

A close-up photograph of a large pile of acorns and oak leaves. The acorns are in various stages of ripening, with some showing green caps and others having turned brown. The oak leaves are also in various stages, with some being bright green and others showing yellow and brown autumn colors. The background is a soft-focus pile of more acorns and leaves.

HONITON & VILLAGE NEWS

OCTOBER 2023
FREE

The MKM logo is located in the top right corner. It consists of the letters 'MKM' in a bold, sans-serif font. The 'M' and 'K' are blue, and the 'M' is yellow. The background of the advertisement is a photograph of a modern kitchen with dark blue cabinets, a wooden countertop, and a young girl with curly hair in a white shirt in the foreground.

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The volunteer team behind **Honiton & Village News** has been very proud to bring you, our local community, a magazine led by you and concentrating entirely on our immediate area. This has been a success beyond our imaginings and has been there for you even through the tough times of lockdown.

However, after four and a half years some members of the team of Directors have decided that it is time to step aside and allow the magazine to be refreshed.

That is where you come in.

To take **Honiton & Village News** into the future, new members of our team need to come forward, willing to take on the journey we have started. Ideally this new team would consist of enough people to be able to cover production, with the following now being needed:

- Editorial and liaison with contributors, working with current colleagues
- Sourcing stories from the local area and liaising with readers sending in stories
- Photo journalism and photo editing (good level of photography needed but also the ability to let the picture tell the story)
- Sourcing and securing advertising, working with current colleagues

Graphic design, printing and publishing together with website management are ongoing as is the general management of the company. Many of our current contributors and advertisers also wish to continue.

*It has been a real pleasure working with and for you all – are you up to the challenge? Can you form part of a new team to take **Honiton & Village News** forward to its next phase?*

"I love your magazine. Please just keep doing what you are doing"



Regretfully, if no new volunteers come forward to take on this task, Honiton & Village News will cease publication in December 2023.

If you would like to discuss further details of how to get involved please contact honitonvillagenews@gmail.com and we will phone you back.



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

honitonvillagenews@gmail.com
www.honitonvillagenews.co.uk



Honiton & Village News is a monthly magazine produced free of charge for the people of Honiton and surrounding villages by a team of volunteers:

Lyn Hargood, Vernon Whitlock, Colin Wright, Chris Doran, Jennie Sleeman, Rosie Dale, Jill Wardle, Charles Pegman, Mel Cook, David Hayler

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Cover photo of acorns by Vernon Whitlock

All Buzzing At Blackbury Farm

by Jill Wardle

Photos courtesy of :

Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones
Proverbs 16:24



Did you know that honeybees do a 'waggle dance'? The dance is a figure-of-eight pattern consisting of a central 'waggle run' and two return loops. The information conveyed in this dance to other bees is the direction, distance, and quality of a nectar-rich food source.

I learned this and a myriad of other fascinating bee-related facts when I chatted with Ken Basterfield at the Blackbury Honey Farm (near Southleigh) recently.

Ken and his family have been involved in beekeeping for over 50 years and have developed the farm and surrounding land over the past 22 years. This was the first honey farm to be built in England for nearly 20 years and includes purpose-built facilities for extraction and bottling honey, hive repair workshops, and a classroom, laboratory, and teaching apiary. The farm, which has 120 bee colonies, has a low carbon footprint, and is designed to be part of the environment. It is recommended for a visit to learn about bees, wander through the lovely grounds, buy locally produced honey products, and also to sample some delicious food and drink.

So, back to the bees and my favourite facts:

- ▶ Bees are vegetarians with flowers providing all their needs: nectar for honey as energy, and pollen for proteins, vitamins, oils, and minerals. The cycle of the honeybee colony follows the seasons and the abundance or dearth of flowering plants.
- ▶ At Blackbury Farm, the 50 acres of wildflower meadow, orchards and pollinator flower garden provide nectar for the bees. Bees are also taken to local farmers' fields within a 10-mile radius where they pollinate the crops and wildflowers bringing a distinctive taste to their honey depending on their nectar source.
- ▶ Bees have flower favourites including dandelion, oil-seed rape, apple, pear, field beans, clover, lime bramble and heather – that is what you can taste in 'proper' non-blended honey produced locally. If you can, try not to be lulled by cheap alternatives which may be counterfeit imports.
- ▶ In a bee colony, there will be around 60,000 female worker bees, 1,000 male drones, and one Queen Bee. The role of the Queen is to mate with drones once in her lifetime; interestingly, she then determines the gender of the bee larvae. After mating, the drones either die or get evicted from the hive. The female worker bees have a series of age-related tasks: cleaning the hive cells; looking after the larvae; building the honeycomb; and finally acting as a guard bee at the hive entrance.
- ▶ Honey isn't the only thing that bees make. They also produce a compound called propolis from the resin on needle-leaved trees or evergreens. Bees seal the beehive with propolis to protect the colony from the weather and pests. Ancient civilizations used propolis for its medicinal properties: Greeks used it to treat abscesses; Assyrians put it on wounds and tumours to fight infection and help the healing process; Egyptians used it to embalm mummies.
- ▶ The role of the beekeeper is to help the bees do their job by keeping them protected from the elements (especially cold, wet weather), disease and predators (including the infamous Varroa mite), and any other challenges. Like any livestock, bees can be bred for desirable characteristics such as productivity, temperament, health, and robustness. As a reward for their stewardship, the beekeeper will be able to harvest any honey surplus to the bees' needs.

If you fancy the idea of learning more, Ken and his son Daniel - both having qualified in the National Diploma in Beekeeping - run training courses at beginner and advanced levels. Also, if you ever fancy some relaxing gardening in beautiful surroundings, volunteers are always welcome. But don't forget to visit the lovely cafe while you're there.

You can find Blackbury Honey Farm on the road to Blackbury Camp and well signposted from the road. Open Wednesday - Sunday 10am-4pm. Please note the farm is a dog-free site.



A View From The Hills

by Miranda Gudenian

"I saw her plucking cowslips and marked her where she stood. She never knew I watched her while hiding in the wood"Those lines of Percy Iloff's poem *The Witch* popped into my head when I caught sight of the figure at the turning in the path.

It isn't often that I meet anyone on the footpath that crosses the marshy woodland near my home. Colander in hand, I'd gone to pick blackberries before autumn rains turned the fruit to mush. I moved down the path from one bramble thicket to the next, sunshine warming my back, a bevy of long-tailed tits flitting through oak branches. Ahead of me, stooping to pick blackberries, was a figure in a coat and hat even grubbier than mine are when I return from a session weeding on my hands and knees in the garden. "Good afternoon," I called cheerily, as I drew near. The lady shot me a glance, shovelling berries into a grimy mouth. Dear reader, I refrain from telling you her reply, though in fairness I doubt I was meant to hear it.

Several empty bottles of Bollshayes cider lay at her feet. Slung in the long grass was a frayed rucksack and a man's jacket. And it was then that I recognised her, as any regular reader of this esteemed magazine would have done. "Forgive me," I ventured, "but you look very like the sister of a friend of mine who lives in Gittisham. Are you by any chance Birdie Bodrugan?"

She wiped her sleeve across her mouth but didn't seem inclined to reply. Then: "Don't you go believing a word my sister says about me," came a shout as I went on my way.

Of Birdie's husband there was no sign, but Gertie of Gittisham has written about his propensity for pocketing a pheasant and I had a suspicion he may be nearby. Sleeping off cider perhaps, but strangers to these woods stray from the footpath at their peril; many an innocent stretch of rushy grass conceals black mire that can swallow a dog in summer and a man in winter.



Now come with me to Exmoor. Another autumn day, the gentlest of breezes, the moors pink and gold and russet, blackberries glistening in hedgerows. My companion was Thomas, a dear friend. We had climbed a steep slope out of a coombe and on reaching level ground found an elderly lady, wrapped in many layers of clothing, sitting on a rock, a sketchbook and paint box on her knees. "I've been watching you," she said with a smile as we approached, "You've got good lungs and good leg muscles."

Thomas and I burst out laughing as we were both somewhat out of breath. We exchanged pleasantries with the artist and admired the painting in progress in her sketchbook, a masterly record of the autumn scene. Suddenly, at the same moment, alerted by the bird's sharp call, the three of us spotted a hawk streaking across the sky high above our heads. "A peregrine," the artist said with excitement.

I stood transfixed, this being the first peregrine I'd ever seen, and a rare sighting at the best of times. It darted to the left and disappeared over a crest of woodland. "What luck, and you were with me to witness it," the artist beamed at us.

We sat beside her and chatted about the countryside and country ways, old ways of doing things that were passing into history. Her knowledge of Exmoor was encyclopaedic. Her name, she said when we enquired, was Hope Bourne. "What a beautiful name," Thomas told her.

Miss Bourne, like Wordsworth's Lucy, dwelt among the untrodden ways. But that's where any similarities with Lucy ended. Though small of stature, she was certainly not 'a violet by a mossy stone'. She sparkled. Her home was a caravan on a remote farmstead; writing and illustrating books earned her enough to live a frugal existence, which was all she desired. She had no car, travelled by shank's pony, and knew the moors as intimately as the wild creatures themselves. She collected drinking water in a bucket from the cold, clear streams; she grew her own vegetables, fished for brown trout, shot rabbits and pigeons. She cooked her meals, she told us, in a frying pan she'd rescued from a dustbin. Few people I've met have radiated such contentment.

Finally, reluctantly, Thomas and I bid her farewell, telling her how much we had enjoyed our meeting. We walked to a pub for lunch. In conversation with the landlord we described the encounter on the moors. "That'll be Miss Bourne," the landlord told us. Yes, we said, she'd given us her name. From the landlord we discovered that we'd been in the company of an Exmoor legend. "They threw away the mould when they made Hope Bourne," he said reverently.

Thank you, Birdie, Hope Bourne and all the others who by chance encounter have enriched my life.



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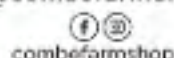
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The Ramblings Of Gertie From Gittisham

A man's work ends at set of sun, A woman's work is never done. - Jean Little

So very true, and I know I should not hark back to yesteryear and indeed, as I have often mentioned, living conditions were sorely trying with very few appliances to soften the blow of the daily grind of household tasks. Yet those self-same tasks offered a source of comfort to the harassed mistress of the home, as she toiled throughout the day to fulfil the onerous duties besetting a busy household. This weekly routine was one of fixed certainties and come rain or shine nothing interrupted the set timetable of chores: Wash on Monday, Iron on Tuesday, Darn and Sew on Wednesday, Bake on Thursday, Clean on Friday, Shop on Saturday, Church and Roast on Sunday. And to this strict patterning of days there was a certain solace to be found.

I can cast my mind back to the little galvanised hut set back on the hillside in Buckerell and see my mother at the pump gathering water for the weekly wash. Standing with her are Mrs B. and Gran Tozer, her neighbours, also wanting water, for today it is Monday and, as with every Monday, soon the washing lines will be fluttering in the breeze pegged out with all the garments, which have been prodded and stirred in the heated copper, rinsed out in cold buckets of water and then propelled through the mangle with much grunting from the sheer effort required to operate these antiquated cast iron contraptions. No swanning off to the gym for the housewives of the 1950s/60s. Their 'work-out' happened with legs firmly planted on the kitchen floor in sensible brown lace-up shoes and full pinnies over their skirts and cardies to prevent any more clothes needing to go in the wash. No skimpy Lycra shorts stretching in obscene ways over the comely corsets of that army of women exacting war on the mud and grime of Buckerell.

But where were Birdie and I, while Mother was setting about her morning's work with the old wireless sitting atop the saucepan cupboard tuned for once to the BBC Light Programme rather than the slightly more pretentious Home Service? Well, as soon as the signature tune starting to play for the morning show *Housewives Choice* we were shooed off 'out to play' and told not to come home until we heard the church clock striking twelve o'clock. This would, of course, give us enough time to drift up the hill in time for our dinner of mashed 'teddies', cold meat and home-made chutney. Sometimes we would play for a while in the garden within earshot of the kitchen, hoping to hear our favourite songs of the day: Bernard Cribbins singing 'Right said Fred, Both of us Together' or, even better, Birdie's pin-up, Lonnie Donegan, giving voice to 'My Old Man's a Dustman, He Wears a Dustman's Hat'.

However, Birdie would soon tire of the safe confines of the garden and wish to roam. Sometimes she would want to take her trolley - old pram wheels attached to a plank of wood, with a piece of rope for steering purposes - over Feniton way, to meet up with her 'best friend' Linda Wood where they would get into all kinds of mischief, frightening old women as they whizzed down Sandy Knapp chanting and screaming their ridiculous nonsense. On other occasions I would persuade Birdie to come and earn some 'sweetie' money with me at Buckerell House, the home of Colonel and Mrs Duncan. There, I would muck out the horse, Charlie, and the Shetland pony, Pegasus, while Birdie would track down the Colonel and try to find more adventurous ways of earning herself a sixpenny piece. Sometimes I would hear the chug chug of the sit-on mower and there was Birdie careering up and down the old tennis court and around the formal rose beds fuelled by a generous glass of gin and bitter lemon courtesy of the Colonel, who would retire to the Drawing Room of his stately home and watch with amusement the antics of this harum scarum individual. In those days, the Colonel, who had a distinguished overseas war service, was perhaps the most imposing figure in the village, commanding a great deal of respect from the humble cottage dwellers, many of whom had travelled no further than Taunton.

The Colonel liked to keep an eye on Birdie as she added a certain frisson to his somewhat restricted life, what with his gout and "Mummy not quite recovering from her hysterectomy". On one occasion Birdie had sprayed the drive of Buckerell House with weed killer, which had inadvertently also coated her bell-bottom jeans. A couple of days later the Colonel, somewhat unwisely, gave her the task of parading up and down the drive with a flame gun to burn off the withered weeds. Dressed only in her brassiere and those dratted bell bottoms, Birdie became aware of a fierce heat around her ankles. Her jeans had combusted and, whipping them down, Birdie dashed to dunk them in the water trough. A minute later and there was the flustered Colonel. How quickly he must have hobbled to get from the drawing room to the stables in that short time! I know Birdie was proper flummoxed to see him standing there, what with her developing attributes being on full view.

These days I ponder on the survival rate of children growing up in the countryside, where Health & Safety was not a consideration and the Me Too Movement an unheard of 'pie-in-the-sky' fanciful piece of nonsense. Common sense, the ability to give a hefty push and run fast were certainly the much-needed skills to survive the thrills and spills of life throughout the 1950s/60s.



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The Happiest Days Of Your Life?

by Martin Long



The start of every school year still brings a wave of nostalgia for my 32 years as a Secondary School teacher. And I remember clearly that when I met my new classes each September one of the most common questions students asked me – apart from whether I set lots of homework (which I did) – was what my own school days were like.

I'm not sure whether they were pleased or not to discover that, actually, yes I did enjoy my time at school. What I never told my pupils too much about, however, was the fact that my schooldays also contained some things that were, to say the least, a bit odd.

For a start, there was the memorable day a member of staff put a gun in my hand. Yes, I did say gun. The staff were not available to run an inter-schools athletics match. So we had to step in. Students measured the long jump, timed the races, decided who had won. But someone had to act as starter. A task which for some reason fell to me.

It can't have been because I had the loudest voice. If any criticism had been levelled at me throughout my time at

school, it was that I needed to speak up more. Maybe it was just that the staff thought I was too sensible to go mad if someone offered me a gun.

It was only a starting pistol, of course. But it was loud enough that I had to be issued with a large pair of ear defenders. I was given a quick lesson on how to load the gun and fire it, a packet of blanks was rather gingerly handed over, and I was left to it. I am pleased to say that everyone got out alive, the races went off smoothly, and our school even won the match.

Or how about the day when the prefects decided to introduce a new punishment. No doubt everyone was bored of endless lines, or the fiendish essays on subjects like the inside of a ping pong ball that the Head of the English Department always objected to, on the grounds that writing should be a pleasure and a privilege, never a punishment. Therefore, inspired by Monty Python, we sentenced some poor unsuspecting offenders to "The Comfy Chair." I am sure it must have been against the Geneva Convention. Fancy forcing someone to sit in a comfortable armchair all break. The cruelty of it.

Then there was the time a friend and I became part-time advertising hacks. The school regularly organised a sponsored walk along the canal from Bath to Bradford on Avon and back. One year, it was decided we needed to run a publicity campaign to get people excited about the project. So we produced a series of posters, using the simple idea of adding mildly humorous captions to old adverts cut out of magazines.

It was a form of guerrilla advertising, as we would sneak around the school while everyone was in assembly, putting up a new set of posters, each of which was unique. Well, we did not have much choice about that, as we didn't have any means of copying them. When pupils returned to their classroom they would find a new image on their notice board. For weeks, these posters, where they came from and whether the jokes were that funny, became the talk of the school.

Eventually, a few days after the sponsored walk, the secret was finally revealed during a school assembly, an event which was a very big deal in our school. Assembly was led by a rota of senior teachers, including the Headmaster, and was the traditional "Act of Collective Worship" that will be familiar to so many people of my generation, with a Bible reading, a hymn (usually badly sung) and a prayer.

One of the features of this assembly was that, as the person leading it entered the Hall, the whole school had to stand. Which led to one of the craziest moments of my school life when, for reasons best known to themselves, the staff agreed that I could be the first ever pupil to take a week of assemblies.

There followed the bizarre moment when hundreds of boys, and the whole staff, had to stand as I walked into the school hall, and could not sit down until I gave them permission. Oh, the power, oh the vanity. It nearly went to my head. Not.

However, as you can see, if there is one thing that my school believed in, it was that young people should be given as much responsibility as possible. They believed in putting real power (or in my case, a real gun) into the hands of its pupils. I am absolutely sure that we all benefited from the trust the school placed in us. And it is something that since that time has become commonplace, with even quite young Primary School children being given roles in the running of their school.

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Tales From The Museum

by Margaret Lewis

Honiton Pottery

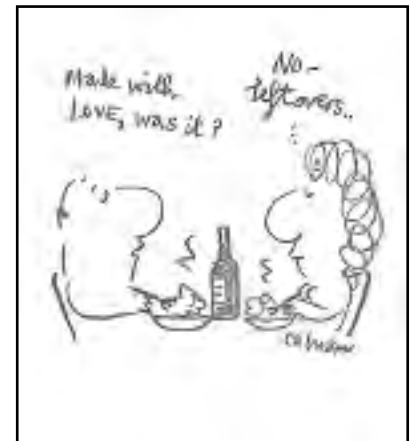
Pottery was made in Honiton for hundreds of years. It was a coarse type of earthenware using clay which was dug from the ground behind the pottery.

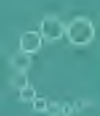
When Paul and Jennie Redvers took over Honiton Pottery in 1961, they made revolutionary changes in the factory, the variety of the product range, the way pottery was produced and where it was sold. New designs which followed the latest fashions were created by Paul and other talented artists. Many items became really trendy and were sold in shops like Harrods, Selfridges, Harvey Nichols, Next and Bloomingdales in New York. Paul imported a Ram press machine from Ohio; it was the first one ever to be used in the UK. Up to a thousand items could be made in a day and up to twenty tons of clay was used in a week. A mug machine was acquired, and thousands of blue mugs with engraved names were produced. Almost everyone I knew owned one and thousands were exported to Japan.

Bespoke commemorative plates could be decorated to mark any special occasion and were often given at christenings or retirement presentations. Almost every schoolchild in East Devon received a Queen's Silver Jubilee mug in 1977. Special commissions were made for companies like Taunton Cider, Watneys, Benson & Hedges and Colman's Mustard. Souvenir Honiton pottery could be purchased in towns and cities everywhere and it was a household name. People could visit a castle in Ireland or Wales, a department store in Scotland, cathedrals in London, or Salisbury, or even Alderney or the Falkland Islands and be able to buy a pottery memento which had been made in Honiton. Tens of thousands of 'Original Christmas tree' platters, plates and festive decorations were exclusively produced for Cuthbertsons and exported annually to the USA. Julien Roebuck designed a special commemorative plate for Charles and Diana's wedding in 1981 and an example of it is in the V&A collection, as is Maryse Boxer's range of tableware.

Youngs Seafood offered a complete set of cook and tableware as a prize in a nationwide competition. When the Times newspaper cartoonist Mel Calman published a cookery book, Paul made contact with him and it was agreed that some of Mel's designs could be used to decorate Honiton cookware, which was extremely popular.

Coachloads of tourists were welcomed to the Pottery, and they could wander through the workrooms to witness the different stages of production until the factory closed during the recession in 1992.





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Celebrating The Fishermen Of Devon



Supporting the fishermen of Devon has never been more important as they face a daily struggle to make a living and keep their family business going. Our Devon coasts are so blessed with lovely quaint fishing villages which look enchanting on a lovely summer's day. But the fishermen's life is far from romantic as they battle with the weather, overfishing by larger trawlers, pollution and constant changes in Government legislation.

Our local fishmonger, The Devon Fishmonger in New Street Honiton, knows the fishermen by name and works with them every day to achieve the quality and freshness we enjoy. Scott & Darryl are the new young generation of fishmongers who think about the whole life of fish; from sea bed to serving dish. They always like to make the point that quality is not just a matter of freshness, it is also about knowing your sourcing, and then how the fish is cut and trimmed, presented, perfectly cooked and garnished.

Through careful sourcing, The Devon Fishmonger is able to support sustainable fishing and work closely with local fishermen to protect fish stocks and reduce damage to the environment. They work with individual fishermen to ensure that everything from the catch, through to the sale, can continue to support the local fishing communities for years to come. These fishermen are at the very heart and identity of their local communities. They are the guardians of an established rhythm of life, which for hundreds of years has seen the same families caring for Devon's fish stocks generation after generation.

Together we need to celebrate the fishermen's vital contribution to the Devon way of life.

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Around Woodbury Salterton

by Chris Harwood

Map OS Explorer 115 – Exmouth & Sidmouth. 1:25000 5.7 Miles

Mostly off-road on beautiful, long green tracks. Some very quiet lanes and really cool forest tracks. No real hills so it is one of those – Why haven't I done this before?

A Brief Historical Note – the well house and conduit in Woodbury Salterton was provided by local benefactress Marianne Pidley in 1847 probably in response to a cholera outbreak in 1832.

Take the Exmouth road out of Ottery St Mary or aim for the Half Way Inn (Grid Ref SY 048 904) on the main Exeter to Sidmouth road (the A3052). Here take the Exmouth Road and continue, passing the road to the Woodbury Park Leisure Complex on your right. Very soon, immediately opposite the Woodbury Castle on your left look for parking off to your right. (SY 032 872). This is the Estuary View Car Park.



From the park walk back to the road and just before the road look for a signposted bridleway off to the left. About 20 yards along here take the signposted bridle path off to the right and now wander through the most wonderful woods on a soft and winding track to eventually meet a good, signposted track crossing in front of you. Right here until you meet a minor road. Right again for some way gently uphill to the entrance to the Woodbury Park Leisure Complex. Serious lack of signposting here (intentional or otherwise? It is a Public Right of Way). Down the good road to the Complex but, unless so minded, ignore the offer of a massage and 18 holes and carry on down the wonderful leafy lane – so good it's almost a road. Continue for nearly a mile on this beautiful track to the ornate gates of the much-protected property Lyndhayne. Left here, leaving the lions to guard whatever it might be and onwards, passing through Hogsbrook Farm and passing Meerhaven Manor on your left (another secluded gated property) to meet the road.

Move right down the road, known as Dog Lane, to the crossroads. Cross with care and amble slowly downhill into Woodbury Salterton. Immediately after passing the school on your right and Parish Hall on your left, turn left at the T junction. Maybe stopping to look at the old well on the left or picking up a couple of books on country walking in the Phone Box Library, continue up the hill to find Bonds Lane off to your right. Lovely little road. Wander uphill for quite some distance passing a number of properties including Yabbles Plat to eventually find Bedside Manor with a rather unique nameplate on a surfboard! Now, beside the gate look for a good track off to your left. A couple of yards up this lane look for a Public Footpath sign directing you through a wooden gate on the right and follow this path with the hedge on your left. This is a gem and seems to go on and on with vast panoramic views.

Eventually this path, close to marvellous allotments, meets a lane. Immediately left here and follow the road to emerge at the cross. Interesting - the cross marks the site of the old village pond. (Good place to sit for a coffee). Left on the main road but only for a couple of hundred yards and then right up Cottles Lane (where do all these names come from?). Carry on for some way uphill to meet Castle Lane – this must refer to Woodbury Castle? – and left here for only about 100 yards and then right through a metal gate – Public Bridleway sign – and follow this very clearly marked off-road track through a number of metal gates. Follow the signs but take a moment to look back at the stunning views. Finally, drop down to a gate into the woods. Follow the rich wide track into the woods in a straight line. Onwards and up to the barrier and marker post. Straight across and uphill bearing left to the signposted estuary viewpoint. Move left to return to your car but probably well worth a potter to take in the huge panoramic scenery.



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

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What Grass Where

by Andrea Rye, Combe Garden Centre



Ornamental grasses are rapidly becoming more popular among us gardeners. They look fabulous, even in winter. They are low maintenance, add height and drama and complement a wide range of planting styles. Many species are highly adaptable and can look glorious even in poor soil. These plants are also often drought tolerant, and in most cases don't need cutting back until their new foliage emerges in spring. Hardy, resistant to pests and diseases and quick growing, adding grasses to your garden is a no brainer; and if you only have a small garden, there are plenty of compact varieties to choose from.

Miscanthus nepalensis

This is a lovely, tall grass. It has very distinctive golden flower plumes that droop wonderfully, above fine, elegant leaves in mid green. Allow it plenty of space to grow as it will get 150cm high and spread around 120cm. This plant needs a sunny, sheltered site with good drainage and looks fantastic planted in borders or in pots. Plant it as a backdrop for shorter plants or in front of taller flowering perennials like *Salvia uliginosa*, *Helianthus* "Lemon Queen" or *Verbena bonariensis*. The droopy flowers look stunning when the wind moves them so keep it somewhere where you can see it clearly.

Molinia caerulea "Moorhexe"

This grass forms a narrow, upright plume of foliage that turns orange with age, with long, showy flower stems that are purplish in colour. Its height is roughly 85cm and the spread is about 60cm. Happy in sun or part shade "Moorhexe" will tolerate a wide range of soils but likes fairly moist situations. This is a stiff grass that is perfect for adding texture to the middle/back of a border, good for a windy site, and also does well by the sea. Try planting this in front of tall Asters, or behind shorter perennials like *Heleniums* or *Veronicas*. Will tolerate some drought when established.

Panicum virgatum "Hanse Merms"

This stunning, deciduous grass has a compact and narrow habit. The leaves are a good mid green and turn burgundy red in autumn. The flowers arrive from August onwards, start silvery green, turning purple/ brown, and have a wonderful misty effect. This is a very vigorous grass that has a height of 100 to 125cm and a spread of 80 to 100cm. "Hanse Herms" is not fussy about soil but needs full sun to perform at its best. Plant with a contrasting-coloured neighbour, like yellow flowering *Solidago* or an orange *Crocosmia*, to set off the glorious colours of the leaves and flowers.

Pennisetum alopecuroides "Herbstfreude"

This lovely plant is also called Chinese Fountain Grass and is mound forming with narrow green leaves. It reaches 1m with a spread of 2m and likes sun and moisture retentive soil. The main attraction of this grass is its gorgeous, fluffy bottle brush flowers, which change from light pink to purple and brown as they age. An added bonus is that this is an evergreen grass so makes a great year-round feature; they look very stately when allowed to grow to full size as a specimen plant. If you would rather have this species as part of a border, try planting it surrounded by something with a contrasting habit to show off its shape, like low growing *Sedums* or short Asters.

Uncinia "Everflame"

Wonderfully colourful, this *Uncina* is short and the foliage is permanently shades of red, brown, pink and green. It's a lovely grass for the front of a border where its colours can be readily seen, and this species is evergreen, so needs no cutting back in spring. If grown in good, preferably slightly moist soil in full sun this grass can grow up to 50cm tall and wide. To bring out its amazing colours try planting it next to a dark green leaved *Bergenia* or next to black leaved *Ophiopogon*.

Ophiopogon nigra

This is without doubt one of my favourite grasses. There is nothing else quite like this dramatic, almost pure black grass. It is incredibly versatile as it is short, compact and evergreen. It looks fantastic in perennial planters where it provides all year interest, and is a great addition to contemporary planting schemes. Even if grasses are not your thing but you want a low maintenance, contemporary planting, try *Ophiopogon* planted with the silvery *Calocephalus*, as groundcover around the purple leaved shrub *Loropetalum*; you can't get much more modern or dramatic than that.

Samaritans Is 70 Years Old

Samaritans is 70 years old this year. It was founded in 1953 by the Reverend Chad Varah, who was then the vicar of St Stephen's Wallbrook in the City of London. He was motivated by hearing of the number of people in the capital who took their own life and also by an earlier experience with the death of a fourteen year old girl when he was a new young curate in a small Lincolnshire town. So he got permission from the church authorities to open a drop-in centre in the crypt of the church and had a phone line installed (MANsion House 9000). He was kept very busy supporting people who needed someone with whom they could talk in confidence and he soon needed to take on some help. A national daily newspaper heard of what he was doing and ran an article headlined 'Chad Varah and his Samaritans.' That's where the name comes from. However, although founded by a clergyman and named after a Bible story, it is definitely not in any way a religious organisation.

Samaritans is a sort of fourth emergency service, available at the end of a phone for anyone who is feeling sad, lonely, in difficulty, distressed, distraught, even suicidal. The service is available 24 hours a day and 365 days a year. The conversation between the caller and the Samaritan is confidential (unless there is a clear safeguarding issue with a young caller or a bomb warning is given). The response from the listener will be non-judgmental and no advice or opinions will be given. It is hoped that by listening, talking, sharing thoughts, exploring options and asking thought-provoking and empathic questions the caller may be able to see their way forward, make their own decisions and plan their own next steps. Calls are unhurried and there is no time limit. Some calls are quite short and others may be very lengthy according to the caller's needs. Whoever the person, whatever the problem Samaritans will bend over backwards to help. The Freephone number is 116 123.

Consistently, well over 5 million contacts are received every year – that's 1 every 6 seconds. Sadly, each year there are around 6,000 people in the UK who choose to take their own life – an average of 16 per day, or 1 every hour and a half. Around 75% of this number are males and suicide is the biggest cause of death of younger males. However, it is only around 20% of callers to Samaritans who talk about suicidal thoughts or plans – so the majority of those who phone want support long before the problems and issues in their lives may reach that drastic stage.

Occasionally the view is heard that Samaritan volunteers "are just do-gooders." Nothing could be further from the truth. It is extremely tough and challenging talking to someone on the Clifton Suspension Bridge who intends to jump from it, or to a teenager sitting on the parapet of a bridge over a motorway phoning to say goodbye.

There are 201 branches of Samaritans across the UK, the largest being Central London and the smallest, Stornoway. In the south west peninsula there are branches in Exeter, Taunton, Barnstaple, Yeovil, Plymouth and Truro. Around 18,000 trained listener volunteers work on the phones, most doing one shift of about 4 hours per week. The branches and the volunteers are co-ordinated by Samaritans Central Office in Ewell, Surrey, where there is a full time salaried staff.

Most branches have volunteers who will give talks to groups like the WI, Rotary Clubs, etc and of course in schools, where there are options of either assembly talks or sessions with tutor groups on emotional health and resilience.

As well as the 24/7 helpline, Samaritans also have a UK-wide 'blue light' service staffed by a group of about 50 volunteers with additional specialist training who support schools, colleges and universities through the awful experience of a student or member of staff taking their own life. This is known as Samaritans Step by Step service. Even the most experienced of headteachers/principals/heads of student wellbeing may not have been in such a situation before – but the Step by Step Advisors certainly have. So the service will allocate a specialist advisor to support whoever is in charge of managing the aftermath and will help with issues like breaking the news, supporting students, liaising with the family, supporting staff, handling the media, communicating with parents and carers, etc. No other organisation offers this specialist service. Step by Step will promptly organise for an advisor to work with the school/college/university via the phone, e-mail, zoom or best of all, in person. (This service can be contacted on 0808 168 2528). It is also available to scout and guide groups, youth clubs, etc. and any other organisation where young people gather together. Step by Step Advisors also advise on Critical Incident Planning so that any educational establishment can be prepared in advance and senior staff know how they would respond in that situation. There is no charge for any Samaritan service.

As an organisation, Samaritans also works with prisons in order to train listeners within. The Media Office in Ewell advises television and radio scriptwriters and producers as appropriate and works with the press to try to ensure responsible reporting of stories involving deaths by suspected suicide.

If you have read this far you will have seen that Samaritans is a much needed, far-reaching and important charity. I believe it to be widely and highly respected too. No doubt there are one or two readers of the excellent Honiton & Village News who quietly, conscientiously and determinedly drive to Exeter or Taunton each week to fulfil a commitment to a shift on the helpline. Long may they continue!

G.R.



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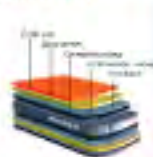
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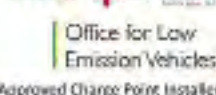
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Nature Notes

by Vernon Whitlock

Life Down Under

I've just discovered that I've got Aussies living at the bottom of my garden and there are hundreds of them.

To be strictly accurate, I've discovered that my back garden is the home for a whole colony of small critters that up until 90 years ago were unknown in the UK, and who originated from across the world in Australia.



I'm sure you have all seen them. The little critters that you find when you move your recycling bin, the ones that hop and scurry around and then suddenly disappear. These critters are called Land Hoppers and are crustaceans belonging to the same family as shrimps. They are our only completely land based crustacean and their nearest relatives are the Sand Hoppers that you see jumping around like crazy when you move seaweed on the beach.

Land Hoppers are detritivores and feed on decaying plant material. They are night time feeders, and although they can travel tens of metres in search of food or mates, they look to find cool damp places to shelter in the day, which is why you find them under your bins.

Land Hoppers are relatively common in Devon and Cornwall and also South Wales, but are very rare or absent from the rest of the UK. They were first recorded in the Isles of Scilly in 1924 and almost certainly arrived as stowaways in imported exotic plants, where they hide in the soil in pots, or in

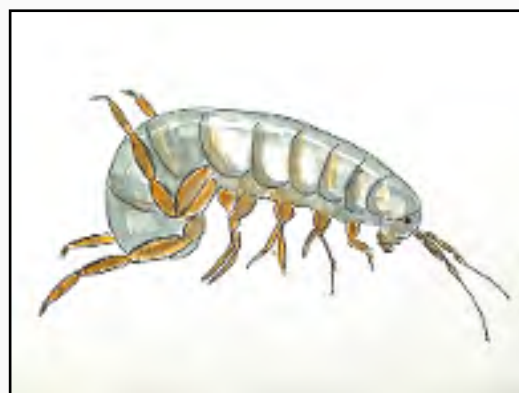
the foliage of such species as tree ferns - consequently ending up a long way from their natural home in Australia.

Very little is known of their impact on our native species of detritivores such as woodlice. Like woodlice, Land Hoppers are very effective processors of leaf litter and, according to the wildlife charity 'Bug Life', a study in a woodland in South Wales recorded them as consuming almost 25% of the woodland leaf litter. I've no idea how much they consume in my garden, but if they help clear up the place, wherever they came from I will continue to make them welcome.

I recently had a dig around the bottom of the compost heap at the bottom of my garden and found a large colony there. Being keen to get a photo I got a trowel and one of my white plastic trays from the garden shed and dug into the bottom of the heap, placing a trowel full into the tray. At first I saw nothing, but as I spread out the soil I realised there were dozens of them! However, any hope of photographing them were quickly dashed, as they all started to jump out of the tray leaving me looking at bare soil and woodlice.

These creatures' ability to jump is phenomenal and is a great defence from scavenging robins and other garden birds. Although less than 1/4" long, they manage to jump a distance of up to 9". Although my maths is rubbish, I have calculated that this is the equivalent to me jumping a distance of well over 50 yards, enough to get me from my front door to the nearest bus stop!

So if you want an 'Aussie Experience', don't bother with your passport and the 24 hour flight, just have a search around the bottom of your garden or have a look underneath your recycling bin!



Did You Know

In 2003 the Froghopper was declared the new champion in the world of insect jumpers (*University of Cambridge*).

Only 0.2 inches long the Froghopper uses a unique propulsion system to jump more than two feet in the air. They use their bounding leaps to avoid predators and to search for food.

Probably even more incredible is what they have to do to make their jump - they accelerate from the ground with a force that is 400 times greater than gravity (humans jump with a force that is two to three times that of gravity - and we pass out at around five G's!

What's On - Autumn Offerings At The Beehive

As the nights are drawing in why not visit your warm and friendly community venue for some evening entertainment. Thursday 5th October (7.30pm) brings us the very talented Anglo-Irish folk band, *The Haar*. They have introduced the formidable award-winning singer Molly Donnery combined with three of the most exciting instrumentalists on the folk and traditional music circuit.

On Friday 6th October at 7.30pm get ready for the great combination of brilliant musicianship and tongue-in-cheek humour from this top tribute show - *The Unravelling Wilburys*. A country-rock tribute celebrating The Travelling Wilburys.

Enjoy The Royal Opera House: *L'Elisir D'Amore* live cinema. Expect sun, fun and vocal acrobatics in Laurent Pelly's much-loved staging of Donizetti's intoxicating and witty comedy. Saturday 7th October 7pm.

Devon based film *And Then Come The Nightjars* (15) is filmed on location in Okehampton. Adapted from the multi-award-winning stage play, it tells the story of an unlikely friendship between a Devon farmer and the vet who is assigned to cull his precious herd. Friday 13th October 2pm (with optional lunch offer) and 7.30pm.

Wednesday 18th October 7.30pm we have our free *Beehive Acoustic Night*. Come and perform or listen in the Beehive bar.

Genesis Visible Touch are the ultimate Phil Collins-era Genesis tribute show! They are celebrating the 40th anniversary of the 'Genesis' album so expect 'Mama' and 'Home By The Sea' and some old favourites for good

measure! Performing Thursday 19th October at 7.30pm.

Book quickly for British Folk Rock legends *Fairport Convention* as they present a mix of Fairport favourites and some surprises from albums old and new. Not many tickets left! Performing Friday 20th October 7.30pm.

Fancy a laugh? Come and watch a side-splittingly funny, energetic, quick-changing theatre performance. This hilarious adaptation of HG Wells' classic story *The Invisible Man* boasts 15 characters, played by just three actors! This event is one not to be missed. Saturday 21st October 7.30pm.

Our Nostalgic Cinema this month is *Three Men and a Baby* (PG). Dementia-friendly screening with subtitles and a cuppa and chat after in the cafe. Tickets only £4.50 including tea or coffee. Thursday 26th October 2pm.

We are very excited to be screening Agatha Christie's all-new *A Haunting in Venice* (12A) film on Thursday 26th October at 7.30pm. Poirot, now retired, reluctantly attends a seance. But when one of the guests is murdered, it is up to the former detective to uncover the killer once again.

We finish the month with a treat for the kids in the half-term break. *The Canterville Ghost* (PG) in cinema on Friday 27th October at 2pm. An American family moves in to Canterville Chase, a stately countryside mansion that has been haunted by the ghost Sir Simon De Canterville for 300 years. A comedy film for all the family.

Look out for our upcoming events over the festive period. We hope to see you at The Beehive soon. Rachael and The Beehive Team.

the beehive Hamilton's Community & Arts
October 2023

THE HAAR. Anglo-Irish quartet. Folk music.
Thu 5 Oct - 7.30pm - £16.
The Haar introduces the fresh talent of traditional Irish singer Molly Donnery with three exciting instrumentalists on the folk music circuit. Cormac Byrne, Adam Summerhayes, and Murray Grainger.

THE UNRAVELLING WILBURYS. Country-rock tribute.
Fri 6 Oct - 7.30pm - £18.
The Unravelling Wilburys are a bunch of good ol' boys who turn their skills in replicating the sound and songs of the late 1980's super-group, The Traveling Wilburys.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE: L'ELISIR D'AMORE
Sat 7 Oct - 7pm - Adults £17, Students £11
Country boy Nemorino is determined to win the haughty Adina's heart, but she refuses to give him the time of day. Can Doctor Dulcamara's so-called 'elixir of love' work its magic?

AND THEN COME THE NIGHTJARS(15)
Fri 13 Oct - 2pm (with optional lunch) & 7.30pm
Adults £7.50, U16's £6.50. - Filmed in Devon
Adapted for screen, a multi-award-winning stage play tells the story an unlikely friendship between a Devon farmer and a vet who is assigned to cull his herd.

BEEHIVE ACOUSTIC NIGHT
Wed 18 Oct - 7.30pm - Free Entry!
Open Mic Night in the cafe. Everyone is welcome, whether it is to come along and have a beer and listen or to play and sing. All styles of music. Spaces are limited for this popular event. Doors open at 7.15pm.

18+ only on Wed 18 Oct. 18+ only on Wed 18 Oct. 18+ only on Wed 18 Oct.
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GENESIS VISIBLE TOUCH: 'THE SHAPES' AT 40
Thu 19 Oct - 7.30pm - £20.
The ultimate Collins-era Genesis show! It's the 40th anniversary of the Genesis album. To celebrate, GVT are performing material from the album. Expect 'Mama' and 'Home By The Sea' with hits like 'Turn It On Again' plus the old favourites!

FAIRPORT CONVENTION. British folk rock band.
Fri 20 Oct - 7.30pm - £28
The band that pioneered the UK Folk Rock sound - celebrate 66 years! With half a century's back catalogue to choose from, fans can expect long-established Fairport favourites, surprises from albums old and new, and maybe even the odd unexpected cover!

THE INVISIBLE MAN. Theatre performance.
Sat 21 Oct - 7.30pm - Adults £15, Students £12
This brand-new, fast-moving, hilarious adaptation of HG Wells' classic story boasts 15 characters, played by just three actors, aided by quick costume changes, prop manipulation and tons of fun!

A HAUNTING IN VENICE (12A)
Thu 26 Oct - 7.30pm - Adults £7.50, U16 £6.50
Agatha Christie's mystery drama, 'A Haunting in Venice' is set in a grand, post-World War II Venice on All Hallows' Eve and is a terrifying mystery featuring the return of the celebrated sleuth, Hercule Poirot.

THE CANTERVILLE GHOST (PG)
Fri 27 Oct - 2pm, Adults £7.50, U16's £6.50, Family x4 - £25.
Oscar Wilde's new comedy film for half-term. An American family moves in to Canterville Chase, a countryside mansion that has been haunted by the ghost Sir Simon De Canterville for 300 years.

THE BEEHIVE CAFÉ IS OPEN MONDAY - FRIDAY
We provide a range of tea's, coffee's and home-made lunches including quiche, sandwiches, cakes, and daily specials. Well-behaved dogs are welcome!

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Honiton Garden Club

Thursday 16th October

6.30pm at St Paul's Church Narthex, Honiton

A World Under Our Feet

Sally Nex

Sally is a Somerset based professional gardener and garden writer who is passionate about growing her own food and has been feeding her family from the garden for over 20 years.

She regularly writes for the RHS magazine, The Garden, and Gardeners' World magazine. She's also a contributor to Grow Your Own, The Guardian, Countryfile and The English Garden. She has written a number of books on self sufficiency and low carbon gardening and teaches at an online gardening school and leads garden tours.

Sally's talk at Honiton Garden Club will include a test soil demonstration.

Visitors are welcome to join members at a cost of £3 entrance.

Prepare to Fall Under The Spell Of The Witch Of Wildwood This Halloween

From Saturday 21st - Tuesday 31st October, the infamous Wicked Witch of Wildwood will be flying in on her broomstick for a feindishly fun-packed howl-oween at the Devon Wildlife Park.

The Saxon Village at the park will once again fall under the spell of the witch, who will be sharing some of her tricks with young witches and wizards - she'll even be teaching them how to make their very own wands.*

The Saxon Villagers will also be on hand to share tales of England's distant Anglo-Saxon past, when Halloween was celebrated as Samhain, and was a traditional Pagan festival marking the changing seasons - summer to winter, light to dark.

Mini witches and wizards are invited to put their pumpkin carving skills to the test by creating a stylish jack-o-lantern and those looking for a long-lasting keepsake from their spellbinding stay will be able to turn their hand to jewellery making in the forge.



From fearsome bears and the resident wolf pack, to ghostly arctic foxes, Wildwood Devon packs all the treats and no tricks for adventurous explorers.

Honiton Does Strictly...In Aid Of Hospiscare

Saturday 9th December

Hospiscare is very lucky to have two amazing supporters in Honiton currently working hard behind the scenes, planning and organising a fun filled evening raising vital funds. Locals Nathan Hannay and Lucie Welsman-Manvell are the faces behind the idea and organisation of Honiton Does Strictly.

Both grew up in Honiton and both have a passion for helping others and raising money for charity. Lucie is the co-owner and a teacher at East Devon Dance Academy and is busy choreographing the couples. Nathan is co-owner of S&H Construction, he is busy making sure the night goes to plan and falso inding amazing prizes for the raffle which they will be doing on the night.

Six local couples will be taking part and are busy learning their routines; they will be judged, and the winner will be announced at the end of the show.

Lucie and Nathan promise to bring you a brilliant evening, full of fun, music, dancing and so much more. But most importantly they ask you to help them raise money for Hospiscare, a very special charity to both of them! They will also be your hosts for the evening, this is a one night only event not to be missed, so don't delay get those tickets today!

Remember to bring cash for the raffle!

Bar opens at 6:30pm * Doors open at 7pm * Show starts at 7:30pm Tickets: General Admission £15 (all ticket prices include a £1 booking fee) available from the Beehive. Accessible seating is available from the box office

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The Laboratory

by David Crompton

The Bear

by Adam Clarke



Thurs 16th, Fri 17th & Sat 18th November
Doors & Bar open 7pm. Curtain up 7.30pm

Tickets £6, available from TicketSource
www.ticketsource.co.uk or use the QR code

For ticket help please contact
Helen on 07867 791093



'Never out of Mind' Service of Remembrance

East Devon Crematorium, Whimple
Sunday 5th November 2023, 3pm - 4pm

Invitations are warmly extended to a Service of Remembrance being organised by The Devon Military Charity in partnership with East Devon Crematorium.

This will be an opportunity to remember and honour all those who have given their lives in public duty - so that we can live with freedom of choice, peace, and safety. The occasion will include a candle lighting and time for quiet reflection of those who are loved and lost. Photographs and anecdotes of these special people can also be included in the order of service. The event will conclude with a relaxed gathering and afternoon tea.

If you would like to attend, please email Catherine Chapman at
office@devonmilitarycharity.co.uk quoting 'The Remembrance Service'.

Alternatively please phone 01304 823017. As seating is limited, a prompt response is recommended to avoid any disappointment.

You are also very welcome to join in on the day by live webcast
<https://www.devonmilitarycharity.co.uk/the-batonservice>

Webcast login PIN 220-8813

Those joining from abroad also invited to have a loved one included in the roll call and order of service. Please email your requests to the crematorium.

"For the baton tells a story for generations and must be told,
For men and women, creed and colour, to everyone, young and old,
The baton is a symbol to reflect gratitude, suffering and pride,
And that message must be passed to everyone worldwide."

Lee John Waters RM - 2025

theBATON
www.thebaton.co.uk

Gittisham Folk Dance Club

What is it?

Country dancing from 8.00pm onwards at Gittisham (pre-booking advised)

What to expect?

Expect to join in with a friendly group of people of all ages with no experience and a helper to guide you through each dance.
Half way through the evening there will be a break for tea/coffee and biscuits and all this comes with an entrance fee of £5.50 per evening or for an annual subscription of £25 (incl. 11 £5 per evening).

Where and when?

Every Wednesday evening from 8pm until 10.45pm at Gittisham Village Hall

Why come?

It's fun, it's free, it's a great way to meet new people and enjoy your health and well-being with music, activity, laughter and friendship.

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

Or better still just come to Gittisham Village Hall any Wednesday evening and join in.....

We Will Bring Out Your Inner Artist 😊

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the
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Art Class

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- 3 hour sessions, morning or afternoon, for 3½ months
- Time to get Arty and enjoy a fun social life again!
- Make The Seasons your favourite day of the week



14 week course on: Drawing; Painting with Watercolour; Acrylics; Oil Pastels. Discover how to paint faces, figures and stunning landscapes. Learn artists' secrets needed to create beautiful pieces of original art.
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Honiton Carnival – A Riot Of Colour

On Saturday 28th October at 7.30pm, Honiton will be full of the sounds and colours of Honiton Carnival as the annual procession makes its way up through the High Street. The procession starts at Ottery Moor Lane promptly at 7.30pm so get your spot early.

This year's procession will be led by The Barnstaple Youth Marching Band who will get the crowd in the party mood. There will be plenty of collecting buckets along the route so please show your appreciation by filling them with your loose change.

This year's Carnival Royal Party are Maddi, Amelia, Amber, Esme and Fin and they have already been working hard, representing Honiton at the other East Devon carnivals. They are all looking forward to being at the head of their own local carnival and seeing lots of people they know so give them a wave. We will also be welcoming many visitors from all around the country who come to Honiton to see the carnival.

We are extremely grateful to this year's sponsors, without whom it would not be possible to put on such an amazing show. The sponsors this year are:

Ali Kebabs, Beauty By Bev, Bill Opticians, Blamphayne Sawmills, Chilcott Auctioneers, Combe Garden Centre, Dalzells Distributors, DCB Tax Services, Delves Electrical, E, A. Dodd & Son, East Devon Garden Care, Hamblys, Honiton Carpets, House of Hair, J. R. Layzell & Sons, MKM Honiton, Otter Windows, Paul Richards Motors, Shoobridges Funerals, Simon A Martin Accountants, The Bed Expert, The Chippee and To & Fro Car and Van Hire. We are also grateful for the support provided by Geraldine Coates Accountants.

As well as the Carnival procession, during the week there will also be a Craft/Table Top Sale on Saturday 21st October, from 9am-12 noon, in the Mackarness Hall, High Street, Honiton to include the Crowning of the Royal Party at 11am. This is followed by a Quiz Night on Sunday 22nd October at Honiton Conservative Club at 7pm, £3 per person. A Carnival Meat Bingo will be held on Wednesday 25th October in the Mackarness Hall, High Street, Honiton, doors open at 7pm, eyes down at 8pm. Please come along to these events and the Carnival, have a great time and help us raise money for local good causes.

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

Don't forget the Christmas Carnival on Saturday 16th December starting at 5.30pm prompt.



CARNIVAL WEEK PROGRAMME

Craft/Table Top Sale
Saturday 21st October
At the Mackarness Hall, Honiton
from 9am - 12 noon
Including the Crowning of the
Royal Party at 11am, Tables £5
Tel: 07951 438598 to book a table.

Carnival Quiz Night
Sunday 22nd October
At Honiton Conservative Club at 7pm
Cash and other prizes.
£3 per person. Min. 2 per team.

Carnival Bingo
Wednesday 25th October,
At the Mackarness Hall, Honiton.
Doors open 7pm
Eyes down 8pm
Meat boxes, sweets and biscuit prizes.

CARNIVAL PROCESSION
Saturday 28th October
Starts at 7.30pm.

And don't forget the Christmas Carnival
on Saturday 16th December at 5.30pm

St Michael's Honiton Special Family Remembrance Service 2nd November



The history of St Michael's Church in Honiton is well known. The church has faced many challenges over the years, including a devastating fire in 1911, and the discussions to close the church a hundred years later in 2012. Despite the many trials and setbacks, the character and architecture of this beautiful 600 year old former parish church is still as powerful today as it has always been.

Through its churchyard and the many stories of faith attached to our community, the building continues to capture something of profound spiritual importance to us all. The churchyard is peaceful. The bereaved come daily to pay their respects, and the beauty of the building and the surrounding landscape offers something very different from the hustle and bustle of modern life for local residents and dog walkers, irrespective of weather. And it is this peace that we look for during the season of remembrance and especially on All Souls Day, on a day when we are invited to remember together all those whom we love but see no longer.

For a special one-off service, St Michael's Church will be reopened, to help us all remember those who have died in the love of God, for those we love and miss deeply.

The service will begin at 7pm on Thursday 2nd November and will run for an hour.

During the service we will take time to read out the names of those we still remember today, and we will pray for our families and our community as we share in this act of remembrance together. If you would like someone remembered in this way please let us know the name of the person to be remembered by contacting St Paul's Honiton Parish Office on 01404 44035. And, of course, you are also very welcome to share in this special time together by attending the service in person.

The church building has been closed for a few years now and as such it needs to be cleaned. There will be an open church cleaning day on October 14th from 10am to help prepare the church for this service. If you are free to volunteer, come along, we could do with a helping hand.

We don't know what the future holds for St Michael's Church, but we do know that we love what this building and the space around it means to us.

Revd Tracey Voysey - Team Vicar (Interim) in the Honiton Mission Community

Revd Jeremy Putnam - Diocesan Mission Enabler and Priest in Charge for the Offwell Mission Community



Town Crier Dave Would Like a Deputy



Honiton Town Crier Dave Retter feels the time is right to line up somebody to one day hopefully take over from him.

Dave has had the honour of being Honiton Town Crier for 28 years and still loves every minute of it, but the energy levels are not as good they used to be. So Dave has asked Honiton Town Council to advertise for a Deputy Town Crier whom he can train up to hopefully keep the wonderful traditions of Honiton going.

To know more about this position please phone Dave for an informal chat on

01404 861392 or 07761 926628

Any person who is truly passionate about the future of Honiton can apply to Honiton Town Council (01404 42957)

Closing date 27 October 2023



Honiton Twinners In Gronau (Leine)

by Roger Sleeman

At the end of August, a group from Honiton Twinning Association visited our twin town of Gronau, near Hannover. It was our first twinning visit since the pandemic. The majority of the group were visiting a twin town for the first time. Here are the thoughts of some of them.

Recently ten members of Honiton Twinning Association travelled to our German twin town, Gronau. We were met on arrival for a civic reception by the Town and District Mayors and our hosts. Any concerns about staying with people most of us had never met before were soon forgotten. Our first day saw us treated to a town tour and a pleasant river trip. An evening at Gronau's annual wine festival cemented our new friendships. On Saturday we visited Hildesheim, with its UNESCO Romanesque St Michael's Church and mediaeval town centre, sympathetically restored after WW2. Sunday included a picnic lunch and boules tournament and ended with a buffet dinner.

A memorable visit, experiencing local culture and customs. Now we look forward to meeting our new friends here in Honiton.

Richard & Gill Sperry

I have to be honest to say I had some reservations about going - staying in a stranger's home and having to make small talk with a big language barrier was a bit daunting. My worries were quickly dismissed when we arrived. Everyone was super-friendly and our hosts were fantastic; we sat up late on the Friday and Saturday night chatting about our families, history, world events and everything in between. We have made friends for life.

We had a fairly early flight home on the Monday which proved to be a blessing as we landed just as the UK air traffic control fiasco was starting to unfold. It was a fabulous experience and a great way to immerse yourself into the local customs and culture as well as strengthening our twinning commitment with Gronau.

We look forward to welcoming our hosts and friends in Honiton soon.

Caroline Kolek

Gronau~~Honiton~~Mezidon



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Tesco Championing The Community

For over 25 years, Tesco Honiton has been a destination, emporium and point of interaction for the community. When you consider the thousands who visit the store weekly, it is unsurprising that so many of the loyal customers keep coming back. However, it is not just the shopping attractions that build such loyalty: Tesco Honiton and, in particular, its colleagues and staff have always prided themselves on their commitment to the community and the myriad groups that operate in the EX14 area. Over many years Tesco Honiton has been proud to support and champion these groups with donations of goods, food, cash, and staff.

Tesco Honiton's current community champion has become so well known to many through his charitable works, and his previous tenure as Town Councillor and Deputy Mayor, that he has become the first port of call when the idea of an event or collection comes to mind. Duncan Sheridan-Shaw has been with the store for 26 years and is proud to represent Tesco in the area, developing and building relationships with charitable groups.

Recently Duncan has helped to support a breakfast club food drive with customer and new Councillor Lauren Passmore-Smart. Lauren sought out regular donations of bread to be able to help children from low-income families enjoy a decent breakfast before school. Duncan and Lauren then developed the idea into not only regular donations of fresh bread but pastries and preserves as well as the installation of a permanent donation basket for customers. Also, with the support of the store's book donation scheme, they will be in the amazing position to make a cash donation of £400 to the school breakfast club. Lauren said, "Every club, society and charity in Honiton knows that they can approach Duncan and Tesco and they will do whatever they can to support."



The book sale was set up many years ago by the team and has been a source of much needed funding for groups such as the Honiton Town Band. The band is a well-loved feature of Tesco's Christmas foyer in December when space in the store entrance is available to local people and associations to promote, collect and entertain. Other regular features in the foyer in December are the Honiton Memory Café, a group that relies on the supermarket to help with refreshments and raffle prizes on a regular basis. Dementia Friendly Honiton has a long-standing close relationship with the Tesco family. The team feels very lucky to have had exceptional training on how to recognise and empathise with people living with dementia and how to make their shopping trip not only relaxed but enjoyable.

However, it's not always just Duncan who is around to support. As a company, Tesco believes that one of the main drivers and contributors to its success is the work that it does in the community. Every day the store's leadership team reviews the store's performance including customer feedback and how it is perceived in the community. Readers of this magazine may have been asked to complete a short online survey with the aim of comments and suggestions better shaping the way Tesco provides for the Honiton area. All colleagues that are recognised in surveys are rewarded for their exceptional work.

Colleagues in the store are also encouraged to promote any groups that they belong to. This has resulted in local sports teams and enthusiasts using the store's training area for meetings at no charge. Colleagues with children can make suggestions about their children's schools, and donations have been organised with parents then becoming the liaison between school and store.

There are many more projects up and coming; for example, easy to pick up bags of pre-prepared goods at a cost of £2-£3 that customers can just add to their weekly shop and donate to the local food bank on the way out; bag packing and awareness campaigns from the local scout and cadet troops; and cash donations planned for children's playing areas.

Duncan said, "Without the help of our amazing customers we would not be able to give back as much as we do. The budget that Tesco provides only stretches to get sweets, biscuits, and other small donations. The hard work and the cash that really make the most impact come from our friends in the area. The work I do with the community is one of the most rewarding aspects of my career and we can't thank Honiton enough for what they do."

With the festive season approaching, the team is now preparing to support local initiative "Operation Rudolph" with food donations for its festive food campaign, as well as its regular donation to local care providers who donate hot meals to local residents who would not otherwise get a visit on Christmas Day.

Anyone wishing to contact the store about the community work they do, should write to Duncan Sheridan-Shaw via the Customer Service Desk or just ask for him at the store.

TESCO



TAYLORMADE PERFORMANCE & REHABILITATION BRING STATE OF THE ART METABOLIC ASSESSMENT TO EAST DEVON COMMUNITY

Their health and wellbeing business run by husband and wife team Andy & Claire Taylor already offers a full set of services from injury treatment, exercise rehabilitation, Pilates, and Strength & Conditioning for all age groups.

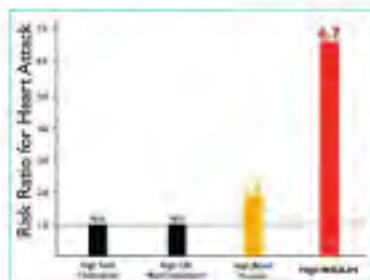
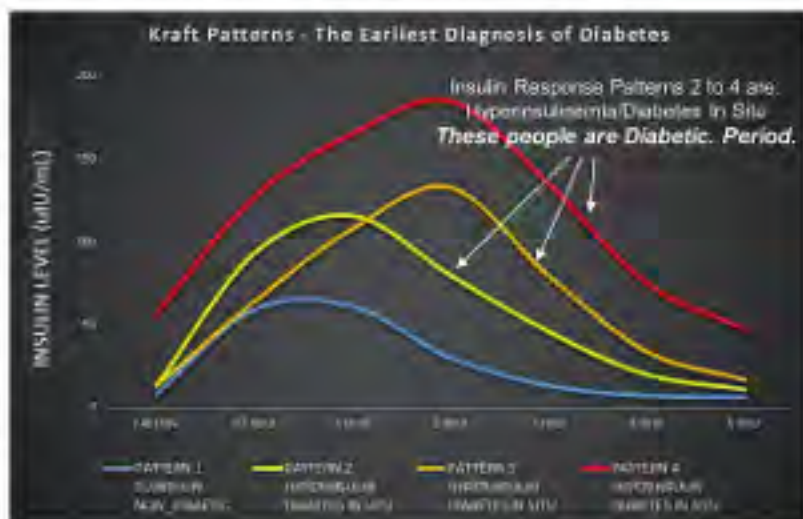


With the addition of the metabolic health check they can equip you with the best insight to your metabolism and health.

The measurement of your insulin response to glucose is the most telling marker of your health status.

There has been an emphasis of people's glucose/blood sugar levels without any knowledge of how hard insulin is working in the background to keep blood sugar levels under control which is one of and probably the most well known of its roles.

We now have the technology for this first out of lab assessment of insulin that provides you with the whole picture of your health. A simple finger prick analysis of your blood in a fasted state and then after a glucose drink we assess this challenge at 30 mins, 60mins, 120mins and 180mins that's shows us an insulin and glucose curve known as a kraft curve. The kraft curve was developed by a pathologist Dr Joseph kraft, who found in over 50% of his patients diagnosed had normal blood sugar levels but with the addition of an insulin assessment alongside it highlighted pre diabetes with insulin having to over work to maintain normal levels of blood sugar.



This high level of insulin has been implicated in hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and fatty liver disease as well as neurodegenerative disease, and infertility in women (PCOS) and men (erectile dysfunction).

Think about what additional insight that can be gained from this insulin test if you have a family history of these conditions and we can help with managing insulin levels through our food and exercise programs to maintain your long term health.

Taylormade Rehab

1 Belle Vue | Fenny Bridges | Honiton | Devon | EX14 3BJ

Tel: 07800 824557 | 07855 386634

www.taylormaderehab.com | info@taylormaderehab.com

Bertie Is Getting In Touch With His Bling!

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.

Wowzers what a wonderful place Devon is to live, especially for an active outdoorsy dog like me. So much fun has been had at Bertie HQ recently I hardly know where to start. Firstly, my mate Maisie came to stay again which, as you know, is always a blast and then, joy of joys, the young pup Daisy came too! Not yet a year old, Daisy (another black lab but no relation of Maisie) - I hope you are keeping up - is my kind of gal. She is a real party animal wanting to play and romp the whole time, she loves all my favourite games and it was brilliant introducing her to every nook and cranny in our garden, especially the stream.

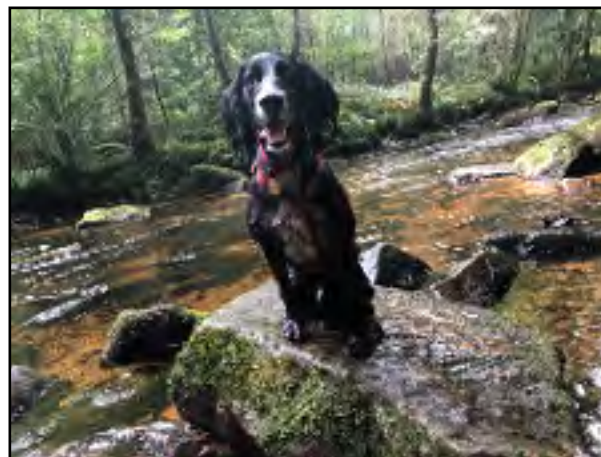
This time of year the best game of all is "apple bobbing" which involves rolling windfalls down the bank and then splashing in to get them out and then doing it all over again; Daisy loves it and even Maisie gets stuck in with this one.

It can be said that two is company and three is a crowd. Daisy and I have much in common and play all the time, Maisie is more reserved in these things and likes her own space but I think we are cool and I can't wait to see them both again.

I have also been away for a mini break whilst the humans disappeared to a "dog free" wedding if can you believe there is such a thing. Anyhow I totally lucked out as I went to stay with Billy and another Bertie, a couple of super fun Springers who are country dogs just like me. They

introduced me to the horses at their stables where they hang out and it was just the best weekend ever. Hopefully the humans will get more wedding invitations so I can go back again very soon.

Now I am having a little bit of an image crisis; we dogs have to wear a tag with our contact details on should we ever get lost which is very sensible. It was decreed that my tag had gotten scratched and difficult to read so a shiny new one was ordered with my female human [FH] paying top dollar for a super shiny good quality one - only the best will do for Bertie. Unfortunately, FH is not so good with her measurements and the tag that arrived was so big it would actually suit a St Bernard very well. Consequently, the human grandchildren have taken to calling me 'medallion dog' and offering to buy me a gold chain for my lead with a flashy gold collar to match. What cheek I have to put up with and please don't laugh if you see me out on my daily pooch mooch up on Hembury Fort!!



National Recognition For Miranda

Miranda Gudenian, who is well known to us all through her monthly articles in H&VN about her View from the Hills, has won The Field magazine's Nature Writing competition.

Competition entries were whittled down to a final 12 (each marked with a letter from A – Z to ensure anonymity). The judges – Alexandra Henton, Sir Johnny Scott, Ray Mears and Guy Adams – awarded first prize to Miranda's article about bees.

It wasn't until the judges made their final decision that they discovered Miranda had also written the highly commended (third place) entry about dormice.

Miranda says: "The poet Robert Macfarlane writes that 'loss is the tune of our age, hard to miss and hard to bear' but goes on to say that 'wonder is needed now more than ever'. If my articles convey a sense of wonder to readers I will at least have done something towards advancing the impulse to love and nurture the beautiful world we live in."

Congratulations from all of us (team and readers) at H&VN.



What Makes The Watch Market Tick?

by Liz Chilcott



Surprisingly, at a time when it seems that a majority of people refer to their mobile 'phones to get the right time, there has been an increasing interest in traditional wristwatches.

Young men, in particular, seek out certain classic watches as a statement of fashion and status, and, with the fashion for larger dials, women have also been buying men's wristwatches.

"Certain brands, such as Rolex and Omega, are perennially popular," said Chilcotts' principal valuer, Duncan Chilcott, "Being trusted and well-known brands, they are viewed as an investment as well as an accessory; we are currently seeing a trend for vintage Omega Seamaster and Constellation watches."

Gold watches will always have an intrinsic value but having all the manufacturer's associated paperwork ensures that the top selling price is achieved. Pictured is a gentleman's 18ct gold Rolex Cellini

Wristwatch which was sold with its presentation box and full original paperwork; it sold at Chilcotts' September sale for £3,260 – a very good auction price for this model.

For those with less deep pockets, but who still want to achieve the 'classic watch look', quartz watches from the 1970s, such as those made by Seiko, are a very affordable alternative. As a result, there is increased demand for these watches, and prices for top-of-the-range models in good condition are rising.

Pocket watches have also experienced a rise in popularity, especially since waistcoats became fashionable again.

Chilcotts, in The Dolphin Salerooms, High Street, Honiton, is now accepting watches for the specialist Christmas auction. To consign items, telephone 01404 47783 to book an appraisal appointment.

Note: all prices quoted included Buyers premium.



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**An 18ct gold half-hunter Pocket Watch,
sold for hammer price of £1,600**

How to Lose Weight Simply and Effectively

by Alanah Bray, Master Personal Trainer, Fitagain

Losing weight can lead you into a minefield of information, advice and crash diets! We want to make this simpler for you. Sadly, there isn't a one size fits all template when it comes to losing weight, but there are some scientific based guidelines you can follow to get you started and in the right direction.



Here are some really simple things to remember:

- If you eat less, you'll lose weight, including fat and lean muscle tissue
- If you eat less and eat plenty of protein, you'll lose body fat but retain muscle
- If you eat less, eat plenty of protein, and strength train, you'll lose body fat and gain muscle. The more muscle you have the better your metabolic system works.

So, in summary the most effective way to lose weight and keep it at bay is to eat a balanced protein rich diet and do resistance training.



Resistance training can sound scary, but it really isn't.

+When starting out, firstly the form of exercise is the most important thing to get right to avoid injury and get the most out of your efforts.

+The second thing to remember is resistance training isn't about hitting heavy weights, you build on this gradually using different forms of resistance depending on what you're trying to achieve. Body weight, bands, cable machines, and free weights are all forms of resistance.

Now we know that exercise and diet hand-in-hand are the key to weight loss, here are some top tips on how to use them effectively:

- ▶ A calorie deficit is important when dieting, but other things have an effect too - hormones, genetics, stress - also play a big part. One size doesn't fit all.
- ▶ Resistance training helps us gain muscle if supported by protein in your diet.
- ▶ Slimming clubs don't always work! They don't change habits, just limit them. Seek advice from a Personal Trainer or Nutritionist.
- ▶ Cardiovascular training is important to get the heart going, burn calories and maintain muscle.
- ▶ Sticking to a new diet is hard. Stay motivated by comparing yourself to who you were last week, not who you were last year or 20 years ago.
- ▶ Dieting should be holistic. We have 4 pillars when it comes to health: Diet, Exercise, Stress Management, and Sleep. If one is imbalanced, our roof falls down. All need equal attention to succeed.



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 advice on nutrition is offered alongside adapting exercise to fit everyone. Find out more information: www.fitagain.co.uk/ 01297816170

The Hedgehog

by Miriam Thomas



Curiously the hedgehog always comes out top of surveys on Britain's favourite animal. I find this fact incredible as their secretive lifestyle makes their appearances infrequent and fleeting.

I carried out surveys on wildlife around Honiton and discovered we have a large urban population. In most areas of Honiton people have told me they have hedgehogs either in their gardens or know of them living in the green lanes throughout the town and in some but not all outlying villages.

There are reckoned to be less than a million left in the whole country and, like the swift, now on the red list (in danger of extinction); this fact alone should stir all those who care into action.

Hedgehogs are mainly solitary souls, only being sociable when looking for a mate. The collective noun for hedgehogs is an 'array' - only applicable when looking for a mate. They need plenty of room to roam, traveling between a mile and mile and a half every night in search of food. I find this extraordinary when

you consider it must increase their chances of encountering a predator. They never used to seem to have any enemies but now it appears badgers and perhaps foxes have found ways to get to the soft underbelly of the hedgehog for a tasty meal.

Hedgehogs' diet consists of insects, worms, caterpillars and berries. Their numbers have plummeted in the past fifty years; I fervently believe this is down to all those slug pellets being thrown around, which inevitably goes up through the food chain - which is also why there are so few thrushes around now. Curiously, counter to this argument is the fact that their numbers are far more secure in urban populations than in rural areas.

I have declared Honiton a Champion Hedgehog Town and will do everything I can to help them hang on to their habitat; after all it is a privilege to share my environment with something that has been around 120 million years - far longer than humans.



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What Do You Know About Children's Hospice South West?



At Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) we are absolutely committed to making the most of short and precious lives. The care offered at each of our hospices is not simply about medical and nursing care for children and young people with life-limiting conditions, but about enriching their lives and providing essential support for their families.

"At a time when we felt completely alone and scared, the hospice helped us through some of our darkest times - providing support, comfort and reassurance."

We aim to help each family to wind down in the way that suits them. Some families take advantage of meals being prepared for them and telephones being answered so they can spend more time with their child, enjoy leisure activities or just catch up on sleep. Others, once their child has got to know and trust us, may leave their child in our care while they take a break elsewhere. Families often talk about the 'treasure chest' of precious memories they build to carry into the future... a future which will, sadly, be without their much loved child or children.

Our services are free to families who need us because we believe that nothing should get in the way of very sick children and young people receiving the very best care. So, with little Government funding, we rely on the generosity of our supporters to deliver our promise to 'make the most of short and precious lives across the South West'. Tina, who runs our fabulous Friends Group in Honiton, has been supporting CHSW by volunteering with the fundraising team at various events and is now running regular coffee mornings in Honiton.

Tina tells us more:

"We hope the coffee mornings will become a monthly event on the second Friday of each month. We are at the Family (Baptist) Church (almost opposite the Job Centre) from 10am till 12pm. Teas, coffees and lots of home-made cake available for a donation. At our first event we held a raffle and a fun quiz, and we hope to have something of interest each month. Our volunteers are friendly, and we aim to make everyone feel very welcome. Future dates will be 13 October, 10 November and 8 December."

As well as Honiton Friends Group, Honiton has its very own Children's Hospice South West shop which raises vital funds each year! In the CHSW shop you will find good quality, pre-loved items, from clothes and accessories to homeware, furniture and books. Great value for money for you and helping short and precious lives in our local towns. Whether you shop with us, give your time to volunteer or donate pre-loved items to us - you'll be making a huge difference.



If you would like to find out more about how you can support Children's Hospice South West or to request a talk please contact Mary Gray, Area Fundraiser for CHSW, at mary.gray@chsw.org.uk 01271 325270



Registered Charity No. 1003314

In Memory Of Tony Simpson - A Dedicated Campaigner For Our Community

In Memory of Tony Simpson (9.7.41-1914.10.2017)

from his loving wife Edna

Tony was a committed activist all his life; he was talented, knowledgeable and always thinking of others.

He wanted to build a world of peace and make a kinder and fairer place.

He inspired others through his many letters and articles and talks.

Tony founded Senior Voice and Honiton Memory Cafe. He supported and fought for the building of the Beehive. He organised hustings for council and general elections, Police Commissioner and Brexit. He arranged the restoration of First World War graves in St Michael's Church, Honiton. He campaigned against cuts in our libraries, Honiton Post Office, and fought against the expansion of Tesco.

Above all, he organised campaigns against the closure of hospital beds in Honiton.

Tony Simpson - a local hero, much missed.



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The Hazards Of Flash Flooding

Flooding is the most common and widespread natural hazard in the UK. One type of flooding that can occur is flooding from river levels or surface water rising very quickly in response to very heavy rainfall. These types of events are rare but can be very dangerous. Examples of flash floods include Lynton and Lynmouth in 1952, Boscastle in 2004 and Sidmouth in 2012. This type of flooding is termed flash flooding. Across England the Environment Agency have identified 384 'Rapid Response Catchments', with over 75,000 properties being identified as being vulnerable to this risk.

Flash floods occur extremely quickly - much faster than other forms of flooding - and with massive force. They can move rocks, tear out trees, sweep away vehicles and destroy buildings and bridges. They tend to happen when heavy rainfall runs off land and quickly swells rivers and streams. Water can also build up quickly in urban areas when rainfall is unable to drain away. Across Devon and Cornwall there are a large number of communities where this type of flooding could happen. Most major flash floods occur in places where there have been none in living memory, so it is vital that, even if flooding hasn't happened in your community for a long time, you know what to do and how to stay safe.

How to recognise a flash flood:

- ▶ heavy rainfall
- ▶ a short time between the rainfall and flooding
- ▶ large amounts of fast flowing water
- ▶ damage to buildings and structures
- ▶ dangers presented by debris
- ▶ there is an urgent threat to life

Flash flooding can happen suddenly. You may have to act before the Environment Agency can issue a warning, or before emergency services can reach you.

People particularly at risk are those:

- ▶ in basements or single-storey properties
- ▶ in a mobile home, tent, caravan, boat or wooden structure
- ▶ unfamiliar with the area e.g. tourists

What can you do now?

- Although the Environment Agency won't always be able to issue a flood warning in time, it is worth checking if you are at risk and signing up to receive a flood warning: Sign up for flood warnings - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
- Register to the Met Office's Severe Weather Warning Service: Weather warnings guide - Met Office
- Check the Environment Agency's 5-day Flood Forecast: Check for flooding in England - GOV.UK (check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk)
- Check to see if your insurance covers flooding
- Know how to turn off gas, electricity and water supplies

What can you do when you get a Flood Alert or you think Flash Flooding is likely?

- Check that your family, neighbours and pets are okay
- Move important things upstairs or to higher shelves, so they don't get covered in dirty flood water

Three Steps To Safety

Prepare

Be aware and know the signs.

Signs to watch for:

- Heavy rain or severe weather reports
- Rising water levels with churning dark water
- A build up of debris in rivers or streams

Act

- Do not walk or drive through flood water
- If you are in a building with at least two storeys and you believe it is safer to stay where you are, you should move to a higher storey
- Call 999 if there's a risk to life, or if you are trapped

Survive

- Call 999 if you're in immediate danger
- Follow advice if you're in immediate danger
- Keep yourself and your family safe

If you would like more information about Flash Flood Risk in your area, or your community is interested in putting together a Community Flood Plan, please contact dc.flood@environment-agency.gov.uk.



Around & About In Our Community



Hello Readers

At our meeting in September, we were pleased to welcome our District Governor (DG) and his wife to our meeting. Lion James Mathers and his wife Gail are both members of St Austell Lions club in Cornwall.

DG James gave us a talk about how difficult it is to get good insurance cover these days.

Our District Governor heads our district 105 SW which consists of 60 Lions Clubs stretching from Penzance in Cornwall and covers Devon, Somerset and parts of Dorset also.

Operation Rudolph is again organising amongst other things a Community Christmas Meal this year at the CUB in School Lane and we (The Lions) felt we would like to support them with a donation of £250.

On 9th September we had a sale in the Mackarness Hall which proved to be a very quiet morning. Our membership stand was in the hall along with teas and coffee, mostly consumed by Lions and partners. The day was saved from financial ruin by our Ladies selling homemade jam and plants at the top of the lane. A profit of around £180 was made.

Two of our Lions were also selling tickets for our draw and around 80 tickets were sold on the morning. The draw concludes on 24th September at the Otter Inn Weston at 2pm. I will let you know the results next month.

In the news at the time of writing is the earthquake in Morocco; we sent £500 to our Lions Clubs International Foundation Fund to help with this crisis.

Just to finish off this month's activities, fourteen of us had a social breakfast at The Field Kitchen at Monkton which was enjoyed by all.

If you would like to know more about the work of Lions please give me a call on 01404 43738 or mobile 07966173828 or you can email brian.richards@honitonlions.org.uk or visit our website www.honitonlions.org.uk.

Community Heritage Coordinator



Jess Huffman has been appointed Honiton Community Heritage Coordinator for an exciting new project which promises to unearth new stories revealing Devon's long multi-cultural history in Honiton. Jess brings almost twenty years of professional experience to the role for the Telling our Stories, Finding Our Roots, Devon's Multi-Cultural History project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. She has a successful track record in managing and facilitating community and large-scale projects, festivals and events.

Jess is a Cultural Studies graduate, trained Oral Historian and has worked on national and regional initiatives including the Beautiful Days festival, the Thelma Hulbert Gallery, the National Rural Touring Forum and Hikmat, a community interest company enabling and supporting minority ethnic communities in Devon. "I am delighted to have been appointed to this role. I strongly believe that embracing cultural diversity through arts and heritage-based projects like this one can nurture community cohesion, empathy and understanding for others. This can have a huge everlasting impact on us all. These projects help us to value our place in our communities and highlight the important contribution we all have to offer."

Working in partnership with Allhallows Museum in Honiton, Jess will be instrumental in recruiting and training volunteers to collect at least six oral history stories and memory pieces on particular themes from people from diverse backgrounds and to research archives to uncover hidden multi-cultural stories.

Those interested in volunteering should contact dde@globalcentred Devon.org.uk or look on Devon Development Education's website: <https://www.globalcentred Devon.org.uk/>

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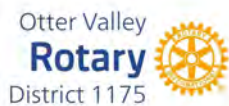
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Around & About In Our Community



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 made very welcome. **Contact our Secretary Caroline Thornton ct1959@hotmail.co.uk.**

Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree - We were pleased to be invited by the Ottery Bowls Club to erect a plaque to celebrate the planting (in 2022) of three trees to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The occasion was presided over by Barrie Jones, who is co-President with Ken Chun for the Rotary 2023-24 Year. The top team is completed by Richard Thomas, who has taken on the role of Senior Vice President, Caroline Thornton - Secretary and Public Relations Officer and Chris Highnam - Treasurer.

Recent fund raising activities - In recent months the Club has performed marshalling duties at the Devon County Show, the Honiton Show and Wiscombe Hill. The organisers of these popular events have donated to the Charity Account, which has already received a number of requests for funding for local organisations, individuals in need and young people seeking sponsorship to help finance adventures and charitable challenges. One of these, Lom Machin, ran the London Marathon to raise money for the Meningitis Research Foundation, following his cancer as a University student by the rise in cases of meningitis among students.

Recent talks - Members have recently heard very interesting talks on subjects as diverse as Farming in the Orkneys, Raising Racehorses and enlightened approaches to education.



Brainwave, a national UK charity dedicated to helping children with disabilities achieve greater independence

has opened its doors in Honiton.

The charity's mission is to improve mobility, communication skills, and learning potential for children through a range of specialist and have seen amazing outcomes for children supported following a Brainwave Therapy Programme'

2 new jobs have been created in the local area but also need your help to make this new shop a roaring success! Whether you're a behind-the-scenes wizard, a customer service superstar, or have items to donate, we'd love to welcome you to our team of helpers!

Our mission wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our volunteers and supporters. Brainwave is an independent charity that complements the NHS, but we don't receive any statutory funding from them

We believe in building strong connections with the community, and we can't wait to be a part of the vibrant and lively market town that is Honiton! So, let's join together and make a positive impact on the lives of children with disabilities! If you want to get involved, please contact our Retail Centre on 01278 429089 or email retail@brainwave.org.uk to find out how you can be a part of our amazing journey. Together, we can achieve life changing outcomes for even more children!

Dunkeswell Dog Show A Pawsome Success

We arrived at the show field at 6am to find all the preparations from the day before had been blown down by a mini storm that had hit at 3am. So it was all hands on deck and after a manic sort out in the rain, we managed to start the show just as the sun came out for us.

In only our second year of running this fun doggy day out, we had a great turn out, lots of dogs came to enjoy the show, wow the judges in pedigree and novelty classes, try their paws at agility, sniff work and racing – Roxy the greyhound won the timed dash with a lightning speed run of 3.66 seconds. In addition to the dog classes we also held junior handling classes in three age categories. The overall winner of Junior Handler was Molly O'Hara with her dog Peggy.

This year we were raising funds for Veterans with Pets in Exeter, and Parkinsons UK. We are thrilled that we managed to raise £1,000 to split between them - thank you to all who came to support.

"It's been an utterly exhausting weekend. Running this show is super stressful and really hard work. But seeing the smiles on your faces and the enjoyment in the dogs, putting something on for the community and knowing it's all for charity makes it worthwhile. Huge thanks to you all for attending and supporting - to the farm, the sponsors, the judges, the traders, our fab "show" team and families for their hard work." Jenny of Walkingwoofs.

With Special Thanks to.....Venue - Catherine Starr & Franny Arm of Hooked Rise Farm; Judges - Vera Harcourt-Morris & Serena Sexton; Sponsors - Walking Woofs Ltd, Inspirations Hair & Beauty Salon, Dunkeswell Autobodies, LP Autotech, Highfield Stores, Mollys Mates, Elizabeth Stewart, Simon A Martin Accountants, Blackdown Hills Dog Park, Oscar Pet Foods; Honiton and Krista Radzina Photography, and the show team.

If you'd like to get involved in next year's show, please get in touch walkingwoofsdevon@gmail.com

Around & About In Our Community

The Ones That Got Away



Well, more accurately, the ones that didn't even arrive. Eleven stalwart Retired Old Boys Of Talaton stood patiently on the beach at Beer watching the Lillie May struggle back to the shore and land its passengers not too gently on the landing stage. "Sorry lads can't go back out in this ". What had been a tranquil early morning sea now responded in no uncertain fashion to a 20mph blow. This effectively ruled out all dreams of eleven mackerel suppers, or even a single one for that matter.

Rather than abandon the day by returning home to that list of chores that would be awaiting us, it was decided by popular vote to bless Seaton Tramway with our presence and after a short drive and some hard bargaining to secure a reduced-price group ticket we awaited the first open top tram. The eleven would-be fishermen of England corkscrewed themselves up the stairs and settled in comfortably, carefully avoiding the electrified pole. Needless to say, the 20mph wind had abated, and the sun shone as the vintage tram moved off up the line with a certain nostalgic vibration. With a huge amount of voluntary input this Tramway provides an incredible experience and asset to the area.



The estuary and the wetlands looked wonderful and when trams passed each other in the clever sidings passengers waved furiously to each other, adults using the children as an excuse. Did see one or two ROBOTS quietly giving a nervous embarrassed wave. Soon after passing the old Colyford station metal urinal - wonderfully preserved but not used - and passing over the level crossing we arrived at Colyton terminus. Fighting off the offer of tea and cake on the station we ambled down to the town and found the Kingfisher Inn with its rather fine beer garden. This offer we didn't fight off and spent a couple of hours with excellent company, excellent food and, well yes, excellent beer. Memories of mackerel that could have been faded whilst the world issues were resolved in the sunshine but eventually it was time for more fresh air and gentle shaking on the top deck of tram number 31 back to civilisation.

So, a good day salvaged from the initial let down – just a shame we couldn't have salvaged a few mackerel - oh, yes and retrieved some of the outrageous East Devon parking fees.

The Upottery 61st Flower and Vegetable Show

The 61st Upottery Flower and Vegetable Show took place on August 19th in the Manor Rooms and we saw a bumper harvest of creativity in all classes, plus the sun shone for the activities on the Playing Fields.



The number of entries was up on last year, possibly because it was free entry for all participants for the first time, and several children entered the open classes with great success, particularly in the cooking class. We welcomed many new and returning participants and an enthusiastic crowd attended the opening from 2.30pm to view the winners and marvel at the standard of entries. Teas were on offer with homemade cakes generously donated, plus a fun raffle.



The event raised over £1,000 and the committee would like to thank all those who took part and the many who attended on the day plus the advertisers to make the event a success. Toby Dixon, Playing Fields Chair, was invited by Linda Palmer to hand out the cups and all children who entered won and received an envelope with 3rd prize monies.

Anyone interested in joining the committee or helping next year would be welcomed.

Around & About In Our Community

Honiton Camera Club



Ben Nevis by Leslie Pallant

Honiton Camera Club members shared images that they have taken during the summer break. This gave a wide variety of subjects and places, near and far.

On 6th October we have our first internal competition; this will be both prints and digitally projected images and on 20th October we will be showing a selection of prints chosen from the Western Counties Photographic Federation Members Exhibition held in May.

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

Porto by Steve Eckhardt



Geneva by David Faulkes



Plant/Leaf Dye Workshop and Charcoal Drawing

On what was reported to be the hottest day of 2023 (9 September) so far, the afternoon was spent in a lovely shady spot learning how to dye clothes and paper using natural materials. Julia Ronstad demonstrated how leaves and flowers dipped in iron-water (basically rich brown water containing rusty objects) can be used to create amazing works of art. The tightly bound rolls of fabric and paper containing foliage were dipped in a diluted vinegar mix before being steamed for 90 minutes.

While the artwork 'cooked', a delicious assortment of plant-based cake and flapjack was served, and local artist Nikki Haward demonstrated the art of charcoal drawing. As well as using willow charcoal, she was interested to experiment with different wood samples that had been baked in the Biochar Dragons.



Blackdown Hills Eco Hub @ Trimplant Nursery in Combe Raleigh

Can You Help The Glen?



The Glen in Honiton is a slightly wild area on the east side of the town. It is a beautiful place to walk, play or sit.

The groundwork and mowing are undertaken by the council but a small group of volunteers meet each Tuesday to help with weeding, cutting back, tidying and planting.

There are plans for planting lots more wild flowers and bulbs and we could do with more help. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer we would love to hear from you.

You can come along to meet us in the Glen on Tuesdays between 10-12 or if you would like more information please ring Jill on 07711512277

Around & About In Our Community

Gittisham Fete



Gittisham Fete proved to be memorable this year, thanks to the organisational skills and sheer hard work of Alex Rowe whose energy and enthusiasm generated a marvellous day of fun and frolics for everyone involved.

Supported by the Fete Committee, Alex ensured that all visitors would find something enjoyable to entertain them for the afternoon. Honiton Town Crier, Dave Retter, accompanied by his lovely wife, officially opened the Fete and with the sun shining and the temperature rising, Honiton Town Band serenaded the masses with well-loved tunes evoking memories of village life. This theme was echoed in St Michael's Church, with the beautiful displays of floral arrangements depicting activities that take place in Gittisham throughout the year. A bouncy castle, pony and trap rides, small animals to cuddle and ice creams kept the children contented and for the more competitive adults there was a very professional dog show.

Long queues for the Cream Teas paid testimony to the quality of the ingredients supplied by The Pig.



Honiton Hill Rally

The sun shone at Smeatharpe on Honiton Hill Rally over August Bank Holiday, attracting large crowds.

Photos courtesy of Cynthia Underdown



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