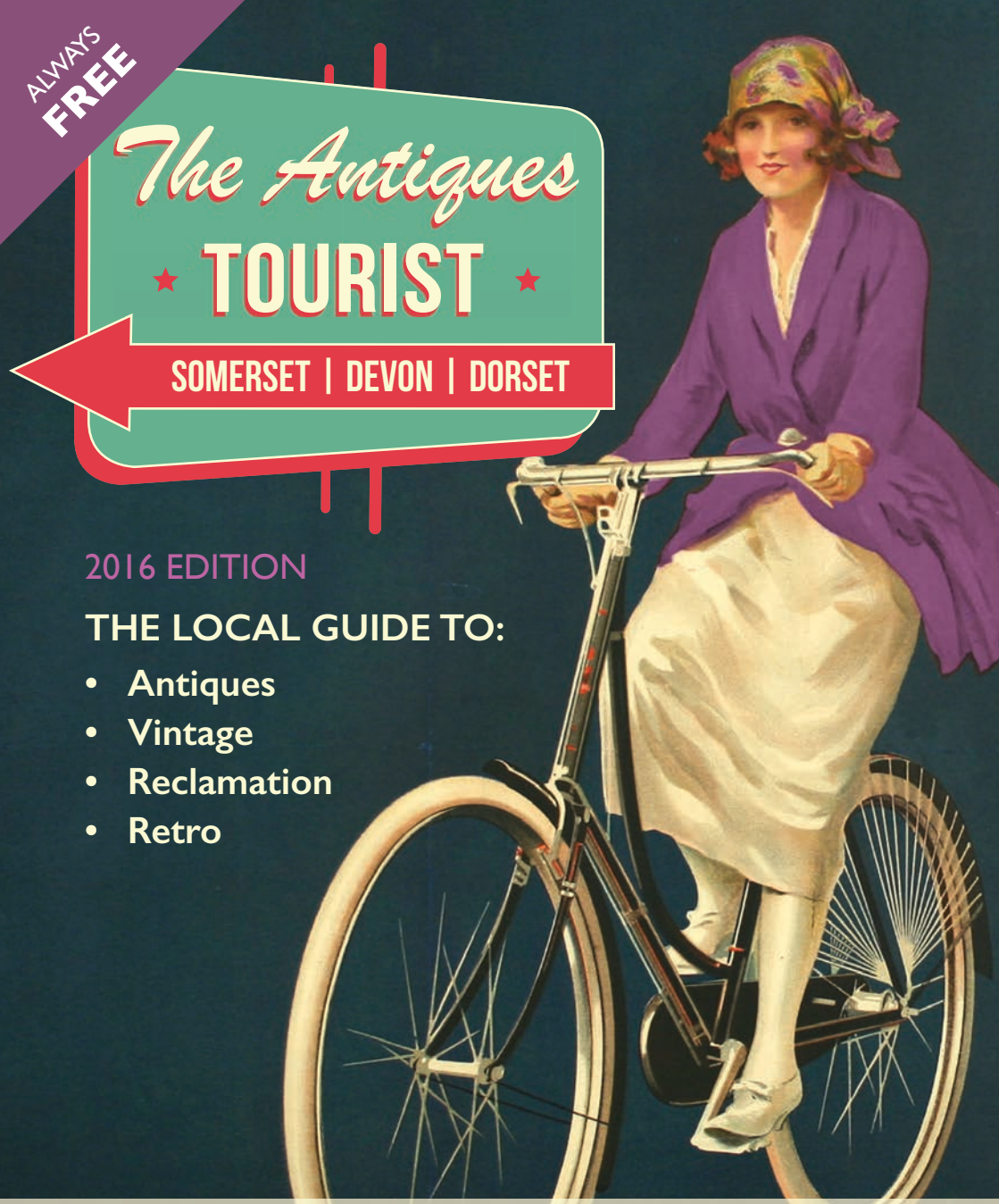
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SOMERSET | DEVON | DORSET



2016 EDITION

THE LOCAL GUIDE TO:

- Antiques
- Vintage
- Reclamation
- Retro

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Welcome to the 2016 edition of The Antiques Tourist.

This bumper edition is 50% larger than last year, and contains details of the many interesting antique, vintage and reclamation operations in our glorious region. So, if you are seeking a cast iron lamp post, vintage clothing, genuine antiques, books, oriental china, interesting decorative and furnishing pieces, this is the guide for you.

For an overview, turn to the centre pages where a map of our region, plus a key to all contributors, is laid out to help you plan your trip. Read our article on The Blackdown Hills. Look carefully through the advertising pages, to find convenient stops for coffee, lunch or even to stay the night.

SOMERSET 4
DEVON 13
AREA MAP 14
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Thank you
A big thank you to all our advertisers and contributors for making this such a successful publication. 35,000 copies will be in circulation during 2016, and I really hope we manage to match buyers with sellers.

Disclaimer
This publication has been created as a guide, but complete accuracy is not guaranteed. Opinions, ideas, facts and opening hours are included in good faith. The publishers accept no responsibility for errors, omissions nor the reliability of anything printed or included in The Antiques Tourist.

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Anthony Bucke, Editor.
Email: hello@theantiquestourist.com

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THE BLACKDOWN HILLS



Dramatic silhouette of leaping willow deer and fawn

The mysterious Blackdown Hills…….

These sparsely populated and beautiful hills sit astride the borders of Devon and Somerset, and cover 370 sq km - that's 143 square miles. Human habitation seems to date from as early as 2,600 years ago, but few villages and settlements remain, adding to the charm and mystery of the area. Notable villages are Churchingford and Dunkeswell.

Approaching Devon from an easterly direction takes one past The Blackdown Hills. On the M5 at Wellington, the Wellington Monument looms on the skyline to the south. Taking the slower A303 west after Ilminster, the willow figures of a leaping deer and her fawn soon appear on Ham Hill, before the road takes uphill climbs, then twists and turns on its way to Exeter. But what exists in the land between these 2 important routes?

After spending time exploring the charming antique shops, book shops, upcycling and vintage emporia that Ilminster offers, a small adventure would be to take the A303 westbound. After the leaping willow deer and fawn, take a right turn at The Eagle Tavern public house. Immediately one is in a cluster of beech trees and beech hedges, very typical of The Blackdowns. Pass Castle Neroche on the right, an early Iron Age settlement, probably first inhabited 2,600 years ago. Then climb past Blackwater and Blindmoor onto Staplehill, 315m above sea level, an area of evergreen and deciduous trees overlooking the county town of Taunton. Cross the Taunton to Honiton Road, then bear right at the Holman Clavel public house. Literal meaning – "lintel above the fireplace made from a holly tree." Straight over at the next crossroads and back into beech trees, and one of the highest points on The Blackdowns at Culmhead. Beech trees and hedges abound here, as one heads



Remote crossroads near the Merry Harriers

towards Wellington Monument. Soon after, negotiate a very sharp right turn, before beginning the descent to the A38 west of Wellington. But pause a while to take in the vista, across the western end of The Vale of Taunton Deane, over Rockwell Green, towards Exmoor, and to the right the Quantocks. And finally note the flock of willow sheep at the bottom of the hill on the left hand side.

If it's a Monday, make straight for Silver Street Antiques Centre in Taunton. And after enjoying a good old rummage there, and refreshment in the topfloor café, head west towards County Hall, then left on Trull Road to Blagdon Hill. Climb the hill, past the hairpin bend, taking time to look back at the full extent on the Vale of Taunton Deane. This can be really breath taking on a fine day. Continue south to Trickey Warren Lane. Now a business park, but the evidence of World War 2 activities is still clear to see. The derelict control tower, extensive runways and to the rear pill-boxes, gun emplacements and fighter pens. Bear right to Smeatharpe, another former WW2 airfield, past Jacks House and Luppitt, before encountering Dunkeswell Abbey, off to the right. Sadly now closed as a church, the precincts of a 13th century Cistercian abbey are still in evidence.

Dunkeswell is well worth a visit. Find the old part of the village, and above is a busy industrial area and small airfield. But the architecture of the buildings in Marcus Road tell their own story. Built during WW2 to house aircraft for American and Polish bomber crews. Remarkably 70 years later these hangers are still in use. Among many stationed here during WW2 were boxer Sugar Ray Lewis, and Joseph Kennedy, brother to John and Robert Kennedy. Sadly Joseph was killed in action whilst operating from Dunkeswell in 1944.

Follow the sign back to the A303, to continue your hunt for bargains in the Exeter area.



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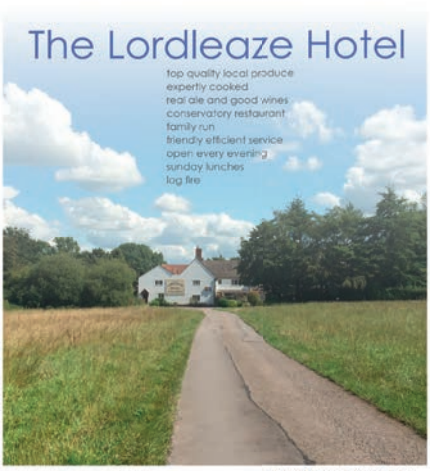
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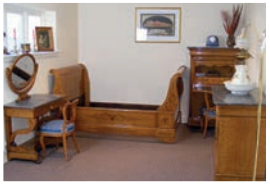
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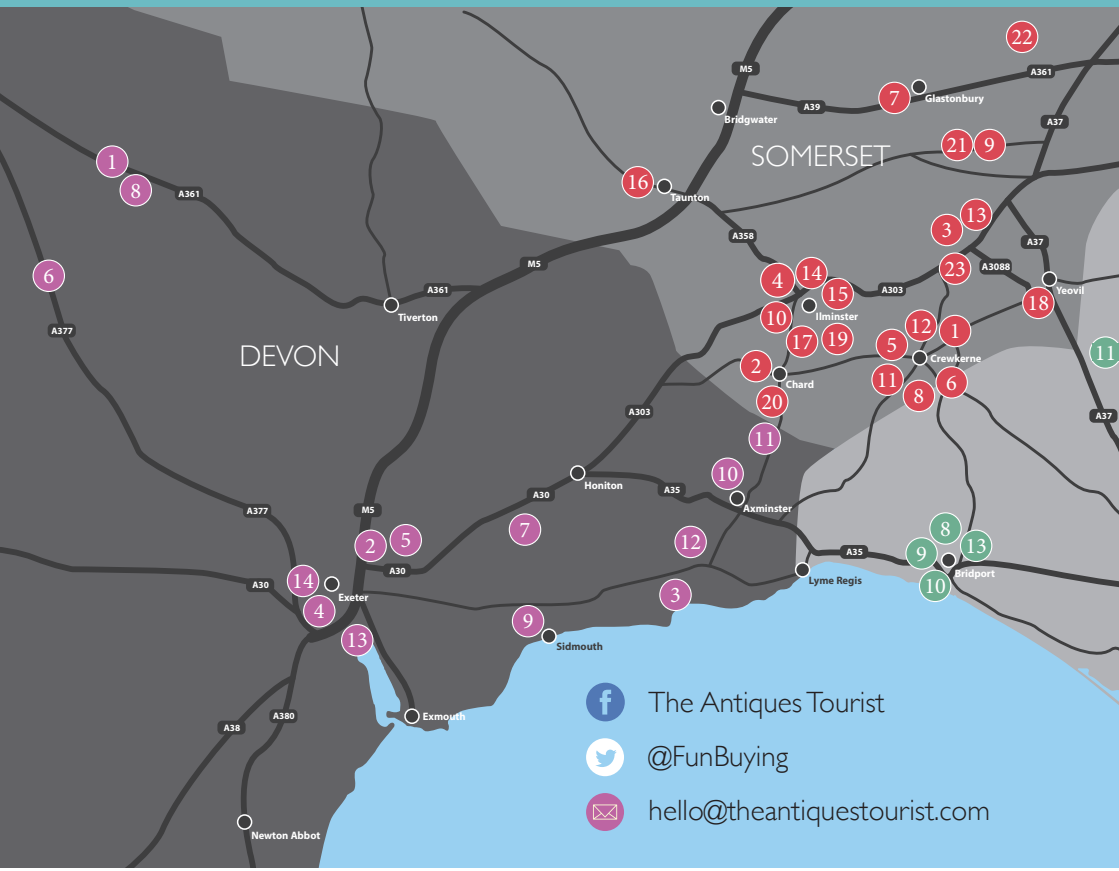
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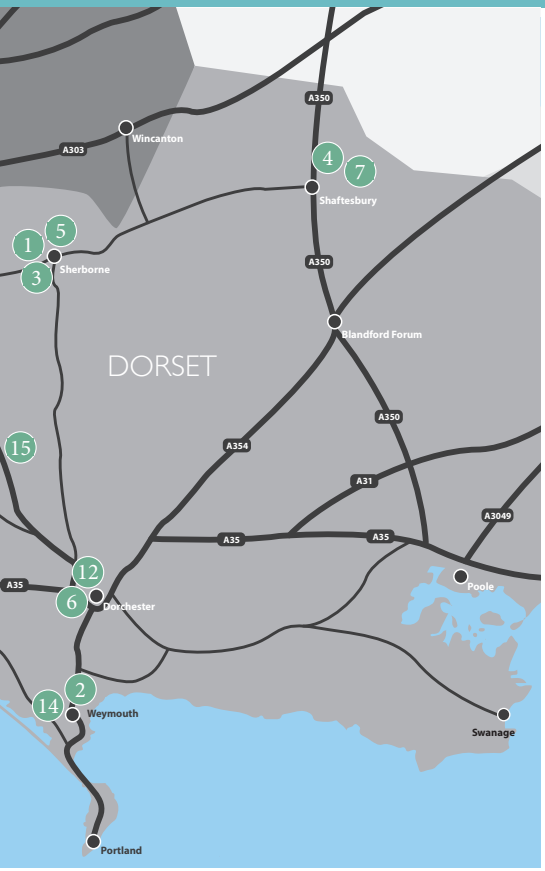


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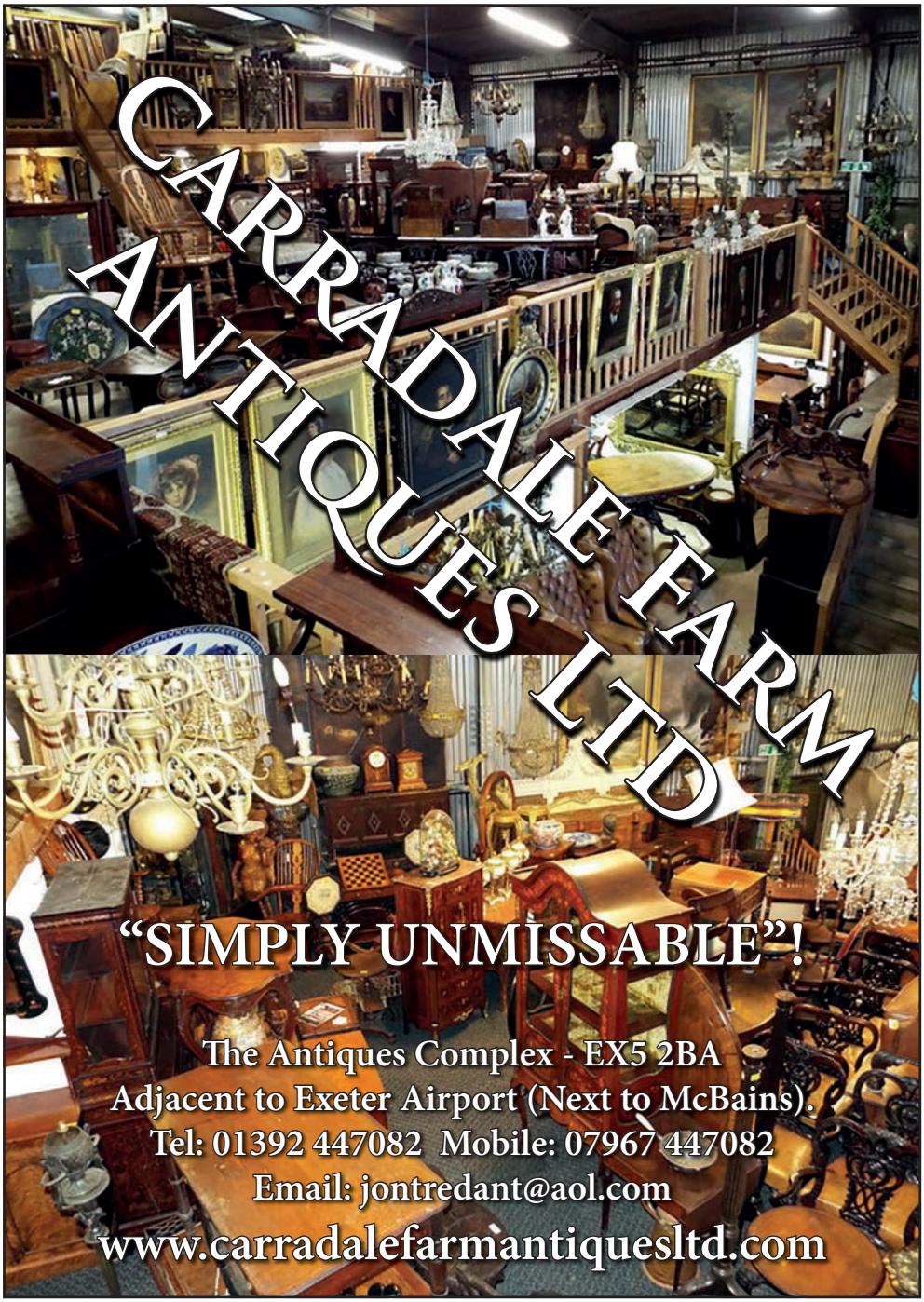
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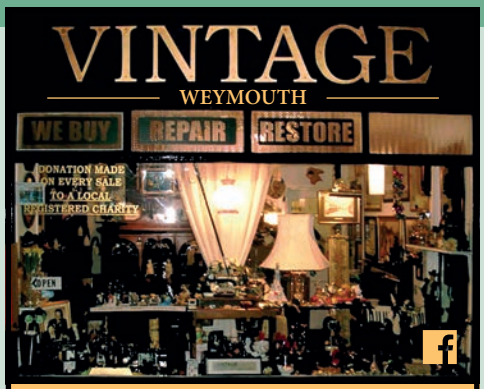
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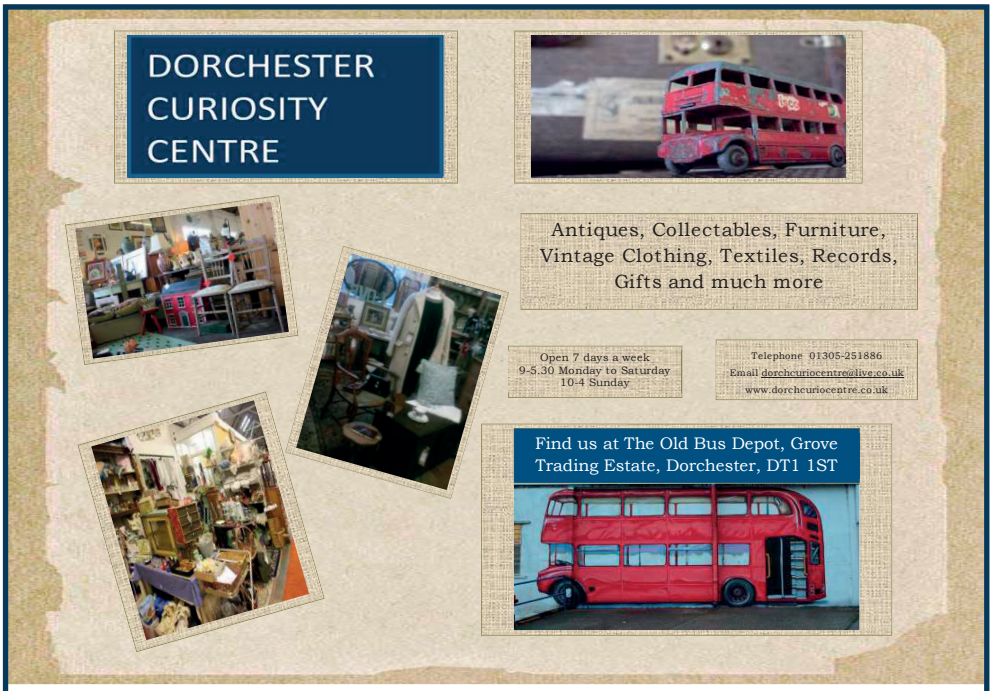
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For further information telephone us on 01305 251886 or visit our website *www.dorchcuriocentre.co.uk* and Facebook page (Dorchester Curiosity-Centre) to see some of our fabulous stock and find out about forthcoming events.

David Burt

Antiques Dealer

In association with Simon Limm Fine Art

- 7 Days a week at Acreman St. Antiques Centre (DT9 3PH)
- Mondays at Taunton Antiques (TA1 3DH)



Please Contact:

David: 07889 443618
davidburt25@btinternet.com

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