

The

HONITON

Flyer

GRATIS

SPRING 2026

THE FREE AREA GUIDE ABOUT HONITON FOR HONITON
PRODUCED QUARTERLY: SPRING • SUMMER • AUTUMN • WINTER



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Welcome to The Honiton Flyer for Spring 2026



This edition brings you a great selection of local businesses to help you around your home and garden; for shopping essentials and luxuries; for eating out, personal care, pet care, motoring and travel.

Please support our advertisers, I am sure they will give you great value and service.

On **Page 6** see our index to advertisers. On **Pages 8 & 9** we took an early spring walk around Broadhembury. This is a loop and takes about an hour to complete.

What's on at The Beehive? Check out **Page 12**. Honiton Lions Club bring us their news on **Page 14**. We have a "photo-quiz" on **Page 18**. Test your knowledge of local points of interest!

Our useful maps of Honiton Town and the EX14 postcode are across **Pages 20 & 21**. Being a rural area, urgent medical assistance can take time arriving, so the network of DEFIBRILLATORS in the area are a vital first-line of support. As you will see from our maps, you are never far from a defibrillator in EX14!

Local historian Terry Darrant has an interesting history of Honiton gasworks on **Page 26**.

The Royal British Legion are asking for your support on **Page 32**. On **Page 33** Broadhembury PTFA announce their AGM on Monday 27th April. This meeting is very important for parents and pupils at Broadhembury Church of England Primary School.

On **Page 36** we have our Sudoku quiz, and details of how to book an advert for our next edition for Summer 2026.

Finally on **Page 37**, Honiton Hill Rally proudly announce their annual show and auction of collectables, to be held over August Bank Holiday at Smeatharpe.

With best wishes for the spring months,

Anthony Bucke EDITOR

Friday 3rd April 2026.

Email: honiton@theantiquetourist.com



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A Walk Around Broadhembury



Broadhembury village shop and Post Office

THIS QUINTESSENTIALLY BRITISH VILLAGE LIES IN A “BOWL” BELOW THE ESCARPMENT BETWEEN NORTH HILL, DUNKESWELL TURBURY AND HEMBURY HILL FORT.

Thatched cottages, colour-washed in matching “eau-de nil”, a Post Office Stores, and the legendary Drewe Arms, all clustered around the Village Square. Higher up, the village school; lower down the village bridge over the River Tale, with accompanying “ford”. Unfortunately the day of our visit was “early closing” for the Post Office Stores.

We started our walk in the village square, then downhill to the bridge (and ford). Cross the

bridge, then immediately right, thus avoiding the ford. Immediately on your left is the village playground. Follow the lane around to the left, then climb to The Commons. This is obviously another ancient settlement, chosen to catch all the available sun! Here there is an opportunity to take the footpath on the left, across fields to reach the woods beneath North Hill. We chose to continue the gentle climb on the road, then on towards “Long go Lane”. Truly - that is the name on our OS Map!



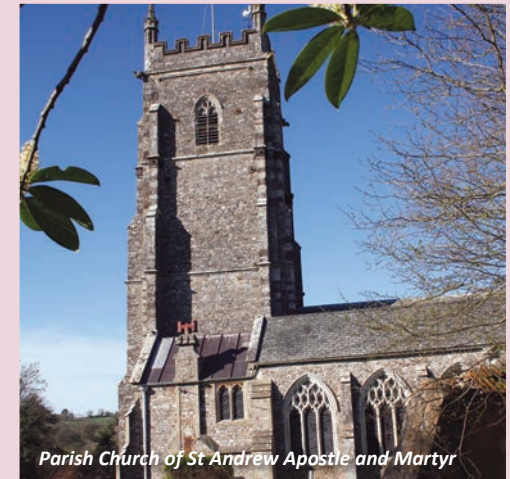
North Hill and The Devon & Somerset Gliding Club



A thatched cottage at The Commons



Fairies in the tree roots



Parish Church of St Andrew Apostle and Martyr

Past Marl pits Copse, the lane became rather “messy” from flooding and farm traffic. We persevered and soon gained dry stone beneath our feet. Enjoy sweeping views to your right across the valley towards Stafford Barton, and Hembury Hillfort, whilst the heights of North Hill and the Gliding Club rise on your left. At the T junction turn right. The road surface remained easy-walking flints and compacted stone – a farm track. Drop down to a ford, then straight ahead past Hanger Lane, with signs pointing back to “TALE HEAD”. Obviously here we are at the source of the River Tale.

Beyond here we encountered some “fairy” figures sheltering in the tree roots on the left. Pass Cockspark Lane towards Lane End Farm and finally Ridge Farm. After Ridge Farm

the road is truly tarmac. Fork right to return into Broadhembury, not forgetting a visit to the village church of St Andrew Apostle and Martyr, and a quiet drink in The Drewe Arms.

Distance: Circa 3 miles.

Time: 1 hour plus time in the church and village.

Difficulty: Gentle, easy.

Mobility Scooters & Pushchairs: Probably not.

Dogs: Yes, but always on leads.

OS Map, Explorer 115 Exmouth and Sidmouth

DATE OF WALK. March 2026.



SPRING TIME AT THE DREWE ARMS

Rob, Nat, Rebecca, Austin and their team are looking forward to welcoming you to The Drewe Arms!

The Drewe is a 16th Century building, with all its beautiful and quirky features you would expect to find in a pub of its age. It is nestled in the Blackdown Hills, an area of outstanding natural beauty. The village itself is a beautiful chocolate box village vibrant with a wonderful friendly atmosphere.

Whether you choose to settle in by the wood-burning stove, which casts a gentle warm bonhomie to all or, if the weather is kind, out into the expansive garden where the patio and grassed areas sport chunky tables and benches, you are sure to find a spot to relax and enjoy the occasion.

Join us this spring for **quiz, game nights & curry evenings**. Enjoy our new seasonal menu and keep an eye on our social media for upcoming events.



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HONITON LIONS CLUB

COMMUNITY IMPACT & ACTIVITIES REPORT

The Honiton Lions Club has concluded a highly productive period characterized by the expansion of its membership, significant charitable distributions, and the preparation of vital community health initiatives.

MEMBERSHIP AND SOCIAL ENGAGEMENTS

The club continues to strengthen its dedicated team, officially welcoming Richard Meads into its ranks this February. Beyond internal growth, the club remains active in the wider Lions network. Plans are currently underway for members to attend the 50th Charter Anniversaries for both the Sidmouth and Ilminster Lions clubs, fostering continued regional cooperation.

Financial Contributions and Community Support

Demonstrating a profound commitment to local welfare, the Honiton Lions have approved and processed substantial grants totalling £5,000 to support health and community services.

MAJOR GRANTS AND RECENT DONATIONS:

- Devon in Sight: Received a grant of £2,000 to support their essential work with the visually impaired.
- Hospiscare: Awarded a £1,000 grant, supplemented by a £100 donation for Dave Rickard's sponsored walk.

- FORCE Cancer Charity: Received a £1,000 donation to assist in providing regional care.
- Motor Neurone Disease Association (MND): Received £1,000.
- ELF (Exeter Leukaemia Fund): Awarded a grant of £1,000.
- Local Groups: Smaller but vital donations were made to the Dunkeswell Lunch Club (£100) and the Dunkeswell Dog Walk (£100).

We also recently highlighted immediate assistance for specific local needs, including £250 each for the Honiton Swimming Club and Twin Tigers, and £100 to assist a resident in Jerrards Crescent with garden maintenance. Additionally, the club continues its practical recycling efforts, collecting spectacles from the Ottery St Mary Library and receiving several boxes from Seaton Lions.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING

Two major events are on the horizon to drive future charitable efforts:



1. **Mole Screening Day:** Took place Saturday, 18th April at The Mackarness Hall, Honiton. This walk-in service (9 am–1 pm) featured Dr. Tony Downs, Consultant Dermatologist. Patients contribute £5, which the Lions will match, with all proceeds donated to Cancer Research UK.

2. **2026 Annual Draw:** Tickets are currently in print, supported by a diverse range of local sponsors including MKM, Blampayne Sawmills, and Heathpark Garage.

Looking further ahead, the club is preparing for Market Charter Day and the Classic Car Show scheduled for Saturday, 18th July 2026.

As always if you would like to find out more about Lions Club International and in particular the Honiton Lions Club please give president Brian Richards a call on 01404 43738 or 07966173828 or brian.richards@honitonlions.org.uk

Visit our website for More information www.honitonlions.org.uk/

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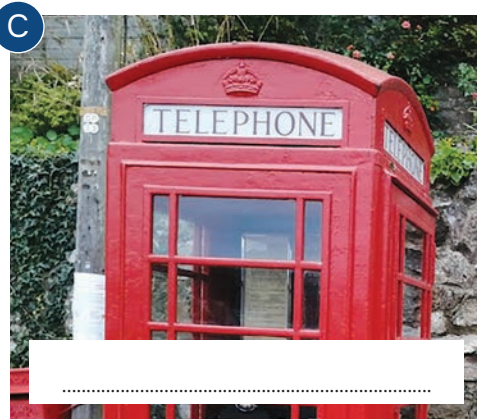
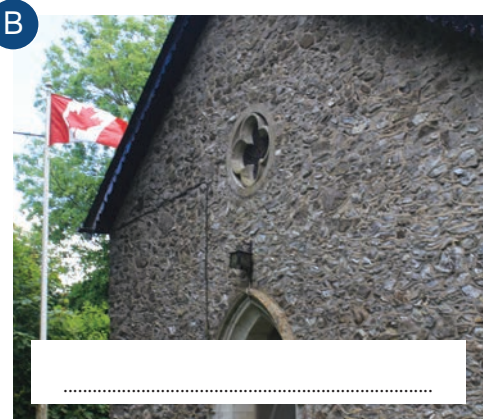
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Where am I in Honiton?

Think you know Honiton?

Take a look at these close-up photos from around the town and see if you can work out where each one was taken.

All images are from locations in and around Honiton – but they might not be as obvious as they seem...



C) Dunkeswell

E) Allhallows Museum, Honiton

B) Wolford Chapel

D) The Gissage, Honiton

Answers

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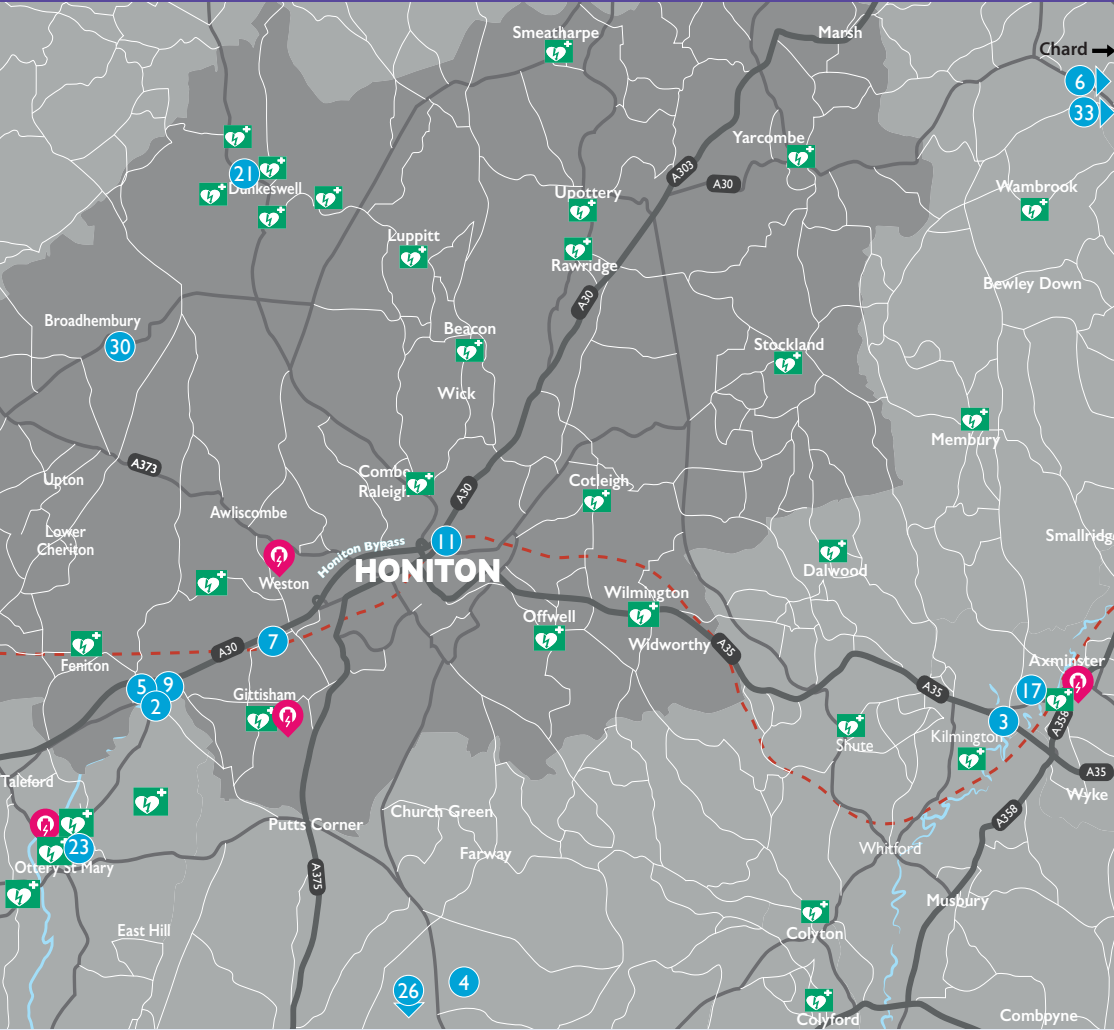
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As the Victorian era progressed, the economics of gas reflected the shifting demands of the public. By 1850, the product was supplied at nine shillings per 1,000 cubic feet, though the Board of Directors—led by prominent local figures such as Thomas Avery, William Woodgates, John Murch, and Richard Tucker—capped the rate at seven shillings just three years later. The operational management of the site also evolved; in 1851, it was run by a live-in lessee who managed two men and a boy. A decade later, the staff included a manager, a stoker, and a twelve-year-old labourer, highlighting the intense human element behind the town's energy supply. By the 20th century, the company had become the Honiton Gas and Coke Co. Ltd, responsible for 63 street lamps and utilizing penny or shilling slot meters to bring gas into private residences.

The monopoly of gas was eventually challenged in 1930 when the East Devon Electricity Co. Ltd introduced a competing power source. To modernize a community still rooted in Victorian habits, an "attractive showroom" was established on the High Street. Here, cookery experts held Thursday afternoon demonstrations to showcase the efficiency of new electrical appliances, which were made accessible through hire-purchase schemes. This period of transition was followed by a massive administrative shift under the Gas Act of 1948, which nationalized over 1,000 independent companies. Honiton's works were absorbed into the South Western Gas Board, ending over a century of private local control.

Though the physical structures on King Street eventually vanished, the site's industrial legacy resurfaced in 1995. British Gas was forced to conduct an emergency excavation after contaminants from an eighteen-foot tar well—once used to store the by-products of coal gasification—began seeping into the Gissage. Much of the site today, the site just east of the King Street bridge stands vacant, serving as a quiet reminder of the era when Honiton first transitioned from the flickering light of the past into the age of modern utilities.

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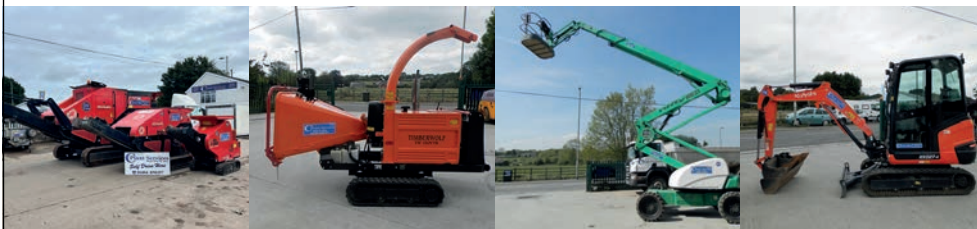
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Honiton Branch has been in existence for 105 years and has a busy calendar this year.

The Branch meets in The Conservative Club in Honiton on the second Wednesday of every month at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome and membership is not a requirement to join us for a meeting. So, to find out more come along and join us. We are also on the High Street on the last Saturday Morning of Every Month from March until October.

Our initial events planned for 2026 are:

Saturday 25th April 2026 09:30 – 15:00
Spring Craft Fair, Mackarness Hall & Church Forecourt, Honiton

Sunday 26th April 2026 11.00am
Legion Community Church Service at St. Pauls Church, Honiton

Saturday 30th May 2026 09:30am
Cake Stall and Information Point, War Memorial, Honiton

Saturday 27th June 2026 09.30am
Armed Forces Day and Information Point War Memorial, Honiton

See our facebook page for more information: www.facebook.com/groups/RBLHoniton/



Website: branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/honiton



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AGM
Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome.
Stay informed and get involved.

Monday 27th April 2026
7pm

Broadhembury Church of England Primary School, Broadhembury, EX14 3NF

Agenda overview | Apologies of absences
Chair report | Treasures report
Election of committee members
should no members be elected, the PTFA will unfortunately have to disband

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Hardy Motor Boat £10,400



Vanden Plas 1963 £35,500

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | | 9 | 2 | | | |
| 9 | 2 | | 3 | | | | | |
| | | | 5 | 8 | | 9 | 1 | |
| | | | | | 4 | 3 | | |
| | 3 | | 6 | | | 8 | | |
| | 5 | 7 | | | | | | |
| | 4 | 2 | | | | | | 1 |
| 1 | | | | 6 | 8 | | 9 | 5 |
| | | | 1 | | | | 8 | |

Level: **Easy**
 Date: _____
 Start time: _____
 Time to solve: _____

SUDOKU 2

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 9 | 8 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | 7 | 1 | | 5 | 9 | | |
| | | 3 | | | 4 | | | 5 |
| | 1 | 8 | | | | | 6 | |
| | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | | 5 | | | 7 | | | |
| | | | | 4 | 3 | | | 9 |
| 1 | | | 5 | | | 4 | | |

Level: **Hard**
 Date: _____
 Start time: _____
 Time to solve: _____

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| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 9 | 6 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 8 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 |
| 4 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| 2 | 3 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 4 |
| 6 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 | 9 |
| 3 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 8 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 7 |

SUDOKU 2
 SUDOKU 1



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