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Flyer

GRATIS

SUMMER 2026

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As I write this in mid-June, Summer is definitely upon us, with glorious sunny days, long warm evenings, and the stunning countryside which surrounds our town is in full bloom!



We have been busy putting together this Summer 2026 edition of The Honiton Flyer, and have a great selection of advertisers. Not just local shops and service providers, but also places to visit for a day out; for an afternoon cream tea; a quiet drink in a village pub; riverside dining; evening performances at The Beehive; and of course Honiton Hill Rally over August Bank Holiday weekend!

Our contributors have been busy writing their articles. On **Page 6**, Martin Long of The Friends of Honiton Station has an interesting article on the naming of trains. On **Page 8** The Mayor of Honiton presents a cheque for £3,999.05 to Hospicecare.

There are great things happening at The Beehive in Dowell Street. Read all about it on **Pages 8, 10 & 11!** Honiton Branch of The Royal British Legion recently dedicated a new "standard". More details on **Page 14**.

Our useful maps of Honiton Town Centre and the EX14 postcode appear across **Pages 18 & 19**.

On **Page 20** we have news from Honiton Lions Club. On **Pages 30 & 31**, local historian Terry Darrant brings us profiles of three former Honiton businesses which for a variety of reasons are no longer trading.

If you like what you see here in The Honiton Flyer, and would like to advertise in our next edition for Autumn 2026, please find more details on **Page 32**.

With best wishes for the Summer months,

Anthony Bucke

EDITOR.

Wednesday 17th June 2026

Email: honiton@theantiquetourist.com



*"Three photos from
Honiton Hill Rally 2025"*

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The Friends of **HONITON** Station

Have you ever given a name to your car? Many of us see nothing unusual in giving names to what are, after all, just inanimate lumps of metal designed to get us from A to B. And it is not just cars. From the very earliest days of Locomotion and Rocket, railway companies have given their locomotives names.

To this day, Great Western Railway, which serves Exeter, still names many of the Power Cars on its Intercity Express Trains. Units have been named after everyone from the late Queen to famous singers, such as the marvellously-named Shania Train. Also remembered are the author Agatha Christie, Captain Sir Tom Moore and a range of community volunteers nominated as part of the BBC Make a Difference campaign.

Closer to home, the old Southern Railway, which became part of British Railways in 1947, had a

longstanding tradition of naming its locomotives. As well as Clan Line, a recent visitor to Honiton, this included a class of locos named after towns and villages in our region. This West Country Class included a locomotive called Honiton. Built in Brighton in 1946, it operated until 1967, before being sent for scrap a year later.

The story goes that local councils were offered the last name plate of the West Country loco that bore their name. And this may have included Honiton, although the last known photographs of the loco before it was withdrawn show that the name plate had already disappeared. No-one now knows where it might be, or if it survived at all.

Other communities, however, were more fortunate. Pride of place at Whimble Heritage Centre is the name plate for

the locomotive that bears the name of the village.

Our local railway company, South Western Railway, has not quite inherited Southern Railway's enthusiasm for naming, although it did make an exception in September 2025 to name a train after Athelstan, the first King of England. Last year marked the 1,100-year anniversary of his coronation. While less well known than many of his successors, Athelstan is still regularly described by historians as England's greatest monarch.

With nationalisation now getting into its stride, it will be interesting to see if Great British Railways continues the 200 year old tradition of naming some of its rolling stock. This kind of quirky individuality has been the hallmark of our railway for two centuries, and I for one hope that it continues.



To read the latest issue of the Friends of Honiton Station newsletters, or for more information, visit www.friendsofhonitonstation.org.uk.



4 you from me is a charming gift and coffee shop on Honiton's High Street.

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The Mayor of Honiton's Spring Ball 2026

Honiton Town Council is pleased to confirm that the **Mayor of Honiton's Spring Ball 2026** successfully raised **£3999.05 in aid of local charity Hospiscare**.

Held at the Deer Park Country House in Weston, the Mayor's Ball brought together guests from across Honiton for an evening of entertainment, philanthropy and civic pride. The funds raised will directly benefit those requiring specialist end-of-life care for local people with terminal illnesses.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generosity shown by everyone who attended and supported the event" said Cllr Lucy Wakefield (Deputy Mayor). "These funds will make a meaningful difference to the services which Hospiscare offer to our local community".

Honiton Town Council extends its thanks to its very generous sponsors whose contributions made the event a huge success.



Honiton Town Council, The Beehive, Dowell Street, Honiton, EX14 1LZ
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FLATS & SHARPS FRI 17 JUL 7.30pm Advance £19.50. On the door £22 The Cornish bluegrass outfit deliver music that's punchy, precise and impossible to ignore.	NOTHING CONCRETE SAT 22 AUG 7.30pm Tickets: £19. On the door £21. A 6 piece international band blending blues, world music, jazz, cabaret, folk - deeply danceable.
SCOTLAND YARD INVESTIGATES SAT 25 JUL 7.30pm Tickets: £14 From the files of Scotland Yard come these stage adaptations of infamous true-life 19th century crimes.	DIRE STREETS FRI 28 AUG 7.30pm Tickets: £26 Classic songs of one of the world's greatest guitar bands making them THE stand out Dire Straits tribute.

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The Beehive is a creative arts and entertainment hub in the heart of Honiton, East Devon. On offer is space for community activities, meetings and conferences, with a diverse programme of live events, cinema, exhibitions, workshops.

Run by a charity and used by many local organisations and interest groups, **The Beehive** is proud to be an inclusive and accessible venue, welcoming everyone. The “mission” is to create a vibrant and inclusive community hub, dedicated to providing a wide range of activities which cater for the unique interests of all, in an environment which is always friendly and welcoming.



Honiton Community Complex trading as The Beehive runs the day-to-day operations of the building which the Honiton Town Council own.

Both the carpark and the gardens are owned and managed by the Town Council.

The Beehive also now runs the Tourist Information Points (TIPs) and other TIPs can be found at Honiton Library and Allhallows Museum.

There is a great team at **The Beehive** comprising 5 full-time staff, 7 part-time staff and over 60 volunteers.



The Honeypot Café & Bar was re-launched at the end of May 2026, offering a “Bee Social Lunch” once a month focusing on the community.

This very busy venue hosts events most days - Brunch & Bingo; Quiz Nights; Acoustic Nights (Free); Fashion Shows; Cheese & Wine Evening; Craft Fayres, to name just a few.

Further events at **The Beehive** from outside organisers & performers include Tribute Bands, Folk Music, Live Opera, GrandSlam Wrestling, Murder Mystery Nights; the list goes on!

The Beehive is host to “Nostalgic Cinema” once a month. “Nostalgic screenings” have a unique power; they spark memories, encourage conversation and bring generations together in a warm, inclusive setting.

For more information, please contact Fiona Taylor, Publicity & Marketing Manager.

Email: manager@beehivehoniton.co.uk

Website: www.beehivehoniton.co.uk

Box Office: 01404 384050

Roomhire:

roombookings@beehivehoniton.co.uk



This artwork was created by Year 10 students at Honiton Community College working with graphic artist George Barron during Summer 2025.

The students wanted to showcase the wide range of activities on offer in Honiton. Many more than you can imagine!

This project is a partnership between Thelma Hulbert Gallery (THG) and Honiton Town Council and partly funded by Arts Council England.

It forms part of THG's Create Our Space young people project, which aims to inspire local young people to engage in creative experiences to build new skills and confidence.

Address: **The Beehive, Dowell St, Honiton, EX14 1LZ**

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A New Chapter in the Honiton Branch's History

What a nice way to spend a Sunday morning. On Sunday 26th April, The Honiton Branch of the Royal British Legion held a service of dedication for our new Standards. Thank you to Rev. Robert Wilson our Branch Chaplin for arranging, Rev. Scott Angell for helping, and thank you to Mark Mandrupson and John Holmes for carrying the Standards. St Paul's Church, Honiton.

Putting aside a new standard – the first in 40 years – what made this ceremony so unique was the presence of former standard bearer Mr Brian Smith. Now in very bad health, Brian still felt he had to attend, whilst holding back tears with the emotion of the event. During his service as standard bearer

from 2001 to 2018, Brian made numerous visits to Royal Wotton Bassett, The National Arboretum, The Royal Albert Hall, The National Cenotaph, and in 2018 to The Menin Gate. Fortunately someone captured an image of this, showing a lifetime of dedication to The British Legion.

We are still meeting every second Wednesday of the month in the Con Club Honiton. We meet at 7:30pm, all are welcome.



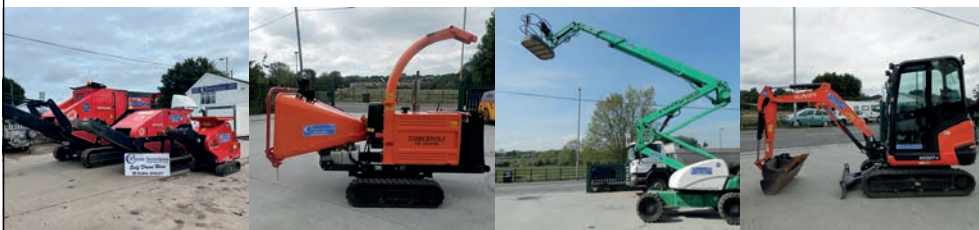
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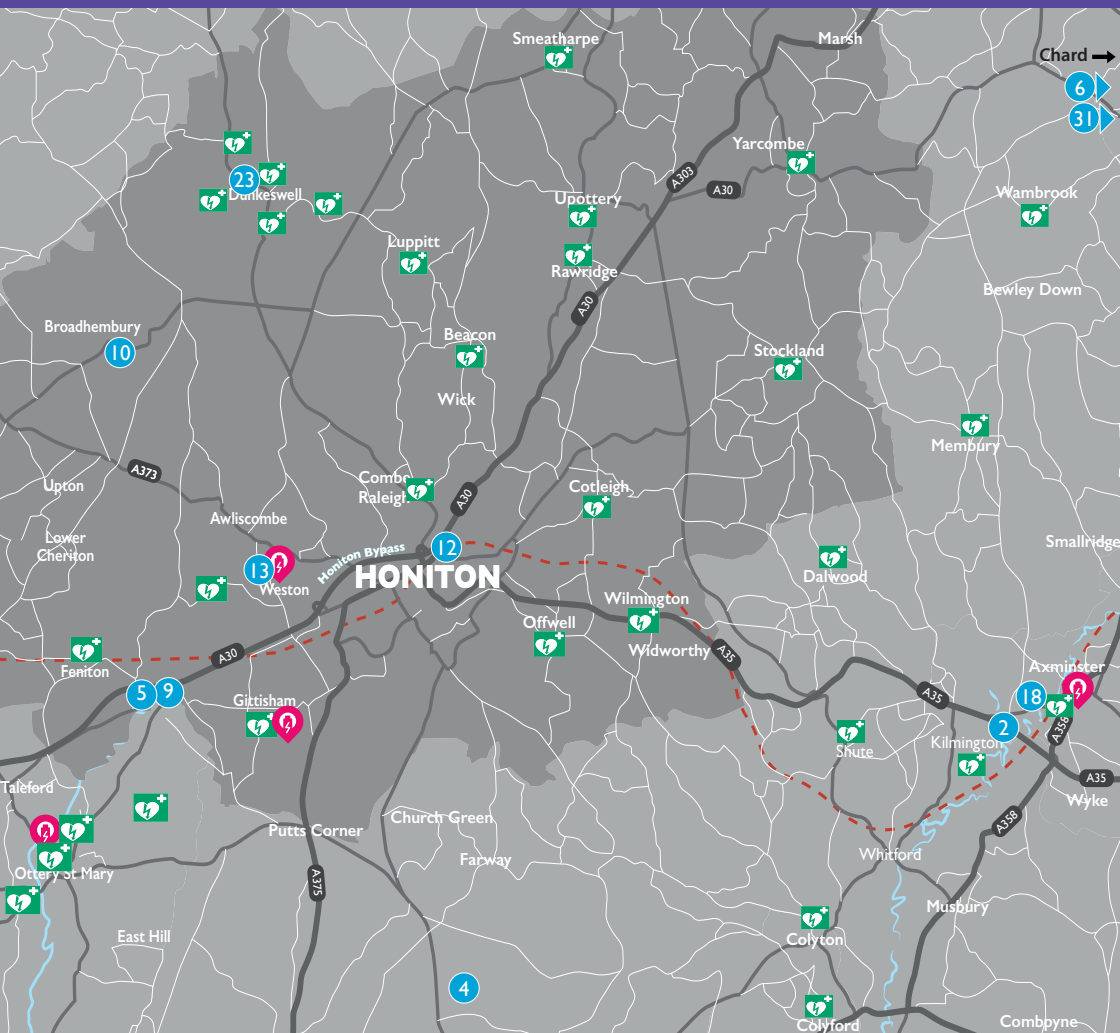
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Publications



THE FREE AREA GUIDE ABOUT HONITON FOR HONITON

HONITON *LIONS CLUB*

The Honiton and District Lions Club CIO recently hosted a highly successful "Mole Day" skin screening event, combining vital community healthcare with impactful fundraising.

Held at the Mackarness Hall, the event saw **70 people step forward** to have their moles checked. In a potentially life-saving outcome, the screenings resulted in seven urgent referrals for further medical investigation. The vital checks were carried out by Dr. Downs, who generously volunteered his time and medical expertise free of charge to support the community.

Doubling the Impact for Cancer Research

Attendees were asked to contribute a £5 examination fee for the screening. While 70 people received checks! The examination fees brought in £350, which was bolstered by an additional £15 in kind donations.

True to their mission, the Lions Club matched the total amount raised. Thanks to this generous match, a grand total of **£730 was generated from the screenings**. Combined with other club funds, a magnificent **£1,000 cheque** was officially **presented to Cancer Research UK** at their charity shop on Lace Walk.

Community Spirit in Action

Beyond the medical screenings, the event was a true community effort. Refreshments were on hand, with sales of teas, coffees, and cakes bringing in even more profits.

The Lions Club's fundraising momentum didn't stop there. The busy spring season also featured the popular Ladies Plant Stall, and the club extended its heartfelt thanks to all local venues that hosted an Easter Egg raffle this year.

"Every penny raised helps us continue our vital work and support worthwhile local charities," a club representative noted.

DATES TO ROAR-MEMBER! (LOCK IN THESE MANE EVENTS)

Honiton Market Charter Day - 18th July

Honiton Hill Rally - August Bank Holiday Weekend



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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A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS AT HERON FARM

This summer marks the beginning of a new chapter at Heron Farm near Honiton, as local family owners **Nikki** and **Toby Gallagher** step into custodianship of the much-loved vineyard, restaurant and events destination.

Building on Heron Farm's established reputation, the couple are evolving the offering with a renewed focus on seasonal food, vineyard experiences, curated events and relaxed stays in the Devon countryside. Their vision is simple: to create a place where people can eat, explore and restore, while celebrating the exceptional produce, people and landscape of the South West.

A key part of the next phase is the appointment of **Chef Simon Payne**, who joins Heron Farm to lead the kitchen alongside Head Chef Dalton and the existing team.

Simon brings more than 15 years of experience, including five years working under Sam Harris at the acclaimed Italian restaurant Zucca in Bermondsey. More recently, he led the kitchen at celebrated Dorset restaurant The Parlour in Long Bredy, earning a loyal following for his produce-led cooking and generous, flavourful dishes.

At Heron Farm, Simon's menus will be shaped by the seasons and the surrounding landscape, drawing inspiration from the kitchen garden, vineyard and the abundance



Photo credit to @mctphotographyuk

of Devon's coastline and countryside. His arrival marks an exciting step forward for the farm's food offering, with a focus on simple, delicious cooking that lets exceptional ingredients speak for themselves.

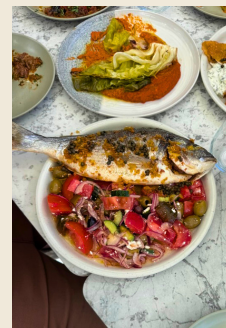
The summer programme will see the launch of new Wood-Fired Nights every Friday evening in the farm's walled garden, alongside vineyard tours, creative classes, Forest School sessions and special collaborations, including an Evening with Mark Hix on 31 July. The venue is also available for private hire, and the couple hope to launch a renovated wellbeing studio later this year.

"We feel incredibly fortunate to be taking on the stewardship of Heron Farm," says Nikki. "There's something very special about this place and we're excited to build on everything that's already here. Simon's arrival is a huge part of that vision. His cooking perfectly reflects what we want Heron Farm to be about – exceptional produce, relaxed hospitality and memorable experiences rooted in the South West."

As Heron Farm enters this new era, the focus remains firmly on creating a welcoming destination where visitors can gather around great food, connect with nature and enjoy the best of Devon life. There's plenty more to come so follow along @heron_farm



Photo credit to @mctphotographyuk



To find out more visit:

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Opening Times

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THE END OF AN ERA:

Honiton's Lost Family Businesses

With the recent closure of C H Bakers & Sons the town has lost, one of if not, the last of its long run family businesses. Opened in the 1930s this independent, third generation butcher's shop had operated in the town for almost a century before its sudden shut down in early April. However, there have been a flood of such local establishments to go due to changing times and the ever more encroachment of online shopping. Here a few examples of both old, and more recent long-term local businesses that have sadly also gone the way of the dodo.

A. Dimond & Co.



The origins of this prominent printing and stationery shop trace back to Robert Dimond, who established the firm in 1888. Born into severe poverty in 1848, Robert lost his father at a young age and had to work as a child basket maker to help his widowed mother support the household. He later managed to secure a printing apprenticeship under John Knight—a local printer whom Robert's mother had previously served as a domestic maid—and eventually succeeded Knight in running the High Street business.

Following Robert's passing in 1902, his widow Eliza took the reins, and the business—officially named 'Dimond & Co.' by the 1920s—remained in the family for generations until its High Street store went into voluntary liquidation in December 2020.

C. Harding & Sons



Though later known by the Harding name, this enterprise actually began in the early 1800s under drapers Nathaniel and John Read. By the 1870s, John's sons were operating two adjacent drapery shops on the High Street, one of which was eventually turned over to Charles Harding, a young man from a farming background.

Under Harding's leadership, the business flourished, employing multiple assistants and transitioning into 'Charles Harding & Sons' by the early 1900s. The firm expanded into a major retail and wholesale hub handling tailoring, millinery, and clothing. His sons, Frank and Percy, later took over different branches of the trade; by the outbreak of World War II, Frank's operation had expanded across three storefronts, occupying the

spaces where modern retailers like Boots and Specsavers stand today. The family's long-standing retail presence drew to a close when the brothers retired in the 1960s.

Miller & Lilley



Formed in the mid-1870s as a partnership between Walter Miller and Henry Eaden Lilley, this New Street company grew into one of the town's largest commercial operations. They initially focused on manufacturing bricks and tiles alongside selling agricultural supplies, but they quickly capitalized on the expanding railway network. By the end of the Victorian era, they had set up depots at several regional train stations and added coal, timber, and slate delivery to their extensive inventory.

Henry's son, Henry Herbert (H.H.) Lilley, assumed leadership in 1903 and oversaw the company's transition to a public limited firm in the 1930s, around the time brickmaking ceased. Renowned as the largest commercial presence at the Honiton railway station, the business operated for nearly a century before merging with Bradfords in the 1980s.

by Terry Darrant



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SUDOKU 1

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

Level: **Easy**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

SUDOKU 2

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

Level: **Hard**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

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

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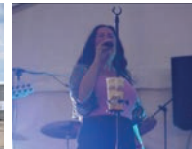
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