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The CHARD Flyer

WINTER 2026

THE **FREE TOWN GUIDE** ABOUT CHARD **FOR CHARD**
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The Chard Flyer

Dear Readers,

WELCOME TO THE CHARD FLYER – WINTER 2026.

This is another large edition – a total of 56 pages of news, articles and local businesses and service providers.





Our front cover photo is from Chard Carnival Procession on Saturday 10th October, and what a night that was! Our photo is of local carnival club **RUBALO** who won first prize in Class 4 – Youth, with "Scarecrows Pumpkin Harvest" Congratulations RUBALO! We have our carnival report and photos on **Pages 16 & 17**. Full Chard Carnival results may be found on line: https://heyzine.com/flip-book/c69d175ce4.html#page/55.

Sweet Memories of Chard – our local historic photos submitted by Craig Hussey – find these on **Page 22.**

Chard Community Hub, in Boden Street, have an article welcoming The Festive Season, on **Pages 24 & 25**. Then find our helpful Town and area maps on **Pages 28 & 29**.

Chard Inner Wheel bring us their Winter Update on **Pages 38 & 39**. Chard Town Football Club have their Season Update on **Page 42**.

The Chard Flyer met local man Tim Beer in his workshop, where he has the unusual occupation of restoring local finger posts, signposts, boundary markers and distance markers. Take a look on **Pages 52 & 53**.

Please take time to look at our advertisers who have so many regular and seasonal products and services on offer. If you have an open fire or woodburning stove, take a look on **Pages 8,9 and 10** where you will find various specialist service providers to help you prepare for the Winter.

Christmas trees? Christmas turkey? Christmas events, parties and eating out? A new TV, carpet, sofa, armchair, in time for Christmas? You will find these all here in **The Chard Flyer!**

Bigger projects such as a new conservatory, new kitchen, custom blinds, garage door, driveway, or garden make-over? Want to spoil your pet this Festive Season, or treat yourself to vintage vinyl? All this and much more here in **The Chard Flyer**.

With best wishes for Christmas 2026, and New Year 2027.

Anthony Bucke EDITOR.

Friday 23 October 2026
Email: chard@theantiquestourist.com

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Sunday 29 November, 2.30pm - 4.30pm.

A remembrance gathering at Rumwell Farm Shop & Café (TA4 1EJ)
Thursday 3 December, 6pm – 7.30pm
Please book your free place for this gathering via our website.

A special online remembrance service will be available to watch on our website on Sunday 13 December from 4pm.

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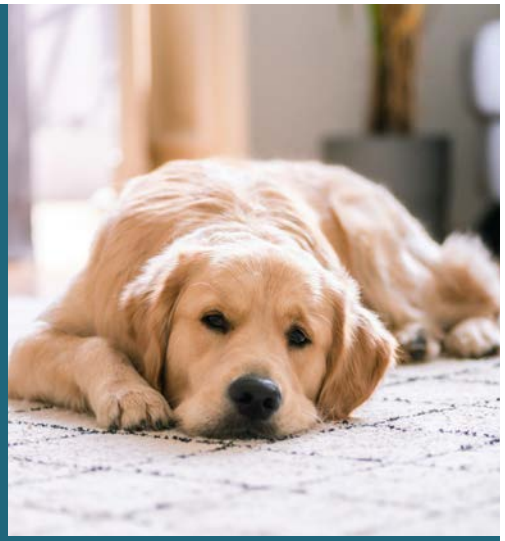

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Chard Carnival 2026

It was another dry night on Saturday 10 October for **Chard Carnival 2026**. The streets were thronged with groups of people eager to watch the procession. We walked via the funfair in Stringfellow Park, which was certainly busy with youngsters of school age, and a few young parents with toddlers. The early dark evening gave a "glow" to the very colourful rides.

The carnival route started from the bottom of Millfield, up to Old Town, right at St Marys Church, along Crowshute then down High Street and Fore Street, dispersing at The Convent Link. We did hear a couple of complaints that this meant Town Centre carparks were inaccessible to visitors from out of town, but the walk from Furnham Road/top of town/ Crewkerne Road did not present many problems.

The carnival procession started on time, with the usual motorbikes and show trucks preceding the main floats, majorettes, Carnival Royalty, the Mayor's entry and local trade entries. The final turnout was over 80 individual entries, and the standard of all was extremely high! Thank you to all who have worked so hard again this Season to make Chard Carnival such a success!

Full Chard Carnival results here:
https://heyzine.com/flip-book/c69d175ce4.html#page/55



Class 1 Feature
1st Harlequins CC. "The Blitz – Heroes of The Home Front"



Class 8 - Walking pairs
1st. A&A Carnival Club. The Vikings.



Chidrens Carnival - Best costume
1st "Tales of The Sea" – Lily Langley. Lily was also "Overall Winner" in the Children's Carnival.



Class 4 – Youth
2nd Place went to Next Generation Carnival Club – "School of Rock"



Class 6 - Adult Single
1st Tizzy CC – Andy Tizzard "Tribal Warrior"



Funfair at Stringfellow Park

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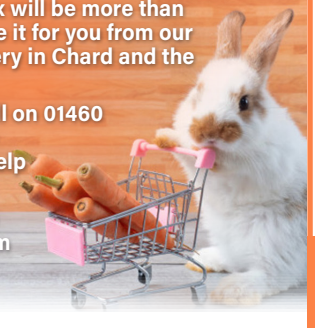

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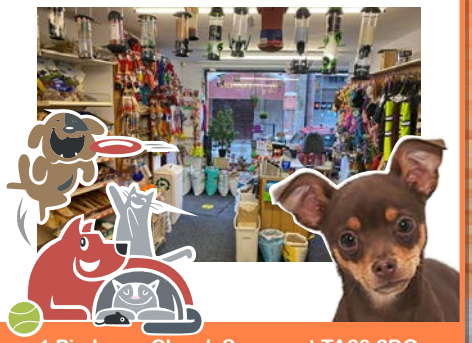

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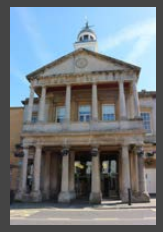



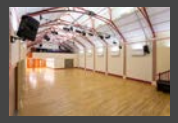

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WHAT'S ON:

Friday 13th November - Cinechard

Saturday 14th November - Be Here Now and Still the Smiths (Oasis and The Smiths Tributes)

Fri 20th November -The Mayor Of Chard Variety Show

Sat 21st November - Blackdown Acapella Christmas Craft Fayre

Fri 27th November - Numatic Charity Dinner Dance

Sat 28th November - Town Christmas Light Switch on

Fri 4th December - Steps Tribute Act

Sat 5th December - Belly Dancing - Chard Winter Hafla

12th & 13th December - Devito's Circus Christmas Show

Wed 23rd December - Hot Rock Productions - Pantomime - Cinderella

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SWEET MEMORIES of CHARD

Photos kindly supplied by Craig Hussey



Howard's Row



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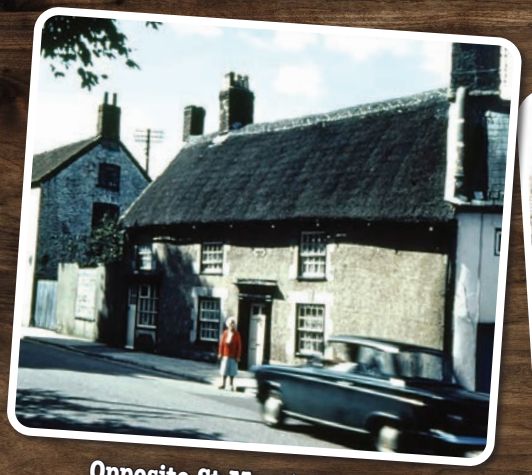

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Chard Community Hub

Chard Community Hub is excited to welcome in the festive season, with lots on offer for the local community. We know that winter, particularly Christmas, can be a difficult time, with many facing financial hardship and loneliness. We hope that we can ease some of the burden and bring a little magic to each and every person that visits us.

In a bid to make Christmas more sustainable and affordable, the Hub will be giving away free decorations from No.9 Fore Street. Do pop by on Saturday 21 and 28 November, between 9am and midday. You're also welcome to bring items you no longer need and donate or swap them!

The Chard Christmas Present Appeal is back, in partnership with Lord's Larder and South Chard Hub. Martyna Lee and the team are collecting presents and gifts for 0 to 18 year olds, and then distributing them to families referred by schools, organisations and services. Last year, the appeal saw tremendous community spirit and supported more than 250 children and young people. Donations of new, unwrapped presents can be dropped off at Chard Community Hub and Forefront Community Centre by Friday 27 November. You can also make a financial contribution through the appeal's Gofundme: Fundraiser by Martyna Lee: Chard Christmas Present Appeal

Those looking for a way to make a little extra cash before Christmas, or pick up a pre-loved bargain gift, can come along to our next Little Treasurers Market at Holyrood Academy Sports Hall on Saturday 5 December, between 2pm and 4pm. You can expect children's clothing, toys and equipment at fantastic prices, and it's £2 entry for adults. Even better, money raised through table bookings and entry fees supports our community work. If you'd like more info, or are a seller that would like to book a table, email secretary@chardcommunityhub.com



You can get in touch by emailing secretary@chardcommunityhub.com, by popping in to see us, or by phone: 01460 923149.





Our annual Festive Fun event will take place on Friday 11 December, from 3pm to 5pm. Entry and all activities are free, including refreshments and the Santa's Grotto. We don't want cost to be a barrier to having fun and making lasting memories. Everyone is welcome to join us; from families with children, to those looking for some good company and a warm space to spend some time. Father Christmas brings gifts for all ages, and there'll be live music to enjoy. We look forward to seeing you.

If you're finding things difficult and feel you may benefit from practical or wellbeing support, don't hesitate to reach out to us.





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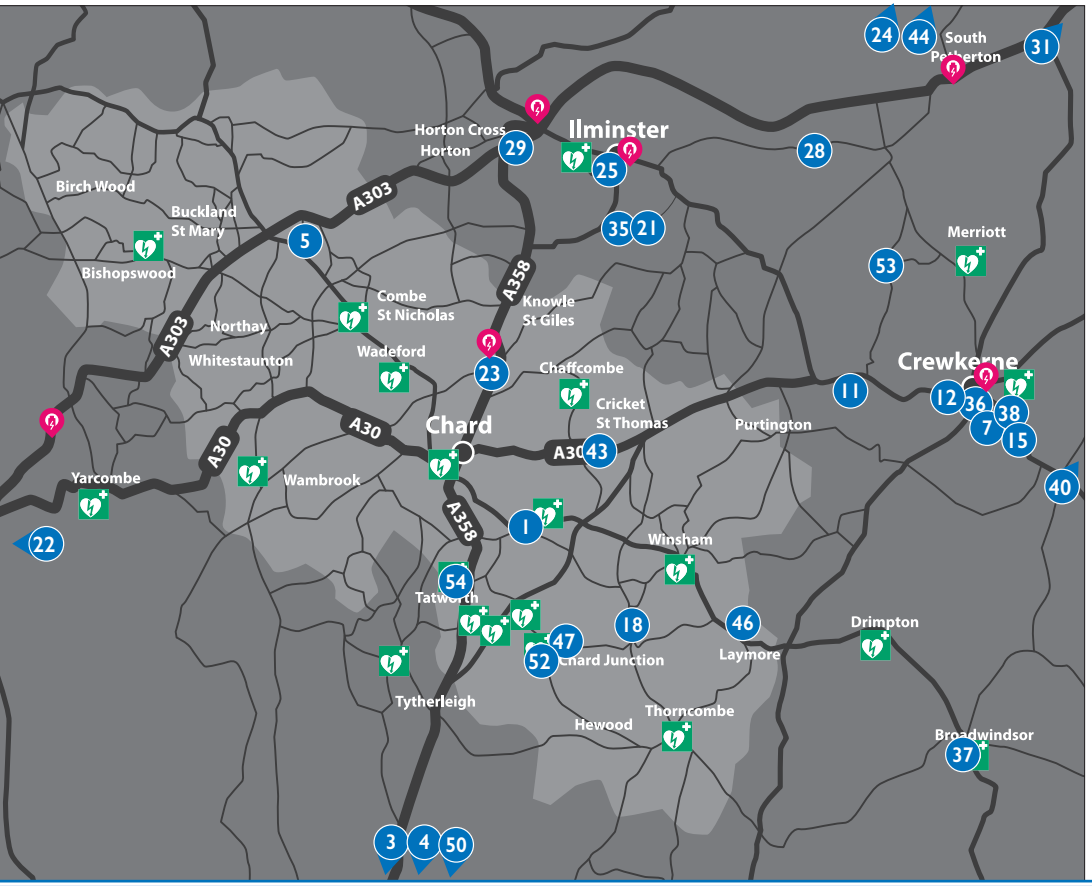

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The inn also offers a **skittle alley** and **dart boards**, perfect for friendly games and lively evenings. With space for small gatherings and larger groups, it's an ideal spot during the Christmas season.

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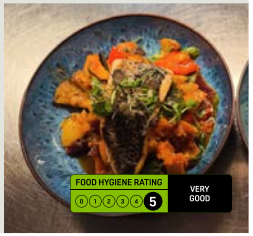

A Winter Update from **The Chard Inner Wheel**

September 10th was World Suicide Prevention Day when three Inner Wheel members were outside Chard Guildhall handing out information about where to get help for those who may be feeling suicidal or who know anyone of any age who may be having problems that may lead to suicide.

One charity that we had only just found out about is **CALM** (Campaign Against Living Miserably | Suicide prevention charity) which offers help rather than just directing callers to another agency. It was an interesting morning and we met some lovely people.

Next, it was the latest **Tea & Dance** which was held in Winsham Jubilee Hall as part of their "Winfest". It was a lovely afternoon with Serena in charge of the music, Kim in charge of the delicious food and Anita running the kitchen with some super volunteers from the village. Then there was Jane who masterminded the afternoon which was enjoyed by people from Chard, Crewkerne, Winsham and the surrounding areas. There was lots of chatter with old friends catching up and new people getting to know others over non-stop cups of tea, sandwiches and cakes. The music was very useful to help shake down the food to make room for more!


Suicide Prevention Day


Tea & Dance at Winsham Jubilee Hall

In October we'll be meeting at **The Potting Shed** at Cuttifords Door and from **25th November**, the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women**, to **10th December**, **Human Rights Day**, we'll be promoting the **United Nations Orange the World Campaign of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence** which this year is focussing on early education, respectful relationships, and working with men and boys. Prevention is still the most cost-effective, long-term way to stop violence. So, we will be getting in touch with as many organisations as we can to encourage them to take part in this initiative.

Finally on this subject, why the colour Orange? It is because it represents Hope and a Brighter Future free from Violence. It is the colour of the sun as it rises upon a fresh new day full of Hope.

We are still collecting good quality winter clothing and bedding, plus household goods, toiletries and dried/tinned food for Ukraine and other war zones. Just give us a call on **01460 63856** and this is the number to call for any information about Inner Wheel or you can email **chardiw@outlook.com**





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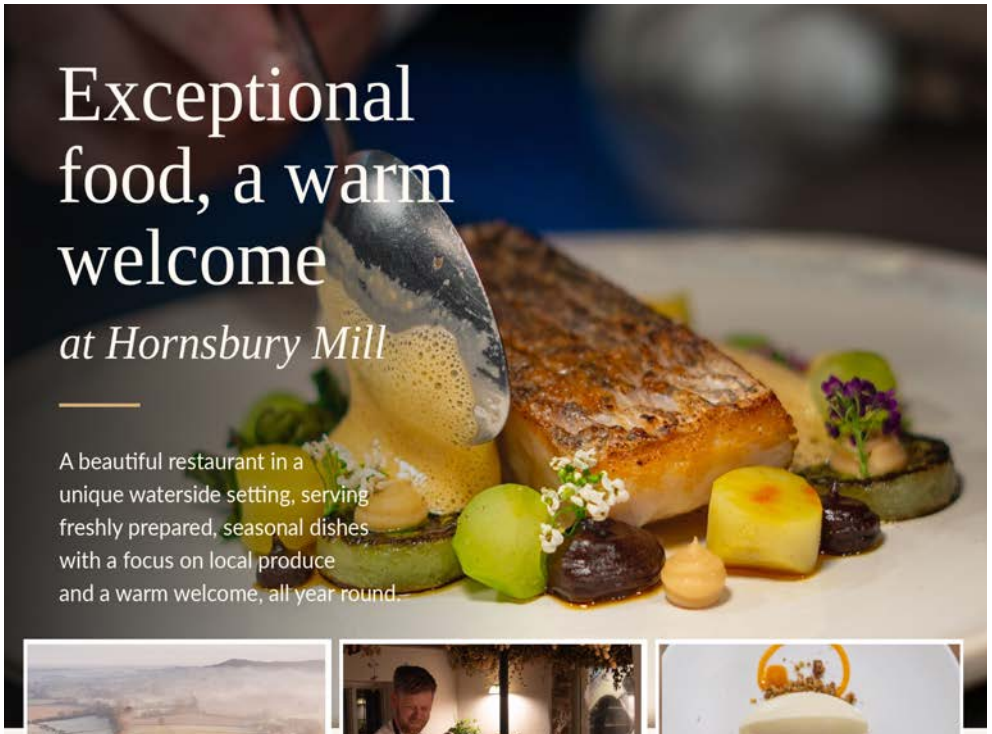



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Chard Town Football Club – *Season Update*

Chard Town have made an encouraging start to the 2026/27 season, with exciting football from both the First Team and Under-18s.

Unfortunately, the club has been unable to field a Reserves team this season. Despite Gary Parsley's hard work during pre-season, difficulties recruiting players and finding a replacement manager meant the team could not continue, a disappointment for younger players progressing towards senior football.



Photo by southwestpix

FIRST TEAM

The First Team opened with a 1-1 draw at Ashton & Backwell, Luca Manley scoring the equaliser. A 2-2 home draw against Hengrove Athletic followed, with Luca scoring twice and James Boyland making his 250th appearance.

Chard secured their first victory at Clevedon United, Jake Dennis and Harry Crittenden scoring in a 2-1 win. An impressive 5-0 victory at Yatton & Cleeve followed, with goals from Tom Boyland, Harry Crittenden (2), Conor Fielder and Luca Manley.

The good form continued with a 3-1 home victory over Stockwood Green, courtesy of Tom Hallett, Jake Dennis and Ollie Crittenden. Hallett was named Player of the Match.

A hard-fought 1-1 draw at Stockwood Wanderers kept Chard unbeaten, Jake Davey scoring the equaliser. However, that run ended with a 4-1 defeat against Clevedon AFC, James Boyland grabbing a late consolation.

Cup action brought better fortunes with a 3-1 victory over Burnham United, thanks to goals from Luca Manley, Ollie Crittenden and Jacob Manley. Back in league action, an early Jake Davey goal wasn't enough against Wells City Reserves, who won 2-1.

UNDER-18S

The Under-18s have enjoyed an excellent start, with several players gaining valuable First Team experience.

They opened with an impressive 5-0 victory at Axminster, with goals from Tom Redwood (2), Harry Crittenden, Danny Stoodley and Ben Quincy Weale.

Their first home fixture brought a 2-1 victory over Willand Rovers, Christian Barry scoring twice. An outstanding 8-0 County Junior Cup victory against Huish Tigers followed, with brothers Ollie and Harry Crittenden both scoring hat-tricks.

A closely contested local derby against Wellington saw Chard come from behind twice to secure a 3-2 victory.

More recently, Chard welcomed local rivals Ilminster and made a flying start. Harry Crittenden opened the scoring after five minutes before Christian Barry doubled the lead following a fine pass from Tom Redwood. Crittenden soon added his second, converting Ben Quincy Weale's cross to make it 3-0 after just 15 minutes.

Ilminster fought back impressively, reducing the deficit to 3-2 at half-time. Chard controlled much of the second half before Henry Guppy sealed a deserved 4-2 victory in the 80th minute.

An entertaining contest and a credit to both teams, the result strengthened Chard's position at the top of the table.

CLUB NEWS

Several players are celebrating important milestones. James Boyland has reached 250 appearances, while Ryan Mason is approaching his 200th and captain Jake Dennis his 100th.

Ryan, a former Holyrood School pupil, progressed through local youth football before returning to Chard in 2016. He established himself in the First Team during 2022/23 and is now a PE teacher at Westfield and district Under-13s manager.

The club's Ladies football sessions are progressing well, with around 18 participants attending on Fridays at 6.30pm. Everyone is welcome, regardless of experience. Contact Michelle Perry on **07809 299789.**

Finally, a huge thank you to our sponsors and supporters, whose generosity keeps grassroots football thriving at Chard Town.

For fixtures, results and club events, follow Chard Town Football Club on social media.
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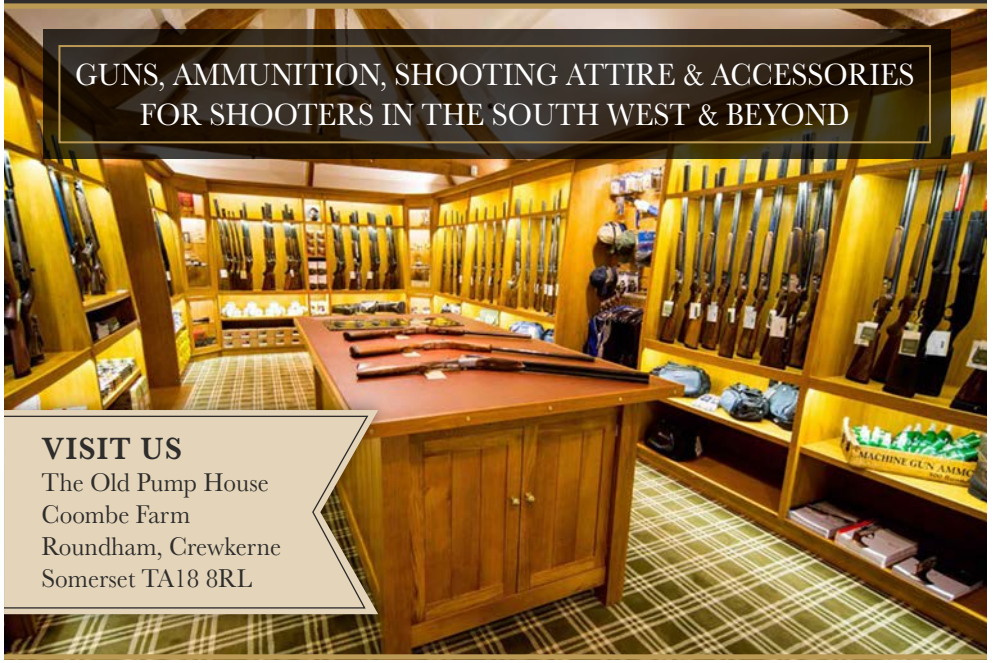

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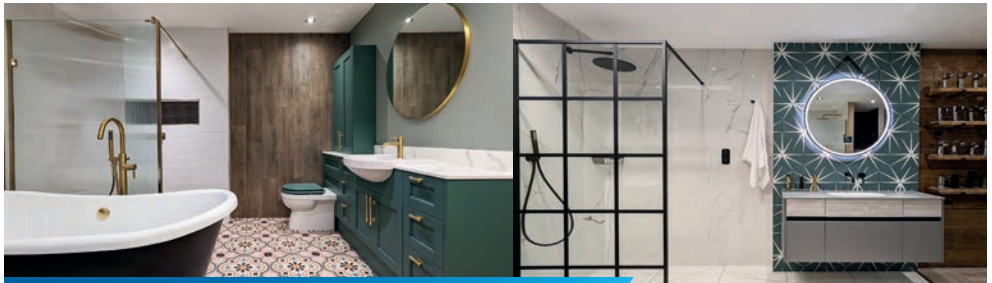

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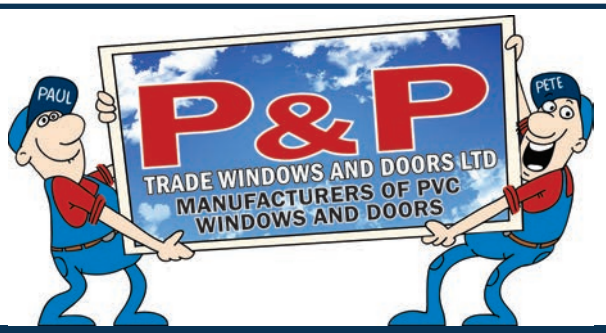

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We publish 4 times a year – Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter. Our next edition for Spring 2027 will be distributed week commencing Monday 30th March 2027. Booking deadline Friday 27th February.

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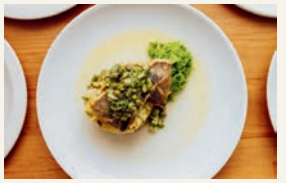


WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU

“A LABOUR OF LOVE……..”.

My immediate reaction when I walked into the workshop of **Tim Beer** at his home near Chard: “A labour of love…..”

This workshop is devoted to local finger posts, road signs, mile stone/markers, boundary markers and red posts. They adorn the walls, or lean at angles, in various states of repair. Sitting beside the signs are boxes containing cast aluminium letters from redundant finger posts and road signs, all waiting to be used on future restoration projects.
In an “idle” moment three years ago, Tim wandered down to the junction at the end of his lane, and brought back the distressed finger post which had been “bugging” him for some time. This first restoration project was so successful that it fired Tim’s interest, and over the next couple of years numerous signs have been saved, restored, donated and re-erected.
One memorable sign is the redpost near Hillfield – the current one featured in the colourful photo of Tim (above). But whilst he was re-erecting this restored redpost, his friend was casting about in the undergrowth, and cried out “Tim, come and look what I’ve found!” Lo and behold it was the ORIGINAL red post, made of sweet chestnut, and despite being an estimated 150 years old, was still in remarkably good condition.

Red posts feature around Dorset and Somerset. They appear on ancient turnpikes and toll-roads, and mark the stopping points of stage coaches. Notable redposts to be found locally include Cotley near Chard; Benville near Evershot; Hillfield near Sherborne, and Bloxworth on the A31 in east Dorset.





Farnham Royal. Tollard Royal. Ashmore. Sixpenny Hanley. Peters Gore. Hillfield. Two Ash. Three Ashes. Four Ash. Ston Easton. Familiar place-names? Alien place-names? Well Tim has worked on signs and finger-posts from all these places, and many more.

Last year Tim bought a distance marker which originated from the road between Frome and Wells, which almost certainly dates from the early 1700’s. He recently rescued the cap of a cast-iron distance marker from Ston Easton, on the Mendips, dating from the late 1700’s. The tragic story behind this was a fatal motor accident in August 2026, when a crane fell off a lorry at Ston Easton, killing a motorist, and destroying the mileage marker at the same time.

So if you see a recently restored, traditional finger post when you next pass a crossroads, it is almost certainly Tim’s work!

Tim would love to hear from you if you have any old road signs, finger posts, boundary markers, distance markers etc which you would like to part with. Please contact Tim on email: tim@tctrading.info











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