

# ***DIPTFORD AND NORTH HUISH***

## ***PARISH NEWS***

***SEPTEMBER 2023***

***No. 632***

**If you know anyone who would like to receive the Parish News – contact  
Val Haddy 01548 821418 or email [valjohnhaddy@aol.com](mailto:valjohnhaddy@aol.com)**

**There are many new residents within Diptford Parish – who are all welcome to join the mailing list  
for the Parish News – find out what is going on in the village and come and  
join in this vibrant community**

	03.09.2023 Trinity 13	10.09.2023 Trinity 14	17.09.2023 Trinity 15	24.09.2023 Trinity 15
Diptford with North Huish	11am Morning Prayer  4.30pm Brick Church	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion
Ermington	11am Holy Communion	11am Morning Prayer	11am Holy Communion	11am Family Service
Harberton	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Morning Prayer	9.30am Holy Communion	<b>NO SERVICE at Harberton So please see As above</b>
Ugborough	9.30am Non-Communion Service	9.30am Holy Communion	9.30am Non-Communion Service	9.30am Holy Communion  4.30pm Messy Church
Halwell	As Above	3.30pm Evening Service	<b>NO EVENING SERVICE</b>  Bishop Robert's	As below
Moreleigh	As Above	As above	Farewell Service  3pm	3.30pm Harvest Praise
Harbertonford	As Above	As above	@ Exeter Cathedral	As Above

**Further information can be found on the Mission Community website [www.3rivers.org.uk](http://www.3rivers.org.uk) or at  
[www.achurchnearyou.com/8942](http://www.achurchnearyou.com/8942)**

## **AUGUST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING NOTES**

### **Councillor Dan Thomas (DCC)**

There was no report from Cllr Thomas this month

### **Councillors David Hancock and Guy Pannell (SHDC)**

To read the District Councillor's Report, please see the following:

See appendix 2 <https://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org/meetings.php>

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

**Play Equipment** – The repairs to the play equipment have now been scheduled and should be completed before the end of the month. Fundraising and possible grant applications were discussed as a way of replacing/updating the play equipment which is quite old now and needing repairs more often.

**Ploughing of Lanes** – it was discussed how this can be achieved as SHDC have agreed to help with temporary road closures to make it a safe working environment for volunteers to complete the work necessary. The community payback scheme is being looked at as a possible way of additional manpower.

**Graveyard** – now that the graveyard is closed to future burials, the decision of who should be looking after the graveyard is now in the hands of the Privy Council and a decision should be made soon.

**Crime statistics for the Parish** – there were 64 contacts with the police from the Parish from the start of the year, but only 2 relate to crimes within the parish.

**Date of Next Meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7pm, Diptford Parish Hall**

If you wish to raise any matter at Council, please contact the Clerk, at [diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:diptfordpc@yahoo.co.uk)

Full Minutes will be found on the Parish Council website – [www.diptfordparishcouncil.org](http://www.diptfordparishcouncil.org)

All Parishioners are welcome to attend Parish Council Meetings.

Open Forum is held at the start of each meeting, where parishioners are able to bring up any items of concern or interest to them.



# **Diptford Boundary Walk is back!**



## **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept**

**Entry £5 adult, £1 child, £10 family  
Includes cream tea at finish**

Morning walk approx 9 miles. Meet Diptford square 9:30am, down to er  
Avon, then to Kerswell, Larcombe Quarry, Beenleigh, Murtwell and on to  
Horner for lunch approx 1pm (bring your own picnic)

Afternoon walk approx 6 miles, from Horner to Farleigh, Cleave, Bickham  
finishing at Diptford for cream tea!

The final stages of the walk are gentle, mainly downhill, suitable for  
younger children

*Please Note: All participating do so at their own risk  
All children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.  
Proceeds towards Diptford Amenity Group, Charity No. 276979  
Contact: Mike Cox, 01548 821186, [pjc.mcc10@gmail.com](mailto:pjc.mcc10@gmail.com)*

## FOOTPATH ETIQUETTE – DO'S AND DON'T'S - DOGS AND ROUTES



We have recently been made aware of a number of people letting their dogs run free on the various Public Rights of Way and adjacent land in Diptford Parish.

Under the law, although dogs are viewed as a natural appendage of walkers, in fact they have NO legal rights. This may come as a surprise to some.

There are a few Public Rights of Way in the Parish – being Footpaths and one small section of Bridleway. There are absolutely NO AREAS subject to RIGHT TO ROAM. This is restricted to designated areas of Moorland, Heath and Down and does not affect ANY areas in Diptford.

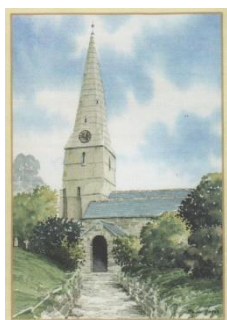
All farmland is someone's working land and used to carry on farming businesses, whether by grazing animals or growing grass or crops.

Always pick up after your dog - it is an offence not to. Dog faeces can cause illness in farm animals.

Footpaths are:-

1. From Village Hall to Mill Lane using the fenced path – there is a dog waste bin at the Hall end – please use it and pick up after your dog at all times – it is an offence not to.
2. From top of Holsome Lane through to Holsome Farm Lane. Although unfenced, you MUST keep to the legal line of the Footpath and always keep your dog under **close control**, preferably on a lead.
3. There is a footpath from Murtwell, again unfenced and over open farmland coming out at Rolster Bridge.
4. Another unfenced path runs from Greyhills on the road towards Rolster Bridge, coming out on the road to Crabadon.
5. The final footpath in Diptford Parish begins off the Diptford Moreleigh road, crossing farmland at Wheeldon, before crossing the lane and then coming out on the road to Curtisknowle. This then continues as an unsurfaced county road via Newhouse, coming out on the road from Gara Bridge to Moreleigh.
6. The only official Bridleway in the Parish runs from Broadley Woods down to Gara Bridge. Please remember that the primary users of bridleways are horses and that all motorised vehicles are illegal on such routes.

In addition to the official Rights of Way, there are a number of unsurfaced, unclassified county roads – you can call them Green Lanes – in the Parish. These include a network around the Broadley Woods, Wheeldon area and also through Larcombe towards the Harberton road.



### **CHURCH CLEANING**

**Would you like to keep our lovely Church sparkly?**

**You will be very welcome to come along to**

**St Mary's Church, Diptford on Saturday 2 September**

**From 9.30 am til 11 am**

**Steve Partridge is now organising our cleaning sessions**

### **Garden Notes September 2023**

It may appear be an 'Indian Summer' but in reality this is Autumn. A mellow time and the pace of garden annual cycle slows down. It is also a season of flavours – wonderful juicy blackberries come into season, and apples and pears are coming into their own. Plums should be plentiful, if you can beat the birds and wasps!

The 'lazy' time is nearly over, however, and it is time to start gardening again. As a gardener you must always be thinking ahead and planning. There is no such thing as 'instant' gardening – forethought and preparation are needed if you want to have a productive and attractive garden. [Going out to the local garden centre and purchasing trays of colourful plants may feel like instant gardening, but you have made a decision after conscious or subconscious evaluation!

#### How about a thoughtful bit of work?

- Start the autumn tidy up! But not too tidy, remember your friends need shelter.
- Shred & compost all clean dead herbaceous & woody material
- Start some autumn digging or just preparation of the ground [to dig or not to dig?]
- Plan next year's flowers & vegetables, after evaluation of this year's successes or failures!
- Remove faded annuals from containers & baskets. Tidy up those still flowering.
- Replant containers with winter-flowering annuals.
- Lift & store tender perennials towards the end of the month, pelargoniums [geraniums] etc.
- Plant spring-flowering bulbs, except Tulips, (wait until November to plant tulips).
- Are you going to lift & store Dahlias & gladioli?
- Pot up bulbs for forcing, Hyacinths in glass pots, drop in a piece of charcoal to keep the water clean.
- Are you picking fruit as it ripens? Freeze, bottle or jam?
- Have you decided to plant extra or renew strawberries?
- In the greenhouse reduce watering as growth slows down. Keep well-ventilated, especially on warm days.
- Has the heat been serviced ready for later use?
- Stop feeding plants or else they will grow too 'leggy' & soft!
- The lawn mowing can be reduced & allowed to grow higher.
- Rake to remove thatch, spike to alleviate summer compaction.
- Feed with an autumn fertiliser which might contain a moss-killer!
- You could sow some grass seed on the thin or bare patches. Even cut out & put in a patch from a turf.
- Keep up the weeding, hoeing, & tidying [deadheading, trimming]
- Lift & divide clump forming plants. Pot up any spare clumps, passing them on to friends or neighbours. Don't forget to label the pots!
- Now is the time to cut back those long shoots of wisteria. Remember it is a 'vine type plant'.
- Towards the end of the month trim back hedges, shred & compost the trimmings.
- Mulch trees & shrubs with all that wonderful compost you made during the year. Do it after rain so as to retain moisture!
- Have you tried semi-ripe cuttings? Fuchsia, 'geraniums' are two good plants to try.
- Prune back rambling & climbing roses. Suggest the 'prunings' go into the 'brown bin'.

You will have been washing & sterilising pots, trays & containers as you have finished with them. Also clean up those hand tools & wipe them with an oily rag, to stop them going rusty. Is the greenhouse ready to have the white shading removed & interior washed down? The glass needs cleaning to let in as much light as possible during the winter months! Enjoy the season.

# DIPTFORD PARISH LANDS ELEEMOSYNARY CHARITY

# Diptford Parish Lands Eleemosynary Charity

**We would like to make you aware that there are funds available for people living in the parish of Diptford to access in times of need.**

## Confidentiality Guaranteed

**Contact: John Foster : 01548 821654**

# DIPTFORD AREA OIL CO-OPERATIVE



Heltor in Newton Abbot are now our supplier of choice for the Oil Co-Operative and are proving to be reliable and better matching the original brief we had with Watsons. They are prepared to support the group need for regular top up or fixed amount deliveries at competitive pricing. Basically the arrangement we originally had with Watsons.

Also to support sporadic urgent requests that sometimes arise with group members, without ridiculous spot charges/prices.

Please see flyer attached or website [www.heltor.co.uk](http://www.heltor.co.uk) for more details. I am

monitoring and agree prices, as previously, to ensure we retain the lowest possible pricing.

**If you are interested in joining the Diptford Oil Co-Operative  
please contact Steve Hill on 01548 821272 or email [mr.sjhill@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mr.sjhill@yahoo.co.uk)**

# SAVE THE DATE!


# Diptford 10<sup>th</sup> Advent Fair Saturday November 25<sup>th</sup>

**Only a month before Christmas so come and get your Christmas shopping.**

**Proceeds in aid of Totnes Hospital League of Friends.**

**If you wish to have a table contact Pat Sampford on 01548821419 or email [patsampford@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:patsampford@hotmail.co.uk).**

## MOBILE LIBRARY SERVICE


**Devon  
Libraries**

# Ivybridge Mobile Library Timetable 2023

## Week 2

### Tuesday

Jan 17	Apr 11	Jul 4	Oct 24
Feb 14	May 9	Aug 1, 29	Nov 21
Mar 14	Jun 6	Sep 26	

Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
Ugborough	Square	09:30	10:00
Diptford	Square	10:15	10:45
Moreleigh	Village edge (along Gars Bridge Rd)	11:10	11:30
Blackawton	Normandy Arms Chapel St	11:55	12:15
Slapton	Village Hall	13:30	14:00
Torcross	Bus Stop	14:10	14:30
Stokenham	Village Hall	14:40	15:15
Bessand	The Chapel	15:25	15:45

### Wednesday

Jan 18	Apr 12	Jul 5	Oct 25
Feb 15	May 10	Aug 2, 30	Nov 22
Mar 15	Jun 7	Sep 27	

Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
Lifton	Arundell Arms	10:30	11:15
Lowdown	War Memorial	11:30	12:00
Bratton Clovelly	Village	13:00	14:00

### Thursday

Jan 19	Apr 13	Jul 6	Oct 26
Feb 16	May 11	Aug 3, 31	Nov 23
Mar 16	Jun 8	Sep 28	

Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
Crapstone	Pickers Field	10:10	10:30
Horrabridge	Pencreber Rd	10:45	11:30
Dousland	Iron Mine Lane	11:45	12:15
Yelverton	Briar Tor	13:15	14:00
Buckland Monachorum	School	14:15	14:45

## Week 2

### Friday

Jan 20	Apr 14	Jul 7	Oct 27
Feb 15	May 12	Aug 4	Nov 24
Mar 17	Jun 9	Sep 1, 29	


Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
Woolwell	Community Centre	09:45	11:00
Whitchurch	Frane Walk	12:15	12:45
Sampford Spiney	Brook Cottage	13:05	13:30
Higher Longford	Silent Woman Caravan Park	14:20	14:50

### Saturday


Jan 21	Apr 15	Jul 8	Oct 28
Feb 18	May 13	Aug 5	Nov 25
Mar 18	Jun 10	Sep 2, 30	



Village	Stop	Arrive	Depart
Modbury	Foundwell Square	9:45	12:15

**Disclaimer:** Due to operational circumstances, the mobile library may need to be off road and unable to visit on some dates. Details will be publicised closer to the time. These timetables may be subject to change.



Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity (1170062) responsible for running Devon Libraries and Torbay Libraries. You can support us to continue delivering life changing library services, find out more: [librariesunlimited.org.uk/support-us](https://librariesunlimited.org.uk/support-us)

Devon Libraries is part of 

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[devonlibraries.org.uk](https://devonlibraries.org.uk)  
**0345 155 1001**

**Devon County Council has made a decision to ‘call in’ the decision to stop the mobile library service.** This we think means that the decision is now being scrutinised to make sure that the right decision was made.

There will be a second cabinet meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> where a final decision will be made.

**This means that the mobile library will continue to visit all stops until that time.**

We urge you to continue to use the service – see Week 2 Tuesday dates for Diptford stops between 10.15 am and 10.45 am



## September Edition 2023 [AUGUST Nature Notes 2023]

With rains and lower temperatures the countryside has put in a brighter appearance, instead of the dull-dry look. The trees and hedgerows have moved through the lighter greens to the darker, fuller greens of summer. Still, trees and shrubs reacted to the drought conditions by shedding leaves early, then growing new leaves when the rain arrived. Much fresh young growth was evident on the extremities of the twigs, giving a light halo appearance on the outline, when viewed from a distance. How will the drought conditions effect the trees? Will the oaks drop boughs? Will the mechanics of root structure holding position in the soil be altered? Can more trees be expected to be blown down during autumn or winter gales this year? Only time will tell!



Bracken fronds and leaves have turned brown earlier than usual, or so it would appear. Brambles seem slower to ripen and are smaller, but there is time for them to reach their usual September potential!

Wasps have come on the sugar prospecting expeditions early in August rather than mid to late August, or even September. They are still looking for prey among the flowers, but seem to have missed most of the cabbage white caterpillars on the greens! The Whites have been as prolific as in previous years, with egg-laying on the underside of leaves, but they don't seem to have hatched so quickly. However, the Mullein Moth has had a field day laying, hatching and caterpillars demolishing the flowers and leaves very successfully. Larva is creamy with black and yellow spots, feeds openly on leaves and flowers of mulleins and can completely destroy garden specimen plants. Many reports on the rise in numbers of Red Admirals and Peacock Butterflies this year. Have seen quite a number of Common Blues and Yellow Brimstones in the garden and along the local hedgerows.

Was asked to identify a particular butterfly from a beautiful photograph on a phone. Unfortunately, it did not include the underside of the wings, so identification was limited. As it was a Fritillary that was as far as identification could be made. There are approximately 48 different Fritillaries in Western Europe so selecting just one with any precision was rather difficult. Thirty out of the 48 are not normally found in Britain, although they may have been blown off course and ended up in the UK. Such being: the Scarce Fritillary, Balkans Fritillary, Spanish Fritillary, Arctic Fritillary etc. It can be seen how complex identification is.

The local Swallows and House Martins left early in August for warmer locations. They missed the abundant flying ants swarms. Birds from up country passing through have caught this excellent feast. That prepared them for their travel to sub-Saharan winter. Stacks of Buzzards making plaintive music rising on late August thermals, adults with youngsters being taught how to use the 'winds' to advantage. Sparrows have gone into August moult. Slowly they have come into the garden to feed,



but they are very wary. Is it a combination of the moult and the patrolling Sparrow Hawk? The Sparrows have taken a long time to settle back into the garden, feeding as a flock, with just one or two acting as the 'spotters' of danger. As soon as one tweets or flies for cover all the others in the flock take off for the protection of the shrubs. It then takes them quite a while



before a braver individual comes back to the feeder. It might be a braver bird or one that is tempted to get back to the feeder before the others, then being more certain of a feed.

The insect life is very busy: Bumblebees, Honey Bees, Hover Flies, Wasps and a few Hornets making use of the rising nectar now that the flowers have sufficient water. A Hornet landed on a composite flower next to my hand. Quite a surprise for me, so did not move my hand away. The Hornet was intent on capturing a butterfly by hovering above it, then descending to nip off its wings and carry the body back to the paper nest to be 'used' later.



Composite flowers have flat open heads and are made of many 'rays' and petals. Each 'floret' is effectively a single flower producing nectar and pollen. It is no wonder bees and flies enjoy these food platforms. One of the largest being the traditional yellow-headed sunflower, alongside Helenium, Rudbeckia, Anemone, Cosmos, Calendula as well as all those other impressive open, flat-headed flowers of the garden.



Found a dead, tyre-squashed, young grass snake at the cross roads by the square. Only less than a foot long. It may have been basking in the warmth of the sun on the road or simply caught out whilst crossing the road. The yellow neck patches either side of its head gave a good indication that it was a grass snake and definitely an adder. A sad warning for us all at that busy junction! Keep alert when crossing the road. The grass snake was not! The hedgehog has been busy visiting the garden nightly. It has much work to do if it is going to reduce the number of slugs and snails in the garden. Having left its 'visiting card' each night as an assurance that it had completed the task expected!

Enjoy the month, September.

Ham.



=====

### Diptford Short Mat Bowls Club September 2023

Diptford SMBC Autumn/Winter season. The Club will be back into the South Hams League Tournament, The Graham Collyer Team Event, and the Knock Out competition, as well as weekly Club nights.

**Some members will take part in the Devon County Tournaments, which this year will be based at the Manor House Hotel, Okehampton not the ISCA centre, Exeter.**

Please feel welcome to try this 'active' sport, either as a new member or as a former member. Come down to a friendly group and join in. Flat, heel-less, foot ware or thick socks are worn to protect the mats. Bowls are available to try.

Wednesday evening 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. unless times are altered to accommodate increasing membership.

Cheers

Ham, Secretary [01548 821419]

### Diptford St Mary's Church Bells 2023.

Be prepared for some 'noise' on Friday evenings! The Church Bells will ring out again! Please come along and contribute to the heavy metal 'music'. Watch this space for dates and times.

Cheers,

Ham Sampford (01548 821419) [Captain]

### **ADVANCE NOTICE DIPTFORD QUIZ**

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 7.00 for prompt start at 7.15 p.m.**

Teams of four per spaced table. £1.50 per head. Please could each table-team bring a raffle prize?

Bring your own brain food [snacks] and drink! Refreshments and biscuits available during interval.

No individual questions, even for final rounds.

Money raised for the refreshments around the Christmas Tree  
Carols on Christmas Eve in the Square.

Ham [01548821419]

### The Ex-Dairy Farmer



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**Free delivery to Diptford**

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07881 229691**

**Diptford  
Community Fund  
Programme**



Grants up to £2000 are available to community groups in Diptford to tackle  
deprivation and make a positive difference to the lives of local  
disadvantaged people.

Funding themes include:

- training & work opportunities
- access to services in rural areas
- enable disabled people
- assist families in need
- bring people together
- Promote access to arts, culture & nature

For more information and to apply for a grant, call 01884 235887 or go to  
<http://devoncf.com/apply/community-benefit-funds/>

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[mintmassage@icloud.com](mailto:mintmassage@icloud.com)

**07967629451**



**Would YOU like to add a contribution to the monthly Parish News?**

**If so, contact Val Haddy on [valjohnhaddy@aol.com](mailto:valjohnhaddy@aol.com)**

**or Sue Franklin on [sue@jassy.org.uk](mailto:sue@jassy.org.uk)**



**AVON  
RIVER CHAMPIONS**

**CLEAN RIVERS | THRIVING WILDLIFE  
SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES**  
*Bigbury, Bantham & Thurlestone, Aveton Gifford,  
Diptford, Loddiswell & South Brent*

**Monday 18th September 10.30 am to midday  
Heron Valley Cafe, Loddiswell, TQ7 4EA**

*Reserve a seat - places limited  
[info@south-devon-river-champions.org](mailto:info@south-devon-river-champions.org)*

*What can we learn from community action  
in the catchments of the Yealm, Erme, Dart and  
Kingsbridge / Salcombe Estuary?*

*What are the river monitoring costs and options?  
Can we collaborate to co-fund a catchment programme?*

**[www.south-devon-river-champions.org](http://www.south-devon-river-champions.org)**



### **Friends of Diptford School (FODS)** **Sharing school news with the Parish**

FODS News will return in the Autumn

We are all hugely excited to see the progress being made on the new classrooms at School which will give the children a much improved learning experience.

As Jo Palmer prepares to step down as Chair of FODS, we would like to thank her on behalf of the Community for the hard work she has put in over the years.

## **COMMUNITY INFORMATION**

### **DIPTFORD PARISH HALL**

#### **BOOKING ARRANGEMENTS**

**TO MAKE A BOOKING FOR DIPTFORD PARISH HALL  
Now with NEW CHAIRS and up to date small kitchen!  
contact**

**[DiptfordPH@yahoo.com](mailto:DiptfordPH@yahoo.com) or via the village website [www.diptfordvillage.co.uk](http://www.diptfordvillage.co.uk)**

*Chair of Trustees*

*Diptford Parish Hall. [DiptfordPH@yahoo.com](mailto:DiptfordPH@yahoo.com) 07944 098174*

### **COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

**THE NOTICE BOARD IN THE SQUARE IS FOR COMMUNITY NOTICES ONLY**

**NO COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING WILL BE ALLOWED**

**WE WOULD ASK ALL ORGANISATIONS NOT TO 'HOG' THE SPACE AVAILABLE**

**This additional facility is as a result of the first meeting of the Diptford Sustainable Community and  
has been installed by Diptford Parish Council**

**with funding from our County and District Councillors**

**There is a combination lock – details of which have been given to voluntary organisations within  
the village**

### **THE MOBILE LIBRARY**

**VISITS DIPTFORD EVERY 4 WEEKS**

**TUESDAYS 10.15 – 10.45**

**September 26 October 24 November 21**

### **HIGHWAYS CONTACTS**

**To report any Highways problem, either report direct on Devon County  
Council website – [devon.gov.uk](http://devon.gov.uk) (Report a Problem) or telephone the Call  
centre on 0345 155 1004**

**This applies to faulty streetlights, potholes and problems of visibility though landowners  
are encouraged to keep road signs on their land clearly visible and to cut roadside hedges  
on an annual basis out of the nesting season. There are exemptions from the timing if  
there are road safety issues.**

***Editor : Mrs Val Haddy, School House, Diptford Tel: 01548 821418***

**PLEASE NOTE THAT all copy MUST be received before the 25th of the preceding month**

**Contributions may be submitted by e-mail to [valjohnhaddy@aol.com](mailto:valjohnhaddy@aol.com)**

**Contributions subject to change due to availability of space**

**If you have pictures which could be used in the News – please email to [sue@jassy.org.uk](mailto:sue@jassy.org.uk)**

**Diptford & North Huish Parish News is published monthly by Diptford Parochial Church Council. Every care is  
taken in compiling the Parish News and no responsibility can be taken for any action arising from information  
given therein. All information is believed to be correct at the time of publication.**