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Flyer

AUTUMN 2022

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AUTUMN APPROACHES, and there are some storm clouds on the horizon this season. The release on Friday 26 August of the ENERGY PRICE-CAP worries all of us.

As we come to terms with increased energy prices, it maybe time to look at what we can buy right on our doorsteps here in Chard.

This edition of The Chard Flyer includes information on a wide range of local businesses and service providers. From rubbish clearance to a retirement home. From a gun shop to gas installers, and garden maintenance. From motor repairers to meat suppliers. From financial advisors to firewood suppliers. From storage to a sandwich shop. From a travel agent to taxis. From coaches to carpets. And many more besides.

So, please try to use all of these fantastic local businesses. They are right on your doorstep (almost no miles to travel) provide excellent value for money (check out their prices) and offer excellent service – you know who you are buying from!

We feature (on **Page 6**) the possibility of re-opening Chard Junction – more road miles saved? We review the churches of Chard on **Page 12**, and more memories of Old Chard on **Page 24**. Chard Inner Wheel have a new President, and launch CHARD COMMUNITY SHOWCASE on **Page 36**. On **Pages 40 and 41** our regular contributor Linda Piggott-Vijeh reviews recent HERITAGE topics in and around Chard. Students at Holyrood School are off to Cambodia next year! Read about their fund-raising activities on **Page 46**.

Life goes on, and we must make the best of things. By being careful, and BUYING LOCAL we help each other.

Best wishes for a "golden" autumn.

Anthony Bucke EDITOR

Email: chard@theantiquetourist.com

Wednesday 31 August 2022



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Swans at Chard Reservoir



Mike Mowlem combining near The Old Happy



Bookstore on Chard High Street

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CHARD PARKWAY

Well The Chard Flyer were delighted to spend an hour with 2 local people, inspired with the concept of re-opening Chard Junction station as "CHARD PARKWAY". The two concerned are recently elected County Councillor/local resident Connor Payne, and Mark Wheaton, partner at JB Wheaton LLP, the familiar local transport company.

By way of background, JB Wheaton have traded from their yard adjacent to Chard Junction level crossing since the 1930's, growing rapidly once Dairy Crest – then owners of the milk factory – offered them the opportunity to build a warehouse to accommodate surplus powdered milk. Since then the JB Wheaton transport and warehousing site has grown to cover 6 acres, and employ 50 staff.

The Wheaton operation is very aware of the need for a "green" future, and are awaiting the delivery of their first ELECTRIC truck! They also host a solar farm, not just on the warehouse roofs, but also adjacent to the railway line. Now JB Wheaton have acquired

the derelict Chard Road Tavern site, and a yard of 2.5 acres opposite, adjacent to the original Chard Junction platform.

Mark Wheaton - "We see opportunities to help the local community. Firstly there is the potential railway platform for local people to quickly get to Exeter, Salisbury and London. And our newly acquired 2.5 acre site, adjacent to the existing platform could become a covered parking area for commuters. If we added a new solar array, this would be a great opportunity to offer cheaper solar power to local homes. And with a freight siding, just counting the journeys from Southampton Docks, we could save 68,000 road miles every year for the containers which currently come into our warehouse by road."

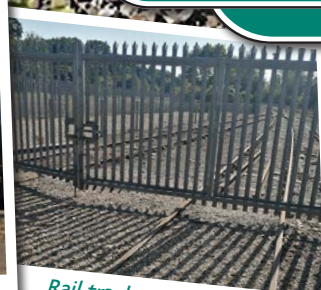
Connor Payne is a keen and enthusiastic member of Somerset County Council. Connor is confident that funding for reopening the station is available, and that work could start as soon as 2026, with trains stopping for passengers as soon as 2028.

CHARD PARKWAY

Report by Chard Flyer EDITOR
Anthony Bucke.



Councillor Connor Payne (left) and Mark Wheaton (right.)



Rail tracks still run into the former milk factory site



The original platform on the South Chard side of the tracks.

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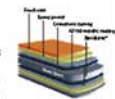
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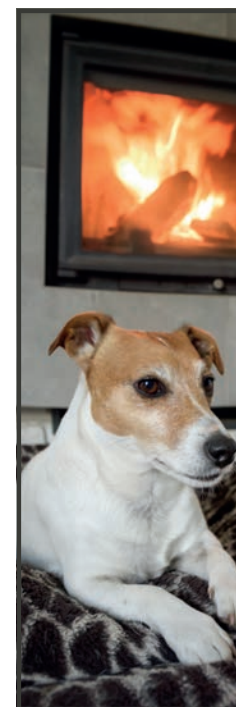
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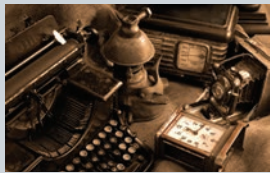
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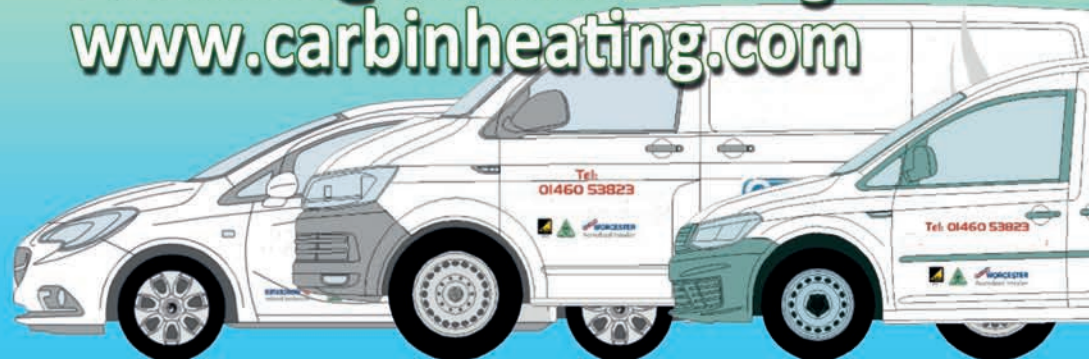
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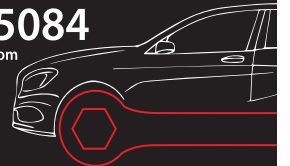
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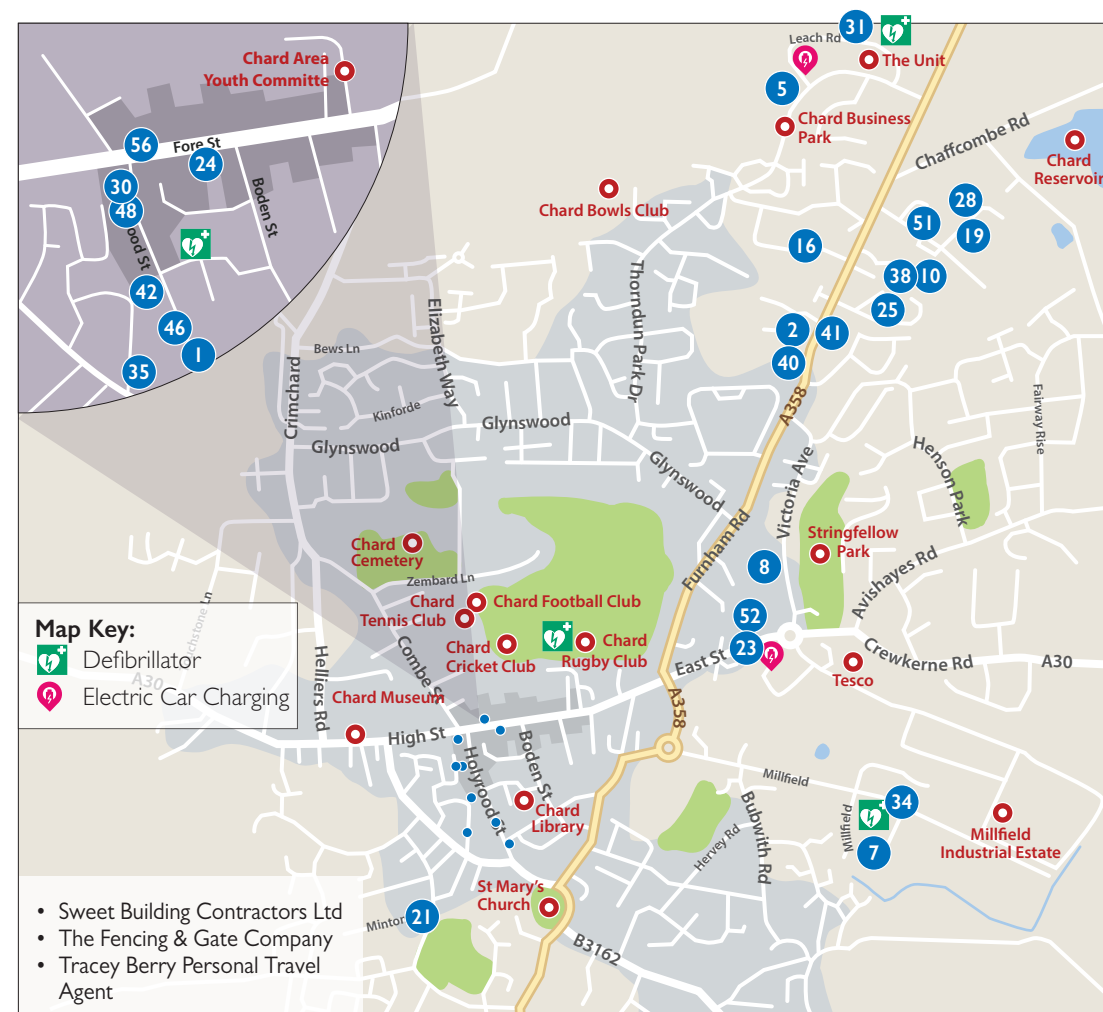
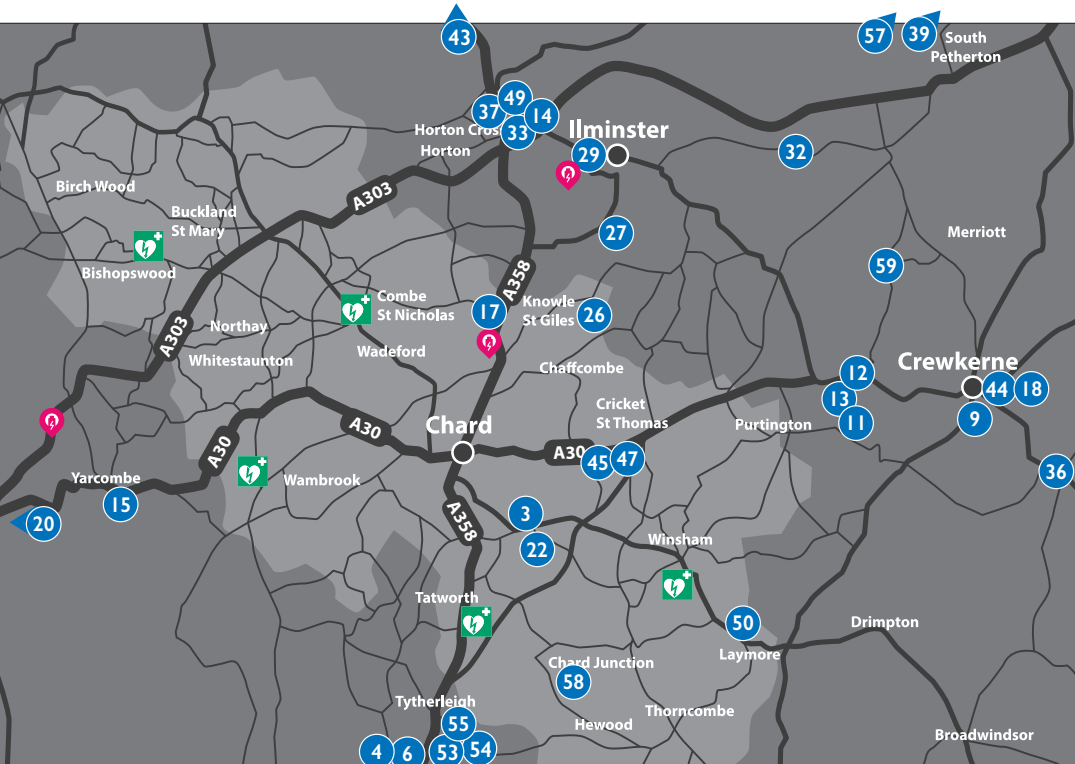
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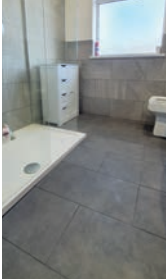
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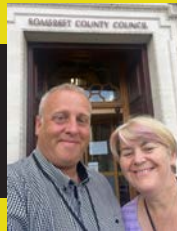
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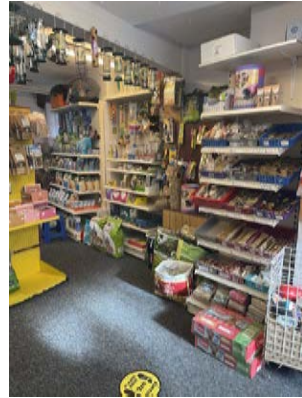
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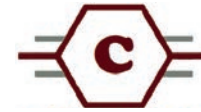
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With a full-scale mural depicting the Stringfellow triplane, Forefront Community Centre is fully back in business and offering a message of hope to all.

Operated by Forefront Community Church, which meets at Holyrood Academy every Sunday morning, the centre is a hub for community-based activities. The doors are open every weekday from 10.30-12.30pm for anyone to drop in for a coffee and a chat.

We aim to offer a warm welcome and a safe space, as well as signposting people to other community services. For those who want to make new friends, the Wednesday morning (10am-noon) Coffee and Chat is a great opportunity.

Chard's food bank, the Lord's Larder, is run from the premises, with volunteers packing bags and distributing them to people who have been referred.

Citizens Advice South Somerset runs clinics from the centre, by appointment only. On Fridays, 1-2.30pm, the centre runs a group for young parents and their babies and toddlers called Growing Together.

Counsellors and other professional bodies work out of the rooms that are available to rent - email office@forefront.org.uk for more information.

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A NEW YEAR, A NEW PRESIDENT AND NEW CHALLENGES FOR THE INNER WHEEL CLUB OF CHARD!

The first pleasant activity for new President, Desi Fradgley, was to present a cheque to Christine Williams and the members of the Chard & Crewkerne After Stroke Group. This money was raised by Club members and others who sponsored Desi's 60 mile walk (well, 60 miles spread over several walks!)

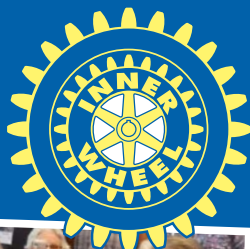
The **Inner Wheel Club of Chard** will be supporting other local groups throughout this coming year commencing with the **CHARD COMMUNITY SHOWCASE** on 15th October in the Guildhall.

We are calling all local groups, organisations and charities to take this chance to show what they have to offer the residents of Chard and the local area. Are you looking for new members? More volunteers? New supporters for your organisation?

If so, please contact us on **01460 63856** or email: innerwheel@uwclub.net for more information and to register your interest as soon as possible - spaces will be limited.

Are you looking for interesting activities for yourself or your family? Put the date in your diary and come along to the Guildhall on October 15th. Keep an eye out for posters and for any further information.

YOUNG PEOPLE! if you are over the age of 18 and would like to find out more about "Inner Wheel" and our entertaining group of ladies, who like to enjoy life whilst helping others, please get in touch!



CHARD COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

Applications are invited from Local organisations & Small Charities to show **Chard** what they have to offer.

Put the date in your diary Now!

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HARNESSING OUR HERITAGE

By comparison with some parts of the country, we are so lucky that in Chard and the surrounding area, compared with other areas of the country, we are steeped in history. In the past there has often been a lack of focus on conserving what we do have, in favour of new development. Thankfully with the increased impetus on sustainability, there is now a collective desire to protect and preserve our environment .

Chard Parkway

During my time as a local councillor, I can well recall many discussions about the viability of re-opening Chard Junction. This was always something I was in favour of as it would make a significant difference to London-bound travellers, in addition to those looking westwards to the far reaches of Cornwall. Sadly, issues over cost always meant that the idea was shelved.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in the county, millions of pounds have been spent on several projects that have not always produced the results expected.

However, with a heightened awareness of concerns over our carbon footprint, along with the spectre of a recession looming over us, notwithstanding the cost of fuel and parking, I very much hope that now due consideration will be given to the idea. Beeching has a lot to answer for!



Chard Museum

Earlier this month, many historic buildings and organisations in Chard have enthusiastically embraced participation in the annual Heritage Open Days.

Particularly pleasing is that many buildings, which are not normally accessible to the public, have opened their doors.

As one might expect, Chard Museum, where I was a trustee for many years, has been at the helm of promoting our local heritage. If you have not yet had the opportunity this year, there is still time for a visit to this amazing small museum, now under independent ownership. Until 2nd Oct. the museum remains open Wed. - Sat. from 10:00 - 13:30 for general visitors and for booked tours from 14:00 - 15:30. Outside these times the museum can be booked for private tours until 9th Dec. www.chardmusesum.co.uk



The Unique Two Streams

During the event 'An Exploration of Water in Chard' I was fascinated to learn about the key part that water has played in the development of the town.

The talks and discussions explored the local folklore of Chard's very unusual and unique feature - streams running along either side of Fore Street. One stream eventually flows into the Bristol Channel and the other reaches the English Channel, despite the diversion of the River Axe.

At the Eastern end of the town, the reservoir, built to provide water for the canal, has played an important part in the town's



history; including Gillingham's design and building of a lifeboat, Canadian soldiers playing ice-hockey on it during World War 2, and local boys hunting for eels.

Town Heritage Trail

Many visitors to the town will also have taken the opportunity to take a guided tour to explore the 27 heritage plaques.



Not to be missed is the touring exhibition of Chard's Lace Industry. A major employer in the early 1800s, the end of the Napoleonic war brought about a slump in the woollen trade, but the abundance of water and its strategic position on trade routes made Chard an ideal location for lace. This exhibit, which will be on tour in 2023, shows the history of lace in Chard. It is known as plain or bobbin net and was used for underwear, fashion trimmings, curtains and mosquito netting. There were five mills in the town at various times, where working conditions in the mill buildings was harsh; in summer the heat of the machines, the naked flames and the oil-soaked floors made them dangerous places (just imagine how hellish it would have been in the recent weather we have been having). In winter the women lace-workers would put hot coals in terracotta pots beneath their skirts to keep warm. The lace workers were easily recognised by their faces and hands blackened by the graphite used to lubricate the machines.

HardShIPS 180 Years Ago

The winter of 1841 was severe and created extra hardship for Lace Workers in the town. The Mayor was so concerned that he called together a special

meeting at which £60 was raised to buy coal, bacon and peas to help 600 townspeople who were starving. Chard's population had doubled in size as farm workers were forced off the land by necessity, to find work in the factories. Having a large and willing population who are competing for the same jobs allowed the factory owners to set wage limits at a very low level, confident there were always willing workers to take the place of those who refused. This proved to be the last straw.

In the summer of 1842, with working conditions all but impossible in the furnace-like heat, lace workers gathered to demonstrate against the wage cuts. The situation escalated when the militia were called in by local leaders and the accumulation of grievances about conditions, led to the mill workers coming out on strike. What followed threatened to cascade into riot and violence.

In later years Chard boasts the support of a local "Robin Hood" - Dr. Fawcus, a well-known philanthropist. In the years of mass unemployment, he did his utmost to relieve poverty among the poor by starting a poultry farm which employed some of the workless in the district and was well known around Chard for his round tank motorcycle which allowed him to get to every emergency whatever the time or weather. His story was told on the BBC programme 'This is Your Life' in 1961, and on his retirement from his medical practice, he received the gift of a Morris deluxe convertible, to which hundreds of local people 'had subscribed as a token of their esteem, goodwill and real affection'.



Article by Linda Piggott-Vijeh

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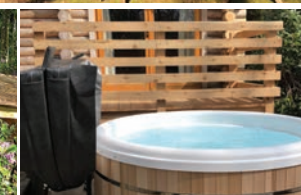
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CAMBODIA EXPEDITION 2023

We are four students from Holyrood Academy, Lucas Clerigo, Haydn Otterbeck, Cody Weller, and Robbie Hunt, excited about an opportunity given to us by our school to join The Camps International Organization along with some of our classmates on a four-week expedition to Cambodia in 2023. During this expedition, we will work closely to support the less fortunate rural communities by volunteering to work on projects such as digging wells and foundations for new housing and school rooms and replanting seedlings in deforestation areas. Assisting with agriculture and helping protect their local environments by cleaning, planting, and maintaining habitats, focusing on sustainability.

Camps International is a worldwide organisation which is organising our trip. They help students like us travel and learn about the world. This expedition costs £4000, and we must fundraise it all ourselves. 38% of the cost goes into funding the project for themselves. 21% is for the running costs of camps international. And the last 41% covers our cost of travel prices, accommodation, and food.

As part of this expedition experience, we will need to raise funds for our trip, and we are looking for sponsors to partner with us to achieve our goals and objectives. Our sponsorship funds will primarily cover the trip's costs; we will also engage in community activities, services, and

fundraising events to augment our finances for this expedition.

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We are in process of organising some events such as Bingo Night, Sports Day Event, Rally, Cinema Night, Football Fan night event, Bake Sales, Jumble Sale, and BBQ Fest, amongst other things.

If you wish to sponsor us on these events and help us raise funds for our project, we will offer multiple advertising opportunities throughout our many fundraising events, on social media, on our T-shirts and during our trip to Cambodia.

Your generous donations will go towards helping communities, and people in need live a better life and support our education and learning.

You can also support us by donating to our GoFundMe; press the link below or contact us directly by email for your donation. <https://gofund.me/4babc143>

You can also find more information on Camps International and the projects they are involved with by clicking on the link below. www.campsinternational.com/

Please email us at: cambodiaexp2023@gmail.com
Follow us on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CambodiaExp230



WE HOPE YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE.
Many thanks in advance for your consideration and sponsorship!

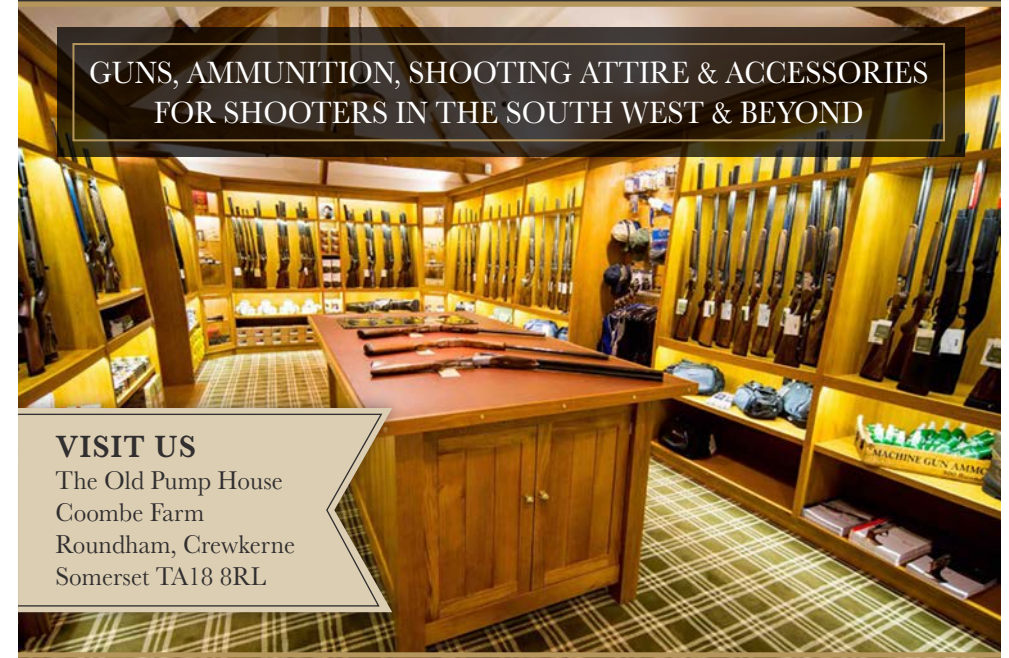
From Haydn, Lucas, Cody and Robbie



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WORDSEARCH

AUTUMN THEME

- Autumn
- Amber
- Orange
- Leaves
- Harvest
- Brown
- Cozy
- Conkers
- Halloween
- Pumpkin
- Walks
- September
- October
- November

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Mendip Broadwalk First	Chard Town First	08/10/2022	Sat	15:00
Watchet Town First	Chard Town First	15/10/2022	Sat	15:00
Chard Town First	Worle First	22/10/2022	Sat	15:00
Nailsea United First	Chard Town First	29/10/2022	Sat	15:00
Chard Town First	Stockwood Green First	05/11/2022	Sat	14:00
Chard Town First	Timsbury Athletic First	12/11/2022	Sat	14:00
Chilcompton Sports First	Chard Town First	19/11/2022	Sat	14:00
Chard Town First	Clevedon United First	26/11/2022	Sat	14:00
Worle First	Chard Town First	03/12/2022	Sat	14:00
Chard Town First	Nailsea United First	10/12/2022	Sat	14:00
Stockwood Wanderers First	Chard Town First	17/12/2022	Sat	14:00
Chard Town First	Ilminster Town First	24/12/2022	Sat	14:00
Middlezoy Rovers First	Chard Town First	31/12/2022	Sat	14:00
Chard Town First	Wells City Reserves	07/1/2023	Sat	14:00
Chard Town First	Clutton First	14/1/2023	Sat	14:00
Chard Town First	Stockwood Wanderers First	21/1/2023	Sat	14:00
Keynsham Town Reserves	Chard Town First	28/1/2023	Sat	14:00
Chard Town First	Fry Club First	04/2/2023	Sat	14:00
Stockwood Green First	Chard Town First	11/2/2023	Sat	14:00
Timsbury Athletic First	Chard Town First	18/2/2023	Sat	14:00
Wells City Reserves	Chard Town First	04/3/2023	Sat	15:00
Fry Club First	Chard Town First	11/3/2023	Sat	15:00
Ilminster Town First	Chard Town First	07/4/2023	Fri	15:00

ALL FIXTURES CORRECT AT TIME OF PRINTING



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