

The

HONITON

Flyer

AUTUMN 2024

GRATIS



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Welcome to The Honiton Flyer for Autumn 2024.



As usual – lots of great local businesses to read about! And a number of interesting articles to read too. As you will see on our front cover, Allhallows Museum are urgently raising funds to repair a faulty roof. Please read more about this in their articles on **Pages 28 & 29**. Honiton Lions Club bring us an interesting update on **Page 10**. And on **Page 14** Honiton U3A announce their programme of illustrated winter talks.

"The Honiton Flyer" spent Bank Holiday Monday at The Honiton Hill Rally. Please see our report on **Pages 18 & 19**. Our useful local and area maps will be found on **Pages 20 and 21**. Local contributor Terry Darrant has an interesting update on the future of train services through Honiton Station. Please find his article on **Page 24**.

The Honiton Flyer spent a very enjoyable day at The Honiton Show on Thursday 1 August. Exciting aerobatics; dramatic carriage - driving; quality food displays; hound judging; local wheelwright Martin Symes with his wonderful selection of trolleys and wheelbarrows. See our photo report on **Pages 32 and 33**.

Our historical contributor Terry Darrant has excelled himself in the edition, with a "tongue-in-cheek" story about Luppitt Harbour on **Page 34**.

Our selection of businesses in this edition of The Honiton Flyer is really impressive, and I hope that you all give them the support they deserve.

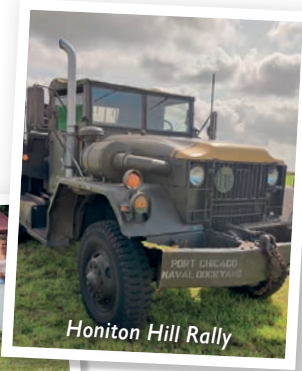
Best wishes for the Autumn,

Anthony Bucke Editor.

Friday 6 September 2024.

E. honiton@theantiquetourist.com

w. www.thehonitonflyer.co.uk



Honiton Hill Rally



Honiton Show



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Honiton Lions Club

Honiton Lions, who are busy selling tickets for their Annual Charity Draw have already raised £2,200. Following the Draw, to be held at the Otter Inn Weston, on 22nd September the Lions will donate the proceeds to local charities and good causes. The profit from last year's draw enabled the Lions to give 10 local organisations £250 each.

The Barn Dance, which the Lions held in April, was so successful that they have decided to hold another one on 18th October at the Mackarness Hall. Further information about the event can be obtained by phoning Lion Nigel Cray on 01404 43042. Tickets are available from The Costal Boutique at 62 High Street and The Little Shop of Seasons in Dolphin court at a cost of £8.

Honiton Lions have recently made the following donations: £250 to Water Aid the charity that aims to provide clean water to people in Third World Countries. £250

to fund an eye camp where people have their sight restored and protected. £200 to a local resident who will be taking part in next years London Marathon to raise money for the charity Asthma & Lung UK and £150 to Honiton Air Training Corps.

The Lions have also purchased an electric scooter to assist a local person suffering from terminal cancer. Hopefully the vehicle will give the beneficiary greater mobility.

During the summer Honiton Lions Ladies have held two very successful plant sales, outside St Pauls Church, raising a total of £830 for charity.

As always if you would like to find out more about Lions Clubs International and in particular the Honiton Club please give me a call on 01404 43738 or mobile 07966 173 828 or you can email me at brian.richards@honitonlions.org.uk or visit our website www.honitonlions.org.uk



In the photo from left to right is, Lion Terry, President Lion Brian and Sponsoring Lion Nigel at our badging ceremony in the August meeting.

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Honiton u3a

Research shows that groups like u3a provide friendship and the sharing of experiences which improve wellbeing, and help older people to live a more fulfilled third age. Honiton u3a encourages its members to develop and share their interests, to try something new and to socialise with like-minded people.

Honiton u3a is holding another series of illustrated talks at The Beehive, with the latest on Wednesday October 16th, when Mary Smith will be discussing the recently discovered artwork of a World War Two school art teacher. Her talk, entitled "A Schoolgirls War", will begin at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1.30 p.m. Visitors are welcome in return for a donation of £2.

On Wednesday, November 20th, Graham Short will be talking about his work as a Micro-Artist. Considered to be one of the most talented living exponents of this highly specialised art-form, his achievements include engraving The Lord's Prayer on the head of a pin.

Among next year's highlights, Honiton u3a is delighted to welcome back one of its most popular speakers, when on February 12th Dr. Todd Gray will be talking about the cloth trade in Georgian Devon.

Woollen cloth was Devon's most important export from the 1500s until the early 1800s. The discovery of



Devon's only sample book of historic cloth has reinvigorated the study of this industry. In this lecture, Dr. Gray will outline how Exeter became the centre of European serge production.

As well as the talks at The Beehive, Honiton u3a offers its members **36 different Interest Groups** who meet each month. Groups range from **Walking** and **Nature Appreciation**, to **Current Affairs** and **History**, from **Book Groups** and **Poetry Appreciation** to **Knitting** and **Crochet**.

They have recently introduced a number of new groups including **French** and **Spanish**, **Art for Fun**, **Local History**, **Family History**, **Photography** and **Cribbage**. Honiton u3a hopes to introduce further new groups during the Autumn.

Further information about Honiton u3a and how to join is available on their website: u3asites.org.uk/Honiton

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The new site at Smeatharpe (Upottery Airfield – the home to “Band of Brothers”) is a very fitting venue for a nostalgic event such as this.

The Honiton Flyer attended on Bank Holiday Monday, and enjoyed the banter of the auction sale, then a good wander around the demonstrations and exhibits.



This site is eminently suitable for the Rally; a large level area with big sections of concrete runway (no problems with mud), beside standing corn for harvest demonstrations, stubble cultivation and steam



ploughing. Easy for exhibitors to set up, visitors and vehicles to move around (and quite popular with cyclists!)

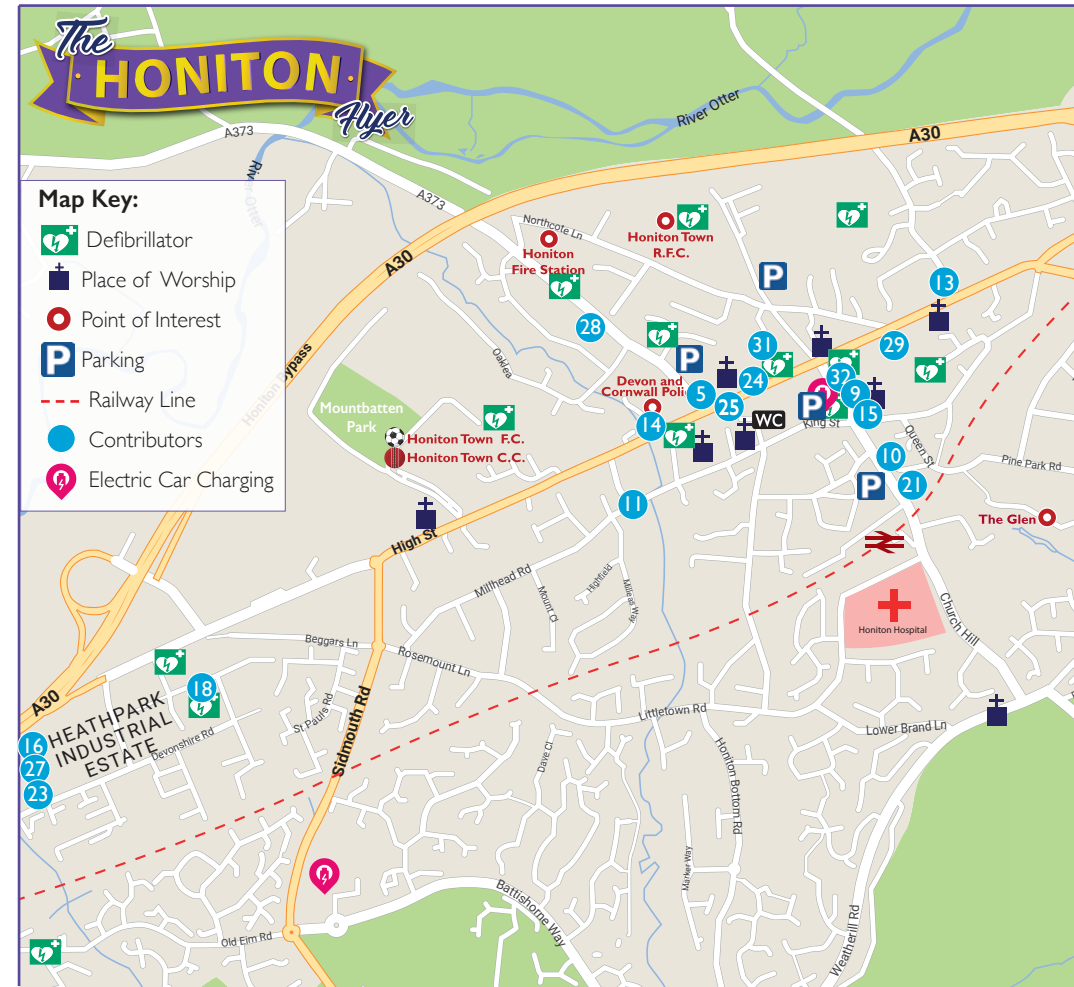
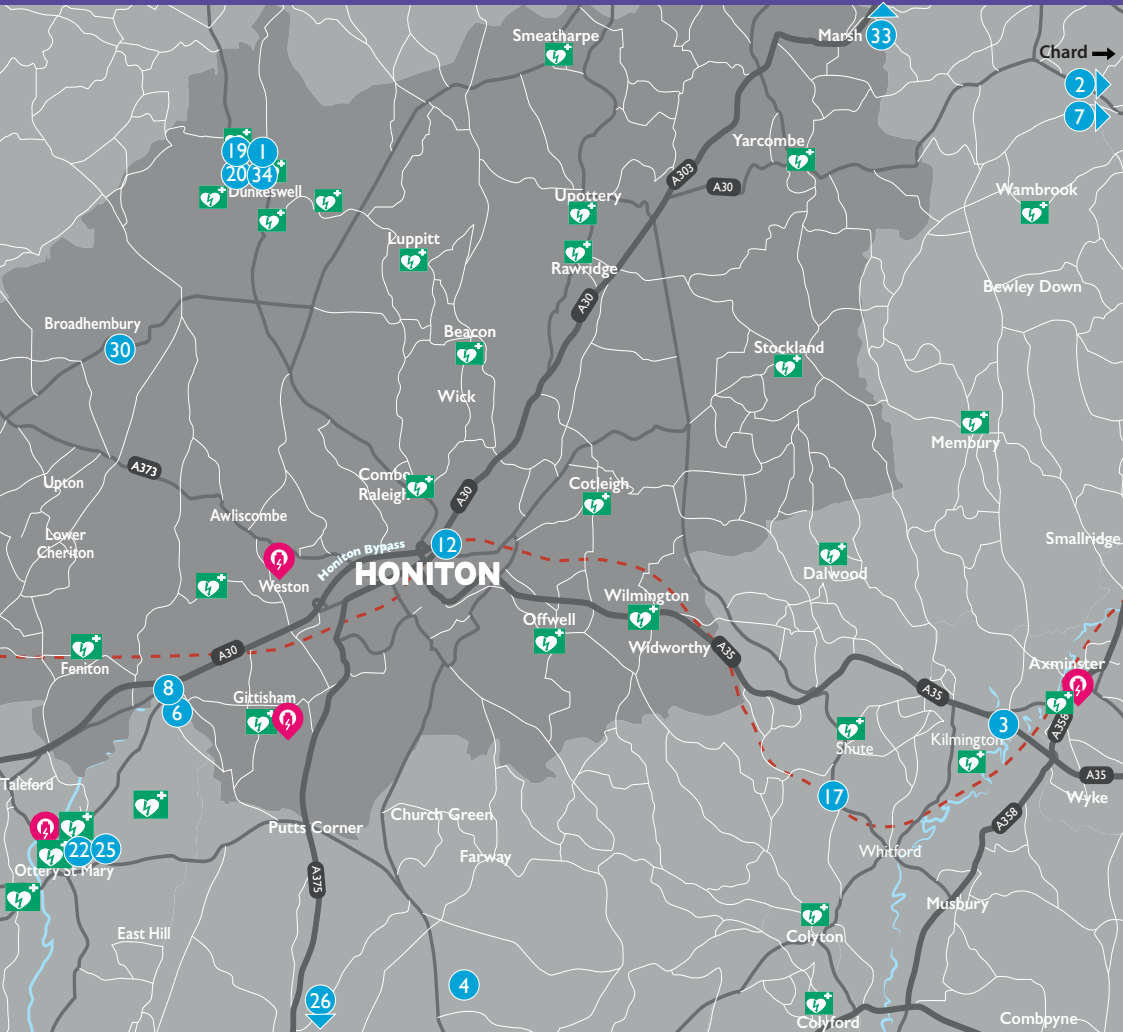
Behind the harvest demonstration was the lawn-mower racing, and further down the runway trade stands and the static displays of cars, motorcycles, tractors, stationary engines and military vehicles.

Congratulations to the organisers.



SHOW HIGHLIGHTS





- | | | |
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| 4. Blackbury Honey Farm | 12. Harts Of Honiton | 20. Nana's Attic |
| 5. Bluebird Care | 13. Helen Hunt Aesthetics | 21. New Street Vets |
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Great British Railways on the horizon!

The early weeks of the new Government have seen our railways feature strongly in its plans. The King's Speech confirmed proposals to nationalise almost all passenger services and to create a new body, called Great British Railways, to take responsibility for tracks and signalling as well as services. This process will take several years, however, as the Government will only take over services when the present contracts with operators such as South Western Railway (SWR) expire.

To those of us who use the railways, in the end what matters is not who has legal ownership of the service but whether the trains run on time, are reliable and comfortable. Therefore, it is important to recognise that, despite their existing contract with the Government running out next year, SWR are still firmly looking ahead.

At a recent meeting, they announced that the company is developing a 15-year plan for the West of England Line. The key elements of this plan are to improve performance and the reliability of services, to increase capacity on the line by introducing new services, especially between Honiton and Exeter, and to replace the rolling stock.

These are, of course, long-term goals, with the increased service dependent on the

track improvements west of Honiton that we continue to campaign hard for. Whoever runs the railway will also need shortly to decide when the very necessary updating of the signalling systems in the Salisbury and Exeter areas are carried out, which will replace older systems that increasingly have begun to break down.

At present, several options for rolling stock are being considered. The first involves battery electric trains, which could be modified versions of existing units or new stock. As an alternative, "cleaner" diesels trains could be introduced, although this would not of itself help move towards net zero.

As a stopgap, the existing trains could have their life extended beyond the early 2030s, in the hope that better alternatives, including more efficient batteries and fast-charging technology will become available. Further full electrification of lines in the South West seems a distant prospect.

To passengers using the service every day, talk of 15-year plans and nationalisation bills may seem to be of only academic interest. All they want is a regular, efficient service, at a reasonable cost, that is not delayed or cancelled. Working closely with the rail industry, I know that everyone concerned is doing everything they can to make sure this happens, now and in the future.

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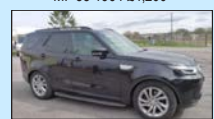
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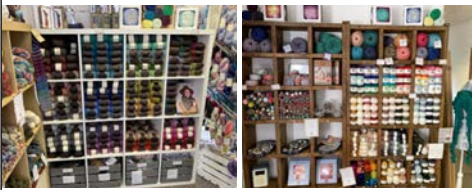
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ALLHALLOWS MUSEUM, HONITON.

The Museum was opened in November 1946, and with a variety of volunteers guiding the development of the displays, it remains today in the safe hands of a group of enthusiastic volunteers. Originally the building was the chapel to Allhallows School which once occupied the site.

As a consequence there are many interesting and historic paintings on the arched ceilings of the museum. The foundation of the museum displays came from the private collection of Mr John Murch.

By 1965 the records show that the museum welcomed 5,000 visitors during the year. In the same year bones of various exotic animals were found during the excavations for the Honiton bypass. These important and exciting finds include hippo and elephant bones, some of which have ended up in Exeter Museum.

In the early 1980's as a result of the inspired decision to expand the collections and displays of local lace, visitor numbers rose dramatically. Then followed The Annual Honiton Lace Day, which brought even more visitors from far and wide. Between 1979 and 1992 the lace collection rose from 25 pieces to 208 pieces,

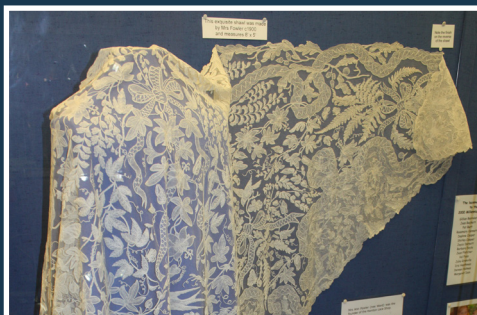


Now, Allhallows Museum is the home to many local artefacts, including the most comprehensive collection of Honiton lace in the world!

For visitors seeking information about their ancestors, Allhallows Museum is Devon Record Office Service Point for 50 parishes surrounding Honiton.

Allhallows Museum is open from Easter to October from Monday to Saturday of every week, and is run entirely by volunteers.

www.honitonmuseum.co.uk



Scan to donate



ALLHALLOWS MUSEUM IN NEED OF REPAIRS

Allhallows Museum, Honiton is an accredited museum and a registered charity (306645) run entirely by volunteers.

At the beginning of this year we had to take down and replace the lath and plaster ceiling in the Nicoll Gallery which was about to collapse and that cost the charity over £10,000.

Now we need to replace the 121 year old lead flat roof which covers the Gallery because it leaks when it rains, is beyond repair and no longer fit for purpose.

WE HAVE BEEN QUOTED £40,000 FOR THE WORK WHICH HAS TO BE DONE URGENTLY.

The basic day to day running costs of the museum are £55.70 per day, 365 days a year.

We rely on the generosity of our visitors for most of the Museum's funding, so every contribution to this project would be most welcome and appreciated.

Elsie Stanbury (a museum trustee) has set up a fund raiser on a go fund me page <https://gofund.me/ebce171f> and there is a donate button on our website www.honitonmuseum.co.uk



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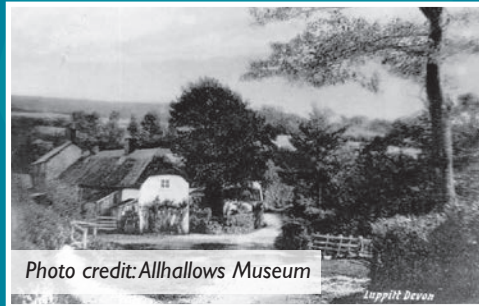
LUPPITT HARBOUR

With the summer holidays now over, many may be happy to say farewell to the 2024 season of caravans, tents and general ubiquity of tourists. But whilst they are buying their ice creams, hiking up the local produce prices, and blocking you in a traffic jam on the morning of that important meeting, do any of you know how to single them out?

In 1977 a letter appeared in the former local rag, "The Pulman's Weekly News", titled 'How to spot a grockle'. The letter described them 'as creatures found usually wandering around in groups' who 'swarm down to the beach in droves...when the sun is out' and are 'easy to recognise in various shades of red and brown' whose 'diet is basically very simple – chips'. However, if the reader still had trouble spotting examples of 'grockles' the author went on to describe how they always ask 'very funny questions' such as "What do you put in those crab sandwiches", "Is your cat real" and "Look at all those mackerel swimming in fresh water"!

Those stranded on the pre Honiton bypass days were easy to recognise as 'grockles' however, some clever local entrepreneurs, for 'a couple of bob', would direct these stranded motorists, via secret shortcuts, through the back lanes to the open highway. Yet it was, and still is to some, also customary to send these 'out of towners' on 'the scenic route' shall we say: by

directing those, who pull up with their window down asking "Excuse me, where is...?", the wrong way, or at least give them points to look out for, on the dictated route, that don't actually exist until they have gone mad, thrown the sat-nav from the window and are hopelessly lost! One such location, perhaps the favourite of places, Honitonians seem to like sending these forlorn creatures to must-be 'Luppitt Harbour' and you might even find one of these naive 'wound down window' travellers actually asking of its whereabouts.



The origins of this local 'red herring' are not really known. However, in 1977 a Mr Bowditch put forward a fishy story that he had been told by his father. It was said the village 'simpleton' of Luppitt set some mole traps on Luppitt Common and, during the night, some prankster set one of the traps off by sticking a 'bloater' in it. When, the following morning, the lad found he had caught a fish 600 feet above sea level in the middle of a field, it apparently never occurred to him that someone was 'having him on' and the story went round the village 'faster than gossip' and hence the area, near where the boy had set the traps, got the infamous local nickname.

Whether or not this actual account was the origin of this watery tourist attraction perhaps this retelling will save any future holiday makers the embarrassment of being sent on a fishy day trip to 'Luppitt Harbour' the next time a local suggests it to them!

Many editions of the former newspaper Pulman's Weekly can be viewed in Honiton Museum, which is also unfortunately needing to raise some funds to repair lead work to the roof so please drop by and support this fascinating local history spot.



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 Date: _____
 Start time: _____
 Time to solve: _____

SUDOKU 2

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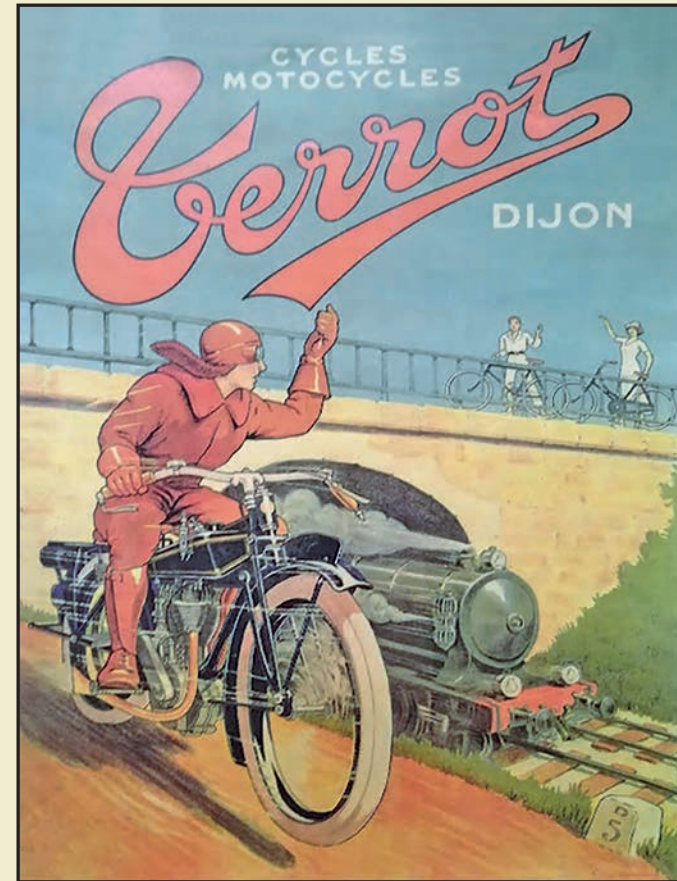
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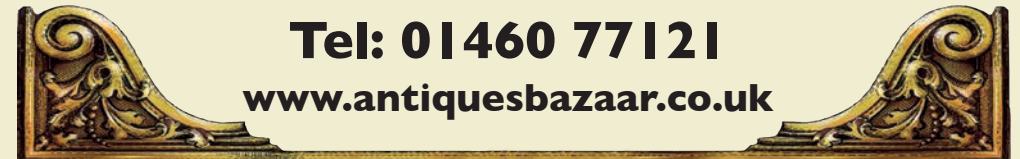
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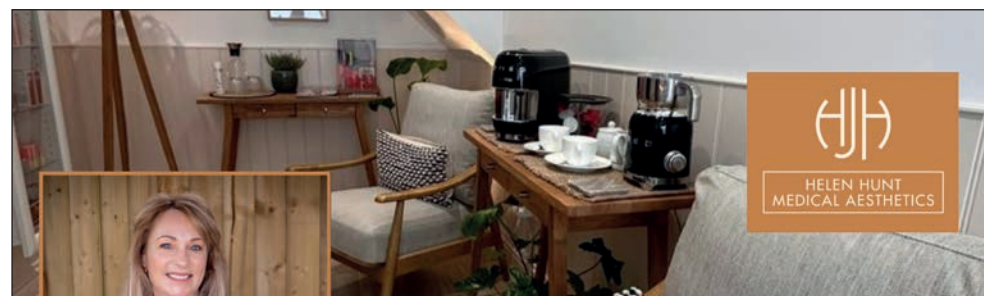
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