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The CHARD Flyer

SUMMER 2023

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Dear Readers, Welcome to our Summer 2023 edition. By now the Summer is well underway, and we have a good selection of "summertime" reading for you all.

Our long-term contributor and local celebrity Linda Piggott has received a highly cherished Rotary Club Award. Read the report on **Page 14**. Local history enthusiast Craig Hussey brings us more photos of old Chard on **Page 20**. As usual our centre 2-page spread is devoted to maps of Chard town and the surrounding area – **Pages 24 & 25**. Our reporter Ana Collingridge has visited the new "Chard Enterprise Centre", recently completed at Beeching Close, with offices and workspace for new local businesses. See this on **Pages 28 & 29**.

On **Page 32** we take a trip to Thorncombe, visiting the village shop and café in Chard Street, whilst up at Horseshoe Road, the Sports and Social Club have now added a weekly Farmer Market to their activities.

Chard Inner Wheel bring us their regular article on **Pages 38 & 39**.

On **Page 46** Chard Town Football Club present their review of the 22/23 season.

As always we also have a great variety of businesses and service providers in this edition. Please support our advertisers if you possibly can!

Best wishes,

Anthony Bucke EDITOR.

Wednesday 10 May 2023.

Email: chard@theantiquetourist.com.



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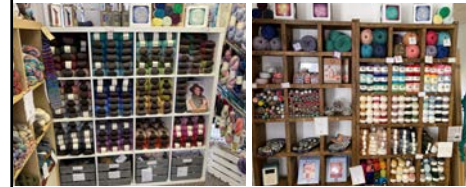
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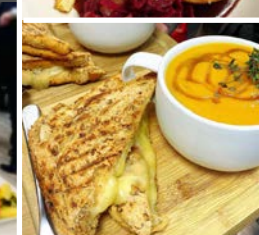
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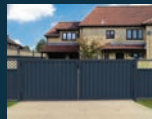
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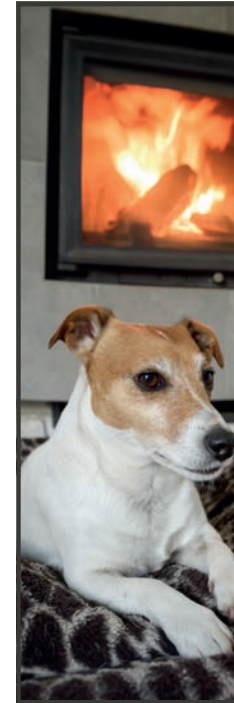
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LINDA PIGGOTT

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Rotary established the Paul Harris recognition in 1957 to encourage and show appreciation for substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only programme, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships.

'When we decide to award a Paul Harris Fellowship it is the practice of the Rotary Club of Ilminster to put together a brief explanation of why the person concerned is worth one. To make it more the club likes to keep the recipient guessing until as late in the spiel as they can.

This new Paul Harris Fellow is a Past President and has been a real force in and for the Ilminster Club since joining in 2002. There was always a popular misconception that Rotarians were middle class old men in grey suits, well-meaning but dull; not this one! For a start this recipient was the first member of the club without a y chromosome. She was and is outrageous, outspoken and utterly unconventional. She put others to shame with her restless energy. She bared her all in the national press campaigning for better breast cancer treatment, abseiling down County Hall for charity, cooking for the King of the Gypsies, teaching immigrants and convicts. She is the only member the club is ever likely to have who had a cow named after her by the African villagers in Nairobi, to whom it was sent to provide for hungry children. She went to Africa to see the toilets the club was trying to get replaced, and to India to see the school for young women the club was supporting through a literacy project. Very occasionally she was at home.

Nearer to home, she served the community on every possible local council and was hugely respected by all as someone who would move heaven and earth to get things done. No problem was too small for her to worry about or too big for her to shun. Some weeks the local press seemed to be full of her and she won the Ilminster club a national award for outstanding publicity.

That was the bit everyone heard about, but she did so much more that never appeared in the press. She gave up hours of the time she hadn't got to the Samaritans. She helped countless individuals in need and those the system fails with selfless, patient kindness. Her version of 'Service Above Self' was so intense that, at times, the club was genuinely concerned for the one person she did not seem to take care of... herself.

It would be hard to imagine a more deserving Paul Harris Fellow than Linda Piggott.'

What achievements! What a great read, and a great review of the Linda we know and love.....! EDITOR



The Presentation.
Linda with Peter MacKay,
President of the Rotary Club of Ilminster

"I was thrilled this weekend, during a Rotary twinning visit to Ilminster, to be awarded the coveted Paul Harris Fellowship. What an honour and privilege."



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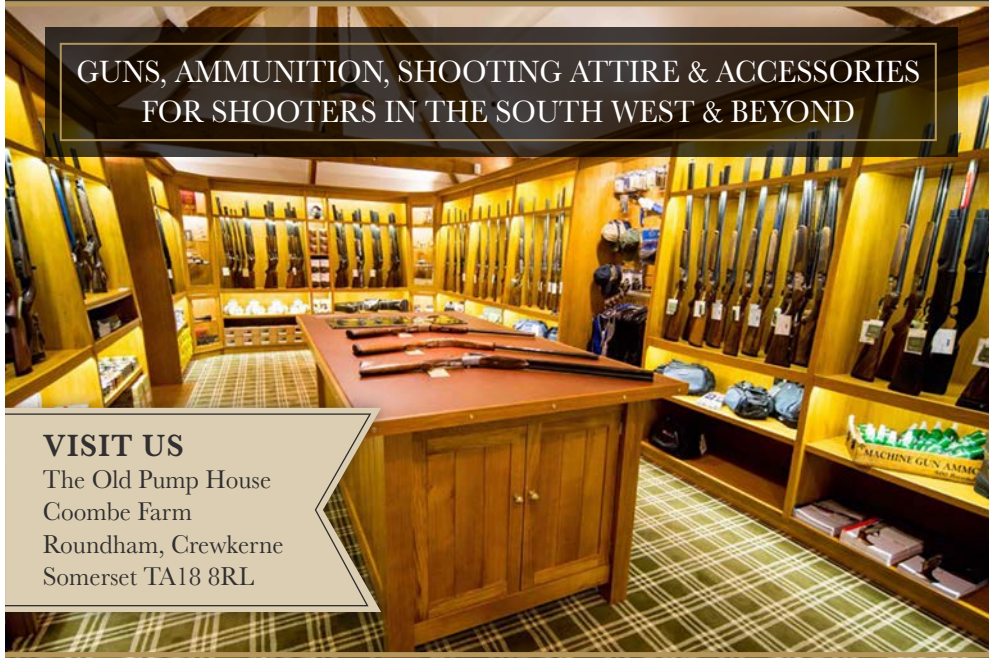
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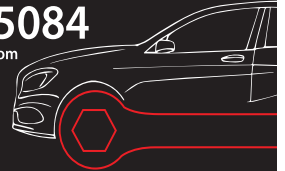
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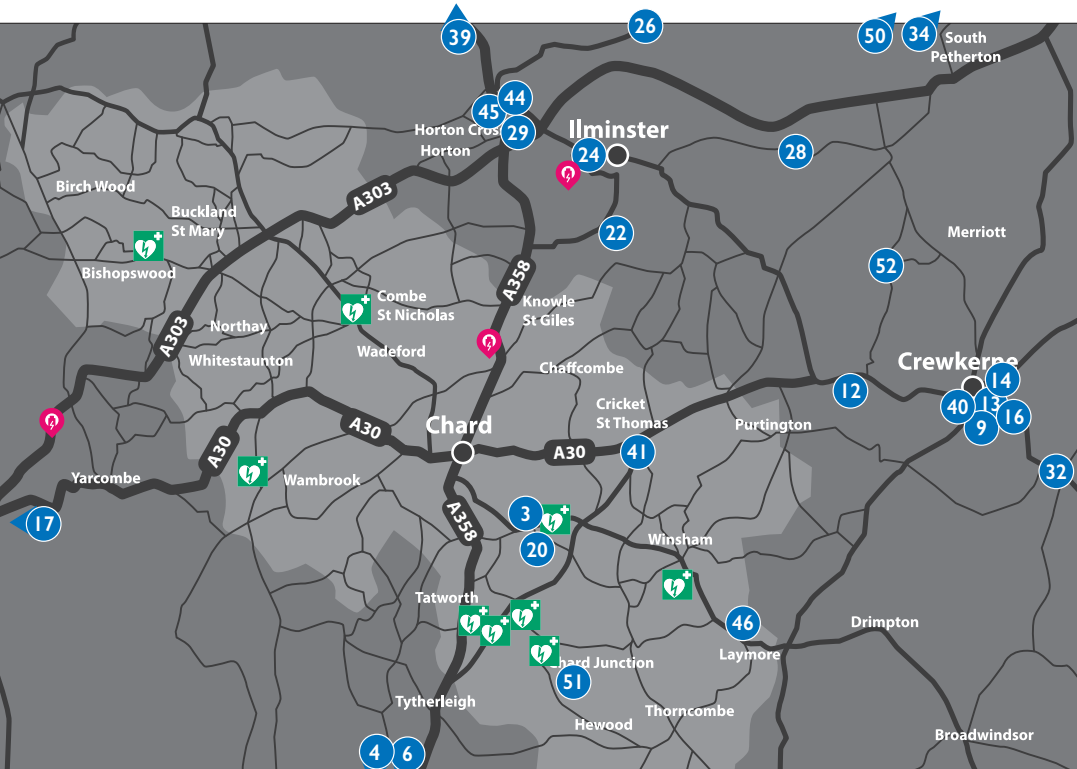
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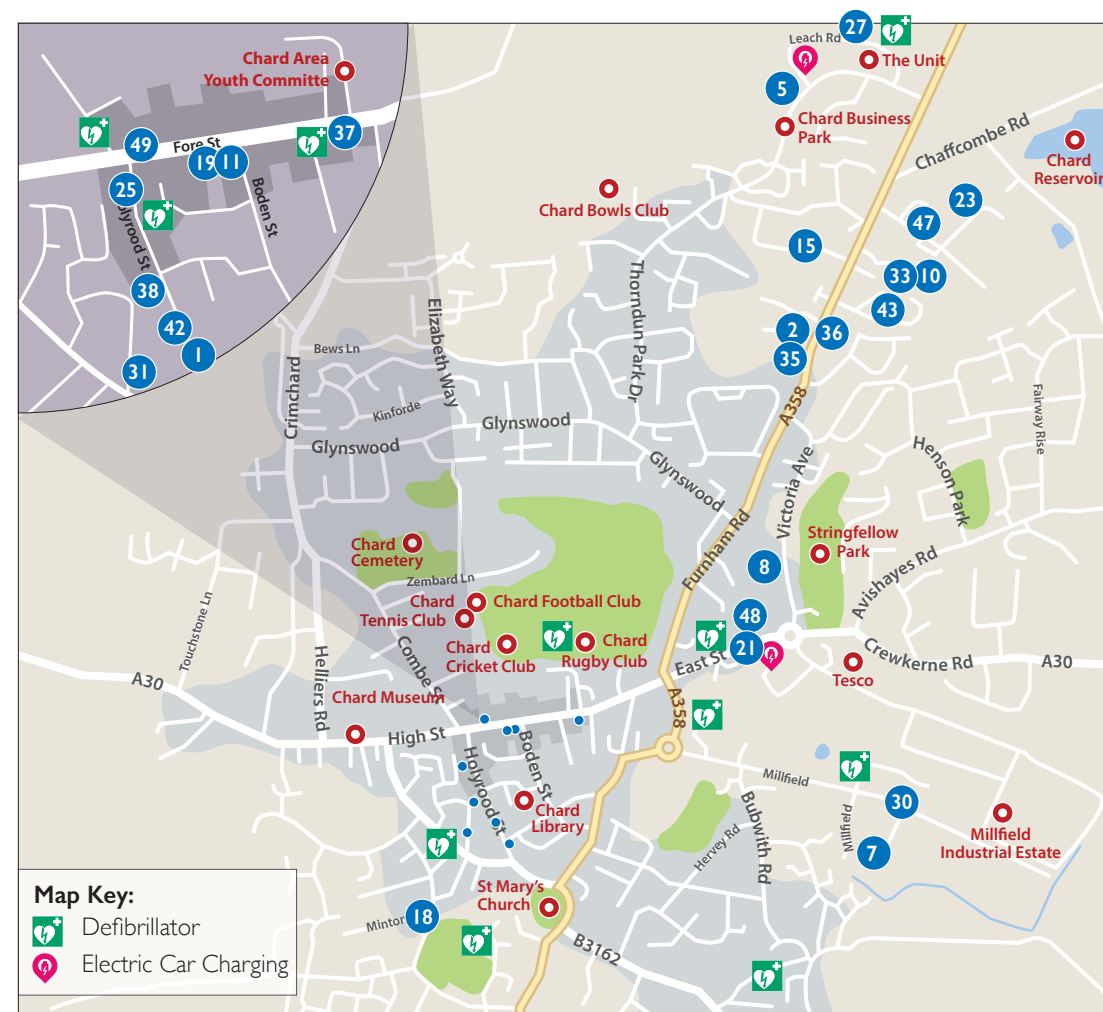
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SPECIALLY DESIGNED ENTERPRISE CENTRE ON COURSE TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO LOCAL GROWING BUSINESSES THIS SUMMER



Somerset Councillors - Cllr Jason Baker (Chard South), Cllr Ros Wyke (Mendip West) and Cllr David Woan (Yeovil Central) outside of Chard Enterprise Centre with site manager Marilyn Cockbill of principal contractors Harris Bros & Collard Ltd

A specially designed enterprise centre is on course to open its doors to local growing businesses this summer. The construction of the Chard Enterprise Centre on Somerset Council owned land at Beeching Close Industrial Estate near the A358 in Chard was scheduled to begin in May 2022 but the ground work was delayed until June, due to an unexpected ecological issue concerning slow worms. Around 200 of the legless lizards were discovered on the site and as they are listed as a 'priority species' for protection in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan because of their decline in numbers, all preparation works were halted until the large group of the small reptiles could be safely moved to alternative wildlife habitats in the local area.

Businesses in Chard were invited three years ago to complete a business needs survey and in February 2020 a one-day public viewing of the proposals for a business hub, including an artist impression of what a purpose-built centre could look like, took place at Chard Guildhall. The results of the survey were recorded, with a view to meeting the demand of Chard based businesses and future start-ups by providing different sized units and offering a range

of business services to support growth. Chard Town and Somerset Councillor Jason Baker said: "The consultation process and demand survey tested the market and formed part of the wider regeneration plans for Chard. We are pleased to have secured a grant of around £1.75M from the European Development Regional Fund towards the development costs of the Chard Enterprise Centre which is particularly welcome following the closure of the Oscar Mayer factory in 2021." Somerset Council has provided the remaining investment needed for the business centre of £2.31M.

During a site visit in April this year by Somerset Councillors - Cllr Ros Wyke (Mendip West), Cllr David Woan (Yeovil Central), Cllr Jason Baker (Chard South) and Katriona Lovelock, Service Manager Economy and Planning and Harry Morris, Economic Development Officer at Somerset Council to check on the progress of the project, the party were impressed by the workspaces all having level access and disability friendly facilities. Cllr Ros Wyke, Somerset Council's Lead Executive Member for Prosperity, Assets & Development, said: "We very much enjoyed our visit to Chard Enterprise Centre to see this

The outer shells of the single-storey business units after construction work began at the Beeching Close site in 2022 (photo courtesy of Chard Town Council)



much-needed facility nearing completion. The centre will provide local, accessible space for businesses in Chard and help small companies with their next step up as they grow. As a council we are committed to supporting a flourishing and resilient Somerset which is also greener and more sustainable, so it is pleasing to see this centre has been built to excellent environmental standards with a range of wildlife initiatives, including insect hotels and bird boxes." Councillors were also pleased to see a designated area for the parking of bicycles and noted the close proximity to the footpath/cycle path running between Chard Reservoir and Millfield Industrial Estate.

Chard Enterprise Centre is due for completion in June 2023. The site will offer 10 office units at 11m2 and two large industrial units at 198m2 and 147m2, which will be available to tenants on flexible terms. Other facilities will include broadband with access to a meeting room, the possibility of hot desking subject to space and take up and signposting to other business support

and areas of funding. The Chard centre will join the Enterprise Centre Network provided by the Economic Development Service at Somerset Council. Enterprise centres are currently located at 10 sites in the county at Highbridge, Dulverton, Wheddon Cross, Frome, Minehead, Wells, Williton, Wiveliscombe and Bruton. The centres are aimed at start-ups and SMEs and often used by businesses as the first step up from home and the kitchen table. When the Chard centre opens this summer it will offer business support services to its tenants and to the wider business community in Chard. Enquiries for renting workspace should be directed to Alder King, www.alderking.com, telephone 01823 444879.

N.B. The client for the construction of Chard Enterprise Centre was originally listed as Somerset County Council with the Local Authority being South Somerset District Council. On April 1st 2023 the new unitary authority known as Somerset Council came into being, bringing together the services previously provided by the four district councils of South Somerset, Somerset – Mendip & Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton and Somerset County Council.

By Ana Collingridge ©



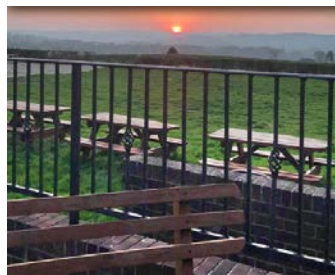
Councillor David Woan, Associate Lead Member for Prosperity and Inward Investment on Somerset Council tries out one of the office workspaces for size during a site visit to Chard Enterprise Centre



Councillor David Woan, Cllr Ros Wyke and Cllr Jason Baker outside one of the larger business units, suitable for light industry at the Chard Enterprise Centre

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Potted history: Inner Wheel started life with the wives of Rotarians wanting to play their part in the community and set up a Ladies Club to run along Rotary Lines. In January 1924, thirty ladies in Manchester "After considerable discussion" drew up six basic rules, the first of which was to call the Club 'The Inner Wheel' thereby linking themselves to Rotary by referring to their badge but without using the name Rotary. The founder President was Mrs Oliver Golding and in 2000 the Magarette Golding award was initiated in her memory.

By 1931 there were 56 clubs, a formal Association was constituted and the first overseas club was formed in Australia. Inner Wheel is now in 104 countries worldwide and is particularly flourishing in countries where women are only allowed to join women's clubs. Until 2012

membership was limited to those with Rotarian connections but this was changed to clubs being able to invite prospective members with or without Rotary connections.

Inner Wheel is like a wedding cake with four tiers:

The largest and most important tier is at grass roots level with the Clubs.

The next tier is at District level. There are 29 Districts in Great Britain and Ireland (GB&I).

The third tier is the GB&I Association. This has a Governing Body and Executive Members covering all corners of Great Britain and Ireland.

The fourth tier is International Inner Wheel. This has an Executive along with Board Directors representing over 108,000 members in 104 countries.

Chard Club was inaugurated in October 1970 and gone are the days when Rotary wives met in their smart outfits complete with hat, gloves and handbag. Life is now much more relaxed, the handbags hold modern technology with the other essential accoutrements!

The ladies of Chard Club have been incredibly active over the years and it is wonderful to talk to them and hear all about their activities and the fun and friendship they have enjoyed. For example The Club raised money for the renovation of what was the Corn Exchange, now the Guildhall; we used to have a float in the Carnival (often winning the best local entry prize); formed The Glee Club which entertained throughout the area; Dixon of Dock Green (how many of you remember him?) opened the joint Rotary/Inner Wheel fete, we've supported the Hospital fete, entertained children from Chernobyl at "Mr. Blobby's" and oh, so many local charities and groups have benefitted from our activities over the years.

Unfortunately the pandemic put a halt to our big 70th birthday party

and group activities, so we had meetings via Zoom! We also instigated the Empty Medicine Blister Pack collection because, at that time, there were no local drop-off points. Now that Chard Superdrug takes them instore our service has finished, but we thank everyone who supported this and those in the villages who are still collecting for their community.

Last October we held the Community Showcase in the Guildhall to enable small groups and charities to get together and show the town that they exist. Did you come along? Remember to let us know about all these small groups for the next one in September.

We are looking forward to the future and are delighted to welcome women of any age (over 18!) to find out more about us. You'd like to know more? Just send an email to innerwheel@uwclub.net or use messenger on our FB page and let's have a chat.



I was for Inner circle of Rotary - how it all started
N is for New Friends - a great way to make lots of them
N is for New Ideas for activities and ways to help others
E is for Energy to make things happen
R is for the Rallies we enjoy
W is for the Work which makes it all Worthwhile
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4	2			1				8
9	3						1	
					9	7		5
		2	3		6			
5								7
			5		2	1		
2		3	4					
	4						7	3
8				3			5	2

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Level: **Easy**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

SUDOKU 2

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

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Level: **Hard**

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

2 NKODNS

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

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After a difficult season 2021/22 the football club was hoping for a better one this time. The pre-season games showed again that player availability was going to be an issue again.

The season opener against Watchet was a good one with a good home win and 3 points the next four games proved very difficult with some hard games against strong opposition. A visit to Stockwood Green should have got us a good away win but it wasn't to be, losing 2-0.

A surprise draw at Mendip Broadwalk got us another point, then a tough away fixture at Watchet got us another point. After four games on the road we finally had a home game against Worle, another game we should have won, losing 1-0. On the road again we had a good win at Nailsea United. Four home games were coming up. A big 9-1 win at home against Stockwood Green was a good start then we lost against a strong Timsbury Athletic team. A win against Clutton then a defeat against Clevedon United another strong team.

A defeat away at Worle then we had the local derby to look forward to at home to Ilminster Town. Our local neighbours headed home with the valuable 3 points. After a very difficult start to the season with player availability being the main issue and some unusual results Ashley Fussell and Gary Warren made the shock announcement that they were resigning, after being loyal servants for the football club this must have been a difficult decision, but the right one for the football club.

To maintain stability within the club it was decided that personnel within would continue the management and bring in players that they knew. This proved disappointing for a few who had to give up their positions in the team but results are important for the club to avoid relegation.

It was just over four weeks before we played again with a difficult away trip to Keynsham Town Reserves. Again we had a defeat on the road. A good win at home against Fry and a point away at Timsbury followed and things were looking better. A tough encounter under the lights at Middlezey proved to be too much and another defeat.

Stockwood Wanderers beat us at home then a home draw with Nailsea the inconsistency continued but not having a settled team and a few changes were making it difficult. A loss away at Fry then a fantastic 3-2 win against Keynsham Reserves finally got us out of the bottom three. Due to the heavy rain in March we have had games called off.

Good Friday was derby day against Ilminster Town with an early KO at 12pm. Within minutes we went one goal up then a second goal not long after, another goal before half time settled the game. Despite pushing hard in the second half we kept a clean sheet, winning 3-0. Easter Monday we travelled to Stockwood Wanderers losing the game 4-1. After a two week gap we had a midweek game against a top side in Wells City reserves. Despite leading 2-0 at half time they showed their class and fought back in the second half to draw 2-2. That might be a valuable point for us in our survival.

We host Mendip Broadwalk in our last game at home so hopefully by the time you read this you will know the result and we managed to get 3 points. Our final games are away at Chilcompton Sports and Wells City Reserves so it's a tough run in.

At our AGM on the 16th May our chairman Lyndsey Gage stood down due to ill health, we would like to thank him for his loyal service and dedication to Chard Town Football Club and all the hard work he put in behind the scenes. A loyal servant to the club like Lyndsey is hard to find nowadays and he will be missed. Thank You.



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