



HONITON & VILLAGE NEWS

JULY 2023
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July is always a special month for us here at H&VN as it is the month we celebrate another anniversary of starting up this community magazine. 2023 sees the 4th year of publication.

It's been a bit of a momentous time, especially trying to support local businesses and clubs through the Covid pandemic and the subsequent recovery period. It is at times like these that you realise just how important it is to have structures within the community so that we can help each other.

We've also seen other significant moments, not least the Queen's jubilee, her funeral and, more recently, the coronation of her son King Charles III. But to us at H&VN all the events we report on are important - because here in the Honiton region they are the very substance of our life.

So we now look forward to continuing to be here for you as we move into our fifth year. We will strive to bring you articles on a wide range of subjects by some of the best writers in our area, spread the news about what you are doing in your community, and feature our amazing advertisers.

We are often asked why we don't move on-line as "no-one really wants to read magazines any more". We do of course have a very good website (thanks to Charles) which many people find useful to catch up on editions past and present - especially people who no longer live in our area but want to keep in touch with their roots. But we continue to believe that there is a real desire to have a printed magazine that reflects our town and villages; it would seem you agree as the copies continue to disappear very rapidly from our amazing distribution points - and as long as that is the case, and we can find the volunteer workforce as well as advertising to cover our costs - we will be here for you.



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

honitonsvillagenews@gmail.com
www.honitonsvillagenews.co.uk



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Three Medals For Honiton Gymnasts At National Acrobatic Finals



Honiton gymnasts returned from the recent National Acrobatic Gymnastics Finals in Stoke-on-Trent with three bronze medals.

The podium places were achieved by Jessica Treen, Hollie Moulton and Olivia Wotton in International Development Plan 2 (IDP 2) women's groups; Coen Cooke and Oscar Felice in Youth Men's Pairs; and Clark Burnett and Thomas Berry in Grade 4 Men's Pairs.

The national success follows the recent South West Prelims - the most successful qualifiers in Honiton Gymnastics Club's history - where seven partnerships qualified for national finals and many more were selected for inter-regional finals.

In addition to the medal positions, Emma Hay and Daisy Moore finished in 7th in the country in Youth Women's Pairs; Chloe Hutsby and Lottie Daborn came 9th in Grade 3 Women's Pairs; Sophie Sanders, Molly Gibson and Chloe Lawrence were 9th in Grade 3 Women's trio; and Otilie Donovan and Oliver Clist finished 10th in Grade 3 Mixed Pairs.

"It was a great honour to have so many gymnasts selected to represent the South West region at the national finals," said James Reddy, board member and high-performance coach at Honiton Gymnastics Club, "and even more satisfying to come home with such a positive set of results. We're proud of all of the gymnasts who competed this weekend."

Jess, Hollie and Olivia competed two routines that are choreographed to music: a balance routine where the trio build acrobatic pyramids that have handstands on top, and a dynamic routine where Jess is thrown for double somersaults and elements with multiple twists. All the other Honiton partnerships performed their balance and dynamic elements within one 'combined' acrobatic gymnastics routine.

Honiton Gymnastics Club's impressive results come just two weeks after more partnerships from the club represented the South West at the inter-regional acrobatic gymnastics finals in Southampton, which include 'open age' gymnastics partnerships. Grade 1 Mixed Pair Evie Bean and James Berry brought back silver medals from the competition, while Grade 4 Women's Pair Kira Wotton and Chloe Hale returned with bronze.

Other Honiton partnerships who competed at the inter-regional competition were Grade 3 Women's Group Tekka Moffett, Scarlett Furneaux-Harris and Daisy Harris who came 6th and Grade 2 Women's Group Georgie Wilson, Evelyn Maguire and Eleanor Butler who finished in 8th.



Jess, Hollie & Olivia with their bronze medals



Tom & Clarke Grade 4 men's pair bronze medallists



Chloe & Kira - bronze in Grade 4 women's pairs at inter-regional finals



Evie & James silver at the inter-regional finals



Coen & Oscar with their bronze medals

Who needs the seaside?

I'm writing this whilst away on a two week break. Relaxing in my seafront apartment, staring out across the emerald blue sea

Okay, I know that no one is really interested in hearing about other people's holidays so I'll stop now, other than to say that I'm missing waking up in Honiton to the sound of seagulls.

To give myself a break I thought I'd give Nature Notes a miss for this month, but relaxing with a glass of single malt whisky in my hand I remembered that I had written about gulls a while ago. Searching through my ipad (yes I take it on holiday) I found that I had written about them in July 2018, when I was writing a Nature Notes column for the *Paper for Honiton*. As I'm on holiday, and enjoying doing nothing, I thought that I would cut and paste the article for this month's Notes. Here it is. . .

When I'm at home in Honiton with all the hot weather we've been having recently I've been sleeping with all the windows open and waking up to the sound of seagulls or, to be exact herring gulls, soaring above the house. After dropping off to sleep again and dreaming that I'm on holiday by the seaside I fully wake to the reality that I'm still in Honiton and that the seagulls are nesting on Bradfords' roof rather than coastal cliffs.

The reality is that these days you have as good a chance of seeing herring gulls in our inland towns as you do at the seaside. With the decline of the fishing industry, gulls have realised that there are as many easy pickings inland as there are by the coast.

Those who remember when Sutton Tip was open may recall large numbers of gulls flying over the town in the evenings on their way back to roost on the Exe Estuary. Today more gulls are deciding to stay the night in town and wake us up with their not too melodious calls.

Across the country, breeding populations of herring gulls are in decline resulting in them being listed as a species of conservation concern. The *Devon Bird Atlas* published in 2016 records that the breeding population in urban areas tends to outstrip that of coastal colonies and suggests that this shift will continue despite the efforts of local authorities to suppress their populations.

Over the years many attempts have been made to get our local population to 'move on'. When they were mainly nesting on the hospital roof they had the habit during the nesting season of 'dive bombing' staff and patients. To address the problem eggs were removed and a Harris Hawk was regularly flown across the area. None of these attempts were very productive, although today the main nesting site has moved from the hospital and established itself on the roof of Bradfords' warehouse in Station Yard.

So if you want the full seaside experience without leaving town, buy yourself an ice-cream, get your deckchair set up on the grass in front of Honiton Hospital and enjoy watching the gulls on Bradfords' roof!

As there are not many gulls to photograph where I am, and as I'm in holiday mood I can't really be bothered to track some down, so I dug out the sketch I made for the 2018 article and decided to use to illustrate these notes.

Now, more about my holiday. . .



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First Folio

by Martin Long

Do they still ask castaways on *Desert Island Discs* what book they want to take with them? There was a time when it felt like we would have to tell the next generation what actual books were. Everything was disappearing onto our phones or tablets. Thankfully, the demise of the book as a physical artifact now feels further away than ever.

Whatever book the Radio 4 castaway chooses, however, they have always been told that this magical island somehow comes equipped not just with all things necessary to allow them to survive, but with a pristine copy of the complete works of William Shakespeare.

I bet there are many listeners, and certainly many readers of this article, who groan at the very mention of Shakespeare's name. Memories of being made to read his plays at school, and of the room starting to spin at the unequal struggle to force the words to make any kind of sense, are all too familiar.

Thankfully, times have changed. Hopefully most teenagers coming out of school these days have had a positive experience of meeting Shakespeare for the first time. There are so many creative and exciting versions of the plays to watch and talk about on DVD, for a start. If you are just beginning, why not try Trevor Nunn's peerless 1996 film of *Twelfth Night*, which was shot in Cornwall.

Best of all, of course, is the chance to watch the plays live. Whether in a period setting such as Shakespeare's Globe, or in a touring production, such as those I remember fondly when the Royal Shakespeare Company brought its pop up theatre to local sports centres, it is then that you really get the full effect of the plays.



There are few more exciting experiences as a teacher than to watch students getting their first taste of Shakespeare live in the theatre. I remember vividly watching the end of Sir Antony Sher's iconic performance of *Richard III* at Stratford, when a whole row of my students stood up as one and literally screamed, as if they had just watched some great pop star, which I suppose in some ways they had.

It is incredible to watch students of any age inspired by the strength of emotions his plays can generate. I remember looking forward each summer to visiting a local primary school, whose end of term play was often based on their study of a Shakespeare play. And they didn't hold back. Imagine 10 and 11 year olds performing with gusto their version of *Hamlet*, which, inspired by a play by Tom Stoppard, they had turned into murder mystery, complete with a pair of bumbling detectives.

But we should not put Shakespeare up for sainthood just yet. His presentation of the most complex of relationships and feelings may be peerless. But he was not particularly creative, if by that word you mean that he invented his stories. To put it bluntly, he stole most of his plots. And in the case of one of his otherwise best plays, *Antony and Cleopatra*, he hardly changed whole scenes from his immediate source, North's translation of *Plutarch's Lives*.

Yet surely, no-one today would contest the impact his plays have had in shaping how we see the world, and even the language in which we describe it. We are using his words and phrases all the time, often without even being aware of it.

And some plays have explored what it is to be human in such a way that has hardly been bettered. For instance, as we become more aware of the terrible toll dementia takes on those living with it and on their families, his masterpiece *King Lear* grows even more in impact.

That we know all this, that we appreciate all that Shakespeare was, is due in large measure to the work of some of his friends and collaborators who got together, seven years after his death, to publish the first complete collection of his surviving plays. There were, by the way, several other plays that have disappeared as they were not included in the First Folio, such as *Love's Labours Won* and *Cardenio*, a late play which he co-wrote.

The 400th anniversary of First Folio of Shakespeare's plays is truly something to celebrate. And nor should it be just students of literature like me who have studied the plays for so long, who are waving the flags. Anyone who enjoys the excitement of live theatre, or who appreciates the skill of using language to express the most profound thoughts in the most expressive of language will surely also give thanks not just for the life of William Shakespeare, but for the foresight of his friends who preserved his legacy by saving his words for posterity.



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A View From The Hills

by Miranda Gudenian

I am waiting in the lane, near the house. Warm zephyrs waft lemony scents of elderflower to me; it is balmy enough to sleep outdoors. I am not here to sleep, but to watch.

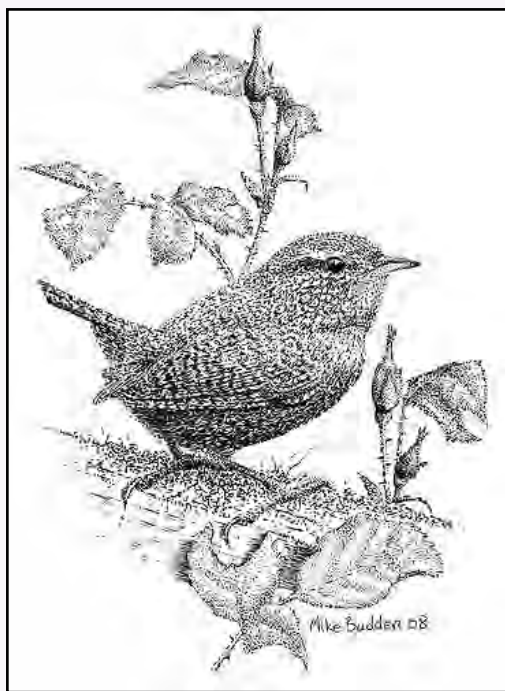
From the valley below comes the sound of the church clock striking ten. A cloud of rooks crosses the darkening sky. Venus, the evening star, gleams. On the bank behind me, something is snuffling through the billows of pink campion and fading bluebell stems and it's too slow-moving for a badger. But it's not a hedgehog that I am waiting for.

Then I see it: a bird about the size of a thrush with a raptor's fierce yellow glare perches briefly on the telegraph pole and then dives into Spiller's Cottage.

Perhaps I should have genuflected. In Ancient Greece, *Athene noctua* - known to you and me as the little owl - was worshipped. Flip a silver coin of the Plato era depicting the profile of Athena, goddess of wisdom, and you find the saucer-eyed image of her patron, one of the smallest owls in the world. Nowadays, little owls are no longer a common sight, so it is a privilege to have a pair nesting within a few yards of my kitchen window.

Occasionally I spot them on the telegraph pole in the lane or I hear them in the evenings - though, unlike the soft calls of the tawny owls that hunt the fields and woods of this hillside, the little owl can make a screech that pierces the twilight, easily mistaken for the scream of a rabbit in pain.

It's a fair bet that Spiller's Cottage hasn't provided accommodation for little owls before, the birds being a Victorian introduction to Britain and the medieval cottage occupied by local families until relatively recently when, a bit tumbly-down, it was converted into a garage for my predecessors' treasured Mini Minor, one of the first off the Cowley production line. Heavy snow a few winters ago brought down part of the roof. Within weeks a gang of house sparrows moved in. This spring, a pair of little owls began prospecting.



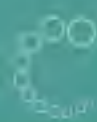
Living cheek by jowl with little owls proved a step too far for the house sparrows who wisely departed for safer billets along the lane. Diminutive they might be, but little owls are not averse to snatching a small bird to satisfy the ravenous appetites of their young, though mostly their diet is insect-based - cockchafers, crane flies, earthworms. But one tiny bird wasn't put off from living in a semi-det with a little owl family as neighbours: a fearless Jenny Wren has brought up two broods in the nest box on the outside wall of Spiller's Cottage. "You can't mean they're co-existing?" a bird-loving friend gasped in amazement.

Perhaps the wrens reckon that they are superior to the little owls: after all, Greek legend tells us that by hiding on the eagle's back, the clever wren became king of all birds in the contest to see which could fly highest. The eagle soared towards the sun but as it tired the wren popped out of the eagle's feathers and flew even higher.

The pair of little owls in Spiller's Cottage begin hunting shortly before dusk, but the wrens are still back and forth with grubs for their brood at that time. The young wrens in the nest box haven't been told to keep the noise down and so as dusk approaches there's a veritable chorus of young wrens piping for snacks before bedtime and the owlets, limbering up for a night of feasting, hissing to their parents to hurry along with what I suppose for them is breakfast. The wrens' nestbox is in direct view from my kitchen window so it is easy to keep an eye on their comings and goings.

A few evenings ago, the owlets fledged; I heard them at nightfall in the trees behind the house. Today the wrens followed, popping out of the hole in the nestbox one after the other as if from a vending machine and later I found them cheeping in the lane near the garden gate. Ever tried corralling five baby wrens? Within moments of getting them back to the safety of the garden they obstinately skittered up the steps into the lane again. I tried once more, waving a delivery van to a halt while I did so, but as soon as the van drove away the wrens fluttered straight back to hang out in the lane. Small they may be, but wrens could give a masterclass in defiance.

This evening I caught sight of mother wren darting among the lower branches of a tree on the bank, filling the air with a frenzy of alarm. From trees higher up came the hiss of young owls. Don't push your luck, baby wrens. You may think you're king of the birds, but I regret to inform you that there are some blood-thirsty beaks out there.



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A Rose By Any Other Name

by Andrea Rye, Combe Garden Centre

I have a small garden. And I am greedy; so I like plants that grow up, not out, so that you can fit in more! Fences and walls are just vertical spaces for plants to me so I never waste them. Walls covered with climbers are also wonderful for increasing the wildlife in your garden as it gives them extra places to shelter in. There are a multitude of climbers out there to cover wasted or unsightly walls and fences but here I am specifically writing about climbing roses. Buying climbing roses is an activity full of peril as I have found out. Why you ask. Well, the problem is that online pictures of the flowers and picture labels can often be quite far from the truth about a Rose's colour and form and often when we buy them from garden centres they are not in flower. If you are very particular about the colours you want in your garden plants, having a rose come out in an unexpected shade is very vexing! As is a rose that has the wrong shape full blown. So here are a few profiles of climbing roses so that you can but with confidence and not end up giving them to your next-door neighbour (my neighbour's garden is full of my ex-plants that are the wrong colour/form).

Rose "Wild Rover"– Purple, semi double flowers with a yellow centre and golden stamen. Lovely classic shape in bud. Open medium to large floribunda type blooms. Popular with bees. This is an incredible rose. It's gorgeous and a lovely deep purple. It is a vigorous climber but not a monster and can be grown in a large pot. Ideal for a trellis, fence, or wall. The flowers are not terribly long lived but are borne in generous clusters that open over a long period of time. Deadheading as soon as the flowers start to drop petals and the plant will rapidly put out new flowering growth.

Rose "Delightful"– Classic mid pink, double petaled, highly scented flowers. Simply stunning in bud and unbelievably cute, classic, and tidy full blown. I don't think there is another rose so aptly named!! This rose is a stunning beauty. I have never seen such perfectly formed flowers, which are incredibly long lasting and only begin to fade in colour right before dropping petals. The flowers themselves are smallish, almost miniature, but just glorious in colour and scent. This is not an extremely vigorous rose, so suited to growing in a large pot, and better in a small space or up front and centre where you can really enjoy the sight and scent of it. Possibly my favourite so far!

Rose "Climbing Blue Moon"– Large, hybrid tea type, double petaled, lilac blue flowers with good scent that look lovely both in bud and full blown. Mid green foliage. The flowers of this rose are quite stunning and very impressive in size and clear lilac blue colour. A "blue" climbing rose is hard to find and this is probably one of the best and most readily available. The flowers are massive and long lasting however mine, which was planted a month ago, doesn't have its roots fully settled in yet so the flowers wilt and suffer in the heat. If you plant this rose during hot dry weather it may be best to cut off the first set of flowers so the plant can concentrate on getting established rather than producing whopping big flowers. Really, the colour of the flowers can't be beaten and lifts any planting scheme. It's a real beauty.

Rose "Warm Welcome"– Fiery, bright orange and yellow, miniature, single petaled flowers. Stems are almost purple and the leaves are a gorgeous, glossy dark green. This is an old classic climbing rose. Its is a prolific flowerer with good vigour that will give you flowers from the bottom to the top of the plant all summer and into autumn (with the right pruning). This rose works very well with burgundy, purple, red and yellow plants around it. Bring out the rose colours by planting Solidago, burgundy Penstemons and Phytolacca near it. This is another one that can happily be grown in a large pot.

Rose "Alice"– Classic shaped, salmon pink buds become large, double, blousy flowers that fade to pastel shades of pink, yellow

and cream. This is a rose for subtle colour schemes, which my garden is not, and unfortunately one that went to live happily ever after next door when I bought one. The flowers are lightly scented, hybrid tea type and become very large, paling quickly to gentle colours. I bought one as it is advertised as pink but this is really only the buds and when full blown it is multicoloured in pastel shades. If you are all about a cottage garden look and pale pastels this would be a great addition.

Rose "Iceberg"– Lovely pure white, double, floribunda flowers are born in clusters all summer. Good scent and vigorous without being a thug. This is a lovely rose that is scented and very free flowering all summer and into autumn. The flowers are beautiful in bud and full blown, prolific, and last well but go on even longer with dead heading. Ideal for a high wall or arbour. This rose will also tolerate part shade. A reliable, productive rose.

Rose "Masquerade"– Very large rose with colour changing, floribunda flowers that start primrose yellow and become a deep pink the longer they are exposed to sunlight. This rose is a mahoosive beast! If you want a rose to cover a large building or get up to first floor windows in a hurry, choose this one! It will happily grow to over 5/6 meters! The flowers are lovely, lightly scented and borne in generous clusters. Its first flowering is the most prolific but with correct feeding and deadheading it repeat flowers all summer. Definitely not a rose for growing in pots.

To get the most out of your roses just follow these simple rules and you will be rewarded with healthier more floriferous plants:

In winter prune well, taking side branches down to 2 or three buds.

- ▶ In spring feed with sulphate of potash and a generous mulch of well-rotted manure. (Roses are heavy feeders so treat them right for their efforts!)
- ▶ In summer feed as directed on the packet with rose food on a regular basis.
- ▶ In autumn clear away dead leaves and mulch again heavily with well-rotted manure.
- ▶ To control blackspot, aphids and mildew use the foliar feed SB Invigorator on a weekly or fortnightly basis from the emergence of leaves. It is also a foliar feed and will not harm adult insects like products that mix fungicide and pesticide.



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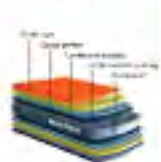


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The magazine is produced monthly and is **FREE** of charge, it is available in local and village shops. Contact us for page sizes and current rates and we will be pleased to be of assistance.

The Ramblings Of Erudite Gertie From Gittisham

in Conversation with Jo Golesworthy

I received on the email a message from our Editor of the Honiton & Village News hoping I would have a good holiday, wherever I determine my destination. Well, dear reader, what with the costs of travel, the problems of getting a passport, traffic jams, aeroplane delays and with my granddaughter, May, policing my every move for fear of me recklessly squandering our beautiful planet's resources, I have decided this year to holiday in beautiful Gittisham. So 'twas on a Monday morning, a somewhat sultry day in June, that I set forth to Gittisham graveyard, armed with a delicious picnic lunch and a thermos flask of coffee. I packed a cold kidney sandwich for my sister, Birdie, should I chance upon meeting her, as I am aware that these long summer nights she is once more sleeping upon the bed of rotting grass cuttings in the hollow of the old yew. Well! Such delights awaited my arrival for dotted around the re-wilding of the ancient necropolis were these incredible art-obra crafted from limestone compound. How my heart danced to see such a sight nestling so naturally amongst the willowing flora and fauna with such a humble backdrop. The decrepit, pitted and worn tombstones only served to further enhance the scene with a deeper, timeless significance. Indeed, as the artist, Jo Golesworthy, herself commented, "The landscape now is like a Greek Island, so very dry."



How fortunate for me that once settled in my deckchair, the person responsible for these 'Pollen grains' just happened to be on her morning meditative meander and felt inclined to educate this hapless holidaymaker. What a mine of information, and how my vocabulary grew and my mind expanded, as I listened intently to the development of Jo's body of work. Her interest in this medium began while studying at Brighton Polytechnic, and when on a visit to Portland quarries and various other disused quarries, Jo became interested in the qualities of limestone. She began building birds and reptiles from a limestone compound - recognising the textual appeal of feathers and scaly surfaces. However, it was when at a jumble sale - one of those glorious events of past times when all sorts of bargains could be found - that Jo discovered the inspirational source which would lead eventually to her oeuvre. She purchased a pile of unwanted National Geographic magazines and there, in one edition, as a centre-spread was Jo's 'lightbulb' moment - a black and white image of pollen grains created by a Scanning Electron Micrograph. Now, thought Jo, gazing in awe at

this grainy two dimensional image, how could I make this three dimensional? What would it feel like to handle? Could I create one on a human scale? Consequently, Jo's pollen sculptures are inspired by Scanning Electron Micrograph images. She attempts to illustrate individual 'grains' (a misnomer, as Jo prefers the term 'plant sperm') in three dimensions at approx. 10-15,000 times magnification. The tough exine of each pollen particle conveys the male reproductive cells of flowering plants and is carried by insects, wind, water, mammals or other means. These 'caskets' have many varied features denoting plant families, genera and species in forensic detail. As this cannot be seen with the naked eye, Jo is further awestruck and indebted by the worldwide advances in microscopy and Palynology - deriving from Greek and meaning *The Study of Dust*. Interestingly, the actual cells are only viable for a few hours/days and do simply dry up, yet the outer shell, the exine, is very tough, and can stay in the soil for hundreds of years if not destroyed by fire. Pollen remains have been found on ancient bodies discovered in bogs and today Palynologists are involved in archaeology and criminology where the study of pollen using microscopy has resulted in many crimes being solved.

I have to say I found this conversation absolutely fascinating and so far removed from the daily discourses normally enjoyed when out and about in the village. And what is exciting is that Jo is further experimenting with her work and now prefers to mainly create lighter and larger papier mache models which she coats with her home-made gesso - the substance used by Romans, Greeks and the Italian Renaissance painters - thereby creating a tough coating not dissimilar to an egg shell. Also, papier mache being more malleable and lighter, allows Jo to be more precise and so she is now involved in furthering her work by creating scaled up reliefs of the more intricate textures found on some pollen caskets. Beekeepers, especially those involved in putting on exhibitions, are very interested in Jo's output and like to acquire her Pollen models to add rarefied visuals, thus promoting an interest in the sowing of all species of wild flowers. For those who wish to further their own understanding of Pollen Sculpture please do visit the University of Vienna's website - a Palynological database, PalDat, where you can enter the Latin name of a flower and check out a full set of wonderful images. For once, throughout this erudite exchange, my sister Birdie had perched by my side, reasonably well-behaved masticating almost silently on her chewy offal sandwich. However, she did perk up considerably when Jo mentioned that strawberries technically belong to the nut family because their seeds are on the outside. Birdie promptly wandered off, only to return with her greasy old sun hat half-filled with those most delicious 'nuts'. So succulent and delicious with their ruby-red juices exploding with the flavours of summer. Apparently, some villagers are on holiday in Crete and have left their strawberry bed unattended! Seemingly, for Birdie, definitely another factor to justify holidaying in the beautiful, culturally rich village of Gittisham.

Bertie Keeps His Cool



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.

Gorblimeykins what scorching days we are having and I don't know about you but it does sap the energy a bit doesn't it? For once I envy my humans as I watch them get dressed in the lightest of garments, not possible for a spaniel of course with a thick black double layered waterproof coat that he has to wear all year around. Thank goodness for Paula at the pooch parlour who keeps me trimmed and looking dapper.

Life at Bertie HQ in this heat slips into a more Continental routine with shady walks up on the fort before breakfast then quite a lot of lazing around with the odd frozen carrot lolly to cool me down and a paddle in the river before another woodland wander in the evening. Even for this super charged doggo that's about as much excitement as I am looking for at the moment.

The other evening, we came around a bend in the woods right onto a lovely deer; we all stared at each other for a few seconds and then the deer skipped off into the undergrowth - funnily enough barking like a dog. My female human (FH) gave me loads of praise and even a treat for not setting off in hot pursuit but do you know what I just couldn't be bothered....

My male human (MH) is pretty handy with making stuff so I think I am going to ask him to rig me up my very own special Bertie hammock under the trees in the back garden, I can then swing gently in the breeze dozing all day with cool drinks and doggie snacks provided whenever I want – dream on doggo, dream on!

Stay cool my friends, stay out of mischief and I will see you back here after my holidays when maybe I will have my pep back.



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Honiton Military Veterans' Flowerbed



The Royal British Legion in Honiton has created an initiative, in conjunction with East Devon District Council and Honiton Town Council, to create a memory wall for Military Veterans that have lived and died in the Town.

Now full established, an unkempt flowerbed in New Street next to Lloyds Bank has been fully replanted and is now maintained by The Honiton Branch of The Royal British Legion.

The wall of the flowerbed is a place to remember Military Veterans who have lived, worked and died in the town.

The plaques will have the name of the Veteran along with the Branch of the Armed Service that they served in, along with year of birth and year of death.

If any members of the community would like to remember a past relative who has served in the Armed Forces, please get in touch with The Legion.

Each plaque will cost the purchaser £40 to go towards the manufacture of the plaque and the maintenance of the project.

Please contact the Legion at Honiton.secretary@rbl.community and we will get an application form to you



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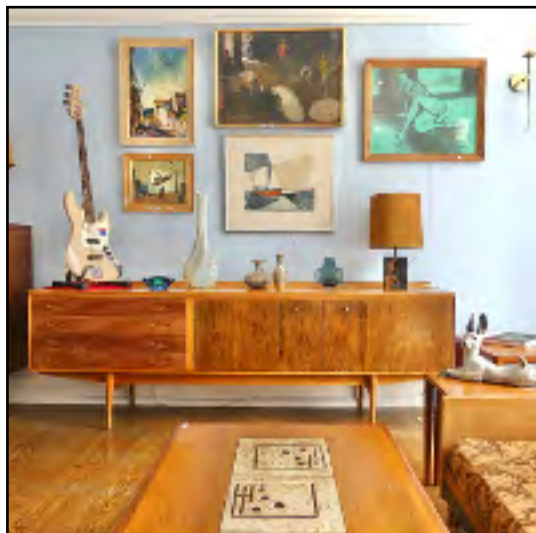
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Brown Furniture Is Dead. Long Live Brown Furniture!

by Liz Chilcott



In 2004 I bought a 1960s Ercol 'blonde' dining table and eight chairs for £45 at a general sale. The set was under cardboard boxes of stuff and crammed into a row of items including washing machines, ironing boards etc. - treated by the auctioneer as collateral lots accepted as a service to the vendor. Meanwhile, in another part of the same auction house, their main saleroom was stylishly displayed with Period Oak and Georgian Mahogany pieces – treated with a great deal of reverence.

Nowadays the situation will have changed: mid-century furniture, including Ercol, will be on display with the fine antiques. Over the past few years there has been a huge increase in the demand for 20thC design; this is across the board – furniture, pictures, ceramics and glass. Partly due to taste - the fashion for lighter, less cluttered rooms, furnished with clean lines - and partly because the dimensions of the pieces fit in with modern houses.

In our 15th July auction we have a very wide range of mid twentieth century pieces; we have set out our High Street-facing room with 1960s and 70s furniture and accessories. By dressing our most visible saleroom in this way, we hope to attract first-time auction buyers to the auction; this room is on public view now – please pop in and have a look.

As to my £45 Ercol dining suite - when I got it home, it was too large for the space, and I gave it to my aunt; an identical set has recently sold at auction for £1,600!

Chilcotts Auction of Fine Art, Good Antiques & 20thC Design will take place on 15th July, with viewing starting on Saturday 8th July

For more information visit www.chilcottsauctions.co.uk, or ring 01404 47783



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Sunny Days And Happy Dogs

by Jude Davidson

With the lovely hot weather beating down on us there are a few things to take into consideration when you're out with your dog. Unlike humans, dogs regulate their body temperature through panting and the only sweat glands that they have are in their feet and nose. You can imagine pavement walking and being trapped in a car on hot days really can be a huge issue for dogs.

Constantly drawing in warm air or standing on hot surfaces is not only a very unnatural environment which they can't control, it's also a big killer during summer time and more dogs are dying because of being exercised on hot days than being shut in cars.

Heatstroke can lead to permanent internal organ damage and death very quickly because once a dog's body temperature goes above 39 - 41 degrees it is very difficult for them to bring it back down by themselves, which means the temperature will just keep rising, eventually cooking their own internal organs. Gruesome aye!!!



So, here are a few tips to keep your dog safe and cool in the summer months.

Walk your dog either end of the day and avoid the hottest time. Or, like me, I have no choice to walk at the warmest part of the day so I take the dogs to hilltops where there is a better breeze, woodland areas and places where they can swim. The hard walking stops and the gentle games like sniffari's are adopted. No pavement walks!

Take water with you and, if you're out for the day, you can pour this over your dog but make sure the water isn't freezing because your dog might go into shock.

Adopt the 5 second rule by placing the back of your hand on the pavement; if you can leave your hand there for more than 5 seconds then it should be safe for most dogs.

Stop your dog from running around; dogs can be a bit dim when it comes to play because some are play obsessed. It's your job to take their best interests into consideration.

Don't leave your dog in the car! It doesn't matter how long it is. Not only will you have the general public breathing down your neck and risk your car getting broken into by the police, you could end up in court for animal cruelty.

Keep your dog at a good weight, excess weight can easily lead to overheating and I can't tell you how much it breaks my heart to see fat dogs struggling on hot

days. You should be able to feel their ribs easily all the way down without pressing, partly see the spine and they shouldn't be flat on the back.

Use Kongs with frozen mush inside and scatter feed in a shaded area instead of a walk in the day. I would feed little and often instead of big meals. Like us, big meals can be offputting when it's too hot which is why lots of dogs won't eat.

Please bear in mind that there are certain breeds that are very well adapted to the heat and can tolerate higher temperatures much better than others. I think it's important to be aware of the signs of a dog struggling to cope with the heat before accusations and action are taken. Heavy panting, drooling, reddened gums, vomiting, diarrhea, unco-ordinated movement, unresponsive and collapse are classic signs. Also checking your dog's feet and the temperature of the pavement should be done regularly when it's hot.

Pugs and flat nosed dogs, very large or very small dogs, puppies, old dogs, dogs with health issues, long haired or fluffy dogs and fat dogs are the dogs at the biggest risk of struggling in the heat and should be really considered during the hot months.



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 Art Class You've Always Wanted

Every Tuesday morning and afternoon 20 adult art students gather in the very plush Broadhembury Memorial Hall to learn or improve their art skills and well as making new friends.

The Seasons Art class – Honiton was established by Jemma Perry in 2022 and is one of nearly 200 Seasons Art franchises throughout the UK. The 14 week courses incorporate pencil drawing, oil pastels, watercolours and acrylics.

The students comment how their skills have grown, thanks to the relaxed but structured curriculum and high level teaching by Claire Jeanes, qualified art teacher and artist.

Students enjoy 3 hours, once a week, in this happy and friendly environment, enjoying step by step guidance for beginners and more challenging projects for improvers. Each student will produce at least 12 pieces of art during the 14 week course, which ends with an exhibition; a bubbly gathering of students, their friends and families, all-comers welcome! The next exhibition is Tuesday July 18th.

Many students have attended every term since the launch, making Tuesday their art day, some are total beginners, never having picked up a brush or pencil before – whilst those with more experience are looking for challenges with the opportunity to explore new media and techniques. The Autumn course, starting in September is taking bookings now.

Proving to be excellent for relaxation, switching off and overall improvement for mental health there is more to creating art than meets the eye. Each term has a brand new curriculum, so work is never repeated and is open to adults of all ages.

Call Jemma Perry on 01297 32335 or email seasonsarthoniton@icloud.com

We Will Bring Out Your Inner Artist 😊

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Images from the recent Broadhembury exhibition



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What's On - At The Beehive - Live Music, Movies & Musicals

We kick things off with **The Kahunas**, an indie folk music duo based on the southwest coast performing on Saturday 1st July 7.30pm. They will be playing their own original material with violin, guitar, vocals and a stomping dance beat!

We have a very exciting exclusive at The Beehive on Friday 7th July (7.30pm) when the Double-Header Concert of **Peter Knight's Gigspanner Trio Plus Peter Knight & John Spierswill** be performing for us. The band is a unique force in British folk music... As collaborations go, it doesn't get much more mouth-watering than this!

After the success of our previous Exhibition on Screen (Vermeer) we are delighted to announce our second **Exhibition on Screen -Tokyo stories**. The film is a thrilling encounter with one of the world's great art capitals. It tells the stories of the artists and people who have made Tokyo famous for its boundless drive for the new and innovative. Thursday 13th July 7pm

Town of Catsband are bringing something a little bit different to The Beehive. They will be performing a mix of Latin, Jazz, Afro-beat & Hip-hop. Friday 14th July 7.30pm.

Our two films this month are **Book Club: The Next Chapter (12A)** - the highly anticipated sequel screening on Saturday 15th July 7.30pm and **Mad About a Boy – The Noel Coward Story (12A)** Thursday 27th July 7.30pm.

On Saturday 22nd July The Beehive welcomes you to an **Afternoon Tea Dance**. Starting at 3pm for 1 hour of dance with a break for afternoon tea in The Beehive Cafe, followed by another hour of dancing. Traditional ballroom and Latin dancing, including the traditional tea dance sequence dances. Tickets are only £10 which includes afternoon tea.

The Lion King (1994) is our Nostalgic Cinema screening this month. Bring your friends and family along to watch this classic film on the big screen over the summer holidays. Thursday 27th July 2pm.

Tickets only £4.50 with a hot drink! Our Nostalgic Cinema is kindly sponsored by Home Instead – Exter and East Devon.

Are you a fan of TAKE THAT? The Beehive has the perfect entertainment for you..**Greatest Days (12A)**, the official Take That musical. We are offering a lunch with this film on Friday 28th July 2pm.

Tickets: Adults £7.50, U16 £6.50 + Lunch £5.

The summer holidays are about to begin. Keep up to date with all our upcoming events over the summer by signing up to our newsletter via our website www.beehivehoniton.co.uk. We look forward to seeing you soon!
Rachael and The Beehive Team.

the beehive Honiton's Community & Arts
JULY 2023

THE KAHUNAS
Sat 1 July - 7.30pm - £10
Melodic indie folk music. The South West Coast duo The Kahunas, perform their own original material with violin, guitar, vocals and a foot stomping dance beat.

ART EXHIBITION - PRINTS & CARDS BY KEN EVANS
Mon 3 July - Tue 8 Aug
Evans (1924-1987) exhibited in major art exhibitions and appeared on television twice. He is known for his use of wax & egg emulsions.

GIGSPANNER TRIO PLUS PETER KNIGHT & JOHN SPIERSWILL
Fri 7 July - 7.30pm - £24
Exclusive Double-Header Concert!
"One of the most intriguing and exciting collaborations on today's folk scene" FRUK.

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: TOKYO STORIES
Thu 13 July - 7pm - £12.50
This film tells the stories of the artists and people who have made Tokyo famous for its boundless drive for the new and innovative.

TOWN OF CATS WITH SUPPORT - BLIMEY OF RILEY
Fri 14 July - 7.30pm - £14
Town of cats bring a mix of Latin, Jazz, Afro-beat & Hip-hop. Funk rhythms dare you not to dance. Blimey Oh Riley will bring us a punk fuelled show.

BOOK CLUB: THE NEXT CHAPTER (12A)
Sat 15 July - 7.30pm - Adults £7.50, U16 £6.50
Four best friends take their book club to Italy for a fun girls trip. Things go off the rails and secrets are revealed. The relaxing vacation turns into a once-in-a-lifetime cross-country adventure.

MEGA 80'S WEEK! 14th - 19th August
Get ready for our Mega 80's Week in August where we will be screening six classic 80's movies, hosting an 80's quiz night and a performance from THE ZOOTS! 80's Tribute.

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Box Office: 01404 384050 www.beehivehoniton.co.uk Charity 1162412

the beehive Honiton's Community & Arts
JUL/AUG 2023

THE BEEHIVE FOLK CAFE
Wed 19 July - 7.30pm - Free Entry
Come along to sing or listen in the Beehive bar with our lovely folkie host, Sue King. The folk cafe runs every other third Wednesday of the month. No booking needed.

AFTERNOON TEA DANCE
Sat 22 July - 3pm - £10
Traditional ballroom and Latin dancing afternoon. This will include the traditional tea dance sequence dances. It might even include a bit of old time or a party dance! Ticket includes afternoon tea in the cafe.

MAD ABOUT THE BOY (12A)
Thu 27 July - 7.30pm - Adults £7.50, U16 £6.50
A documentary exploring Noel Coward's expansive career which features credits across the stage and screen.

GREATEST DAYS (12A) + OPTIONAL LUNCH
Fri 28 July - 2pm - Adults £7.50, U16 £6.50 + £5 Lunch
The feel-good and universal story of love and friendship featuring the hit songs of Take That and adapted from the smash stage show by the writer of Calendar Girls.

FAMILY SUMMER FUN - FILMS AND MORE!
The Beehive is celebrating the summer holidays with a whole programme of films, theatre and an interactive activity for all the whole family. Take a look at our Family Summer Fun flyer for more information on all events!

MEGA 80'S WEEK! 14th - 19th August
Get ready for our Mega 80's Week in August where we will be screening six classic 80's movies, hosting an 80's quiz night and a performance from THE ZOOTS! 80's Tribute.

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Honiton Agricultural Show Thursday 3rd August



The Honiton Agricultural Show is planning for a great celebration of rural life in the East Devon Countryside on Thursday 3rd August. We have a fabulous array of fantastic entertainment; we are delighted to welcome The Devil's Horsemen performing breathtaking displays with some of the world's best-known horses from film and television, recent credits include: Les Miserables with Russell Crowe. Squibb Freestyle Motocross Arena Stunt Show returns, Jamie and his team perform daredevil jumps and stunts, this is the ultimate arena show, and we can't wait for these two headline acts!

We have children's entertainment in abundance; come and meet the amazing animated characters Sheridan the Sheepdog and Pumpkin the Pony, enjoy the fabulous Twistopher Punch & Judy Show or how about a wonderful donkey ride? Professor Crump, on his stilts, will be bringing lots of mischief and fun, will he be a Clown or a Ringmaster? Have you ever seen Dancing Sheep?!- come and watch The Sheep Show; a unique show

that has captured the hearts of many, it is both educational and amusing – a must for all ages.

The lower field incorporates all that is countryside with hurdle making, thatching, Cob Block and Hedge laying demonstrations. Or take a trip down memory lane with over 100 Vintage Tractors and over 50 stunning Classic Cars. We look forward to hosting The West of England Hound Show including a wonderful Young Handlers class. We will have our wonderful fun dog show with classes for Pedigree or pet pooches.



At the heart of the show are all the wonderful livestock with sheep, cattle and horses in abundance including the majestic heavy horses and Private Driving. A huge variety of differing sheep breeds, introducing new classes for Wiltshire Horn & Dutch Spotted Sheep and extensive Dairy & Beef Cattle classes culminating in the wonderful Grand Parade where all the day's prize winners parade with pride. With a vast array of shopping on offer, fabulous food and drink to tickle everyone's tastebuds, including our fantastic new Cookery Theatre with a full schedule of Chef Demonstrations, there is something to appeal to every member of the family - come and experience East Devon's Premier Day out!

For further details on the show or information on becoming a member of the Association and enjoying all the benefits please contact the Secretary on 01404 41794, follow us on twitter @honitonshow1890.

Gates open at 8.00am with non-stop, action packed entertainment until 6.00pm. Discounted Early bird Tickets are available now at just £17.50 in advance (ticket prices held from 2022) for a whole day of enjoyment and two accompanied children (Under 16) are admitted free! Please go to www.honitonshow.co.uk and purchase your tickets now!



The Arts Society Honiton meets at the Beehive in Dowell Street on the second Tuesday of the month, from October to June, at 2pm.

Visitors are always welcome and can pay on the door.

Their full programme can be seen on their website: theartsocietyhoniton.org.uk.

The next lecture is on October 10th on Dame Laura Knight RA. Catherine Wallace is coming back following an earlier lecture she gave on Cornish artists.



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HONITON AGRICULTURAL SHOW

Thursday 3rd August 2023

A celebration of Rural Life in the Heart
of the East Devon Countryside



*A showcase for the best of local farming, produce, crafts and rural skills
Exhilarating Entertainment, Fabulous Shopping, Majestic Livestock & Horses*

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Gates open at 8am

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What's On

Hot Pennies - Tuesday 25th July



On Tuesday 25th July Honiton celebrates a tradition that dates back more than 800 years.

At 12 noon the Town Crier, Dave Retter, will raise his hat outside the Pannier Market and begin the chant outside the Pannier which the gathered crowd are encouraged

to repeat. Coins will be thrown at this first stop by staff from The Bed Expert and Chilcotts Auctioneers.

Oyez, oyez, oyez

The glove is up, the glove is up, the glove is up

The fair has begun, the fair has begun, the fair has begun

No man shall be arrested, no man shall be arrested, no man shall be arrested

Until the glove is taken down, until the glove is taken down, until the glove is taken down

And then - for the first time in many years - the final cry of God Save The King!

The Town Crier will lead the crowd around the town,

visiting The Three Tuns, WBW Solicitors and The Holt before being joined by the Mayor at The Volunteer where the golden glove atop the garlanded pole will be hoisted and remain in place for the following week.

Originally hot chestnuts were thrown but over time these gave way to hot pennies which were thrown by the more affluent inhabitants. Legend has it that these people took great delight in seeing the peasants burn their fingers whilst collecting the pennies. All these years later the practice continues - although reassuringly these days the pennies are merely warm! However, nothing stops the crowd as they scramble for pennies in Honiton High Street on this special day for the town.

The organising committee is committed to preserving this ancient ceremony and has been grateful for the continued financial support from its sponsors - not forgetting the assistance from respective publicans and retailers, some of whom take part in the annual Window Display Competition in the week running up to the Ceremony. Special thanks also to Devon Freewheelers for marshalling the event.

Please note that Honiton High Street will be closed between New Street and Dowell Street from 11.45-12.30 and between Dowell Street and Mill Street from 12.30-1pm on the day.

Gittisham Country Dancing Club

What is it?

Country dancing like a Barn dance or Cotillions (promiscuous hayles)

What to expect?

Expect to join in with a friendly group of people of all ages with live music and a caller to guide you through each dance.

Half way through the evening there will be a break for tea/coffee and biscuits and all this comes with an entrance fee of £5.50 per evening or for an annual subscription of £2 a fee of £5 per evening.

Where and when?

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Why come?

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For more information and to contact us please visit gittishamfolkdanceclub.org

HOUSE OF HAIR & BEAUTY

Hair today... gone tomorrow!

Victoria Bell has agreed to have the majority of her hair cut off in aid of Cancer Charities.

Her hair will be donated to the Little Princess Trust to be made into wigs.

Dave, who is Victoria's God Father will make the first cut.



**11am in the Salon on
Saturday 22nd July**

Please give generously

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Honiton Hot Pennies

Tuesday 25th July

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at 12 noon.



Sponsors:

Hoisting up a garlanded pole with a gloved hand at the top, it is proclaimed that "No man may be arrested so long as this glove is up" - a reference to when everyone would come to Honiton for the fair which followed the ceremony without fear of being arrested for their debts.

All are welcome to join the procession that follows the garlanded pole to a number of locations in the town from which 'hot pennies' are tossed. Pennies were originally hot so that the affluent people who threw them could delight in seeing the peasants burn their fingers whilst collecting them.

Nowadays the pennies are merely warm!



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Honiton Market Charter Day- Saturday 29th July

This year we celebrate the 766th anniversary of the granting of Honiton's Market Charter. Our theme this year is historical Honiton with Honiton Museum being our chosen charity.

The day begins with the ringing of St Paul's church bells heralding the reading of the Market Charter by the Town Crier before he presents it to the Town Mayor. Following on from this, outside St Paul's Church, there will be plenty of live music and another chance to hear the bells. Next to the church in the Mackarness Hall, you will find George the Magician, entertaining his audiences at 10.45am and again at 1.15pm. All children will need to be accompanied by an adult. The Thelma Hulbert Gallery is also holding a creative workshop at the Gallery so get along to this to get your creative juices flowing. Continuing the creative theme, head up to the other end of the High Street where you will also find the Honiton Pottery Shop offering crafting activities. Leading off the High Street, you can find Charity Stalls, in Northcote Lane.

Before you leave the High Street, have a go at spotting all the shops that have decorated their windows following the historical Honiton theme. There are prizes to be won for the best window displays. Winners will be announced at 3pm on Allhallows Field.

Moving down to Allhallows Playing Field, you will find an abundance of things to see and do. There are plenty of groups entertaining in the main ring throughout the day. In a separate ring there is a dog show which starts at 1pm. There are also the Classic Cars and Tractors which will process through the High Street. Around the field you can find bouncy castles, charity stalls, a forge, a wheelwright, shire horses, llamas, skittles, Punch and Judy, face painting, the Fire Service, a food village, an arts and crafts village and a display of the artwork from the local schools.

Just off the field, outside of Honiton Community College, you will find the Honiton Community Swap Shop, a place to bring yours and your children's unwanted clothing and take away something you fancy.

We hope you have a lovely day being part of the Market Charter Day.

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on

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Designated Charity:
Honiton Museum

Band Concert at Honiton
Millennium Green 7.00 by
Honiton Town Band



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Yarcombe Circular

by Chris Harwood

Map OS Explorer 116 – Lyme Regis and Bridport. 1:25000.

6.6 miles. Needs walking to save it! A wonderful walk starting at the ford over the River Yarty, SE of Yarcombe with vast open panoramic views, a babbling River Yarty. Mostly well signed BUT needs some heavy feet to keep it clear. Parking at the start not easy but look for roadside parking exactly 0.5 miles after leaving the A30 on Pound Lane leading to Moxhayes dwellings. An exciting walk.

Leave Honiton on the A30 and about 500 yards through Yarcombe at a small chapel take the lane, Pound Lane, off to the right. In exactly 0.5 miles (Grid Ref SY0693 9930) look for off road parking. Walk on and left downhill to the ford over the Yarty and Moxhayes buildings. Take the footbridge beside the ford and follow the river on your left. In about 200 yards move right to a stile in the hedge – bit cow-trodden here but you can do it. Follow the river and eventually at the obvious field end move right through metal gate then left along field edge to find a stile hidden in the hedge. Follow the hedge on your left moving away from the river and meet the road at Stevens Farm. Move about 50 yards right along the A30 then cross on to the Public Footpath. Right around the house and find the rusty gate up to the right. Moving diagonally right follow the hedge on the right to a stile. Left here and follow the hedge.

At a distinct left-hand bend, beside a copse, move uphill diagonally left towards the trees to find a gateway / stile. Move left to a stile between two oaks and then follow hedge on your right to meet a concrete farm road at a gateway. Follow the road to Howley Farm. Meet the road and walk left downhill on this exquisite lane, crossing the river before pottering uphill, past Sheafhayne Cross to find the Public Footpath off left just after Birch Oak Farm. Stay high and follow the wire fence curving below the upper group of trees. Eventually, pass through the gate with binder twine hinges and before the next gate move downhill to a gate leading into open land. Move ahead and look for stile in the far corner leading on to a minor road. Left here then at the junction right into Yarcombe. Pass through and at the main road turn left. In a few yards take the Public Footpath off right. At the gate and stile stay straight ahead, passing through gateway into field of very long grass (at time of writing!) Cross over and find a gateway. On again ahead and at the further hedge move right to find the road at Middle Moorhayne Farm. Left on the road to the junction where you move right for a few yards before taking the public footpath off left. Go across the field to the hedge and stream, then follow the stream on your left. Eventually, cross a stile and bridge over the stream, then a second bridge, then cross a long open meadow to a final bridge on to the road. Left up the hill and then left at the junction to find your car wherever you might have secreted it!



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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Exploring Life In Miniature At Babbacombe

by Kate Baxter

A few weeks ago we set off for one of Devon's top attractions - the award-winning Babbacombe Model Village, which is just outside Torquay. This year it is celebrating its 60th anniversary. As we drove there I tried to explain to the girls what a model village is but, quite frankly, my efforts didn't achieve much, and so when we arrived I think they were expecting a few Lego pieces arranged in a field!

Emily and Nancy were happily absolutely blown away when we entered the village and saw our first scene. Set in four acres of landscaped gardens, the park consists of hundreds of hand-crafted scenes from a traditional English thatched village (which looked a lot like Gittisham but was named Mockington, after the local village of Cockington) to Game of Throne-style battle scenes and the Royal Crescent in Bath.

There are street scenes, building sites, Shakespeare's Globe and even a 1/12th model railway running through the grounds. There are 400 homes and 13,000 miniature people and some of them pop up in unexpected places - for example rock climbing in the fountain and the nudist beach next to the pond.

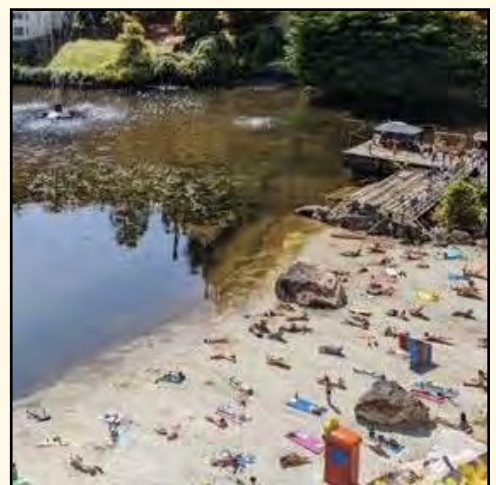
The detail displayed in the different scenes was extraordinary. We found that it took a while to go through the village if you wanted to see all the smaller features - a quick walk past was not enough! We spent almost two hours there in total (there is also mini-golf, which is included in the entrance fee) but we could have lingered longer.

The handmade buildings were impressive but it was the people that made the scenes - we enjoyed seeing a man asleep in a wheelbarrow, a group of builders having a wee as they stood in a traffic jam, the Chuckle Brothers moving a TV with 'Chuckle Vision' written on it, couples arguing inside the houses (some of the scenes have audio) and builders dropping equipment on people's toes!

A lot of thought had gone into it and even the names of the shops or businesses were amusing for adults - we spotted Pain in the Glass window fitters, Goggle, W.E Scratchit removal firm and a sign for the National Crust outside a castle - but there are hundreds!

There is a café and shop as well as a raised deck which provides an astonishing view of the whole area. It's only from here that you really see how large and impressive the site is. We had brought a picnic and were pleased to see that they welcomed people bringing their own food - not always the case!

After we finished at the village we drove the very short but extremely precipitous distance to Babbacombe Beach for a paddle and an ice-cream, ending a really lovely day and helpfully exhausting the children!



Babbacombe Model Village was opened in 1963 by Tom Dobbin. Born in 1917 in Southport, Lancashire, he saw service during WWII at Dunkirk and was decorated by his Majesty King George VI at Buckingham Palace.

Following the war, he made a reality of a dream he had, which was to build one of the finest model villages in the country. His very first village was a long way from Devon, opening in Southport, Lancashire in 1956.

This year Babbacombe Model Village celebrates its 60 year anniversary.

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You Are As Young As You Feel - Part 2

By Jonathan Boxall, Registered Osteopath Osteo and Physio in Honiton

Last month we wrote about how a scientific experiment showed that subjects who lived for a few weeks in an environment from 20 years earlier started to feel more energetic, experienced less pain and generally felt more youthful. It is amazing to realise that being unconsciously reminded of an earlier life through external stimulus can actually make your body measurably more youthful.

This month I am going to take this further by suggesting that the same effect could be achieved if you can get your internal sensory environment, your joints and muscles, feeling like they did 20 years ago.

There are a number of ways this works:

- Aching and stiff joints make you feel old. It isn't uncommon for patients of mine who are in pain to describe it by saying "I felt 100 years old when I woke up this morning."
- The way you carry yourself will affect how others treat you. Being bent and slow has a dramatically aging effect in the eyes of others.
- It is quite normal to unconsciously see ourselves as others do; these judgements can seep in like a poison that acts to accelerate aging.

So stiff, achy joints and a sore back can act as a self reinforcing loop that keeps you feeling old.

Thankfully there are solutions, and one of the powerful effects of Osteopathy is to loosen and stretch muscles and joints. This allows the body to move in a more fluid, upright and comfortable way. Not only do you feel stronger and more confident; others begin to perceive you in this way.

It follows that this sense of feeling energetic and younger from the inside, with reinforcing messages from the outside, can unconsciously prompt your body to activate your regenerative systems; prompting actual physiological changes which make you feel more energetic and less prone to pain.

There isn't a study I can point to to say that Osteopathy makes you younger, but it does seem that there are good reasons to suppose that it might.



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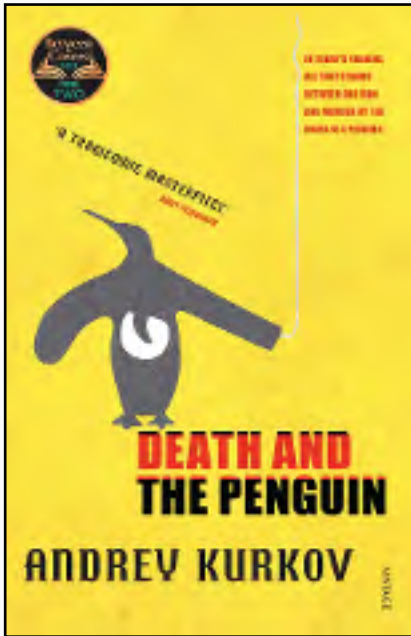
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Book Review - Death & The Penguin by Andrey Kurkov

by John Burgess



Viktor is a failed writer who lives a lonely life in Lviv scraping by on selling short, very short, stories. He lives with Misha, a King penguin which he rescued from the local zoo because it could no longer afford to keep all the animals. Viktor is a lonely, melancholic character and Misha is no substitute for human friendship. Misha *"brought his own kind of loneliness, with the result of two complementary lonelinesses creating an impression of interdependence rather than amity."*

The setting is Ukraine in the late years of the 20th century. The country is throwing off the constraints of membership of the Soviet Union and trying to embrace the freedoms of The West but has become a corrupt and lawless society with a lot of wealth in the hands of a few. The novel offers a stark portrayal of life in a post-Soviet society, yet it is shot through with dark humour.

Things look up for Viktor when he lands a job preparing obituaries of notable people for a national paper, but all is not as it seems. Why does Victor have to be anonymous? "It's In your own interest", his boss says, and why must he include information from the paper's crime archives? As the story develops it becomes more sinister and threatening, but who is behind the threats? Viktor is in the dark and so are we. He is told he must disappear for a short time for his own safety and later even his boss has to flee. Viktor is shocked to be told he is indirectly responsible for the deaths of those he writes about, but how? When he confronts the editor, he is told not to worry, he is safe as long as he knows nothing: *"The full story is what you get told only*

if and when your work, and with it your existence, are no longer required." All is not fully revealed until the end when Viktor reads his own obituary.

One of the strengths of the novel is Kurkov's ability to mix humour with darker themes. The relationship between Viktor and Misha is often amusing, and the absurdity of Viktor's job as an obituary writer adds a touch of black comedy to the story. At a funeral Viktor bends down and talks to Misha: *"Well Misha, he sighed stooping to the Penguin's level, that's how we humans bury our dead. Turning at the sound of his master's voice, Misha fixed on him his tiny sad eyes."*

The novel is also full of poignant moments that explore the loneliness and despair that Viktor feels as he tries to navigate his difficult and dangerous life. Some relief comes when one character, fleeing for his life, leaves his 4-year-old daughter Sonia in Viktor's care. Victor employs Nina as a nanny for Sonia and they bring the normality of a family life to his home. But poor Viktor struggles to shake off his habitual pessimism and inability to take control.

"...he had made no effort to grasp what was taking place around him. Until recently, with the arrival of Sonia. And even now, life around him was still dangerously unfathomable, as if he had missed the actual moment when the nature of events might have been fathomed."

Sergey, the local militiaman, becomes a friend and provides Viktor with an escape to a Dacha for New Year. But even here the safety and tranquillity are shattered by an explosion, and Viktor receives from Sonia's absent father, the shocking present of a gun.

The novel is surreal, sometimes bleak, and full of irony, but with enough humour to lift the spirits and give the reader hope. When Viktor asks about one of the victims, *"How did he die?" he gets the reply, "Like they all do, tragically."*

A drunk fisherman sees Victor and Sergey with Misha. Eyes fixed on the penguin, the fisherman shook his head. *"Look," he said at last, "is that a Penguin you've got there or am I seeing things?" "You're seeing things", Sergey assured him firmly. "Christ", he whispered aghast.*

Kurkov's writing style is sharp and witty, with a dark undertone that keeps the reader on edge throughout the novel. The portrayal of Kiev's post-Soviet society, is bleak and realistic, highlighting the corruption, poverty, and crime that were prevalent during that time. It is a satisfying, enjoyable and thought-provoking read.

Andrey Kurkov has become an unofficial ambassador for Ukraine, travelling the world, writing newspaper articles and with a podcast on BBC Sounds. His latest novel: Jimi Hendrix Live in Lviv has been longlisted for the International Booker Prize 2023.



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Wasps - Cruel or Crucial?

by Tessa O'Connor



The greater population of people on planet Earth see wasps as a nuisance - coming and going each summer. Many a time, I've heard the question posed, "What good do wasps do?" regarding their contribution in the food chain, or their usefulness to the interconnected, natural world around us.

Many fear their ability to sting more than once - but, contrary to popular belief, they will only attack if threatened. Here, in Devon, we are rather lucky owing to the fact that our wasps in Britain are much less aggressive than their American cousins.

You may be shocked to discover that wasps play just as important a role as our beloved, British bees and are just as ecologically important. Like our favourite,

hard-working honey-makers, they too pollinate as they travel from plant-to-plant, in search of nectar. This is due to the fine hair which covers them and sweeps up a flower's pollen.

Furthermore, wasps are an excellent, natural, pest-control. Indeed, farmers are now turning to them as our understanding of the negative effects of chemical control increases. This is also good news for any avid gardener; it is estimated that wasps capture around 14 million kilograms of insect prey, saving your beloved plants from greenfly or caterpillars.

So, this summer, before you pull out the wasp traps, remember this article and think of the position our world would be in without pollinators. Without them, our supermarkets would have half the amount of fruit and veg and the world's population of 7 billion couldn't be sustained. Rather than seeing them as a nuisance, consider how much we owe to our busy, buzzing friends.

Did You Know?

Some wasps make their homes by chewing wood into a pulp. It is thought that in ancient China people saw wasps doing this and applied the same method to making paper. So without wasps, it may have taken us a long time to develop something we all take for granted.

Around & About In Our Community

Honiton Carers

Honiton Carers have been participating in Carers week which ran from Monday 5th - Sunday 10th June.

Devon Carers' 'Mile With a Smile' campaign returned this year with even more people wanting to participate. They asked everyone to walk, roll, stroll or jog a mile to contribute to their aim of 350 miles, the total perimeter of Devon! On Tuesday 6th June Honiton Carers "Walked a Mile with a Smile" at Knighthayes, who are also participating in Carers Week.

Paula Clarke, National Trust Volunteering & Community Manager Dartmoor, commented, "We've been working in partnership with Devon Carers for over three years, providing carers with some well-deserved time out in beautiful surroundings and ensuring our staff and volunteers access carer awareness training. Castle Drogo has also become a Carer Friendly Devon Supporter, which values carers visiting the property and estate, as well as supporting staff and volunteers who are carers. We are very pleased that many of our venues took part in Carers Week this year in June and offered free entry for carers on our special event days."



Honiton Carers met at The Kitchen at Combe Garden Centre on Wednesday 7th June for their regular "Cuppa & Chat". We were delighted to have Paul from Co-op Funeralcare visiting us and were thrilled when Paul donated a huge box of tea and a generous Gift Card to enable us to top up with coffee & tea as required. Paul had a lovely chat with our members and has promised to come back when he has even more time to chat. Honiton Carers are one of the Co-op's chosen 3 causes for 2022/23.

We also had a visit from Fay Valentine our local Dementia Nurse who visits monthly when she can to support all the carers and their loved ones living with Dementia. We are most grateful to be so well supported in the community.



If you are an unpaid carer and would like to join us please come along, no need to book, you are guaranteed a warm welcome. For more information about Honiton Carers please contact Win on 0797463692

Our meetings this month are : Wednesday 5th July Combe Garden Centre, Social 3.00 - 4.30pm; Wednesday 12th July Methodist Church, summer party, cream tea with entertainment 2.00 - 4.30pm; Wednesday 19th July Combe Garden Centre, Social 3.00 - 4.30pm; Wednesday 26th July, Art & Craft at The Old Rectory, Awliscombe, booking required though

Honiton Primary School Takes Part in Spring Learning Challenge



35 children from Honiton Primary School received awards following their participation in the DoodleLearning Spring Challenge, which is celebrating its most successful year yet, after more than 16,000 children across the UK took part.

The Challenge helps to keep children motivated by encouraging them to practise Maths and English for just a few minutes each day. Part of the Discovery Education family of services, DoodleMaths and DoodleEnglish are designed to be used little and often, both at



home and in the classroom. Using the latest advances in educational technology, the apps transform learning into a fun, rewarding adventure and boost children's confidence.

Pupils from over 600 primary schools took part in this year's challenge to achieve personalised learning goals throughout the month of April. Children who completed the challenge were rewarded with special certificates and badges that were presented by their teachers in school week.

Kimberley Sansom, Year 6 teacher at Honiton Primary School, said, "Our children really enjoy using DoodleLearning. It's helped them to become much more confident and resilient with Maths. The Spring Learning Challenge was popular across our year groups with more and more children taking the opportunity to earn certificates and badges. The little and often approach really does work - even in the school holidays!"

Howard Lewis, Discovery Education's UK and International Managing Director said: "We were delighted that so many children entered this year's DoodleLearning Spring Challenge and congratulate Honiton Primary School on their success! Our Doodle apps are a great way to extend learning beyond the classroom. We're committed to creating content and resources that students want to enjoy time and again."

Around & About In Our Community

Honiton Camera Club

Honiton Camera Club has enjoyed a successful photographic year.

We began the closed season of summer 2022 with a number of group trips to venues and events in the area and further afield – members met at Lyme Regis, East Hill, Nothe Fort Weymouth and Devon County Show among others. We have also gained a number of new members during the year.

Members took part in external competitions within the Western Counties Photographic Federation and Battles with Maldon Camera Club and Sidmouth Photographic Club. The WCPF (Western Counties Photographic Federation) is one of fifteen Federations that are affiliated to the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB) and ultimately to the FIAP - "Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique". Currently over 100 clubs are in the Federation covering the area from the tip of Cornwall, to Stroud, Weymouth and across into Swindon in Wiltshire. In the recent WCPF Members Exhibition Lynda Piper's image, Eryngium, was selected to be shown.

Honiton were overall victors in the Maldon Battle (held over two legs) with Andy McGarty scoring maximum points in each leg with Girl in a Hat. Although not victorious in the Sidmouth Battle, Honiton's Steve Eckhardt held 1st place with Old Woman of Kotor and Andy McGarty 3rd with Girl in a Hat.

With the internal and end of year competitions the successes were: Photographer of the Year (most points gained overall) – Lynda Piper; Mary Denys Memorial Trophy (most points for Digitally Projected Images) – Steve Eckhardt; Birchall Cup (best Colour Print) – Lynda Piper with Eryngium; Monochrome Trophy (best Mono Print) – Andy McGarty with Girl in the Shadows; Digital Image of the Year – Leslie Pallant with A Walk on the Wild Side; Joan Blackledge Trophy (3 themed images) – Andy McGarty with Ottery St Mary Silver Band Practice; Project Trophy (a reproduction or representation of an album cover or film poster) – Steve Eckhardt with Grant Green – I am Blue; Bulmer Cup (member under 21) – Dan Ward; Crystal trophy (floral print) – Dave Withey with Wild Flower Meadow; John Moxon Trophy (Gardens) – David Faulkes with Roof Garden; President's Trophy with the subject of Contemplation – Lynda Piper with Just Thinking

Visitors and new members and visitors are welcome to meetings. Our first meeting of the 2023-2024 season is September 8th. The Club meets at the Methodist Church, Chapel Street fortnightly, on Friday evenings from 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 £45; Joint membership £80; Student (16-18) £15; Remote member: £25 <https://www.facebook.com/HonitonCameraClub/> or <https://honitoncamera.club>

Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for dedicated individuals to join our team of fantastic volunteers in our mission to help save lives and have a positive impact in our local communities.

Devon Air Ambulance
www.dash.org

GET IN TOUCH FOR A CHAT & FURTHER INFORMATION

- 01392 466 666
- volunteer@dash.org
- www.dash.org

CAN YOU HELP US ...

- in our shops
- with box collections
- support events
- deliver community talks
- at Head Office

Tesco Honiton Do It Again

The community team at Tesco Honiton have done it again and donated £150 to Honiton Town Band.

The community initiative comes from the long-standing book sale in the store.

The town band approached community manager Duncan about some support for an upcoming event the local musicians hope to participate in this summer.

As always Tesco were more than happy to dip into the funds and secure the band the money they needed.

Pictured are Anne Holloway, Shift leader and Sharon Dibsall from Honiton Town Band



TESCO

Around & About In Our Community



Hello Readers

At the time of writing this article it's June and it is really hot. Our ladies had a record plant sale outside St Pauls Church on 3rd June, raising over £400 for local charities - well done to Sheila and Linda. Another plant stall is planned for 27th June at the same venue. Also we have been busy selling Draw tickets for our Autumn draw and thanks to your support sixty-five tickets were sold. At the end of June, we helped with the car parking at The Goren Festival in Stockland.

We are all looking forward to our Classic Car Day at Allhallows field on July 29th at The Market Charter Day event. At the moment we have just about 60 cars, 2 tractors, and a set of vintage cycles.

At our meeting in June, we decided to help a young local family who have a young daughter who had a stroke while her mother was in pregnancy, leaving her with problems with her right-side limbs with practically no use of her right hand at all. We decided to send £250 to help with expenses with the treatment she needs.

On a Lions International subject, we decided to send £500 to help train a student at Moorfields Hospital in London to work in the Lions International Eye Centre in Korle Bu in West Africa. Up to July 2020 this hospital has achieved 9,514 Cataract operations, 2,259 Glaucoma operations and 97,490 eye disease treatments - most caused through dirty water.

On July 1st our new Lionistic year starts, and club officers remain the same so if we can help you or your organisation, please contact us and we will give it consideration. You can contact us through our web site or contact me Brian the Lion 01404 43738 Mobile 07966173828 email brian.richards@honitonlions.org.uk or visit our web site www.honitonlions.org.uk

Out In Force



Volunteers were collecting for Force - which works locally to support anyone affected by cancer.



1st Honiton Scout Group would like to congratulate Alison Marler (aka Rocky at Scouts) for being awarded The Medal of Merit.

She has done 15 years of service to the Scouting Movement.

That's 15 years of meetings, hikes, sleepovers, planning camps and all the programme planning.

A BIG Thank you from 1st Honiton Scout Group



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. 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.

Devon County Show - Once again members were on the 4 gates of the show over the 3 days giving out free wristbands to children. We gave out hundreds from 1 child in a family to a bus full of school children. The bands have the contact details of parents on them so if lost the parents can be contacted immediately, one child was lost within 10 minutes of arriving at the show, the mum returned to get another band she could not thank us enough.

Honiton Show 3rd August - We are looking forward to the Honiton Show again this year, where our members will be marshalling in the car parks and giving out free wristbands for children.

Kids fun day out - Kids Out is a charity whose philosophy is to give disadvantaged children wonderful memories to cherish. In conjunction with Rotary they organise a Fund day out every year taking 1000s of children out for the day. On 14th June we took 43 children and staff from Millwater SEN School for a fun day out at Crealy theme park. We were blessed with the weather and the children had a wonderful time. Thank you to Tim Parnell for the coach. The money we raise throughout the year allows us to fund this event.

Community raffle - There is still time to get tickets for your club/group/ organisation/school to raise money. We provide the tickets with your name on them, we also provide the prizes. You sell the tickets for £1 each and you keep 90 pence from each ticket sold. You could double the money raised from your ticket sales; **to find out more contact mthuxtable@aol.com**

Around & About In Our Community

Cycling 100 Miles – Fighting Motor Neurone Disease – Update: They Did It!

The three intrepid Somerset cyclists – Alan, John and Tim – set off from Bath on 7 June on their mission to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association in memory of lost friends.

The challenging climb up the Mendips was compensated by a wonderful ride through the Cheddar Gorge and across the Somerset Levels and then a welcome party in Fivehead in South Somerset.



The following day, from Fivehead they climbed Staple Hill and headed over the glorious Blackdown Hills into Devon. After a quick lunch in Combe Raleigh, they were joined by six cyclists from the Honiton Spinners for the final leg down to Budleigh Salterton where tea, ice-cream and cake awaited.

This wonderful event has so far raised over £6,500 (plus Gift Aid) for the MND Association.

Thank you to the Honiton Spinners and to everyone who has contributed so far.

If you still wish to contribute, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com> and search on Jill Wardle.

ROBOTS Roam the Moor



Well, the second attempt by the Retired Old Boys of Talaton to circumnavigate Dartmoor finally arrived in mid-May. The first attempt was postponed because of bad weather and, yes, to be honest this second attempt initially looked doubtful with grey skies and a very average forecast. But, lo and behold, out came the sun and it was a wonderful journey over Dartmoor via Moretonhampstead, Postbridge and finally Princetown. Even HMP Dartmoor looked welcoming. Maybe not.

Time to come clean – not really a circumnavigation of the Moor but rather a wonderful 6.5 miles on the remnants of the old Yelverton to Princetown rail track. Blue skies, marvellous sunshine and views over the Moor that are rarely available. Leaving Princetown, we left the looped track to cut down behind Swell Tor and Kings Tor to reconnect with the track and followed the edge of the Swell Tor quarry. Huge history here,

and in neighbouring quarries, with the production of masses of high-grade granite from which London Bridge, Nelson's Column, Exeter pavements ... on and on, were made. An ideal lunch stop, again in brilliant sunshine, on beautifully carved corbels, intended for London Bridge but never used.

Onwards to arrive at Foggintor Quarry where the huge rock faces showed all the signs of wear whilst the old workings now were hidden under a wonderful lake. It was here that a stalwart member of the group felt he ought to check whether adequate Health and Safety provision had been made and, rolling on the ground, said "what would you do if I had a coronary here in this remote spot?". He was not impressed with the universal reply "push you over the edge into the lake and carry on with the walk". But it did highlight the need for care in the planning of a walk in more remote areas.

The day was rounded off with a pint and food in the historic Warren House Inn, sitting in sunshine looking out over the moor towards Grimspound and Hameldown Tor.

A great day with great company, great sunshine, and wonderful scenery.

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