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May is here and it feels like a time of celebration - not only for the Coronation of King Charles III (which, judging by the variety of articles and events connected to this that appear in the magazine, there is a lot to celebrate) but also because the sun is at last shining after the cold and wet weather and there is a glimmer of hope that summer is on its way.

Having recovered from the excesses of the public holidays around Easter (not to mention the inordinate amount of chocolate that needs to be consumed at such times) we now enter a month that is blessed with three bank holidays. A busy time for all no doubt - and certainly an opportunity for people not so fortunate as to live in Devon to come and visit us.

But among all this activity it is the little things that continue to matter to us and these are so well reflected in our offering this month. The What's On pages just seem to grow and grow so please support our local organisations who work so hard to raise funds for the community and for excellent causes. And take your time to enjoy the writings of our excellent contributors who cover such a span of interests for you. And as always please use our advertisers and support the local businesses that are so vital to us all.

I love May (not least because it contains my birthday!) so let's all relax into summer and enjoy the fact we live in our beautiful part of the world.



**Please note that copy date is
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Coronation Facts

by Carol Hayes



A Coronation is a Christian ceremony during which the new monarch is crowned as part of a Eucharist, or Holy Communion service, at which Christians commemorate Jesus and his disciples at the Last Supper. The word coronation comes from the Latin 'corona' meaning a crown.

Why are Coronations held in Westminster Abbey? - St Edward the Confessor, who built the first stone abbey in Westminster, was crowned at Winchester Cathedral, but buried at Westminster Abbey.

Coronations at Westminster Abbey began with William the Conqueror who chose to be crowned there on Christmas Day 1066. He wanted to be crowned at the centre of government but, more importantly, by choosing the burial place of his predecessor as the location for his coronation, he cemented the legitimacy of his rule. Thereafter it became established that English coronations took place at Westminster Abbey.

In 1245 Henry III, a deeply religious man, with a devotion to Edward the Confessor, decided to remodel Westminster Abbey. At the heart of his new design was a special space, beneath the lantern and between the quire and the High Altar, which would become a 'theatre' for the coronation of future monarchs. This included the Cosmati pavement, an intricate mosaic floor of marble, stone, glass and metal in front of the High Altar. Second to none in its detail, intricacy and complexity, the Cosmati pavement is the best surviving example, outside Italy, of this rare type of mosaic stonework. Every king and queen since has been crowned on this spot.

The Coronation Chair - His Majesty King Charles III will be crowned in the Coronation Chair, as monarchs have been before him, including Henry VIII, Elizabeth I and Elizabeth II in 1953. Made around 1300, the Chair was commissioned by Edward I to house the Stone of Scone, also known as the Stone of Destiny, which was the throne for Scottish kings for hundreds of years and brought from Scotland in 1296.

The Chair is made of oak and was originally covered in gold leaf gilding and elaborately decorated with coloured glass. The gilding was decorated with intricate tiny dots, which create exquisite images and patterns and to the medieval eye it would have looked as if it was made of solid gold. This work is of the highest quality and is unparalleled in surviving medieval art in the British Isles, being the oldest piece of furniture in the United Kingdom which is still used for its original purpose. Over time it has been altered, from the ornate addition of four gilt lions in the early 16th century to the destructive graffiti on the back of the chair by Westminster schoolboys and visitors to the Abbey in the 18th and 19th centuries. A bomb attack in 1914 also damaged one of the corners.

Conservation work concentrated on surface cleaning using sponges and cotton swabs to gently remove ingrained dirt, and delicately stabilising surviving layers of gilding on both the medieval chair and Georgian base. On selected days during March 2023 visitors to St. George's Chapel were able to see the conservation work taking place.

Coronation Spoon - The Coronation Spoon is the oldest part of the Crown Jewels. The silver gilt spoon is first recorded in 1349 as being preserved among St Edward's Regalia in Westminster Abbey. Its design relates back to the 12th century and is known to be the only piece of royal goldsmiths' work to survive from that century. It's believed it was either given to Henry II or Richard I. It is thought, by historians, to have always had a ceremonial purpose and its presence amid the regalia means it's always been associated with coronations. The anointing is the most sacred part of the coronation ceremony and happens before the investiture and crowning. During this part of the ceremony the Archbishop pours holy oil from the Ampulla (or vessel) into the spoon and anoints the monarch on the hands, breast and head. This action is one of the medieval holy sacraments and helps to emphasise the spiritual status of the monarch. While the monarch is no longer considered 'divine' the coronation ceremony confirms the monarch as the Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

The fragrant chrism oil that will be used to anoint King Charles and Queen Camilla was made sacred in Jerusalem in March 2023. A ceremony took place in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where the holy oil was consecrated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem and the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem. The oil has been created using olives harvested from two groves on the Mount of Olives. It has been perfumed with sesame, rose, jasmine, cinnamon, neroli, benzoin, amber and orange blossom. The oil is based on that used at the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, with a formula that dates back hundreds of years.

The Coronation Regalia - During the Coronation the monarch is presented with objects representing their powers and responsibilities and this part of the ceremony is called the investiture. The investiture is preceded by the anointing with holy oil and followed by the crowning itself.

The Sovereign's Sceptre - The Sovereign's Sceptre with Cross has been used at every coronation since Charles II's in 1661. In 1820 George IV added a rose, thistle and shamrock and in 1910, for George V's coronation, the Cullinan I diamond was added.

At the Coronation ceremony the Archbishop of Canterbury hands the sceptre to the new monarch and says: "Receive the rod of Equity and Mercy. Be so merciful that you be not too remiss; so execute justice that you forget not mercy. Punish the wicked, protect and cherish the just, and lead your people in the way wherein they should go."

The Sovereign's Orb - The Orb, topped with a cross, has been a Christian symbol of authority since the middle ages. It stands for Christian sovereignty and, since the Reformation, the monarch's headship of the Church of England. The Orb is made of hallowed gold with jewelled bands dividing into three parts representing the three known continents at the time of its creation. During the Coronation the Archbishop of Canterbury places the Orb in the monarch's right hand and says: "Receive this orb set under the cross and remember that the whole world is subject to the Power and Empire of Christ our Redeemer."

The Coronation Ring - The Coronation Ring, known as 'The Wedding Ring of England', is placed on the monarch's fourth finger of the right hand as a symbol of 'kingly dignity'. Originally made for the Coronation of King William IV in 1831 the ring has been worn at every coronation since then, except for Queen Victoria, whose fingers were so small that the ring could not be reduced far enough in size and an alternative was created.



King Charles III when Prince of Wales at Honiton's Gate to Plate
photo courtesy of Sheila Whitlock

The Ramblings Of Gertie From Gittisham

How To Roast A Potato

"Well blow me down, if we aren't a third way through the year and I've barely had time to turn around," as my dear old dad would say. And that dear reader is exactly my thought as I recognise that Easter has come and gone for yet another year and so far we have only had a couple of spring-like days – a mere promise of what is to come. No matter, I will look to the bright side and try to remain positive, concentrating on the wisdoms conveyed in a wonderful book passed on to me by my sister Birdie's ne'er do well bed-fellow. Indeed, you have heard me correctly – those two errant scallywags pitched up at my door carrying not just their requisite Buckfast tonic, but also – nestling deep in the grubby old bag – a book of rare distinction. On Easter day, being filled with charitable intentions, I had invited those two drifting vagrants to partake of some seasonal fare: a slow-cooked leg of lamb with some 'teddies' and some 'greens', just like mother used to make. I popped some currant cakes into the oven for old times' sake, aware that if Birdie ate them fresh from the oven her toothless jaws would be able to masticate them with ease. The dinner was a great success although, at the time, I could not understand Birdie's repetitive mumblings, "Baint like ole Mam Widger's - 'er teddies be better." Well! I would like you all to know that roast potatoes are my speciality. You cannot beat a good Maris Piper, par boiled, drained thoroughly, and 'shoggled hard' so the outer edges are all light and fluffy, before being tipped and turned into the spitting and spluttering fat. Delicious!

Forgive me reader, I ramble. To return to the book brought to my attention by my erstwhile guests and titled **A Poor Man's House**, penned by a writer previously unknown to me, Stephen Reynolds. The book was first published in 1908, recounting the years 1906/07, when the author chose to live with a busy family of fisher folk in a home lacking all comfortable amenities, yet rich in common sense, wisdom and love. This bustling home was in Sidmouth, situated in 'the Gut – The narrow shingled alley between the Bedford Hotel and Marine Place (then a row of lodging houses and now the Hotel Riviera) leading to Bedford Square.' So evocative is Reynold's writing that I was very soon transported back to his time and place and, not unlike the author, while inwardly digesting his book, busied myself eating fried mackerel almost on a daily basis, although I hesitate to have such a hearty, oily fish for my breakfast. There again I have not left the comfort of my bed at 4.30am to go out on a small open boat, in all weathers, getting soaking wet putting out the lines to land a few mackerel, and after a few hours spent fishing having to haul the boat back up the beach, and all for 'eleven pence a dozen'. Such was the experience of the fishing menfolk at that time.

Not so far into this compelling read, I stumbled upon the passage that had so wetted Birdie's appetite and, judging by the tattered, muddled state of the page, I suspect she had insisted it had been read to her on many occasions:

'Turn out the children and turn on the oven. Into the middle of a large baking tin place a saucer piled up with a mixture of herbs (mainly parsley), one sliced onion and breadcrumbs, the whole made sticky with a morsel of dripping. Round about the saucer put a layer of large peeled potatoes, and on top of all, the joint. Set the baking tin on the hob and into it pour just enough warm water to run over the rim of the saucer. Soon after the water boils, transfer the whole to a fairly quick oven. When the meat is brown outside, slow the oven down. Serve piping hot from the oven, placing the tin on a folded newspaper and the joint, if large, on a hot plate.'

Ah! Now I understand Birdie's reference to Mam Widger's teddies because, given Birdie's toothless state, it is little wonder she dismissed the crunch and crispness of my roasted potatoes in preference for potatoes cooked as above. Indeed, even the author sees fit to comment with the following, *'but the taties are a delicious shiny brown, their insides soaked through and through with gravy.'* Birdie has a mania for gravy - and not of the dissolved granule type. Birdie's mouth must have drooled when she heard that extract, for surely from this method of cooking the resulting, nutritious gravy would indeed taste like manna from Heaven. By today's standards, such a simple meal and yet it gave so much familial joy.

Dear reader, forget about your five-a-day fruit and vegetables, forget about cramming your children's days with educational visits to museums and stately homes and extra curriculum activities after school, forget about home-improvements, and visits to garden centres to task yourself with even more competitive stress. Instead, in these days of economic gloom and despair look to the simple pleasures and take delight in each other, in your families and your local community. Mam Widger's children were solely content with 'jam zide plaate' and would clamour for such a treat at every meal time. Why complicate life when a mug of tea and a natter with your neighbours is all that it really takes to spell contentment.



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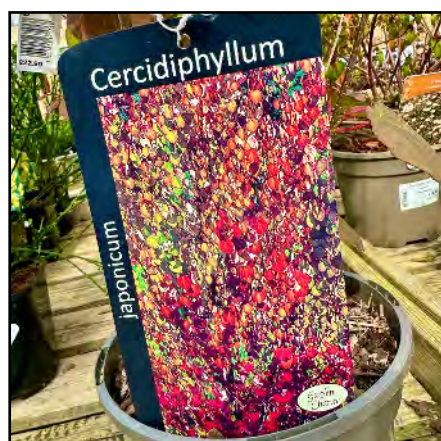
Fantastic Foliage

by Andrea Rye, Combe Garden Centre



Shrubs are the backbone of any garden; by comparison to herbaceous perennials and bedding they are also low maintenance. If you, like us at the garden centre, lost shrubs to the ten days of ice we suffered, consider replacing victims of the cold with something that has more than a long flowering season.

Shrubs should give you structure and flowers but as most shrubs only flower for a month or so, it is wise to pick plants that look good for as much of the year as possible. You can add long lasting interest to your garden by choosing varieties with interesting variegation and leaf colour. If you need a screening plant for a shady spot don't just get a boring dark green cherry laurel, look for the much prettier variety "Marbled White". If you want a pink flowering shrub for sun look for something with stand out leaf colour, like Loropetalum "Black Pearl" with almost black leaves, or a variegated variety. Decide what flower colour you want, select a type of plant that meets your needs in terms of height and flowering period, and then do some research on what varieties are available. Here are a few plants to consider.



Weigelas are fantastic shrubs that are easy to grow and have bee friendly flowers from spring to late summer. If you have space for a shrub that will grow to 6ft if you let it, consider a weigela, but some varieties are more unusual than others. Weigela "Rubidor" has burgundy/ pink flowers and bright lime, almost yellow leaves that will contrast the plants around it. Weigela "Monet" is a lovely compact variety with mid pink flowers and wonderfully pastel, variegated leaves in shades of pale pink, white and light, sage green. If you want a brighter leaf colour try to find Weigela middendorffiana. This variety not only has really bright green leaves, but also unusual yellow flowers with darker yellow and orange/brown centres



Lophomyrtus is an underrated shrub from the myrtle family that is easily kept small but will become tree-like if allowed. They do well in dappled shade or sun in a sheltered spot, and they have some fantastic leaf colours. You are most likely to see Lophomyrtus "Magic Dragon" in garden centres, which is small leaved but dense, with dark red leaves with a cream or pink edge. Another nice Lophomyrtus is "Little Star", that boasts dinky, round, light green and white leaves with bright fuchsia edges that become more pronounced as the stems age. Less often seen is the "Golden Dragon" which has dark reddish stems with lime green and yellow foliage that has a pinkish hue in autumn. Lophomyrtus has the added attraction of being mostly evergreen!

Myrtus is another fantastic shrub with highly scented white flowers from Spring. The common Myrtus has dark green leaves but Myrtus variegata is lighter with white leaf edges. And if you want something even more colourful get Myrtus "Flambeau". The "Flambeau" is another pastel delight with the variegation pattern of variegata but the new shoots are edged in deep pink. Myrtus flowers are also followed by red berries in Autumn, extending the period of interest.



Lastly, if you are looking for something with extra wow factor, and you have space for a small tree, try Cercidiphyllum japonicum. The new leaves are a lovely red/ burgundy colour that fade to mid green with age, but this plant's real value only become evident in Autumn. Ceridiphyllums do have nice Autumn colour but this pales in comparison to their scent. When the hear shaped leaves prepare to shed as the temperature drops they exude a strong, lasting smell of toffee. Just a small tree can perfume a whole garden, and make you hungry for sweets! It might not be variegated but this is a tree well worth growing if you have a sheltered spot, out of strong winds.

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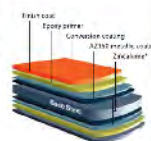
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What's In A Name?



A walk around the countryside is always an adventure, especially when you're looking for pteridophytes. No, not the large flying reptiles from the Jurassic period 100 million years ago, they were pterodactyls. Pteridophyte is the conflation of two Greek words 'feri' and 'phyto' which together means fern plant rather than pterodactyl which means wing fingers.

Maybe it would be more straightforward if I said that looking for ferns in the countryside is always an adventure. For my article this month I decided to narrow down my hunt to three particular species: polypodies, hart's-tongues and horsetails, which are just a few of many ferns that you can find whilst walking your local country circuit. I chose them as they are different from the more common species and well worth investigating.

Hart's-tongue ferns were the first on my list, and actually the easiest to find as I've got some growing on my garden wall. There is no other British fern like the hart's-tongue. It is bold and glossy with long and narrow fronds, the name given to the leaves on ferns. They are common throughout the country and grow on lime-rich rocks, or my garden alternative - mortared walls. The fronds emerge from the base of the plant, gradually unfurling until they fully develop into what, in my opinion, is the splendid plant seen on the photo.



Next on my list were polypodies. I knew of some growing on oaks at Offwell Woods so drove over to get a photograph. Polypodies are epiphytes, which are organisms that grow on the surface of another plants, deriving their moisture and nutrients from rain water and debris accumulated on their host, and can be seen growing healthily on the branches of oaks and other ancient trees. There are two sub species, the common polypody, which is widespread, and the southern polypody which is only found in the South West and West Wales. I'm sure that there are fern enthusiasts who are keen to tell me the difference, and life is too short to go climbing oak trees! I was warned off similar activities by a Consultant in the RD&E Casualty the time I fell off a hedge and landed on my head! Having safely obtained a photo I set off in search for the third species on my list.

On this quest I set off up to Roundball Woods to a site where I have seen them growing for many years. Struggling through the mud to where once was a good stand of the plants, to my disappointment they had completely vanished. The deterioration of the path around the wood had resulted in them being completely wiped out! I thought that that was it, I'd have to write about something else, and then, unexpectedly, I found some on what turned out to be a very appropriate site.



On a sunny evening after most of the holidaymakers had gone home I decided to go for a walk at Lyme Regis. Walking from the top car park down through the gardens to the harbour, to my great surprise I found them. Shooting up on the newly turned borders were numerous field horsetails. Unfortunately field horsetails are the only invasive form of the plant and even a small piece of the plant will regenerate. I'm sure that the park gardeners don't appreciate them as much as I do, but there they were, a plant that was common 100 million years ago, appropriately growing in the Jurassic town of Lyme.

I briefly pictured in my mind a time in history when you could watch pterodactyls flying over pteridophytes whilst you queued for an ice cream on the sea front!

Although, together with all other plants and species, they have developed over the millennia, horsetails are in the same basic form as they were in tree size all those years ago, and it was plants such as these that died and laid down the seams that eventually developed into coal.

Fascinating as all that might be, and perhaps more importantly, I have always known them as 'Lego' plants, as when you pull them they come away in your hand in sections. I remember as a child, when these plants were more common, doing this very thing and then, rather unsuccessfully, trying to put them back together again. I somehow managed to resist doing this at Lyme as the remaining holiday makers were already giving me strange looks as I crawled through the garden borders to get a good photo. The things I do for this magazine!

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Book Review - A Tale Of Two Cities by Charles Dickens

by John Burgess

The opening lines of A Tale of Two Cities are so well known they are currently being parodied in a radio advert.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair....

Screen versions of Dickens have made Scrooge the miserable miser and Oliver Twist the hungry orphan equally well known. The latest adaptation of Great Expectations has reincarnated Pip, Magwitch & Estelle for modern viewers. Dickens is grist to the film makers' mill, with his compelling characters and rags to riches stories, but he deserves far more than easy viewing for tired millennials; he deserves to be read and read again, and what better place to dive into Dickens than A Tale of Two Cities.

Set against the backdrop of the French Revolution, this epic novel centres on the lives of Doctor Manette, his daughter Lucie, and the two very different men who love her - Charles Darnay a French aristocrat and Sydney Carton a dissolute lawyer. As the cauldron of revolution reaches boiling point in France, the wine shop of M. Defarge takes centre stage. Behind the counter Mme. Defarge knits and knits: *"What do you make, madame?" "Many things." "For instance—". "For instance," returned Madame Defarge, composedly, "shrouds."*

The anger of the poor erupts in the storming of the Bastille and the Reign of Terror begins. As the armed mob surges through the streets, knives are sharpened on the grindstone, prisons are filled, courts condemn the innocent, and the lives of the Manette family hang by a thread. The novel builds to its climax and Dickens' descriptive powers are in full flow.

"Every day, through the stony streets, the tumbrils now jolted heavily, filled with the Condemned. Lovely girls; bright women, brown-haired, black-haired, and grey; youths; stalwart men and old; gentle born and peasant born; all red wine for La Guillotine, all daily brought into light from the dark cellars of the loathsome prisons and carried to her through the streets to slake her devouring thirst. Liberty, equality, fraternity, or death; - the last, much the easiest to bestow, O Guillotine!"

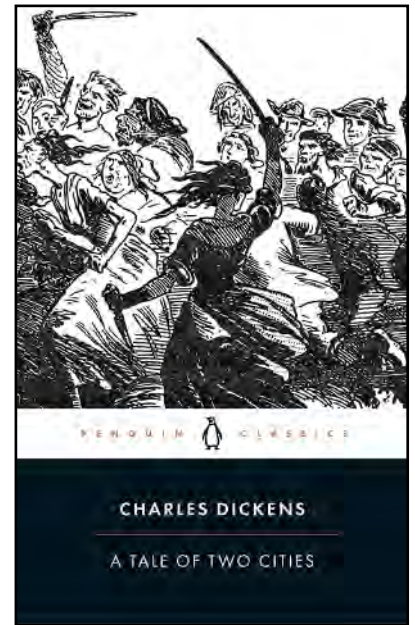
Dickens is a supreme storyteller, and the action moves along at a rapid pace, much like modern TV soaps, with characters, plot lines, and mysteries all combining to draw the reader on. Why was Dr. Manette imprisoned? What is Charles Darnay's aristocratic past? Why does Defarge demand to see Dr. Manette's cell in the Bastille?

Aside from these mysteries, Dickens raises larger questions. How far should retribution go? Does the tyranny of death by starvation justify the tyranny of death by guillotine? Should a man pay for the crimes committed by his cruel, aristocratic family, a family which he has renounced and rejected? At the very end of the book, a man and woman face their final moments before the guillotine, and Dickens confronts the reader with the ultimate question - is death the end of all hope?

The last line of this great novel is as memorable as the first.

"It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done; it is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known."

A Tale of Two Cities is a magnificent read. It tops the list of bestselling novels with over 200 million sales. Time to get your copy and dive into Dickens.



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Maisie-Moo Comes To Stay



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

Well we have just been having the best of times here at Bertie HQ, so much has been going on that I don't really know where to start. No that's not quite true as of course I do and that is with my first love "Maisie". You have met Maisie-Moo before as she is a bit of a hero of mine and, guess what, this time she came to stay at ours for a full two weeks – wowza!

It used to take her a little while to relax and settle down when she arrived but now that I understand she is absolutely the number one top dog in our relationship all is fine. I am quite happy with this arrangement as Maisie is so cool I love to just tag along with whatever she wants to do.

Our most favourite holiday activity is when the humans throw a ball in the river and we jump in to fetch it out. Maisie being bigger, stronger and faster than me gets it every time but who cares - we have such a fun time splashing and splashing around and could carry on all day long except the humans get bored with it much more quickly than we do.

Now you know me and how I am not one for complaining but to be honest there are just a couple of aspects about Maisie that could get a little doggy down if he were to let them.

Firstly, for some reason she has taken a liking to my lovely snuggly bed, she has a perfectly good one herself but oh no it is mine that she settles down in and there she firmly stays all through the day and night-time snoozes. For some reason it does not seem right to pop myself in her bed so that just leaves the rug for me; actually it is not all bad, so long as I am within paw distance of her then I am a happy doggy.

The second one takes a bit more of my Zen-like qualities to cope with and you won't believe this but Maisie-Moo gets to eat raw tripe for her meals and all I get is the same boring old dried kibble! There is no way she is going to share with me (who can blame her) so we have our meals in different rooms and all I get is her bowl to lick when the door is opened and I can dash into her feeding station.

It was a sad day when the love of my life had to leave and was loaded into the car along with her four humans and their huge amounts of stuff (this pooch she does not travel lightly), however less than a week later I am packing my bags to go over to hers for my own little holiday so there are plenty more fun and games to look forward to – who knows maybe she will even let me sleep in my own bed this time?

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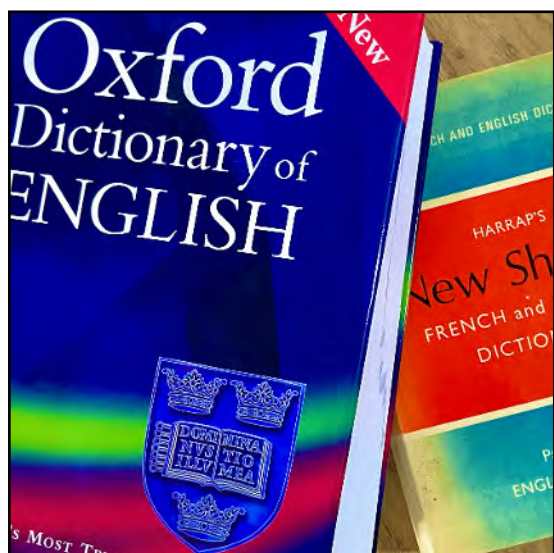


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The View
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Words Words Words

by Martin Long



Compared to schools today, the curriculum at my secondary school was a bit odd. There was nothing remotely technological, or which would have provided the boys with any personal, social or health education. For all its faults, however, the curriculum did equip me with the tools needed to foster a life-long fascination with the study of our language and how it has evolved.

I studied French, German and Latin. This was probably just as well, as I quickly learned that my chosen university was going to require not just that I sit an entrance exam in a foreign language (in my case, French), but also that this language would form part of my English degree. Cue two years of intense struggle.

But ultimately it was worth it. You can tell how quickly my interest grew with the origins of the words we use, when you consider that two of the first, rather extravagant, purchases I made with my student grant (remember them?) were a copy of the complete Oxford English Dictionary and a concordance to Shakespeare, which lists alphabetically every word used by the Bard and exactly where. I owe to them the dubiously useful

knowledge that one of the first recorded uses of the word *intrinsicate* is in Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, where it compares the ending of life to the untying of an intricately knotted (or *intrinsicate*) piece of cord.

I also soon learned the origin of a rather more familiar expression. I knew that "Hobson's choice" meant having no real choice at all. I quickly discovered that it originated from a Cambridge man, Thomas Hobson, who hired out horses in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Although he had 40 horses in his stable, he always insisted that his customers took the beast nearest the entrance. That way, he could ensure that his best horses were not always being picked, and therefore getting worn out.

One of the foremost experts on how our language has developed is the lexicographer Susie Dent, well-known to viewers of Channel 4's *Countdown*, as well as through her books and articles, including a weekly column in *Radio Times*. Among her many fascinating insights is the way in which some pairs of words with opposite meanings have over the years lost their twin, to become what are called "orphaned negatives."

For instance, some readers may remember the exchange in the teen movie *Ten Things I Hate About You*, a modern re-telling of Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*. The young protagonist is asked in some confusion: "I know that you can be overwhelmed, and you can be underwhelmed. But can you ever just be whelmed?"

While the mildly humorous reply is: "I think you can in Europe," the truth is that the term *whelmed* has long since shuffled off this mortal coil. Other long-lost twins are *couth* (which meant to be affable), *kempt* (to be neat and tidy), *wieldy* (a dab hand with a weapon), and *ruly* (which, unsurprisingly, meant that you kept to the rules).

A favourite discovery was the origin of that most useful term of abuse for the rubbish that some people speak: *bunkum*. Apparently, a US Congressman from Buncombe, North Carolina, made a speech so boring and incredibly long-winded that his fellow Representatives repeatedly begged him to stop. He refused, saying that he was speaking "for Buncombe." The word soon became shorthand for this kind of empty, meaningless verbiage.

That we record all this so carefully is due largely to the creator of the first authoritative dictionary in English, Samuel Johnson, in 1755. However, he had a rather idiosyncratic way of defining words. He was never afraid to let his prejudices show, something that today would not be tolerated in a dictionary. For instance, he famously defined *oats* as: "A grain which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people."

Today, the editors of dictionaries are happy to gain a little publicity by publicising what they call their "words of the year," making language sound more like the Oscars.

For what it's worth, Oxford Dictionaries decided that their word of 2022 should be *goblin mode*, which a slang term for behaviour which is: "unapologetically self-indulgent, lazy, slovenly, or greedy." Their rivals at Collins chose *permacrisis*, a word which: "describes an extended period of instability and insecurity, related to the war in Ukraine, climate change, and the cost-of-living crisis."

To someone who spent his working life encouraging school students to use our wonderful, eccentric, ever-evolving language to better effect, it is great to see so much interest in the words we use, where they came from and where they are going. It gives us all hope that our much-mangled and frequently misused language is fighting back against the depredations of the twittersphere and the tabloids.



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A View From The Hills

by Miranda Gudenian

Freeze frame the day. Anchor the sun in the blue of the sky, let the birds sing like this always, as if this is paradise. Which it is. Let night never fall. At least for another forty-eight hours. Or a bit longer.

It had rained first thing but now, as I unlock the garden door, the early morning sun is shining on wet flagstones, raindrops glittering like diamonds from every twig. At the top of the magnolia tree near the house, hidden among the cloud of rosy candles, an Andrea Bocelli of a blackbird serenades the new day. I am mesmerised. Can the garden ever have looked lovelier? Can the birds ever have sung more sweetly?

I must get breakfast, there is a pile of work to catch up with, but I cannot go indoors just yet. One more minute of gazing, perhaps ten more minutes. Seize the day! Fetching a trowel from the potting shed I say out loud, "I shall do fifteen minutes of weeding," and one of the garden robins promptly hops into view as I bend to the rose bed. This robin has a nest in the ivy-swathed blackthorn and young were born last week, their parents grateful recipients of the worms I turn up.

Crouched close to the ground, I seem to be weeding in the bottom of a flower bowl. All around me are towering magnolias, ivory, rose, wine-purple, and beneath them the opulence of camellia flowers. Pear blossom climbs the house wall, blackthorn is snowy in the hedge. The magnolias scent the air, their sweetness leavened by pungent wafts from racemes of flowering currant, a shrub so commonplace that many gardeners are sniffy and won't have it in their borders. I hold it in great affection. It's a cottage plant. Its blackcurranty smell evokes the old gardens where dahlias and onions, roses and potatoes, marigolds, cabbages and lilac bushes grew jumbled together in front of a labourer's thatched cottage, scenes captured on canvas by Victorian and Edwardian artists like Helen Allingham. That's how my garden used to be.

My flowering currant (*ribes sanguinum* to give it the proper name) has been here since the time when Mrs Allingham was painting her watercolours of an England about to vanish forever. It's a survivor of the original garden before the steep slope was terraced in the 1970s; a garden tended for centuries by yeomen, and then when the house tumbled down a bit and became a double-dweller, by the likes of hurdle-makers, washerwomen and by farm labourers like Eli Batten who watched two sons march off to war. Both died on foreign fields, John on the plains of South Africa, Thomas in the trenches of the Western Front.

Straightening my back, I think of John and Tommy, picture the boys running round the garden on a spring morning like this, with bees humming, the first ladybirds in the undergrowth, the song of skylarks bubbling from the cerulean blue. Their mother, Mary-Jane, loved roses, as I do. So it is not a big thrill when I turn round to find a tiny rabbit on its hind legs, brazenly munching at rose shoots. Hey ho. High above the woods, a pair of buzzards circle on the thermals; their nest is jammed into a fork of branches in one of the big oaks nearby. Watch your step, bunny, I murmur, soon those buzzards will have young to feed and you're the perfect size for a lip-smacking lunch.

Indoors at my desk I read emails from Steve, who lives further up the valley, telling me that Serins and Lesser Redpolls (rare finches), have arrived on the farm. Another from Heather, walking the dog by the River Yarty, pinging a message to say she's just spotted two swallows.

It's too fine a day to remain indoors at lunchtime. I take my plate and sit on the garden bench. A racket erupts: two pairs of jackdaws are battling for possession of next door's chimney, squawking and clacking. The eventual victors might regret their choice of nesting site as, instead of winning the *ludorum*, they are likely to be smoked out when Penny and David return from their holiday and set a match to the logs in the grate. An inquisitive crow idles overhead, and the jackdaw racket jacks up several decibels.



photo courtesy of Chris Grady

Late afternoon and time for a cup of tea and another wander around the garden. In the pond, great-crested newts are doing what newts tend to do, hunting frog tadpoles. As the sun fades from the hillside the colours deepen, the first moths flutter and then I see it: my first swallow of the year skimming over the house. "Welcome back!" I shout, like an excited child. "Welcome back!"

"Look your last on all things lovely," wrote poet Walter de la Mare; look intensely at all lovely things, as if you will not see their like again. Or, to misuse a 21st century catch-phrase, "Sparks joy?"

All of it, all of it sparks joy.



Royal Commemorative Collectibles

by Liz Chilcott



The coronation of King Charles III is, whether you believe in the Monarchy or not, an important event in British History and our National Life. Many people will wish to keep mementos of the ceremony; and there will be many items produced to satiate this demand!

At Chilcotts' Friday valuation days, we regularly see Royal Commemorative items collected and treasured by previous generations: mugs, plates, porcelain figurines, specially produced newspaper supplements, silver ingots, crowns, first day covers, and gold coins. So, what is the market for Royal Commemorative ware like?

Unfortunately, most of the collectable ceramic pieces were very mass produced, and, because they have been well cared for down the generations, they are far from rare. This, combined with the fact that keeping and displaying collections has fallen out of fashion, means that there is usually very little value. However, there are exceptions to this rule – notably, the Wedgwood range designed by Eric Ravilious: a Queen Elizabeth II coronation mug has recently sold for £190.

Gold or silver commemorative pieces will always retain at least some intrinsic value depending on the commodity prices of the time. Rare pieces will do better: Chilcotts sold a set of four George VI gold coins, dated 1937, for £10,800; 1937 was the first and only year King George VI issued gold coins during his reign and only 5001 of each were struck.

In the 20th May auction Chilcotts will be selling a George VI 1937 coronation chair and stool, pictured. After the ceremony, guests at Westminster Abbey were able to purchase the chair or stool that they had been sitting on! Both very faded, these are estimated at £200-300 and £50-70 respectively.

As auctioneers, our advice as ever is to collect items that you like and enjoy, if they increase in value – then that is a happy bonus!



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**George VI 1937 Set of Four Gold Coins,
sold for hammer price of £10,800**

What's On - At The Beehive

May is a month packed full of live music at The Beehive! We kick things off with **Variety Rules The Waves** on Wednesday 3rd May 2:30pm bringing you all your favourite music from the 40s, 50s, 60s and 70s, including a special tribute to Neil Diamond. Come along and join in the family fun.. comedy, music, dancers in their magnificent dazzling costumes and of course singalongs, this two-hour spectacular is sure to have something for everyone. Variety as it should be, guaranteed to leave you with a smile on your face!

Friday 5th May we are screening **The Whale (15)** 7:30pm. The film is an adaptation of MacArthur-winning playwright Samuel D. Hunter's acclaimed 2012 play.

We are really looking forward to the **South Devon Big Band** coming to The Beehive on Monday 8th May. Join us in celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III and the 10-year anniversary of the South Devon Big Band, a lively 25-piece Big Band directed by the legendary Neil Maya, entertaining you with the thrills, rhythms and excitement of that Big Band music sound!

Show Of Hands are performing with us once more by popular demand, to take us on a chronological journey over 800 years of the English radical song tradition. The concert will feature a mixture of history, storytelling and song with rousing choruses in a resplendent, one-of-a-kind showcase - Wednesday 10th May 7:30pm

On Friday 12th May 7:30pm The Beehive will be rocking out to **Dr. Feelgood**, an English pub rock band formed in 1971. Hailing from Canvey Island, Essex, the group is best known for early singles such as "She Does It Right", "Roxette", "Back in the Night" and "Milk and Alcohol". **My Sailor, My Love (15)** is our film on Saturday 13th May with a special subtitled version, screening at 3:30pm as well as a showing at 7:30pm. This is a story about Howard (James Cosmo), a retired sailor and widower, living in a house by the sea. His adult daughter Grace (Catherine Walker) hires a caretaker for

her father, a lady in her mature years, Annie (Brid Brennan). Recluse and stubborn, Howard rejects Annie's company, but eventually opens his heart and gives his final love a chance.

The National Theatre Live brings us **Best Enemies(15)** on Thursday 18 May, 7pm. Inspired by the documentary by Morgan Neville and Robert Gordon.

On Friday 19th May we have **The Son (15)**, a cautionary tale that follows a family as it struggles to reunite after falling apart. Centred on Peter (Hugh Jackman), whose hectic life with his infant and new partner Beth (Vanessa Kirby) is upended when his ex-wife Kate (Laura Dern) appears at his door to discuss their son Nicholas (Zen McGrath), who is now a teenager.

The Royal Ballet is presenting us with **The Sleeping Beauty (12A)** this month on Thursday 25th May 7:15pm. Be swept away by Tchaikovsky's ravishing music and Oliver Messel's sumptuous fairytale designs with this true gem from the classical ballet repertory.

Get ready to Rock 'n' Roll with **The Hendricks** 26th May 8pm. They'll take you back to the 1950's and 60's with their energetic jukebox classics!

The **Darkside of Pink Floyd** are coming to town! On 27th May 7:30pm they'll be on our stage performing. More than just an ordinary Pink Floyd tribute band, they entertain audiences with a fantastic light show and passionate performances. Finally, we end the month with **The Super Mario Bros Movie (PG)**, a film that's sure to be a family favourite... with help from Princess Peach, Mario gets ready to square off against the all-powerful Bowser to stop his plans from conquering the world. Tuesday 30th May, 2pm.

Check out the website www.beehivehoniton.co.uk, pick up a flyer, sign up for the monthly email newsletter, and most of all, enjoy your community venue! **Rachael and The Beehive team**



Honiton's Community & Arts Venue

MAY 2023

VARIETY RULES THE WAVES
Wed 3 May 2:30pm - £16
With songs, laughter, magic and mirth, they bring you a traditional style Variety Show. Their incredible vocalists will bring you all your favourite music from the 40s/50s/60s & 70s, including a tribute to Neil Diamond.



THE WHALE (15)
Fri 5 May 7:30pm Adults £7.50, U16 £6.50
From Darren Aronofsky comes The Whale, the story of a reclusive English teacher who attempts to reconnect with his estranged teenage daughter.



South Devon Big Band
Mon 8 May 7:30pm - £13.50
A Royal Coronation Celebration - An evening of entertainment to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and the 10 year anniversary of the South Devon Big Band.



SHOW OF HANDS
Wed 10 May 7:30pm - Adults £36, U21 £18
West Country legends Show of Hands and BBC broadcaster Michael Wood are reuniting by popular demand to take us on a chronological journey over 800 years of the English radical song tradition.



DR FEELGOOD
Fri 12 May 7:30pm - £26
Dr. Feelgood are an English pub rock band formed in 1971. The group are best known for early singles such as "She Does It Right", "Roxette", "Back in the Night" and "Milk and Alcohol".



MY SAILOR, MY LOVE (12)
Sat 13 May 3:30pm (Subtitled) + 7:30pm - £7.50 / £6.50
A story about a guilt-affected daughter-father relationship. But it's also a love story between two elderly people, proving that a new beginning is never too late.



*All details correct at time of print. Please check website for updates. Ticket prices include a £1 admin fee.
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Honiton's Community & Arts Venue

MAY 2023

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: BEST OF ENEMIES (15)
Thu 18 May 7pm - Adults £16, Students £13
David Harewood (Homeland) and Zachary Quinto (Star Trek) play feuding political rivals in James Graham's (Sherwood) multiple award-winning new drama.



THE SON (15)
Fri 19 May 7:30pm - Adults £7.50, U16 £6.50
A tale that follows a family as it struggles to reunite after falling apart. Peter has his busy life with new partner Beth and their baby thrown into disarray, when his ex-wife Kate turns up with their teenage son.



ROYAL BALLET: THE SLEEPING BEAUTY (12A)
Thu 25 May 7:15pm - Adults £17, Students £11
The Sleeping Beauty holds a special place in The Royal Ballet's heart and history. Be swept away by Tchaikovsky's ravishing music and Oliver Messel's sumptuous fairytale designs.



THE HENDRICKS
Fri 26 May 8pm - £11
The Hendricks' classic rock 'n' roll hits will whisk you back to the 1950's and 60's with infectious and energetic jukebox classics. Combining authentic retro sounds with an intoxicating high-energy performance.



THE DARKSIDE OF PINK FLOYD (ANIMALS)
Sat 27 May 7:30pm - £23, Carers £21
More than just an ordinary Pink Floyd tribute band, The Darkside of Pink Floyd entertain audiences with a fantastic light show and passionate performances.



THE SUPER MARIO BROS MOVIE (PG)
Tue 30 May 2pm - Adults £7.50, U16 £6.50
With help from Princess Peach, Mario gets ready to square off against the all-powerful Bowser to stop his plans from conquering the world.



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King's Coronation Big Lunch



Where: Allhallows Playing Fields, Honiton

When: Sunday 7th May 2023, 11am to 10pm (estimated)

Picnic Lunch – bring your own food and drinks, picnic blanket, tables and chairs. Hot and cold food vendors and bar.

Entertainment includes live music from local bands, disco, activity tents, bouncy castle, face painting and glitter tattoos, games by local youth organisations.



hybrid
gallery

Spring Arrivals

New arrivals from Louise Marks include her instantly recognisable goldfish but also this diminutive Calf and a Bee, all included in our Refreshed exhibition of works by gallery artists.



Two zingy still lifes of lemons are included by Gill Hamilton and a third painting, Copper Jug with Tangerines pairs beautifully with her Lemons with Olive Oil.

In another pairing we have two new canvases from Debbie Lush. Conceived as a diptych they are equally as enchanting on their own.



All the works may be found on the exhibition page along with works by other artists or more of each individual's work can be found on their Artist page of the web site. We welcome any enquiries for further information regarding presentation or detail.

We're currently open Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am - 4pm and responding to emails at other times.

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What's On



Honiton Garden Club

Annual Plant Sale

Saturday 13th May 8.30-12 noon

St Paul's Forecourt

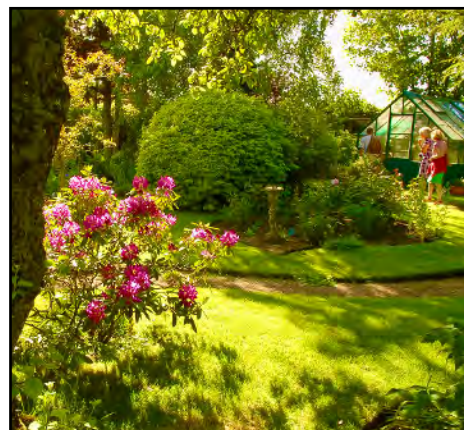
All plants grown by club members - come and see what bargains you can find



Talaton Open Gardens Weekend

On the weekend of the 27th and 28th May at least 8 gardens will be open in the village of Talaton from 2pm to 6pm.

This year is the 30th anniversary for this popular event which raises funds for Talaton Church and the Parish Hall.



Tickets cost £5 and are valid for both days so if you can't get round all the gardens on the Saturday, come back on the Sunday at no extra cost. There is no charge for children under 16. Tickets available from the church car park or any of the gardens.

There will be plants for sale at various locations. Proceeds from ticket and plant sales will go to the church.

Teas will be available in the Parish Hall with all proceeds going to the Parish Hall.

One of the gardens, Russet House, opened for the 1st time last year as an NGS 'yellow book' garden. This garden has been developed extensively by the current owners since they took it over in 2019 and continues to be developed. There is a good mix of gardens displaying a range of styles from small courtyard to large cottage.

Regrettably we cannot allow dogs in any of the gardens.

More information can be found on thewww.talatonopengardens.co.uk website

Sunday 28 & Monday 29 May 2023 1 - 5pm

Hackhams Farm
Buckerell, Honiton
1 - 5pm

A garden with all round interest with shrubs, trees and perennials and bulbs in the Spring. Large lawned areas, vegetable garden with raised beds, fruit trees and a natural pond. Fenced Paddocks for ponies and chickens, with a lovely outlook across the valley.

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Future Programme Items

Wednesday 21st June - Tiverton Castle (Chris Fuller 01404 46996)

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

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

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

If you are interested in any of these day trips but are not a member of the association, please get in touch with our Membership Secretary Gill Goodes 01404 42081

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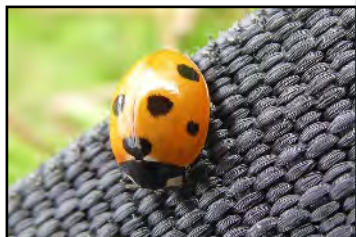
Tickets at the Door £4 for Association Members - £5 for Non-members

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For more details contact:

Pam Weston Tel: 01404 822864 or 07776781580

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Friday 12 May 5-6 Curator's Talk: A Brush with Nature £5. Insightful talk about THG's current exhibition Paradise Found.

Saturday 13 May 11-3 Walk & Talk in the Blackdowns £65. Observe, listen, sketch and gather on this special walk with artist Luke M Walker. All materials/transport included.

Tuesday 16 May 10-2 Drawing with ink in the Blackdowns £65. Draw the landscape at Applehayes, iconic site for the Camden Towners.

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All Aboard At Pecorama!

by Kate Baxter

The start-stop spring finally seemed to have settled into warmer weather on 'Easter Saturday' with warm sunshine and clear skies - phew! Coats and hats left at home, we set off for Pecorama, which is on the outskirts of Beer.

George, Emily, Nancy and I were joined for the day by George's friends, Johnny and Catherine, and their two daughters Pippa and Suzi. George knows Johnny from secondary school; they live in Durham but come on holiday to Sidmouth every April. Last year we spent the day with them in Lyme Regis and the year before that we went to Branscombe - so it's become a lovely spring tradition! It just goes to show how wonderful this part of England is if people are happy to drive down from the North East with two small children - spending the night en route just off the motorway- to spend their holidays here. Lucky us!

Pecorama opened in 1975 and is located on the hill above the gorgeous village of Beer. It offers stunning views over the houses and the sparkling sea beyond. We arrived at the entrance just after it opened at 10am and were already faced with a long queue of fractious toddlers and young children. Everyone had booked tickets online in advance, so you definitely need to book, especially on holidays days like today.

As you wait you can hear the train chug past and steal glimpses of it whizz, so the girls were really excited. When we got to the front, we were handed our special railway tickets - and then joined another queue to get on!

If you haven't been to Pecorama, it is a great family friendly day out, but it might also please railway enthusiasts (such as my father-in-law!) As well as the railway, there is also an impressive model railway exhibition, traditional carriage to have afternoon tea in and a railway gift shop. We didn't have a chance to see these parts of Pecorama as there was a lot to do in the main park, but we'd definitely like to come back.

The main attraction at the park is the mile-long Beer Heights Light Railway, a 7.25-inch gauge train which winds itself through the park. It is widely considered to be the finest train of its kind in the UK and attracts railway fans from around the country.

After a while, the small red train - named Claudine - pulls into Much Natter station and is met with cheers. I have to say I have never seen anything quite like it! The beautifully decorated trains are absolutely wonderful. The entire setup with the tracks, conductors, platforms, unusual station names and little picket fences make for quite an impression - even with grown-ups!

Emily and Nancy wanted to sit with their friends in their carriages so George and I had a very relaxing ride alone, although we could hear Emily shout 'mole' at the top of her lungs every time she saw one of the 20 or so ceramic moles hidden along the route. At least we knew we hadn't lost her! Nancy spent the ride grinning from ear to ear and waving to everyone as we went past.

The track winds itself through the park and it takes about ten minutes. We chug past fish ponds, the formal garden, through a long and very dark tunnel (hold onto small children and dogs!), past the wildlife pond and bug hotel, along the woods and the zip line (this is a request stop). The views over Lyme Bay and the stretch of the Jurassic Coast are wonderful and it was really enjoyable. It was a much longer and more complex route than I'd imagined and must require a lot of maintenance and a skilled team. All the children climbed off the train at the end looking absolutely delighted - we all did!

You get one ride on the train included with your entrance ticket to Pecorama, but you can buy more for £3 each. We didn't have another ride because the gardens, playpark and woods provided more than enough entertainment for the children. After the train we had our picnic and an ice cream and then explored the rest of the park. We'll definitely return to Pecorama and, if you've never been, I certainly recommend it - it's got to be one of the most unusual sights in Devon!



Osteopathy After Childbirth

by Molly Brown, Osteo and Physio Honiton

The months after having a baby are amazing, but this time can also be tough on your body. From carrying around extra weight to dealing with hormonal changes, pregnancy and childbirth can take their toll. That's why many new mums turn to osteopathy after childbirth.

If you've recently given birth, your posture will be rapidly readapting to the absence of the weight of your baby in the womb. Your hormones continue to affect your muscles and ligaments, keeping them loose and lax till around 6 months after birth. New activities such as feeding and carrying your baby place new strains on your body and can result in postpartum back or hip pain as well as pelvic soreness.

Osteopathy is a form of manual therapy that focuses on the musculoskeletal system. It can be very beneficial for new mums dealing with back pain, neck pain, and other common issues after childbirth.

All osteopaths are trained to work with pregnant women and new mums. They understand the changes your body is going through and how to best treat you. Osteopathy is generally considered safe for pregnant women and new moms. It's a low-risk treatment option that can be very effective in managing pain and other postnatal issues.

There is no one-size-fits-all approach to osteopathy, but treatments often involve gentle manipulation of the joints and soft tissues. This can help to relieve pain, improve mobility, and promote healing.

How soon can I consult an osteopath after giving birth?

We recommend consulting our osteopaths as soon as you can travel comfortably to one of our clinics, after the birth of your baby, for speedier recovery and prevention of future

Problems

If you experienced a difficult childbirth, the use of instruments such as ventouse and forceps can affect pelvic tissues and alter the position of your womb and bladder. Even if you had an uncomplicated delivery, a postnatal osteopathic check-up four to six weeks after childbirth is highly recommended. Your osteopath will assess your alignment and ensure everything is back in place, and working smoothly.

I've had a C-section, should I wait to see an osteopath?

After a Caesarian section, your osteopath can work to support your healing even when your scar is still fresh. She will not work on the scar directly, working on the tissues around your abdomen to release scar tissue and adhesions on your womb and pelvic tissues. This can alleviate lower back pain and hip pain after a C-section.

Osteopathy is also an important element in supporting future reproductive health and fertility. All techniques are external and extremely gentle. They aim to release all accumulated tension and help to heal.



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Old Feniton Circuit via Cheriton

by Chris Harwood

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

7.3 miles

**You like very quiet lanes, wonderful views, no great hills and a couple of wonderful off-road tracks?
This is for you.**

Start from the small free Car Park, just beside the Village Hall and opposite Church Lane, in Old Feniton Village. (Grid Ref 108093). Turn right out of the car park and almost immediately take the Public Footpath off to your right and through the wooden gate. Follow this gentle grassy track – wonderful gnarled old Oak – up to three gates. Take the left-hand one using the signed stile and follow the wonderful row of old trees on your right. You are walking along the upper ridge of a steeply sloping field, giving incredible views across open country and over to Hembury Fort. Continue to a sharp right-hand corner in the fence. Move right, up to a stile and then, over this, and onwards over open pasture to a corner and signpost. Forget the traffic noise – you can smugly look down on the little tin boxes hurtling along to who knows where? Move right here over the stile and follow the hedge on your left. You now have a considerable distance of wonderful open fields to walk on a grassy pathway. Eventually, over the stile and then on, with the hedge on your right, to pass an old metal windmill. Immediately, take the small metal gate in front of you to arrive at the road.

Left here and wander slowly down and across the bridge over the London Waterloo line to arrive at another junction. Worth a look at the front gates of the house on the corner – Tool Gate Cottage! Right here and soon, at the Nog Inn take the Talaton road.

In 500 yds. just before a bend in the road, take the Public Footpath off right, to cross open pasture and then re-cross the railway on an old brick bridge. Arriving at the road, turn left and enjoy the quiet lane for some way until, at Crowders Cross, move straight across and on to Milton. Then carry on for some way into Payhembury. Wend your way into the village. Pass the Six Bells Inn on your left, or if the time is right maybe not immediately, and at the old red telephone box, turn sharp left up the Hembury Fort road.

In about 600 yds. at Mousehole Cross turn right and continue to Spence Cross. You may detect a certain very rural aroma in the air around here – could be the adjacent pig farm. With wind in the right direction, you will be OK. At the cross move straight across and again enjoy the very quiet lane to Cheriton. Some very picturesque properties here. Right at the junction and then left at the signpost to follow the Feniton road. Stay on this road for quite some way until, having come through a deep cleft in the rocky banks, your road emerges at a junction. Left here to Old Feniton and potter slowly down to the village and your vehicle.



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

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6 Top Dog Walking Etiquette Tips

by Jude Davidson



We've all been in a situation where we've upset another dog owner or been annoyed by something that's happened. There are no hard and fast rule on how to make sure everybody gets along other than the law that states "you must have good control of an off-lead dog" This is sadly open to interpretation and in many cases causes owners to decide their own opinions on what is acceptable. Walking your dog should be a relaxing, happy and safe activity enjoyed by even the most reactive or nervous dogs so here are the top 6 polite ways to walk your dog ensuring everyone has a lovely time.

- **Train your dog to ignore other dogs** - More than letting them say hello to whoever they want. If you are able to control your dog and then signal to your dog that it's ok for them to say hello then this is perfect. It's very common for owners of friendly dogs to let them approach any dog they want, this encourages dog obsession, promotes independent thinking which means you loose control, frightens nervous dogs, on lead dogs and really annoys owners who are training their dogs to be less reactive. A well socialised dog is a dog that wants your attention more and is calm and gentle around other dogs.
- **Mirror leads** - If someone has their dog on a lead then pop yours back on too. If a reactive on lead dog bites your friendly off lead dog it is still your fault because yours was out of control and not theirs. Some dogs also become more fearful on lead because it limits their fight and flight response encouraging them to be more reactive.
- **Communicate clearly** - It's OK to tell people your dog is nervous and in training and it's ok to stand between the meeting dogs to demonstrate you don't want them to meet. Being friendly, courteous and calm will show your dog how you behave whilst actively showing them you will protect your dog will help them trust you and help owners know that it isn't acceptable to invade your space. The colour yellow is now being promoted to signify a reactive or nervous dog and to keep away.
- **Interact with your dog throughout their walk** - Chucking treats around to find, keeping them excited and playing, teaching tricks, spin, collar touches, sit and stays, sniffari's, ball games and lots of love and attention. It will help enormously in stopping your dog running off and looking for their own entertainment. Remember! You must have good control of an off-lead dog so allowing them to run out of sight many meters away, charging off when a dog appears isn't good control and they should be kept on the lead. Also, your dog will not be insured.
- **Puppy training** - is, in my view, vital and should be made compulsory. Since lock down, dog aggression has gone up enormously due to lack of training, lack of correct social interaction and fear related responses such as separation anxiety, lead pulling, canine hyperactivity and unsocial behaviours. This is the new pandemic in the dog world and I can see the UK implementing the same rules as Europe meaning all dogs on lead in the next few years. That would be awful! So DO MORE TRAINING!o
- **Be respectful** to other dogs and dog owners and ditch the belief 'dogs are dogs, let them get on with it' - this is normally said by owners that can't control their dog, not by renowned dog behaviorists and trainers. And for those on the receiving end, it is ok to say something politely and respectfully if someone or someone's dog is upsetting you. This is Devon after all and we are a friendly nation of dog lovers, let's help each other to stay peaceful and at ease.
- **Provide quality canine socialisation** - in the form of peaceful group dog walks with an experienced handler that can provide activities and fun along the way (Avoid dog walkers that let them run around and play too much as this can lead to dog obsession and anxieties) This will enhance your dog's ability to listen to you whilst around groups of dogs. Once your dog realises, they get more from people than they do from dogs they'll listen better and want to stick around.



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

The Coastal Boutique Moves to Larger Premises



It has only taken 18 months for The Coastal Boutique to outgrow its new premises so when a new opportunity arose to head from 61 to 62 High Street in Honiton, the trio took it!

Gemma, the owner, along with Jade and Tanya, now have much more space to entertain and inspire.

Growing up in Manchester Gemma started work on the markets at the age of 14 where her love of buying and selling grew. From there, she went on to work at some of the wholesalers and soon found herself selling their jewellery and accessories at the markets in Brixham, and Torquay after a move to the South West. She had obtained a degree in Forensics, but soon learnt that if she wanted a job in the police force, using her degree, she would have to move back up north where the action was at the time, but soon got seduced by the "office view" she was able to look at whilst working the coastal route at the markets in

and around Devon; she soon settled for a small shop in Honiton which was then known as Coastline Jewellery.

After having time out to have children, it was time to come back and sell in Honiton. Gemma's friend had told her of a lease that was up for sale so, with a napkin plan in hand, she walked into the shop and created Love Coastline. The shop started to incorporate Italian linen and 100% cotton clothing, ideal for hot weather and holidays. The range was a great hit with locals and visitors and then it took on a life of its own. Outgrowing 59 High Street, she moved into 61 High Street, reviving the name to The Coastal Boutique which seemed more appropriate for what she was now selling. But after only 18 months, and now a team of 3, more room was needed. So a deal was struck, and the shop's new home for hopefully the next 10 years will be at 62 High Street, next to the Ice Cream Shop.

"We now have 3 dressing rooms, a seating area to try on shoes, a studio for all our product pics and a storeroom! We are all so excited! We are currently stockist of Mable fashion, Blowfish, Lunar Shoes, Adesso, Made in Italy Linen Collection and Miss Milly Jewellery to name a few!"

The doors are open from 9.30am - 5pm Monday to Saturday so please come along and support a local business.

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From Hollywood To Honiton

Bringing a touch of Hollywood to Honiton High Street, Blue Pencil gallery owner Anna Saunders tells her story to the Honiton & Village News Magazine.



I opened the Blue Pencil gallery in November 2022 in what was previously Haughty Culture Florists. I was attracted to the town because of its thriving High Street and the fact that my mother and my aunt have lived in Honiton for over 20 years

I originally lived in South London and was extremely lucky to have a school career advisor, at age 14, who encouraged my desire to be an animator. It could've been so easy to have dismissed something that obscure (at a local comprehensive school) considering that nobody knew any animators at that time, but I was advised to get a degree at art college.

Three years at a college of art and design didn't teach me that much, in practical terms, but it created an invaluable network of wonderful people that I am still in touch with. I was very lucky to finish college and be living in London in the 1980's when the animation industry was strong, vibrant and exciting. Music videos were booming (because of MTV) and inventive animated commercials were in demand. It was a highly creative time to be in the industry.

In 1994 Lion King made huge profits for Disney. The other major movie studios suddenly took an interest in animation. Warner brothers and Dreamworks decided to invest heavily in animation but found themselves in short supply of animators at its studios in Los Angeles. Somehow, word got out (to the large US studios) that there were plenty of animators in London's Soho area. Disney, Warner Brothers and Dreamworks all had the idea to book an upstairs room at a West End pub (frequented by animators on a Friday night). Badges were issued to any animator who entered the pub (good for a free drink) and a recruitment person was in place upstairs at the pub (not unlike the navy) to sign animators up for 3 year contracts to work in LA. Very few of us had portfolios at that time but it didn't seem to matter. There was a sense of urgency and excitement as the three big studios got down to serious head-hunting.

Being sent a one-way ticket to work at Warner Brothers animation studio in LA was exciting. Being handed a glass of fizz in the business class seat of the plane to LAX felt like a crazy dream that continued after landing. Having a Warner Brothers employee badge allowed us the freedom to explore the Warner brothers film lot and walk around the familiar 'New York' streets, taking in the iconic Warner Bros water tower, and familiar backdrop hills. It felt like the centre of the universe.



Working at Warner Brothers involved hours of life-drawing and 'improv' acting each week to improve our animation and character development skills. It's not all just Looney Tunes! It was also fun working as a character-animator on Futurama. Their scripts were so well written and the characters were fun to draw. Futurama Xmas parties involved flights to Vegas, \$100 gambling money and themed hotels - all very exciting.

After 18 years in LA it felt like time for a change. I've met many people who love cartoons and are interested in animation but surprisingly few that actually know that much about the process or appreciate the skill involved. How about creating a hub to promote animation art and the people who make it? This could be the next chapter!



Moving back with my family in Devon, I found our quirky little shop in the middle of Honiton High Street. Along with my partner Will, we converted it into a gallery that showcases art 'inspired by animation'. It's an unusual setting for something so niche but I think it will bring a touch of fun to shopping in Honiton. Original animation art, digital art, Anime and explanations of the animation process are all on display.

Look out for the giant Blue Pencil and please pop in and say Hello!



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What ID Can I Use At Elections?

From 4 May 2023, voters in England will need to show photo ID to vote at polling stations in some elections.

This will apply to: Local elections; Police and Crime Commissioner elections; UK parliamentary by-elections; Recall petitions From October 2023 it will also apply to UK General elections.

Accepted forms of photo ID (courtesy of The Electoral Commission website)

You can use any of the following accepted forms of photo ID when voting at a polling station.

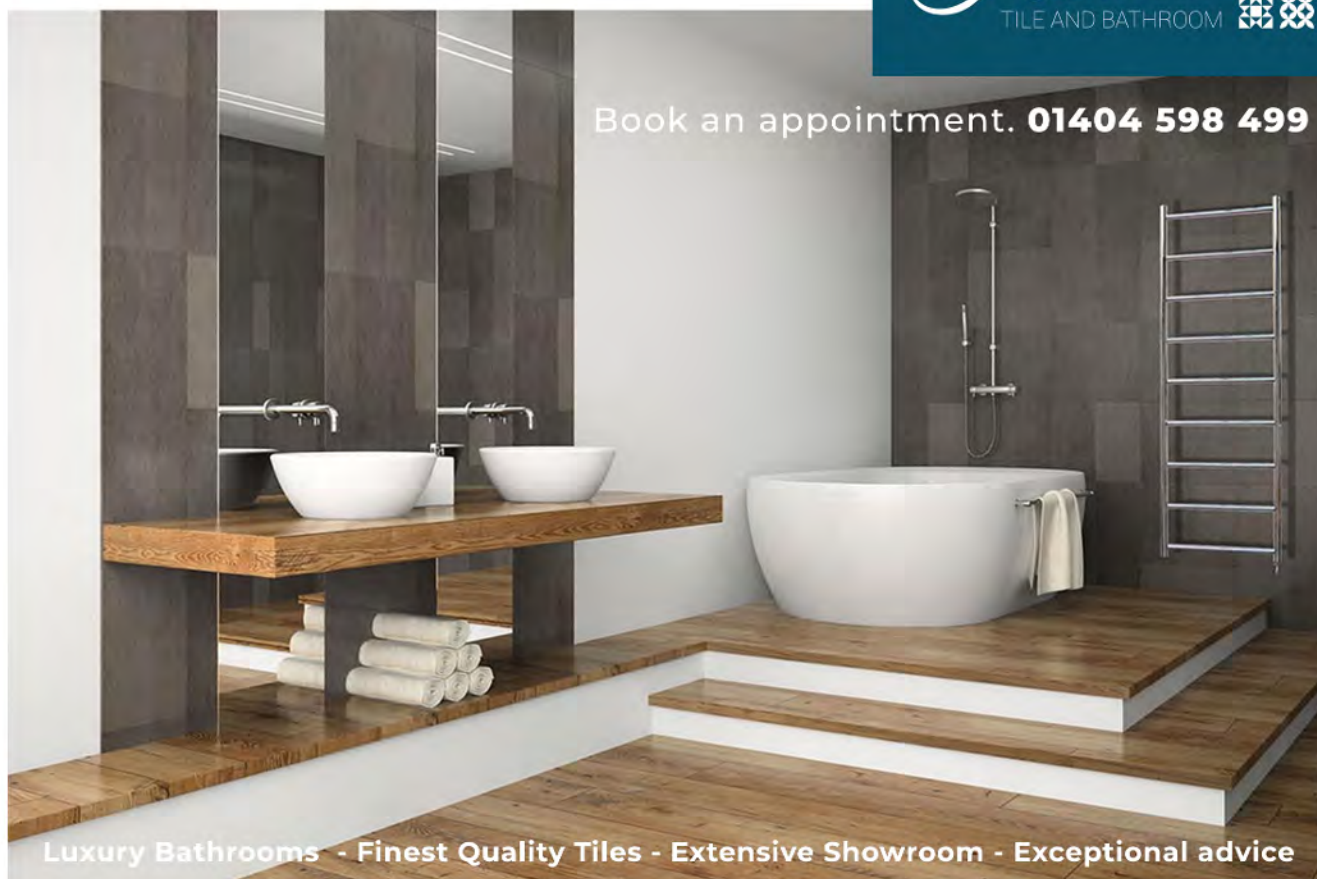
- Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country
- Driving licence issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- A Blue Badge
- Older Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Disabled Person's Bus Pass funded by the Government of the United Kingdom
- Identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- Biometric immigration document
- Ministry of Defence Form 90 (Defence Identity Card)
- National identity card issued by an EEA state
- ***You will only need to show one form of photo ID. It needs to be the original version and not a photocopy.***
- If you don't have an accepted form of photo ID you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a Voter Authority Certificate, i
- If you're registered to vote anonymously and want to vote in person, you'll need to apply for an Anonymous Elector's Document.

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East Devon Coronation Memories

by Carol Hayes

There are few people still living with personal memories of our late Queen's Coronation, which took place seventy years ago on 2nd June 1953. Weather-wise it was a miserable, November-like day with dull skies, a chill wind and sporadic outbreaks of rain. The afternoon temperature climbed no higher than 12C - several degrees lower than the Queen's wedding day in November six years before.

I was nine at the time and my mother, a war widow, thought it would be a special treat to take me to see the Royal Procession. Unfortunately, as soon as we alighted from the underground station my mother realised that her purse had been stolen with all her money and return tube tickets. How we got home I have no idea but I'm guessing it was a friendly policeman, my father having been a policeman in the Met before the war.



One of the marchers that day was an Offwellian, Dave Batten, who was doing his National Service in 1953 with the Royal Navy. Dave was stationed at Portsmouth at the time and he remembers the occasion well:

"We arrived in London two days before the Coronation and were billeted at Earls Court. We got ourselves settled in on the first day and spent the second day rehearsing. The evening before was spent getting our uniforms ready for the great day. We got up at 5am and started our preparations. It seemed as though we were marching for hours. I can't remember exactly how long but we did stop and stand at ease at one point when the Coronation coach arrived for the service. People were shouting, cheering and waving their flags. It rained continuously and by the end of the day the blanco that we had on our belts and gaiters ran into the material of our uniforms which were spoilt. I was in the back row of the Naval contingent – third from the left!"

In Offwell the celebrations were slightly warmer and less wet as villagers gathered in the Village School Hall (which doubled as the Village Hall) to watch the Coronation on a TV supplied by Mr. Heard, the local haulage man. There was free ice cream for the children and a sports day in the afternoon on the village field.

In Colyton, Grace Gover, and boyfriend (later husband) Graham Ayres, helped produce Coronation shop window decorations. Grace's father and grandfather were Colyton bakers and Graham's family were the jewellers, A.J. Ayres. Ayres won 3rd prize and Govers came 4th.

My personal favourite Coronation memory is that of James Lees-Milne, the National Trust's first country house expert. In his 1942-54 diaries he writes about his own memories of Coronation Day:

"The colour and pageantry cannot be described. Uniforms superb and resplendent. The most popular figure, Queen Salote of Tonga, a vast, brown, smiling bundle with a tall red knitting-needle in her hat (it having begun as a plume of feathers). Despite the rain she refused to have the hood of her open carriage drawn, and the people were delighted. They roared applause. Extraordinary how the public will take someone to its bosom, especially someone not very exalted who is putting up a good show. All along the route they adored her. Beside her squatted a little man in black and a top hat – her husband. Noel Coward, when asked who he was, said, 'Her dinner'."



Did You Know?

Not all the coronations through history have gone according to plan. Queen Victoria's coronation was nicknamed "the last of the botched coronations" as so many things went wrong that a special committee of historians was tasked with drawing up a more regimented plan for future monarchs to follow.

- ▶ The archbishop had to painfully force the coronation ring on to her finger because it had accidentally been made too small.
- ▶ An elderly peer, Lord Rolle, fell down the stairs.
- ▶ A bishop announced the end of the ceremony at the wrong moment.

More recently, the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II avoided a catastrophe when it was discovered that the holy chrism oil that had anointed her father, King George VI, had been destroyed during a WWII bombing raid in the vicinity of the deanery near Westminster Abbey. It was then realised that the apothecary that had created this special and holy blend of oil had gone out of business so a new blend had to be created based on an ancient recipe.

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Cycling 100 Miles - Fighting Motor Neurone Disease

by Jill Wardle



You never know what life will unexpectedly throw at you. In 2020, Duncan and I moved to a small village just outside Honiton. In 2021, he started to slur his speech. Less than a year later, he died of Motor Neurone Disease (MND) - a terrible disease that gradually takes away everything from those we love. But, how lucky were we to live here in East Devon where the community around us, and around me now, supports practically and emotionally.

MND (also known as ALS) has no cure and is a fatal, rapidly progressing disease that affects the brain and spinal cord. The risk of developing MND is 1 in 300 but, because it kills a third of people within a year, there are only 5000 adults affected in the UK at any one time. Recent times have seen the incredible public bravery of sufferers like Rob Burrow and Doddie Weir, and now there is a storyline in Coronation Street raising awareness.

The MND Association fund research, improve care, and provide support for people with MND, their families and carers. I was delighted when a friend suggested that he and two other veteran cyclists traverse 100 miles across the challenging hills of Devon and Somerset over two days in June to raise money for this wonderful cause. Alan Ranger, John Kirby and Tim Frazer (pictured with me here in Fivehead) are inspired by the memory of their friends lost to MND last year. On 7 June, their trip will take them over some of the highest land in Somerset and Devon, beginning in Bath and then crossing the Mendips and the Polden Hills to arrive in Fivehead where Duncan and I lived for many years.

After a much-needed overnight rest, the intrepid three will set out again on 8 June, cycling through Curry Mallet and Staple Fitzpaine over the Blackdown Hills to Combe Raleigh for a lunch-break. Then we hope that local cyclists will join for the final 18-mile leg of the journey via Honiton and Ottery St Mary to the coast at Budleigh Salterton.



Speaking about their trip, Alan Ranger said, "As a team, we want to remember our dear friends and to raise awareness of MND whilst fundraising as much as possible to help others living with the disease and to help fund vital research into treatments. We hope that as many people as possible will come out to support us as we pass through their towns and villages."

A "JustGiving" page has been set up for donations. You can access it at <https://www.justgiving.com> and by searching on Jill Wardle. There will also be collecting tins at various points along the route. For more information, including how to join the cycle ride, please contact Jill Wardle at ineastdevon@gmail.com.

Print From Your Laptop And Collect At Your Local Library

New Wi-Fi Printing Service In 54 Libraries Across Devon And Torbay



A new printing service is being launched throughout libraries in Devon and Torbay.

Customers can take their laptops or phones to their local library and print their documents using the new Wi-Fi printing service. They can even print from home or on the go by logging in, sending to print and collecting from the library the same or next day.

Eleanor Moss, Service Delivery Manager South and West Devon and Torbay, said, "We're really excited to be rolling this out across our libraries - at the request of customers. Our customers can now print from anywhere - from home, in our libraries or on the go. They can login at home using our Cloud printing portal, send to print and collect the same or next day at their nominated library. The print quality will be good, and the prices affordable, starting at 10p for a black and white sheet of A4, through to £1 for a colour sheet of A3. People can also log on to the free WiFi in our libraries to send files to print and collect and pay for the printing from a member of staff.

"To use this wifi printing from home, people will need to sign up for library membership if they aren't members already, and non-members can access the in-library wifi printing service. To join your local library is free and you can access everything else we offer including books, eBooks, eMagazines, eNewspapers and Business & IP Centres."



How To Take Good Photos On A Mobile Phone

by Honiton Camera Club

With the ever-increasing quality of smartphone cameras, it's easier than ever to take great photos on the go. But with so many different features and settings to choose from, it can be tough to know where to start. Here are a few tips to help you take better photos with your mobile phone:



1. Use natural light

Natural light is always the best option for taking photos, as it provides a soft, even light that flatters your subjects and makes your photos look more

professional. If you're shooting outdoors, try to find a spot where the sun is shining directly on your subject. If you're shooting indoors, use a window to let in natural light.

2. Focus on your subject

When you're taking a photo, make sure to focus on your subject. You can do this by tapping on the screen where you want the focus to be. If you're using a manual focus setting, try to get the focus as sharp as possible.

3. Research alternative Apps

You don't have to just use your phone's camera app. Several free and paid for alternatives are available and can offer more control over your settings. Some offer extra creative options like multiple exposures, photo stitching for wide panoramas or film simulations.

4. Use a tripod or support your phone

If you're taking a photo in low light your phone will need a longer shutter time which can lead to camera shake, using a tripod can help you to take sharper photos. Tripods are also helpful for taking long exposures, which can create interesting effects like blurred water or starry skies.

5. Edit your photos

Once you've taken your photos, you can use a photo editing app to improve them. There are many different photo editing apps available, so you can find one that fits your needs and skill level. Some popular photo editing apps include VSCO, Snapseed, and Adobe Lightroom.

6. Experiment with different angles

Don't just stand there and take a photo from eye level. Try shooting from different angles, such as low to the ground or high up, when shooting low to the ground try turning your phone upside down, this way the camera lens will be almost on the ground. This will help you create more interesting and dynamic compositions.

7. Pay attention to the composition of your photos

This means thinking about how you want to frame your subject and where you want to place the elements in your photo. You can use the rule of thirds as a starting point that suggests dividing your image into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, and then placing your subject at the intersection of those lines. This will help to create a more balanced and visually appealing composition.

8. Practice makes perfect

The more you practice taking photos, the better you'll become at it. Taking photos should be enjoyable. If you're not having fun, you're less likely to take the time to experiment and learn new things. So relax, have fun, and enjoy the process.

9. Try and avoid digital zoom

This is not like an optical zoom which increases the size of the object across the whole of the camera sensor. With digital zoom it just appears to be larger, but is just cropping your image. Better to take the photo normally and crop in later. Or if you can get closer to the subject.

10. Join a camera club!

A camera club will not only offer a place to show your photos and get feedback, but also learn about different techniques and styles.



The Honiton Camera Club meets 7.30pm to 9.30pm from mid-September to the end of May.

We are a small club with members having a wide range of abilities and interests. We try to cater for all tastes, with speakers on various aspects of photography, together with sessions giving informal tuition and advice. Besides holding our own internal photographic competitions we also participate in inter-club competitions. New members of all ages are always welcome.

Subscriptions: Member £35, Joint membership £60, Student (16-18) £10

<https://www.facebook.com/HonitonCameraClub/>

Honiton Camera Club – Where Image Matters

Around & About In Our Community

Honiton Carers



Honiton Carers met on Wednesday 29th March at The Kitchen at Combe Garden Centre for one of their usual "Cuppa and Chats".

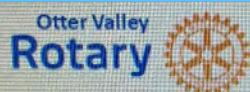
The Lions Club has kindly donated a huge 1kg Easter Egg for Honiton Carers to raise funds for our support group and having sold all 100 squares we decided to draw the winner at today's meeting.



Helen Turner leader of the Beavers & Cubs attended our meeting having brought along 40 individual flower pots decorated by the Beavers in the Jose group, all containing some beautiful fresh daffodils. Helen presented one to each of our carers who were absolutely thrilled to bits with this very kind gesture. Helen also drew the winning ticket for the Lions Easter Egg which was number 71. The lucky winner was Mrs. Sue Feeney. I had the pleasure of presenting the Easter Egg to Mrs. Feeney this afternoon and she was, needless to say, absolutely overjoyed at having won such a wonderful Easter Egg.

Our sincere thanks go to both The Lions Club for their generous donation and to Helen Turner and her boys and girls for the gorgeous flower pots. Honiton Carers really appreciate all their wonderful support.

If you are a carer and would like to know more about our Carers Support Group, please get in touch with Winnie Cameron on 07974 636926 or email Winniekjaer@btinternet.com



Rotary is made up of men and women from all walks of life. We have members from Ottery St Mary, West Hill, Exmouth and Honiton. We welcome individual and corporate members to our club. We recently welcomed new member Emma Bradshaw Smith.

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

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

Inspirational young ladies We received a beautifully-written letter from two Year 6 pupils, Chloe Johnson and Phoebe Willey, asking if we could help to buy some new books for their school library, in particular books for Years 1 and 6. They also wanted some equipment for the playground. Our Youth Lead, Andrew Thomas met with the girls and Headmaster Mr Tribble. They gave him a tour of the Library and playground. We were pleased to give them £500 towards their project.

Chloe and Phoebe sent a lovely letter thanking us for the donation saying "It is really exciting to think that our ideas will be able to become a reality because of your kindness". They also thanked Andrew for the chocolate he gave them. We hope to form closer links with Honiton Primary School.

Other donations

Infocus - The Vision impairment & complex needs charity.

Shelterbox - following a collection at Tesco Honiton and a private donation, another £1000 was sent. These boxes are currently in demand in Turkey/Syria and Ukraine.

Community raffle We have had a number of requests for Community raffle tickets already. This is an easy way to raise money for your club/group/school/organisation. We provide the raffle tickets with the name of your group printed on it. Each ticket is sold for £1 and you keep 90 pence from each sale. 1st prize £1000. If you would like to be part of this please contact mthuxtable@aol.com.



If you would like help with a project or an event, please contact us via our Secretary, Caroline Thornton ct1959@hotmail.co.uk

Around & About In Our Community

Before the Easter holidays the children in Offwell School's Oak Class (9-11) began their research into the history of the Coronation of King Charles III. When the children returned after the Easter break they had only two weeks to complete their Coronation display which can be seen in St. Mary's Church, Offwell, over the Coronation weekend. Oak Class were inspired by being shown three pieces of memorabilia from Queen Elizabeth II's crowning in 1953. One was a miniature replica of the Coronation Spoon, used to anoint the new monarch with holy oil. Another was a copy of the order of service for the ceremony and finally a model of the Coronation Chair, made by order of Edward I and brought to Westminster Abbey in 1296.

The children have been looking at the history of the Chair from its origins to the present day. Extremely fragile, this 700 year old chair has been undergoing conservation work. It is the oldest surviving piece of furniture still used for its original purpose and tourists and schoolchildren scarred it with graffiti in the 18th and 19th centuries.

For their Coronation display in St. Mary's the children have included artwork and 'copies' of some of the Coronation regalia – learning about history is enlivened by using art and the children at Offwell School hope you will take the opportunity to visit St. Mary's and enjoy their endeavours – not guarded, on this occasion, by any Beefeaters!

Susan Holohan



Hello Readers, it's May - and kidney bean day is here so get planting.

The month of May is also the time of The King's Coronation and I hope you all have a good time whether you have a party or just sit at home and watch it on your television.

I would like to let you all know we had a very good Easter Egg draw and a big thank you to the businesses and organisations that took eggs from us to raise money for our funds. Ten eggs were sent out and the Champion seller this year was Mandy at The Otter Inn who sold two eggs (£200). Well done Mandy.

The other ten eggs went to local charities and organisations to raise fund for themselves. Outstanding this year was the Makaton Sing and Sign group who meet at The CUB in School Lane - they raised an amazing £284 for their funds.

Our Race Evening took place at The Conservative Club on 22nd April with help from Babbacombe St Marychurch Lions club. I will let you know how it went financially in the June magazine.

We are still collecting used spectacles with bins at the surgery and other venues, or you can hand them to any of our Honiton Lions. Message in a Bottle is also still available at your local surgery or can be obtained through our website.

If you would like more information of what we do in Honiton and District Lions Club please give me, Brian the Lion, a call on 01404 43738 Mobile 07966173828 or email

Honiton Bowling Club Raises Funds For Local Good Causes

Honiton Bowling Club raise money through the year and last year we had Honiton Admiral Nurse as our worthy cause.

A cheque was recently presented by Club President Joan Heard to Heather Penwarden for £1500.00.

This year's Charity will be TRIP.



Don't forget to let us know your news so we can share it with the wider readership for you.

So send in those local stories and photos - perhaps share how your community celebrated the King's coronation

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