

HONITON & VILLAGE NEWS



NOVEMBER 2023
FREE

A young girl with dark, curly hair is smiling and looking towards the camera. She is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt. She is standing in a modern kitchen. The kitchen features dark blue cabinets with glass doors displaying white dishes and glassware. A wooden countertop is visible in the background. A patterned backsplash and a hanging light fixture are also visible.

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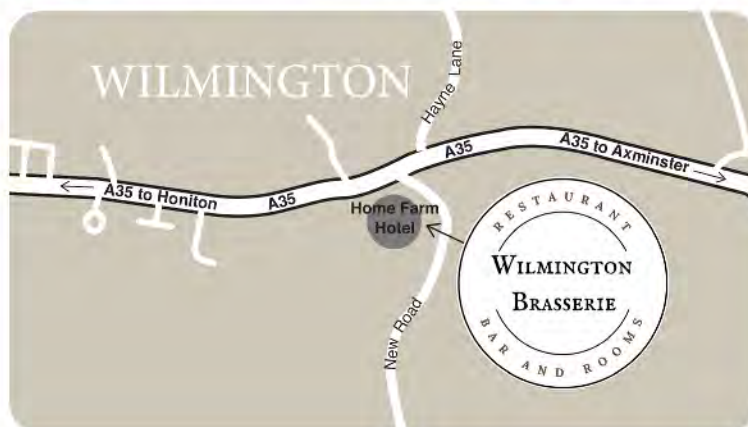
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As a local resident and a fussy foodie, I have been intrigued to see what the new owners and their chef Dan would produce! I have had two excellent meals there recently and they were really excellent! In fact my home made steak and ale pie was absolutely the best I have had in my life!! I can't wait for this chef's creative spirit to blossom and to sample more delights...

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Memories are so important to us - and this month's magazine is full of memories.

First and foremost, of course, being November, are the memories associated with Remembrance Day - I'm sure that many more people have stories similar to those written about by Carol.

Gertie, as ever, fills us with joy this month as she also spends time sharing memories with us of her childhood - again evoking many thoughts of similar situations shared by many of our readers.

Meanwhile, Miranda recalls former farming practices.

Margaret takes us back in time to celebrations in Honiton for bonfire night.

And Martin reminds us of the significance of Dr Who in many of our lives.

But if you want to make new memories, there are umpteen possibilities to get involved in the amazing local organisations we have here, all run by teams of volunteers, or be entertained at the Beehive and other venues across the region, or get out in the autumn weather on one of Chris' walks.

November - a month of memories, old and new.



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Cover photo of Gittisham church at Remembrance by Vernon Whitlock

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

Honiton Heathpark Industrial Estate- Army Surplus Depot

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

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

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

Offwell- Windmill Garage

Payhembury- Community Shop - Sawmill

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Smeatharpe- Highlands

Stockland- King's Arms - Telephone Box

Talaton- Community Shop

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Upton- delivered ex Payhembury

Weston- Heron Farm Shop

Yarcombe- Village Hall

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Jamie & Barnaby To Compete For Team GB

by Victoria Lory and Jennifer Rowland



Jamie and Barnaby have been chosen by the World Boxing Federation to represent their country at the Muay Thai World Games in Thailand.

Jamie White(16) and Barnaby Rowland (15), coached by Paul Quick and Scott Lory at Twin Tigers Muay Thai in Honiton, have been chosen by the World Boxing Federation to compete in the Muay Thai World Games for Team GB in Thailand in February 2024.

Jamie started training in Tae Kwon Do when he was just three years old. Jamie joined the local Judo club in Ottery St Mary aged five and he started to compete soon after, winning many trophies and gaining valuable knowledge as a junior competitor. Jamie joined the Muay Thai world when he was eight years old in 2015.

Due to Jamie's mature attitude and his caring nature, he was asked by his coach Paul to support the students aged between five and twelve, physically and mentally. Jamie has been in this role since turning fifteen. Jamie's focus for the past eight years has been solely on Muay Thai. Jamie is a very technical fighter, with heavy hitting power. He holds three prestigious area titles in Muay Thai and is 100% committed to fighting for his country, and to show the world what Team GB is capable of.

Barnaby (aka Bam Bam), took up Muay Thai in 2019 due to being bullied in school, leading to low self esteem and lacking in confidence. As well as suffering trauma from bullying, Barnaby suffers from a thyroid disease which can have a huge impact on his physical and mental health. Since joining Twin Tigers he has been able to keep his thyroid disease under control. Muay Thai has helped him to grow in confidence, he's made friends that have become family, and developed skills he didn't even know he had.

Barnaby is a lovely caring, gentle, young man but when he puts his boxing gloves on, he becomes something else, a true warrior of the ring. Barnaby fought for a prestigious south west area title and he won by unanimous decision. Just eight days later he fought two opponents back to back in the CFC21 Championships in Surrey, coming home with the Championship belt. In just four years Barnaby has made so much progress, that the World Boxing Federation have offered him a spot on the Team GB squad.

Jamie and Barnaby are training extremely hard five days a week. They each have two fights lined up in preparation for the world games in Thailand. They will both step into the ring on 28th October to fight on the World Boxing Championships open, and again on 2nd December to compete on a highly respected promotion in Muay Thai called Roar.

These talented young men need your help to give them a chance. Let's get them to Thailand to compete against the best fighters in the world at the famous Lumpini stadium in Bangkok. Let's show the world what Team GB can do.

Jamie and Barnaby need to raise £7,000 to cover their expenses for their trip to Thailand to represent Great Britain. If you would like to help them, they have a crowdfunding page open. Alternatively, contact Twin Tigers in Honiton to find out other ways you can help.

Save these dates for fundraising events :

11th Nov - Fundraiser day at Highfield Sports & Social Club, Dunkeswell

10-12 Coffee morning (book and board game swap)

12-2 Lunch and a laugh - light lunch and comedic poetry recital

2.30 4.30 Afternoon tea. 1940s/50s music, book and board game swap plus board and card games to play

5-7pm - Kids (under 10s) disco

7.30-10 30pm tweens and teens disco (under 18s)

18th Nov - Poker and Pamper Night at Honiton Conservative Club (Tickets available at Twin Tigers)

16th Dec - Quiz Night at the social club

Royal British Legion's Plans for Remembrance in Honiton



28th October sees the official launch of the 2023 Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Tide period. The Honiton Branch of The Royal British Legion will be at St. Paul's Church to launch our local appeal.

The Poppy Appeal is now in its 102nd year raising funds for The Royal British Legion. A Legion stand will also be at St Paul's on 4th and 11th November, supported by the Air Training Corps and the Army Cadet Force.

We will of course be hold an Act of Homage starting at 10:45 on Saturday 11th November 2023.

As well as having nearly 200 poppy boxes spread across the EX14 post codes, we will also be collecting at Tesco from 1st November - 11th November. Thank you in advance to all the local businesses that support our appeal and thank you to the generous members of the public who regularly contribute to our appeal.

This year our Remembrance Service and Parade will be held on Sunday 12th November outside St. Paul's

Church as in previous years. The Parade will form up in New Street from 14:15 and will march to St. Paul's for the service starting at approximately 14:45. We look forward to seeing everyone there for our short service to remember the ones who paid the ultimate price in the defence of our Nation.

The Royal British Legion has been supporting Service Men and Women and their Families since 1921. We remain committed to bringing the Nation together to support our Armed Forces Community.



Archbishop Justin Welby Visits Devon For Remembrance Weekend

In St. John's Gospel readers are repeatedly prompted to 'come and see' who Jesus is and engage with Him. The Gospel also sounds a constant theme of mission so it is no surprise that the Archbishop's visit to Devon for this coming Remembrance Weekend, which runs from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th November, is called the 'Come and See Mission Weekend 2023'. Archbishop Justin will take part in a number of themed events across Devon, telling the people he meets about Jesus and why rural life, children and young people, caring for our planet and living with loss, matter to Christians.

Many Devon churches will be holding an outreach event over the Remembrance weekend and at St. Mary's in Offwell we will be holding our own 'Come and See' by remembering not only those lost in WW1 and WW2 but also loved ones, both young and old, whom we grieve for every day. There will be two prayer trees in St. Mary's - one for the school children and their parents, and one for Offwell families - so that all who wish to can hang a 'come and remember' card, whether that is for those lost in wars and conflicts around the world or in memory of a more personal bereavement and loss. This is an opportunity for everyone to participate, whether or not they attend St. Mary's on a regular basis.



In Offwell, an Act of Remembrance will take place at 10.45am on Saturday 11th November at St. Mary's Remembrance Gate. This year the school children from Offwell Primary School have made wire poppies, some with the names of the fallen in WW1 and WW2. These poppies will be attached to the church gates.

For the duration of the Archbishop's visit to Devon there will be a 24/7 online prayer room running to establish a chain of unbroken prayer for the whole weekend. Wouldn't it be great for every hour to be filled with prayer around our county? Wouldn't it be great if we had someone from each of our parishes participating in this continuous act of prayer?

For more information about the Call to Prayer and other events over the 'Come and See' weekend go to: www.exeter.anglican.org/come-and-see/

Rev. Jeremy Putnam

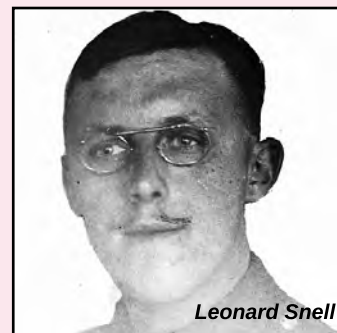
by Carol Hayes

A Personal Reflection



It was always the two minutes' silence on Remembrance Day that brought the tears. My father was serving in Bomber Command during WW2 and his plane was shot down on the night of 18th/19th February 1945. He had just turned 26, married with a baby daughter. The remaining six members of his crew were much younger, aged between 18 and 21. Young men with their whole futures before them, fighting and dying in a war that was not of their making. They were fighting for freedom, as so many young Ukrainians are doing today. As American lawyer Clarence Darrow once said, "You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man's freedom. You can only be free if I am free."

In 2018, to commemorate the centenary of the 1918 Armistice, I produced a booklet about the seven men from Offwell and Widworthy who lost their lives in the Great War. Four were farm workers, one a cowman, another a railway worker and Leonard Bazley Snell was the young organist at St. Cuthbert's Church in Widworthy. All were in their twenties. Gamekeeper Thomas Dare and his wife Amanda lost three sons in the War; three more sons served at the Front and survived. One of them, Edgar, wrote a poem on the Flanders front line when he was just 18 years old. His evocative poem sums up the utter despair and disbelief he experienced at being a witness to, and being involved in, the grim and often gruesome reality of war. It contains the following lines:



Leonard Snell

***'And, as I wandered down that hill
Thick as the rain they were lying still
Where 'ere I plant my foot, I could scarce but tread
On that human carpet in the Valley of the Dead'***

Frederick Batten was conscripted and died in 1917. His body was never recovered and has no known grave. Frederick Caryl Hooper died in a German Prisoner-of-War camp and Christopher Frank Pilton died from his injuries in October 1918. He is buried in a British War Cemetery in France. Leonard Bazley Snell was an accomplished musician and became organist at St. Cuthbert's aged 13. He died in February 1918, aged 24, six weeks before his wedding to Dorothy Cox, a teacher at Widworthy School. In 1995 the churchwarden at St. Cuthbert's received a letter from Dorothy's niece. It contained a photograph of Leonard and on the back was inscribed Laurence Binyon's famous poem 'To the Fallen' which is read at every Remembrance Service:

***'They shall not grow old as
We who are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
Nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
& in the morning
We will remember them'***

In the early 1900's the people of Devon were contented with their simple country lives. It was into this peaceful and slow-moving world that the Great War burst as a terrible shock in the summer of 1914. Within weeks young men of Devon would leave their families and farms for a foreign land to fight in a war to end all wars. It is these young men, their stories and their lost lives that I will be remembering this coming Remembrance Day.

A View From The Hills

by Miranda Gudenian

Morning mist hangs over the hillside, the only sound is the patter of leaves falling onto the lane from the trees behind the house. Sycamore leaves the size of a man's hand, curled and dry as a crisp; showers of birch leaves like golden pennies; amber-brown oak leaves accompanied by the occasionally plop of acorns.



It's a poor year for acorns. In centuries past this paucity would have been enough to keep you awake at night. How - you would have wondered, sitting in your plank bed on a mattress stuffed with last year's beech mast, as the smoke from the fire spiralled through the hole in the thatch above your head - would you sufficiently fatten the family pig in time for Martinmas in November?

Martinmas is a forgotten feast. It marked the end of the agrarian year, but unlike harvest celebrations this one had a main event of dawn to dusk slaughter of pigs, sheep and oxen, the fat packed into stone jars, the meat salted down against the lean months of winter, a bulwark against starvation. Most cottagers kept a pig or had a share in a neighbour's pig in exchange for a regular bucket of household swill. Pigs are easy-going, they'd happily gobble up scraps that even the poorest folk couldn't find use for. Come autumn, cottagers exercised their ancient Saxon right of pannage and herded pigs into the woods for the ultimate in porcine feasting: beech mast and acorns, which would fatten up your pig good and proper for Martinmas. Many landowners were happy to have acorns cleared from arable

and grazing land too as quantities of acorns are toxic to horses and cattle. Hogs can hog acorns galore because their saliva neutralises the toxins.

As they knocked back the acorns the pigs churned up the soil, on open land chomping their way through roots of nettles, docks and thistles like a plough with a curly tail. Their rootling cleared the ground for shy plants to flourish, plants like corncockle and Venus looking glass with seeds that need exposure to winter chill before germination. These tiny, oil-rich seeds provide essential food for farmland birds such as siskin and goldfinch.

With the modernisation of agriculture and increasing use of herbicides in the second half of the 20th century the wildflowers of arable land rapidly declined and with them the bird species they supported. But goldfinches were canny enough to clock the increase in garden bird feeding and their population is thriving.

Charms, the delightful collective noun for a group of goldfinches, are regular visitors to my garden's bird feeders. Their 'music' - a shower of tinkling, crystal notes - and the flashes of gold, white and red plumage make any gardening work especially joyous. It's a dismal fact that in previous centuries they were trapped in vast numbers and either caged or kept from flight by a tiny chain round one leg securing them to a mantelpiece or windowsill. Goldfinches were the canaries of the past until the British government banned the sale of wild birds in 1933.

In my garden goldfinch numbers have increased significantly in the past few months and the reason, I have concluded, is the food I put out for them. For years the scattering of porridge oats and feeders with black sunflower seeds, suet balls and peanuts attracted dozens of bird visitors but not a single goldfinch. Two years ago, the owners of a rival restaurant along the lane - the avian equivalent of the Savoy Grill - told me about the goldfinches attracted by the nyjer seed they'd begun to use. One bag of this tiny thistle seed and a cheap plastic feeder later and within hours goldfinches descended on my garden too.

Nyjer seed had a downside. Each day the goldfinches, often accompanied by half a dozen siskins, chucked out hundreds of seeds which sprouted a forest on the ground below. In wet weather it became a sodden carpet, harbouring disease. Frankly, a lot of money was being thrown away. I tried a mix of other small seeds but the same thing happened. Next, I plumped for sunflower hearts - successful, yes, but though dropped seeds were hoovered up by ground feeders, my purse groaned because I ended up refilling the feeder twice a day. Last spring, I switched to kibbled sunflower hearts and the flocking goldfinches agree that they tick all the right boxes.

During the mellow early autumn, with its abundance of food in woods and hedgerows, garden bird activity was subdued. Following this week's sudden drop in temperature the birds are back and today I counted twenty-five goldfinches fluttering around the feeders. As I type these lines an east wind is rising across the hills and I'm wrapped in a rug against the chill. 'Ice before Martinmas enough to bear a duck, the rest of winter is sure to be but muck'. Cross fingers the old country lore is right.



Photo of goldfinch courtesy of Chris Grady



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The Ramblings Of Gertie From Gittisham

Woe is me! The mortification, the humiliation – how dare that sister of mine go walkabout over Yarcombe way and behave in such an objectionable way, and to Miranda Gudenian of all people. My sister Birdie's rudeness, her foul mannerisms, the way she bedecks herself – why, our dear mother would be appalled. I can hear the well-worn phrase now on my mother's lips, and so often she had good cause to use it, "That wretched girl will be the death of me." Well, now I fear the same fate will befall me: and that photograph! Birdie has no shame, cavorting with the evils of alcohol, and in her intoxicated oblivion exposing herself in such a way to all and sundry, with legs akimbo and filthy drawers on show. Little wonder Vernon Whitlock has resigned from his position of Photographer for this magazine. I have heard he has departed on a cruise to the Seychelles with his good wife, Sheila. No doubt her quiet, healing ways are needed to erase certain foul memories of such unseemly sights.

Obviously, in many ways I liken myself to Miranda, being a cultured woman of refined tastes; a woman given to quote from poetry, from prose – indeed some might say we are both distinguished women of letters. Are not the writings of Miranda, my fellow contributor to The Honiton & Village News, also known much further afield, so marvellous are her talents when putting pen to paper. However, I suspect after this chance encounter with Birdie, she will cut off all communication with me, and who can jolly well blame her?

Well, all Birdie's cavorting has rendered me in a terrible muddle, and for that, dear reader, I feel I must apologise. Really, the original purpose of this month's piece was to focus on my mother's hectic working week and consider her labours in the autumns of my youth. Indeed, this was prompted by Miranda's account of garnering blackberries and also of the beautiful gift of home-made bramble jelly I received from my dearly loved friends, Mr G & Mrs J Still from over Willand way.

Vividly I remember coming home from school and on entering the kitchen seeing the large, cast aluminium preserving pan bubbling gently on the old cylinder gas cooker. On every available surface would rest spotless jam jars, hotted up and ready to receive the glistening, reds, purples and orange jams. My mother, over the course of several weeks, made enough preserves to feed just about every family in Buckerell, and all the Aunts and Uncles, who would drive from all parts of Devon and Somerset to stock their larders at our expense. In particular, I remember Aunt Hilda from Ilminster – the hook-nosed daughter of my father's eldest sister, Annie. Because the paternal family was so large and my father being the youngest of fifteen and not marrying until his early forties, the age difference between Birdie, me and the majority of our cousins was nigh on fifty years. Aunt Hilda was old

and she was also very tall with a very large gangling frame, rather like that of an old working mare. As a child, I remember her hair resembled yellowing, porcupine tufts and she had a loud, braying voice and piercing slate-grey eyes. She could fix you to the spot with a look. Even Birdie cowed in her presence. She came for tea annually, with my lovely Uncle Frank, who was a thinner version of my dad. Uncle Frank and my dad would disappear to 'look at the garden'. I could see the smoke from their cigarettes as they hid behind the apple trees at the uppermost end of our patch. Meanwhile, mother prepared the tea table under the watchful scrutiny of Hilda, who somehow had managed to lower her imposing beam onto the little wooden, kitchen stool, buttocks adrift on either side. While mother generously buttered the bread, Hilda held forth with stentorian approval.

Birdie had been well and truly bribed into good behaviour, being promised a saucer of jam scum (otherwise known as 'fizz' - a much loved victual in the days when sweets were in short supply). The day before THE VISIT, mother making jam, had laboriously scraped off the top of the bubbling conserve with her old wooden spoon and deposited the residue into an old chipped saucer, knowing full well this was as precious as gold to Birdie's gormless, gaping mouth. Well that Sunday afternoon, to the absolute horror of Birdie, Aunt Hilda spotted the sweet treat. With her large, paddle-like, fore-finger swirling around the dish, she scooped up the whole pool of frothy deliciousness and crammed the lot into her cavernous, toothy orifice. Birdie whimpered one loud cry of protest and was out the door and gone.

My affronted sister soon found her village mates: Terry, Brian, Roger, Ruth and Gwennie – very good sports and always up for a spot of mischief. Somehow, in the course of that afternoon, a guinea pig or two found their way into my mum and dad's bedroom where Aunt Hilda's Sunday best coat and hat had been laid out in pristine condition. Brian's goat Nancy was seen prancing around the garden with Aunt Hilda's hat, loosely tied with a grubby bit of old string, slipping over her soulful brown eyes, having 'escaped' her stake and chain. Aunt Hilda was beside herself, and quickened her departure to Ilminster, but not before a comfort break to the outdoor privvy – the facility of the old hut on the hill. With eyes still flashing with resentment, Birdie was waiting with our very fat cat, George. When she was sure Aunt Hilda was suitably seated on the pan, she shoved poor George through the outhouse window with his claws outspread. To this day, I can still recall the echoing screech of absolute terror and pain.

Father seemed pleased that Aunt Hilda never came for tea again . . .



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Dr. Who

by Martin Long



Let's start this month with a quiz question: What have the actors George Lazenby and Paul McGann got in common?

As many of you are no doubt already shouting at the page, they each got to play one of the most iconic characters on screen, but only once. Lazenby was offered the poisoned chalice of replacing Sean Connery as James Bond, playing 007 in the film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* in 1969. Let's just say his performance was not universally well received, and the producers quickly moved on to Roger Moore.

And what about Paul McGann? Well, arguably his biggest claim to fame is that he played Doctor Who in a what turned out to be a one-off TV film in 1996. After the BBC had cancelled the long-running TV series in 1989, the film was an attempt to reignite interest in the format. However, the film landed with a heavy thud, met with little enthusiasm and led precisely nowhere, until the series was finally revived by Russell T. Davies in 2005.

This is all by way of introducing the fact that, despite all the bumps in the road, the false starts and changes of direction, Doctor Who celebrates its 60th birthday this month with three special episodes starring David Tennant.

The series has been always famous for the number of adults who say that growing up they hid behind the sofa at the sight of some of the monsters, especially the Cybermen and the Daleks. I'm not sure how true that is, especially as the special effects and costumes in some of those early series were about as wobbly and see-through as the sets. And the believability of the aliens was always compromised by the fact that no matter how outlandish they were supposed to be, they always seemed to have human-like faces and spoke with the poshest of English accents.

As for how scary it was, I am sure the naturalist Chris Packham was not alone when he admitted recently in the *Radio Times* that he found the East German children's film *The Singing Ringing Tree* (made in 1957 but endlessly repeated) infinitely more disturbing. Even as I write this, I shudder just a little bit at the memory of that rather twisted "fairy tale" about the selfish and haughty princess and the evil dwarf, which is more than I can say for the early stories of the Daleks and the rest.

However, whether it was scary or not, the original creators in 1963 actually intended it to be educational. The series was supposed to alternate between adventures with monsters and visits in the Tardis to historical events that the Doctor would observe with his companions, who after all included not just his grand-daughter but a school teacher.

You won't be surprised to know that the educational element soon disappeared, as the monsters got a far better reaction from the audience. But it was interesting to see recent episodes featuring Jodie Whittaker's 13th Doctor re-introduce the idea, with an episode explaining the history of the US Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s, when she met Rosa Parks. While some accused the BBC of preaching, others recognised that it was a genuine attempt to return to the roots of the original children's TV series.

And before I go on, yes, I know some people say Jodie Whittaker was the 14th Doctor, if you count the so-called War Doctor, played by John Hurt and 15th if you include Peter Cushing who played the Doctor in two feature films in the 1960s.

Whovians are nothing if not argumentative and insistent on getting the story right. Which is ironic when you have to complete a course in mental gymnastics just to keep up with the way the Doctor's back-story keeps changing, not least who his grand-daughter's mother was. We have never exactly been told, although a "daughter" was cloned from a piece of his skin once (don't ask) and became a short-lived character in the series. Confusingly, she was played by David Tennant's real-life wife.

In the end, does anyone care about all of this? Will anyone watch the celebratory episodes, which are quickly being followed by a new series starring the first black actor to play the role? If there is a reason to care, maybe it is that, with TV executives seemingly content to cancel or re-schedule a series half way through its run (Channel 5 I'm looking at you), it is comforting to know that some formats simply refuse to die.

Doctor Who seems destined to carry on forever, along with other staples brought back by persistent audience demand such as *Neighbours* (several times), *Waterloo Road*, and even *University Challenge* which was rescued after being cancelled by ITV. Sometimes if we shout loudly and hard enough, if we threaten to look elsewhere, in the end people power will prevail.

Now there's a hopeful (and timely?) message to end on.



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Tales From The Museum

by Margaret Lewis



Guy Fawkes festivities were always strongest in the West Country, a historically Protestant region. 'The Fifth' as it was always known in Honiton, was celebrated in parishes all over Devon. For hundreds of years, the townspeople celebrated with torchlight processions, band music, cannons, fireworks, blazing tar barrels rolled in the streets and huge bonfires lit in the High Street outside The Angel, Three Tuns, White Lion, Chopping Knife, and the Star in New Street.

In 1855 the Guy Fawkes celebrations ended with a balloon ascent from the Anchor Inn.

Each year many effigies were paraded around the town and then burnt on a fire. These were not always Guy Fawkes - some were accurate likenesses to prominent people in the town. In 1858 Devon County Police issued a ban on bonfires and tar barrel rolling with the penalty of a fine and swore in extra special constables for duty on 'The Fifth'. It made no difference in Honiton. There was a threatened disturbance kicking off in Ottery St Mary, so the police marched there to deal with it - so as soon as

they had left, Honiton lit up.

In 1867 the Mayor of Honiton issued a proclamation that any person causing damage by rolling barrels or letting off fireworks would be prosecuted. There was one serious injury in Honiton when a Mr Clarke fell and broke his ribs when he was carrying a burning tar barrel.

In 1880 things got a bit out of hand when a pane of glass in the door of the Star Inn was smashed, and an old four wheeled coach was seized from the Vine Inn yard and thrown onto a bonfire near the Dolphin Hotel.

In 1895 a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Thomas Mutter and for the first time the 'Fifth' celebration was renamed a Carnival. A torchlit and illuminated procession took place on 7th November. One hundred and fifty torch bearers in fancy dress costumes, two bands, cyclists, clowns, a minstrel troupe, handbell ringers and hundreds of others assembled at Bramble Hill. On route through New Street into High Street the procession collected money to be donated to the Honiton Soup Kitchen. The Mayor's daughter lit the largest bonfire at the top of the town. In the following year there was no organised event, but as was the usual custom, the cannon was fired, and fireworks were lit.

Three years later the police had finally stopped all tar barrels, fireworks, and bonfires on the highway on 5th November.

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

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A Ramble to Black Aller Covert and back to Cadhay Bridge.

by Chris Harwood

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

6.5 mile

Easy, level ground, wonderful riverside scenery, open views, apple orchards and free-range hens. AND a gem of a walk through the Covert. Follow a bit of the old rail line to Sidmouth Junction (Alright, Feniton!). Minimal road walking.

Park in the ample space opposite the Cadhay Bridge Farm, just outside Ottery St Mary (Grid Ref SY 0903960). From here, staying on the winding path, follow the river for almost a mile. At times the path takes you way above the river giving wonderful views whilst taking you through tangled roots and trunks of giant beech trees. In season, you can enjoy an abundance of flowers, ferns, and birds. Eventually, in sight of the weir and fine old bridge you meet a road. Beside the bridge is what would have been the level crossing keeper's cottage, on the old rail line (pre-Beeching!) The route of the rail is visible, as is the site of the crossing gates.

Move left over the bridge and immediately right, over the stile and on to the Public Footpath. Soon look for the stile on your left. Over, bear right and soon the river meanders away to the right, leaving you to move forwards, rising up on to the old railway embankment. Take a moment to enjoy the view down the river and beyond.

Keep an eye open as you wander along this now unused rail route for signs of the brick bridges that carried the line over culverts. There is almost an expectancy of having to stand aside for the old iron beast to chug its way past. What a journey it would have been.

You will come to a high, old, bricked arch beyond which you will pass under a newer bridge carrying the old A30. Bear right along a narrow, almost secret path that wends its way between the old and new A30's. At the exit, bear left over the new A30 and carry on, straight ahead over a stile beside the metal gate along a wide-open track, keeping the hedge on your right. Follow the hedge round to your left and immediately move over the stile in the gap in the hedge. Follow the hedge around, passing – in the season- incredible apples or blossom in the orchards which in turn are at times sheltering hundreds of very happy free roaming hens.

Leave the fields via the steps and stile beside the gas installation box out on to a minor road. Left, and at the corner right into Feniton. At the Nog Inn, bear left along the Talaton road for about 500 yds. and on the bend take the Public Footpath off left, through the metal gate (The sign is on the opposite side of the road!) Keep the hedge on your left and at the gate and stile move left. Follow the edge of the field round, passing a "communications tower" to pass left through a metal gate. Again, keep the hedge on your left and at the wire fence follow it this side of the wire down to the Escot Estate concrete road, having passed between two huge firs. Right here along the road for about 300 yds. and then before the cottages, move left through the wide gate into the gem of the walk – Black Aller Wood or Covert. Aller is the older and alternative name for Alder. This is a truly delightful 1000 yds. of trees, bluebells, ferns, Magic! At the end of the straight, bear right and come to a clearing from which you move left to a wooden kissing gate. Onwards to the metal gate to wander down to the river on a made-up track. Under the bridge and round to Escot Church. Via a little gate, move to the right round the Church and reach the road using the long straight stony track.

Left uphill at the road and with care cross on to the minor lane on the right. Right at the junction, winding downhill to just before the flood warning sign. Left here on to the Public Footpath. In winter an annoying puddle makes the first few yards of this path quite difficult but normally no problem. Follow the hedge on your left sparing a moment to capture the views then at the metal kissing gate bear right to the footbridge. Over here – what's that little brick arch on the ground? – and move diagonally left over open pasture to meet the road. Left and back to your car, passing another crossing keeper's cottage and the well-preserved crossing gates.



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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Nature Notes

by Vernon Whitlock

They're Back!

Local gangs have taken over my garden. They arrive in large numbers, shout, argue and fight and then leave suddenly, leaving me to clean up the mess. Yes, the goldfinches are back!

The collective term for a flock of goldfinches is a 'charm'. This no doubt reflects their bright colours and melodious twittering, but when the weather changes and natural food becomes scarce, it's every bird for itself.

This practice of flocking in the winter months is common in a lot of bird species. They are no longer in competition for mates or territory to breed and raise their young, and there are benefits in grouping together. In addition to having more eyes to look out for predators such as cats and sparrow-hawks, small birds also share knowledge of the best places to find food, and when they descend on an area their numbers often disturb overwintering insects and spiders, making them easier to catch.

Birds also gather together at night for warmth and protection. On cold nights long-tailed tits huddle together and wrens, one of the most territorial of birds in the breeding season, often share the same tree hollow or nest box.

The onset of winter brings with it a movement of birds from the north to the south of the UK, and as it gets colder we get visitors from Scandinavia and other areas of Northern Europe. Later in the year this movement is evident at the bottom of my garden where, in addition to the fight at the feeders, there is often a battle in my rowan tree. Most of the blackbirds that bred in my neighbour's garden have moved south for the winter, but there is usually one who remains, secure in the knowledge that the rowan berries will help it through the cold winter months. Then along come our continental visitors, and our tree becomes a battle ground as our local resident fights to protect its berries from visiting blackbirds and thrushes.

Our pond is still attracting the birds and the drop in temperature is no deterrent. All birds need a regular bath to keep their feathers in good condition. In extreme conditions when ponds are frozen they will attempt to find some other open water or even snow to wash in. Wetting feathers loosens dirt and makes them easier to preen. When preening, birds rearrange their feathers making them waterproof and trapping air underneath, which helps keep them warm, so unlike me they are unlikely to be deterred by the temperature of the water.

The other good news is that it's not only the goldies. The house sparrows have also returned from their autumn holidays out in the farmland and have again set up residence in our neighbour's hedge. It's good to see them and hopefully they will use our nest boxes and holes in the wall as they have done in previous years.

Another welcome visitor is the robin. I would like to think it is the one that tried to nest in our garden last spring, but robins, like blackbirds and thrushes also migrate in the winter months, so ours may well be a visitor from up north. Either way he is very welcome to join the gang.



Bird food

Several readers have asked me what bird food I use in my feeders. Like Miranda, I have switched to kibbled sunflower hearts. They are a great favourite with our visiting goldfinches, green finches, chaffinches and siskins, and the little that is spilt is either easily swept up or hoovered up by our local wood pigeons.

Bertie Is Back On The Beach!

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.

Oh joy of joys it's one of my favourite times of the year. The days are pleasantly cool for a pooch like me who finds the heat a bit much to cope with, the leaves in the woods are falling which is just perfect for skittering and snuffling about in and the best bit of all is that us doggies are allowed back on the beaches.



What a blast we have on that strip of sandy heaven, running with the salty air in my fur, chatting to all the other pooches out for their morning walkies, a bit of a swim if the mood takes me and catching up with all the gossip on the "Pee-Mail" network – it's just bliss!

Back at Bertie HQ we are beginning to snuggle in for the long winter nights, and lucky canine that I am I get my best bed ([I have 3) moved into the perfect position near the fire, not too close to overheat but near enough for an evening of contented cosy snoozing. They say "it's a dog's life" as if that was something bad but not in my books as this particular pooch has one tip-tip wonderful doggie existence.

Now you will see from my photos this month what a handsome fellow I am; Paula at the pooch parlour takes a lot of trouble to get me looking so well-groomed which don't get me wrong I really do appreciate (for a few

hours) and then it's back to doing what Bertie does best - living in the moment, making the most out of every day and dealing with tomorrow when it comes.



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What's On - Autumn Offerings At The Beehive

To kick off November Honiton Community Theatre Company present *Out Of Focus*, Thursday 2nd-Saturday 4th Nov 7.30pm. Come and see the wonderful cast perform this very funny play. Friday 3rd Nov will be a BSL signed performance.

On Friday 10th Nov – 7.30pm we have the talented *Trials of Cato*. BBC Radio 2's award winning trio fly the flag of folk music, paying clear homage to the tradition whilst twisting old bones into something modern, with stomping tunes and captivating stories.

Teeming with comedy, wit and an abundance of bravura choreography, Carlos Acosta's production of The Royal Ballet's: *Don Quixote* (U) brings the Spanish heat and romance of Cervantes' classic novel to life. In cinema on 7pm Sat 11th Nov.

Track Dogs are back and performing at The Beehive. The quartet serve up sun-shiny songs thriving on dark themes behind irresistible rhythms. "Their lively, melodic music has a strong American/Latin sentiment, a strong sense of fun and an abundance of sunshine." FRUK. Thursday 16th Nov 8pm.

On Friday 17th November at 7.30pm, East Devon Music presents *The Tim Phillip's Memorial Concert* featuring Robert Plane (Clarinet), Lucy Gould (Violin) and Benjamin Frith (Piano). The concert will include works by Debussy, Fauré and Pamela Harrison, who was Tim's mother.

Fancy a night of listening and dancing to all the classic Eagles songs? Hotel California, Take It Easy, One Of These Nights and many more! Expect plenty of sweet country harmonies and rocking twin guitars. Come and watch one of the country's top tribute acts, playing a mix of old and new Eagles' songs. Saturday 18th Nov 7.30pm. *The Alter Eagles*.

In cinema towards the end of the month we have *The Miracle Club* (12A) starring Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates and Laura Linney. There's just one dream for the women of Ballygar to taste freedom: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. Thursday 23rd Nov 7.30pm.

On Friday 24th Nov (7.30pm) get ready for the magnificent *History of Rock*. A celebration of rock music through the decades. A jaw dropping night transporting you through the golden ages of rock! Featuring the music of artists such as Led Zeppelin, Cream, Guns 'n Roses, AC/DC, Queen and many more!

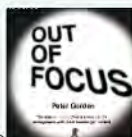
To book your tickets, call the Box Office: 01404 384050 or head to our website www.beehivehoniton.co.uk

Start planning some festive family days out at The Beehive Honiton. Take a look at our website to see our full Christmas event line up for December. From André Rieu to The Royal Ballet: *The Nutcracker* to A Magical Christmas variety show. We have it all to come at The Beehive Honiton. Rachael and The Beehive Team.



Honiton's Community & Arts
November 2023

OUT OF FOCUS - Honiton Community Theatre Company
Thu 2nd - Sat 4th Nov, 7.30pm. Tickets: £11
 A series of over-bookings have led to a great mix of characters from the local community, descending upon the church hall, becoming aggravated with each other, but eventually they pull together for a single purpose: to stage the next church pantomime.



THE TRIALS OF CATO - Folk Band
Fri 10 Nov - 7.30pm Tickets: £16
 BBC Radio 2's award winning trio fly the flag of folk music, paying clear homage to the tradition whilst twisting old bones into something modern, with stomping tunes and captivating stories. On the night the band shall be supported by Annie Dressner!



ROYAL BALLET: DON QUIXOTE (U)
Sat 11 Nov - 7pm. Tickets: Adults £17, Students £11
 Teeming with comedy, wit and an abundance of bravura choreography, Carlos Acosta's production brings the Spanish heat and romance of Cervantes' classic novel to life.



THE BEEHIVE'S FOLK CAFÉ
Wed 15 Nov - 7.30pm - Free Entry!
 Come along to sing or listen in the Beehive bar with our lovely folkie host, Sue King. No prior booking required. Doors open at 7.15pm.



TRACK DOGS - Folk, Americana, Bluegrass Band
Thu 16 Nov - 8pm. Tickets: £16
 The quartet serve up sun-shiny songs thriving on dark themes behind irresistible rhythms. "Their lively, melodic music has a strong American/Latin sentiment, a strong sense of fun and an abundance of sunshine." FRUK.



*All details correct at time of print. Please check website for updates. Ticket prices include a £1 admin fee.
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Box Office: 01404 384050 www.beehivehoniton.co.uk Charity 1162412



Honiton's Community & Arts
November 2023

CLASSICAL CONCERT BY EAST DEVON MUSIC
In memory of their late artistic director, Tim Phillips.
Fri 17 Nov - 7.30pm. Tickets: Adult £18, U16's £12
 Featuring Robert Plane, Clarinet. Lucy Gould, Violin. Benjamin Frith, Piano. The concert will include works by Debussy, Fauré and Pamela Harrison, who was Tim's mother.



THE ALTER EAGLES
Sat 18 Nov - 7.30pm. Tickets: £20
 One of the country's top tribute acts, playing a mix of old and new Eagles' songs including all the classics - Hotel California, Take It Easy, One Of These Nights and many more! Expect plenty of sweet country harmonies and rocking twin guitars.



THE MIRACLE CLUB (12A)
Thu 23 Nov - 7.30pm. Tickets: Adult £7.50, U16 £6.50.
 There's just one dream for the women of Ballygar to taste freedom: to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. Starring Maggie Smith, Kathy Bates and Laura Linney.



HISTORY OF ROCK
Fri 24 Nov - 7.30pm. Tickets: £25
 A celebration of rock music through the decades. A jaw dropping night transporting you through the golden ages of rock! Featuring the music of artists such as Led Zeppelin, Cream, Guns 'n Roses, AC/DC, Queen and many more!



NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: SKYLIGHT
Thu 30 Nov - 7pm. Adults £16, Students £13
 On a cold London evening, school teacher Kyra Hollis receives an unexpected visit from former lover, Tom Sergeant (Bill Nighy), a successful restaurateur whose wife has recently died.



CHRISTMAS IS COMING.. Take a look at our upcoming Christmas events on our website. Events include: our Christmas craft & shopping fayre, live music, theatre, festive interactive activities for kids, and a magical Christmas variety show!



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St Michael's Church
Honiton
7pm
Thursday 2nd November



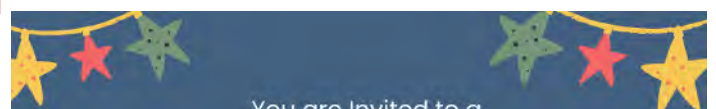
'Little Murmur' by Aakash Odedra Dance Company.

Stockland Village Hall at 3pm on Saturday 4th November.

This is an honest, funny, and stunning visual treat for everyone aged 7+. A new dance theatre show for everyone. Based on the true story of one child's struggle with letters and words. Little Murmur is about facing challenges and overcoming the odds.

"The most perfect portrayal of what it is like to live in a world not designed for your way of thinking. A must see if you are a child or adult, with or without dyslexia".

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Enjoy the excitement of this year's Christmas market event, come on, enliven our event.

18 Nov, 2023	Mackarness Hall, Honiton	Start at 10:00AM 19:00PM
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Saturday 12th November
10am - 12noon

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Honiton Garden Club

Thursday 16th November
6.30-8pm

St Paul's Church Narthex, Honiton

East Devon & Its Garden History - Todd Gray

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



A GITTISHAM CHRISTMAS

ADVENT CONCERT

Sunday 3rd December @ 4pm

St Michael's Church, Gittisham

With

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Alison Kettlewell (Mezzo Soprano)

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Present Makers 2023 To Showcase Contemporary Glass In Christmas Craft Exhibition

Thelma Hulbert Gallery (THG) opens their popular exhibition of contemporary craft this November. A leading exhibition in the UK's craft calendar, Present Makers features hand-crafted gift ideas showcasing the talent and innovation of contemporary craftspeople and design makers in the South West.



This year, THG shines a spotlight on glass through their collaboration with the Contemporary Glass Society (CGS). The CGS is the UK's foremost organisation supporting both established glass artists and up-and-coming makers, promoting contemporary glass among the art world and wider public. They represent the interests of 1,200 national and international glassmakers.

From THG and CGS open submissions, entries have been selected to highlight the quality, variety and inspiration of local designer makers working across a range of materials: glass, jewellery, ceramics, textiles, prints and wood, as well as unique Christmas cards and decorations. All of the work is for sale.

Make a change from shopping online and shop local at THG this Christmas.

Present Makers 2023 11 November to 23 December

Coordinating programme:

- Tesselating Sculpture Workshop Saturday 21 October 11-3. £50, £45 THG Friends, free places for 15-25 yrs
- Natural Dye Workshop Sunday 12 November 10-12.30 or 1-3.30. £90, £80 THG Friends, free places for 15-25 yrs - includes full workshop resources
- 3D Paper Craft Workshop Saturday 18 November 11-3.30. £40, £35 THG friends, free places for 15-25 yrs
- Jewellery Making Workshop Saturday 25 November 10.30-12.30 or 1.30-3.30. £55, £50 THG Friends, free places for 15-25 yrs

Thelma Hulbert Gallery, Dowell St, Honiton EX14 1LX.

Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm



**TRIP BEFRIENDING
CHRISTMAS FAYRE**

Saturday 25th November
9.00am - 12.00pm

Mackarness Hall, Honiton

Craft Stalls, Tombola, Raffle, Light
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BROADHEMBURY MEMORIAL HALL

by Jennie Sleeman

Podcasts

A thirty-minute slot in your busy day is not long enough to immerse yourself in a book. By the time you have found the book, made a cup of tea, selected the best biscuit (or two), moved the cat off your favourite seat, located your glasses and reminded yourself what you read before you fell asleep last night, the time has dwindled to, well, not worth the bother.

A Podcast, however, can be listened to when doing something useful, such as working in the garden, preparing a meal or even attacking the ironing pile (if you are one of the diminishing body of the population that actually knows what to do with an iron), as Podcasts usually last less than sixty minutes. What to listen to depends, of course, on mood as much as interest. Also, like audio books, sometimes the listening experience simply gets in the way of the content, so choose carefully.

When listening to 'Past, Present Future' from the London Review of Books, I was relieved to hear that novelists Adam Biles and John Lanchester thought that 'Animal Farm' was simply a story about talking animals until someone eventually let them into the secret of the Stalinist allegory. That discussion required a more recent reading of the novel than I had, so I moved on to the intriguingly entitled, 'Mary Beard on Caesar, Augustus and Zuckerberg', which explores the nature of power, past and contemporary. In the queue is the discussion about an essay by Susan Sontag in 1963, not because I know anything about it, but the host explores 'how an argument about art, criticism and the avant-garde ... can ... explain the monstrous appeal of Donald Trump.'

Yesterday, however, I was doing the ironing and wanted light-hearted entertainment, so I listened to 'Comfort Eating' with Grace Dent, restaurant critic, talking to Nadiya Hussein, winner of 'Bake-Off' and chef). There are numerous techniques that interviewers use as a way into a guest's past life, such as music in 'Desert Island Discs', or dinner in Knightsbridge with Jay Rayner and Marion Keyes (whose life story is fascinating to listen to regardless of your views about her novels). Grace Dent, uses food as a way in, but it is not for the squeamish as you will find if you listen to her discussion with Shirley Ballas, featuring the chocolate doughnut and the cockroach. Enough said. Dent asks guests to bring a plate of the food they 'eat behind closed doors, on the sofa watching the telly'. And she eats it too. In response to Hussein's creation, Dent was 'speechless'. I will let you find out what it was, but leave you with the image of the pair of them salivating over 'a rock-pool of butter'. Food is the focus of the chat, but it is used to explore family life, culture, religion, hopes and dreams, including Hussein's GCSE coursework of a Pokemon cake for a five year-old! They discuss what 'Bake-off' was really like and explore Hussein's mantra of 'I can and I will'.

As you can imagine, with such a variety of guests including Russell T Davis, the screenwriter, Stephen Fry (there are not enough words available to state all the activities for which he is renowned), Tom Watson, former Labour Deputy leader, Jo Brand, comedian and Greg Rutherford, Olympian, the secret nibbles are varied and, occasionally, even tempting. The discussions, though, touch on the humorous, the serious, the dreadful, the weird and the sentimental aspects of the guests' lives. Yet, guests are interesting for what they reveal beyond their famous exterior. Did you know, for example, that the dancer and star of 'Strictly' loves sweets? Ballas says, 'If I could sit in a tub of liquorice, I would!' The chat between Ballas and Dent reveals the 'the real Shirley behind the sequins.' Fascinating. I found listening to Jay Blades, host of the BBC's The Repair Shop, very moving as he talked about the effects of dyslexia on his life and education and then learning to read aged 50.

Not all Podcasts appeal, though, in the same way that some books are not worth the effort. Having enjoyed novels and chats by Jenny Éclair, I looked forward to 'Older and Wiser', a chat with Éclair and Judith Holden, but there is only so much chat about other people's grandchildren that a listener can endure. In my case, it was not very much.

Now, having found some more ironing to do, I am going to finish listening to Susan Pederson talking to Joanna Biggs about Shelagh Delaney and her 1958 play, 'A Taste of Honey' in which they explore the play and Delaney's attitudes in 'No, I'm not getting married!' (The London Review of Books podcast).

There is a lot out there for you to enjoy!



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Welcome To My Jungle!

by Laura Searle, Combe Garden Centre

A little intro for those of you who don't know me. Hello I'm Laura, the plant obsessed houseplant girl at Combe, and that obsession continues at home – much to my boyfriend's annoyance! I often sneak plants home in the hope he won't notice, which is very naughty of me I know! Currently my collection stands at 34 plants but there is always room for more. In this article I thought I'd walk you through some of my home favourites, plus we have them in stock here at the centre; so, I get to enjoy them twice over!



First up is the gorgeous Scindapsus 'Marble Queen' - a beautiful variegated trailing plant; although you can train it to climb if you wanted. Currently mine hangs from the curtain rail in the bathroom; the heat and humidity it gets on a daily basis is perfect for mimicking its natural South Asian and Australian jungle habitat.

I love that I can almost forget about it and once the leaves start to curl up that's when I know it needs a drink. My bathroom faces north-east so gets indirect light but never direct; this indirect light is much preferred with most houseplants. It is part of a flowering genus though I've never seen any flowers on one.

One of the rarer plants in my collection is Philodendron 'Pink Princess', what a plant! Its cousin the Philodendron 'White Wizard' (which I don't yet own) is just as gorgeous. Just look at the deep green of the leaves, streaked with the Barbie pink colour or fresh snowy white – both send most plant collectors into a frenzy. Both varieties are considered rare due to the difficulty of keeping the variegation ongoing, when the growers are propagating, so I feel very lucky to have been able to source them.

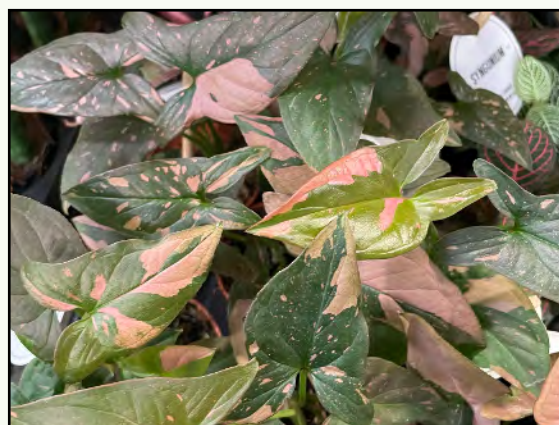
These Philodendrons are climbers, so will eventually need a cane for support, but they'll equally love to trail. In the Greek language "Philo" means love and "dendron" means tree hugger.



I've got a pot at home that is planted with a 'Pink Princess', an Asplenium 'Crispy Wave' and another rare plant, the Syngonium 'Pink Splash', which shows off heart shaped leaves, each speckled with a pink-green colouring.

Native to the American rainforests, they thrive on dappled sunlight or shady locations – the sort of areas that copy that of the rainforest floor.

The Syngonium is a quick growing, air-purifying plant that also loves to climb if you train it, equally it will trail. Mine is not quite big enough for either yet but it will get there.



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Have You Considered An Auction House Career?

by Liz Chilcott

It is at this time of year that Year 12 students are beginning to firm up their ideas about their future pathways. If you, or any of your family, are wondering what direction to take in life – have you considered a career in the Fine Art Auction industry?

When working in an auction room no two days are the same; salerooms have a busy and friendly vibe. There is a wide range of people to help, from dealing with linked professionals (solicitors and estate agents) to assisting families and individuals down-sizing or disposing of full house contents.

The items that the valuers appraise and sell include jewellery, watches, gold coins, fine art, Asian art, ceramics, antique furniture and mid twentieth century design; 'Collectors Items' – medals, militaria, toys, models, historic documents, etc. is another complete sub-section of the business.

Most auction rooms, wherever they are located, now sell to national and international markets, as well as local buyers – it can be both fun and challenging helping clients situated from Boston to Beijing.

There are several different roles available at an auction house: valuer, cataloguer, porter, photographer, social media, marketing, admin, accounts, computer technology and, of course, auctioneer. When working in a small saleroom, each member of the team has direct contact with the public and a wide variety of objects; in large auction houses the roles can be more specialised.

Among the team at Chilcotts are three people starting out in their working lives: one is a school leaver, one is an undergraduate student and the third is a recent graduate. Two of them did not know anything about the auction business before joining the company; all love the work that they do and wish that more young people knew about the job opportunities in a saleroom.



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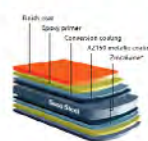
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Making Exercise A Habit

by Alanah Bray, Master Personal Trainer, Fitagain Gym



Can't be bothered to exercise?

You need this no fail guide to getting your behind off the sofa!



We all know that exercise in any form is good for us. It can help combat and alleviate many health complaints and complications, from arthritis to osteoporosis, and menopausal symptoms to allowing us a better night's sleep. It can lift your mood and even heighten your sex drive - the list of benefits are endless! So why do we find it so hard to get off our backsides?!

With the nights drawing in, weather getting chillier and the opportunity to hide under a big fluffy jumper, is now a good time to start an exercise routine?!

I'll let you into a little secret... There will never be a good time, a right time - the BEST time is NOW! We can already hear the excuses, stop right there and instead give yourself permission to lead a healthier happier lifestyle, you won't regret the benefits to feeling and being more functional.

At the end of the day age is a number, it's your functionality that ages you. When your body stops allowing you to achieve things is when we feel old.

Motivated to move? Ok, so now we need to get it done! Here are some top tips on creating a habit to exercise:

- ▶ *Have a goal. This needs to be specific, timely and achievable to you - e.g. walk/jog a local park run by the end of January.*
- ▶ *Set up a process to achieve that goal. The difference between being successful or unsuccessful at your goal is creating a system to get you there. So, how will you start -for example, begin couch to 5k, or go for a 15 minute walk?*
- ▶ *Make the process a habit, exactly like you do when you brush your teeth. Processes need clarity, not motivation. As with an appointment, schedule your process into your week - e.g. I will run on Monday at 9am after I have dropped the kids to school. Actually make an appointment with yourself.*

Fitagain are running a free workshop at their private gym in Colyton on 7th December, 10-11am, exploring the topic of creating habits and becoming disciplined. Alongside an inspiring talk and presentation, worksheets will help you to create healthy habits moving forward, allowing you to come away with direction and focus.

If you would like to book a space please contact the gym directly.

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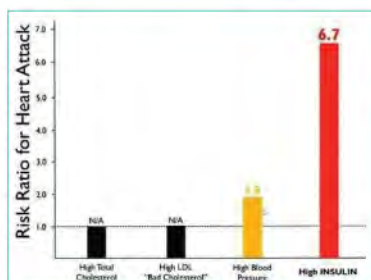
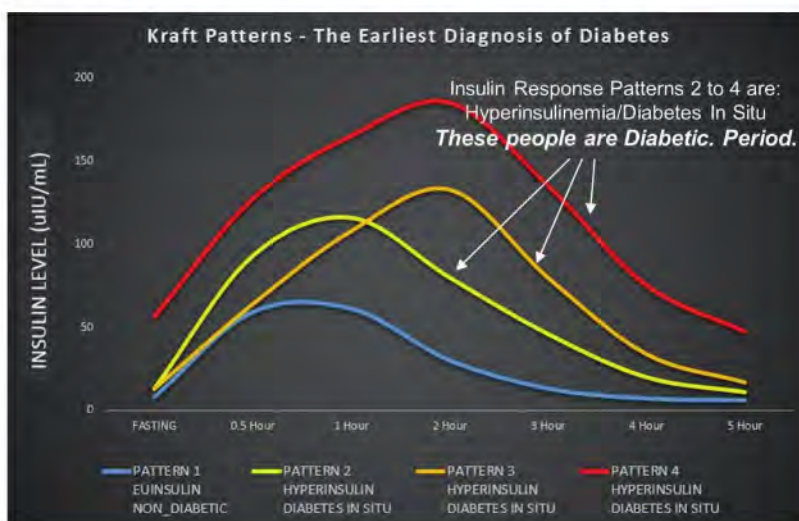


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This high level of insulin has been implicated in hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and fatty liver disease as well as neurodegenerative disease, and infertility in women (PCOS) and men (erectile dysfunction).

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Stop Believing Silly Sayings

by Jude Daidson

There are some sayings that are destroying our dogs' social wellbeing and leading our nation to becoming inept and irresponsible when it comes to a simple dog walk and I'm going to talk you through a couple of them and explain why we need to change our views.

Dogs are dogs, let them get on with it.

I normally hear this from dog owners who don't really know about the etiquette that is involved with meeting another strange dog and who usually don't have very good control over them; they see this is the perfect excuse to let their dogs do what they want, leading to other people's dogs 'having to teach them a lesson'. It is not ok that a dog is having to react because an owner lacks control, it is encouraging another person's dog to become aggressive which is not fair. Dogs look to us for protection and guidance so do it.

Canine communication is really important between dogs and expressing their displeasure is essential - yes, even growling. Never punish a growl! it is really important to step in and control a situation that could cause distress, serious reaction, nervousness or even over excitement. Especially if your dog is looking at you asking you for help.

My response to this is, "it depends what you want from your dog. Do you want a domesticated, well trained, pet dog or a wild animal?"

Would you let two toddlers bash the hell out of each other or would you teach them some manners and how to behave around each other? Dogs have entered our world and if they aren't trained, treated fairly and with respect they can easily turn nasty, resulting in the demonisation of certain breeds, an increase in dog attack statistics and the eventual banning of off lead dogs.

The Covid outbreak has seen a massive increase in dog attacks, with 16,400 reported in 2018 compared to 22,000 in 2022. This is due to various reasons, but the main one being new dog owners not being able or willing to use a puppy or dog trainer. Understanding that our dogs don't need to be bombarded with relentlessly meeting strange dogs whether friendly or unfriendly is a toll and your dog will be much safer, happier and calmer having a really good group of dog friends that they know well. Our vets tell us that we need to socialise our dogs but many don't tell us how to do that properly.

Most dogs are actually quite nervous of meeting new dogs and a head to head meeting can be confrontational even if nothing happens. High wagging tails aren't always a sign of happy, playful and good intent. This is a sign of high arousal and excitement, which can go one of two ways. Watch out for the stiffening of the bodies as that is a clear signal of 'you'd better not start anything!' Most dogs will take this signal as a warning and turn their head away, lower their head and back off slowly. If your dog is doing this then they are being a bully or demonstrating that they are fearful and want the dog to go away. You should discourage meeting strange dogs in this manner and divert their attention away from saying hello.

"It's alright my dog is friendly"

There is a culture in the dog community that dogs should be friendly and if they're not then they should be the ones muzzled, on the lead and kept under strict control. Most of these owners do but for them entering a dog park or where there are a lot of



dog walkers becomes a massive NO NO because for them being approached and having an off lead (normally friendly) dog bounding up to them is terrifying! For that dog, their fight, flight and freeze response is left with only fight or freeze. This is a trauma response and perpetuates many dogs reacting whilst on the lead. So this is the fundamental reason why you shouldn't let your off lead dog approach any on lead dog. BE RESPECTFUL!!!

The law states that you have to have good control of an off lead dog and by believing the nonsense in the quote above leads to a culture of blasé control, self centred belief systems that warrant your lack of training and puts enormous strain on ALL of our dogs' safety and mental well-being.

Devon Country Council has a rule stating that if someone asks you to put your dog on a lead then you must do so.

The reason so many dog owners lack control is because of dog play. I'm not saying dog play is a bad thing, it can be brilliant provided you put the training in place first. Dog play with friends they know well, well matched and controlled, is brilliant but the moment you can't recall your dog away from that play, the moment you can't turn their attention back on to you by being the better option and the moment your dog becomes dog-obsessed is the moment you need to stop it and work on your interactions because this will lead into other unwanted behaviours too; allowing your dog to get away with what they want will improve their inability to listen because they see no value in you.

I'd like to see a culture of dog owners respecting other people's dogs as potentially nervous or aggressive and having full control to the point that their dog doesn't want to run off to say hello, doesn't want to play with other dogs because they get that from their owner and isn't interested because their high value playmate is YOU and they want to do exactly what you're doing. That isn't an antisocial dog, it's a very well socialised dog who sees no value in other dogs and is no threat at all. This is the only way we will stop an off lead dog ban in the UK and, I promise, that will come eventually like the rest of Europe.

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Did you know that just a short way from the town centre you will find St Michael's Day Centre where the Honiton 55+ (CIO) meet every Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9am to 4pm?

Honiton 55+, which is run by specially trained staff and volunteers, provides a warm and welcoming environment. It is accredited by Devon County Council and is affiliated to the TRIP Community. The aim is to help clients feel engaged, relaxed, accepted and well fed. At the end of the afternoon, they can go home with a smile on their face to a carer who can relax knowing that they have been in safe hands.



It is a lovely space where clients can meet friends, chat and reminisce, enjoy fun activities, and eat some delicious food prepared in the on-site kitchen. The kitchen also provides a meals-on-wheels service. Activities include crafts and games, singalongs and musical entertainment, physical exercise, and trips out. There is a peaceful, secluded courtyard garden where BBQs are held in the warmer months. Key to the environment are the friendly staff and volunteers who have time to support and encourage everyone to make the most of their time at the centre.

Your options (booking is essential): a full day (7 hrs inc lunch) £40.50; a half day (3.5 hrs inc lunch) £30.50.

Would you like to come along for a Taster Day which is charged at £8?

Or, how about coming along to a Christmas Party with a full Christmas lunch on 18th or 21st December?

Devon County Council may pay part or all of the costs, subject to assessment.

Contact the friendly team for booking or advice at St Michael's Day Centre, Orchard Way, Honiton EX14 1HU or telephone 01404 43545 or email honiton55@btconnect.com

View of Dumpdon Hill in the mist from Roundball Hill



Local Groups Raise Funds For Charity

Honiton Running Club Support Macmillan Cancer Support



Honiton Running Club members were proud to wear their striking new club kit, designed by Maicey Bennett, when the club presented Macmillan Cancer Support with a cheque for £5,854 in September. The club is keen to continue its support of this charity as it does an amazing job of supporting cancer patients, as well as their families, with all money raised locally staying local. The money was raised from two club-organised runs in 2023: the Blackdown Beast, in January, and the Blackdown Beauty, in July. They were devised by club members, including Alan Nicholls, after the sad demise of the Axe Valley Runners' Midsummer Dream and are extremely popular, with entrants coming from far afield.

During the 20 mile (or 10 mile) self-navigated scramble over fields, along tracks, across streams and through plenty of mud, runners are treated to delicious hot pasties and mulled wine in January and a wonderful cream tea in summer, all provided by the ladies of Smeatharpe WI. With usually over 200 runners taking part in each event, over £25,000 has been raised for Macmillan Cancer Support since 2009.

The club's popular Honiton Hippo, a tough 7 mile run through rivers, up challenging hills and, yes, with plenty of mud, took place on 1st October. A huge team of marshals guided runners, helping them to navigate the muddy tracks of the Land Rover Experience in Awliscombe and hauling soaking runners from the River Otter. The men's race was won by George Pemberton, closely followed by his father, Richard. George was delighted to be awarded a trophy, but had to decline the cider as he was too young! The women's race was won by Amy Jones, closely followed by Carla Tuncliffe.



On October 8th, over 50 members of the club will set out on a coach to Salisbury Racecourse to take part in the Race the Chase event. Club colours will be highly visible around the course as runners tackle the 10K, the Half Marathon and the Marathon races. Members will enjoy picnics after their runs as they cheer fellow club runners over the finish line.

Jennie Sleeman



Yarcombe and District Young Farmers Support Hospiscare

At their recent AGM, Yarcombe and District Young Farmers presented a cheque for £15,492 to Hospiscare.

This huge amount of money raised can help fund the following:

- 70 visits to patients in the community by our specialist nurses to keep patient out of hospital at home where they want to be with those they love
- 11 days of specialist care on our 24 hour ward at the Hospice (Searle House) where families can stay at their bedside and where pets can visit
- Purchase of a Hi-Lo specialist bed and mattress to keep patients comfortable

At Hospiscare, we firmly believe that every individual deserves to experience love, comfort, and dignity in their final days. We strive to provide the best possible care and support to those facing life-limiting illnesses, and we couldn't achieve this without the support of our local community.

All your fundraising events and activities from tractor runs to cream teas were so successful and such a creative way to raise awareness and funds for Hospiscare.



I want to take a moment to express our sincere thanks to you all and all your farming friends and family who have helped and supported you along the way..... From donating raffle prizes, baking cakes and scones, the farmers who have loaned you their land, to all the members who worked tirelessly helping set up events and packing away, helping to raise such an incredible amount we are for ever grateful !

Such an inspirational group, you are all very special to us here at Hospiscare.

Toni Hiscocks



Around & About In Our Community

Hospiscare Seeking Volunteers For Honiton Charity Shop

Hospiscare is seeking volunteers to join both of its Honiton charity shops. The local hospice charity supports close to 2,500 patients and families living with terminal illnesses across the heart of Devon every year and charity shops play a big part raising funds for the services provided to patients and their families.

Barbara is a volunteer for Hospiscare and explains, "Hospiscare are there for everyone when they need it and I have experienced the importance of that. That's why I choose to volunteer and support Hospiscare!"

Volunteering is a great way to learn new skills, boost your confidence, make new friends and be part of a team, build your CV, advance your experience and skill set and keep your brain active; as well as giving back to your community and supporting local end-of-life care.

Abbie Summers, Manager at Hospiscare in Honiton, says, "Hospiscare is such a rewarding place to work and we're lucky to have an amazing and welcoming team here in our Honiton shop – we wouldn't be here without them. Our volunteers enjoy supporting Hospiscare's important work and helping to generate vital income, as well as being at the heart of the community, meeting new people getting to know the regulars!"

Shop volunteers enjoy a varied role and duties can include serving customers, operating the till, creating window displays, sorting donations, preparing clothing for sale, identifying items for our online shop, replenishing stock and promoting Hospiscare's lottery.

As well as shop volunteers, Hospiscare is seeking electrical department volunteers if you have the skills needed for this specialist role.

As a volunteer, you will be helping to generate essential income to maintain Hospiscare services for local patients and their families.



If you are interested in volunteering, visit
hospiscare.co.uk/volunteer to find out more and apply online, or pop into your local shop

Broadhembury Repair Cafe

Repair, Swap, Recycle your small electricals at our next Broadhembury Repair Cafe 4th November 10am-1pm Broadhembury Memorial Hall.

Did you know '471 million cheap electricals end up in UK landfill every year', says the Material Focus Research Group. With a new electrical item being purchased every 16 seconds, many remain as unused clutter in UK homes. The component parts contain valuable metals that can be recycled.

Bring your small electrical items along, fans, mobiles, radios, clocks, USB sticks (without data), unwanted electrical leads. We can test whether they are safe and working, you can swap or leave your items for recycling

Also featuring the usual cake and refreshments, bacon rolls and toy swap. All Welcome.

Honiton Camera Club

Honiton Camera Club recently ran a couple of portrait sessions for its members. The first was outside at the Exeter Quay and the second was at the Methodist church hall where we meet every second Friday. Both sessions were with professional models, as this tends to give better results, especially with people who don't take a lot of portraits.

The session at the Quay was with Darcy Sophia and we had the theme of street fashion. Doing portraits outside allows you to include elements from the surroundings such as walls, railings, seats and with the quay a bridge! You do need to be aware of the public and often have to wait for people to walk by. Or sometimes they want to be in shot, as happened with one young passer by.



Claire Fry



With indoor portraits you are much more in control as you provide the light and in this case a background suspended from a piece of wood. Our model, Antonia, was much more stationary as the theme of the evening was close up portraits.

It's interesting always to see how given the same subject our

members are able to create so many different photos. Some simple, some very creative, but always to a high standard.

The Club meets at the Methodist Church, Chapel Street fortnightly, on Friday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm from mid-September to the end of May.

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

Subscriptions: Member £45; Joint membership £80; Student (16-18) £15; Remote member: £25

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

<https://honitoncamera.club>

Around & About In Our Community

New Manager & Curator at THG

Gemma Girvan has been appointed as the new Manager and Curator at Thelma Hulbert Gallery (THG) in Honiton, taking over from Ruth Gooding who has left the gallery after four very successful years.

Gemma will be well known to many of you as she has worked at the gallery since 2014, managing the gallery sales and curating the Present Makers exhibitions, she previously worked at TATE galleries in London.



Honiton Carers had an extremely enjoyable afternoon on Wednesday 11th October making their own name badges. Gary from Open Arms volunteered to bring his very efficient badge making machine to our group to complete the badges for us once

designed. What a fabulous result. They were really good, very professional looking and great fun to make. We would like to thank Gary for his time and donated materials.

The New Co-op Pioneer for Honiton & Sidmouth, Ruth French, also attended and enjoyed making some badges herself. She mixed with the carers and told Gary and me a bit more about what she is able to offer to support voluntary groups like ours in the community. We have been lucky enough to be one of the Co-op's chosen charities for year 2022/23 which ends on 21st October. We look forward to the cheque presentation in November when we will meet up with Ruth again. Thank you Ruth for attending today it was lovely meeting you and we wish you luck and enjoyment in your new challenge as a Members Pioneer.



Combe Raleigh Chair Celebrates His 80th Birthday



Brian Churchill, pictured here with his wife Kay, moved to Higher Crook Farm in Combe Raleigh from Luppitt in 1956. Since then, apart from a short time in Cornwall, Brian and Kay have had a busy and varied life developing the farm, raising their family which now includes two great-grandsons, and contributing to community life in the small village.

Now semi-retired, Brian continues to be busy as Chair of the Parish Meeting and of the Village Hall Committee. He says "If I didn't enjoy it, I wouldn't do it." He is instrumental in trying to keep old traditions alive in the village such as the Village Fun Day and the Harvest Lunch. He is proud to live in Combe Raleigh where, he says, he has wonderful memories of so many lovely people over the years.

Heloise Celebrates Success In Award For Clerks

Honiton Town Council Deputy Clerk Heloise Marlow was surprised by a beautiful bouquet of flowers presented to her by Mayor Helen Hurford to congratulate her on the successful completion of her CiLCA award.

The CiLCA (Certificate in Local Council Administration) is a Level 3 qualification and is gained over many months after attending training and putting together a portfolio of work across 30 activities necessary for a Clerk to understand, including law, finance and procedures, and is recommended for all people wishing to do the work of a parish or town clerk.



Around & About In Our Community



The Arts Society

Dame Laura Knight RA was an artist and a pioneer who paved the way for much greater acceptance of women in the world of art.

Born in 1877, she had a tough childhood. Her father left home when she was a baby; the family business – Nottingham lace – was in decline because of cheap foreign imports. When her mother had a nervous breakdown she was sent to relatives in France. On returning home, she enrolled in the Nottingham School of Art where she met her future husband, Harold Knight. When her mother died of cancer she became the family breadwinner. Harold and Laura visited Staithes, a fishing village in Yorkshire where, short

of money, she couldn't afford oils but drew the fisher and farming folk showing their poverty and hardship.

After moving to Newlyn in 1913, she raised eyebrows with *Self Portrait with Nude* which shows her painting a nude female model. This was a first for a woman artist as, at the time, female students were restricted to painting nude models from plaster casts or copying drawings. The Daily Telegraph described it as 'vulgar' and it was rejected by the Royal Academy for exhibition.

During WWI, she continued to paint outside but was fearful of being arrested because artists had to have a warrant to paint otherwise they would be regarded as spies. She was asked to paint different aspects of WWII including three portraits of women who had won medals for bravery. She was also an official war artist at the Nuremburg trials. After the war, she went backstage to do portraits including Paul Schofield in *'The Winter's Tale'*. In the years that followed she found inspiration in the Malvern Hills; print and ceramic making; life in the circus especially the clowns; and the life of gypsies telling fortunes at the races.

Thanks to her success, attitudes to women painters and their status as artists changed. In 1929 she was created a Dame, and she was the first woman to be elected as a full Academician of the Royal Academy. Her retrospective exhibition in 1965 at the Academy was the first for a woman. She died in 1970.

The Arts Society Honiton meets at the Beehive in Dowell Street on the second Tuesday of the month, from October to June, at 2pm. Visitors are always welcome and can pay on the door. Their full programme can be seen on their website: theartsocietyhoniton.org.uk. The next lecture, *Pots and Frocks: The World of Grayson Perry*, is on Tuesday 14th November.



Members of Otter Valley Rotary recently acted as Quizmasters/mistresses at the bi-annual Quiz organised by Dawlish Water Rotary Club to raise money to support local organisations and individuals. Rotary Clubs across South and East Devon take part and host the quiz at pubs and sports clubs.

In our area the quizzes took place at the Six Bells, Payhembury; Nog Inn, Feniton; the London Inn, Ottery St Mary; Ottery Cricket Club; Ottery Bowling Club; and the Royal British Legion at West Hill.

The Club has distributed a large number of crocus bulbs to a number of local organisations, including Honiton Primary School. We look forward to seeing them in bloom during next Spring.

Members of the Club have done charity collections at Tesco in Honiton and Sainsburys in Ottery for the victims of recent international disasters. A big thank you to everyone who donated, we raised over £1500 to send to the disaster funds.

We will be supporting the Tar Barrels as usual, by selling programmes by the church and running the Bar and selling programmes near the bottom of Millcroft. Please support us and the event by buying a programme and a drink!



The Club members meet weekly for a meal and fellowship, on Tuesday evenings, at the Tumbling Weir Hotel in Ottery St Mary and if you are interested in joining us please contact our Secretary, David Incoll at d.incoll@live.co.uk.

Around & About In Our Community



Well readers here we are in November, and at the time of writing we have not yet had our October meeting so please excuse the lack of information.

After reading the October magazine, I was sad to read this could be my penultimate report to you all if volunteers are not found to help run the magazine. It's the same old story, the same with the Lions Club. If it ends people will say how sad we no longer have a local magazine or a local Lions Club, they all put in such good work for the community so please volunteer and help and remember once it's gone it's gone.

Our draw concluded at The Otter Inn on 24th September raising in excess of £2,500 for local community charities; we will be distributing some of the money in our October meeting and I will report next month. If your organisation needs help, please contact me by email and I will raise it for discussion in our December meeting. The winning numbers were 325,2554,975,2565,1853,1623,2910,2602,1337,1154 and 689. The winners have all been informed. A full list of winners is available on request. Thank you to all our sponsors mentioned in the September magazine once again.



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

Broadhembury and District Gardening Club

Are you a keen gardener or interested in learning more about gardening? Or maybe you're someone who enjoys an evening out with a good speaker, friendly company and a cuppa and cake?

If so, we'd love to welcome you to Broadhembury and District Gardening Club, where visitors and members meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the beautiful Broadhembury Memorial Hall. Meetings start at 7.30pm and the speakers are varied and interesting. The talk usually lasts around an hour, and then we enjoy cakes, tea and coffee and friendly chat. There is also a garden themed raffle each month with great prizes to be won.

Our next meeting takes places on Wednesday 1 November, when Becca Flintham will be talking about, 'Water, water Everywhere', which seems very topical!

Previous speakers have covered topics such as gardening for wildlife, preserving your harvest, and behind the scenes at Chelsea Flower Show.

The cost is usually £2 a meeting for visitors, plus a voluntary contribution for tea and cakes. Very occasionally we charge a little more when special refreshments are included, such as wine and mince pies at Christmas. Joining as a member is great value at just £10 a year, which includes entrance to all meetings. Broadhembury Memorial Hall is a couple of minutes' drive off the A373 and has plenty of parking, an electric car charging point, level access and an accessible toilet.

For more information or to join our mailing list, please contact broadhemburygardenclub@btinternet.com

East Devon For A Fairer World Group

Even a little action can make a difference...Plant a tree...or 10..!

On Friday 17th March most of the members of East Devon for a Fairer World group planted 10 small saplings on a friend's farm near Honiton. Why did we do this??

Go back to September 2022. Our independent group (which has been meeting in Honiton since 2016 looking at issues of global justice such as Fair Trade and Climate Change) decided to buy some sapling trees to commemorate the Queen and to make a (very) small action to combat climate change. We collect £1 per member per monthly meeting and wanted to use some of this to pay for some saplings.

We contacted the local council, East Devon Council, Devon County Council, the National Trust and the Woodland Trust. None of these could easily use the small number of trees we could afford to buy. And then our friend Paul, who has already planted over 2,000 trees on his farm, said he would be delighted to give our trees a home and would look after them for us!

The two photos show some of the group in March planting some of our 10 saplings, and then again of the group with the growing saplings in August this year.





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