

HONITON & VILLAGE NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023
FREE



Honiton



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Yesterday I had to look back through our online archives (honvillagenews.co.uk) and I was honestly surprised by the great impression it gives of this part of East Devon.

It's a busy, vibrant, caring, friendly place with a lot of interesting and sometimes quirky (Hot Pennies!) community rituals. It is a privilege to have been able to contribute to the memories and the history of our communities over these past four years. This magazine has been moulded into what it is by the communities it represents. Every month we have a moment of amazement when it arrives from the printers and we see it for the first time; like an author receiving her first edition.

There is a lot of movement on the High Street with new and expanding ventures bringing energy into town.. James the baker is moving round the corner into larger premises in what was JK's cafe. Gertie & Bertie are moving across the road to bigger premises in what was Boots the Chemist, Gemma moved Coastal Boutique across the road to what was the finance shop and her old shop is now being used by a young local couple who will take your old furniture and make it sparkle with new life. TRIP have left their New Street premises and have two High Street premises down towards Dowell St traffic lights.

You will also notice some changes to this month's magazine with Vernon, Gertie and Jude all away - but they'll be back and we hope you enjoy some of the other articles we've been able to include this month.



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

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Awliscombe - Village Hall

Broadhembury- Post Office and Store -
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Buckerell- Telephone Box by Splatthayes

Churchinford-The York Inn -The Community
Shop

Combe Raleigh- Village Hall Telephone Box

Dalwood- Community Shop

Dunkeswell- Highfield Stores - Highfield
Garage - Connetts Farm

Feniton- Spar Shop - Envious Creative Hair -
Feniton Hair Stylists

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

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

Honiton Heathpark Industrial Estate- Army
Surplus Depot

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

Honiton High Street - Stitched-up! - Coffee #1
- Little Shop of Seasons - Alan Rowe - St
Paul's Church - Allhallows Museum - Wine
World - RKL - Pearl Nails – 4 You from Me -
Shades - Park Life - Bits & Bobs - Hybrid
Gallery

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

Offwell- Windmill Garage

Payhembury- Community Shop - Sawmill

Plymtree- Community Shop

Smeatharpe- Highlands

Stockland- King's Arms - Telephone Box

Talaton- Community Shop

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Upton- delivered ex Payhembury

Weston- Heron Farm Shop

Yarcombe- Village Hall

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A View From The Hills

by Miranda Gudenian

"What a summer!" said the man with the Patterdale terrier as the wind did its best to lift the tombola tent into the sky.

"Isn't it just?" I replied, grabbing a couple of bottles of wine before they were swept off the table. The bottles were tombola prizes and I was part of the tombola team at Yarcombe's famous Terrier Racing, held on the day - well, towards the end of the day - that storm Antoni ripped through the country.

"What a summer!" Jane said to me at Yarcombe's village market the following Saturday, as we lamented our sodden gardens and bedraggled bedding plants.

"What a summer!" Nicholas said as I came upon him in the lane to Churchinford, me in the car but he on foot, splashing through puddles, a drenched Labrador at his heels. We chatted for a few moments about the weather and "Where are those long sunny summers of our childhoods?" he called in parting.

Frankly, Nicholas, I think they are something of a delusion. I remember sun-scorched fields, brown arms, whispering grasses, ice-lollies. But I also remember churning grey seas, the slap of sullen waves on the beach and the thump of stone on wood as my father hammered in the posts of the canvas windbreak. I can produce Kodachrome snaps of my childhood self in sou'wester on summer holidays in Devon, the Cotswolds, or the Lake District, frowning skies a few feet above my head.

Thomas Traherne and Richard Jefferies, born two centuries apart, captured in their poems and prose what Jefferies called the 'dreamy summer haze'. In the 1670s, Traherne described summer as 'All time was eternity. The corn was orient and immortal...it had stood from everlasting to everlasting.' Summers in the 17th and 19th centuries were no doubt good, poor or indifferent, much like today, but the point surely is to immerse oneself in the now, those all too fleeting moments of perfect summer, as Traherne and Jefferies did.

For the Anglo-Saxons, autumn began at Lammastide in early August, the consecrating of the first ripe grains that were then made into bread. That's about when autumn starts nowadays, too. However golden the day, at the end of each Terrier Racing – the first Saturday in August - I notice an infinitesimal change: as I walk back to the car there's a whisper that the year is turning towards Michaelmas and Harvest Home. Mid-August now, and it is even more evident. This morning I opened the curtains to reveal a day that had all the promise of June, but the robin's song has changed to the soft, wistful notes that herald autumn.



At lunchtime I abandoned my desk, collected an old metal colander and set off along the lane to a place I know where bramble thickets twice my height fill sunny glades. Blackberries gleamed juicily, with plenty more to come unless the rain turns them to mush. "Pick ten, eat one," was the childhood rule. Do I make it to ten? No.

Holly bushes are jam-crammed with immature green berries. "You know what that means, don't you?" Brian said to me at the Village Market. Yes, I do. 'An autumn full of berries, a winter full of snow', and if, dear reader, you heed country lore, then you'd best prepare for a bitter winter.

Swaying on the topmost bramble branch a cock blackbird was doing his own bit of gathering-in of the harvest, knocking back beakfuls of blackberries. Two speckled wood butterflies danced among knapweed and willow herb; the speckled wood doesn't mind a wet season. A bevy of long-tailed tits flittered among ropes of wild honeysuckle hanging from a hawthorn tree.

It's a good honeysuckle year; honeysuckle doesn't like to have its feet in baked earth. My garden honeysuckle used to coil around the door to the EC, the earth closet that is now my potting shed. I use the past tense because it turned up its ancient toes some years ago, but not before begetting progeny which runs riot on the house and along the garden wall, filling summer evenings with heady fragrance. Honeysuckle and lilac are traditional privy plants, masking foul odours, and here the lilac grows nearby, coppiced at intervals down the generations to rejuvenate the shrub. "Don't you ever bring laylock indoors," an elderly lady in the village where I grew up warned me, "or you'll bring death to the house."

Later in the afternoon, I sit with a neighbour watching house martins, we count twenty-one lining the telegraph wire that spans the garden. The young don't have long now to get used to their wings before that odyssey of flight to Africa. Clouds bubbled in the sky bringing spattering rain and suddenly the house martins were gone, wheeling over the hedges. "It sounds like better weather's coming in though," says Mac as I depart.

By the time you read this magazine we'll probably be a land of empty water butts, calling for rain.

Dunkeswell 80th Anniversary Celebration 2023

Dunkeswell Aerodrome was initially established as an American Naval base during the Second World War and celebrated its 80th Anniversary this year with a planned weekend of celebrations. Unfortunately, due to a poor weather forecast, the Saturday event was cancelled but on Sunday there were amazing aircraft, both flying and on the ground with high performance cars and vintage vehicles on display to complement the air displays. Visitors were able to see the exhibits close up, to see into and sit in cockpits and also some of the cars.

A few members of Honiton Camera Club visited and caught the best bits. The highlight was undoubtedly the Spitfire and its unmistakable sound of the Merlin engine as it roared overhead.

A great day was had by everyone, with lots of photos taken.

Visitors and new members and visitors are welcome to meetings. Our first meeting of the 2023-2024 season is Friday 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.

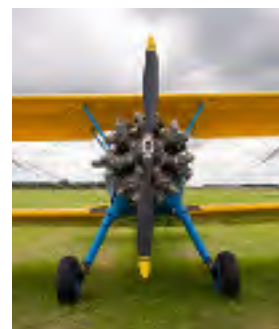
We are a small club with members having a wide range of abilities and interests. We try to cater for all tastes, with speakers on various aspects of photography, together with sessions giving informal tuition and advice. Besides holding our own internal photographic competitions we also participate in 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>
<https://honitoncamera.club>**



Dave Withey



Dave Withey



Lynda Piper



Lynda Piper



Claire Fry

Call For Volunteers To Support New Honiton Youth Programme

A new community interest company has been launched with the aim of giving young people in Honiton a safe space to go after school.

The Den Honiton CIC will be open to any children of secondary school age in the town and will be run by the young people themselves. The organisation is currently fundraising and searching for its premises before it can launch, and organisers are putting out a call for enthusiastic volunteers.



Honiton Town Councillor Lauren Passmore-Smart, co-founder of The Den, said that as well as providing recreational space, being part of the group could help to build members' employability. "It will be run by the young people themselves with supervision from an adult volunteer," she explained. "This is to give them ownership so that they want to look after the place. Plus, it can go towards their Duke of Edinburgh's award, and we can give references when they go for jobs. We will have games consoles, a chill out area and laptops they can do homework on. We will advertise all the local clubs and groups available to them so they know what choices they have.

"The Den will be structured around what its members want from it; they will carry much of the responsibility of the day-to-day running, the volunteers will just provide guidance and support."

Other co-founders of The Den are Cllrs Lucy Wakefield and Serena Sexton. The trio have all been residents of Honiton for many years and are now asking for volunteers to help with fundraising and running the club, as well as preparing and furnishing the new premises.

"Our first fundraiser will be a cake sale at Honiton Market on 19th August, which will be followed by many more activities," Lauren added. We're currently on the hunt for our ideal space and look forward to officially opening our doors hopefully quite soon."

Anyone interested in volunteering with The Den or who would like to find out more can contact thedenhoniton@gmail.com.

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The Post-Match Interview

by Martin Long

The start of the football season (did it ever end?) no doubt came as a huge relief to the many people for whom the rules of cricket feel like some secret code, and those for whom Wimbledon is just a suburban railway station on the way to nowhere in particular. Whatever your view on the return to business as usual, however, one thing is for sure: we are going to have to put up once again with the dubious pleasure of the TV sporting interview.



You know the ones I mean. Straight after the match, a microphone is shoved under the nose of the player of the match, the last-minute scorer whose lucky strike “settled the three points” or some other willing victim, who is asked to make some sensible remarks.

Or any remarks, come to that. For that is often the problem. No sooner has the camera come on than the brain seems to switch off. And we are left with a tide of platitudes and empty verbiage, a stream of clichés ‘til the cows come home (and walk all over the pitch presumably). We played the full ninety minutes, we’re told. Really? I thought you took a tea break after 78. We gave everything for the shirt - as opposed to playing for the obscene amount of money you earn every week, that an NHS worker will take years to earn.

It is easy to mock the rather mindless post-match comments. After all, if they had anything controversial to say 1) their manager and team-mates would probably not be very happy about it, and 2) they would probably prefer to save it either for the newspaper column some hapless journalist is paid to ghost for them, or for their forthcoming book (also ghosted).

If I have a real beef about these interviews, and so many other kinds of interviews on TV of late, it is not the lack of content - which can even be quite amusing sometimes. There is, after all, an unofficial competition in the America's National Football League to see which rookie player can give the most empty and non-committal first TV interview. And it is a crowded field, believe me.

No, my real complaint is just the kind of lazy and repetitive phrase, which is no more than a verbal cough, that I dropped into my last sentence. We hear them all the time. “Believe me” is just one of the least offensive. It suggests the person is only too aware that what they are saying is anything but believable. It is the close relative of that interview standby “To be honest...” As soon as I hear that line I look for the lie detector machine. Who are they kidding? If they have to convince me that hard that what they are saying is honest and truthful, then we can draw our own conclusions.

Then there are the verbal tics that are little more than pausing for breath to decide what on earth to say next – um – you get the picture – you know, er – things like these – you know what I’m saying.

But the worst offenders of all are those words which constantly appear at the start of an interviewee's answers, leading me quickly to make for the off switch. When was it, for instance, that the word “So” became the warm up act at the start of every sentence?

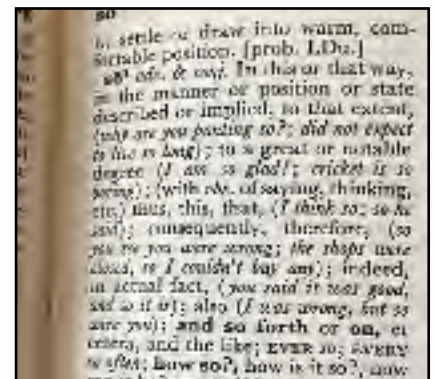
Countless times I have winced as the latest series of Michael Portillo's railway journeys to here, there and everywhere have contained interview after interview which begin: “Tell me about how this happened,” only to be answered: “So, what happened was...”

Give me just one day directing a show like that, and every time someone said the S word, I'd quite happily shout “Cut”. Start again. And this time begin the sentence with an actual word. One that makes sense. And while you are at it, don't use the other horror words instead. If the lazy interviewee doesn't say “So”, you just know they are going to begin their thoughts by saying: “Listen.”

OK, whoever you are, I'm already listening to you. I'm waiting for you to tell me something interesting, to show me you have something to say. Don't tell me when to listen, thank you very much. And if they don't tell me to listen, they will preface their remark with “Look”. Why do they do that? Where do they want me to direct my gaze?

So, just get on with what you have to say; you know what I mean. It's really annoying, to be honest. It is just, like, so boring.

And on that note, I'm going to leave and make myself a calming cup of tea, take my own advice and get out more.





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Tales From The Museum

by Margaret Lewis

The Old Honiton Workhouse



The Old Honiton Workhouse was situated on the site now occupied by Summerlands from 1737 until it was destroyed in 1838. In the late 1830s, hundreds of new union workhouse buildings were erected across the country. Honiton Poor Law Union formally came into existence on 18th April 1836. The Honiton Guardians spent £176 purchasing a freehold parcel of land adjoining Love Lane which belonged to the Reverend Villiers Henry Plantaganet Somerset. The amount allocated for building the Workhouse was £4,845 but the construction cost £5,322. The building could accommodate 230 inmates. It was designed by George Wilkinson of Oxford and the foundation stone was laid by Reverend Richard Lewis, Chairman of the Building Committee on 5th October 1836.

The operation of the Workhouse was overseen by thirty-five people elected as the Board of Guardians who represented

twenty-eight local parishes:- Cotleigh, Dunkeswell, Farway, Feniton, Gittisham, Harpford, Luppitt, Monkton, Northleigh, Offwell, Up Ottery, Venn Ottery, Ottery St Mary , Payhembury, Plymtree, Salcombe Regis, Sheldon, Sidbury, Sidmouth, Southleigh, Talaton, Widworthy. From 1894 Yarcombe was included.

The Union employed ten surgeons. They appointed a Medical Officer who had to report the Board of Guardians on infectious diseases and the condition of the inmates. He was also responsible for vaccinations, medication, performing operations and medical care for the many frail, disabled and elderly inmates. There was a maternity section where illegitimate children were born, and inquests were often held in the Workhouse.

Men, women, children, the infirm, and the able bodied were housed separately and given a basic diet of gruel, or bread and cheese. All inmates had to wear the rough workhouse uniform and sleep in communal dormitories. Supervised baths were given once a week. The elderly and infirm were kept in dayrooms or sick wards. Parents were allowed limited contact with their children for just an hour a week on a Sunday afternoon.

The day to day organisation was conducted by the Master and Matron. The Master had to be fully competent in bookkeeping. The Matron was always the wife of the Master, and her duties were to be responsible for the women and children in the 'House' and for overall cleanliness and health of the inmates.

In 1904 the Registrar General requested an alternative address for Workhouse birth certificates. Suggestions were No. 1 Love Lane, Spendthrift Place and Prospect Place. The majority voted for Marl pits House.

The workhouse era ended, officially at least, on 1st April 1930. The Boards of Guardians were abolished, and their responsibilities were passed to local authorities.

With the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948, many former workhouse buildings continued to house the elderly and chronic sick. The Honiton workhouse buildings became known as Marl pits Hospital, which was demolished in 1995. The new Honiton Hospital was built on the same site.

Allhallows Museum can be found next to St Paul's church on Honiton High Street. It is open Monday - Friday 9.30-4.30 and Saturday 9.30-1pm during the summer. In October the opening times are Monday - Friday 9.30-3.30 and Saturday 9.30-12.30. Free entry for everyone.

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Bertie's Holiday Escapades



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.

Heavens to Bertie what fun and frolics there has been in my world this summer. I went on holiday to stay with the young humans and my first love the super cool Maisie. Our status is now 'just friends' and we rub along fine. It is her home so she is top dog which is fine by me as I tend to go along with the flow of life which I find is the best way to tackle all the ups and downs of each day.

I did have one little moment; when out for a walk and on a bit of a mooch in the undergrowth I accidentally disturbed a nest of bees. They did not like it much and swarmed all around me, instinct kicked in and I ran back to the humans at top speed but bees can fly fast too so they came with me in a cloud. I think the humans were more alarmed that me but they managed to flap all those little buzzers off my fur and they zoomed back to their nest with no damage done and me trotting along as if nothing had happened. I was advised to learn by this

experience and watch more carefully where I stick my snout but to be honest I am not the cautious type.

Talking of flying I have been experimenting with a bit of this myself. Maisie has a lovely garden with some fruit trees to sit under for shade. This time of year families of pigeons like to flutter down and feast on the luscious plums. Now Maisie is almost perfect in every way but she does not understand it is our canine duty to keep those cheeky balls of feathers off our trees and out of our garden. It is my duty to show her the way and be on constant pooch patrol so every time one of those pesky pigeons enters into the zone under my protection I give chase and woof at them until they have gone. It is most frustrating that they have the advantage of being able to fly so I have to leap as high as I can after them, sometimes launching myself off a little wall and hoping that my large spaniel ears will flap and give me enough lift for an airborne pursuit. Needless to say I have not yet perfected the technique but, as they say, practice makes perfect so one day I will wipe the all the smug smiles off of those little plum thieves.

Maisie is back at mine now for her holidays and as it is my house she of course is still top dog so I am resigned to sleeping on the mat for a few weeks whilst she luxuriates in the cosy comfort of my lovely doggy bed!

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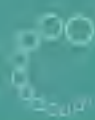


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Planting For Butterflies

by Andrea Rye, Combe Garden Centre

It has been a good year for butterflies. Many more have been seen in gardens than the previous few years. According to the news, numbers of Red Admirals have increased by a huge amount as the climate has warmed enough that they are now over-wintering in the UK; and this year the mild but wet July ensured there was plenty of food for their caterpillars; but if you want the adults to visit your garden, you must grow plants they find irresistible. As it is such a joy to watch our plants supporting butterflies, here we take a look at what to grow to encourage them and how to grow it.

Agastache : All kinds of Agastache attract butterflies, from the orange "Apricot Sprite" to the tall and blue "Black Adder". Cabbage White butterflies seem to even prefer the "Black Adder" to Buddleia. Possibly the most attractive to pollinators and longest flowering variety is "Little Adder", which is shorter than most but spreads a bit. Flowering from June to October this is a very worthy addition to any garden and the amount of insects that visit it will amaze you. If you don't want a tall variety and you would rather not have blue/purple, try Agastache "Morello" or "Kudos Coral", both of which are favourites of Peacock and Red Admirals. Agastache need good drainage so when planting dig the hole $\frac{3}{4}$ inches deeper than normal, fork over the bottom thoroughly and then add an inch and a half of horticultural grit, cover this with an inch or so 50/50 grit and free draining compost and back fill around the plant with the same mixture. This should ensure enough drainage to avoid too much winter wet and get your plant through the winter months.

Echinacea : It takes a while for the butterflies to "learn" new plants and Echinacea is one of them, but when they have investigated it you will find that Small Tortoiseshells, Red Admirals and Peacock butterflies like Echinacea very much and will spend quite a while feeding from them. Right now is Echinacea season and most garden centres should have a wide variety. They come in a huge range of colours and heights, from the short, bright orange "Minneloa" to the tall, purple "Pallida". The Sunseekers range is one of the hardiest groups of recent cultivars. Plant them in the same way as described above for Agastache; they can tolerate the cold of our winters but not being waterlogged and getting them through the first winter in a garden is the biggest hurdle. Some of the most gorgeous varieties are "Marcella Rainbow" (very short with orange petals that turn pink towards the centre of the flower), "Bubblicious" (a mid-sized type with candy pink flowers) and "Sunseekers Rainbow" (medium height with pale orange flowers that age to pink).

Achillea : This is a wonderful plant visited by all the butterflies in my garden this year, and they come in a huge range of colours. Many are put off Achilleas because the lower leaves can become messy and brown but, given really rich soil and enough space, they are stunning. Once established, they are drought tolerant but need plenty of water for the first few months. While they do not need the same treatment as Agastache and Echinaceas, Achilleas do need free draining soil and will not like heavy clay that is boggy in winter so add some grit and compost to the planting hole. These plants also look good in wilder

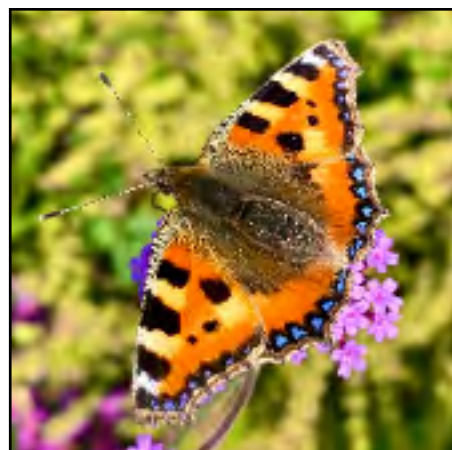
planting schemes such as Prairie Planting. Some of the loveliest varieties of Achillea are the "Terracotta" with its fiery orange flowers, the mauve "Lilac Beauty" which is perfect for adding long lasting colour to pastel colour schemes, and the pale yellow "Credo" for those of us who can't bear harsh, bright yellow.

Phlox paniculata : This long flowering perennial is just a must for any garden because not only is it long flowering, available in some fantastic colours and various heights, but it is loved by all the butterflies and our visiting Hummingbird Hawk Moths. Give it room and really rich soil and it will reward you by spreading and creating a fantastic display. For best results add a generous amount of Fish Blood and Bone to the planting hold and a handful of compost around the root ball to help it settle in. This is a plant that doesn't give a damn about cold, wet winters or growing in heavy clay, it just needs space and light. For the back of a border try the dark purple "Nicky" which is a late flowering variety. If you like hot colours try "Starfire" and if you want blue grow the tallish "Blue Paradise" or "Sweet Summer Ocean", both of which change colour throughout the day and are lilac in sun and turn indigo blue when cooler and in shade.

Buddleia : This firm favourite of butterflies should be in every garden. With all the dwarf varieties in fabulous colours that are available there is no excuse not to have one, or better yet several! All the butterflies, not to mention every kind of bee, likes Buddleia. The tall, dark purple "Black Knight" is one of their favourites and a truly stunning plant if you have room but if not try the short but wide and weeping "Glass Slippers" with its silvery mauve flowers. "Glass Slippers" also looks fantastic next to Geums and coral coloured Echinacea. Unless you bury the main stems in heavy clay that gets waterlogged in winter, it is very hard to kill a buddleia and the dwarf ones, having excellent shapes and being semi-evergreen, look marvellous in pots.

Should you have the room for the trees, shrubs and wild flowers that support caterpillars and butterflies, try planting these, as without the caterpillars we won't have the butterflies:

Brimstone butterflies – wet soil plants Alder buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) and Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), bluebells; *Comma butterflies* – Stinging nettles, Elms (*Ulmus* spp.), Hops (*Humulus lupulus*) and Currants (*Ribes* spp.); *Peacock and Red Admiral butterflies* – Stinging nettles, Hops and Bluebells for early nectar; *Orange tip butterflies* – Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis* – grow in your lawn edges), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), Turnips, Honesty (*Lunaria hirsute*) and Dame's-violet (*Hesperis matronalis*)



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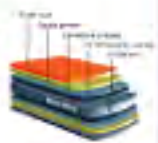
~~warp~~ ~~crack~~ ~~shrink~~ ~~rot~~ ~~peel~~ ~~break~~ ~~blow over~~

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The Wiggaton Round

by Chris Harwood

Map OS Explorer 115 – Exmouth & Sidmouth. 1:25000. 6.7 miles.

This walk is fairly level and offers riverside walking, wonderful green sunken tracks and bridleways AND a bit of history in the form of the old Tipton Mill and Knightstone Manor. Fortunately, there is only a very short distance on a main road and otherwise it's peace and quiet - Good parking available in Ottery St Mary, free on Sundays (at the time of writing!)

A Brief Historical Note – Knightstone is a fine 16C Manor, once owned by Thos. Grey Marquis of Dorset whose wife was the grandmother of Lady Jane Grey – the Nine Day Queen, 10th to the 19th July 1553.

Drive to Ottery St Mary and park in the paying car park close to the Coleridge Medical Centre, Grid Ref SY 096 954. Leave the car park at the far end using the small bridge over the stream and turn left, following the path with the stream on your left. At the interesting Tumbling Weir bear right to follow the edge of the old Switchgear Factory. This is now a mass of luxury apartments and dwellings. Continue on the path to emerge on the busy road. Right over the old bridge – the supporting metal arch being the work of Leeds Steel workers. Almost immediately look for the Public Footpath sign on the other side of the road and cross with great care. Through the gate and on a thin path cross the open ground (NOT over the footbridge)



Keep the river on your left and after some time, having passed over a narrow footbridge, immediately look for the obvious path leading right up on to the route of the now tree-lined old railway track. Follow this very scenic avenue to where it emerges into open pasture. Now, just follow the river, passing over a number of little bridges and through a number of little gates. No rush, take time to enjoy all the little quirks of the river and its banks. A number of short-cut paths have been created through the young trees but stay beside the riverbank. In barely two miles you will see and hear the Archimedian screw on the far side of the river. This is being driven by leat water and produces electricity for the mill some way behind it.

Cross the bridge and, with care, have a quick peek into the old mill to see the waterwheel gearing. Move around to the right and close to the old mill building to take the stony track and keep left as you pass in front of Baters, the removals firm to find the small gate. Through this and into open pasture, keeping the hedge on your left. You will hear

the sound of a weir down to your left and soon via a small gate drop down to the river passing along a slightly overgrown path into open riverbank. Follow the river to the far hedge to find, yes, a no entry sign. Someone has placed a rather handy seat here, ideal for a quiet moment. It would seem that the riverbank has eroded and made the legal footpath impassable. Almost certainly this will remain the case.

So, no option but to move right uphill keeping the trees and hedge on your left. You will soon arrive at a metal gate in a corner exiting on to a horrible road. Never fear, move carefully right along the road for only about 100 yards and cross over to the Public Bridleway. Sanctuary on this wonderful cool, green, and luxuriant track. Eventually, emerge at a bridle path junction and move left to enjoy even more of the same peace and quiet. Emerging near a barn, move left on the better track and stay on this to just before the main road. Look for the Public Bridleway off to the right and, unbelievably, enjoy even more wonderful green lane. This track curves round and narrows, dropping down to a small lane. Wander right, up the road, passing Round Ball Farm (numerous barn conversions) and then Cawley's farm to come to a Public Footpath off to the left. Move diagonally up left to gates and a plank bridge in the hedge. Move uphill diagonally right to find a small gate in the hedge. Here move straight ahead with the hedge on your left BUT take a moment to look back at the wonderful hillock to your right. Not really on the route but it is well worth that bit of effort to wander up this hill and hey presto a 360-degree view to die for. Also, a wonderful place for a coffee from the flask.

Return refreshed to your original path and move straight on following the hedge on your left to a stile and steps down in the hedge. Now, move straight ahead across a vast open field, passing a solitary old Oak on your right to find a marker post on the edge of the field. Drop down to the quiet road and move right to the imposing gateway to Knightstone. Possibly predictably there is an absence of Public Footpath signs here but fear not, wander through the gateway over the ford – can be a bit slippery here- and passing the gate to the house on your right move left up the wide leafy track in front of you. Pass some new barns on your left but then wander on and on along the well-defined but narrow grassy track. Wonderful, but eventually you will emerge on the corner of Longdogs Lane. Left down the hill on Slade Road and at the bottom left to wend your way through the Ottery metropolis and back to 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.

Osteopathy After Childbirth

By Molly Brown, Osteo and Physio in 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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What's On - At The Beehive - Films, Music and More!

As we say goodbye to the summer holidays and move into September, we have one last treat for the kids!

Spider-man: Across the Spider-verse (PG) screens on Friday 1st September at 2pm. Our other film this month is **Indiana Jones: Dial of Destiny** (12A) screening Friday 1st September at 7.30pm. Archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary artefact that can change the course of history.

On Saturday 2nd September at 7.30pm, we have the very talented **Jo Burt and The Lazy Farquars**. Heritage artist Jo is an English songwriter, storyteller, singer and guitar player possibly best known for his incredible history working with musical legends such as Freddie Mercury, The Troggs and even Black Sabbath.

We have the fabulous **The Kieron Garrett Quartet** playing at The Beehive on Friday 8th September at 7.30pm. Be ready for an evening full of beautiful jazz music. Kieron has played with some of the UK's finest musicians at some of the most prestigious venues in the world, including Ronnie Scotts and the Albert Hall.

The Songs The Beatles Gave Away - BBC's Bob Harris and author/music journalist Colin Hall set out upon an intimate speaking tour based around their mutual love and appreciation of The Beatles, including previously unseen footage from Bob Harris' archive with Lennon & McCartney. Saturday 9th September – 7.30pm.

On Saturday 16th September (4pm) it's your last chance to see **Vermeer: Exhibition on Screen**. Due to popular demand, we shall be screening the Exhibition again. We

invite you to a private view of the exhibition, accompanied by the director of the Rijksmuseum and the curator of the show.

The Royal Opera House is back this month with **Das Rheingold** (U). Thursday 21st September – 7pm. When a precious hoard of gold is stolen from the River Rhine, it unleashes a chain of destructive events, pitting gods and mortals against one another for generations.

To finish the month, we have three live music bands. There is something for everyone in September! Friday 22nd September, 7.30pm **Climax Blues Band** - a unique combination of jazz and blues. Creating new music, blending the old with the new. A brand-new album is being written to build on the success of Hands Of Time!

Saturday 23rd September, 7.30pm **The Rheingans Sisters** - Playful, powerful and richly connecting music that is wholly contemporary while deeply anchored in folk traditions. The award-winning multi-instrumentalists were nominated for 'Best Duo/Group' at 2019 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

Saturday 30th September 8pm **Blimey Oh Riley** plus support from **Potts & Jammin**. Adventures in ska, rock and reggae! Blimey oh Riley speed-ball more genres, styles, & influences into a single punk fuelled show than you could shake a rhythm stick at!

Keep up to date with our events by signing up to our newsletter via our website www.beehivehoniton.co.uk. Rachael and The Beehive Team.

the beehive Hamilton's Community & Arts
September 2023

SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE (PG)
Fri 1 Sep - 2pm - Adult £7.50 / U16 £6.50, Family of 4 Ticket £25
Miles Morales catapults across the Multiverse, where he encounters a team of Spider-People charged with protecting its very existence. When the heroes clash on how to handle a new threat, Miles must redefine what it means to be a hero.

INDIANA JONES: DIAL OF DESTINY (12A)
Fri 1 Sep - 7.30pm - Adult £7.50 / U16 £6.50
Archaeologist Indiana Jones races against time to retrieve a legendary artefact that can change the course of history.

JO BURT & THE LAZY FARQUARS
Sat 2 Sep - 7.30pm - £15 (On the door £18)
Heritage artist Jo Burt is an English songwriter, storyteller, singer and guitar player. He'll be playing music from a life in rock. Elton, Freddie, Rod, Bing, Bobo, Geldof, Setzer, Ozzy and more.

THE KIERON GARRETT QUARTET
Fri 8 Sep - 7.30pm - £15
Kieron has released several albums to American, German and British independent record labels. He's played with the UK's finest musicians at the most prestigious venues in the world, including Ronnie Scott's, The Albert Hall & the EFL London Jazz Festival.

THE SONGS THE BEATLES GAVE AWAY
Sat 9 Sep - 7.30pm - £21
BBC's Bob Harris & author/music journalist Colin Hall's speaking tour is based around their mutual love of The Beatles, including previously unseen footage from Bob Harris' archive with Lennon & McCartney.

EXHIBITION ON SCREEN: VERMEER
Sat 16 Sep - 4pm - £12.50
This Exhibition on Screen film invites audiences to a private view of the exhibition, accompanied by the director of the Rijksmuseum and the curator of the show. Last chance to see The Greatest Exhibition.

The Beehive is a registered charity. All proceeds from events go to the charity. The Beehive is a registered charity. All proceeds from events go to the charity.
The Beehive • Dowell Street • Honiton • EX14 1LZ
Box Office: 01404 384050 www.beehivehoniton.co.uk Charity 1162412

the beehive Honiton's Community & Arts
September 2023

THE BEEHIVE FOLK CAFE
Wed 20 Sep - 7.30pm
Come along to sing or listen in the Beehive bar with our lovely folkie host, Sue King. Free entry. No prior booking required.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: DAS RHEINGOLD
Thu 21 Sep - 7pm - Adults £17, Students £11
Antonio Pappano conducts Barrie Kosky's bold new imagining of Wagner's Das Rheingold – which marks the start of a new Ring cycle for The Royal Opera – with an outstanding cast including Christopher Maltman (Wotan) and Christopher Purves (Alberich).

CLIMAX BLUES BAND
Fri 22 Sep - 7.30pm - £26
Founded in the 60s, by Colin Cooper, Climax blues band has always focused on its music, a unique combination of jazz and blues. Creating new music, they have been blending the old with the new.

THE RHEINGANS SISTERS
Sat 23 Sep - 7.30pm - £15
Powerful and richly connecting music that is wholly contemporary while deeply anchored in folk traditions. The award-winning multi-instrumentalists, composers and folk scholars are nominated for 'Best Duo/Group' at 2019 BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards.

BLIMEYOHRILEY Supported by Potts & Jammin
Sat 30 Sep - 8pm - £11
Adventures in ska, rock and reggae! Blimey oh Riley speed-ball more genres, styles & influences into a single punk fuelled show, than you could shake a rhythm stick at!

THE BEEHIVE CAFE IS OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY
We provide a range of teas, coffees and home-made lunches including quiche, sandwiches, cakes, and daily specials. Well-behaved dogs are welcome!

The Beehive is a registered charity. All proceeds from events go to the charity. The Beehive is a registered charity. All proceeds from events go to the charity.
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What's On

Sidmouth Junction Ploughing Match

will take place on
Sun 10th Sept 2023

Starting 10:00 am
At
Broadhembury, Honiton EX14 3LQ
W3W developed.origins.starter

Spectators welcome, admission free.
All day food available. Raffle.
Team of ploughing horses.

<https://www.facebook.com/SJDPA>
Details from Phillip Gibbins
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for more information email stocklandvillagehall@gmail.com

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Start 7pm

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Saturday 2nd September

2pm till 5pm

Adults £2
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- Dog Show - bring your dog!
- Duck Race - no duck required!
- Get in touch to buy duck tickets
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- Ferret Racing
- Trade stalls
- Bouncy Castle
- Refreshments in the Hall
- Devon Cream Teas
- Flower show in the Church
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What's On

NHS
South Western
Ambulance Service
NHS Foundation Trust



Defibrillator Awareness Session

Mackarness Hall, High St
Honiton EX14 1QL

6pm to 8pm Tuesday 19th Sept

Contact

Sue Doran 07967 177495

Free attendance
EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Honiton u3a Announces Autumn Programme

Honiton u3a members are now looking forward to the group's autumn events; they can take part in 30 activity groups, as well as attending monthly talks at The Beehive. Visitors are welcome to attend the talks, in return for a donation of £2.

On September 20th, PR professional turned Garden Consultant, Jackie Felix-Mitchell will be giving a talk on Garden Design. Jackie says that her passion for gardening led her to qualifying at Bicton College. Do you look at your garden and wonder how you could make it look more pleasing to the eye? Want to know what plants would work best in the outdoor space you have, or how to make it work better for you? This talk will examine some of the basic principles of garden design and how to create beautiful and practical gardens.

On October 18th Neil Littleales will be asking the question: "Who the hell is Arthur?" A retired Public Servant with a passion for history, postage stamps and art, Neil studied for three years with the Institute of Genealogical and Heraldic Studies at Canterbury to gain his research qualifications. He enjoys helping others to discover their own ancestral journeys. Neil will be demonstrating his investigative approach to genealogy, through a personal and fascinating account of the search for his father's parentage and medical ancestry. The journey will take the audience on a countrywide tour, exposing lies, deceit, discovery and deception.

The autumn season of talks concludes on November 15th with a talk by Tony Davis entitled: "How Did the Kings Find Bethlehem?" David says that he follows with great interest developments in science and mathematics. His audiences often find quite serious ideas amusing. As the comedian once said, it's the way he tells them. The Bible tells us that the kings arrived in Bethlehem by following a star. Actually how would you do that? In his talk, Tony will explore how navigation has evolved over the centuries and consider possible solutions to the kings' problem.

For further details of Honiton u3a, including how to join, look at the group's website: u3asites.org.uk/honiton

u3a learn, laugh, live

Antiques Afternoon

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YOUNG LIVES vs CANCER



£8 INCLUDES A CREAM TEA

Tickets available from Talaton Community Shop or call Lyndsey 07964 836429 / 01404 850831

Sunday 24th September 2:30-4:30 pm Talaton Parish Hall

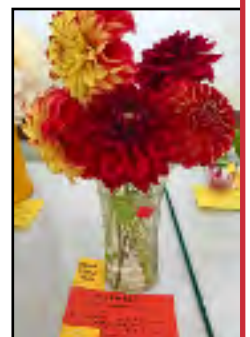
Offwell Flower & Produce Show Saturday 2nd September

Offwell will be holding its annual Flower and Produce Show in the village hall on Saturday 2nd September.

Entries will be accepted between 8.30 and 11 a.m. Public viewing from 2 p.m (free to view). Prize giving at 3 p.m.

Tea and cake available and there will be a raffle.

For the full schedule, please visit the website offwell.org or contact 01404 831066/831924/831050 for more details



SIDBURY FAIR DAY

SATURDAY 16th SEPT



PRODUCE STALLS CRAFTS * EXHIBITIONS *
HORTICULTURAL SHOW
MUSIC FOR EVERYONE AT ST. GILES' CHURCH
(Open from 10.30 am)

1pm AUCTION OF LIVESTOCK, LOCAL PRODUCE etc

(something for everyone to bid for!)

Entry details from Stags Auctioneers (01404) 42563

PLEASE NOTE - All Livestock **MUST** be pre-entred

FUN DOG SHOW (Following the Auction)

Welly Wangin! Munchkins Shetland Ponies, Alpacas, Bouncy Castle, Children's Country Craft Tent, BBQ & BAR & MORE.....
REFRESHMENTS SERVED IN VILLAGE HALL THROUGHOUT THE DAY

Tea on the Terrace

Celebrate the new terrace
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The Manor Room, Upottery

Sunday, 3rd September, 2023
3pm - 5pm
Tea/coffee and
homemade cake

Upottery
Village Hall

Information from
Marianne 07746-961892

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22nd
ANNUAL

CRAFT & PRODUCE SUMMER SHOW

SUNDAY **10th** SEPT.

ADMISSION
(includes a drink)
Adult £1
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2.30pm - 4.30pm

with classes for flowers & floral art,
fruit & vegetables, produce & baking,
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REFRESHMENTS * PLANT STALL * RAFFLE * PRIZES

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THURSDAY 31ST AUGUST 6PM - 8PM

SUNDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 10AM - 2PM

Book yourself on a session

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Facebook

What's On

Sidmouth & East Devon Walking Festival 16-22 September

Discover the Beauty of East Devon and the East Devon Way on the 10th Anniversary of Sidmouth & East Devon Walking Festival. East Devon Ramblers are excited to feature the East Devon Way once again as a highlight of their week-long Sidmouth & East Devon Walking Festival. It is a decade since the festival first launched, and it has retained its full programme of 24 daily walks which include the opportunity of walking the entire 40 mile length of the East Devon Way over 5 days. All walks are free of charge and led by experienced volunteer guides, but must be booked in advance. The only charge is £10 per day for the East Devon Way to cover the cost of transport from Sidmouth to the start and back from the finish each day.

In addition to the East Devon Way, the festival offers a range of 19 guided walks for all interests and fitness levels, from leisurely strolls to challenging hikes, and special interest walks led by expert guides, including an inclusive walk suitable for mobility scooters and wheelchairs, a storytelling walk with local author Janet Dowling, and a heritage trail led by former Ottery mayor Roger Giles. Each walk is thoughtfully curated to provide a unique experience that connects participants with the history and beauty of East Devon. Discover the area's history, wildlife, and natural wonders as you traverse the valleys of the Otter, Sid and Axe rivers, and witness the dramatic cliffs and beaches of the Jurassic Coast.

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Richard Lucas - Piano

Saturday, September 9th

@1PM

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AND

Saturday, September 16th

@1PM

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What's On

St Paul's Church

'Your Parish Church on the High Street'

Come and Celebrate Harvest with us!

It is said that Revd Robert Hawker, a vicar from Cornwall, was the person who introduced the idea of Harvest Festival Services in the 1800s. It was a time when communities came together to celebrate and give thanks for the crops gathered.

This year at St Paul's we are inviting you to join us for a traditional **Harvest Festival on Friday 29th September at 7pm**. We shall be giving thanks for the crops that have been gathered locally, and for our farmers who work hard, and all those who support them. The symbols of Harvest will also be presented as we think about what Harvest means for us here in Honiton.

We hope to have a display about Farming in St Paul's so do come along and find out about what goes on in the farming community. There will be refreshments available after the service.

We would love you to join us for this very special service.

For more information please contact Revd Tracey Voysey on 07968658638 or revdtracey@gmail.com

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Book Review

By John Burgess

Golden Twins: The Peregrine by J A Baker, & The Living Mountain by Nan Shepherd

I want to write about two books, so great in their descriptive power that you are transported from the warmth and comfort of your home to a frost-rimed field in Essex, with your eyes lifted to a peregrine circling in the winter sky, or to a stony track in the Cairngorms with the wind in your face and the mountains rising before you. Two books in which prose and poetry merge so magically that no reviewer, certainly not me, can do them justice.



John Alec Baker lived an unremarkable life in Essex near Chelmsford. He was not a bird watcher, nor a writer, but he became obsessed with the peregrine falcon, and wrote an ecstatic elegy to a bird that is both magnificent and murderous, a biological weapon that can dive at over 200mph as it plunges onto its prey. In his introduction to **The Peregrine**, he writes: "For 10 years I spent all my winters searching for that restless brilliance, for the sudden passion and violence

that peregrines flush from the sky. For 10 years I've been looking upward for that cloud biting anchor shape, that crossbow flying through the air. The eye becomes insatiable for hawks."

The book takes the form of diary entries between October and April. Each day Baker seeks out the peregrine and describes what he sees in the landscape. Sounds a bit specialist, a bird-watchers book, a bit tedious perhaps? Absolutely not. If you have any love of the natural world or love writing that soars off the page, then this book is for you. Here is a flavour:

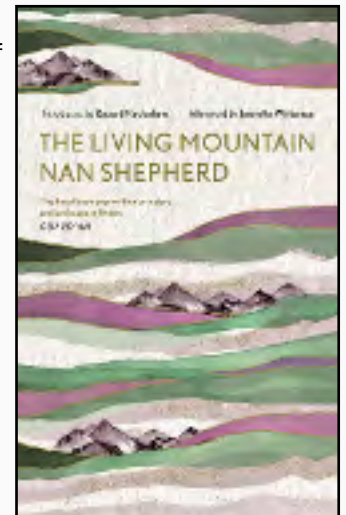
Softly through the dusk the peregrine glides, hushing it aside with silent wings. He searches the constellations of small eyes, sees the woodcock's planetary eye look upward from the marsh, shifts back his wings, and plunges to the light. The woodcock rises, twists under the blade of the hawk and wavers away. He's overtaken, cut down. He drops with a squelching thud..... The day hardened in the easterly gale, like a flawless crystal. Columns of sunlight floated on the land. The unrelenting clarity of the air was solid, resonant, cold and pure and remote as the face of the dead.

An American reviewer says: This is one of the greatest books I have ever read. It's impossibly good..... one of those "Oh I didn't know you could do that" books.

If you are persuaded to read *The Peregrine*, then do get the 50th anniversary edition which fleshes out J A Baker's life and contains an excellent afterword by Robert Macfarlane. He writes: No other book - save perhaps Nan Shepherd's *The Living Mountain* - which stands as *The Peregrine*'s golden twin, offering light to its darkness, relation to its depletion, and love to its harm - has been so influential on the recent British literature of landscape.

Which brings me to... **The Living Mountain**. Nan Shepherd was a lecturer in English at what is now the Aberdeen College of Education. She lived in the same house most of her life and walked year by year in the Cairngorms, seeing the plateau not as a summit to be conquered but as she says: to know its essential nature that I am seeking here one never quite knows the mountain, nor oneself in relation to it. However often I walk on them, these hills hold astonishment for me. There is no getting accustomed to them.

The Living Mountain was written during the last years of WWII but only published in 1977. Just like *The Peregrine* this is a book to get lost in, to savour slowly and drift into thought. A book to be read, not written about. So, here very briefly let Nan Shepherd speak for herself:



So there I lie on the plateau, under me the central core of fire from which was thrust this grumbling grinding mass of plutonic rock, over me blue air, and between the fire of the rock and the fire of the sun, scree, soil and water, moss, grass, flower and tree, insect, bird and beast, wind, rain and snow -the total mountain. Slowly I have found my way in. If I had other senses, there are other things I should know.

How can I number the worlds to which the eye gives me entry? - the world of light, of colour, of shape, of shadow: of mathematical precision in the snowflake, the ice formation, the quartz crystal, the patterns of stamen and petal: of rhythm in the fluid curve and plunging line of the mountain faces. Why some blocks of stone, hacked into violent and tortured shapes, should so profoundly tranquillise the mind I do not know. Perhaps the eye imposes its own rhythm on what is only a confusion: one has to look creatively to see this mass of rock as more than jag and pinnacle—as beauty.

Do you have a favourite book you'd like to review for us? If so, send it to honitonvillagenews@gmail.com and we'd be pleased to consider it for our monthly Book Review.

How Many Steps Should I Be Doing To Benefit My Health?

by Alanah Bray, Master Personal Trainer, Fitagain

Did you know the 10,000 steps a day target was a gimmick created by a pedometer company for the 1964 Tokyo Olympics!! But is the 10,000 step target essential to our health and longevity? The answer is NO!

Dr. I-Min Lee, a professor of epidemiology at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and an expert on step counts and health, found that women in their 70s who managed as few as 4,400 steps a day reduced their risk of premature death by about 40%, compared to women completing 2,700 or fewer steps a day. The risks for early death continued to drop among the women walking more than 5,000 steps a day, but benefits plateaued at about 7,500 daily steps.

So why is walking so beneficial? Walking has a huge array of benefits - it's free, has a massive impact on your mental health, burns calories very effectively, increases stamina and looks after your heart health. Living in Devon we are so lucky to have such beautiful places to take a stroll, from woodland to country lanes, beach promenades to vibrant high streets. And, aside from the odd shower, there is no reason not to be able to get out and about whatever the season.

Even a short 20 minute stroll can boost your step count by 2,400 steps, whilst elevating your mood and clearing the mind. Keeping mobile is crucial to longevity and independence, and the saying "use it or lose it" really is true. When going out for a walk try to be mindful of your posture. If you spend a lot of time seated you will be closing off the hip flexors and rounding through the back. When walking, pull the shoulders back, lift the head and push out the chest, even link the hands behind the back to help the shoulders stay in place. The traps that run across the top of the back can become very tight causing the top of the back to hump - by moving the shoulders back and opening the chest you remind them to switch off.



Alanah Bray is Master Personal Trainer and Gym Manager at Fitagain, a PT gym in Colyton for people who don't like the gym! Fitagain is a supportive and inclusive environment where the youngest member is just 7 and the oldest is 88; they can adapt their training to cater for most health complaints, confidently dealing with back pain to recovery from knee operations. www.fitagain.co.uk/ 01297816170



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Shining A Light On Heat Pumps



Richard Gardner with a newly installed air source heat pump

Richard Gardner, a Honiton based heating specialist and Managing Director of Synergi SW, has praised the BBC for its recent documentary shedding light on heat pumps. The hour-long feature, named 'Heat Pumps: What They Really Mean for You,' explores the future of home heating and electricity production.

Richard said, "It was a captivating watch, and I commend the BBC for raising awareness about renewable technologies and the array of options available to everyone. Understanding the government's efforts to facilitate a low-carbon future is of utmost importance given the seriousness of the environmental challenges we face."

However, Richard seeks to clarify some aspects portrayed in the programme. Contrary to how the documentary may have portrayed it, heat pump

technology is not new and has become more affordable than ever before. Richard commented, "I have been installing heat pumps for nearly 20 years now and we have proactively been installing since I launched Synergi SW in 2014."

One of the concerns raised in the programme was in relation to the high cost of electric versus gas. However the property they featured has previously relied on oil, which is significantly more expensive than gas, thus quicker savings and payback periods.

The documentary touched upon insulation and glazing requirements, but Richard highlights that each installation's success depends on the system's design and its compatibility with the heat pump - sometimes radiators don't need to be replaced. Moreover, heat pumps are not the only solution available. For properties where heat pumps may not be feasible currently, a hybrid approach could be implemented—utilising a combination of a heat pump, operating for approximately 80% of the year alongside a traditional boiler for the remaining time to significantly minimise carbon emissions.

Addressing concerns about the national grid's capacity, Richard advocates that heat pumps are undeniably the most viable technology for the future. The documentary rightly emphasised the importance of improving electrical infrastructure to accommodate heat pump systems, which far outweighs the risks associated with attempting to integrate hydrogen into existing gas mains.

Richard emphasises the importance of having competent and experienced suppliers, cautioning against the pitfalls of inexperienced installers, which may result in costly and inefficient systems for households. He said, "Here at Synergi SW we take huge pride in having seasoned heat pump specialists while also nurturing the next generation of apprentices to ensure excellence in this rapidly evolving field. We are upskilling all of our qualified engineers and our four apprentices are going to be equipped with the skills for heat pumps upon their qualification."

As a company, Synergi SW are members of the RECC (Renewable Energy Consumer Code) and the CPA (Consumer Protection Association). They are Gas Safe, Oftec, WIAPS and Water Safe registered. They are currently working with organisations such as the Diocese of Exeter and Cavanna Homes on their low carbon heating solutions, as well as retrofitting heat pumps on homes in the local area. Richard has qualified in energy efficiency, low surface temperature heating, ground, air and water source heat pumps and G3.

To watch the documentary, visit BBC iPlayer, and for further information on air source heat pumps, explore the Synergi website at www.synergisw.co.uk/air-source-heat-pump.

**For more information contact Lauren Lemmer
lauren@synergisw.co.uk 07796691239**

Richard Gardner is available for expert comments on heat pumps, renewable energy, heating and plumbing. Please email Lauren to arrange.

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Blackdown Hills Eco Hub @Trimplants

We welcomed a group to our Eco Hub on 7 July to learn all about making biochar. A practical day using waste brash from a local farmer's field and from around the nursery.

People who joined us included garden designers from Buckfast Abbey, a product manager from a waste food bio processing company, a researcher from Reading University and others interested in soil regeneration and using waste materials from their land.

Rob from Exeter Charcoal joined us for lunch with some really interesting samples of biochar he's recently made from sargassum, waste from a brewery and horse poo! Analysis showed surprisingly that the brewery waste actually had the highest carbon content.

We're looking forward to experimenting making biochar from willow (currently having to be removed locally due to fungal disease). We plan to also make a few sticks that can be used for charcoal drawing.

Our biochar event on 8 July attracted over 60 people, an amazing group of people with a wide range of experience and interest. We launched our new research project with Plymouth University. Tom introduced our project and shared a few of the early results from PEMC electron microscopes of our biochar's structure and appearance with different inoculations. Nicola Peel, a leading environmentalist, shared her experience of making and using biochar with farmers across the Amazon. Hideo, a researcher from Reading, outlined his global biochar research project. Graeme joined us from Malvern and brought his innovative biochar stove which we used to cook food on. Phil shared his chemical expertise. James from Genesis in Honiton kindly cooked/smoked amazing food, some of which was harvested from our community food growing project. Homemade jam, sour bread, pastries, biochar and plants were also sold to raise funds for our upcoming events.



Our community food growing group continues to meet on Wednesdays from 2pm-4pm; our beans, potatoes and onions are now ready for harvesting. All welcome to join us for a couple of hours of light hoeing, planting, a cup of tea (usually homemade cake or biscuits) and a chat.

For more info follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BHEcoHub> or check the Trimplants website: <https://www.trimplants.co.uk/bh-eco-hub-news/> Contact us directly if you'd like us to add you to our event mailing list.

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Iconic Honiton Pottery Busts Go Under The Hammer at Chilcotts

by Liz Chilcott

A press cutting, re-printed in a book about Honiton Pottery, 'Collard the Honiton & Dorset Potter' by Carol & Chris Cashmore, describes the re-opening of the town's pottery after the war: 'A gateway flanked by two busts is the entrance to a small oasis for the austerity-tired, for in the sun-brightened showrooms of the Honiton Potteries, Devon, are shelves of delightful, coloured and dainty articles ranging from ash trays to large decorative vases and wall plates.'

The busts graced the entrance to the Honiton Pottery since they were installed in the 1930s by the business's second owner, Charles Collard. Although there were originally four busts, just three remained when Paul Redvers took over in the 1960s.

Two of the stone busts will be included in our September 23 sale; one is made of reconstituted stone and valued at £200 to £300, whilst the other, carved from marble, is estimated at between £1,500 and £2,000.

It is thought that these imposing heads were put there outside Honiton Pottery purely to impress VIP visitors, such as the Egyptian Ambassador who moved from London to Luppitt during the Second World War. It's known that the Ambassador purchased tableware from the pottery for his own use. When he married a local woman, Patricia Priest, he invited King Zog of Albania and Queen Geraldine and is believed to have presented them with a personalised Honiton Pottery tea set!

The team at Chilcotts is wondering where the busts will go next – maybe another gateway designed to impress!



These marble busts would once have graced the entrance to Honiton Pottery. Joy Neale, the receptionist, graces the entrance to Chilcotts!

The Ceramics, Pictures & Works of Art; Good Antiques & 20th Century Design sale opens for viewing at the Dolphin Saleroom in Honiton High Street from September 16 and the auction begins at 10am on September 23.



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Words of Beauty and Dignity

by Carol Hayes

When Revd. Putnam at the Offwell Mission Community asked me if I would write a piece for Honiton News about the Book of Common Prayer services at St. Mary's, I started to browse books and websites for inspiration. It very soon became clear that, despite the decline in church attendance, churches offering on-line services from the BCP were seeing unprecedented engagement with hundreds choosing to 'tune in' to a more traditional offering.

It has been said that the Church of England's doctrine is to be found especially in its worship. If this is true then it's above all tribute to the creative genius of Thomas Cranmer. His first Book of Common Prayer was issued in 1549, followed by the second in 1552, which looks and feels much like the 1662 Book of Common Prayer still in use in the Church of England today. The BCP language is variously described as having 'extraordinary simplicity and gravity... beauty and dignity'.

It was in the 1960's that the gradual decline in churchgoing turned into a sharp contraction and by the 1990's many members of the church felt that the 1662 Prayer Book was 'a poor vehicle for contemporary worship'. They were demanding much greater informality and flexibility to worship. The Alternative Service Book (ASB) was finally produced in 1980 but it adopted a radical approach to the rewriting of familiar texts. The ASB satisfied neither those who wanted something closer to the rhythms and language of 1662 nor those who wanted the language to

reflect contemporary concerns, such as gender inclusivity. The ASB was superseded in 2000 by Common Worship, a library of services in several volumes, giving far more variety than its predecessor.

As Church of England congregations continue to decline The Book of Common Prayer is enjoying a revival, despite the best efforts of some modernists to mothball it. This enthusiasm has increased since the pandemic with churches advertising 'Matins n' Brunch' or 'Evensong n' Curry'. One West Country vicar has confessed that, '... ten years ago during a spring clean I tossed around 60 pocket-sized Prayer Books into a black bin bag and drove them to the tip. What was I thinking!'

While this renewed popularity may well have been helped by the late Queen's insistence on funeral rites from the Book of Common Prayer, it is overwhelmingly led by Millennials. What the 1960's revolutionaries wrote off, a younger generation is embracing.

BCP Evensong is held at St. Mary's Church, Offwell, on every 2nd Sunday of the month at 5.00pm; BCP Holy Communion is held on the 4th Sunday at 10.30am. All Offwell Mission Community services can be found on www.parish-church.com



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Local Profile - Helen Hurford, New Mayor of Honiton

by Adam Powell



When I emailed Honiton's new Mayor to meet me for an interview over a coffee, her response was quick and enthusiastic. A few days later, we met in Coffee One in the High Street and we began with her upbringing in Honiton.

Helen has lived all her life in Honiton. At thirteen she learned about hard work in her first job at Rosebuds Bakery, now Warrens on Lace Walk.

Now in her early forties, Helen now runs a beauty therapy business at the bottom of the High Street.

There were fond memories of Honiton Primary School; Geoff Rickson was a great headteacher, learning was fun and school life unpredictable. One day, Helen remembers, he brought a goat into school. A young vivacious teacher of year five, Claire Brown, inspired Helen to pursue a teaching career.

Going on to do a degree and a post-graduate certificate in education at Rolle College Exmouth reinforced in Helen a belief that we can achieve almost anything if we really want to, and labels on young people can be restrictive. Students from private schools, at Rolle, surprised her with their confidence; she resolved to impart this confidence to every child she taught. Eventually Helen rose to become a headteacher herself.

When Honiton School students Zac Lancaster and Ellie Kent made their welcome speech to the Mayor there was a clear desire for young people to be involved in the future of Honiton. For this new Mayor, this won't just mean

pushing forward projects like the skatepark, but also ensuring young people can engage more with local businesses. Helen believes young people can be encouraged to stay and make their lives in Honiton. Firstly we need to encourage business, good jobs and prosperity to the town; jobs that pay well enable young people to afford the higher house prices. Helen agreed that many young people will go away to study and work, but hoped that they would realise what an amazing place East Devon is to live and work, and then return.

Helen admitted that increasing traffic and limited parking were a growing concern. She is concerned about DDC's proposal to charge for parking on Honiton High Street; the proposed new system is complicated and could easily deter shoppers.

We got talking about arts and culture spaces available in the town, namely the Beehive. Helen was amazed by the range of activities and the diversity of people that use this community facility. The opening of the café in the Beehive was a very welcome step, especially as Honiton Town Council Offices are just upstairs.

The High Street and the market are continual concerns; Helen wants Honiton Town Council (HTC) to work closely with traders and small businesses - ideally the Chamber of Commerce would gain members and bring common concerns to HTC. Honiton together with other East Devon Towns is creating a new digital platform for tourists, on the ground you may see impressive new interpretive maps around Honiton. I asked Helen if she was a visitor to the town what she thought would impress her; definitely it was the range of cafes.

We talked about climate change and homelessness. These are big issues that deserve their own article.

Helen stated she was not the 'white knight' coming along to be elected in May 2023, joining a group diverse in ages and abilities. Councillors choose to be on various working groups according to their abilities and interests and (I didn't know this) anyone from the town is welcome to join these working groups. Also you may be interested that anyone can raise their concerns for up to 5 minutes at the beginning of each full council meeting. We can all participate and help shape our town, HTC exists to help the town, but not in isolation from the feelings and thoughts of the 12,000 plus townsfolk.

I learnt that HTC has just been awarded a quality standard for its compliance with correct practice for local government, including financial audits. These achievements are a credit to Serena Sexton, the previous mayor, and her team including Helen. In particular, Councillor Robert Fowles played a pivotal role in the laborious data gathering.

I felt that I was speaking with someone who can look back in the history of Honiton, but who looks forward optimistically. For the future a Street Art Project is coming to the town, but a big challenge Helen has is the clock ticking on the lease of the successful Honiton Football Club; it may have to relocate.

Thank you so much Helen, it was a pleasure to meet you, I am so glad that in you Honiton has a talented, optimistic Mayor and a united team of councillors, good luck with the challenges ahead.

The views expressed in this interview are of Helen Hurford, Mayor of Honiton, not necessarily those held by Honiton Town Council.



Honiton Town Council

August 2023 Newsletter

Bulletin No 1

It won't have slipped your notice that you have a new Town Council. That may not excite you too much, but you will be pleased to know there is a fresh feel about this latest administration. In the local elections held on 4th May a total of 7 councillors who have never held public office in Honiton before were voted on to the Council, along with 11 candidates who have previous experience of working for you.

All those new councillors have put themselves forward because they want to see Honiton thrive, and they have come to the Council with ideas about what they believe the town needs, projects that they would like to see happen over the next 4 years, after which, of course, the next set of local elections will be held. Now clearly not all those ideas can be pursued because the Council has a limited budget and limited resources, but over the next couple of months we will be going through a process of identifying what all the individual Councillors, both old and new, would like to be included as objectives. Those propositions will be considered by the whole group, and we will come up with a list of what we believe to be achievable.

But that is not the end of the process. What we then want to do is to come to you, our electorate, and find out which of those items are priorities for you; and, not only that, but also to determine what other things you would like the Council to be doing. Clearly, we cannot make promises about including your particular idea(s), but they will be considered and included if we think they have merit and can be inserted into the programme of work. We will announce more details about how this consultation will happen over the next couple of months.

And that is the indicator for a second piece of good news. We have decided that we will issue regular updates about what we want to achieve and our progress in pursuing our work programme. For too long you have voted your Councillors into post and for the next four years heard little or nothing about what they are doing for you; that is about to change.

As from now we will be issuing regular bulletins, in plain language that is easy to understand, on a quarterly basis; we hope these will be taken up by one of our local publications, as well as being published on our website, Facebook and through leaflets at certain local outlets, such as the library. Clearly, they will not contain a huge amount of detail, but if you want to know more about any particular issue you can always either contact one of your Ward Councillors or check our website where all the agendas and minutes of our various meetings, together with relevant documents, are uploaded.

And before we close this first communication may I remind you that the Council holds regular surgeries at the market where you can talk to Councillors directly, ask questions and let them know what you would like to see the Council doing.

Of course, you can contact your local Councillors at any time, as their details, and the Committees on which they sit, can be found on our website (www.honiton.gov.uk), on our notice boards around the town and at our offices in the Beehive.

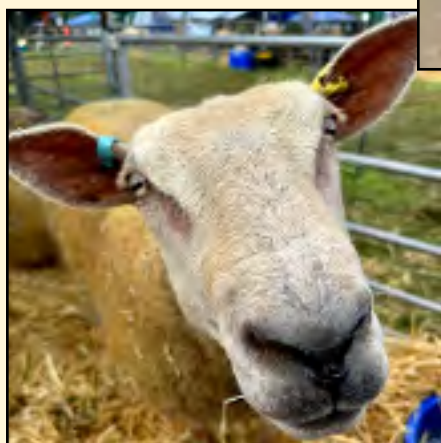
If you still have problems making contact, you can always ring our office on 01404 42957 (10am-1pm) and we will pass on your details.

Cllr H Hurford

Chairman Honiton Town Council



Honiton Show



Gate To Plate

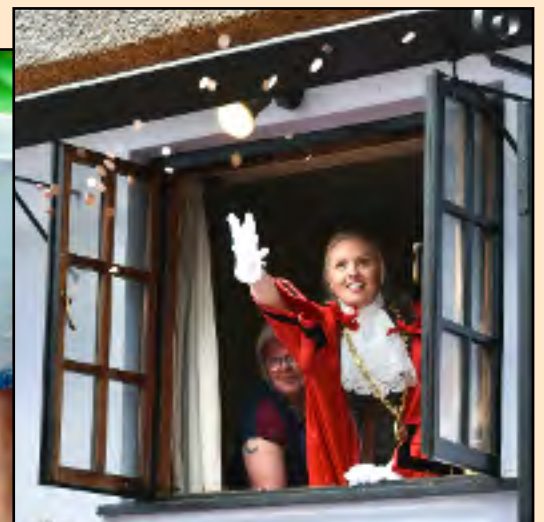


Months - Sometimes Despite The Weather!

Charter Day



Hot Pennies



photos courtesy of Dave Smyth

A Wordsearch To Remind You Of Holidays

Find the words in the grid. Words can go horizontally, vertically and diagonally in all eight directions.

E N F T Z V W B E A C H M A E R C E C I R
 G E N L E Y T L F P S W I N G B O A T S T
 A P D M Y N N A I R G N A S H H N T F L R
 G H A I Y I T S U N H A T O L E S X U H A
 G E B S R B N S W H D Z T T D E S M N L V
 U W D U S R M G L L Z D P I S T K R F P E
 L E C I C P A M V N O N S S N R D D A D L
 S M A K S K O C C G T Y A E Y N R B I X L
 L U M V R A E R S T R L M E F T J M R R I
 I T P N O T E T T T G E P N K T M H R P N
 A S I P C K H S N N S S E A B L D C X C G
 T O N L K J K U U U U M C L N A V A R A C
 K C G J P D O S M R O A L P X R Y L N W M
 C G Z L O C N A F H N E N O N L N M P R R
 O N F J O T H B R D X D N R K I D H D H Y
 C I L H L V O O Y H D A Q E D W K L K Q R
 K M M F S A T F S B X P R A L Q X S M T Z
 C M T H R O L A N R Z S L P N V B F T B Q
 X I K D M O N T C H N G N I K L A W Z E J
 C W S T S D H Q Z K T L U N C H E S Y R J
 M S M S L G L Q G F I S H A N D C H I P S

AEROPLANE
 AMUSEMENTS
 BEACH
 BUCKET
 CAMPING
 CANDYFLOSS
 CARAVAN
 CAR RIDE
 COCKTAILS
 COUNTRYSIDE
 FISH AND CHIPS
 FLYING
 FUN FAIR
 HOT DOGS
 ICE CREAM
 JETSKI
 LUGGAGE

LUNCHESES
 MOTORHOME
 PASSPORT
 ROCK POOLS
 SAND
 SANGRIA
 SEASIDE
 SPADE
 SUNGLASSES
 SUNHAT
 SURFBOARDS
 SWIMMING COSTUME
 SWING BOATS
 TENTS
 TRAVELLING
 WALKING

Around & About In Our Community

Still No Paintbrush Required At The Arts Society Honiton!



A few years ago, the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies changed its name from NADFAS to The Arts Society. There has been a thriving friendly branch in Honiton for well over 30 years. But the new name is confusing. Although some of us can and do paint, that's not what our Society is about, and when our name changed we had to explain that we aren't actually a painting group. In fact, we wrote an article for this magazine, 'No paintbrush required at The Arts Society Honiton'.

So, what do we do? The monthly lecture programme forms the backbone of our Society. We meet at The Beehive in Honiton on the second Tuesday of the month at 2 o'clock from October to June.

Lecturers are recognised experts in their fields and are accredited after a rigorous selection process. Some of them are well known from their appearances on television. The name change was designed to reflect the wider breadth of subjects which are now covered in our lectures. In the past year our lecture programme included talks on music, war artists, medieval architecture, Hockney, women in art, the Silk Road and the antiques market.

So, in our next season, which starts in October, as well as lectures on painting (Dame Laura Knight, Impressionist paintings of snow, Andrew Wyeth, George Stubbs) we shall also be hearing about the world of Grayson Perry, the story of the Elgin marbles, looking at jewellery in art, and exploring the rise and fall of Napoleon Bonaparte as depicted in art. We shall also enjoy Medieval music for our Christmas lecture.

Our society also organises visits to places of interest, some of which are not usually open to the public, and a number of social events. Our Christmas lunch is always very popular.

Members can participate in special study days organised by the South West Area organisation of The Arts Society and are sent copies of the high quality national magazine which contains articles about exhibitions and events around the country.

So why not join us at The Beehive to enjoy a wider appreciation of the arts without having to take up painting, or even lift your pencil-or your paintbrush?

Our first lecture of the new season is on Tuesday 10th October at 2 o'clock at the Beehive, Dowell Street in Honiton and it will feature the wide breadth of work of Dame Laura Knight, whom many will associate with Cornwall, but we will also hear about her work as a war artist.

See our website for further details, www.theartsocietyhoniton.org.uk or come along to one of our lectures as a visitor.

David Ward, chairman and M A Howe, secretary, The Arts Society Honiton



Dalwood Country Fair

The sun shone after Storm Betty and everyone had a great time at Dalwood Country Fair in August



WANTED URGENTLY

Working scooters

Wheelchairs

(manual or electric)

& walkers with seats

for

The Joe Gilson Mobility Scheme

Please phone 01404 43341

Around & About In Our Community

Rotary is made up of men and women from all walks of life. We have members from Ottery St Mary, 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.**

Association with Honiton Primary School - We recently welcomed Chris Tribble, Headteacher Honiton Primary School, to one of our weekly meetings. He gave a very interesting talk about the school and its ethos.

Chris has been Headteacher at Honiton Primary School for 5 years. He is very proud to be the Head of HPS which has 427 pupils.

The School uses the SOLE method of teaching - Self Organised Learning Environment. The SOLE curriculum uses minimally invasive teaching, allows children to learn for themselves, provides encouragement but not direction and creates an environment to promote curiosity. The children negotiate with others for evidence of their learning, observe and record and apply their knowledge.

Otter Valley Rotary has formed a very good relationship with HPS and Chris; we presented the school with a Friend of Rotary Certificate and we look forward to supporting the school in new projects.

Support for Sidmouth District Ranger Guide - We received a request from Elen Stone for help towards a trip to São Miguel in the Azores joining 2nd Braunton Rangers in August 2023. Some of the activities included whale watching, swimming in geothermal pools, and exploring the Gruta do Carvão lava cave.

This was to be Elen's first trip abroad with Guiding. She was looking forward to the experience and making new friends. We were pleased to give £200 towards her adventure.

Honiton Show - Sadly the weather was not as kind to us this year as it was last year.

Despite torrential rain we were still extremely busy parking cars and giving out wristbands to keep children safe.

A lot of vehicles had to be towed out due to the awful mud, but we hope like us you all had a great day.

For more information about Rotary please visit our web page Otter Valley Rotary



Well readers here we are in September - another summer nearly gone.

I had the great pleasure of presenting a certificate of appreciation to Mandy Patch of The Otter Inn Weston recently. Mandy always helps us where she can with the sale of our Easter Egg draw as well as in many other ways. Thank you Mandy so much for your support.

Our Classic Car show went well at the end of July, and I would like to thank everyone who took part at this event including Honiton Air Cadets.

At the end of September we will be doing a litter pick around Honiton; if you would like to help us on Saturday 30th please give me a call.

On bank holiday weekend we spent two days at Honiton Hill Rally selling draw tickets and promoting Lions Clubs International. Thank you to their committee for inviting us.

On 9th September we have The Mackarness Hall booked for the sale of almost anything we can get our hands on, as well as the final sale of draw tickets. The draw concludes on September 24th and the results will be made at The Otter Inn Weston at 2pm. I would like to thank our sponsors this year for their support; every prize was donated, so each ticket sold is profit and will go to charity Our sponsors are: Snows Toyota Honiton, E A Dodd and Son, Paul Richards Motors, SCS Porsche, Tesco, Blamphayne Sawmill Ltd, The Otter Inn, Baker Estates, Otter Brewery, Motor Parts Direct and Porkies the Butcher. THANK YOU ALL.

As always if you would like to find out more about Lions Clubs International and in particular the Honiton Club please give me a call on 01404 43738 or mobile 07966 173 828 or you can email me at atbrian.richards@honitonlions.org.uk or visit our website www.honitonlions.org.uk



Pictured at The Otter Inn are from left to right, Lion Kevin Linsdell, Mandy Patch, Lions president Brian Richards (me), Lion Nigel Gray and our champion seller Lion David Rickard.

Around & About In Our Community

Honiton Carers

Honiton Carers enjoyed a lovely afternoon doing a flower workshop with Julie Spiller on Wednesday 9th August. We all learnt how to do a floral table arrangement and, although it looked so very easy to do, it was quite challenging for a lot of us. Julie



started off demonstrating how best to do a "modern" floral table decoration. We were amazed how few flowers she used together with some grasses and coloured straw, which she artfully twisted around and fixed to the oasis.

After that she and her granddaughter Roxy supported us all doing our very own display. Somehow they did not end up looking quite like Julie's, however the results were fabulous and it was really lovely for everyone to be able to take their own display home.

A huge thank you to Julie Spiller and Roxy for a wonderful afternoon much enjoyed by all. The session was finished off with a lovely afternoon tea and the usual raffle with an enormous amount of prizes mostly donated by the carers themselves.

If you are a carer and would like to join us, please get in touch with Winnie on 07974 636926 or email Winniekjaer@btinternet.com for more information.

Honiton u3a Celebrates 30 Years



On August 16th members of Honiton u3a came together at Cotleigh Village Hall to celebrate the group's 30th birthday; originally known as East Devon u3a, the group was founded in January 1993. The Anniversary Tea culminated in the cutting of a 30th birthday cake.

Commenting on the anniversary, Chairman Peter Halse said, "Thirty years seems to have

passed so quickly. But in that time u3a has grown to be a very large movement, giving so many of us the opportunity to broaden our horizons and to make new friends. Let's celebrate this milestone and do all we can to contribute to our u3a together."

Photo shows Honiton u3a member Gene Freemantle cutting the Anniversary cake with Chairman Peter Halse



Spotted In Town

Liz and Tricia with their entries for the Honiton Evangelical Church Art Exhibition



Talaton - A Growing Community!

The Talaton Garden and Produce Association, with its 46 member families, held its annual show in early August and in spite of doom-laden weather forecasts the sun shone and the supporters emerged. As usual loyal committee members did the setting up on the previous evening although the Chairman managed to be late and had to offer sincere apologies! Exhibitors arrived with their prize jams, courgettes, onions.... on the Saturday morning. Serious business, selecting the best three runner beans to enter! Eventually, out went the hopefuls and in came the judges for a couple of hours quiet awarding. Finally, at 3:30 the doors not exactly burst open but did allow a really great number of visitors in to check their success or failure or just to enjoy a potter around and a tea and cake.



Overall, a great show with excellent entries - 285 actual entries - and attendance. There is a rumour that a large number of trial attempts at the Gent's Cherry Cake, all with the cherries at the bottom, are now available at reduced price in the Community Shop!

Liz Appointed to UK Committee

Congratulations to Liz Chilcott on her appointment to the committee of the Society of Fine Art Auctioneers (SOFAA). SOFAA is the only professional organisation in the UK exclusively representing fine art auctioneers and valuers as a profession. As a member of the committee, Liz will be involved in supporting the industry in a variety of ways, including liaising with Government representatives on relevant policy changes, like the introduction of new or updated CITES laws that apply to international trade in endangered species and covers items such as ivory.



Liz, who contributes a monthly column to H&VN, first became interested in the auction business when she was very young. "My parents would visit auctions to buy furniture for our home. And, when I was at art college, I used to go myself to buy useful treasures such as shoeboxes filled with costume jewellery and vintage clothing." Liz's first SOFAA meeting is in September which she says is exciting and slightly daunting at the same time. "But I'm looking forward to being an active, involved committee member."

KILN DRIED OAK LOGS



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