to swill my clothes in the water brought forth from the village pump. I will eat porridge and sausages and sometimes vegetable stews served with a mound of 'teddies'. These will fortify my bodily appetites and candles will give me light. On wintery afternoons I will roam the countryside with my dear dog, Mole, looking for rotten branches, which I will drag home and burn in my old open fire - my one warm room in the house."

Hhmm! I know dear Enid only too well and I can see that not too many adaptations have been made to her already rustic and somewhat primitive lifestyle. Many a dank afternoon I have wandered by her backyard and heard her humming along to the rhythmic sawing and sometimes chopping of the scavenged logs for her fire. Thank God she is somewhat removed from Birdie, who is still revelling in her squalid, sweating, sinister and mean surroundings - camping out now on a pile of rotting grass-cuttings in the corner of St. Michael's churchyard. Heaven help us all . . .

Not only am I the recipient of many letters – sometimes I have the email.

A month or two ago I received a lovely correspondence from a marvellous gentleman who was most praiseworthy of my many personal, worthy qualities. I have never met him, so I am unsure how he is so knowledgeable about my many assets, including my ample bosom and rather generous cleavage, which I have mentioned in an earlier article. The poor man is very keen for us to meet, but sadly, as so many of us are, finds himself rather strapped for cash. I pride myself on never turning a deaf ear to someone's plight, especially someone so debonair and charming as my new beau. Of course I sent him monies to cover his travel expenses, as we are so keen to meet. Well - at my age I would be a fool not to take advantage of my last romantic adventure.

You never know dear readers, I may yet escape the cold, cruel winds of winter as I bask in the arms of my younger, most eloquent new lover in the hot climes of the Maldives.



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The Northleigh Circle

by Chris Harwood

Map OS Explorer 115 - Exmouth and Sidmouth. And Map OS Explorer 116 - Lyme Regis
1:25000

An excellent walk, possibly more suited to the intrepid walker who can navigate a little and who is happy to cross the odd stream! Follow the young River Coly and return to Northleigh via a wonderful green lane and a potter around Ball Hill. Get shade from rain or sun in the pretty Northleigh Churchyard.

7.8 Miles



Drive to Northleigh and park on the wide grass verge close to the Church (SY 195958). Take the Public Footpath to the left of the Old School House beside the Church and then at the road turn right. Look for the second Public Footpath off left and through the metal gate move downhill toward the low grey roof. Find the well-hidden stile down on to the road. (Failing to find it, exit via the gate in the corner of the field and walk back up the road!) Cross the road and via the stile move diagonally left down the field towards a wooden bridge over a small stream. On to the corner and exit via a stile on to a lane. Left, around the bend and passing the metal gate, find the Public Footpath off right through a small metal gate.

Now enjoy a wonderful little green sunken track opening eventually via a small gate on to open pasture. Aim diagonally left downhill to the corner looking for the small metal gate on the left exiting on to the road. Right down to the bridge crossing the diminutive River Coly.

Take the Public Footpath off left just before the bridge and now follow this little River Coly on your right. From now on is where the courage and navigating skills are needed! Not really that bad, just follow the river. Over a couple of footbridges then left

and follow the river to a small metal gate. Onwards to the end of the field passing a solitary looking oak on your right. Find a metal gate on the left in gap in the hedge.

Continue following the River Coly (hidden in amongst the trees) on your left to the corner of the field and find a small gate. Left here along the edge of the field with the river still on your left. Find the metal gate on the right at the end of the field. Follow the edge of the field and river to a small metal gate and bridge. Left here to exit on to the road via a metal gate.

Left on the road, over the Coly and take the overgrown Public Footpath off to the right. Now, just follow the river but when it turns sharp left (About SY 209952) look for small gap in the trees beside a willow and see a gate on the far side of the stream. Cross the stream and pass through the small gate.

Left to another gate. Carry on through a number of gates and, following the yellow arrow signs, eventually arrive at a road beside a bridge. Left on the road to Purlbridge Cross. Right here then right at Hamberhayne Cross.

At Lawdeshayne farm look for the pink cottage and take the concrete path to the left of the cottage passing through farm buildings. Now, on a really wonderful green lane potter on uphill. At the Y junction go left to Rockerhayne. At this junction, straight across to another junction, Holly Tree Farm. Left here to Buckhouse Farm. The road ends here to be replaced by a great hedged track. This track will take you around Ball Hill and soon at the road bear left to Farwood Cross.

Nearly there! Right to Northleigh.

Chris, who lives in Talaton, has been a keen walker and mountaineer all his life, enjoying hikes throughout the UK and abroad. He has written 3 books describing the scenic wonders of East Devon, the Tale Valley and beyond. His informal and approachable style encourages all to get out and explore. "Great Walks in East Devon", "More Great Walks in East Devon" and "Great Walks around Ottery St Mary" are on sale at Talaton's Community Shop, Whimble Stores and the Curious Otter Bookshop in Ottery St Mary.

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Colourful Characters Of Autumn

by Andrea Rye, Combe Garden Centre

Autumn is definitely here. There are ripening blackberries in the hedgerows. The days are becoming shorter and the heat of summer is slipping away. Although the leaves changing colour is beautiful, I am always saddened by the passing of summer and knowing that most of the flowering plants will soon die back and go dormant for winter. It is now that we notice more the last blousy blooms of the year and think about how, by adding them, we can keep our gardens in colour for a few weeks longer.

Whilst visiting people and working with friends in gardens over the past few weeks it has been impossible not to admire the late flowering species that have overcome the drought and extreme heat and produced spectacular displays of colour. These are some of the best.

Penstemons

I have never been a huge fan of penstemons but the display of them in a garden in Buckereil might make me give them a go next year. The owner (who also has an extremely cute Jack Russell puppy) has several gorgeous, pale pink and white flowering plants that are only just going over but produced a stunning amount of flowers. Penstemons are native to North America and were eagerly added to English gardens during the 1800s. They come in many colours, from electric sky blue to pastel shades. Quite a few penstemons are native to desert or alpine regions, which explains why they flourished despite the extreme heat and drought. They prefer well drained soil in full sun or part shade and need that good drainage to avoid too much winter wet, their number one killer.



Asters



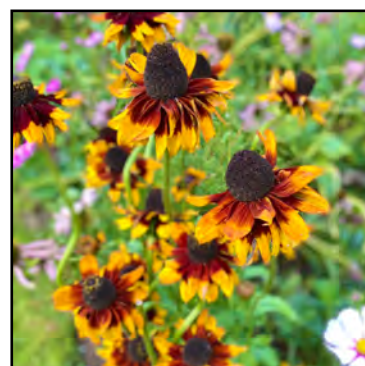
There is a lovely garden on the outskirts of Feniton where the lucky owners have a spectacular, tall aster, with stems 4ft high and covered with lilac pink flowers. It is glorious. Any plant that puts out so many flowers deserves admiration and a choice spot in a garden. Seeing this plant in flower, swarming with bees and hoverflies, made me feel justified in my obsession with asters. They come mostly from North America and Southern Europe but there are also Chinese asters, which tend to have larger flowers and we grow them as summer bedding plants. Renowned for their drought resistance, asters may regain their popularity as our summers become drier; during the Victorian period they were everywhere but fell out of fashion. The two most common types in garden centres are the novi-belgii (short) and the novae-angliae (tall). The most impressive are the tall varieties. Grow them in full sun and allow them plenty of room or they become spindly.

Dahlias

I do not grow dahlias because they look so tropical and I am a cottage garden purist, but the variety and vibrancy of them in the aforementioned garden made me wish I could dedicate an area of the garden to a tropical planting. They come in almost every colour and can have flowers the size of a dinner plate. They flower from midsummer onwards and if you want an undeniably tropical look plant them with bananas, cannas, crocosmia and gladioli in a sheltered area with plenty of sun. Dahlias come from Mesoamerica and were used by the Aztecs as a food and medicine. They do best in soil rich in organic matter so regular mulching with copious amounts of manure is a must, and they should either be lifted before winter or grown somewhere with very good drainage in winter. Possibly the most impressive cultivars I have seen are Dahlia 'Cafe Latte', which has huge pale beige/pink flowers, 'Striped Vulcan' with yellow flowers covered in red flecks, and bright red, almost frilly petaled 'Apache', which is truly stunning.

Rudbeckia

Most of us only think of rudbeckia as the yellow, brown centred Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm'. This rudbeckia forms a large, rounded mass of butter yellow flowers at the end of summer but its startling shade of deep yellow isn't everyone's cup of tea. Luckily there are ones in other shades and colours that are just as, if not more, impressive. One of my favourite growers recently introduced me to two amazing varieties, the Rudbeckia Laciniata that towers over 'Goldsturm', growing up to 2 meters tall with lovely light green leaves and paler flowers with green centres, and Rudbeckia Maxima, which reaches a similar height but has the most stunning, large, glaucous blue/grey leaves. They towered above everything in the nursery except some of the larger grasses and were so bright they immediately commanded attention. Rudbeckias all go well in tropical plantings because the flowers are so bright but look equally good planted with tall grasses and perovskia for a nice colour contrast. Garden centres also sell some lovely but more tender varieties with brown and red flowers or striking lime centres, but these are thirsty plants and not as likely to survive harsh hot times.



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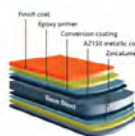
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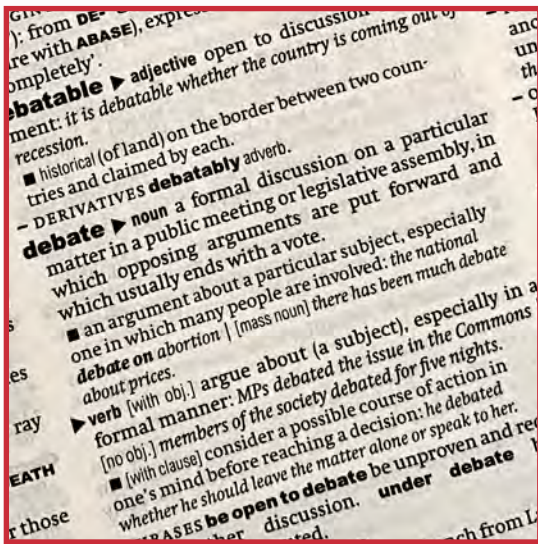
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The Art Of Debate

by Martin Long



For the past few years, I have been a member of a local current affairs discussion group. When I joined, I wondered what I was letting myself in for. With tempers on so many current issues frayed to say the least, there was surely every chance that our meetings would end up with more than metaphorical blood on the carpet.

But I needn't have worried. Far from our meetings being about how to hurl rocks at an opponent's fervently-held opinions while screaming one's own to all and sundry, we have always managed to listen to each other's views with respect, tact and patience. Everyone is prepared to hear what their colleagues have to say, before offering, with the utmost politeness and good humour, a reasoned counter-argument.

There is no denying that we are living through times of increasing intolerance for views with which people do not agree. Those deemed to have opinions not worthy of being heard can all too easily find themselves being sidelined or their views dismissed. And yet here in our own little world of Honiton, groups like ours can quite happily accommodate a wide spread of opinions, can debate and argue without rancour, and can leave

at the end of the meeting with smiles on our faces.

It would be all too easy to suggest that it is something to do with our age. OK, I can't resist it. It may very well have a lot to do with our age. Everyone in this discussion group has embraced their Third Age, after the end of our full-time working lives. And as well as everything else, this means that we have seen so much of what seems new and scary about today's society before. Recessions? Inflation? Been there, unfortunately done that. We have followed discussions about Climate Change since they began to emerge 50 years ago. We have a little perspective which, let's face it, goes a long way.

But it is more than that. The members of our group are used to the idea that solutions to problems come in many forms and in many guises, and that it is very unlikely that one person has all the answers. We are used to working collaboratively and sharing the credit for work done. And we are genuinely interested in what other people have to say and think.

It is a most refreshing experience to share our monthly meetings, and to discuss - well, I can't really say what we discuss, because what goes on in the meeting stays in the meeting. But suffice it to say that a successful meeting for me is one in which I have listened more than I have spoken and learned something from the opinions of others. Above all, our meetings show how we can approach a problem in a spirit of genuine enquiry and come up with a wide range of solutions, each of them worthy of a hearing.

Of course, there are some out there who will ask whether there is any point to groups like ours, if we are not seriously trying to change our colleagues' minds, to get people to think and act differently? Such people, however, miss the point. Those who think like that can only do so because they believe that their opinion is the only that counts, and we should all be argued into falling in line with them.

Those of us of a certain age can see that such a view is deeply flawed and, dare I say it, rather arrogant. I do not for a minute think I am right most of the time. I have a point of view but quite accept, even celebrate, that others hold a totally opposing view and do so with equal passion, vigour and logic. What gives me real pleasure is to hear this range of views, to see if we can find common ground, but at the very least to respect and value views that differ from my own.

In an era in which politics can be so divisive and so toxic that it is the subject that, directly at least, dare not speak its name on these pages, isn't it great to realise that here, in the midst of our community, there are still places where a diversity of views is not just respected but encouraged and celebrated.

Did You Know?

The Protestant religious reforms, including the introduction of the Book of Common Prayer, were introduced from 1547. Royal injunctions stripped out much of Roman Catholic life. Statues, shrines and stained glass windows were smashed or removed. In addition there were increased tax demands.

In 1549 this led to open rebellion (The Prayer Book Rebellion) among peasants in the South West and the King sent his forces to suppress the uprising. One of the major and deciding battles involved men from Devon and Cornwall who fought at the Battle of Fenny Bridges on 29th July and were heavily defeated.

An inscribed stone stands near the spot as a memorial to the men who died.

Early West Country Silver Spoons

by Liz Chilcott



In our business we meet people who concentrate their collecting attention on one particular theme, exploring the history and becoming deeply knowledgeable while they collect the pieces.

Chilcotts were privileged to sell one such specialist collection: 'The Charles C Brian Collection'. It included many excellent examples of rare early West Country spoons, some dating back to the late 16th century.

In total, 53 lots of spoons were sold together with several additional items of Exeter. The initial estimate of £20,000 to £30,000 was quickly exceeded, with the final hammer total reaching an impressive £43,000.

Buyers ranged from serious private collectors, specialist silver dealers buying on behalf of clients and individuals who were particularly interested in the Exeter silver, which as well as spoons included a tazza dish from the reign of George I, which sold for £3,800 and a tea caddy from 1732 which realised £2,100.

The 'star' of the spoons was a seal top example, made by John Jones of Exeter in the 1570s. Recognised as a hugely important maker in the Elizabethan era, Jones is described by Timothy Kent in 'West Country Silver Spoons and their Makers' as 'One of the most important and successful provincial goldsmiths of his epoch'. This single spoon sold for £3,600.

Our Silver Specialist, Jennifer Bell, who undertook detailed research into the spoons prior to the auction, said, "This was a truly fascinating collection to get to know, especially as it provided a good opportunity to find out more about the history of spoon making in the West Country.

"We were delighted with the interest in the collection, and the vendor was extremely happy with the result."



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What's On - Beehive Bustling With Autumn Offerings

As the nights draw in, it's time to head out to your local, warm and friendly venue!

How about some classical music in a relaxed, friendly concert with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's Principal Brass & Wind players on Saturday 1 Oct 6pm with **BSO On Your Doorstep: Homeland?** Journey to New York with Bernstein, Amelie's Paris with Yann Tiersen, and rural England with Vaughan Williams and The Wellerman. Accompanying carers - free tickets - please ring to book.

Or fancy a rollicking new comedy from Richard Bean (One Man, Two Guvnors) and Oliver Chris (Twelfth Night), with Caroline Quentin, Laurie Davidson, and Kelvin Fletcher? Thursday 6 Oct 7pm National Theatre Live: **Jack Absolute Flies Again** (15)

For live theatre lovers there's a 2 man play about one of the greatest comics, Frankie Howerd, and his forbidden love for long-standing partner Dennis Heymer. Friday 7 Oct 7.30pm **Howerd's End**. A 4* play recommended by the wonderful Barry Cryer.

On Saturday 8 Oct 7.30pm we have **Fisherman's Friends: One and All** (12A) Fame is never plain sailing! The next instalment of the Fisherman's Friends' amazing and uplifting true story.

Love and duty collide and nations clash in Verdi's political drama, **Aida** (12A) starring Elena Stikhina and conducted by Antonio Pappano. Royal Opera House Live Cinema on Thursday 13 Oct 6.45pm.

For something totally different there is a glorious

cinematic odyssey exploring David Bowie's creative, spiritual and musical journey. Saturday 15 Oct 7.30pm **Moonage Daydream** (15)

On Wednesday 19 Oct 7.30pm we have our free **Beehive Acoustic Night**. Come and perform or listen in the Beehive bar.

Puccini's opera of passion, friendship and heartbreak: **La Boheme** (12A) is on Thursday 20 Oct 7.15pm Royal Opera House Live Cinema

Book quickly for British Folk Rock legends **Fairport Convention** as they celebrate their 55th anniversary on Friday 21 Oct 7.30pm

One of my all-time favourite musicals is on Thursday 27 Oct 2pm **Nostalgic Cinema: Pal Joey** (PG) 1957 film. Welcoming, Dementia-friendly with subtitles and a cuppa and chat after in the cafe.

Then we have fabulous Festival favourites **Cable Street Collective** "Spicy indie pop with a tropical feel." Come along, you will love their upbeat feel-good groove! Friday 28 Oct 8pm

Last, but not least, we're excited to have **Agatha Christie's The Hollow** presented by Honiton Community Theatre Company 3-5 Nov 7.15pm

There are our usual classes with Western Spirit Line Dance and East Devon Dance academy, Theatre Kidz too and watch out for news about winter warmers within the Beehive! We all look forward to welcoming you soon, Wendy and the Beehive team



Honiton's Community & Arts Venue

OCTOBER 2022 EVENTS

BSO ON YOU DOORSTEP: HOMELANDS
Sat 1 Oct 6pm Adult £10, U18 £6, Family ticket £25
A relaxed, friendly concert with Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's principal brass & wind players, and BSO presenter.

NT LIVE: JACK ABSOLUTE FLIES AGAIN (15)
Thu 6 Oct 7pm Adult £16, Student £13
A rollicking new comedy from Richard Bean (One Man, Two Guvnors) & Oliver Chris, with a cast including Caroline Quentin.

HOWERD'S END
Fri 7 Oct 7.30pm Adult £16, Student £13
A new play about one of our greatest comedians, Frankie Howerd, and his forbidden love for his long-standing partner.

FISHERMAN'S FRIENDS: ONE AND ALL (12A)
Sat 8 Oct 7.30pm Adult £7.50, U16 £6.50
Fame is never plain sailing! The next instalment of the Fisherman's Friends' amazing and uplifting true story.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE LIVE CINEMA: AIDA (12A)
Thu 13 Oct 6.45pm Adult £17, Student £11
Love and duty collide and nations clash in Verdi's political drama, starring Elena Stikhina. Conducted by Antonio Pappano.

MOONAGE DAYDREAM (15)
Sat 15 Oct 7.30pm Adult £7.50, U16 £6.50
A glorious cinematic odyssey exploring David Bowie's creative, spiritual and musical journey.

*All details correct at time of print. Please check website for updates. Ticket prices include a £1 admin fee.
The Beehive • Dowell Street • Honiton • EX14 1LZ
Box Office: 01404 384050 www.beehivehoniton.co.uk Charity 1162412





Honiton's Community & Arts Venue

OCTOBER 2022 EVENTS

THE BEEHIVE ACOUSTIC NIGHT
Wed 19 Oct 7.30pm Free entry
Open Mic Night in the café at The Beehive hosted by Terry Stacey. Everyone is welcome to come along to sing or listen.

ROYAL OPERA LIVE CINEMA: LA BOHÈME (12A)
Thu 20 Oct 7.15pm Adult £17, Student £11
Puccini's opera of passion, friendship & heartbreak features a star-studded cast, conducted by Kevin John Edusei.

FAIRPORT CONVENTION
Fri 21 Oct 7.30pm £29 (seated)
The British Folk-Rock legends celebrate their 55th anniversary. Expect a mix of favourites, some surprises and new material.

NOSTALGIC CINEMA: PAL JOEY (PG)
Thu 27 Oct 2pm £4.50 includes hot drink & biscuits
The 1957 American musical comedy. All are welcome at this dementia-friendly screening with subtitles.

CABLE STREET COLLECTIVE
Fri 28 Oct 8pm £13 (standing gig)
This seven-piece from London are festival favourites. Music that makes you want to dance, "Spicy indie pop with a tropical feel."

3-5 Nov THE HOLLOW - HONITON COMMUNITY THEATRE CO.
10 Nov NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: THE SEAGULL (12A)
11 Nov MRS. HARRIS GOES TO PARIS (12A)
17 Nov INDIA ELECTRIC CO.
19 Nov SIMON & GARFUNKEL THROUGH THE YEARS
25 Nov THE HISTORY OF ROCK

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Concert For Ukraine

Grab your tickets early for this superb event which will showcase local and national musical talent, plus a poignant performance from Ukrainian mezzo-soprano Iryna Ilnytska.

All proceeds from ticket sales plus profits from the bar, kitchen café and interval raffle will be donated to the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal. Organisers Roger Hicks and David Kalisch, who will also be performing on the night, are hoping to raise over £1,000 for the Appeal. The Luppitt/Combe Raleigh duo, who perform under the name Blue Sky, have already started raising money by busking for Ukraine during Sidmouth Folk Festival week and may shortly be seen in the foyer of Honiton Tesco, who have pledged to support the initiative.

First on stage on the night will be Iryna Ilnytska. Iryna currently lives and works in Exeter, frequently performing in concerts at the Cathedral. Also performing in the first half will be Luppitt musicians Robin Nancarrow and Sue Wilson, Becky Cottrell-Jury from Cornwall and our busking duo Roger Hicks and David Kalisch.

In the second half The Walnuts take over the stage. This five-strong Ceilidh band will rock the Hall with a mixture of Celtic, Pop and Cowboy traditional music played on guitar, fiddle, drums, hornpipes, bagpipes and lap steel.



CONCERT FOR UKRAINE

Luppitt Village Hall
Saturday 12th November

A Fabulous Evening of Folk, Folk Rock, Ceilidh and Classical Music

First on stage will be mezzo-soprano **Iryna Ilnytska**. Iryna studied opera at the Conservatory of Classical Music and Jazz in Zurich before moving on to the Academy of Music in Milan. Also performing in the first half will be Luppitt musicians **Robin Nancarrow** and **Sue Wilson**, busking duo 'Blue Sky', plus songs from **Becky Cottrell-Jury** from Cornwall.

The tempo will rise dramatically in the second half when 'The Walnuts' take over the stage. Everyone in the audience is guaranteed to be foot-tapping and entertained by this five-strong Ceilidh rock band. Founded by Scotsman **Davie McGirr**, band members include TV presenter, **Matt Allwright** (from *Rogue Traders*), and broadcaster **Fergus Muirhead**.

All proceeds to the Red Cross Ukraine Appeal

Tickets will go on sale mid-September at £10
(as this is a fund raiser, over 18's only please)

To reserve tickets please call:
Christine Kalisch - 07592 122884 christinejarman25@gmail.com
or 4YouFromMe Honiton High St 01404 43300 www.4youfromme.co.uk

Doors, licensed bar and coffee bar will open at 6.00pm
Performance starts at 7.00pm

If you would like to support but cannot attend the concert, visit:
<https://www.kindlink.com/fundraising/british-red-cross/5417>



We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm at
The Beehive, Honiton

We are part of the national Arts Society and have lectures at the Beehive every month from October to June from nationally renowned experts in addition to social events and visits to places of interest.

Our next meeting

Tuesday 11th October

The two Gustavs: Mahler and Klimt

Gavin Plumley

In 1897 Gustav Klimt broke away from the imperially endorsed art institutions in Vienna and founded the Secession movement and Gustav Mahler arrived to take charge of the Opera House in the city. Comparing these two totemic talents, this lecture places Klimt and Mahler in context, asking what fundamentally links and, indeed, divides them.

Gavin is a writer and broadcaster appearing on Radio 3 and 4 and contributing to newspapers, magazines and concert programmes worldwide. He lectures widely about the culture of Central Europe during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Honiton Garden Club



Our next meeting will be on

Thursday 20 October

6.30-8.00pm

at St Paul's Church

(please note that due to ongoing maintenance in the church, this meeting will be held in the Crypt - entrance to the left of the church)

Our speaker will be Becca Flintham

Wildlife Gardening

Non-members are welcome to join us (£3 entry)

Don't forget to let us know of your events so that we can publicise them to the wider community.

Just contact

honitonvillagenews@gmail.com

Honiton Carnival Is Back



After 2 years without the normal illuminated carnivals in East Devon we are back this year with our usual carnival on 22nd October. Honiton's will be the last carnival on the East Devon circuit following Ottery St Mary's departure.

Floats, walking entries and majorette troops will be coming along to provide a spectacular evening of colour, music and fun. The procession starts at Ottery Moor Lane at 7.30pm prompt and will make its way up through the High Street. There will be plenty of collecting buckets along the route so please show your appreciation by filling them with your loose change. (Did you know that if everyone watching the procession put £1 in a bucket it would cover the expenses involved in putting on the carnival.)

This year's Carnival Queen is 17 year old Katie Nichol and she is joined by two Carnival Princesses, 7 year old

Phoebe-Rae Garman and 6 year old Amber Paver. Katie works locally as well as attending college and Phoebe-Rae and Amber both attend Littleton Primary School. They have already been working hard, representing Honiton at the other East Devon carnivals.



We are extremely grateful to this year's sponsors, without whom it would not be possible to put on such an amazing show. The sponsors this year are: MKM -Honiton, Combe Garden Centre, Simon A Martin Accountants, DCB Tax Services, House of Hair, J R Layzell & Sons, WBW Solicitors, The Chipee, E.A. Dodd & Son, To & Fro Car and Van Hire, Paul Richards Motors, Delves Electrical, Leesons, Honiton Carpets, Ali Kebabs, Mr. S. Loader, East Devon Garden Care, The Bed Expert, Beauty by Bev, Dalzells Distributors. We are also grateful for the support provided by Geraldine Coates Accountants.

As well as the Carnival procession, during the week there will also be a Carnival Bingo Night on Wednesday 19th October in the Mackarness Hall, High Street, Honiton (next to St.Paul's Church), doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm. This is followed by a 90s Dance Night on Friday 21st October also in the Mackarness Hall, 7.30pm – 11.30pm, entry £5. There will be a bar and fancy dress is encouraged!

Please come along to these events and the carnival, have a great time and help us raise money for local good causes.

For carnival procession entry forms and any further information please email honitoncarnival@gmail.com



The Wildlife Trusts' annual fundraising challenge, the Big Wild Walk, is being held 24th - 30th October. People all over the UK are being asked to walk for people and for planet.

The Big Wild Walk directly supports the Trusts' 30 by 30 mission, to protect and connect 30% of land and seas for nature's recovery by 2030.

You can choose whatever challenge suits you, but here are some ideas:

Walk 30km during the Big Wild Walk week
Walk 30km in 3 days
Walk 30km in 1 day

You can take part by yourself, or as part of a team - all working together towards a fundraising target!

A Hedgehog Walk with Timmy Time has been created for those walking with children. Try walking 3km across the week - the same distance that a hedgehog can cover in just one night! A great way to get little legs moving.

Sign up today and create your fundraising page to get started on your Big Wild Walk challenge. For details visit www.wildlifetrusts.org.

Free resources like autumn wildlife spotting sheets and pre-walk checklist will be available ahead of the Walk, to help you get ready, alongside fundraising tips and tricks.

Honiton CARNIVAL

CARNIVAL WEEK PROGRAMME

Carnival Bingo-Wednesday 19th October,

At the Mackarness Hall, Honiton. Doors open 7pm, eyes down 8pm, Meat boxes, sweets and biscuit prizes.

90s Dance Night-Friday 21st October

At the Mackarness Hall, Honiton. 7.30pm-11.30pm. Bar, music, fancy dress. Entry £5 per person.

CARNIVAL PROCESSION

Saturday 22nd October, Starts at 7.30pm.

**And don't forget the Christmas Carnival
on Saturday 3rd December at 5.30pm**



Love Is All Around

Hello! My name is Bertie and as a young Working Cocker Spaniel I am one very lucky pooch. I live in a beautiful valley near Honiton, and Hembury Fort is my castle.

Gorblimeykins what amazing days we have been enjoying at Bertie HQ. I have to say that I nearly exploded with excitement when the young humans arrived along with my best friend the super cool Maisie and by the looks of all the stuff coming out of their car it was going to be a lovely long visit.

Everyone was treated to a five star "Bertie greeting" including waggy tail, the sniff test, cuddles and then offering each visitor a gift: one of my toys (not ducky of course), a tea towel, a handy stick, a super smelly walking sock, a windfall apple and the like.

Once all the kissy cuddly bit was over the time came for Maisie and me to play in the garden whilst the humans sat around drinking tea and catching up; very boring if you ask me but nobody ever does of course.

I have told you tons about Maisie before; I love her to bits but she is one cool pooch with all her "city ways". When we first meet she just takes a bit of thawing out before she relaxes enough to let her inner pup loose and join me to play with the true unbridled joy that only us dogs are lucky enough to experience.

Now for the full effect of this next paragraph you need to have playing in your head the music from your favourite Rom Com film. Even better still, get it up on YouTube and listen whilst you are reading; I have gone for "Love is All Around" by Wet Wet Wet from "Four Weddings & a Funeral".

So off we head into the garden; to start with we find our own corners to sniff around in. I gradually make my way closer to the love of my life, she totally ignores me. I find an apple and drop it at her paws, she patters off in the other direction. I do my best twirls - 6 one way and then 6 the other, she turns her tail to me, a good sign maybe that at least she has not run away. I join her in sniffing the same bush and she does not warn me off, it's getting better. I take a risk and sniff all her important bits and then joy of joys she sniffs mine too!! I run up to the top of the garden and Maisie runs after me, she really is getting into the mindfulness play now and we are away bounding from one hedge to the other, rolling in fox poo, sticking our noses deep into the soft earth of mole hills, peeing on trees galore, splashing each other in the river and then, to top it all, munching on my secret stash of rabbit droppings, what total and utter bliss (OK you can pan out on this scene of true doggie love and stop the music now).

The weirdest thing is that after all this I literally look and smell like a dog's breakfast; dripping wet, with mole hill mud all over my face, grass seeds in my ears and river weed in my feathers but my love goddess Maisie is instantly dry, sleek and clean and good to go up town for a spot of window shopping - how does she do that???

Ah well it's the hose down and full brushing out for me then, I don't mind really as I love being up close and cuddly with my humans too.



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December 7th - 14th - 21st

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For more information please telephone Brian Holland
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No musical experience is required and there will be tea, coffee and
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If you or someone you know would like to come along, or for more information,
please contact Paul Barrows at Honiton Hospital League of Friends

Tel: 07716 118168

Email: honitonhospitalfriends@gmail.com

"Music with friends" is supported by Honiton Hospital League of Friends in association with The Towersey Foundation and has
been made possible by a generous legacy from the late Jean Price who was a professional harpist from Honiton

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Time Is Running Out!



Hi there, my name is May and I'm a 14-year-old climate campaigner from Gittisham. I'm planning on writing regular articles for The Honiton & Village News about the environment, in various literary styles and on various topics within the issue. I think it's important that this issue gets publicised to people that live in the local area, of all ages, backgrounds and views.

When I was younger, neither I nor my family used to care that much about climate change and the planet. We knew that our planet was in some sort of trouble but never took it that seriously, which is fair enough given that the media seemed to take more interest in Kim Kardashian's hair style than what the International Climate Science Committee (the IPCC) described in their recent report as 'A code red for humanity'. At the age of ten or eleven however, I began to realise the state of our planet when activists such as Greta Thunberg began to publicise the issue.

There is a definite stereotype about climate activists which I think the media tend to promote. Ignoring the actual issue of climate change, the focus appears to be on "immature, 'woke', left-wing young people who don't understand the complexity of the adult world". However, as Greta Thunberg said to the US Congress in 2019, "Don't listen to me, listen to the science." This is because now all major scientific boards acknowledge climate change and that humanity must do more if they want a liveable future.

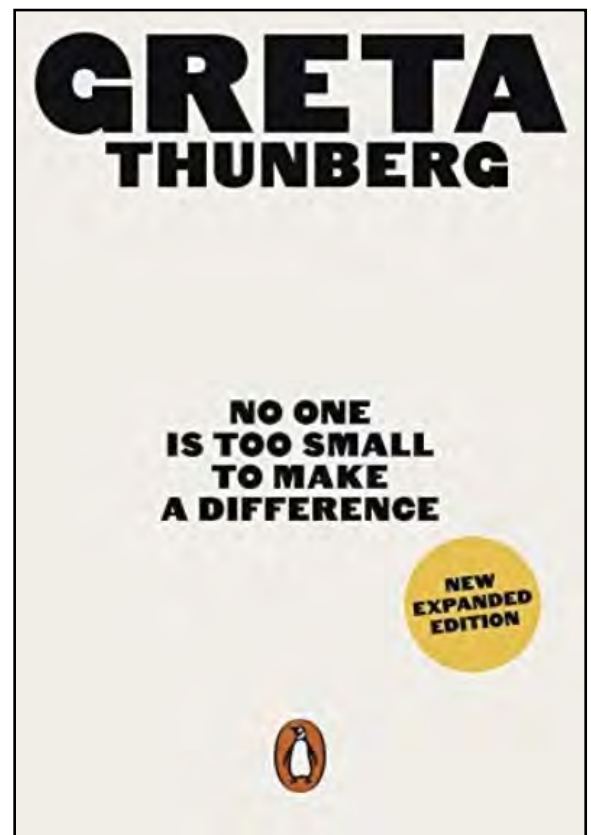
Climate change isn't a matter of opinion or politics - it's a matter of preserving life for future generations and if people choose to not believe in it, they are the simple definition of conspiracy theorists.

I do not mean to come across as melodramatic, but it is hard to stay calm when the recent climate reports have said that if we don't make radical change in approximately the next eight years, the devastating effects of climate change may be irreversible. However, there is still hope: Britain, and in fact the majority of Europe, showed how well they can cope and act with large-scale circumstances as in the past few years, with our whole country uniting together to tackle COVID-19. This displayed a huge amount of national unity and community that many people thought impossible in a time of political divide and a commercialised society.

Also, in Devon alone, there is a definite strong sense of community which if we channel in the right way can have a huge impact on the environmental crisis.

For example, Gittisham recently started the 'Community Kitchen', when, on each Thursday, Gittisham residents can go to the Village Hall and enjoy a home-cooked free meal together because of the impact of the cost of living crisis on local individuals. The Pig at Combe and initiatives such as the Ottery Larder donate free food to support this cause. Yesterday, we had a Ukrainian-themed meal for our Community Kitchen, inspired by the dishes made by the Ukrainian refugees living in Gittisham at the moment.

It's things like this which prove that if our society works together, we can all make a difference.



Climate Change and Devon

Here in Devon temperatures are, on average, between 0.5-1 degrees C higher than they were in the 1970s.

Sea levels have risen by an average of 3mm each year in recent decades.

Extreme weather events are already causing damage and disruption.

Many species of our wildlife are having to move from the places they once lived; breeding success is being undermined; patterns of migration are altering; the annual timings of flowers, butterflies and bees are all altering.

Source : Devon Wildlife Trust

TRIP Celebrates 25 Years



Combe Garden Centre provided the venue for a celebration to mark 25 years of TRIP, Honiton's Community Transport Association.

Town Mayor Serena Sexton welcomed everyone and acknowledged the organisation's enormous achievements. "The brainchild of Mrs Valerie Royle, who recognised the need for an affordable transport system for the elderly, isolated and vulnerable, the organisation has gone on to provide additional services that were not originally envisaged including Ring & Ride, Befriending and Volunteers 4 All." She went on to praise the work and commitment of the dedicated team of volunteers, staff and trustees both past and present who have helped make the organisation so successful.

Karen Rose, Transport Lead for Devon County Council, added her praise for the work of the organisation. "TRIP has moved with the times. It has embraced new opportunities and sought out links to other services and with partners to trial new ideas (one of the first Wheels to Work moped schemes, working with DCC on Fare Cars co-ordination and Single Point of Contact booking systems) and, in more recent times, developing befriending opportunities and being the first community transport scheme in Devon to acquire an electric vehicle".

Looking back over its 25 years, TRIP founder Val Royle reflected on how different the organisation is now from the early days. "The services we offer have expanded significantly and I am pleased to say have survived the challenges of the pandemic. Thanks to the staff, and the marvellous band of volunteers, who offered their time and help in so many ways, we were able to support a great many of people during lockdown. To them we owe a large amount of gratitude for their hard work during this difficult time.

"During the 25 years since I founded the charity I have been struck by the amount of reliance and value our service users have placed on us. It's good to know our endeavours to be of help to the people of Honiton and the surrounding area are much appreciated."

If you are interested in volunteering to support TRIP, give them a ring on 01404 46529 or why not call into their New Street Office



Parental Minds Helps Over 200 Families in East Devon and Beyond



It is not often that anything can be called pioneering; most ideas have been tried before in one form or another. But this story is about an idea that began and flourished in Honiton and is now attracting the attention of the NHS nationally and the Government Ministers.

In 2018 a young mother came to the Beehive to speak to Honiton Health Matters about mental health in school-aged children and the struggle to get help from health professionals. The problem was not the quality of professionals, but with the services themselves which were disconnected; you needed to be Sherlock Holmes to untangle the mystery.

Sarah Lou Glover was not the kind of person to take no for an answer and

with a professional background in disaster recovery she began her crusade for better help for families of school-age children and young adults. "Parental Minds gives support to families who are struggling with their mental health. We believe that the parental voice is vital when families are living with mental health issues; this underpins all our work."

The problem for Sarah quite quickly became one of coping with the numbers of local families needing help and it soon became obvious that an organisation was needed. So she set about talking and networking far and wide and set up a not-for-profit local enterprise with an enthusiastic team of directors and professional volunteers. The growth of both demand and reputation of Parental Minds has been truly breathtaking but, as Sarah would be the first to say, "That only illustrates the distressing depth and breadth of the problems we need to tackle."



Parental Minds has some very unique features because it firstly gives vital one-to-one support then brings together families in local hubs who can share their experiences, but also it closely links professional input with the voices of the families. People get help and then help each other.

The full-time staff numbers continue to grow and the professional volunteers continue to be attracted to provide vital support, but also the NHS, specialist health care professionals and universities are very keen to partner with the organisation to know how this model delivers the results for families it so clearly does.

The key elements for the families are that they encounter Parental Minds personally and privately and slowly they discover their own strength to live with mental health issues, and eventually end up being part of a network where their experience benefits others.

The journey for most families is familiar, starting with one-to-one chats, then private Facebook groups, to meeting in physical support hubs, and then, for some, even mentoring others. The end result is a true community which helps and supports each other through their mental health issues

Get in Touch

If you need support, or you'd like to support the work we do,

Email hello@parentalminds.org.uk

Phone 07907 614 516

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FAMILY LIVED EXPERIENCE WITH PROFESSIONAL INPUT

Camping

by Kate Baxter

Summer seemed to be drawing to a close already, and yet we still somehow hadn't got around to our much promised camping trip in the garden. But Emily never forgets a promise! It was going to be Nancy's first time sleeping in a tent, so she was thrilled. After some intensive pestering, we relented!

So on a sunny Saturday afternoon, we set up the tent on the back lawn, which unfortunately has quite a steep slope to it! The cows in the field backing onto our garden looked on in confusion. Emily 'helped' to put the pegs in and Nancy organised blankets, pillows and quilts inside. Even the dog tried to get into the tent!

The tent is only big enough for two adults or one adult and two children, so I was looking forward to a nice quiet evening in the house on my own. Lucky me! I was even hoping they'd be so tired from their evening I'd get a lie in.



After getting everything ready, it was time for what the children had both been waiting for - toasted marshmallows! My husband George and I used to live in Nairobi, Kenya. When we left we shipped back a large chimenea, which we'd been looking for a chance to use. This was perfect!

Emily and Nancy helped to collect sticks and leaves from the garden, which George then assembled into a pile inside the chimenea. They watched enthralled as it was lit, and within a minute large flames were licking the top of the chimney.

Time for marshmallows! These were non-negotiable for the kids, despite the high risk of giving them sweets just before bed! They really enjoyed (carefully!) holding their sticks into the flame and then eating them - delicious! Despite insisting that they would only get a strict one marshmallow, they somehow ended up with the sticky trail of three marshmallows each down their tummies!

Next...stories! With our blankets and torches, it was so cosy and snug inside the tent, although it was still light. Emily and Nancy loved cuddling down for a story...or four!

And now...to bed. Slightly naively, I thought they'd be so tired from the fun, bedtime would be a breeze!

I'd like to apologise to anyone in the village who was disturbed by the shouting, screaming, arguing and general disturbance of the peace that ensued! The excitement of camping was just too much for little Nancy, who is used to being contained within a cot.

An hour of 'calm down' and 'time for bed' came and went, and now it was really dark and definitely time for sleep. It was pitch black, the local owl was hooting and the stars were sparkling. But still Nancy danced in the tent, shouted at the cows, played shadows and monsters and, worst of all, kept trying to escape!

Eventually, three hours past their usual bedtime, Nancy was carried kicking and screaming from the tent and put into her own cot, where she fell asleep within a minute.

Emily stayed in the tent and enjoyed her special night with daddy, emerging a little later than usual having slept soundly. Maybe next summer we will try Nancy again!

Honiton - Coffee Capital Of East Devon!



History does not record whether Nelson, who visited Honiton in 1801, or young Charles Dickens, who came in 1835, drank coffee but even in their day coffee houses were popular places to do business. Today Honiton has over twenty coffee outlets, more than all the famous antique shops, with an unprecedented choice of bean and budget for everyone, from the finest hand made espresso to a top grade filter or a no frills instant.

As well known coaching inns and public houses have disappeared, such as The Golden Lion (where Nelson and Dickens stayed) and The Angel, coffee shops have come to replace them and occupy the length and breadth of Honiton's famous mile long High Street and at nearby New Street,; unlike some towns, most are individually owned, not chains..

The Facts About Your Winter Fuel Bills

This is a simple guide to what might happen this winter.

Because the Government Cost of Living money starts on 1st October and goes on for six months, I am going to imagine what a 200-day winter fuel period looks like. That's really the only time we use a lot of gas; once Easter arrives, it has hopefully warmed up enough to turn off the heating.

If your home has both Electric & Gas you will pay 75p a day in standing charges, even if you use no power.

Estimated Costs this wintertime

Your average Electric cost will be £2.20-3.20 a day (if you heat with gas).

Your average Gas cost will be £5.70-£6.80 a day for heating & hot water.

From 1st October & for six months there will be a Government Cost of Living Payment of £400 for all households.

Each household's energy company will deduct approximately £2.20/day from your bill.

Pensioners will receive £300 in addition to their usual winter fuel payment of £200 so when you add all that up a pensioner household will get £900 of your bill. (which is roughly £4.50/day).

"Tell me simply what it means if I'm a pensioner."

In wintertime 2021 you were probably paying around £3.20-4.00/day, but in 2022 that will go up to around £8.50-9.00/day, BUT the Government payments bring it back down to around £4.50/day

You will see the allowance in your bank statement. It will be from the DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) and it means you can if you wish afford to increase your payments.

We want to remind you not to accept any 'cold calls' by phone or at your door. Be wary of anyone offering free energy installations such as solar panels or heat pumps. Never give your bank account details to anyone. However, it is safe to accept advice from Citizens Advice, or Exeter Community Energy Company.

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The magazine is produced monthly and is FREE of charge, it is available in local and village shops. Contact us for page sizes and current rates and we will be pleased to be of assistance.

Abbeyfield - Honiton Society

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Things To Do At Stanhope

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If you would like more information or to come and visit please contact us at:

Abbeyfield Honiton Society Ltd Stanhope,
36 High Street, Honiton, EX14 1PJ

Telephone: 01404 43322

Email : Abbeyfield-honiton@abbeyfield.com
or manager@stanhope-honiton.co.uk

Book Review

by Rosemary Gilbert

“The Song of the Skylark” by Liz Shakespeare.

Barnstaple and Bideford. Braunton and Buckland Brewer. These are north Devon place names to savour, bringing back pleasant memories of beautiful countryside and holidays. In the 1840s, however, for many working people living in these places, life was anything but pleasant and holidays. Even a day off was unknown.

Liz Shakespeare lives in Littleham in north Devon and has painstakingly researched the lives of many people living in her area. A book will sometimes take her several years to write because of the research, and she says this is the reason why she has decided to self-publish as other publishers will usually require a new book much quicker. Liz told us this when we met her at the Honiton Show one year where she had a stall selling her books.

“The Song of the Skylark” is the story of Thomas and Mary Mitchell whose family live in Buckland Brewer. It is based on real people and documentary evidence and imagines the story from this. When the book begins, the family have eight children, the youngest a new-born girl. Their mother, Charity Mitchell, earns a little as a charwoman six days a week. Their father, Thomas Mitchell, is a day labourer which means he has no job security and often no work. When he is paid, one day's wage is for their two- roomed cottage. Their three older children are already unpaid apprentices and they mostly see them about once a year. With the new baby, they are forced by circumstances to send Thomas, aged eleven, and Mary, aged nine, to be apprenticed to a local farmer. The apprenticeship is a legal contract until the child is twenty-one. The apprentice lives with the family.

When the Mitchell family have no money coming in they apply for Poor Relief but this is not given if the older children are not sent away to work. Charity once defied this rule and the Poor Relief was stopped. *‘The family tried to survive on turnips that her husband stole from the fields at night and songbirds netted in the hedges until she could stand the children's cries of hunger no longer and, taking Edward by the hand, she walked with him through the village and gave him away. She would never forget that day.’*

Thomas and Mary are soon put to work clearing stones from the fields, bird-scaring and planting crops in all weathers and all year round. The book gives graphic descriptions of the terrible conditions in which these children lived and worked, with no right to appeal for help from anyone.

As the story unfolds, we meet other people: Grace Ley whose husband is in regular work as a thatcher; Bartholomew Fulford, a local tenant farmer and Methodist preacher who does all he can to help the Mitchell family; Mr Phillips, the cruel farmer who apprentices Thomas and Mary, and the inspirational preacher Mary Thorne.

Liz Shakespeare paints a vivid picture of these people, their lives and the places where they live. It is a sobering story and left me very grateful for all the advantages I have had and still have in my life.

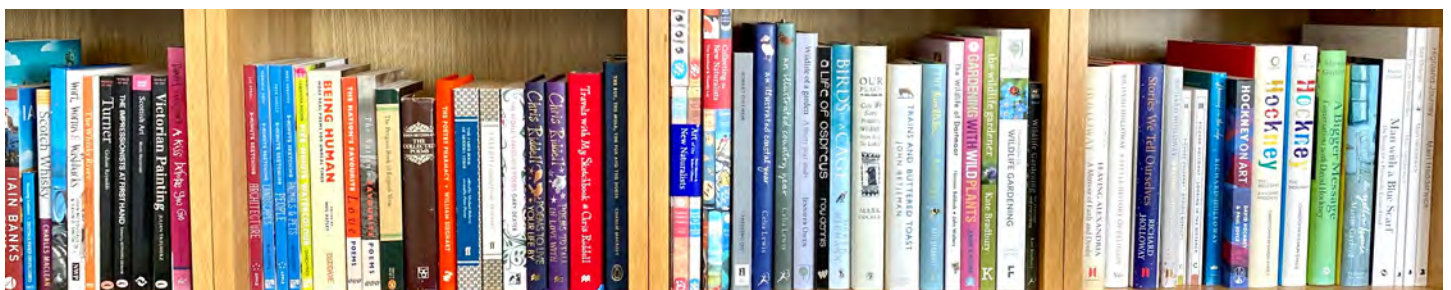
Liz has written a number of other books about the people of north Devon .I highly recommend them.

See www.lizshakespeare.co.uk Letterbox Books, Littleham, Bideford, Devon .EX39 5HW



This book review has been submitted by one of our readers and we hope you enjoy it.

If you are interested in submitting a review please send it to honitonvillagenews@gmail.com and our resident book reviewers will consider it for publication



Joan Celebrates Her 100th Birthday In Broadhembury

A much loved member of the Broadhembury community celebrated her 100th Birthday last month. Joan Jepson has lived in the village for over 50 years and was the secretary at Broadhembury Primary School before she retired.



Born in the reign of King George V, she remembers the abdication of King Edward VIII and the funeral of King George VI. She was in London for the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, and was proud to be present in The Mall to see the procession.



After leaving school she trained as a shorthand typist and served in Italy during the war and later worked in the Foreign Office and Guys Hospital before moving to Devon.

Joan describe Broadhembury as a pleasant, friendly and peaceful place and many of her fellow villagers felt privileged to be able to join her to help celebrate her birthday



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The History Of The Honiton Area

The earliest known human inhabitants in Honiton were here in the Palaeolithic period (old Stone Age), about 25,000 years ago. They made their tools from flint on the banks of the River Gissage close to where Dowell Street now runs.

These people were food gatherers and hunters and led hard and no doubt rather grubby lives.

On top of the hill to the south of the town, stretching from the present golf course to Putt's Corner in one direction and nearly to Southleigh in the other, there lies a great Bronze Age cemetery. Over 60 burial mounds have been identified and a number are readily observable today.

In the Iron Age which followed, the Honiton area was relatively thickly populated. The people of that time lived in defended villages on the tops of hills. Hembury Fort was re-occupied and there were other settlements on Dumpdon and at Blackbury Castle. Primitive smelting sites of, as yet, undetermined age have been found in the area.

The Romans pushed forward through this area and founded a westerly outpost at the splendid defensive site at Exeter. They extended their south western highway westwards from Dorchester to the Fosse Way at a point to the south of the present site at Axminster and then on through the hills to Exeter. The Roman road engineers had the problem of choosing the best route through these hills.

The road emerged from the hills into the Otter Valley near where Honiton now stands and then went straight for Exeter. The site of Honiton therefore lay at a strategic point where the great highway eastward from Exeter entered the hills. The Antonine Itinerary was produced around 200 AD. This states that 15 miles from Exeter on the road to Dorchester there is a place called Muridunum.

Where distances in the Itinerary have been checked they have been found to be accurate and so the site of Muridunum would appear to be a little to the west of modern Honiton. So far, however, no evidence of it has been found here - or anywhere else. Nothing further is known of Honiton until late Saxon times when the first written reference appears in the Domesday survey. Here, for the first time, is a recorded name, Honetone - that is the farm of a Saxon called Huna, who no doubt carved it out after the Saxon settlement of the area in the seventh century.

The firm government provided by the Normans led to safer, and hence more, travelling. Greater prosperity led to a demand by the landed classes for money to buy luxuries. Many a lord of the manor, therefore, decided to cash in, literally, on the increased trade moving along the roads by

founding new towns astride them. This was done at Honiton around 1200 by William de Redvers who moved the settlement from its site on the hill where St Michael's Church now stands to a new site along the old Roman road. This is the present High Street, and New Street is the new street made to connect old with new.

In 1244 there was a fulling mill in Honiton; this shows that Honiton was a very early centre in the Devonshire cloth trade and considerable sales of wool are recorded in the accounts of the manor of Honiton in 1286. The earliest reference to a fair in the town is in 1221. The fair is still opened by the town crier with a ceremony which has been in use for a long time though its origin is unknown. The ceremony is accompanied by the custom of throwing hot pennies to the assembled children.

Although Honiton was a great centre of the woollen trade, a new trade to which the town gave its name was started some time in the 16th century.

This was the making of the special type of lace known as Honiton lace. In its early days, the lace was known as bone lace and the earliest record is on a tombstone in St Michael's churchyard. The making of Honiton lace became a flourishing trade in the 17th century and is referred to by many travellers of the period.

Honiton's history has been greatly affected by its geographical position. This has meant that not only has it become the market town for the area but also a great stopping place for travellers. We do not know what provision was made for travellers before the great fires of the 18th century, but we can still see a number of coaching inns dating from the rebuilding.

The extensive fires in the 17th and 18th centuries and therefore most buildings in the High Street and New Street date from the late 1800s and early 1900s. A few survivals from earlier times can be seen, in particular in New Street.

The medieval "new town" was laid out as burgage plots - that is long narrow strips with a frontage of about 1 poole (5.5 metres) on the street. The rebuilding after the fires retained these frontages, sometimes amalgamated into two or three, and a walk along the street reveals this unit of measurement even today, nearly 800 years later.

From the early 19th century onwards, railways began to revolutionise transport. Brunel surveyed a route through Honiton. Several other railway companies surveyed a similar alignment including the scheme actually built as the western extension of the South Western Railway which today has stations at Feniton and Honiton.

With thanks to the Honiton Town Guide



Around & About In Our Community

Honiton Garden Club Visits Rosemoor

Twenty members of Honiton Garden Club spent a sunny day in September on a day trip to Rosemoor, the RHS garden in North Devon.

The newly laid out Cool Garden was a delight and a very calm and quiet place to be with its blue, white and grey palette together with the gentle sound of the rill.

Honiton Garden Club arranges three visits a year as part of its annual programme - for more details contact Julia on 01404 548709



At the time of writing, we are all in shock at the death of our Queen Elizabeth II, may she rest in peace. At our September meeting a minute's silence was observed before any business was conducted.

Two of us Lions attended the Honiton Hill Rally with our membership stand and we raised two hundred pounds selling tickets for next month's draw. Thanks to the Honiton Hill Rally committee for allowing us to attend!

We were pleased to discuss a letter from the Makaton Sing and Sign group who meet at the CUB building once a month; this is run by two local ladies on a voluntary basis. We were pleased to help them with a donation towards their Christmas party. Father Christmas will be in attendance also courtesy of the Lions Club.

We also sent a donation to Children's Hospice Southwest at Little Bridge House Barnstable, a place we all hope we never need!

We are still running our 100-club draw and at the moment we have a few spaces available if you would like to take part. It would cost you £48 per year to be a member. You would have four chances of a prize each month. If you would like more information about the one hundred club, please contact our coordinator Lion John on 01404 47577 who would be pleased to help.

We are still collecting used spectacles for third world countries, there are boxes at our local surgery and various other places if you wish to donate. We collect from these places, box them up and then send them to Chichester Lions Club who deal with the sorting and distribution.

If you would like any information on what we the Lions do, please give me Brian the Lion a call on 01404 43738 and I will try to help.

Honiton Carers

At our meeting at the Methodist Church in September we had a very interesting session with several visitors.

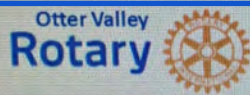
Our first speaker was Gary from **Open Arms**, a charity which started 5 years ago to support people with mental difficulties over the age of 18 and set up as a result of MIND closing down in Honiton and Exeter. Open Arms is now in the Community Use Building (CUB) and operates 2 days a week. It provides a meeting place for people to socialise, cook and eat together as well as craft opportunities. Gary brought along a display of the group's recent and past activities put together at the Thelma Hulbert Gallery. Open Arms makes no charge for their services other than a small contribution for tea and coffee.

Neil Hurlock and Wendy Williams from **TRIP Community Transport** were next introduced to the group. Wendy had only been in post for a week and a half as the Befrienders Co-ordinator for TRIP and said she was still getting to grips with the role. Neil then gave an update on the Time For You Project; this was a short-term carer sitting service which unfortunately ground to a halt because of COVID. Subsequently it needs a viable funding stream before it can restart.

TRIP is trying to extend into other support areas provided that the finance for any project is in place. At the moment, TRIP is looking at working with the NHS on a patient discharge service, but the funding provision is already 4 months behind schedule.

TRIP is trying to get all its services under one roof with one number to cover all activities. Neil said that they are endeavouring to "Turn an existence back into a life" and combat loneliness and isolation. He asked for ideas people may have for future projects that TRIP could support.

Around & About In Our Community



Rotary is made up of men and women from all walks of life. We have members from Ottery St Mary, Honiton, West Hill, Exmouth and Cranbrook. We welcome individual and corporate members to our club.

The group meets weekly on a Tuesday evening at The Tumbling Weir in Ottery St Mary at 7.30pm, The meeting starts with a 2 course meal. We have a speaker, fellowship or a business meeting which starts around 8.30pm, you do not have to dine if you prefer not to.

Rotary raises money and donates it to local and International charities/organisations/schools/groups and individuals. To continue doing this we need to grow our membership - if you care about the community, come along to one of our meetings and see what we do, you will be very welcome. Contact the Secretary Caroline ct1959@hotmail.co.uk.

Following our recent fund raising events at the Devon County Show and Honiton Show we are able make donations to the following groups:

Platinum Jubilee Trees - to be planted at Ottery Bowling Club

Honiton Scouts - towards their building works

Honiton Repair Cafe to help with rent for premises

Shelters for displaced persons in Ukraine - as part of District appeal

Shelterbox for boxes to Bangladesh following the flooding

We will also be providing Christmas gifts for Cranbrook Christmas event and Millwater SEN School

Recent talks - Kensa Engineering are the UK's leading Ground Source experts, designing specifically for UK properties. Founded in 1999, they are based in Chase Water Mount Welling in a Cornish mine site. Kensa manufactures and installs reliable and efficient heating and cooling alternatives to polluting fossil fuels. Every ground source system is crafted by experts to deliver low-carbon, affordable sustainable comfort all year round.

Santa Fun Run - Despite it only being September we are already planning our Santa fun run in Ottery St Mary for the beginning of December 2022. This will be a FREE to enter event this year. We hope to see lots of families again this year. More details to follow.

Last Call For Our Devon and Cornwall Community Raffle - Our Community Raffle tickets for 2022 are now being organised, so it's time to get in touch to get yours! Open to any charity, voluntary or community group in Devon, Cornwall or the Isles of Scilly. Contact details can be found on the raffle website <https://dcrcr.org.uk/> or contact Mike Huxtable from Honiton mthuxtable@aol.com. This draw will take place in November.

If you, your organisation, school or charity needs funds, please contact our Secretary Caroline ct1959@hotmail.co.uk, we consider all applications.



Offwell Flower & Plant Show

It was a beautiful day and, although a somewhat sombre mood prevailed following the news of the passing of our wonderful Queen Elizabeth, the residents of Offwell supported the show with some magnificent displays of flowers, vegetables and craft items along with preserves, cakes and alcoholic entries. Although we had fewer entries this year, we did in fact have more entrants. The vagaries of the English weather played a huge part in the reduction of the number of vegetable entries and strangely there were very few entries from children this year.

Our (soon to be) new vicar, Reverend Jeremy Putnam, kindly presented the special cups to our winners and his wife, Ruth, drew the winning raffle tickets. A big thank you for the many generous donations of raffle prizes. There were lots of newcomers to the village and many who came to view in the afternoon vowed to join in next year. Thank you for your support. Offwell looks forward to many more participants in 2023.



Around & About In Our Community

Honiton Shedders



Honiton Shedders proudly display their award of 'Best Dressed Charity Stall' from Honiton Charter Day.

New members are welcome to join them from 9am to 1pm Mondays and Tuesdays.



New Premises for CAB

Citizens Advice East Devon are excited that they have recently signed for new premises bringing them back into the heart of Honiton. It's been two years since Citizens Advice were physically present in town - but have still been advising local people on their rights and responsibilities via telephone and digital means.

We are aiming to open at the beginning of October daily from 10 until 2.30 with a mixture of appointments and drop-ins from our offices at 118 High Street.

We are a local charity offering accredited, quality advice on housing, immigration, benefits, relationships, employment and much more. We also have experts dealing with debt and have energy grants. We have given vouchers to local people who are on prepayment meters thanks to the Household Support Fund. We work closely with local partners to give food and energy advice.

We love helping people – so if an issue is keeping you awake at night, or you are being treated in a way that is making you frustrated - come and see our trained advisers who will do everything they can to help, support and empower you to find a solution. All advice is free, confidential, impartial and open to everyone.

Honiton Scouts Aiming To Raise £20,000 For New Roof For Scout Building

1st Honiton Scout Group was established in 1930 and has flourished ever since. In 2022 it has nearly 100 youngsters which is constituted by 2 Beaver Colonies, 2 Cub Packs and the Scout Troop. The age range is from 6 - 14 years old.

Today's modern Scouting actively engages & supports young people, promoting physical, intellectual, social, emotional & spiritual

development, so that they take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens.

Of course, like everyone else, we all face life challenges, but we work together to help each other. As we work to raise money for the new roof to the Scout building in Dowell Street, we are using this challenge to work more in the community.

Our roof fund began one day outside Abbeyfield; we were just starting our St George's Day parade when a resident came out & donated £2.50. Since then we have had a coffee morning, stall at Charter Day, sale of paintings from a local artist, Lions Easter Egg raffle. Still a long way to go to get over £20,000, but a Scout always stays the course.

It doesn't feel like 4 years ago since Helen Turner was honoured, but Helen (ably assisted by Ray) have put their heart & soul into the 1st Honiton Scout Group for what seems like most of their adult life. They have seen so many young people flourish when discovering just how much they can achieve when working with others and make lifelong friends "We aim to have self-respect and respect for others, to act with integrity & honesty, to co-operate & tolerate other views and other beliefs; it is such a great way to



Warm Hubs In Honiton & Villages

There are many community groups, voluntary groups and local people who are thinking about offering a warm 'home-from-home' space where people can meet, have a cup of tea, maybe play a few games and keep warm.

Honiton Town Council are inviting people to join with them to co-ordinate support across the town and encourage those with bright ideas to connect with warm hubs.

This could possibly include

- bringing in specialist advice on energy bills and energy saving, money management
- help with accessing financial support and benefits
- help with computer learning or cooking classes

The co-ordinating team is also keen on partnering with as many High Street cafés as possible to support them in these difficult financial times.

- ▶ The CUB building has already advertised its Thursday afternoon Warm Up where the kettle will be on from 1-5pm.
- ▶ The Beehive will be doing something similar on Tuesdays from 1-5pm.
- ▶ Honiton Family Church and Foodsave are looking at options which might include hot food and cooking lessons (watch this space).



There is plenty of other discussion around the town, but we also need your ideas. If you are a voluntary group, a High Street business, a community space, or a citizen email honitoncub@gmail.com entitled Warm Welcome Network.

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Foodsave Planning To Help 400 Families Every Week

Free Community Food

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Honiton & village families can either come and select items to carry away on Monday, Thursday, Friday (8pm-9:30pm) or Sunday (4pm-5:30pm) from Honiton Family Church. You can order online, see website for details. Deliveries are available to those unable to travel to collect.



Join the Foodsave Family :This winter we are gearing up to serve 400 local families a week, but that does mean we need a lot more volunteers to collect from supermarkets, help with nightly sessions and deliver to vulnerable people. As we continue to expand, we will be collecting from new stores across East Devon, Exeter and South Somerset in order to keep our growing services' supply and demand balanced

Our plans for this winter do mean we need a bit more help We need your support, your time or a little bit of your money to maintain the standard of our service. We are all expecting a difficult winter and so asking for donations is our least favourite pastime, but in order to continue the direct support to hundreds of people, we need extra support

You can donate via our website (www.honitonfoodsave.org.uk) or email us

honitonfoodsave@gmail.com

or if you see our lovely volunteers in the street you can donate in person

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In Memoriam

Tony Simpson 9/7/41 - 14/10/17



In loving memory of Tony, an inspirational leader who campaigned all his life for Peace and Justice.

He would want us all to work for a kinder and fairer world.

Margaret Mundie

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Margaret Mundie on Sunday 11 September.

Margaret will be well-remembered with fondness by a number of people in Honiton. She served as both a Town Councillor and Churchwarden of St Paul's and was a staunch supporter of the Beehive, fighting hard for it to be built, acting as a benefactor and enjoying it at every opportunity over the past few years.



She was a tireless campaigner for things that she felt would benefit the town and the surrounding area and she will be much missed.

We are always happy to include obituaries of local people in Honiton & Village News. There is no set charge but we do ask for a donation towards our costs.

Please contact us on
honitonvillagenews@gmail.com

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