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FROM THE EDITOR

I'M AFRAID THE VERY WET WEATHER we're enduring in late June is all my fault – I decided to put the parasols out and as soon as I did that ... well, we haven't sat under them at all. Sorry folks!

And on the subject of gardens and gardening, we have amassed a huge number of flowerpots, large and small. I don't want to take them to the tip so if anyone wants any of them, let me know. We'll be away on holiday till July 4th (no, we're not coming back especially to vote – pure coincidence!) so email me any time after that. Contact info at the foot of this page. And if you're a burglar reading this, no, the house isn't empty while we're away. We have a live-in house/dog sitter.

Meanwhile, a big shout out to Brian Baxter for the front cover picture. Brian is one of four artists whose work is being featured in Great Elm as part of the Frome Open Arts Trail. There's more information in the Great Elm section of this issue.

That's about it from me for a couple of months. This issue is a joint one with August so you can relax knowing that I won't be hassling you until September. Have a great holiday – hope the weather's more summery than it has been. Oops, that's probably cursed it. Sorry! *Peter*

JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

AS I WRITE THIS IN EARLY JUNE to meet the early deadline the media has been almost wholly occupied with the 80th D-Day anniversary. And what an amazing group of 90- and 100-year-old men and women who survived that remarkable time we were privileged to see and hear.

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com
Advertising: Peter Corbett, 01373 466536, mellsmag@hotmail.com
Deadline for September is FRIDAY AUGUST 16TH but do check!
Printed by Frome Printworks 01373 800 300

CONTACTS

Mells Group of churches is currently in a vacancy. For any enquiries please contact the church warden in your parish. For weddings contact the benefice administrator, Mrs Catherine Brown, email catmellsgroup@gmail.com. She works on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

Church laymen and women Church wardens	Parish council chairs and clerks			
Buckland Dinham Jenny Waller, 07887 556936	John Reckless 01373 461841 Diane Sleigh 07907 156735 parishclerk@bucklanddinham.org			
Chantry Hazel Tovey 836384 David Rawlins 836252				
Great Elm Sally Rosa 07833 900947				
Mells/ Vobster Mrs Diana Sylvester 812386	John Earl 01373 812450 Joy Book 07704 584953			
Whatley Mrs K Gay 836175	Andrew Bramston 01373 836513 Rachel Nash clerk.whatleyparishcouncil @gmail.com			
Roman Catholic Services				
M II C 1 (1120 E C) 1 520				

Mells: Sundays at 11.30am Frome: Saturdays 5.30pm. Wednesdays 11.30am Sundays 10.00am

Somerset Councillor: Philip Ham 01373 812152 Others to be confirmed

Chantry and Whatley Francis Hayden 07970 839532

Police: PCSO Louise Perry, 07874 893777

But now, our group of churches is approaching its own D-Day – or rather P-Day (Priest in Charge) appointment. This, according to the proposed timetable, will take place in July, assuming there are some applicants for the post. Whoever he or she is I'm sure they will get a warm welcome and plenty of local support.

As I expect is reported in Chantry news section, we had a cake and plant sale in the church and churchyard on Saturday June 1st, organised by Jan and Andrew and some willing helpers. The weather was fine, following weeks of rain so it was a real gamble but we were blessed with enough sun to cheer but not roast all of us who manned the plant stalls. So many lovely healthy unusual or popular were kindly donated. And inside the church dozens of scrumptious cales were sold whole or served sliced with tea and coffee and enjoyed at tables set around the open areas of the churchyard. A mist enjoyable and successful day, followed by a generous drinks and supper for the helpers at Jan and Andrew's. And around £500 was raised for the church community funds.

I had the great delight of a really close encounter with a red kite a few weeks ago. I was being driven back to Chantry from taking the 9.30 service at Whatley church when a large bird of prey which we thought was a buzzard swooped up from the road ahead where it had been about to retrieve a dead rabbit. But as it rose high above us the distinctive forked tail showed it to be a red kite. I was delighted to get such a close view, having only seen them high above, riding on air thermals. I hope the bird would manage later to gather up the rabbit without itself being hit by a car. However, a few minutes after arriving home, Paul, who had driven

D HURLE PLASTERING General Plastering, Skimming, Dry Lining Daniel 07849 717702 danielhurle@sky.com me and shared the sighting rang to say that on the way back to Whatley the kite had swooped down ahead of him and flown off with the rabbit. So I needn't have worried. One red kite had a good meal or, probably, provided breakfast for wife and children on nest.

I have had an invasion of jackdaws again this year on my bird feeders at about the same date as last year. Normally, I love to hear them quacking around on roofs or trees but just about now they tend to descend like a crowd of hooligans and take over the feeders. Usually, one clever one does a woodpecker act, clinging on and bashing out crumbs for this beneath. I have stopped refilling the feeders for a couple of weeks and that worked last year. Presumably as one food source dries up, they seek out somewhere else to raid. I hope this works this year as the many small birds have nestlings to feed now and need the extra food. I read in the Mendip Times that although many bird species are in decline, as, sadly, many of us have noticed, goldfinches are prospering and increasing at this time. And a "birdy" friend said recently that he had seen many more of them lately, which is good. I have not been lucky enough to see one for several years although I always leave thistle heads and other seed heads in the orchard in hopes. But perhaps I just haven't been down there to watch at the right times?

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marc@marcpeel.com www.thegentlemanpainter.com Call Marc on 01373 813861 or 07899 900077 As I don't take a newspaper, a dear old friend sends me cuttings of anything in the wildlife or animal line that she thinks will interest me. I often find theses informative or inspirational and occasionally amusing. One such was about an elderly pony who called daily at his local pub for a drink of Guinness. That reminded me of our old goat, Peggy, who we had for many years "back home". When she became really old and frail and even went off her food, the vet said he couldn't do much for her. "Nothing really wrong, just old age. Try and tempt her to eat," he said. "Even try a spot of Guinness. Might help." And didn't it just! We offered it tentatively, pushing the bottle into the side of her mouth where goats have no teeth. And, my goodness, teeth or not she practically ate the bottle and all. And dear old Peggy lived for almost another year with her daily half bottle of Guinness to supplement her regained appetite. Oh dear, I've gone off sideways again. And I haven't mentioned the churchyard – a swaying field of white moon daisies in the wilded area and green carpeted around the mossy old gravestones. We are so fortunate that it's so well loved and cared for.







Church services in July

	7th July	14 th July	21" July	28" July	4 th August
Chantry		Ham: Malins Vel Rewins	11am Hely Communiting David Clark	11am: Holy Communium Martin Weymont	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion David Clark
Great Elm			9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informat Service Richard King	
Melis		9.30am Hely Communion David Gatiffe		9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Cauldwell	
Whatley	10.00am Group Service: Hely Communion David Gatiffe	9.30am; Matrie Hazell Tovoy		9:30am Holy Coromorium	

Church services in August

	4 ⁹ August	11 th August	18 th August	25 th August	5eptember
Chantry	10.00am Croup Service: Holy Communion David Clark	11am: Matine Vei Rawlins	11am Holy Communion David Clark	11am: Hely Communion Too	
Great Elm			9.30am: Hoty Gommunion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion David Glarke
Mells		9.30am Holy Communion		9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Cauldwell	
Whatley		9.30am: Matins Hazell Tovey		9.30am Holy Communion David Clarke	

Hardington Vale Church Services - JULY 2024

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Monday 1 July	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Tuesday 2 July	11.00 am	Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Holy Communion
Wednesday 3 July	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer
Thursday 4 July	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 7 July	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Informal Breakfast
	10.30 am	Rode, Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton, Holy Communion
	5.00 pm	Rode, Chapel, Meeting Place
Monday 8 July	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Tuesday 9 July	5.00 pm	Tellisford, Evening Prayer
Wednesday 10 July	8.30 am	Hemington, Murning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer
Thursday 11 July	5.00 pm	Norton St Phillip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 14 July	10.30 am	Norton St Philip, United Holy Communion
Sea Sunday	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham, Iona Service
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	0.00	ALL ALL ON THE U.S. AND THE CO.
Monday 15 July	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Wednesday 17 July	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer
Th	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Informal Prayer Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Thursday 18 July	6.00 pm	
Sunday 21 July	9.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford, Morning Worship - bcp
	10.30 am 10.30 am	Rode, Holy Communion
		Norton St Philip, Informal Worship
	11.00 am	Laverton, Matins
	11.00 am	Buckland Dinham, Holy Communion
Monday 22 July	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Morning Prayer
Tuesday 23 July	5.00 pm	Tellisford, Evening Prayer
Wednesday 24 July	8.30 am	Hemington, Morning Prayer
	5.00 pm	Rode Chapel, Ecumenical Informal Prayer
Thursday 25 July	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip, Silent Prayer
Sunday 28 July	9.00 am	Tellisford, Holy Communion
************	9.00 am	Rode, Contemplation & Coffee
	10.30 am	Norton St Philip, Holy Communion
	11.00 am	Laverton, Matins
	5.00 pm	Buckland Dinham, Evening Service
Monday 29 July	9.00 am	Norton St Philip, Marning Prayer
4350 500 CHING SO (CHINA)	8.30 am	Hemington, Murning Prayer
Wednesday 31 July		

As we went to press, the August schedule of services in the Hardington Vale group was not yet available.

So, see you in September. September? Wow! Where will summer have gone? I hope all who take holidays have enjoyable ones and those who stay at home don't work too hard. Gardens are for relaxing in, too. Enjoy the blessings of summer!

Hazell.

ROUND AND ABOUT

KILMERSDON GARDENERS - PROGRAMME FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

July 10th, Brian Jacques, Exotics Outdoors and your best potted plant competition, (indoor or outdoor but must have lived with you for six months); August, garden visit tba, August 18th Writhlington Flow Show and KG plant sale; September 11th, Sam Ross, Saving Seeds for Loca Biodiversity; October 9th, Suz Adicott, Root Connections; November 13th, Eileen and Jacky Avon, Re-Wild Chew, Garden by Garden; December 11th, Christmas Choice; January 8th, Neil Ross, Garden Disasters; February 12th AGM.

BUCKLAND DINHAM

THE BUCKLAND DINHAM ANNUAL VILLAGE GATHERING (AKA ANNUAL PARISH MEETING)

Thank you to all who came along to this meeting which moved on at pace with lightning talks from representatives of all village groups, including The Bell, giving interesting information and some amusing anecdotes regarding their organisations.

We also heard about those affected by the recent flooding in the village and the need to implement an emergency plan in the near future. The Parish Plan group imparted initial survey results and the winner of the Gar prize draw attached to the survey was announced -

congratulations to Lucy Greer.

The Parish Council hosted this event supplying delicious sandwiches, nibbles and wine and the meeting ended with a convivial atmosphere rounding off a lovely summer evening at this popular community annual event.























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BUCKLAND BUDDIES

The **Buckland Buddies** meeting on June 4th in the Village Hall was a fun time with all members entertained and treated to a very informative and interesting evening.

Debs Marrison-Wood came with many beautiful 'fascinators' she had made, and each member had one placed on their respective heads. She then told us how they were made, passed around many items for us to feel and I think all of us were quite amazed at not only the skill she had, no stitches showing, but her imagination to come up with the ideas. Her hats and fascinators are either for sale or hire and many have been seen on the television at Royal Weddings, Ascot etc. I for one will be paying more attention to the hats rather than the people or horses when next watching these types of events.



The next meeting is on **July 2nd** in the Village Hall from 7.30. No speaker this month but on **August 6th** we plan to have a skittles evening. This will be an "open evening" for husbands and friends

and any new prospective members to come along to either play or just to show their support.

For further details please contact Sue Simenton on 01373 472316 **after July 10th.**

SHORT MAT BOWLS

We were delighted that two new members joined us on May 29th and really enjoyed themselves. It proved to me that some people do actually read our 5Alive so thank you to all who do!

Jill Wright

CHANTRY

CHANTRY CHURCH

An advance notice of the Harvest Festival Service, this will be held on Sunday September 15th at 6.00pm. All welcome we look forward to seeing you all.



As in the past we would like donations of tinned and dried goods to be given to the Frome Food Bank. In other years we have been pleasantly surprised by the fantastic generosity of this small village and look forward to receiving just as much this year. It really helps those who are struggling to know that they are able to get some food to feed their families. We will remind you of the date in the September issue. The service will be followed by a 'bring and share supper' at Birdshadows courtesy of Mrs H Tovey.

	Maintenance	
Date	Flowers	Cleaning
06-07-24	Val	Sue
13-07-24	Val	Sonia
20-07-24	Hazel	Sue
27-07-24	Laureen	Dolly & Val
03-08-24	Val	Clare

PLANT AND CAKE SALE

What a fabulous day we had for the plant and bake sale in Chantry. So many baked cakes, grew plants, brought bunting, helped set up, sell plants, and tidy up, or came just to shop. (Most important!). We had residents and their friends, of Whatley, Chantry _



and from much further afield...some just in cars passing by, others like Ross and family came up from Exeter with plants to sell - that's family support for you! We even had our son Chris and very pregnant daughter in-law join us from Bristol who went into labour the next day! (I'm sure you'll join me in congratulating them on their baby girl Elodie). The valiant team who served teas, coffee and cakes were busy all day and we even had a late surprise of Mr Treats ice cream bike. A massive thank you to all. We raised £540 - both

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villages benefitting from the event for their individual projects. Congratulations to everyone!

Meet the author

A rare and exciting opportunity to meet a local author here in our community hub (church)

Holy Trinity will host Michael Tasker Philips who lived in Chantry Lodge (entrance to The Chantry) and wrote much of the first of his trilogy: 'Grace'.

Set in wartime Britain, it tells the story of a little orphaned girl who has amnesia, and is believed by her adoptive mother to be her own daughter who had drowned some years before.

Grace grows up in a family of ambiguous feelings, saved only by her relationship with their Indian servant, and later, a love triangle. Her parents are preoccupied with their secret wartime work. Grace knows that a piece of paper locked in her father's desk may hold the answer to who she really is.

Come and meet Michael and find out more about his time here in Chantry and what inspired him to write this book.

Grace can be purchased at Stripy Duck Bookshop, Bruton, Hunting Raven in Frome, or online at ArchetypeBooks.net or Amazon



GREAT ELM

GLEBE HOUSE TEA PARTY

There will be a tea party in the garden at Glebe House, next door to the church on Sunday, July 21st to tie in with celebrating St Mary Magdalene, our patronal saint. Starting at 3.30pm we hope for some good warm weather for everyone to enjoy the garden and possibly a game of croquet on a mown but unmanicured lawn!

The swimming pool will be open for anyone who would like to swim. All children must be supervised by an adult. There are no changing facilities as such although toilet access in the house will be available.

JUNEFIELD, GREAT ELM, BA11 3NY 01373 812366

SATURDAY JULY 6th– SUNDAY JULY 14th, from 11.00am – 5.00pm daily Opening for the third year running, ARTHAUS is a "must see" part of Frome Open Art Trail.

Comments from last year's visitors: "Exciting" "Difficult to better" "Inspiring" "Glorious".



Brian Baxter's watercolour wildlife painting, occasionally (and this month, too!) to be seen on the front cover of this magazine, are augmented by abstract collages and his ceramics in the Japanese and Korean traditions. Held in many public and private places, his paintings are also part of the Parliamentary Collections.

Cath Bloomfield, BA Hons Ceramics, is especially renowned for inventive print and collage works and it is these which she contributes to this exciting show. Jennifer Douglas, presents imaginative ceramic sculptural forms in stoneware. She has worked with clay for over 20





ARTHAUS GREATELM





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years since studying ceramics at art college. Well-known as an accomplished printmaker, she provides popular courses in a variety of media for Frome Community Education.

Lynn Baxter holds a BA Hons in Fine Art, and shows abstract paintings, collages and ceramics. Alongside these are her small sculptures for indoor settings with larger-scale works presented in the sculpture court.

The gallery, house and gardens are open for the run of the show. All are welcome.

MELLS WITH VOBSTER

MELLS PARISH COUNCIL (full minutes can be found at mellsparishcouncil.org.uk)

Notes of meeting held on Tuesday June 11th 2024

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Quarry & cement lorries on Holes Lane: Residents raised concerns regarding the number of heavy vehicles using Holes Lane. The vehicles are causing damage to boundary walls and

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making it incredibly dangerous for anyone walking/cycling in the area. Cars are frequently having to pull into resident's driveways to allow the lorries through or the lorries are having to back up to the crossroads to help alleviate the congestion which can last for over 20 minutes. Clerk to contact Highways, Marshalls and the quarry to see if movements down the road can be reduced. The Estate will look at cutting back the overhanging trees which are causing vegetation to accumulate on the highway.

Mells Fete: This was a great success and brought the community together although it only just broke even. The organisers are looking at running the event for two years then having a year off. They are also looking at the possibility of including the Recreation Ground to help raise funds for it. Somerset Highways has confirmed that pedestrians should not be charged to access a highway. It would be acceptable to request a donation or if it is preferred that a fixed fee is charged, this could be done via another access point that is not on the Highway.

SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Redundancies update: In total 201 applications for voluntary redundancy have been accepted by Somerset Council at a total cost of £12.8m with an expected ongoing wage bill reduction of £8.2m. The Council needs to





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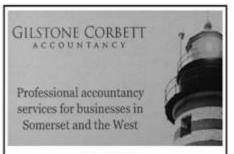
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Fleecemill Cottage, 1 The Steps, Buckland Dinham, BA11 2QR. Tel: 01373 474637 Mobile: 07929 938419 (Ian Gallagher) www.weatherproofwindows.co.uk reduce the number of staff by approximately 25%. The Council has launched a 45-day consultation on restructuring with those receiving compulsory redundancy leaving the authority between November 2024 and March 2025.

General Election Voter Registration: For residents who have recently turned 18 or just moved home, it is important to act to ensure that they are registered to vote in the General Election. The deadline to register is midnight on Tuesday June 18th. Applications can be made on line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote The deadline to apply for a postal vote is 5.00pm Wednesday June 19th. Those who are registered to vote at the polling station but do not have an accepted photo ID can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate before the deadline at 5.00pm on Wednesday June 26th via: www.gov.uk/apply-for-photo-id-voter-authority-certificate The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is 5.00pm on Wednesday June 26th.

Safe disposal of small gas cannisters: Due to the increasing number of gas canisters being put out with recycling, crews have had to manually check recycling ahead of the automated sorting process to avoid fires. The Bright Blue Bag can be used to recycle empty aerosol bottles but should never be used to dispose of gas canisters. Gas canisters must be taken a local household recycling site.

Road surface dressing: Somerset Council's new partner Kiely Bros are launching a programme of road repairs across the County's network this month. Details of this year programme can be found at



https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/surface-dressing/

Volunteer to help Home Library Service Users: The Home Library Service (HLS) is looking for people who can lead teams of volunteers in Bridgwater, Wellington, Yeovil, Frome, Chard and Crewkerne. The HLS is free and available to anyone who cannot visit a library in person. The Lead Volunteers liaise with Somerset Libraries, keep in touch with local volunteers and arrange cover for sickness, and use their local knowledge to support customers and the Home Library Service

MATTERS ARISING

Barn lease: Cllr Earl reported that the 30 year lease on the paddock is nearly finalised. Once in place, the money ring fenced to upgrade the car park, which includes a path for wheelchairs, will be released to start those works.

Old GPO box on verge – Leigh road: Openreach to remove it. Trees overhanging telephone lines – Little Green: An Openreach engineer has visited the site but the outcome is unknown.

Quarry noise: The noise levels have been much better recently but this is due to the wind going in a northerly direction. Cllr West mentioned that he did not think that some of the noise was due to drivers changing gear as they come up the steep face as the lorries are automatic. This will be investigated further. The quarry is thinking about putting CCTV cameras on the viewing platform as there has been some vandalism.

HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

Overgrown bush by Honeysuckle Cottage, Vobster: Highways has visited the site again and correspondence will be forwarded to the owner via the letting agent.

Fast traffic by Claveys Farm: Clerk has contacted Highways regard**ing** the installation of camera signs but has not received a response yet.

Public path diversion order – FR10/4, FR10/5 & FR10/6: No objections.

ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

September meeting: The clerk is away for the September meeting so it was agreed to cancel it.

Overgrown vegetation near junctions: Many thanks were extended to Mark Jones who has strimmed several areas near junctions around the village.

Lock up: The Estate will see if anything can be done to improve the appearance.

Street lights – Longfield: Cllr Seewooruttun has been in contact with Somerset County and National Grid to get the lights repaired.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday July 9th 2024 at 7.15pm in the Barn

Joy Book, Clerk, Tel: 07704 584953, Email: parishcouncils.frome@gmail.com

WHATLEY

ST GEORGE, THE NEW COMMUNITY HUB FOR WHATLEY

By the time we get July/August edition of 5Alive Whatley will have enjoyed the celebration of the refit of St George into a new community hub. So many people have worked hard to make this possible, but our biggest thanks go to St. George Parochial Church Council. They have, for many years, 'discussed' with planners, church authorities and service providers with determined foresight in order to make this space the most effective and adaptive as possible for village use.

We owe a debt of gratitude to those who generously bequeathed money to the church in their wills, Jim Wykes, Muriel Baber and Donald Baber. Their love of the church and of Whatley will be commemorated in this new community space for many more generations.

We also thank those who have formed a committee to lead our future events. It augurs well for our community spirit that the new team, chaired by Lizzie Dekkers, are mostly relatively new to Whatley. Thank you for taking on the community life that has been part of Whatley for so many generations.

The builders have finished! The church has been given a good spring clean by Mary Scott and Judy Boorer, so now we can resume our printed

rota: this month Pippa Witt, (July 6th) Katie Gay (13th) Jenny Norris (20th) and Alice Kettle (27th)

Thanks again to Paul Gay who had a plant stall at the recent fundraiser in Chantry churchyard. He raised £100 for church funds while giving numerous plants the opportunity to flourish in our gardens! It indicates the new way for the parishes of Whatley and Chantry to work together for the benefit of both villages.

The joint villages also have a book club, enjoyed by many of us, but if you are not, and would like to be included on the group email list please let us know. We meet at varying times and places to make sure no-one is excluded because of inconvenient timing. We choose our books from a wide range of genres. All welcome.





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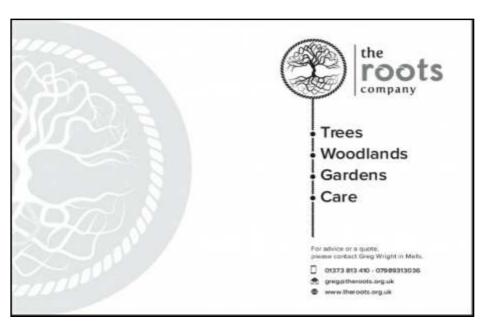
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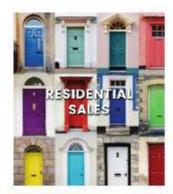
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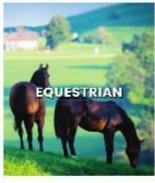
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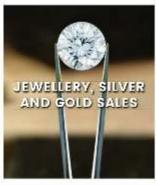


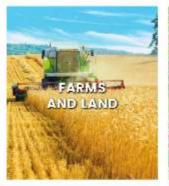














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