

5 ALIVE!



May 2025

You're welcome at
Buckland Dinham
coffee (and cake!)
mornings! Page 9

News from
Buckland Dinham, Chantry,
Great Elm, Mells with Vobster and
Whatley

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FROM THE EDITOR

IT'S BREAKING MY HEART to write this but this May issue of 5Alive could be the last one. Quite simply, we have run out of cash. There's enough in the coffers to pay the print bill for this one but that's about it.

It's delivered free (stress 'free') to homes throughout the five parishes in the former Mellis Group with copies also available from a variety of places throughout the area. A web version is also sent to a number of former residents who want to keep up with the local news and is available via village websites so it's an important source of news and information.

To help keep 5Alive 'alive', if you would like to make a donation, no matter how small, either regularly or just one off, on your own behalf or on behalf of an organisation of which you're a member, let me know.

We have other fund-raising plans, including a 100 Club, a kind of lottery, but while these may well go a long way towards bridging the gap between ad revenue and print costs, it's going to take time to set it all up and for the bank balance to change from red to black.

We immediately need a couple of thousand pounds to see us through till September after which we may, stress may, have enough income from advertising for us to carry on for the future. We have contacted the usual sources and await their decision but meanwhile...

Assuming this is the last issue, may I thank all of our contributors, especially Hazell, our advertisers (please keep this magazine close to you so you can check out the services that they offer), all of the distributors and anyone and everyone else who plays even the minorest of minor roles for having kept 5Alive going in all its formats over the years.

And being optimistic, I have included the copy deadline for June in the panel at the foot of this page. FINGERS CROSSED!!!! Peter

LIBERATION DAY?

LIBERATION DAY?

The president of the United States of America has declared that the beginning of April this year includes "liberation" day. I am fairly sure he meant liberation for the

Editor: Peter Corbett mellsmag@hotmail.com

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Deadline for JUNE 2025 is MAY 23rd but do check!

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United States, and this seems to be supported by his busy attempt to build financial and physical barriers to the other nations of the world. I was surprised and relieved to hear that our daughter and grandson managed to return to their home in New York State after a couple of days in Mexico. They are both foreigners with visas.

T.S. Eliot begins the *Wasteland*, a poem written during the great slump between the first and second world wars with the words “April is the cruellest month”. Chris Hare, speaking in Rode church at the beginning of April, reminded us that the most important liberation day in the world was remembered this April. What is this liberation day we may ask? The answer Chris declared is Good Friday.

Why is Good Friday liberation day? At this point, if not before, you could be asking what has all this stuff about April got to do with May. Indeed, there could be anything happening in May. The president might have changed his mind! But let’s get back to Good Friday. Notice it is Good Friday, not Easter Sunday. We remember Jesus, suffering. He was tortured. He suffered a cruel torturing death on a cross, his hands nailed to the wood. What had he done?

Jesus died for us. He died for our cruelty. He died for the ways in which we can treat those who are suffering, who have been forced to leave the lands they love, who wait on the French coast or the Mexican border with the United States. He died for those who steal, those who store riches and use their riches to abuse others. Jesus died in our place. He suffered the cost of our wickedness.

The message of Easter is that Jesus rose again, and we can rise with him and live new lives.

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Anything could be happening this coming May. The message is, that whatever happens, Jesus' death and resurrection is a turning point. It is a turning point too for the president of the United States. How can we respond to the days that are to come? May is not January; new year resolutions are a little late, but it is never too late. We know that things could be difficult in May. We might worry about our jobs or our pensions. We might see our incomes shrink in the face of rising costs and sinking incomes. Let us turn to our Father in heaven and lay before Him our worries and what we see around us: whether it is Hardington Vale, our country or the tortured nations of this world.

Jesus, when he heard that Lazarus was dead, said: "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11: 25-26. *Michael, Hardington Vale*

JOTTINGS FROM A COUNTRY CHURCHYARD

I AM SITTING OUTSIDE in the shade (too hot in the April sun!) writing this on what promises to be the last day of the wonderful spell of sunny, "proper" spring weather. The sun has produced an explosion of blossom – bulbs, shrubs, wall climbers – everywhere splashes of colour. Some of it, enticed by the warm sun, is well ahead of its usual time. Even my wisteria is showing flashes of purple.

The prevailing scent at the moment for me is from my balsam poplar. As the first sticky leaves unfurl in April their sweet spicy tang overlays everything else. The whole house is filled with it for a few days until the leaves are fully opened and hardened, and the memory lingers with a longing for next year's repeat. I "stole" this tree from Rode Bird Gardens where I worked for 27 years until it closed in 2000. Whenever the shallow roots appear above ground they put up tufts of leaves and if you cut out a small piece of attached root with a cluster on these shoots you gain a tree very easily. I put my piece in my pocket about 40 years ago and the tree has now overtopped everything else around it – even the silver birches. If anyone would like to grow one from my surface roots they are very welcome. I also have a Tree of Heaven (I've forgotten its proper Latin name) which also came from Rode in my pocket and that, as its name implies, vies with the balsam poplar in height.

The only things that haven't surpassed themselves this spring are the daffodils. Almost all of mine are blind and I see the usually solid line along the village verge and encircling the inner churchyard wall are mainly leaves with just the odd flower. I had a letter from a friend "back home" to say that all the daffodils in her paddock are blind this year so it's not just a local failing. Maybe, as some random forms of flora do, they are just having a sabbatical year so we can expect extra glory next spring?

I notice though that HUGE dandelions are yellowing the verge in compensation and primroses seem to have exploded everywhere. Where I had a number of small clusters in the orchard, this year they seem to have joined hands to produce an almost solid carpet. Along the hedgerow banks locally they seem to be excelling, too. And the

celandines in the churchyard! Breathtaking. There must be thousands – millions? - of little fluorescent faces smiling at the sun, providing a carpet of gold.

Another thing I have noticed - and so surely have others? – is the depth of blue in the sky on really fine, clear days. Not just a deep forget-me-not blue but more like the old Reckitts blue. Who of us remember the little blue cube wrapped in its muslin bag that was swished through the final rinse of “whites” in our mother’s and grandmother’s days? Is the sky colour something to do with a thinning ozone layer? My knowledge of meteorology is sparse. Any ideas anyone?

One thing I have learned lately – there is a name for my most favourite of all natural scents. When we get rain after a spell of dry sunny weather, immediately there arises an enticing and exhilarating, almost intoxicating, but sweetly fleeting smell which the ground gives off as the first rain hits earth and stone. I never know it had a name but I now gather it’s called petrichor.

I hope everyone enjoyed a good Easter! *Hazell*

ROUND AND ABOUT

WHATLEY QUARRY TEAM PUT BEST FOOT FORWARD

A team from Whatley quarry is taking on the demanding Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation in memory of their colleague Pat Orman.

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CHURCH SERVICES IN APRIL AND MAY

	6 th April	13 th April	18 th April	20 th April	27 th April	4 th May	11 th May	18 th May	25 th May	1 st June
	5th Sunday of Lent – Passiontide begins	Palm Sunday	Good Friday	Easter Day	Second Sunday of Easter	Third Sunday of Easter	Fourth Sunday of Easter	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter
Chantry		11.00am Matins Barry Davies		11am Holy Communion Barry Davies	11.00am Matins Valerie Rawlins		11.00am Matins Barry Davies	11am Holy Communion Martin Weymont	11.00am Matins Valerie Rawlins	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion Martin Weymont
Great Elm				9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King			9.30am: Holy Communion Robin Isherwood	9.30am Informal Service Richard King	
Mells	10.00am Group Service: Holy Communion David Gatliffe		10.00 am Outdoor Service - between the river and the shop/cafe where the 'penny-farthings' are. Richard King	Joining with Great Elm	9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Caudwell		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe		9.30am Morning Prayer Janet Caudwell	
Whatley		9.30am Morning Prayer Richard King		Joining with Chantry		10.00am Group Service: Matins Richard King	9.30am Morning Prayer Richard King		9.30am Holy Communion David Gatliffe	



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Hardington Vale Church Services – MAY 2025

DATE	TIME	SERVICE
Sunday 4 May	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Informal Breakfast Rode , Holy Communion Laverton , Holy Communion Rode Chapel , Meeting Place
Monday 5 May	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Tuesday 6 May	11.00 am	Rode Chapel , Ecumenical Holy Communion
Wednesday 7 May	6.00 pm 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 8 May	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 11 May	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Rode , Informal Breakfast Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Iona Service
Monday 12 May	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 14 May	8.30 am 5.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer
Thursday 15 May	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 18 May	9.00 am 10.30 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Farleigh Hungerford , Morning worship Norton St Philip , Informal Worship Rode , Holy Communion Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Holy Communion
Monday 19 May	9.00 am	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Tuesday 20 May	5.00 pm	Laverton , Evening Prayer
Wednesday 21 May	8.30 am 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 22 May	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer
Sunday 25 May	9.00 am 10.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Rode , Contemplation and Coffee Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Laverton , Matins Buckland Dinham , Iona Service
Monday 26 May	6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Morning Prayer
Wednesday 28 May	8.30 am 11.00 am 5.00 pm 6.00 pm	Hemington , Morning Prayer Tellisford , Holy Communion Rode Chapel , Informal Prayer Tellisford , Evening Prayer
Thursday 29 May Ascension Day	8.00 am 6.00 pm	Norton St Philip , Holy Communion Norton St Philip , Silent Prayer

www.hardingtonvale.org.uk

Pat, who worked at the Heidelberg Materials site years, died suddenly in December 2024.

The seven-strong team from the quarry will put their best foot forward to tackle one of Britain's toughest outdoor trials within the 24-hour limit over the weekend of May 24th and 25th.

The route takes in the highest peaks in Scotland, England and Wales, starting with Ben Nevis, before heading to Scafell Pike in the Lake District and finally tackling Snowdon.

"We were all shocked and saddened at Pat's sudden passing and wanted to turn that into something positive," said Area General Manager Vincent Pitt, who is joined on the team by James Veakins, Dan Welch, Shaun Eaton, Kyle Smith, Chris O'Connor and Dan Billing, who will be the group's driver.

"In addition to placing a bench on the quarry loop footpath near Chantry in his memory, we thought that raising funds for a charity that could help prevent the loss of more lives, would be a good way to commemorate him."

You can support the team through its Just Giving page at:
justgiving.com/page/daniel-welch-1

BUCKLAND DINHAM

CHURCH NEWS

The Services at St. Michael's for May will be as per as Rota, but it may be as well to check on the web page as there was some confusion as to the times of service last month. Please do support our Church Warden Jenny Waller, husband Rob



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and Jonny and Meg Griffiths and the Reverend Pauline Reid, together with our “flower ladies, who do so much to keep our church open and welcoming by coming to one, or more, of the services.

COFFEE MORNING The next coffee morning will be on May 17th, so do all come along and enjoy your time to sit, relax and chat as you drink your coffee and eat a slice of homemade cake. Always plenty to talk about, apart from the weather, which I hope you agree has been pretty amazing and the blue skies and blossom and flowers have lifted everyone’s spirits.

VILLAGE NEWS

BUCKLAND BUDDIES

R.I.P Jenny Holmes died peacefully on Friday April 11th. Jenny was a member of Hemington WI and when that closed joined Buckland WI. Our condolences to all Jenny’s close-knit family and her many friends in Buckland. She is greatly missed. At the April meeting we were fortunate to have a return visit of Debbie Marrison. She had previously told us about her headwear business, but this time talked of her earlier life as a dressmaker. She had brought along a selection of things she had made for charity events for raising funds for breast cancer research. Rebecca Cary was asked to model a coat Debbie had made for her husband to wear when he played Joseph. This “amazing” full length coat of many colours was her interpretation and is really truly amazing. This was followed by a full-length evening gown with an enormous train covered in pieces of ribbon. Each ribbon had a message either from someone who had

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recovered from cancer or in memory of someone who hadn't. We hope that we can put a photo of this as it was quite exceptional.

These meetings are always on the first Tuesday of the month and are open to all. Whilst we do not have speakers every month you can be sure of a warm welcome at the Village Hall, 7.15 for 7.30.

CHAIR YOGA

The numbers of people coming to this are increasing and all feel the benefit. Yara is so encouraging, so why not come along on Tuesday mornings to the Village Hall 10.00 to 11.00 and see for yourself just how good it makes you feel.

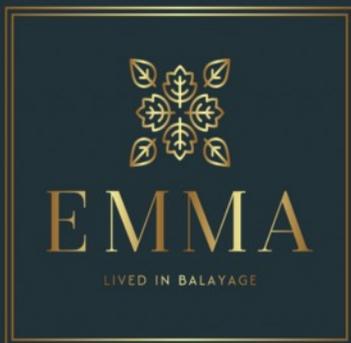
CHANTRY

The woodwork in the church is now looking like new thanks to the many helpers who came along to help with the cleaning and oiling all the pews, doors and other wooden parts. We are extremely grateful to all concerned who gave up their time to help and also to Halecombe quarry for providing all the materials.

We are very pleased that Hazell is well on the way to good health again. She still needs to take life a little easy but is now able to come to church for the services. It is good to see her with us again.

Maintenance

Date	Flowers	Cleaning
03-05-25	Laureen	
10-05-25	Val	Sue



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17-05-25	Val	Claire
26-05-25	Val	Sonia
31-05-25	Laureen	Val & Dolly

The Stations of the Cross Service was held as usual in Chantry Church on Good Friday morning, the service was led by Val Rawlins assisted by Barry Davis. It was very poorly attended which is a great shame as so much thought and work go into arranging these services.

FRIENDS OF CHANTRY

Thursday May 15th from 6.00pm - Thirsty Third Thursday's pop-up pub in Chantry Church - This will be the first of what will be a regular event on the third Thursday evening of each month, with music, games, snacks, attractive bar prices and convivial company.

The church building has undergone a major refurbishment to enable it to become our community social space. Come and join the fun. - everyone welcome.

Saturday May 17th from 11.00 - 16.00 - Plant and Bake sale in Chantry Church

With a large selection of plants, and seedlings, a delicious array of homemade cakes and this year we've added books, to take home. Tea and coffee served all day. Funds raised will go towards the community projects of Chantry and Whatley villages.

PLANT and BAKE sale

BOOKS, PLANTS , CAKES galore

MAY 17th HOLY TRINITY CHANTRY

11:00 – 4:00pm




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GREAT ELM

Mark and Sara Goodman, who set up the charity Hope for Malawi, will be talking at Great Elm Village Hall at 3.00pm on Saturday May 24th. They will speak about their work supporting education in a rural area of Malawi, which started by providing meals at primary schools and grew into the building of a secondary school and a skills centre. They regularly spend about three months a

year in Malawi and can speak knowledgeably about the challenges faced by the people of Malawi and, particularly, the challenges in education. All welcome.

MELLS WITH VOBSTER

MELLS OPEN GARDENS, SUNDAY JUNE 8TH JUNE 11.00AM – 5.00PM.

A wide variety of Mells gardens, including the Manor, will be open on June 8th, with all proceeds going towards supporting our wonderful village shop and cafe. Tickets (£10 per adult, accompanied under 16s free) will be available from the shop from late May, and on the day. Refreshments will be served in the Tithe Barn and at Longfield, as well as the cafe. We look forward to welcoming you!

TITHE BARN AGM

The Tithe Barn AGM will be held on Tuesday June 17th at 7.00 pm in the Barn. All welcome.

NOTES FROM MELLS PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY APRIL 8TH 2025

(Full minutes can be found at mells-pc.gov.uk)

SOMERSET COUNCIL - COUNCILLOR'S REPORT:

Recycling Sites Now Operating on Spring/Summer Hours: Residents wishing to take their waste to the recycling site can check online at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/bins-recycling-and-waste/find-your-nearest-recycling-centre/> for opening days/times.

SAFE CYCLING AND WALKING ROUTES: The aim is to secure funding over the next decade for significant new safe routes for cyclists and pedestrians across all Somerset's towns. Comment at <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans/>

Household Relief Fund: This has been extended for another year and is for anyone who cannot afford to pay for essentials like energy bills and food. Contact Somerset Council for further information.

HIGHWAY AND FOOTPATH ISSUES:

Speeding vehicles in Vobster: Sara Davis, Traffic Engineer, has no record of accidents or speeding issues so Highways would not be looking at introducing a reduction in speed limit. If the PC wished to proceed with a new limit, they would need to fund it and this could be up to £10k. This would be beyond the financial reach of the PC. The PC could fund a small amount of the charge but the largest contribution would need to be found from other funding streams.

Speeding traffic and mud on road - Lime Kiln Hill: There has been noticeably less mud recently although the weather has been drier. The local PCSO acknowledges that there is an issue with speeding and will be asked to raise this with Highways.

5th May 2025
MELLS
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Layby by Vobster bus shelter: Highways will add this site to the future scheme proposal list for consideration by their Asset Management Team but stressed that this was low priority. Cllr West asked whether it would be possible to fill the layby in at no cost to the Highways department.

ITEMS TO REPORT / ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

Local theft: A tractor was recently stolen in Buckland Dinham and the local PCSO had said that there were other instances of people acting suspiciously in the area and encouraged people to be vigilant and secure their valuable items.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday May 13th 2025 at 7.00pm in the Barn to include the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Joy Book, Clerk to Mells Parish Council, Tel: 07704 584953, Email: clerk@mells-pc.gov.uk

WHATLEY

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA FOR MAY

May 3rd	A Kettle	10th.	S Pollock
17th	M Scott	24th	M Ransome
31st.	L Thomas		



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NEWS FROM WHATLEY

We are so pleased to welcome a new family into Whatley, Tom and Annie Chant, with their daughters Iris and Elsie. They moved to Poderosa all the way from Frome and are enjoying the peaceful beauty of their new surroundings. Welcome to you all; we hope you will be very happy in your new home.

As you will see, Friends of Whatley have been busy preparing a series of events for us, utilising the hospitality section of the church for a variety of community (Whatley and Chantry) social activities. 'Team coffee mornings' enjoyed a couple of hours coaching on food hygiene on 11th. Thank you Davin Kenwood for enduring our backchat and giving us all a deeper understanding of the necessities required when preparing food for the public. Thank you also to Alice Kettle and her helper, Lexi, for decorating the cafe area so effectively. The team were also presented with attractive home-made aprons, which made us feel very special. On April 12th the cafe had an informal opening, providing refreshment to the many villagers who joined in for the annual churchyard tidy up. It has made an enormous difference to the area, showing love and respect for our late villagers to whom we owe so much. Thank you all.

FRIENDS OF WHATLEY NEWS

Please join Friends of Whatley meetings which are open to all residents of Whatley, no previous attendance or long-term commitment needed. They are held at 6.15pm on the third Tuesday of the month at St George's church.

Next meeting 6.15pm Tuesday May 21st St George's Church, Whatley

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www.communities.heidelbergmaterials.co.uk/en/whatley-and-westdown-quarry-community-page



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Coffee Mornings. Join us for friendly conversation at our coffee morning now a regular event every second Saturday of the month 10.00am -12.00pm. **All welcome.**

Next one May 10th.

SOCIAL GAMES NIGHT

Every First Friday evening of the month **All Welcome.** Next one **May 2nd**

Friday from 6.00pm -

Please drop into the church for a drink. There will be a bar open to purchase drinks at amazing prices. This will be the first of what will be a regular feature on the first Friday evening of the month. This time we will be hosting a board games night, all ages welcome. Come along and join a game - and bring friends and family. We will be encouraging a tween/teen playing table.

Bring your favourite game or chose from our growing collection.

Food - Pre order vegetarian Indian food from lungis babas - £12.00 a head. Contact Lizzie on lizziedekkers2000@yahoo.co.uk to preorder by Wednesday April 30th.

WHATLEY COMMON GOOD TRUST provides funds for initiatives which benefit the parishes of Whatley and Chantry. The current trustees are Nigel Brock, Olly Goodden (Secretary), Stephanie Greshon (Treasurer), Martin Payne (Chair) and Sue Pollock. The AGM is held at the start of the April meeting. The Trust's annual report for 2024 is available to view on the parish website or a copy can be requested from the Secretary (see below).

Various grants were authorised in 2024, including:

- Improvements to the path on the edge of the parish field, up to £650 agreed.

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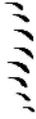
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- Installation of infrared heating and LED lighting in Chantry Church, £5000 grant towards the cost .
- Equipment for Mells Scout Group. £425.
- Snowdrop planting in Chantry churchyard, a grant of maximum £1000 was agreed.

The trustees meet quarterly, normally on the first Wednesday of January, April, July and October at 19.00 in the George Inn, Nunney. Dates and details are published on the Whatley and Chantry website. For further information please contact Olly Goodden on 07963 078151 or ogoodden@yahoo.co.uk.



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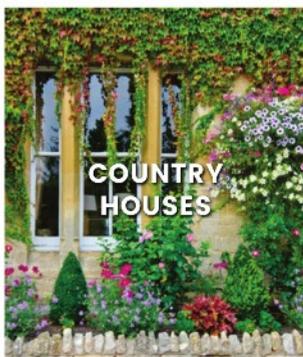
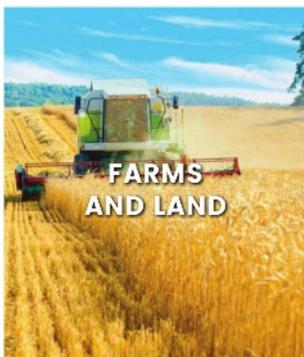
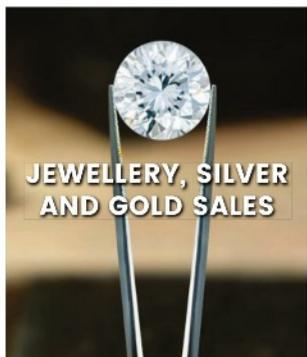
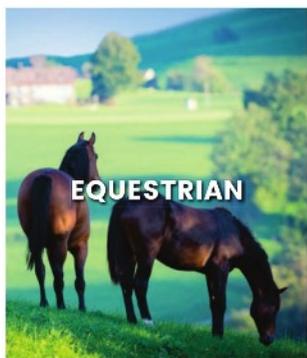
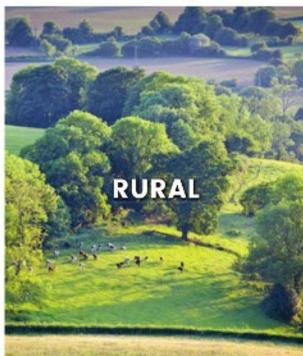
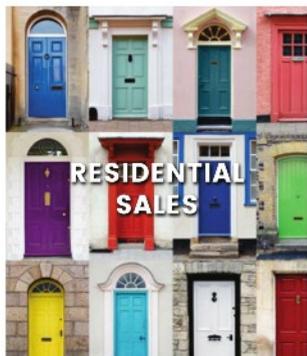
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