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# HONITON

*Flyer*

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**SUMMER 21**

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## WELCOME to The Honiton Flyer!

We are a small independent group of titles covering West Dorset, South Somerset and East Devon. Please read more about us on **Pages 28 & 30.**

One copy of The Honiton Flyer is carefully distributed to every business and private address within the EX14 postcode.

Inside this first edition of The Honiton Flyer you will find business profiles, a walk at Hembury Hill Fort on **Pages 6 & 7**, an in-depth article on Honiton's Allhallows Museum on **Pages 14 & 15**, and Sudoku quizzes on **Page 30.**

Across the centre pages we have a handy map of Honiton Town Centre, and the EX14 postcode, where advertisers' premises and points of interest are all pin-pointed.

On **Pages 10 & 11** we have an article on the WWII museums at Dunkeswell and Smeatharpe, and on **Page 12** an unusual and uplifting obituary on WWII bomber crew member, the late Owen Cox.

The G7 summit in Cornwall earlier this year is covered on **Page 24**, and a tongue-in-cheek article "The Angry Oldie" on **Pages 20 & 21.**

I really hope that you enjoy reading this.

We welcome contributions comments and suggestions for inclusion in future editions of The Honiton Flyer.

Please contact us by email to  
[honiton@theantiquetourist.com](mailto:honiton@theantiquetourist.com)

Best wishes,

*Anthony Bucke*

Editor and Managing Director, The Flyer Publications Ltd.  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021



*"Saving the hay harvest at Luppitt before the storm, 23 July 2021."*

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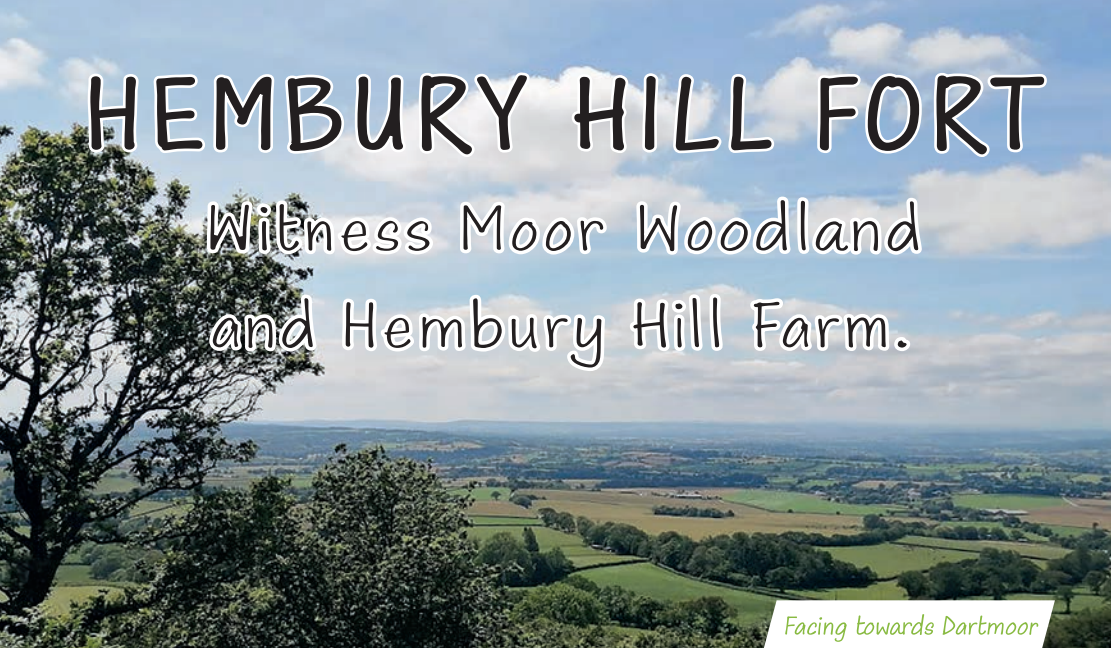
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# HEMBURY HILL FORT

Witness Moor Woodland  
and Hembury Hill Farm.



Facing towards Dartmoor

From Dowell Street, Honiton we took a drive out through Awliscombe, climbing to Hembury Cross, then turned right and ascended to the carpark in the woods at the very top of the hill.

This area is the site of the ancient hill-top fort and village of Hembury, first settled by Neolithic people before 3,000 BC - that is over 5,000 years ago! The defensive ramparts were first constructed around 500 BC.



Hembury Cross

Surrounding the carpark are woods managed by Forest and Land Management Ltd, under sustainable forestry principles. This part of the hilltop was first planted as a planned wood in the 1950's.

Our first part of this walk is a simple 15 minute tour of the woods. We went anti-clockwise from the carpark, following the ancient banks and beech trees, soon turning left and then left again, dropping down on the west side of the woods. The growth of trees blocks the views to the west, but this is still a very pleasant stroll. At the bottom, turn left again heading towards a bank above the sunken lane coming up from Hembury Cross, then climb back to the carpark, where a welcome bench awaits you.

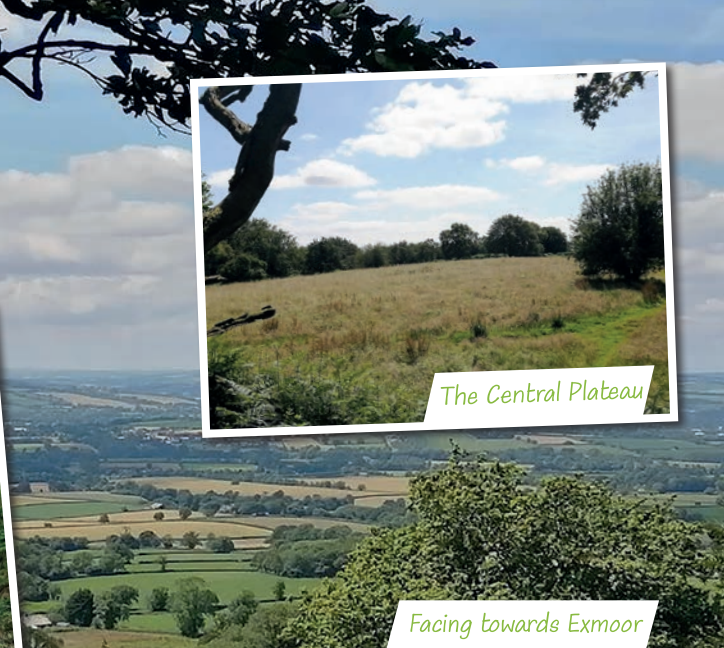
We then crossed the road and entered the private woods leading to the main part of Hembury Hill Fort. Despite being private, the landowners



Sunken Lane

welcome considerate walkers and visitors. There are also public footpaths across the hillfort.

The extensive ramparts and excavations extend southwards, and make very pleasant walking under the shelter of the beech canopy. Most of the ramparts are both steep and deep, so exercise caution as you proceed. We kept to the left (east) boundary and eventually entered the central plateau – a clear grassed area. This must have been the site of the main village, where both people and animals were protected from attack by the ramparts. Keep heading south/south west and you will come to an area with stunning views across the Devon countryside, and the outline of both Dartmoor and Exmoor visible on the horizon. We dwelt a while here,



The Central Plateau

Facing towards Exmoor

taking in the vista, before returning across the plateau, and back into the shelter of the beech trees. These are living working woods, where, on our visit, essential tree maintenance was being carried out.



Essential Tree Maintenance

Total duration? 60 minutes.  
Total distance? 1.5 miles (2km)  
Footwear? Good walking boots or wellingtons.  
Parking? Free.  
Map? Not necessary.  
Dogs? Always on leads, please.





Ottery St Mary is a beautiful little town in DEVON famous for its flaming Tar Barrel event later this year.

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50 traders, 4 HUGE warehouses, 2 upper floors, a library van converted into a vintage tool bus AND a yard full of garden statues, pots and reclamation.

We're often described as an Aladdin's cave or a trip down memory Lane. It's lovely to see our younger customers enjoying the vintage clothing & accessories and to hear our older customers telling stories when they see an item that their parents used to own.

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Fig & Ivy is a lifestyle store in the busy market town of Honiton. The shop first opened its doors in October 2020 - in the middle of the pandemic.

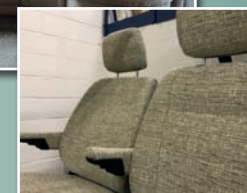
Owner Sarah has worked in retail for over 20 years, most recently as a homewares buyer, and is passionate about visual merchandising. Lockdown gave Sarah the push she needed to start her own business and Fig & Ivy was born!

Sarah is "driven" to create a unique one-stop shopping experience and is really passionate about sourcing brands from all over the world to give an alternative to chain store shopping. Each item is carefully selected to complement others throughout the store. Collections include ladies' fashion, childrens' wear, toys, home interiors and gifts.

Sarah will soon be launching her website so you will be able to buy online and your items can be delivered direct to your home or collected instore.

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Est. 1999, our family grown business is based in Ottery St Mary, Devon, yet our business stretches across Dorset, Cornwall and Somerset, we're small enough to care, and big enough to cope!



# SOUTH WEST AIRFIELDS HERITAGE TRUST

**“PRESERVING AVIATION HISTORY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS”**

The aim of the South West Airfields Heritage Trust is to educate about aviation history in South West England. It has two Heritage Centres in East Devon – one at **Dunkeswell** airfield and the other at the old **Upottery** airfield by the village of Smeatharpe.

The Trust's volunteers having been busy during 'lockdown' refurbishing the exhibits and displays ready to receive visitors when they open again on 22nd July.



## UPOTTERY HERITAGE CENTRE

Upottery airfield hosted the C-47 Skytrain aircraft of the 439th Troop Carrier Group of the 9th US Army Air Force in 1944. The museum has a photographic archive documenting the major role the airfield played during the night of 5th June and on D-Day 6th June, dropping paratroopers of the 101st Airborne Division – the 'Screaming Eagles' that were featured in the TV series, Band of Brothers. It is housed in

one of the original Nissen huts that had been part of the Group Headquarters.

The exhibition features a collection of photographs of aircraft and personnel preparing for the invasion. Many are on loan from the family of the late Colonel Charles H Young, the war-time commander of the 439th Troop Carrier Group.



## DUNKESWELL HERITAGE CENTRE

Dunkeswell was the home of Fleet Air Wing 7, US Navy with three squadrons of Liberator patrol bombers. The museum holds a photographic archive of life on the only WW2 US Naval Air Base in Europe. As well as photographs, it has authentic

uniforms, films, artefact's, models, dioramas, WW2 memorabilia and archive film of the airfield. There is also a feature about Lieutenant Joe Kennedy, older brother of President John F Kennedy, who was killed on active service in 1944.

Further details about the Trust are available at [www.southwestairfields.co.uk](http://www.southwestairfields.co.uk)

Contact:  
Brian Lane-Smith, Chairman  
South West Airfields Heritage Trust  
[chairman@southwestairfields.co.uk](mailto:chairman@southwestairfields.co.uk)  
Tel. 0777 885 7722







## A SAD FAREWELL TO LOCAL HONITON HERO, OWEN COX

Director WILLIAM FLINT and the team at Bluebird Care Honiton wish to celebrate the life of local man, Owen Cox, who passed away in July, aged 99.

Owen Cox was a second world war RAF veteran, an author and an all-round lovely man. Owen was 17 and working as a Junior Clerk for Devon County Council when war broke out. Like many men, he was desperate to join the RAF, despite his young age.

He said: "If you volunteered, you had to get committee approval from the council to secure your position after the war. If you registered as a conscientious objector, you had to leave."

After receiving permission, Owen signed up to the RAF on his 18th birthday and began service on 6th January 1941.

From 1941 to 1943, Owen served as a Wireless Radio Operator. On 1st October 1943, Owen and his companions; Mac, Jock and Jack, conducted their last mission.

The team were bombing in Italy when the Boston 3A they were flying was caught in a violent electrical storm. The plane was off-course and low on fuel when they decided to 'ditch' (land on the sea) off the coast of Sicily.

Owen recalls: "Jock suddenly shouted 'HIT'... I felt a violent blow on the head and nothing more till I came to and found myself floating around in the sea, by myself."

When he was hospitalised after the accident, Owen remembers being

mischievous with the matron in the hospital. He and his pals asked the nurse for fairy stories at bedtime, and Owen stood up to the warrant officer to get himself some clean clothes and shoes.

Owen shared many anecdotes and his autobiography with his carers. He was always smiling and happy and had a story and a joke for everyone.

Bluebird Care Supervisor Rachel Baker, who helped to care for him over two years, said: "Owen was a wonderful man. He was one of life's beautiful people. He was an absolute pleasure to care for and will be sorely missed by all of us".



*Farewell Owen Cox*



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## Allhallows Museum



Allhallows Museum in Honiton High Street has an astonishing wealth of local heritage information and artefact's packed into the oldest building in Honiton. Founded seventy five years ago this November, the Museum is still run entirely by volunteers who work to preserve the heritage of the people of Honiton and the surrounding district.

The 20th century is history now. We always welcome Honiton related **artefact's, documents** and **photographs** from times gone by to ensure that visitors can enjoy them in the future.

The focus for the Museum is all things Honiton. We hold the **largest collection of Honiton lace in the world**, tracing the history of lacemaking in Honiton from the 17th century to the present day. You can see the first written evidence of lace production in Honiton; a brass plaque from the tomb of James Rodge, dated 1617. There are also examples of black lace worn by the Victorians as a symbol of mourning and a scarlet nightdress which was owned by Wallis

Simpson, who King Edward abdicated the throne for in 1936.

The museum also displays **fossils and historic artefact's** from archaeological digs in the area. The most famous being the **Honiton Hippo**. The fossilised remains of seventeen hippos were found during the construction of the bypass in 1965. The hippos are thought to have lived in the area during a warm interlude in the Ice Age, when England had a climate similar to that in Africa today.

In the **Murch Gallery** numerous examples of **Honiton Pottery** can be seen. Another display showcases historic objects unearthed by the East Devon Metal Detecting Club, including **Bronze Age, Roman, and medieval** finds. Other displays include a **furnished Victorian dolls house, local trade tokens and coins, war memorabilia, Hot Penny Day, and children's toys**. There is a display on Allhallows School, featuring school mementoes and perhaps their most famous student; Sir Arthur Travers (Bomber) Harris, head of Bomber Command in WWII.

The **museum gift shop** sells a variety of souvenirs, local history books, unique antique Honiton lace gifts, prints, cards, tea towels, Christmas cards, postcards, lace making equipment and Honiton lace starter kits.



Visit soon, you will be very welcome and entry is **FREE** for everyone.

Guided tours, group visits or visits outside of our normal opening hours can be organised by prior arrangement. Follow us on Facebook and visit our website for opening times!

**Web:** [www.honitonmuseum.co.uk](http://www.honitonmuseum.co.uk)  
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To mark the opening of the revamped showroom Minsterstone are offering discounts of up to 60% of rrp, to all Flyer readers, on display fireplaces in the showroom. So if you are thinking of renewing your old fireplace now is a great time to visit the Minsterstone showroom.



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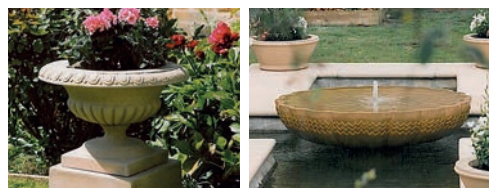
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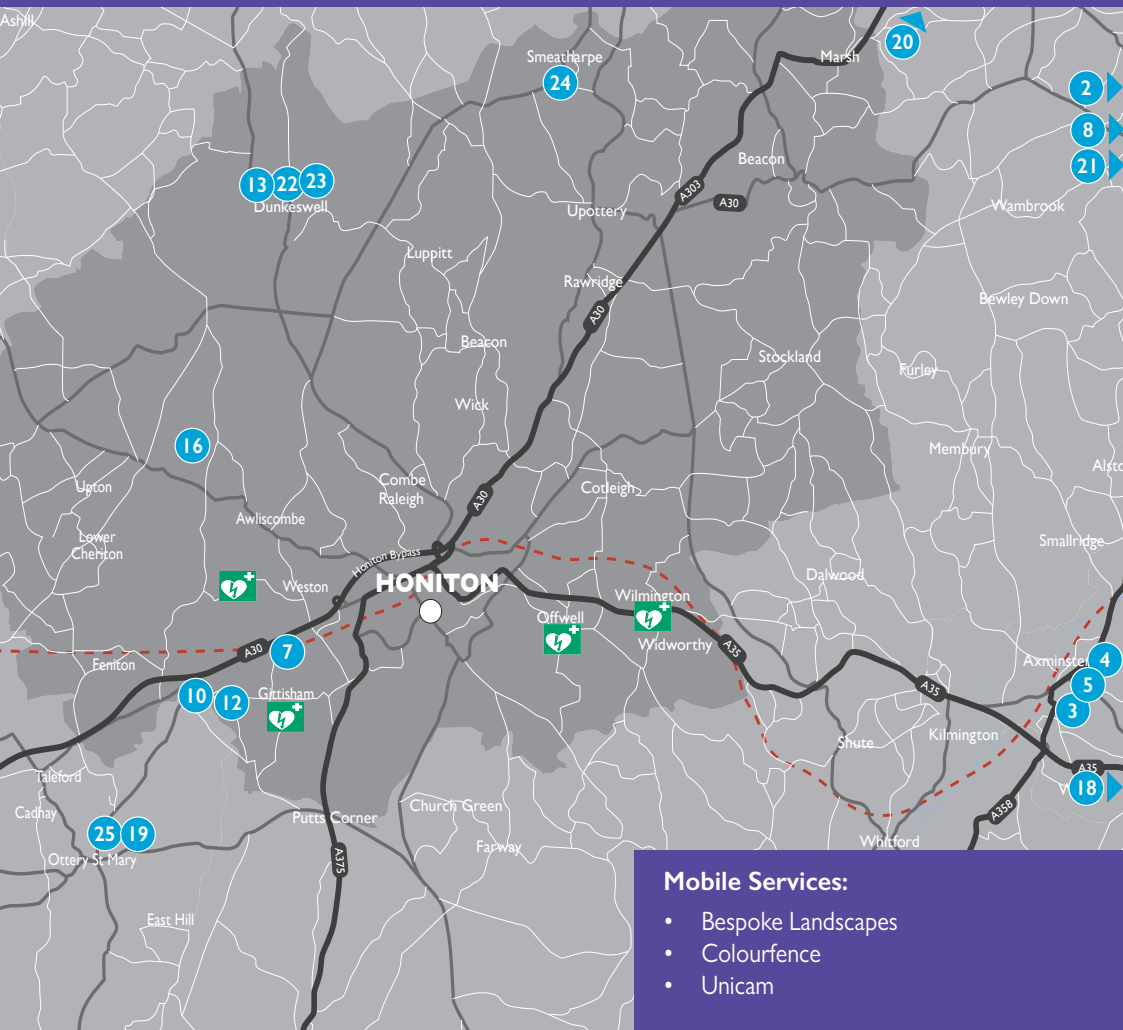
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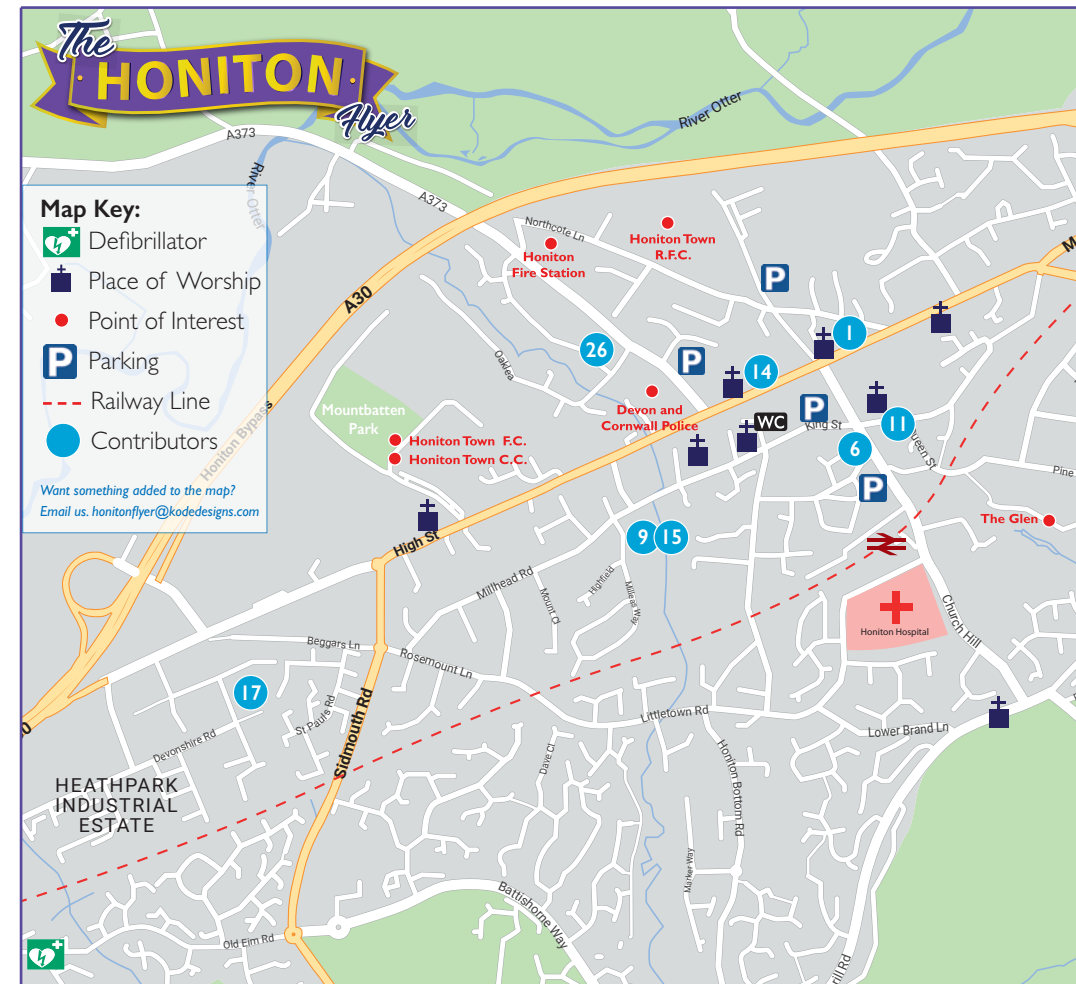
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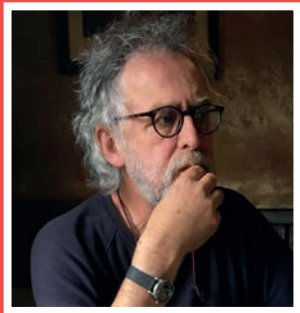
"The Famous Honiton Pottery"



"Part of the former leper hospital near Turks Head roundabout"



# THE ANGRY OLDIE



BY  
GEOFF  
BAKER

I'm thinking of setting up what sounds like it could be "Honiton's first sex club".

Don't worry, it won't be like that one down Totnes way which reportedly used to be very popular before social distancing made the actual mechanics of wife-swapping a bit of a stretch.

No, my club would be a sect's club; a club for the marginalised sect of the over-65s.

*"What a drag it is getting old,"* The Rolling Stones sang in 1966 when we oldies were young, and Mick 'n Keef were right, it's an utter drag, society of 2021 seems to have forgotten us – or rather, it seems to have forgotten that our lives matter too.

Everything around me appears to be predicated on appealing to the young and thereby prejudiced against the old. You only have to turn on Radio 4 to discover that; once it was the preserve of

programmes for the mature but now the BBC has turned it into a "yoof" club, crammed with programmes aimed at a younger audience who don't listen to Radio 4 anyway.

And don't start me on the maze that it is to negotiate to find anything new on the telly which was purposely made to intelligently interest the over-65s; once you take the excellent Repair Shop out of the mix there's such a paucity of variety that your



only option is to give up, open the gin and watch for the 119th time the episodes of Midsomer Murders and Poirot which is all that TV commissioning editors believe the old deserve.

It's odd that society is so patronising and inconsiderate of the over-65s. Apart from the fact that there are so many of us (around 22% of the population of England and Wales and around 33% of the population of Honiton) that you'd think we could command greater attention, there's also the matter of it doesn't make good business sense – according to a study by the International Longevity Centre the UK's over-65's spending on goods and services is roughly £120 Billion a year.

Hello, you at the back there, are you awake? I said £120 BILLION! With that sort of spend available you'd expect more businesses to have some of it, to come up with more imaginative and interesting goods and services specifically tailored to the old – for instance making comfortable, stylish brown leather loafers that don't cost an unaffordable 180 quid a pair and thereby condemn us to all go around wearing cheap trainers like some sort of uniform to signify that we are old and have



no other choice than to look like we got dressed in the dark.

From making shopping online impossible for the old who don't use computers to the new trend of App-ordering in pubs, which is useless for us who don't regard a smartphone as having the importance of a divinity, business needs to readdress its attitude to the old sect. There's money in it, it's not just moaning.





# G7 | SUMMIT CARBIS BAY

Carbis Bay in Cornwall hosted the G7 Summit in early June. World leaders from the G7 nations (the UK, USA, Canada, Japan, Germany, France and Italy plus the EU and guest nations Australia, India, South Korea and South Africa) came together to discuss new agreements with the overarching aim to 'Build Back Better'.

An area of priority for the G7 Summit was 'tackling climate change and preserving the planet's biodiversity', however it was felt by some that the G7's commitments lacked the funding to see this priority achieved. The G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitments to limit global warming to 1.5C, in line with the Paris Agreement, and to restore 30% of the natural world by 2030. Pledges were also made to end direct government support for unabated coal plants by the end of this year.

Despite these pledges the G7 fell noticeably short in commitments to provide climate finance. Climate finance is funding provided by rich countries to developing nations, to support the transition away from fossil fuels and cope against the impacts of climate change. Some funding was allocated: it was announced that \$2 billion will be made available to help countries move away from fossil fuels, however it was unclear in statements from the G7 whether this is new or old money.

Furthermore, despite the recent report by the International Energy Agency which said that countries must stop new fossil fuel exploration by the end of 2021 to remain below the 1.5C threshold, the G7 did not call for a halt on new fossil fuel exploration.

Overall, the G7 Summit was light on climate policy. These outcomes raise the importance of the upcoming UN climate talks COP26 being held in Glasgow this November.



Devon  
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dce Devon Climate  
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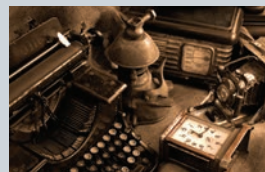
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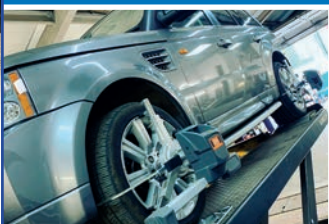
We're based in Fenny Bridges near Honiton and can be found on Facebook, Instagram and our own website, [curtwillismotors.com](http://curtwillismotors.com)

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*Custance House*

Tucked away in Queen Street, just off New Street, Honiton, the residents in Custance House have created a fabulous floral display. Easily viewed from the pavement are a fine array of containers, planters and garden accessories, all planted out with colourful flowers and plants. Obviously hours and hours have been spent on planning the displays, planting and nurturing them, then tending and watering. This is a wonderful example of spontaneous civic pride. Thank you to all concerned.

**Editors note:**

If you have your own floral display, community project, or community event which you would like featured in the next The Honiton Flyer, please email [honiton@theantiquetourist.com](mailto:honiton@theantiquetourist.com) and we shall get in touch.



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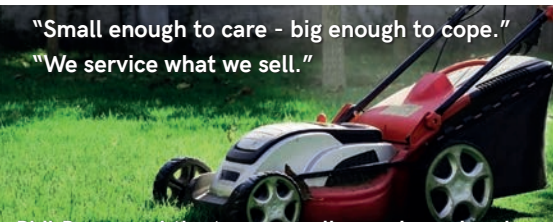
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## SUDOKU 1

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

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Level: Easy

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Start time: \_\_\_\_\_

Time to solve: \_\_\_\_\_

## SUDOKU 2

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

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**The autumn edition of The Honiton Flyer will be out week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021.**  
**Booking deadline 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021.**

## SUDOKU ANSWERS:

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

SUDOKU 1

SUDOKU 2



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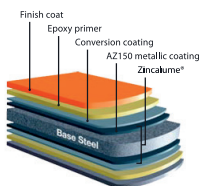
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