

GRATIS

The CHARD Flyer

WINTER 2025

THE **FREE TOWN GUIDE** ABOUT CHARD FOR CHARD
PRODUCED QUARTERLY: WINTER • SPRING • SUMMER • AUTUMN

**LOCAL NEWS
& PHOTOS**

REGULAR
CONTRIBUTORS

**LOCAL BUSINESSES
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LOCAL TOWN
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Welcome to our Winter 2025 CHARD FLYER.



The autumn is always a busy time, and we include details of the very successful Chard Carnival 2025. See our report and photos on **Pages 20 & 21**. There are more Chard Town events planned, so please read about Christmas Lights on **Pages 24, & 42**; on **Page 42** you will also find details of the Remembrance Sunday Service.

On **Page 12** our regular contributor Craig Hussey has more photos of "Old Chard". Our useful maps of Chard and surrounding areas are on **Pages 28 & 29**. Chard Rotary Club are back with club news on **Pages 32 & 33**. Chard Inner Wheel have their seasonal update on **Page 44**. Chard Community Hub in Boden Street offer support for families, new mums and carers "navigating life's ups and downs". Please read about their seasonal offerings on **Pages 46 & 47**.

Our advertisers are ready for the festive season! Are you? Planning on celebrating and eating out? Turkey and Christmas tree to order? Chimney sweep? Solid fuel? PC repairs? Boiler servicing? House maintenance, decorating or even an extension? You will find a great choice here in **The Chard Flyer**. Items to store? House moves and waste disposal? New flooring, curtains or TV for Christmas? Health and wellness, recliner chairs, personal care, mobile hairdresser? You will find all this and so much more here in **The Chard Flyer!**

Out and about in Chard, I have noticed major re-construction work at Chard Rugby Club pitch opposite the turning to "The Drift". No doubt in preparation for a great 2026 rugby season!

I hope you like our FRONT COVER photo - chainsaw carving of a barn owl and cocker-poo near Chard!

With best wishes to all our readers, contributors and advertisers, for
Christmas and the New Year 2026.

Anthony Bucke. EDITOR

Friday 24 October 2025.

Email: chard@theantiquetourist.com.



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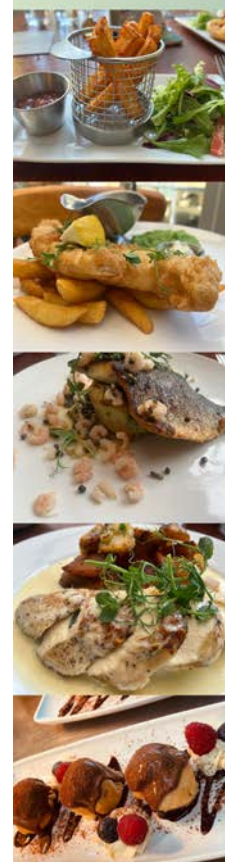
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Are you in your 50's?

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The bad news? There isn't any, but only if you take the time now to ensure your retirement plans are in the best shape possible.

When you've hit the Big 5-0, you'll most probably reached the peak of your career, and now thoughts of living out an epic retirement are filling your head.

Here's the catch. Many people either underestimate how much they've saved or avoid facing up to how much they will really need.

The most important step is being brave, and of course, organised!

A proactive person will always be the winner when it comes to their financial situation, over someone who drifts into retirement with their head in the sand.

Jenny Manders explains a recent situation with a local client. He assumed he would have to wait until 67, when his State Pension started, before he could retire. With six years still ahead, that felt like forever to him.

“ Instead of giving him bad news, we were able to give him a plan. By combining the retirement provision he'd already built with some smarter, tax-efficient planning and investment strategies, we created a clear, realistic view of his options. He's now stepped away from the 9-5 and spends much of his time enjoying the campervan he bought with part of his Tax-Free Cash. ”

For this client, the solution meant no more faffing. The client needed hard facts and clear, actionable steps to secure the lifestyle he dreamed of.

With new tax rules coming in 2027 under the Labour government, including changes to pensions and inheritance tax, it pays to get advice from the experts.

What next? Stop guessing your retirement date. Find out the real one. Speak to one of our team about what's possible and how to keep your plans both exciting and tax-efficient!

Our top tips for the over 50s:

- Aim to have 8 to 10 times your salary saved by age 60. This is a realistic target for a comfortable retirement.
- Ask yourself: When do I want to retire? What will I realistically need, and what do I want, once I get there? Keep your eye on the prize.
- Check your State Pension entitlement. You can still make voluntary contributions to top it up before retirement.
- Remember, pension contributions in your 50s still attract valuable tax relief. This is the perfect time to boost savings if you can.
- Look at smart investing strategies with advice that fits your situation.



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SJP Approved 19/9/2025

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Chard Carnival 2025

Chard Carnival week 2025 got off to a great start with “Carnival Royalty” lighting the beacon. In Town, businesses had “spot the wrong ‘un” shop window competition which took place all week. The fun fair arrived, and “Carnival Royalty” had great fun on many of the rides. Friday saw Carnival Bingo which everyone enjoyed. The main events took place on Saturday, when the carnival team volunteers started at 6am putting out cones and traffic management signs. Later the Children’s Carnival set off at midday.

The evening floats and entries lined up throughout the afternoon without any issues, and the Carnival Procession set off at 7.30pm, making its way through the town to what appeared to be one of the largest crowds seen for some years. The whole route was packed, and the atmosphere was amazing. All 82 entries made their way around the route and entertained the crowd. There were some amazing colourful carts as well as some fantastic walking entries and majorette troupes. This year also saw some



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new clubs and entries which is always great to see.

Carnival Chairman Cllr Jason Baker said-; “It looked like a record crowd lining the streets, the entries just seem to get better and better each year, and this is a credit to all of the members of clubs that work hard all year round. We thank all of the many sponsors and our main sponsor Devon Truck Show; without the support of so many businesses we would not be able to put on the event.

“As always we are looking for more people to help the committee and ensure that we can continue to keep running carnival in Chard for years

to come. The collection is still being verified with donations still be made online at chardcarnival.co.uk but is already well over £4k. Thank you everyone!”

CARNIVAL CLASS RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE on the website www.chardcarnival.co.uk.

Anthony Bucke Editor
The Chard Flyer

Photos kindly supplied by Neil Dopson at NDPhotography & Chard Carnival



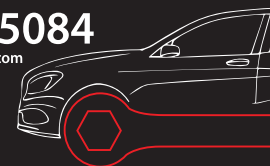
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CHARD CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 22ND NOVEMBER 2025

This event is organised by Chard Town Team, and traditionally takes place on the last Saturday in November.

The aim of the event is to put on a fun, family-friendly event for the town and increase footfall to local businesses.

The event comprises an evening street closure and Christmas street market in the centre of the town. Shops are encouraged to remain open into the early evening, for late night shopping.

Chard Guildhall will be

the centre of activities, and brightly decorated for the Festive Season. During the evening the Christmas Tree will be light by Chard Mayor Cllr Victoria Bates.

Records from previous years show that 300 - 400 additional visitors are attracted into the town during the evening. This gives businesses a great additional trading opportunity!

Road closures. Any disruption to traffic is always of concern to both Chard residents and Chard businesses. The Chard Flyer have had a

chat with Vice Chairman Jason Baker, who has confirmed the following:

"Fore Street, Chard will be closed from around 16.00hrs on Saturday 22nd November between Hays Travel and St Margarets Hospice Shop for street traders to set up their stalls. The full lighting up ceremony starts at 17.00, with local shops and street traders remaining open until late in the evening. Fore Street reopens for normal traffic at 21.00hrs."

**PLEASE COME
ALONG AND SUPPORT
THIS EVENT.**



The Mayor of Chard Cllr Victoria Bates (Centre), Mace Bearer Vivienne Cumming, and Town Cryer Stuart Cumming.



EVENT ORGANISERS

CHAIRMAN – **GARRY SHORTLAND** 07982 591025

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None of this would have been possible without Chard's continued support. It's quite some hurdle from driving just a few hundred miles a week when it all started, to over 1000 a week since the pandemic!

Chard Cabs are a pre-book service as well a flag down. Melissa (my wife) and I thank you all. You have all helped us to get to our 10th anniversary!"

Alan Blasdale Chard Cabs



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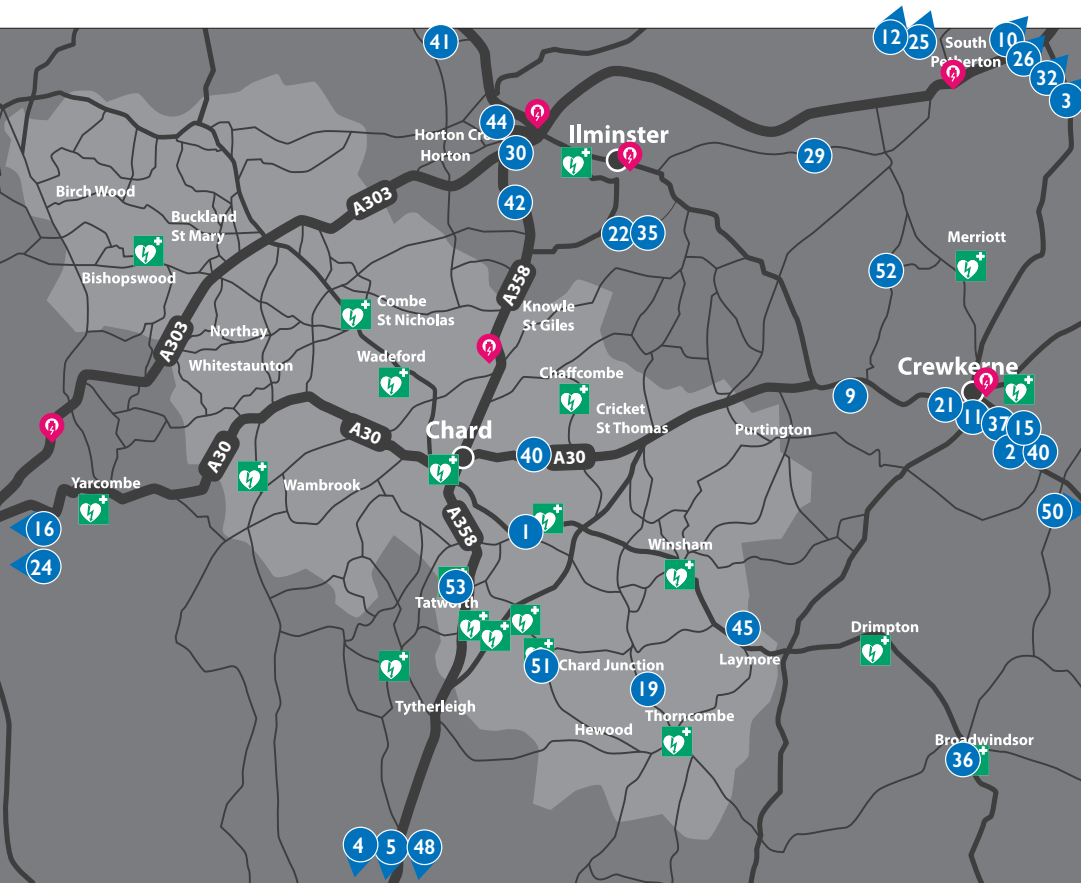
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Areas covered: Chard, Ilminster, Axminster, Seaton, Lyme Regis, Bridport and areas in between

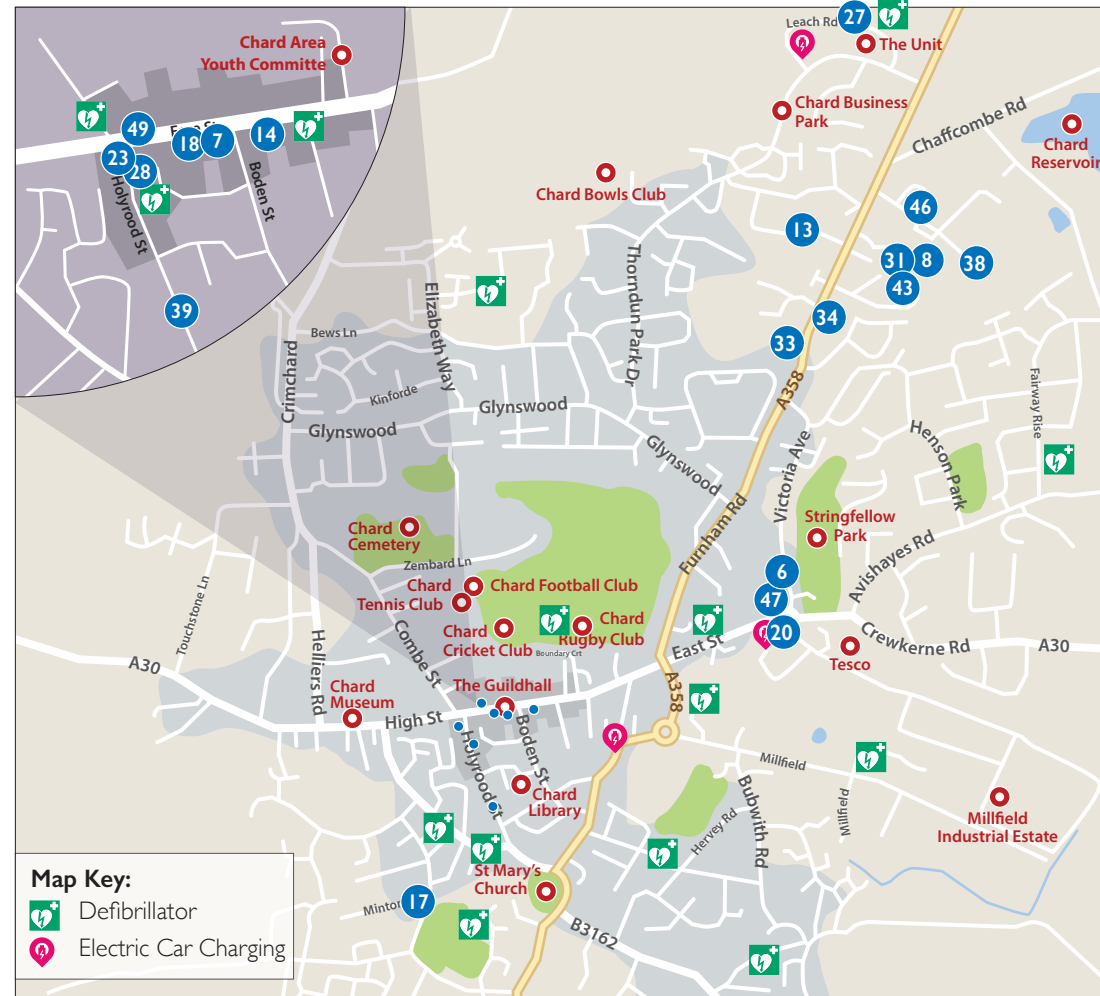


TA20 AREA MAP

CHARD TOWN MAP



- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Alpine Grove Woodland Park | 16. First Light Home Improvements | 30. Manders Financial Services |
| 2. Antiques Bazaar | | 31. O&H Removals |
| 3. AP Kitchens Ltd | 17. FMS & Co | 32. P&P Trade Windows & Doors Ltd |
| 4. Atkins Auctions | 18. Fonehouse | |
| 5. Axe Skip Hire Ltd | 19. Forde Abbey & Gardens | 33. Paul Frewen Motors |
| 6. Carbin Heating & Renewables Ltd | 20. GL Joinery Kitchens & Bedrooms | 34. PCS Furnishing Centre |
| 7. Chard Guildhall | 21. Gone Fishing | 35. PJ Autos |
| 8. Chard Self Storage | 22. H.B.Autobodies | 36. Record Vault |
| 9. Coombe Farm Sporting | 23. Health & Remedy | 37. Regency Care & Mobility |
| 10. Drapes Direct Ltd | 24. Honiton Hearing Centre | 38. SRL Accounting |
| 11. Ear Wax Removal Solutions | 25. HR Hodge | 39. Stephen Beswetherick Opticians |
| 12. East Lambrook Manor Gardens | 26. Kingfisher Carpets | 40. Stuff 2 Store |
| 13. EGF Carpets & Vinyls | 27. Lentells | 41. The Flying Fish |
| 14. Eleos Café | 28. Lily Caring Angels | 42. The George Inn Donyatt |
| 15. Elswoods Cleaning Supplies | 29. Loxstons Groundcare | 43. The Graphics Factory |



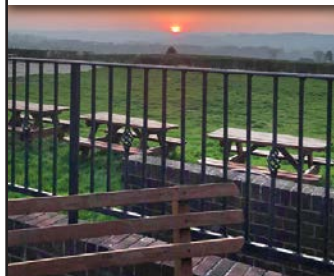
44. The Lace Knittery
45. The Squirrel Inn
46. Total Plumbing Supplies Ltd
47. TP Timber Products
48. WBW Solicitors
49. West Country Butchers
50. Winyard's Gap Inn
51. Yarcombe Coachworks
52. Yarcombe Woodland Products
53. Ye Olde Pope Inn

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NEWS FROM CHARD ROTARY CLUB



Well, summer is past and winter is fast approaching with dark nights and mornings so what has happened over the past few months and what do we have we planned to brighten the days ahead.

We were delighted to, once again, hold our **QuadKids Primary School Athletics Event**. This took place on Wednesday 11th June, at Holyrood Academy, and involved teams from Buckland St. Mary, Chard, Tatworth, Combe St Nicholas, Herne View, Manor Court and Redstart Schools. Following an afternoon of intense, but friendly competition the successful school was Herne View and they were presented with the winners trophy by Club President Richard Harris. Chard Rotary would like to thank everyone who took part, especially the staff and pupils of Holyrood Academy without whose help the event would not have been possible.



Dick Arnold

a charity with over 50 years of experience helping people in disadvantaged areas escape from poverty. At the ripe young age of 91, **Dicks' efforts raised over £4500 for the charity**, and goes to show that you don't have to be a spring chicken to take on physical tasks such as this.

We were also very pleased to induct a **new member into the Club, Cath Morrison**. Cath, who has a long history of working for the benefit of the residents of Chard, both as a local councillor and with the Chard Hub, will be a valuable addition to our membership.



New Member, Cath Morrison

July 1st saw the passing on of the baton for running the Club from outgoing President Richard Harris to incoming President Barry Gibbs. Richard has moved the Club in new directions over the past year, and we are sure that Barry will continue this trend, particularly as we will be celebrating our **80th Anniversary as a Rotary Club** in November. That's right, Chard Rotary Club has been active in your community for the past 80 years, having been chartered on 7th November 1945. In that time we have been involved in many projects, some of which have finished and some of which continue to this day, notably the Chard Hospital League of Friends and Chard Talking Newspaper for the visually challenged, albeit both of these now operate as stand alone organisations. It has been a privilege to serve the community of Chard over this period and we hope to continue to do so for many years to come. However, to achieve this we need a vibrant and active membership so, if you feel that supporting the people of Chard is something you would be interested in doing please contact us via the email address below.



Welcoming new president Barry Gibbs

We will be celebrating this important occasion with a **Murder Mystery Evening at Hornsbury Mill on Sunday 9th November**, but more of this in our next report in the Spring edition.

Of course, we are now moving towards the Christmas period and all the activities associate with this joyous season. We will holding our usual **Carols by Candlelight Service** in St. Mary's Church. This will take place on **Thursday 11th December** and will, this year, feature the children of Avishayes School. We hope that you will join us for what will be a joyful evening, so watch out for further information in local businesses. You will also find us Carol Singing at Tesco in the weeks leading up to Christmas so please feel free to come and speak to us to find out more about Rotary, and of course we would welcome any donations towards our work in the local area and further afield.



QuadKids Primary School Athletics Event

During the summer, one of our members, Dick Arnold, took part in an abseil, down the side of a disused quarry at the Mendip Activity Centre, to raise funds for Tear Fund,

Website: www.bit.ly/chardrotary Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ChardRotary
Email us: contact@chardrotaryclub.org.uk

Chard Rotary Club comprises a group of local people, from all walks of life, who are interested in supporting both the local community and the wider world to enjoy a better life.



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YE OLDE POPPE INN - UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP

Located on the outskirts of Chard, Ye Olde Poppe Inn stands as a proud reminder of traditional English hospitality.

With roots stretching back several centuries, this historic Inn has long been a gathering place for locals and travellers alike.

Now under new ownership, the Poppe continues its

legacy with renewed warmth and charm. Inside, guests are greeted by a welcoming atmosphere and the comforting aroma of home-cooked food – hearty, freshly prepared dishes that celebrate local flavours.

Whether you're after a classic Sunday roast or a cosy midweek meal, you'll feel right at home.

The Inn also offers a fully functioning skittle alley and dart boards, perfect for friendly games and lively evenings. With space available for both small gatherings and larger groups,

Ye Olde Poppe Inn remains a friendly local pub and a place where good food, good company, and good times always meet.



Under New Ownership

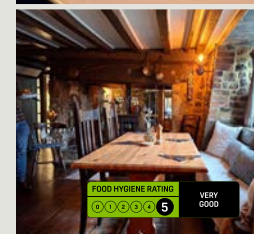
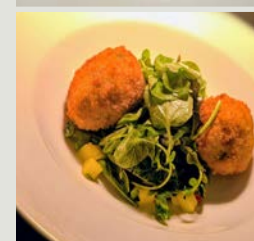
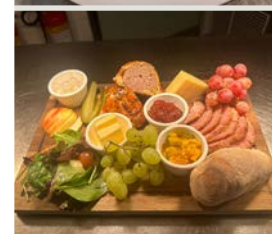
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REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Remembrance Sunday this year will be marked, as is traditional in Chard, with a parade from the Guildhall to St. Mary's Church where a special Remembrance Service will take place.

Chard Town Council will work with the Royal British Legion in the run up to the event to ensure a memorable and respectful event for the town. The service will be taken by Reverend Nick Jerrett. Chard Carnival Committee have kindly supplied road marshals along the road closure, to ensure safety during the parade.

The effected roads will be the upper part of Fore Street and Holyrood Street. The one-way system along Boden Street will be reversed during the closure to keep disruption to a minimum during this short period. It will be great to see all the community coming together, which will include, among others, 1st Chard Scouts, Chard Carers Support Group, Girl Guiding, Chard Community Hub, Manor Court School, Avishayes School and Chard School who are confirmed to be joining the parade.



Chard Town Council The Guildhall, Fore Street, Chard TA20 1PP
01460 239567 chardtouncouncil@chard.gov.uk www.chard.gov.uk



CHRISTMAS IN CHARD

Saturday 22nd November is the date of this years Christmas lights switch-on, organized by the Chard Town Team. Chard Town Council has invested funds in upgrading lights and testing existing lights to ensure a spectacular display is prevalent across the town.

A Christmas Craft Fair will be taking place in the Guildhall throughout the switch on day in the lead up to the main event in the evening, where there will be an array of street entertainment and food vendors also on offer.

The council has worked alongside the Town Team and external contractors in the lead up to the switch-on to ensure another successful event. Without the notable hard work put in by the Town Team who volunteer their hours in erecting and dismantling the lights we would not be able to have a switch-on event, so we appreciate their dedication to the town.

Chard Museum are again running their Christmas tree festival 5-7 December and will soon be releasing details of this event following the success of last year.

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An update from the Chard Inner Wheel

All the best laid plans...

don't always come to fruition! We should have been writing about our 75th Anniversary of the Inner Wheel Club of Chard receiving its Charter, however at the last minute and due to circumstances quite beyond our control we've had to postpone our celebrations.

Isn't that what life is all about? "Change is Constant" whether it be at the last minute or for the longer term.

Inner Wheel is in the process of evolving to keep up with the constant change in the world. There are 'E-Clubs' forming in various areas and new satellite clubs, with the long-term clubs taking in new members who bring new ideas to help bring about 'Change'.

Something you will find changing in Chard for ten days will be the lighting up of the Guildhall in Orange for us, for which we thank Chard Town Council for their support for the United Nations "Orange the World" campaign.

Every year, the UNiTE campaign focuses on a specific theme in support of the global 16 Days of **Activism against Gender-Based Violence**, which begins on 25th November, this year's theme being **"UNiTE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls"**, digital abuse is leading to many other offline abuse and violence incidents even in this country.

For more information contact **01460 63856** or email **d20innerwheel@outlook.com** with Chard as the subject.

Look out for leaflets and information around Chard during this period and if anyone or organisation would like to take part, please contact Chard Inner Wheel.

Christmas Bingo on Monday, 1st December - there will be a definite "Orange the World Theme"!

We held a well attended Bingo at the beginning of October with an early Halloween theme to the prizes, so when you see posters for the



next one, book you places, you know the Christmas one is always very popular.

We are still collecting items for those in need at home and abroad – see the list on our Facebook page or contact the Secretary on 01460 63856.

Are you someone who likes to **Make a Difference?** You only need to be a women (over the age of 18) who would like to help others for a few hours a month.

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CHARD COMMUNITY HUB: SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND SPREADING FESTIVE CHEER

As the year draws to a close, Chard Community Hub is gearing up for a season of connection, celebration, and support, with a calendar full of activities designed to bring people together and offer a helping hand where it's needed most.

FESTIVE FUN FOR ALL, FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER, 3.30PM TO 6.30PM

Everyone in the community is warmly invited to our Festive Fun event, a joyful afternoon packed with games, activities, Christmas refreshments, and a visit to Santa's Grotto. Best of all, everything is free! A chance for families to enjoy the magic of the season without financial worry. Whether you're popping in after school or staying for the whole event, we'd love to see you there.

BRIGHT BEGINNINGS: SUPPORTING NEW AND EXPECTING PARENTS

We're proud to offer a growing ante and postnatal programme for families in Chard and the surrounding area. Our Bright Beginnings sessions provide a nurturing space for sensory play and bonding time, running as a rolling programme of four weekly sessions. To sign up, simply email mparfoot@holyrood.bep.ac.

DROP-IN ANTENATAL CLASSES

Expecting a baby? Join our monthly drop-in antenatal classes, held on the first Thursday of each month, from 11am to 1pm. These informal sessions offer guidance, connection, and reassurance for parents-to-be.

PANDAS SUPPORT GROUP

We now host a PANDAS group at the Hub - a welcoming space for parents and carers seeking support for their mental wellbeing. The group meets on the last Friday of each month, from 10am to 11.30am, offering a chance to talk, listen, and connect with others who understand.

At Chard Community Hub, we believe in building a community where everyone feels seen, supported, and celebrated; from the tiniest new arrivals to families navigating life's ups and downs. Whether you're joining us for festive fun or finding support through one of our family programmes, our doors are open.

For more information, visit chardcommunityhub.com, follow us on social media (@chardcommunityhub) or pop in to see us at the **Boden Centre, Boden Street, TA20 2AX**.



Antenatal Education Session

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Bright Beginnings Hub The first Piece of the Puzzle





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East Lambrook Manor Garden

Festival of Snowdrops

Save the date: East Lambrook Manor (South Petherton) will be staging its popular Snowdrop Festival once again this coming February. There will be over 100 varieties on display. Although planted throughout the garden, the highlight will be the famous "Ditch" with its blanket of rare and unusual snowdrops making a heartwarming display in the depths of winter.

The on-site nursery will also feature a display border and will have a wide variety of both Snowdrops and Hellebores (*Christmas Rose*) for sale. Visit the café for a hot drink and piece of cake while warming yourself by the log stove, or cross the road to the neighbouring Rose and Crown pub for a hot meal.

Garden Nursery and Café open 10am till 5pm Wednesday to Sunday. Admission £8.50 for adults, children under 16 free. Visit www.eastlambrook.com for full details.

photos courtesy of James Ingram

Festival of Snowdrops February 2026

See website for details
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SUDOKU 1

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

Level: **Easy**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

SUDOKU 2

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

Level: **Hard**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

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

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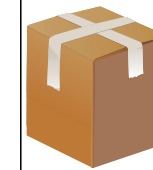


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