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MARCH 2023
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**Taylor
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For many of us who have been virtually hibernating; huddled inside our homes during winter trying to keep warm, we can now look forward to being outside more. It's March so we can start thinking about Spring and even getting out in the garden or just shopping in the town and seeing the flowers outside St Pauls.

We were sorry to see that some shops and cafes in town have not survived the winter but are pleased that new shops seem to be popping up in other places. Down the bottom end of town, Honiton Osteo-physio studio have set up shop, the Citizen's Advice office is now well established, and just across from them Bluebird Care have a lovely new office in the former Hospicare shop, the Locksmith has a great range of door & car keys, Bits & Bobs have a surprising large range of low-priced everyday goods, Chilcott's are thriving in their high street premises, Genesis is a greengrocer selling only locally-grown veg. We should also remember that the charity shops are all doing a vital job which should be applauded and supported.

At the other end of town, a new photo studio has opened next to Photobox, Gemma is moving Coastline across the road to the bigger premises where the finance company used to be, 4youfromme is usually so busy you can't get a seat, the expanded Ganesha is thriving, there is a new art shop on one side of the Wine Bar and a lingerie shop on the other. All in all, that is quite a lot of new business.

Honiton & Village News will continue to support all the businesses in our town and support any new initiatives to bring cheer to our town centre, whether that is more community seating, new green spaces, new festivals or new types of hospitality.



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

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Where Can I Get My Copy Of H&VN?

Awliscombe-TBC

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 - Feniton Hair Stylists

Gittisham- Bus Stop - Combe Farm Shop - Combe Garden Centre

Honiton New Street - House of Hair - The Dental Surgery - Honiton Library - TRIP

Honiton Heathpark Industrial Estate- Army Surplus Depot

Honiton Lace Walk- Co-op - Joe Gilson Mobility Stall

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 - The White Hart

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

& Seaton & Sidmouth Tourist Information Centres

The History of Mother's Day

Mother's Day this year is on Sunday 19th March. This is a special day whose dates vary around the world. Sunday 14th May in the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Germany Sunday 14th May, 4th June, and France and Sunday 7th May in Spain.

But why and how did this special day start? In the 16th century, people would return on the 4th Sunday in Lent for a service in their 'mother church.' This would be the church where they had been baptised or the local parish church, or more commonly the nearest cathedral, known generally as going "a mothering" - it is unclear whether this term preceded the observance of Mothering Sunday.

The day became known as "Mothering Sunday" as this was the day when domestic servants were unusually given the whole day off to visit their own mother church, normally accompanied by their mothers and the rest of the family (often the one and only day that whole families could get together). It became a tradition on that day for children to gather wild flowers to give as presents for their mothers and this evolved into the secular Mothers Day and giving gifts to our mothers.

By the 1920's the tradition seems to have lapsed across most of Europe and may have disappeared for good had it not been for one woman.

Anna Jarvis in the United States decided to hold a memorial to honour her own mother and all the other mothers at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in

Grafton, West Virginia. This marked the first official observance of Mother's Day and led to the International Mother's Day Shrine at this church being designated a Historic Landmark. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson made a proclamation establishing the second Sunday of May as the official date in the US for the observance of a national day to celebrate mothers.

This event inspired Constance Penswick-Smith in the UK to create the Mothering Sunday Movement, and her book in 1921 asked for the revival of this festival. Its wide scale growth was through the influence of American and Canadian soldiers serving abroad during World War 2 and the original traditions were merged with the newly imported traditions and celebrated in the wider religious and secular society.

UK-based merchants and retailers quickly spotted the commercial opportunity of the holiday and relentlessly promoted it in the UK and by the 1950's it was celebrated across all of Great Britain. People from Ireland and the UK celebrate Mother's Day on the same day that Mothering Sunday was celebrated, the fourth Sunday in Lent.

The two celebrations have now become mixed up, and many people think that they are the same thing. Other countries in the world celebrate Mother's Day in May rather than 'Mothering Sunday' but, however and whenever you celebrate this special day, let us wish all the Mums, Mamas, Mutters, Les Meres, Madres a very happy Mother's Day.

by Rosie Dale



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The View
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Fifty Years Of Twinning

by Roger Sleeman



Visitors to Honiton, by car or bus, know they have arrived when they pass a sign like this one taken on the A35 approaching from the Axminster direction. The sign reminds us that we are twinned with two other towns: Mezidon, in France, and the German town of Gronau.

These road signs are not the only reminders of our twin towns. Walk along New Street past the railway station, climb up Church Hill and near the top you will find Avenue Mezidon-Canon on your right. Turning right at the top of the hill and walking along Weatherill Road towards Tesco you will pass, on your right, Gronau Close.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of our twinning partnership with Mezidon, and to celebrate this landmark the Mayor of Mezidon will be visiting our town in July. We hope that his visit will coincide with Charter Day.

Twinning began as a civic link between Honiton Town Council and its counterpart in Mezidon and this was soon followed by the formation of the Honiton Twinning Association. The purpose of the Association was to establish links and visits between the people of Honiton and Mezidon.

During the past fifty years members of the Honiton Twinning Association have visited our friends in Mezidon on numerous occasions and have received many return visits. Some of the earliest visits in the 1970s took the form of exchanges between pupils at Honiton's primary and secondary schools and the schools in Mezidon. There are people living in our town today who remember taking part in these early exchanges.

Mezidon is a small town in Normandy, about an hour's drive from the channel port of Caen. The region around the town is known for its cheese, cider and Calvados. There are many towns and cities in the south-west of England which are twinned with similar towns in this part of France.



The concept of twinning arose during the years following the end of the Second World War. The hope was that building links and exchanges between towns and cities across Europe would bring reconciliation and contribute towards a lasting peace.

Honiton's twinning link with the German town of Gronau started in 1987. Gronau is a lovely small town in northern Germany, about an hour's drive to the south of Hanover. The town is close to the Harz mountains and not far from the town of Hamelin, famous for the legend of the Pied Piper. Members of the Honiton Twinning Association last visited Gronau in 2018 and received a return visit the following year. The Covid pandemic came a few months later, putting activities such as twinning on hold until recently. Our Association is now back to normal running and we are delighted to announce that we have been invited back to Gronau for the annual 'Weinfest' which takes place at the end of August.



The main function of the Honiton Twinning Association is, of course, to maintain strong links with our friends in our twin towns. However, that's not the full story because we also have a full programme of social activities. In recent months we have enjoyed a wine tasting and meals together at local eating places. We hold four meetings every year and all members are welcome to attend. Instead of charging a fee for membership we hold fundraising events which help towards the cost of funding visits from our twin towns.

If you would like to get in touch to find out more then we would love to hear from you. (Please use the contact details given below.) Please do not be put off by a lack of knowledge of languages!

You may like to join us for one of our social events, or even join us for our visit to Gronau in August and sample the Weinfest. Come along and find out the significance of the names on the signs you've passed so often driving around the town! We would also love to hear from anyone who took part in any of the early exchange visits between schools in Honiton and Mezidon.

For more information, please contact Roger Sleeman (Secretary of Honiton Twinning Association).

Email: rogersleeman@rocketmail.com

Tel: 07737275479

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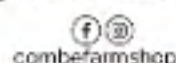
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Why Combe House Is Called The Pig

by Local Historian, Gertie from Gittisham

Long, long ago, the village of Gittisham was a little sprawl of hovel-like dwellings mainly housing only poor, uneducated folk. These 'folk' were rather like oak trees, mushrooms, hazel nuts, crushed flowers and catkins, concerned solely with country matters and their voices can still be heard fluttering around mysteriously in the spring breezes. As Sylvia Townsend Warner noted about such people, 'Nevertheless [they] belong irrevocably to the sources of life: to earth, seeds bulbs . . .' and it is to these ancient Giddesham forebears that I owe this scholarly piece.

When out and about, I am often accompanied by these elfin sprites and I can see them now clad in their 17th century linen pinafores, three little mud stained, lichen-smeared urchins : Mav, Will and Dora. Dora seems to be always hanging on fearlessly to a little piglet, and in the rustle of leaves I hear her crooning a soothing lullaby composed by her father, "She is down and dirty/In a paradise of mud/swilling the swill/snorting the snort/the snub of her nose/a snout for snuffling/I cradle the little porker/in my arms,/and rock her to and fro/There, there sweet child of mine/There, there . . ." Meanwhile, Will and Mav clamber up trees hearing upon the wind the not-so-ancient battle cries from over Fenny Bridges way.



Though the year is now 1644, in the lads' fervent imaginings the day, month and year is 29th July, 1549 and the Prayer Book Massacre is raging with lusty revolutionists in their thousands, amongst them courageous Giddesham rebels, armed with long bows and broadswords resisting the brutal onslaught of the English Cavalry led by Lord Russell. All the children are well-schooled in this most ferocious of battles that left hundreds dead on both sides, for it is still the talk of winter evenings; the old sages shaking their heads at the bloodied slaughter, which still sends ripples of fear along the wooded pathways. And did not Squire Nick Putt commission a Church Bell in 1630 from his old mate, Tom Pennington way over in Exeter, to commemorate those brave 'Giddsum' lads that lost their lives defending the bridge at Fenny Bridges? (Incidentally, such a beautiful little thatched church, so proud of its new bell and its lovely stain-glass medieval windows is much beloved by Will, Mav and Dora who marvel at the awe-inspiring, grandeur of such a dwelling. How they love to play around the little church where Mav has learned to ring the bell and Dora sits and lovingly contemplates the colours and the picture of the little pigs in the stained glass window.) Meantime, Will whittles his wood into crafted weapons of mass destruction: bows and arrows, pea shooters, catapults, spears and stout sticks for clubbing invaders should they dare to descend into this idyll of rustic naivety. For young Will has heard the grown-ups talking and knows



some scary things about the name Oliver Cromwell and soldiers named Roundheads who attack Royalists . . . and is not their beloved Squire Nick loyal to King Charles I and therefore a target for attack?

And so the scene is set and a roll of summer thunder darkens the late July sky. Residing at Combe Manor, Squire Nick is combing out his ringlets and smoothing his silk doublet unaware of any imminent danger. Yet up in the woods, peering through the branches of the tallest oak tree, two young lads know differently. 'Twas not thunder threatening, but dozens of braying and looting Parliamentarians marching resolutely forward from Honiton. "Hells-bells and buckets of blood!" shout out those two brave lads, for it is those darned Roundheads descending on Cavalier Nick and his loyal 'Giddsum' tenants, who are all sympathetic to the Royalist cause. Dear Dora, wise beyond her tender years, has a fearful premonition, foreshadowing her bent for witchery, which will distinguish her in later times, and cries out for the safety of the stained glass pig nestled snugly in the ancient walls of that old church. Simultaneously, Mav recognises the urgent need for that Pennington bell to ring out loud and clear, warning the faithful peasantry of their impending peril.

Brave Will rushes to assemble all his weapons, remembering wisely the glass bottle containing the children's very own noxious potion of deadly poison. With the bell ding-donging and echoing down the valley, Will and Dora prise the window from its mooring and struggling with the weight of all the leaden fragments, lug it to safety in a spinney, later to be known as Willy's Wood. Mav lets down the bell with a hastening pace and races after his calvary of two where they cut across from Pig Sty Corner to the wild woods behind Combe Manor. Such a scene of chaos and destruction awaits their startled gaze: WOW, POW, CRASH, SMASH, PUNCH, BRUNT, CRAZE, BLAZE. And while the house was aflame "those valorous archers gallantly led by Squire Nick Putt would not yield, indeed they fought most stoutly, nor would they give way as long as life and limb lasted; so that many were killed forthwith: Tom Blampyne; Billy Batts; Gideon Sanders; John Maze; Bob Michell and Fred Hodge to name but a few. 'Squire Nick' was captured to be tried and imprisoned in London, but Mav and Will, knowing his aversion to such an ignoble ending, sent forth by catapult a small phial containing a deadly potion of their poison, which Squire Nick immediately imbibed. His death occurred before sunrise on the morrow, the entourage having only travelled as far as Axminster. His body was returned for burial to Giddesham, where he rests to this day.

And as for those fragments of glass containing the image of those delightful pigs that so charmed Dora - well they were found in the 19th Century languishing in an unmarked box in a timber yard at Combe and were reinserted in the north-east window of the church. And that dear readers, is why to this very day we have THE PIG at Combe.

How To Prevent Back Pain When Gardening by Molly Brown, Registered Osteopath

Spring is the season when we tend to see the greatest influx of low back pain in the practice due to people venturing out into their gardens for the first time in several months. Shaking off the 'winter stiffness' can often lead to a flare up of an old injury or the unfortunate acquisition of a new one as a result of overdoing it. But is a great form of activity, that if performed in the right way can not only be a good source of physical activity and mental stimulation but a great pleasure too.

Gardening can involve a fair amount of postural compromise. I think this fact is often overlooked when considering what needs to be done at the start of the season. This is especially relevant at this time of year because most people have not been as active over the winter months. If I asked you to do a repetitive physical task involving bending and lifting with no warm up or preparation for several hours after months of inactivity I imagine you would think twice before embarking upon it?

So with that in mind what can you do to help prevent an injury developing with your first forays back out into the garden, whilst being able to enjoy all the benefits that gardening affords? Here are some useful tips:

- Try and warm up a bit first. This could be as simple as a walk around the garden. Do not go straight into a bent over position, especially if this involves lifting.
- Make sure you bend your knees when reaching to pick something up from the ground.
- Bend forward from your hips, not your low back and try to keep your back straight.
- Do not stay in the same position for too long, especially

if that involves bending from the waist. Use kneeling pads to help you on the ground.

- Vary the tasks that you are doing, start with less strenuous efforts and build up to more vigorous activity.



- Walk around between jobs. Walking is a good way of alleviating stiffness and strain that may accumulate from some of the postures associated with gardening.

- Do little and often. The main complaint we see is from people getting engrossed in one task without taking a break.

- Remember: you may not feel an injury immediately! Inflammation can take time to build up.

From experience I think it is fair to say that most people are aware of the potential strain that gardening can place on their low back and joints. I hope by considering the advice above that you will be able to enjoy the myriad benefits and pleasures that gardening can provide whilst being able to avoid the aches and pains often associated with it at this time of year.

Although we might feel it, most of us are unfortunately no longer 21, meaning that our back and joints just need a little bit of a helping hand.

Pop in to see us at Osteo and Physio in Honiton to give your back and joints an MOT and learn more about how you can look after your back this spring. You can call us on 0345 5577788 or book online at osteandphysio.co.uk.



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Cycling Along The Exe Estuary

by Kate Baxter

We had been hoping to do a long bike ride using our pull-behind 'toddler trailer' for a while, but it's been too cold for the kids - and me!

We finally got around to it last week, and although it was still cold, at least there was no frost!

We planned to cycle the Exe Estuary Trail from Exmouth to Topsham, where we wanted to have lunch. We also hoped to stop at the Marsh Green bird watching hut on the estuary.

We pulled into the car park in Exmouth raring to go - so much so that rather unfortunately my husband forgot we had a bike standing on top of our car in a rack, and we smashed loudly into the height limit bars at the entrance to the car park. The bike crashed loudly down to the floor. George did his best not to swear and poor Emily cried because it was such an enormous crash!

Not the best start. Many people came to help us collect the bits of broken roof rack but thankfully George's bike wasn't too damaged.

Quite some time later we set off. The bike path starts near the sports centre and winds its way along the coast, following the railway line. The first warm(ish) day of the year had enticed a lot of families and walkers out of hibernation and so it was very busy. The views are beautiful and it is a very easy flat cycle, offering lots of opportunity to admire the surroundings and stop for a break at a lookout point or bench for a picnic.

In about 15 minutes we had got to Lympstone, a very sweet village with a couple of pubs and a cafe (I can recommend their cakes!)

Some parts of the ride go on roads, but they are generally quiet lanes and because there are so many cyclists and walkers, cars tend to drive very slowly.

We crossed the railway bridge in Lympstone and carried on to the Commando Centre. Nancy and Emily were absolutely fascinated by the 'playground for grown ups' and were determined to return at a later date so they could have a go on it!

On towards Exton, past the Puffing Billy and up the hill past a stretch of impressive, 'Grand Design' houses with beautiful views.

Down along the final stretch towards the RSBP Bowling Green Marsh, the main reason for our trip.

Emily and Nancy have both become very interested in bird watching. Set up at our window in Gittisham we have their binoculars, a bird spotter checklist and a child friendly guide to British birds. A few times a week we fill up the feeders and we have an endless stream of visitors to them. The girls love watching the different birds come and go and are pretty good at identifying quite a number, so we thought they'd enjoy seeing a different selection of birds.

The RSPB centre has a traditional hut for watching the birds on the estuary but next door is an even more lovely building which is set up for families. The centre is run by knowledgeable volunteers and it offers a warm space to enjoy the views. There are sofas and beanbags set up in front of the enormous windows and tea, coffee and cakes are available. Bookshelves stock a huge range of bird books to look at and there are telescopes set up for visitors.

At one end is a children's area where there is colouring and lots of exciting items to examine, such as animal skulls, egg shells, nests and teeth. Emily and Nancy loved looking at the all the treasures and it really brought nature to life for them. The binoculars and telescope were also big hits.

After spending quite a while at the bird centre we didn't make it as far as Topsham as the girls were beginning to flake, so we headed for home.

On our return journey we stopped at The Puffing Billy. The sticky toffee pudding we were meant to be sharing went down very well, not that George and I got any! Nancy slept soundly in the trailer all the way back to Exmouth, cosy under blankets.

All in all it was a really enjoyable day out - a very relaxing cycle ride (especially for me on my electric bike!) and very family friendly.



of
of

Bertie Has A Spring In His Step

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.

Don't you just love the bright days of spring with the promise of good times ahead? For us pooches this means more time mooching in the garden to be enjoyed and the daily walks are getting longer which is always the best.

I am so lucky to live in a place where we have lots of variety for doggie walking. woods and forests are fab for a bit of leaf scattering with amazing smells to be sniffed out (third tree on the left at the entrance to Core Copse has particularly good odours at nose height), the hill forts are great for the views and meeting up with my regular chums like Darcy and Jed and, best of all this time of year, I love nothing better than a romp on one of our wonderful beaches with maybe a bit of hole digging for extra fun.

I was beside myself with excitement recently when the humans went off for a pooch-free weekend (why?) and I got to stay with Pebble, one of my BDFFL (best doggie friend for life). Actually "Norm, the Boarder Terrier" was there too so I now have a new partner in crime for our canine capers.

Pebble's humans are excellent fun and we always have such a great time with different walks and exciting new games to learn. This time we played "chase the ball" on the beach which also involved showing off my swimming skills. As am a water dog with webbed feet I am brilliant with the doggy paddle. It is always a sad day when I have to go home after time spent with Pebble but I did hear the humans booking in dates for another stay so I have that to look forward to.

Now if I tell you that my star sign is Pisces (that explains why I can swim like a fish) the astute among you will know that March is my birthday month. This year I am five, which my humans say is "old enough to know better". I am expecting a big party, maybe up on HF with lots of games and treats and oodles of presents of course. My human uncle Chris is always very generous with his doggie gifts so I am expecting something super special from him!



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A Circular Walk from Broadhembury - A Flying Visit

by Chris Harwood

Map OS Explorer 115 – Exmouth & Sidmouth. 1:25000.

6.3 miles

A wonderful walk that includes miles of absolutely magic tracks through open woods. A very short patch of slightly uphill minor road but then back to the trees and hedges. On a clear day maybe marvel at the engineless gliders skimming overhead – or even a coffee in the Flying school café! Strange though how possessive the landowners are – Private, No Entry, Private woods....

No Right to Roam here!

Starting in Broadhembury village centre, Grid Reference ST 100 048, park near the church. Uncomfortably close to the old Inn! Resist the temptation and move down the road between the old cottages to cross the River Tale on the rather fine old bridge. You could, of course, wade over the ford if you so wish but once on the other side move right along the little road, passing the play park on your left. Now, staying on the road, wee bit of uphill but nothing serious, follow the road for some half mile or so and then on a sharp left hand bend - stay straight ahead, moving on to the Public Bridleway, Long-Go Lane (where do these names come from?). The PB sign might well be lying on the ground.

You now have nearly a mile of beautiful track with open views. Just a bit muddy but the track is wide and stony so not a problem. Very slightly uphill but again nothing untoward. In nearly a mile at a very obvious turning of the bridleway bear right and follow the excellent track - ignoring the couple of likely tracks off to the left - to eventually meet a lane. Right here and on to Lane End Cross.

Move left (sorry, wee bit of uphill road) for about 500 yards and then look for a small, concreted layby on the right. Take the really lovely wooded track out of the layby and wander slowly uphill through the trees. In about 200 yards look carefully, at a break in the mossy bank on your left, (ST 116 048) for a narrow path leading into the woods. Follow this incredible path, bearing slightly left but keeping the open fields off to your right. On and on but eventually meet the road. Cross with care on to the Public Bridleway and continue to enjoy the wooded walk on and on to pass through stables and on to the road. Left for a very short way to find the entrance to the Devon and Somerset Gliding School. Follow and stay on this road into and through the school. Follow the road through the parked-up gliders (parked up??) keeping an eye open for stray flying aces and past the Clubhouse/Cafe on your right. Keep following the road and when it merges into open grassland - still part of the gliding grounds - carry on bearing slightly left, passing an old oak on your right. You will have also passed a number of mobile homes on your left. Keep the enclosed relatively new plantation with its old broken wooden fencing on your left. Pass three yellow Public Bridleway signs and at the third look for the small signpost directing you to the path off to the left and down into the woods leaving the airfield behind.

Soon, pass through a metal gate, move downhill through woods with great views off to your left. It all looks a wee bit like ancient woods and hummocks round here. It's high ground so maybe an old iron age fort area?? The path down is wonderful - little muddy but wide and firm. Ignore the footpath off left and eventually pass through the farmyard and buildings to meet the metalled road. Leave the farm on this metalled road and in some 400 yards emerge opposite Upcott Farm and Hembury Court.

Left here, and when the road swerves right look for the Public Footpath off left, via some old stone steps and over a stile. Look for the church in the distance and aim for it, keeping the fence on your left. At the corner follow the clear sign on the marker post and head off right over the open field straight toward Broadhembury Church. Look for the kissing gate in the hedge, slightly to the right. Through the gate and bear left following the hedge on your left. Finally. Through the gate and out on to the road. Potter slowly left and back to your starting point in the village.

Now, you can give in to the pull of the Inn!



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.

Darren England - Celebrating 20 Years As A PCSO



"I have just celebrated my 20 years of service with Devon & Cornwall Police as a PCSO in Honiton and East Devon. On 6 January 2003 10 PCSOs started as part of a pilot scheme being run in East Devon; the first to be employed in Devon and Cornwall.

I moved to East Devon in the early '80s and went to Offwell Primary School before moving to Honiton, where I went to the Community College. I have lived and worked in Honiton since I was in my mid-teens, working as a baker before starting my job as a PCSO. My brother-in-law worked as a Sergeant at D&CP at that time and, after reading an article and getting some advice from him, I applied for the role.

I have met many people during my time with the police force, and still enjoy being able to help our community."

There aren't many things that a PCSO with 20 years service hasn't witnessed or learnt and Darren's knowledge tends to be vital on an almost daily basis; whether that be working out the best solution to a neighbour dispute, or

diverting a fully laden horse box down a country lane to avoid a road closure!

During his time at Honiton, Darren has been the visible face of policing, and can often be found on the High Street conducting one of his foot patrols. He's also best known for his efforts working with our rural and farming communities around Honiton, where he's worked hard to build up relationships with those in some of our more isolated villages, offering them prevention advice and providing a reassuring presence.

We would all like to thank Darren for his work over the past 20 years for us all and wish him well as he continues to be our face of the police in the Honiton area.



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Bulbs In The Green

by Andrea Rye, Combe Garden Centre

What are “bulbs in the green”? This phrase refers to plants that have bulbs, rhizomes, corms and tubers, that are in active growth and have leaves and possibly flowers. There are various reasons for buying bulbs in the green but the main one is that you can be certain that the bulb is viable. There are quite a few spring flowering bulbs that are much more likely to establish if they are bought in active growth as opposed to dormant. If bulbs are stored wrong they can fail to grow and sometimes this is hard to see when they are dormant and sold in packs and bags. Some species of spring bulbs are very expensive so to avoid the disappointment of them not coming up, it is often safest to buy “in the green”. The following plants can be found for sale now, “in the green”.

Snowdrops (*Galanthus nivalis*) - Snowdrops are considered the herald of spring and are an unlikely relative of the Amaryllis. Unlike most bulbs sold in active growth, snowdrops are traditionally sold in bare root bundles, rather than potted. They are lifted by the growers and sorted and tied in bundles of ten bulbs. (My colleague Alan enjoys doing this as it is an opportunity to fire elastic bands at passing staff members from the shed where he sorts through thousands of snowdrop bulbs each year; regrettably his aim is always improving.) While snowdrops do grow from dormant bulbs, the success rate is famously better when you plant them in the green. Beginning to flower from February, snowdrops can be grown in pots and beds and borders, but they prefer and do best in humus rich, free draining, undisturbed soil in part shade in banks, verges and lawns. They are perfect for growing under deciduous trees that are bare when the plants are in flower, and will leaf up and provide shade for the rest of the year. A classic winter interest combination is growing snowdrops around the base of Witch Hazel, especially the bright red variety “Diane”, as they will flower at the same time.

English Bluebells (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) - There are few sights more quintessentially British than the graceful, delicious violet-blue flowers of the English Bluebell. One of my most magical childhood memories is rambling through Hembury Fort with my mother through a carpet of bluebells in flower. The bluebell is a gorgeous plant from the asparagus family and the scent of the flowers is wonderful. This plant should not be confused with the thug-like Spanish Bluebell, which should be destroyed with fire! Unlike its graceful, scented cousin, the Spanish Bluebell is thicker in the leaves, has stubby, upright and non-scented flowers, often crowds out the English species - and, worst of all, pollutes the gene pool of our native bluebells. I feel quite strongly about bluebells, as you may notice. Always check the labels of dormant bluebell packs or potted plants in the green so that you do not buy the wrong species and have a nasty surprise in spring. Bluebells are a worthy addition to any garden and will happily grow in any well drained, preferably humus rich soil in part shade. In these conditions the bulbs will be vigorous and multiply happily. Another bonus of this plant is that they are not attractive to deer, mice or rabbits. Plant in any wildish area where you don't mind them spreading.

Siberian Squill (*Scilla siberica*) - The flowers of this incredibly hardy plant are the most incredibly vibrant cerulean blue, as is the pollen. Grown en masse they are a real show stopper. Siberian squill are another member of the asparagus family and, despite the species name, originate from Turkey, the Caucasus and southwestern Russia. They self-seed readily and are perfect for lawns and verges as the bulbs go dormant by the time the grass needs to be cut. This little bulb is so vigorous under the right conditions that it is considered an invasive pest in some parts of America. Grow them where they will be in full sun in winter and spring, and be in shade in summer. An ideal planting combination is growing *Scilla* under white or pale pink flowering cherry trees, as they will bloom at the same time and give a wonderful spring display.

Glory of the snow (*Chionodoxa forbesii* Pink Giant) - There are not that many pink spring bulbs so this little plant that flowers for several weeks is a real gem. The flowers are light pink with paler centres and emerge in March. *Chionodoxa* “Pink Giant” looks truly stunning planted in swathes and even better when paired with magnolias, cherry or pear trees with pink or white blossom. The plant reaches 15cm in height and can be planted in lawns but you should not mow off the leaves when doing the grass; allow the leaves to die back naturally when the plant goes dormant in summer and it should thrive and self-seed. Grow them in sun or part shade in free draining soil and they should multiply happily. *Chionodoxa* will also thrive in beds, borders, pots and rock gardens.

Dog Tooth Violet (*Erythronium tuolumnense*) - I first saw erythroniums at Bicton College and instantly loved their nodding yellow flowers with their recurved petals and mottled leaves. This is a showy bulb from the lily family and is native to California where the plant is now rare and threatened in the wild by human activity and especially logging. The leaves are a rich green and have a fantastic blotchy pattern. The flowers are produced in mid to late spring. After flowering the plant goes dormant so it can be planted in borders with other shade lovers such as dicentra and polemoniums that will take on the space it vacates. For best results grow this bulb in part shade in light, humus rich soil. Erythroniums need slightly moist soil, even when dormant, so it makes a great addition to a shady border. Although deer and rabbits are not fond of erythroniums, unfortunately slugs and snails like them quite a bit. The plant can be divided after flowering has finished.



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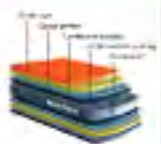
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A View From The Hills

by Miranda Gudenian



"You got 18? I only got 12. What about you, Miranda?"

"22. Yes, really."

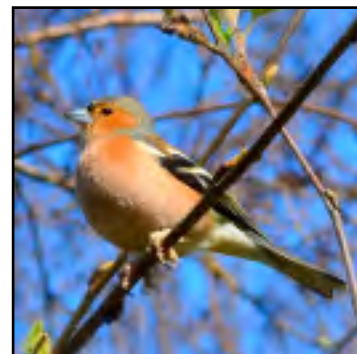
"22? Wow, that's amazing!"

I am not dredging up memories of schoolgirl jubilation at exam results (for the record my exam results were usually at the bottom of the scale, to put it charitably). No, the conversation I recount took place a few weeks ago between three friends no longer in the fount of youth, discussing results from the Big Garden Birdwatch in January.

If I think about it - which I rarely do as I did not relish schooldays - I probably spent rather too much time gazing out of the classroom window. The intricacies of biology, physics, maths and much else went into one ear and immediately out of the other ear, never to mystify my little grey cells again. Do I know the square root of X or the capital city of Ecuador? I confess I do not, but I have never forgotten the afternoon when, sitting at a desk by the window

warmed by spring sunshine while a teacher chalked what might as well have been hieroglyphs on the blackboard, I watched a kestrel hovering above the playing field. It flicked down and then up into the shimmering air again to hover a while longer and suddenly streaked like an arrow into the long grass beside the window to catch a short-tailed vole. If the window had been open, I could have reached out to touch the bird. It turned that interminable hour into a treasured memory.

Some fifty years later, on January 27th I spent a legitimate hour gazing out of a window. If you have never taken part in the Big Garden Birdwatch the rules are simple: just spend an hour watching the birds somewhere and note down the largest number of each species you see at any one time during that hour. My blackbird count was fourteen. I am not telling a porky. Conditions that morning were perfect for bird watching - calm, bright, with frost crisping the ground: as regular readers of this magazine will be aware, a relief to my friend and fellow columnist Gertie from Gittisham and also to me, respite from the endless rain, sloshing mud and dripping clothes of past weeks. I sprinkled the daily ration of porridge oats under the magnolia tree near the house and gave my ritual whistle, signal to birds that the restaurant is open. By the time I returned indoors and settled in a chair by the window, blackbirds were streaming in from the fields and woods that surround the house. A quick count, then a confirmatory count: fourteen were feeding together, jostling a song thrush that had the temerity to grab a few beakfuls.



I cannot claim that this is a Michelin-starred avian restaurant with the equivalent of Anton Mosimann dishing up a cuisine naturelle of hand-shelled peanuts and sunflower seeds topped with shavings of beef suet. Mine is a modest five-feeder establishment with me as the lone waiter. The menu's standard suet balls and peanuts are favourites with many diners, chiselled into by nuthatches, great spotted woodpeckers and members of the tit family. A gang of house sparrows regularly launch themselves onto the suet balls from a nearby rose bush while robins, dunnocks and chaffinches Hoover up fallen crumbs on the ground beneath.

Marsh tits, joined this winter by a newcomer with an albino tail, and the gaggle of nine long-tailed tits have a preference for chopped sunflower hearts. Arguments regularly break out between the crowds of siskins and goldfinches over who should sit at which feeding port to feast on sunflower and nyjer seeds. Often the greenfinch - seldom more than one - finds itself elbowed out of the way.

My bird count included visitors not interested in restaurant fare. A tree creeper, rather like a mouse in a white bib, spiralled up the oak tree prising insects from the bark. Perky wrens nipped into the garden room, hunting for spiders. A pair of bullfinches alighted in the laurel hedge, the male smart as paint, wearing what the poet Francis Duggan calls the colours of kings. Two goldcrests flitted through the branches of the Norwegian spruce where the woodpigeons were already fussing to and fro, early nest-builders.



Three weeks after the Big Garden Birdwatch, a pair of those long-tailed tits are prospecting in the thicket of whitethorn as I prune shrub roses nearby. It is nearly evening. A woodpecker drums on a hollow tree to attract a mate. Blue tits flirt in the holly. The land is stirring, the air seems to quiver with anticipation. Soft winds bring the life-affirming notes of a song thrush piping from the woods and I straighten my back to listen. The thrush sings on as sunset turns the sky apricot and turquoise, sings on as the first stars appear, sings on, heralding the spring.

Hats Off To The Queen's Milliner

by Liz Chilcott



At Chilcotts we always enjoy handling pieces with a historical or unusual interest. A fascinating collection of items with a heady royal connection is to be sold in our 11th March sale.

The items belonged to Kate Day and have come down through her family. Miss Day made hats for Queen Elizabeth even before her coronation and continued afterwards as the 'Queen's Milliner'. She was the only milliner to receive a Royal Warrant in the new Queen's first year.

Her designs were pivotal to the Queen's early, elegant style and she wore them for many events and royal visits. Kate was one of just three milliners who made hats especially for the Queen's visit to Australia in 1954, which had been postponed due to the death of her father.

As a thank you for her stunning designs, Kate was gifted a beautiful circular gold brooch, the centre monogrammed EIIIR, surmounted with an enamelled crown and decorated with a pearl set ribboned bow. Today it is still within the original

red leather presentation case from the Crown Jewellers of the time, Collingwood.

Kate worked out of a discreet studio in Mount Street, Mayfair; while she did not have a shop front, she did have the Royal Warrant sign and another, stating *By Appointment to HM Queen Elizabeth II, Milliners* in gold lettering, which were displayed inside the premises. Both signs are in good condition.

Another treasured item is a first edition autobiography of the Queen's Dressmaker Norman Hartnell. The book, *Silver and Gold*, has a stylishly written dedication in black ink to '*...my "oldest" girlfriend – the seductress mentioned on Page 16 - with gratitude and love from Norman Hartnell 1955*'. This is a reference to their being friends during their teenage years; Kate worked for Hartnell prior to setting up her own business.

Together, these items offer a charming insight into a very glamorous era. It is the first time they have been auctioned and they will be sold together as one lot, with an estimate of £600 to £800 plus buyer's premium.

The auction will be on view at the Dolphin Saleroom in Honiton High Street from March 8th to 10th and the sale starts at 10am on March 11th.



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**George Tinworth for Doulton Lambeth,
'The Menagerie Clock', sold for £9,200**

Book Review - Act Of Oblivion By Robert Harris

by John Burgess

On 29th January 1649, 59 men signed a document. Against each signature was a personal seal, stamped in red wax. The third signature read, "O Cromwell". The document was the death warrant of King Charles I, who was beheaded in Whitehall the following day. When the axe fell a loud groan rose from the crowd. Standing among them was 15-year-old Samuel Pepys; later he told his school friends that if he had to preach a sermon on the King his text would be "The memory of the wicked shall rot".



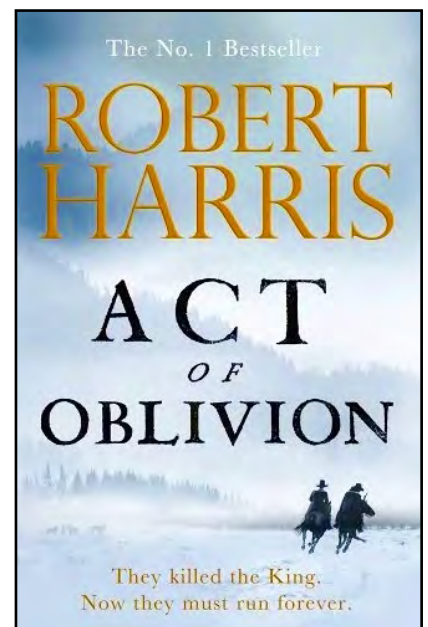
The triumph of Cromwell and the Puritan faction lasted just 11 years. Following Cromwell's death in 1658, The Commonwealth was finished. Two years later Charles II landed at Dover, and the monarchy was restored. Now was the time for revenge. Parliament passed the Act of Indemnity and Oblivion and the pursuit of the regicides who had signed the death warrant, who were not already dead or in The Tower, was set in motion.

In **Act of Oblivion**, Robert Harris recreates the story of this pursuit and, in particular, the hunt for Edward Whalley and his son-in-law William Goffe, who had escaped across the Atlantic to the Puritan settlements in New England. In his introduction Harris states, "The events, dates and locations are accurate and almost every character is real". However, he does invent the character of Richard Nayler, the chief man-hunter, and neatly links his personal story to the regicides. Nayler is arrested on Christmas Day by two colonels from Cromwell's army. His crime? - celebrating the Feast of the Nativity and using the Book of Common Prayer when such celebrations are forbidden. On the evening of his arrest his pregnant wife Sarah goes into premature labour and dies giving birth to a stillborn son. Nayler's mind is now implacably set on hunting down the two colonels who arrested him, none other than Edward Walley and William Goffe - now safe, so they think, in America.

We first meet Nayler when he is ordered by the Privy Council to accompany Isabelle Hacker to her home, Stathern Hall in Leicestershire, to fetch the warrant with its list of 59 names that authorised the execution of the King. Her husband, Colonel Hacker, was one of the three officers ordered to carry out the execution and is named on the warrant. He is under arrest awaiting trial, and his wife hopes that the defence of "just obeying orders" will save him. Nayler reads the warrant, one of the most famous documents in English history - "Whereas Charles Stuart King of England is and stands convicted and condemned of High Treasonto be put to death by the severing of his head from his body".

Meanwhile over in New England, Walley & Goffe begin their quest for survival. They are among fellow believers but not all are willing to hide and feed them. The ultimate authority in the colonies lies with Parliament and the new King.

Puritan governors could turn a blind eye to the regicides in their midst but not for long; sooner or later news would reach England and the hunt would begin. So Walley and Goffe are forced from one hiding place to another, with the threat of betrayal and capture ever-present.





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Thelma Hulbert Gallery

Climate Conversations & Honiton Seed Swap 4 March 2023 4-6pm

Enjoy the last day of our current exhibition 'A Language of Seeds' for a seed swap and informal talks.

To celebrate Seed Week 2023, we will mark the new growing season by swapping seeds, sharing this natural currency with our community. We will also reflect on key Climate Conversations themes including Nature, Food, Energy and Reduce/Recycle/Reuse.

Guest speakers: exhibiting artist Léonie Hampton, Dr Jane Catford (Reader in Ecology at King's College London), Catherine Causley (Climate Officer East Devon District Council) and award-winning garden designer Lulu Urquhart.

£5 (£2 pay what you can). We don't want price to be a barrier to engaging with art and climate conversations. Simply pick the price of £2 if cost is a barrier. If you're able to pay £5, you'll be helping us to keep running these events.

Art talk: Stanisława de Karłowska

18 March 2023 4pm (exhibition opening 3-5pm)

Join us at the opening of our new exhibition *Paradise Found: New Visions of the Blackdown Hills* for a talk with Patrick Baty on Stanisława De Karłowska.

Patrick is the great-grandson of Karłowska. Stanisława de Karłowska, known to her family and friends as 'Stasia' was not a member of the Camden Town Group, a male-only exhibiting body, but was quickly elected in early 1914 to its successor, the London Group, which did not exclude women. Yet her work, which compares with that of her husband Robert Bevan, relates closely to what is thought of as Camden Town painting, using a modern post-impressionist style with bright colours to depict the local urban environment, the growing industrial landscape, and the countryside.

Creative Session for Under 5's 31 March 2023 10.30-12.00

THG invites under 5's and their parents/carers to a fun, creative session. We will be inside in the Learning Room. The sessions are play-based and sensory - just bring your imaginations and curiosity. Sessions are free and run on the last Friday of every month.





MARCH 2023 EVENTS

A MAN CALLED OTTO (15)
Fri 3 March 7.30pm Adult £7.50, U16 £6.50
The story of Otto Anderson (Tom Hanks), a grumpy widower who is very set in his ways. A funny, heartwarming story.

PETER KNIGHT'S GIGSPANNER BIG BAND
Sat 4 March 7.30pm £26
Breakaway Span fiddler Peter Knight with John Spiers, Roger Flack, Bacha Trochet, Philip Henry & Ianach Martin. A forced to folk.

PLANE (15)
Fri 10 March 7.30pm Adult £7.50, U16 £6.50
A pilot (Gerard Butler) must protect his crew and passengers when his plane is forced to crash land in hostile territory.

EMPIRE OF LIGHT (15)
Sat 11 March 7.30pm Adult £7.50, U16 £6.50
Set in a seaside town in the 1980s, this is a powerful & poignant story about human connection and the magical cinema.

THE ELTON JOHN SHOW
Fri 17 March 7.30pm £25
The UK's newest and most exciting Elton tribute show to hit the stage. Celebrating young Elton stars emerging from the shadows.

THE BANSHEES OF INISHERIN (15)
Sat 18 March 7.30pm Adult £7.50, U16 £6.50
Brendan Gleeson and Colin Farrell star in this tragicomic about the heartbreak of a severed friendship.



MAR & APR 2023 EVENTS

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE LIVE: TURANDOT (12A)
Thu 23 March 7.15pm Adults £17, Students £11
Puccini's final opera is a glorious pageant of rich colour, dance and drama in Andrii Serban's classic staging.

TILL (12A)
Sat 25 March 7.30pm Adult £7.50, U16 £6.50
The true story of Marie Mobley, Till's light-skinned mother, who years later, Emmett, after he is lynched by a racist mob.

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: LIFE OF PI (12A)
Thu 30 March 7pm Adult £16, Child/Student £13
Puppetry, magic & storytelling combine in a unique Oliver Award-winning stage adaptation of the best-selling novel.

WOMEN TALKING (15)
Fri 31 March 7.30pm Adult £7.50, U16 £6.50
Oscar-nominated drama adapted from Minnie Fowler's novel. A community comes to terms with an unspeakable crime.

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Sat 22 Apr

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MOSCOW DRUG CLUB
FLUTE THEATRE: PERICLES
THE FABELMANS (12A)
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER (12A)
WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT (12A)
ROYAL BALLET CINEMA: CINDERELLA (12A)
NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: GODD (15)
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Calling All Churchyards

Devon CPRE's Annual Best Churchyard Competition Opens for Entry!



The Devon branch of the countryside charity is once again on the lookout for award-worthy churchyards across the county. Since Devon CPRE launched its Best Churchyard Competition six years ago, the charity has come across inspiring stories of communities pulling together to make the most of the green spaces around their churches and chapels.

Last year's winner, All Saints in Kenton, near Exeter, and the runner-up, St Michael the Archangel in Chagford, were both fantastic examples of how local people can transform their churchyard when they draw on their individual strengths in pursuit of a common goal. Now the judges, Devon CPRE Director Penny Mills and Trustee Ivan Buxton, are on the lookout for this year's churchyard heroes.

Is the green space around your local church a welcoming sanctuary for people and wildlife? What has your community done to make your churchyard a place for people of all ages, regardless of their faith or mobility? Have you taken steps to increase biodiversity in your churchyard? What innovations have you used to encourage people to use and enjoy the churchyard? Or help people to find graves in pursuit of historical or family research? Whatever your community has done to help your churchyard thrive, Devon CPRE wants to hear from you.

Penny Mills says, "The Covid lockdowns highlighted the importance of churchyards to local communities, particularly in places where other recreational areas and facilities have been lost. We believe our annual awards go some way towards recognising the hard work that churchyard volunteers put in, and we hope our competition encourages other communities to make more of these precious green spaces."

"Throughout the spring and summer, my fellow judge and I travel the length and breadth of Devon visiting the different entries. We look forward to seeing what 2023 will bring!"

The competition is open to churches of all sizes and denominations in rural or urban settings.



Full details of how to enter are on the Devon CPRE website. There's also a Top Tips video on YouTube for those considering entering the competition this year.

The deadline for entries is 31st March 2023. The winning churchyard receives a cheque for £200 and a sustainable oak plaque to display with pride. The results will be announced in September.

To enter, visit: www.cpredevon.org.uk/competitions/devons-best-churchyard-competition/

Honiton, Ottery & District Local National Trust Association

Now that our winter season of talks is coming to an end, we start our season of visits. These days out prove to be very enjoyable and it's lovely to re-start them after two years. They will happen once a month, are led by different members of our committee with the organisation done by Richard Coley. You must be a member of our organisation, which costs £5 per person.

Pick up points are : Bus Stop at Tesco, Honiton; Land of Canaan Car Park, Ottery St Mary; Opposite General Store, West Hill

The trips are as follows :

Thursday 20 April - Max Gate & Lulworth Castle (Richard Coley 813163)

Wednesday 2 June - Tiverton Castle (Chris Fuller - 01202 46996)

Thursday 13 July - Stock Gaylard House (Lindsay Saunders 01404 812962)

Monday 7 August - Kelly Lifton (Barbara Buckley 01404 812814)

Wednesday 6 September - Newark Park (Peter Hendy 01404 43939)

Any enquiries - Richard Coley (01404 813163)

Spring Wreath Workshop

BY THE SEYMOUTH ARMS
IN AID OF OTTERTON PRE-SCHOOL

Saturday 18th or Friday 24th March
10.00am - 12.00pm
£40



Tina Jocelyn Bennett at the Seymour Arms
aims to make a spring wreath.
Hot drink included.

Workshop vouchers also available. Excellent Mothering Sunday gift.
Contact Jocelyn on 07840 321263 to book your place.

Open Gardens 2023

We're looking for gardeners across Exeter, Mid and East Devon to open their garden gates and share their beautiful green spaces in 2023 to support Hospiscare.

From quaint cottage gardens to sprawling country estates, by opening up your garden in return for a donation to Hospiscare, you will be helping to raise vital funds that ensure we can deliver our end-of-life care to patients and their families. Whilst supporting us, Open Gardens are also a great way to meet new people and exchange tips and advice to fellow gardeners.

With Hospiscare's Open Gardens raising over £40,000 in 2022, could you help us go even further for our patients and their families in 2023 – If you would like to know more or would like an informal chat about opening your garden please call Toni.

If you are interested in the work of Hospiscare or would like to join in our fundraising activities or have an idea of your own, please contact Area Fundraiser Toni Hiscocks

01392 688067/07921 845615

emailt.hiscocks@hospiscare.co.uk



Honiton Repair Cafe

Saturday 18th March

Community Use Building, School Lane

0930-1230 (last book-in is at 1210)

Bring along items such as small electrical goods, sewing, computers, toys etc - our experts will repair them if they can.

It is helpful to bring spare parts, materials, instruction booklets.

Coffee/tea and cake available.

Volunteer repairers needed

Contact honitoncag21@gmail.com

or

01404 45073

Charity Breakfast at Mackarness Hall



The Honiton group that supports FORCE Cancer Charity is holding a foodie fundraising event in March by taking part in the charity's Great Devon Breakfast campaign.

They will be serving bacon or sausage baps with tea and coffee at the Mackarness Hall in Honiton on Saturday March 11 between 9:30am and 12 noon.

There will also be a raffle with prizes donated by generous local businesses and a tabletop sale.

Doreen Cook from the Honiton Friends of FORCE group said, "It's a wonderful charity that helps so many local cancer patients and their families. The people of Honiton are so warm and generous and always offer brilliant support to events we hold for FORCE. We hope lots of them will come along and enjoy breakfast with us on March 11."

FORCE offers free support and information to anyone locally affected by cancer from its main centre in Exeter and at Ottery St Mary Hospital. The charity provides counselling, group sessions, complementary therapies, benefits advice, specialist physiotherapy and exercise guidance and other health and wellbeing support.

It also funds local research, buys equipment to improve patient care and supports specialist nurses who deliver chemotherapy in Ottery.

FORCE is an independent charity with the majority of its work funded by local donations, fundraising, grants, legacies and its charity shop in Exeter.

Its Great Devon Breakfast campaign encourages individuals, groups and businesses to get involved any time in March.

The FORCE fundraising team can help with ideas, promotional materials and support. Get in touch on 01392 402875 or email forcefr@forcecancercharity.co.uk.



What's On



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Email: devonbranch@ssafa.org.uk visit ssafa.org.uk/volunteer

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Honiton Garden Club



Thursday 16th March

6.30-8pm

St Paul's Church, Honiton

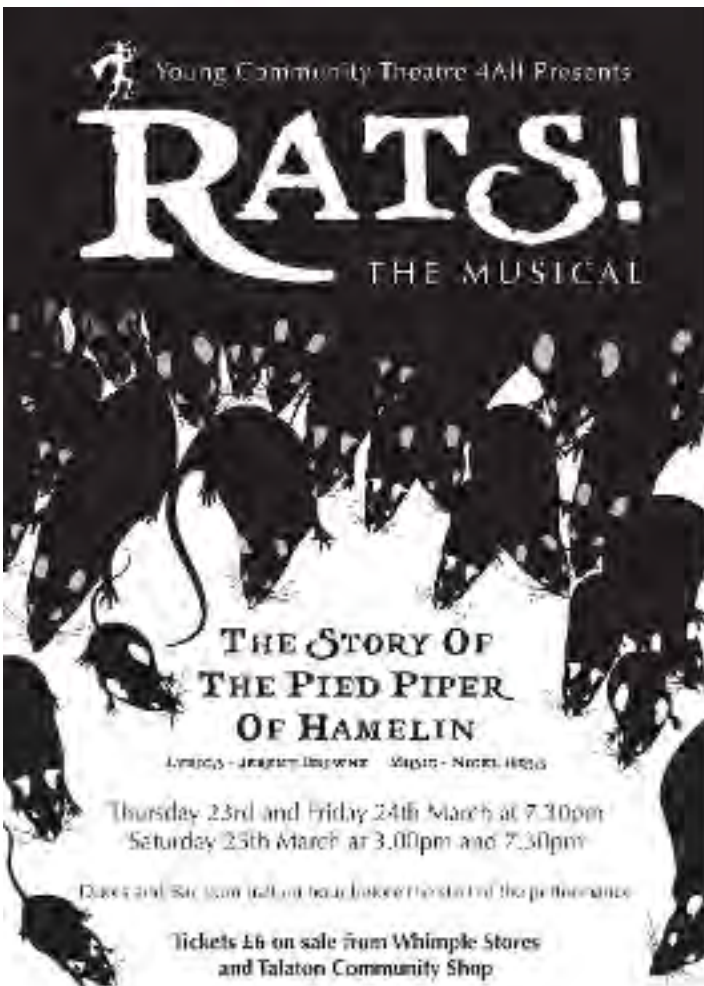
Rejuvenating a Tired Garden

Speaker : Elizabeth Holman

We are delighted to welcome Elizabeth who studied for RHS exams in London followed by a Garden Design course in Oxford. She is now based in Exeter working as a garden designer, advisor and speaker in the South West.

Non-members are welcome to attend at a cost of £3

For more details please contact Julia on 01404 548709



Young Community Theatre 4All Presents

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Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th March at 7.30pm
Saturday 25th March at 3.00pm and 7.30pm

Dates and times subject to change before the start of the performance

Tickets £6 on sale from Whimble Stores and Talaton Community Shop

New To The High Street

Devon Photography Training

Situated at the top of town, happily nested in between Roots to Health and Honiton Photo Box, is our lovely little portrait studio. It's taken a while to get set up, but with a few tweaks here and there, and a little help from our friends and family it's finally coming together.

We offer a range of services, from individual Portrait Photos, Family Portraits and Pets to Image Editing, Photography and Computer lessons helping you get started on your journey in becoming more tech confident.

Prices start from £45 for a one hour session.

Courses we offer include *How to Use Lightroom Classic* - which teaches you to edit your photos easily with the industry standard software (It's much easier than Photoshop and made by the same company!)

We also teach *How to Use Your Camera* and When and How to use Photoshop - once you've got the hang of Lightroom.

These courses can be taught as a 3 hour 1-2-1 in person session or learners can join our Online 5 week evening courses.

Our sessions are flexible to suit all types of people, even those with family commitments and busy work schedules.

We hold studio portrait workshops once per month with models, styling and interesting props, for those who want to take their portraits to the next level.

We photograph all size family portraits from small to extra large and our prices reflect the size of your group. We offer prints and canvasses for those who want personalised wall art and we retouch in a subtle way that shows our subjects at their best.

All of what we have to offer is on our website www.devonphotographytraining.com where you can book in on any shoots or courses, and purchase gift vouchers for loved ones.

The studio will be mostly open from Tuesday to Saturday from 10.30am-5pm but will be closed for the occasional location-based appointment as and when; it is advisable to call us to discuss your needs before coming to the studio.

Those interested in learning photography can join our FREE Facebook support group for photographers by searching 'Devon Photography Training Open Support Group' into Facebook's search bar.

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Offwell School Children To Sing At Exeter Cathedral

Offwell School's Oak Class (Years 5 and 6, ages 9 to 11) have been fortunate enough to secure a place on the Exeter Cathedral Chorister Outreach Programme.

This ten year project is run as a collaboration between Exeter Cathedral and the Devon Music Education Hub. The programme aims to instil and develop the joy of singing among children in primary schools by offering specialist teaching input, continuing support and high quality performance opportunities at the Cathedral.

Six local primary schools are involved, including Offwell School, and all the participating schools will join together in Exeter Cathedral on the afternoon of Saturday 11th March for a performance of their musical achievements in front of a live audience of parents and families.

The class has three songs to learn, which they will sing as part of the group of six schools, and they will also sing a song chosen by our own school. The three group songs are 'This Little Light of Mine', 'From a Distance' and 'Can you Feel the Love Tonight' from 'The Lion King'. The song chosen by school is 'I am Light'.



This promises to be an exciting opportunity for the children who are enjoying their singing rehearsals as the songs are fun and familiar.

As part of this initiative we will have three vocal outreach workshops, each lasting approximately one hour, in school delivered by Chorister Outreach practitioner Andrew Downton.

We are also hoping that at one of the sessions choristers from Exeter Cathedral will join us to inspire the children and talk about life as a chorister. They will also perform alongside the children, providing descant/harmony parts.



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Flooding And All That

by Martin Long

As we have seen over the last few years, everywhere from the Somerset Levels to locally at Feniton, from our coastal towns and villages like Boscastle, to places like Tewkesbury in Gloucestershire, floods are an ever-present danger. And when they happen, floods can be devastating for all affected by them, particularly in areas like ours where so much housing is built on flood plains.

We are constantly told that climate change is going to increase the risk of floods, whether sudden flash floods, or the kind of inundation associated with coastal storms or swollen rivers bursting their banks. Every time I hear of such events, I think back with an involuntary shudder, to my years living in East Anglia, and to a day I will never forget.

When I first qualified as a teacher, I joined thousands of other hopefuls searching for my first job. I crisscrossed the south of England attending interviews, before finally landing a job at a comprehensive school in the Norfolk town of King's Lynn.

All things considered, I was pleased with my choice of where to live, renting a small Victorian terraced worker's cottage. However, when I signed up I wasn't quite sure what to make of the strange marks on one of the living room walls, about a foot off the ground, where the paint seemed to be constantly on the point of peeling off. And then there were those grooves in the frame of the front door.

I probably should have asked more questions. After all, the house was just few hundred feet from the docks and the river. And I soon discovered that the street where I now lived was known locally as Flood Alley. And everyone growing up along that coast still talks in hushed tones about January 31st 1953, and the great storm that caused a gigantic tidal surge to rush headlong down the east coast of Britain, flooding many communities and killing over 300 people and causing an estimated 30,000 people to be evacuated from their homes. In King's Lynn itself, many properties were damaged and people made homeless.

Like all the town's residents, I soon learned to watch the weather forecast with a critical eye, looking out for the potentially deadly combination of high spring tides and strong northerly winds. And I quickly learned that the annual testing of the old air raid sirens each October was not just some kind of crazy Cold War joke, but was a very real warning that one day the floods of 1953 could come again. We all had to be ready to heed the sirens and prepare to evacuate our homes.



Those strange marks on the walls were a clear sign that, although there had been no repetition of a 1953 scale of storm, the house had flooded to a significant depth some time in the intervening 30 years. And the grooves on the door frame were there for the simple reason that the flood board in the back yard would need to be fitted over the door, bolstered by as many sandbags as I could get hold of, should the worst happen one day, and the siren go off.

Which, one stormy day 40 years ago, it did. Shortly after 5 p.m. the peace of the neighbourhood was shattered by the wailing sirens. As anyone with memories of World War Two will tell you, the sound once heard is never forgotten. And trust me, I will never forget the fear that shot through me that night at the terrible noise.

The next couple of hours was a blur of activity, beginning with charging round the area desperately trying to locate stocks of sandbags. Then it was back to the house, to move as much as I could upstairs to avoid the worst of the flood, hoping that the combination of the flood board and sand bags would at least keep some of the water out. I then tuned in to the local radio station, with everyone collectively holding their breath, waiting for the reporter on the spot at the quayside to say whether the water was coming over the lip of the dock, and if so how badly.

And then, nothing. The reporter watched as the moment of high tide came, and passed. The water lapped briefly over the edge, paused and retreated. The crisis was over. In the end, the storm of 1953 did not have a sequel on that coast 30 years later. But it left me with a profound sympathy for everyone affected by floods, whatever their cause and whatever their impact.

Did You Know?

Just six inches of fast moving floodwater is enough to knock you off your feet

Two feet of water will sweep a car away

More people die each year in floods than by lightning, tornadoes or hurricanes

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Plymtree's Challenge of Biblical Proportions!

by Alan Barnett

The month of March takes us through the season of Lent, which is often associated with aspects of self discipline and reflection as we approach Easter.

The Church of St John the Baptist in Plymtree has taken on a challenge for Lent, literally of Biblical proportions. People from the village and the surrounding area are attempting to read aloud the whole of the Bible in Church. The challenge started on Ash Wednesday and every day, except on Sundays, approximately 35 chapters will be read until the final chapter is reached at a special service on Palm Sunday, 2nd April.

This is a considerable commitment. There are 1,189 chapters to read and the aim is to read three chapters every half an hour between 10am and 4pm. In addition to reading the Bible, sponsorship has been invited to encourage those who are reading and to raise funds for the work of the Plymtree Church. People are being asked to sponsor all, or part, of a book of the Bible at the rate of £1 per chapter. There are some books with just one chapter and increase up to the Book of Psalms which has 150 chapters.

One week before the challenge began, 24 people had signed up to read – some for just one-half hour, others for regular and longer slots over the whole of Lent. Nearly 700 chapters had been allocated to readers and £253 pledged in sponsorship.

Two historic lectern copies of the Bible in the King James Authorized Version of 1611 will be used.

One of these was presented to the Church on 27th June 1872 by Rector Thomas Mozley on the occasion of a Confirmation Service at the Church. Thomas Mozley was a great influence on the village of Plymtree and amongst other things he established the Church Primary School in 1873. The school marked its 150th anniversary on 10th February this year.

The other Bible was donated by Sir Edmond and Lady Schreiber in 1969 when they left Plymtree where they had lived since Sir Edmond retired from the Army after World War II. He had a very illustrious military career and also served as the Governor of Malta from 1942-1946 and became Deputy Lord Lieutenant of the County of Devon in 1948.

Reading the Bible in the traditional language makes this even more of a challenge, particularly for some of the more difficult passages which include long lists of family trees. Readers also have the option of reading from a more modern NIV translation, which is more regularly used in Plymtree services.

Plymtree Church welcomes anyone who would like to be involved with the Challenge. The grade 1 listed building has been included in Devon's 50 Best Churches and is worth a visit at any time. There are both individuals and groups who have offered to help with the reading – please get in touch if you would like to come and read a few chapters:

Plymtreechurch@hotmail.co.uk

More information and an on-line giving page for sponsorship can be found at: [www.investmycommunity.com-search for Plymtree](http://www.investmycommunity.com-search-for-Plymtree).



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Ugandan Asians In Honiton

by David Munge

Amazing coincidences took place on 29th October 2022 at the packed Beehive when many Ugandan Asians, and residents of Honiton, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the arrival of up to 2,000 Ugandan Asians at the old Army camp at what is now the Heathfield Trading Estate. The population of Honiton at that time was approximately 4,000. By 1972 the Army had abandoned the camp, but the camp was more or less intact. All accommodation huts were available, and such things as the Officers' Mess were complete.



Leaving behind all their worldly belongings, the Ugandan Asians had been expelled from their country by the infamous dictator Idi Amin, who ruled Uganda as one of the most brutal despots in world history.

With a big influx of temporary residents, such things as their health were of major importance and under these circumstances an amazing coincidence took place. Two pregnant ladies were to deliver their babies in Honiton, and these two babies, now of course 50 years old, were together at the Beehive on that Saturday. Which was when the coincidence took place. On that Saturday, Dr. Essame, responsible for Honiton's health, met the two people for the first time in 50 years.

Dr. Essame was Medical Officer at the old Marl pits Hospital and was assisted by a Locum doctor, Dr. Christina Kellaway, nee Urszenyi - and here was yet another coincidence. Dr. Essame had served his National Service partially in West Africa and he and Dr. Urszenyi had met on this occasion. Dr. Christina Urszenyi had since married, and by 1970 was Lady Kennaway; she was born in Hungary but travelled extensively, studying in South Africa but also working in Australia and England as a Locum, and was able to bring her experience to bear in helping the Uganda Asians to settle in Honiton. Lady Kennaway lived in Escot House, near Honiton, and worked as a GP for many years before retiring in Bath.

Here is Dr. Essame, now 94 years of age, explaining his experience in his own words:

"Before we heard that the Ugandan Asians were coming to Heathfield Camp I had learnt about the facilities for medical care that were available. I had acted as a part time Medical Officer with several of the Army units that were stationed there for about 18 months before. I knew that Dr. Kellaway might be available to provide care and we were delighted to hear that Dr. Neghandi, who came with the other Ugandan Asians, was able to provide care for all who needed it.

Two elderly ladies were too frail to be looked after in the huts of the camp and it was found possible to admit them to the extended stay geriatric beds in Marl pits Hospital (now of course the Honiton Hospital) for the time that elapsed before their families left for more suitable accommodation. There were two ladies in advanced pregnancy and arrangements were made for their babies' delivery in the maternity unit at the hospital. It was an immense pleasure to meet both ladies at the 50th year Anniversary Celebrations.

The Dewali Festival of Light celebrations occurred while many were still in the camp and many Honiton people, including my family, were invited to join in the celebrations - a very memorable occasion held in what was the Officers' Mess when it was an Army camp.

When just under 2,000 Ugandan Asians arrived in the camp we arranged to see any that were unwell, and I recall how few had suffered injury while leaving Uganda but also how little they were able to bring with them, but many of them had gold jewellery. We were able to use blood tests and other pathological investigations thanks to the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital Laboratories and it is interesting to note that the anaemia, which was present in a fair number of patients, was an iron deficiency, rather than being due to a lack of Vitamin B12, because a large proportion were vegans. There was extraordinarily little of those diseases which we think of as "tropical" and there were no outbreaks of contagious disease, for which credit must be given to Alan Nex the Borough Surveyor.

In one consultation one man told me that he had been a millionaire in Uganda but now had nothing. However, in general, there seemed to be a mood of calmness and fortitude in the face of their loss. It is most impressive to see how they have subsequently made great progress in many fields in the UK, in academia, the professions, the business community and public life."



Fast Fashion Is A Feminist Issue, Not Just An Environmental Issue

Hi, my name is May and I'm a 15-year-old climate activist from Gittisham.

With International Women's Day approaching, it's important to recognise the inequalities women still face in society and how this is intersectional with other international issues, such as the climate crisis.

The fast fashion industry is the worst industry internationally in terms of fossil fuel emissions and has a devastating impact on the climate crisis. It is also a feminist issue, with 80% of garment workers being women aged 18 to 24 who earn less than \$3 a day.

Sexual and psychological abuse is also a daily reality for women in the fast fashion industry. In a dispute in an H&M Bangalore factory over working conditions and wages, one woman told researchers, "My batch supervisor came up to me as I was working on the sewing machine, yelling that I hadn't reached my target production. He pulled me off the chair and I fell on the floor. He hit me, including on my breasts. He pulled me up then pushed me over again and kicked me." All this is happening whilst H&M (and numerous other fast fashion brands) are selling 'feminist' t-shirts.

Female workers are frequently raised in a culture that gives them little awareness of their rights, meaning they are often too scared to report issues in the workplace in case they lose their job. Nearly all factory managers are male, and expect their female workers to be submissive and hardworking. They are treated by big companies as replaceable and aren't treated with accountability, resulting in a fragmented supply chain, which has provoked numerous international debates targeting the fact that many people don't know who made their clothes. In Guangdong (China) young women face 150 hours of overtime each month whilst 60% of them have no contract and 90% have no social insurance.

Women choose to work in the fast fashion industry as it's one of the safer and more respectable options for those living in poverty worldwide and often gives them a form of financial independence, even though they earn such low wages and they often can't afford to buy necessities.

This all helps illustrate what is still a widespread and intersectional issue. By boycotting fast fashion brands, you are both helping the environment and showing solidarity to those repressed by misogyny and capitalism. You can continue to help by spreading the message and looking into more ways you can help women and the environment!





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Is My Dog Fat?

by Jude Davidson

If the answer to any of these questions is no, then your dog may have to go on a diet.

- Can you see or feel three spine knuckles on your dog's back?
- Can you see the last three ribs of your dogs rib cage?
- Can you easily feel your dog's ribs without any fat pads and pushing too hard?
- Is their belly much higher than their chest and is your dog's waist cylindrical?
- Do they have a waistline smaller than their rib cage and hips?
- Would it be hard to balance anything on their back?
- Do they have good mobility and have a light walk?
- Are they pinched in behind the last rib and have they got a lovely tucked in triangle from that rib to the back leg?



One of the fundamental principles of pet care is being able to feed a decent diet and maintain a healthy weight throughout the duration of their life. As an animal care expert, I sadly don't see this as often as I should. I feel that the majority of dog owners either don't have the skill set, knowledge and dedication to provide that level of care, which supports my theory that our dogs are "throw away" items for mass public enjoyment, or there isn't the information out there to help dog owners to educate themselves about what a dog should actually look and feel like.

Dogs really should carry hardly any weight at all for them to be healthy; they should actually be skinny but I feel the sad stories of abandoned chronically underweight dogs instills an image that is hard to shake off, possibly leading many to over-compensate.

Here are some things to think about...



- * Fasting - Dogs, and more so cats, respond amazingly well, health wise, to fasting. Science has discovered that keeping a dog hungry for longer lengths of time promotes better immunity and gut bacteria health. It also helps them to process fats properly. So by feeding your pet only once a day will not only help you regulate their food intake better but it will help their natural digestion pattern, promoting a longer disease-free life.
- * Fat is now categorised as a low level inflammatory condition, which means that your body is continually fighting something that's not supposed to be there if you have too much. It increases toxins in the body that can lead to numerous diseases, fatigue and poor mental health. It's the slow release of toxins from stored fat that decreases the body's ability to prevent poor health.
- * 52% of dogs die of cancer in the western world due to poor quality food and over feeding. That's the highest percentage than any other animal on the planet!!! Dogs are dying 10% younger than they were 10 years ago.

So it really is a case of when your dog becomes ill from over feeding not if.



Jude Davidson is an award winning dog walker and cat sitter who also loves writing dog blogs. She lives in Honiton with her cat Lunar and her dog Elsa and is the owner of Park Life Honiton which she started 7 years ago.

Jude has honed her walks into activities-based wilderness trails, designed for gun dogs to improve their focus, socialisation, general health and happiness in the beautiful Blackdown Hills. She provides top tip videos, lovely photography, stories and information to her customers so they can be part of the fun too.

To join the Park Life Wilderness Club or for more information 07427500766 or parklifehoniton@gmail.com



My name is Dulcie James I am a Life Coach specialising in Loss and Anxiety. I work with clients suffering from anxiety, grief and loss, low esteem and relationship difficulties. I pride myself on giving clients the time they need and hold a safe space for them to work through their grief and other issues with me.

I have personally experienced life's ups and downs in many aspects and understand all the emotions that we go through. I have been described as a very caring and nurturing person, who is empathetic and understanding, likened to a warm and cosy armchair! I have been described as an organic coach. As a result of my training, I intuitively know how to help my clients.

In addition to the Coaching, the Grief recovery work that I do takes away the pain and isolation of loss and grief and ensures an understanding that although through death a relationship may have ended physically the memories are still intact and therefore the relationship itself has not died. It is my personal belief that for as long as we talk and remember our loved ones – they are still with us in our hearts.

My coaching sessions give you the time that you need as I take you on a healing journey, helping you find a new direction or deal with loss or anxiety issues. Clients tell me they feel safe and listened to when they're with me.

I am there for you.



Tel: 07964 290933 www.positiveclarity.co.uk

TESTIMONIALS

Before I met Dulcie I was living a life constantly riddled with anxiety and self doubt. At times fearing my own body and mind Dulcie has given me the tools to see situations differently and more logically.

Instead of Dreaming of how I would like my life to be, I am now living it.

Dear Dulcie first I would like to thank you for your kindness support & understanding during the last few months. I had some very difficult issues to deal with my biggest issues have been caused by losing our very precious daughter, who was full of life and very much a strong young lady who always organised our family & supported everyone since having my sessions with you I am feeling much lighter! Strange to explain really but it is like a feeling like some dark clouds have been lifted. My anxiety has been better & also driving has become easier. Also I have found my Confidence.

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Honiton's Millennium Green Looks Forward To A Busy Year

by Kassa Retter

Everyone involved with the Millennium Green is really excited and looking forward to the coming year.

2022 was a busy year, starting with our wetland area where we cleared out the ponds and relooked at the planting such as ferns and lilies. This was so successful we had more tadpoles and dragonflies than we have had in the past four years.

In May we had the official opening of Vernon Corner, our wildlife area. We invited individuals and organisations that had kindly given us grants and donations to allow us to turn a piece of scrubland into a hive of wildlife activity. Everyone at the Opening seemed to enjoy themselves and it was nice to be able to say thank you for all the support given.

During the year we concentrated on repairing and making good different projects. We added new fencing to the top of the bank in the main parkland area, as well as near the top gate, both to increase public safety. We fitted nine new nest boxes (all donated by the public) for small birds coming into the Green. We also replaced the old leaflet information boxes on both entrance gates.

Our big project last year was fundraising to replace the old notice board with a brand new one, where we can advertise coming events. It's been erected by the main entrance gate so it is visible as you come down Parsonage Lane.



As well as the general maintenance of the Millennium Green, we arranged a working party to cut and clear the boundary fence between the Green and the Pines. This is to encourage the hedge to thicken and in turn create another haven for wildlife.

In July we had the Annual Band Concert, which is our main fund raising event each year. Honiton Town Band always do us proud and make it a really enjoyable evening for all who come. People bring their own chairs or rugs and we make cakes and savouries and offer a glass of wine or non-alcoholic drinks for which people, if they wish, can give a donation.

The Millennium Green is always well used during the year and especially last year thanks to the beautiful summer we had. Let's hope the sun will

shine again for us this year. We had children's birthday parties, yoga lessons, people coming and just sitting on our many benches and listening to the birds. We had groups of children visiting our Bug House and Bug Hotel and watching the solitary bees flying in and out. Everyone is welcome to the Millennium Green regardless of age or ability.

This year the Trustees and volunteers are hoping to put a preservative on all the benches, plus we are going to weed and reseed the wildflower meadow, which will probably be a year-long project.

It's really important to ensure the fauna and flora can thrive in the Green and keep that balance of biodiversity so nature and the public can benefit. Just spending time in the Millennium Green feels so good, as it can give a chance to escape from our bustling lives.

Every year we invite a tree specialist to check over the trees and shrubs in the Green, to ensure they are safe for the public. Trees are the foundation of the Green and support hundreds of different types for wildlife. This year we were advised to remove or make safe six wind damaged trees. The management of the trees is a long term project and we need to be certain that the actions we take today will resonate for generations to come. Let us hope we do not have quite such a hot summer as we did last year, as the grey squirrels tend to strip the bark off the trees to drink the sap and can do a lot of damage to the tree and eventually kill them.

A couple of weeks ago I met up with a group of children who wanted to collect tree seeds, which they said they were going to pot up, then plant out with the aim of 'saving the earth'. What a wonderful, inspiring group of young people.

As the year progresses we hope to continue to expand our wetland area, to encourage newts and other amphibians. Our goal is to have habitats for as large a diversity of wildlife as possible, so we can continue to create a safe environment for all.

The Millennium Green belongs to the people of Honiton and we hold it in Trust, but without donations, grants and support from the public it would close. It is surprising how much it costs to maintain and keep everything safe so everyone can visit and enjoy it. We are looking for volunteers either to be part of occasional working groups, or volunteers to assist with fund raising events etc. If you would like to part of the Green in whatever capacity you would be very welcome.

Before I finish I just want to let you know in October we are holding a Quiz night in the Mackarness Hall.

Please contact me on 01404 861392.

Where Am I?

All these postboxes can be found around Honiton - can you identify their locations?
Answers inside the back cover



Around & About In Our Community

National Award for Honiton Volunteer



We are delighted to follow up on our story in February about Mary Bolshaw by letting you know that her 45 years plus dedication to Hospiscare, as a founding member as well a fundraiser and supporter of both patients and their families, has been rewarded by being awarded the Hospice UK 'Volunteer of the Year' award.

The awards took place in November 2022 at the Hospice UK conference in Glasgow to celebrate the outstanding work taking place in hospices across the UK, and the people involved with them.

Hospice UK CEO, Toby Porter, said: "Mary's enormous contribution really stood out to us. She has helped raise over £1.1 million and has given much time and energy supporting the Devon hospice in a range of ways.

Hospiscare's Head of Public Fundraising, Sarah Smith, added: "Hospiscare was founded by volunteers and, more than forty years on, volunteers remain at the heart of our charity. We are beyond thrilled that Mary has been recognised with the Hospice UK 'Volunteer of the Year' Award in light of her extraordinary contribution to the hospice and our local community for over four decades. This is a brilliant opportunity for all of us at Hospiscare to say an enormous 'thank you' to Mary for her outstanding generosity, commitment and support to the hospice and our patients."

Huge congratulations to Mary for winning this very well-deserved honour!

Walk and Chat Outings Launched by Honiton Carers Support Group to Tackle Loneliness

Charity awarded funding to allow free transport for attendees



New day trips for carers and ex-carers, who are bereaved whilst part of the group, in Honiton and surrounding villages will be launched this month, to help prevent loneliness.

Honiton Carers Support Group will run a series of 'Walk and Chat' outings. Minibus and train travel is provided to the walk locations. It has been made possible through Devon County Council's Connecting You Fund, which aims to help tackle loneliness through transport.

The programme offers the opportunity for attendees to visit locations including Exeter, Sherborne, Newton Abbot, and Axminster. The focus of the trips is to provide support for carers and ex-carers, with walking tours and refreshment breaks for all of the day trips.

Winnie Cameron, Honiton Carers Support Group chairman said: "We know how important it is for carers and ex-carers to be supported, as they spend so much time looking after others. The Connecting You Fund has enabled us to provide free transport for them to enjoy days out to explore Devon, being supported by peers and our ambassadors. We are excited to launch these outings in February and hope to see lots of people attend."

Devon County Council's Connecting You initiative aims to help tackle loneliness through transport for the over-55's and young adults aged between 16-24. The Connecting You Fund provides small grants to projects and organisations in Devon to help connect people to activities that reduce the impact of loneliness.

Devon County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport, Councillor Andrea Davis, said: "The Walk and Chat outings run by the Honiton Carers Support Group clearly demonstrate the benefit of the Connecting You Fund. Providing transport to activities such as these removes barriers, allowing groups that may be at risk of isolation, to access support."

Anyone carer interested in taking part in the Walk and Chat outings should contact Winnie Cameron on 07974636926 or email winniekjaer@btinternet.com.

To apply for a Connecting You Grant Fund organisations should visit: <https://www.traveldevon.info/accessibility/connecting-you>. Applications close at the end of February 2023.



Around & About In Our Community



The Arts Society

Caravaggio - Rebel With a Cause – Who was Caravaggio, what was he rebelling against, what was his cause? Chantal

Brotherton-Ratcliffe asked, and answered, the questions about an intriguing artist who died, aged 38, in 1610. Many of his paintings are religious but his approach, as described by Chantal, was irreligious. In a break from convention, he worked from live models; he liked living with prostitutes and it has been presumed but never proved that he was homosexual. Some of the people in his paintings are dressed in courtly style, but others depict the poor marginalised members of society dressed in ragged clothing. As many of his commissions were for altar pieces they would have been hanging behind the priest as he conducted mass; shockingly, level with this head would have been a totally new idea: dirty feet with unkempt toenails, or a naked bum.

He also broke with convention in his treatment of still life. Before Caravaggio, paintings of still life were regarded as brainless; his are exquisite. His use of light, known as chiaroscuro, is revolutionary, focusing as it does on lighting the subject matter by juxtaposing it with really dark colours.

His personal life was dysfunctional. Against the law, he carried one short-bladed knife and a second long-bladed knife. He was always picking fights. Finally, in a brawl, he stabbed a man who dies. Caravaggio fled to Naples which was a safe haven in the separate independent kingdoms of Italy. There he carried out a number of important commissions. Rome realised it was missing out on a genius so the Pope was persuaded to cancel the charge of murder which enabled him to return where he was attacked and suffered damage to his eyes. Normally, in this period, artists would teach aspiring students; they earned their keep by assisting the master doing things such as grinding up pigments to make paint. There is no record of Caravaggio teaching; instead he hired a deaf mute who couldn't divulge his techniques. A fascinating artist but not one you would want to meet on a dark night.

The March lecture is David Hockney: Old Master of the Modern World on Tuesday 14th March at 2pm at The Beehive .Visitors always welcome and can pay on the door. The full programme can be seen on the website www.theartsocietyhoniton.org.uk



The 1st Honiton scouts did an excellent job during half term digging over and weeding the Beehive 'incredible edible' bed, prepping it ready for planting.

Jeff and Ian also helped and a merry time was had by all, discovering giant worms, chrysalis and wasp pupae plus lots of bean seeds ready to plant for our next crop!

The onion sets are in and mizuna salad leaves are still growing, a miracle after such severe frosts. The scouts will soon be growing cucumbers, courgettes, peppers and French beans ready to plant out after Easter.

Looking forward to a productive spring and hope that folk will enjoy the fruit of our labour when ready.



Baker Estates Make Presentations to Local Charities



Baker Estates, the developer of the Hayne Farm estate, recently made cheque presentations to two very worthy local organisations - the Honiton Memory Cafe and Hospiscare - as part of their ongoing support for the community.



Around & About In Our Community

Hospiscare Needs Your Help



New Raffle Donations Wanted

Do you have any unwanted Christmas gifts Hospiscare could recycle and use at the fundraising events raffle such as Perfume, Gift Sets, Candles, Games and Alcohol such as wine or spirits? If so please contact Toni on the number below.

Save your Stamps for Hospiscare!

Why not donate your used postage stamps to Hospiscare? if you can help, please take them to your local Hospiscare shop marked for the "Area Fundraiser" who will arrange to collect them, alternatively call Toni on the number below to arrange collection.

If you are interested in the work of Hospiscare or would like to join in our fundraising activities or have an idea of your own, please contact Area Fundraiser Toni Hiscocks

01392 688067 or 07921 845615

email : thiscocks@hospiscare.co.uk

or find Toni on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100078307831484>

Hello Readers

It's so nice to see all the snowdrops and signs of spring all ahead of us. It makes you feel good to be alive and grateful for the area we live in.

Now for the downer.

The earthquake affecting Turkey and Syria it beyond comprehension, how the people out there are coping I just can't imagine.

At our meeting we in February we decided we would try to help them. We sent £1,000 to The Lions International Foundation to top up their account to help support them. Lions Clubs International has already released thousands of pounds for this appeal which is handled by other Lions nearer the sight of destruction.

Another £500 was given to a local family man who is going to Turkey to assist with the purchase of food and clothes for isolated members of his family who have lost everything, including the collapse of their home. This donation is being handled by one of our members.

Locally we have helped a young lady with a donation towards a trip next year which will help her education; she is going to get hands on experience of how to help improve our global environment.



We have also helped Honiton Museum with funding for some badges and key rings they require for children who visit the museum throughout the year.

Our Ladies are helping a local Ukrainian lady who has just found herself some new accommodation.

Goren Festival is again on this year, 30th June to 1 July and we The Lions Club will again be organising the car parking and would like to thank Julian Pady and the festival team for their donation of £3,000 to help local charities.

Our fundraising continues with the Easter Egg draw under way.

We are running a Charity Race night at The Honiton Conservative Club on Saturday April 22nd with racing commencing at 8.30pm. All proceeds go to Lions charities, and everyone can come and have a flutter.



More news to come next month and please give me Brian the Lion a call if you want more information on 01404 43738 or mobile 07966 173 828 or you can email me at the following address brian.richards@honitonlions.org.uk or look at our website at www.honitonlions.org.uk

POST BOX QUIZ ANSWERS

A Lower Brand Lane, Haydens Pk Junc

B Littleton Rd Bus Stop

C High St junc with Clapper Lane

D Orchard Way entrance to St Michaels

E Tesco

F Heathpark entrance to EDDC offices

Around & About In Our Community



Otter Valley
Rotary



- Would you like to support your local community by becoming a 'Friend of Rotary'?
- Would you like to make a real difference in your community?
- Are you too busy with family or work to attend regular Rotary meetings?
- Do you enjoy meeting and working with other people?
- Then perhaps becoming a 'Friend of Rotary' is the answer. Members of the public, both men and women, who have a concern and interest in helping others, can become 'Friends of Rotary' and, by sharing in the work of Otter Valley Rotary, support their local community.

'Friends' will be kept informed of the club activities, via email and a page on our website, and will be invited to various meetings which are appropriate to community activities.

No membership fees are payable and there is also an opportunity to attend some of the social activities of the club and make new friends, not just with members but also other 'Friends'.

Our 'Friends' will benefit from the following:

- ▶ Opportunity to make a difference; contributing something to the community
- ▶ Supporting the community and Rotary in areas of their interest; even if their time is limited
- ▶ Enjoyment from making new friends and taking part in a safe and friendly environment
- ▶ Using your skills and experience that are valuable and needed in our community
- ▶ Having fun whilst making a difference and helping to raise money for good causes

If you are interested in becoming a 'Friend' of Otter Valley Rotary, please contact our Secretary, Caroline via email ct1959@hotmail.co.uk

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Arctic Fox Name Chosen by Public

Wildwood Devon has announced the name of their new Arctic fox.

In a recent competition to name the fox, over 600 members of the public voted from a selection of names including Luna, Inari and Opal. The winning choice was Aurora - after Aurora Borealis, which is visible in some arctic fox territories.



George Hyde, Wildwood Devon Site Manager, says, "We're delighted Aurora now has her name. The chosen name won by a landslide and it suits her. We were blown away by the number of entries online and in the kiosk. Enabling the people to help pick a name feels like a great way to give something back to all our wonderful supporters. Aurora has settled in well to her enclosure and we encourage everyone to come and visit her."

Aurora is ten months old and arrived at Wildwood in December. She joins the same enclosure as fellow arctic fox Miska.

Arctic foxes are native to Britain and lived here until the last ice age. As the climate warmed, and the ice receded, so did the range of the Arctic fox. Currently, arctic foxes can be found in the northernmost regions of Europe, Asia, North America, Greenland, and Iceland where it is cold and snowy.

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