

ALLEN IAN'S

# ICONIC DORSET

*with*  
IRIS COCKSEGE

STAPLE-IN SUPPLEMENT  
NOT FOR RESALE







## A NOTE ON THE ILLUSTRATIONS

In its original manifestation [2011], *Iconic Dorset* featured only Sections I - IV and Sections VI - VII of the present revised and expanded edition. The especially commissioned illustrations were all by former Korean War artist and friend of publisher Allen Ian, Hartan Seoul. Mr Seoul [8 June 1926 -13 March 2012] trained at the Royal Dorset College of Arts, graduating in 1944 with a BA [Hons] Class III. He spent much of his career as an illustrator for *Unique Dorset Magazines* wherein he specialised in author portraits and still life compositions ["*Anything but bloody buildings*"]. By the time of the edition Mr Seoul was 85 and, at his own admission, "*not so steady in the hand or as clear in the eye as I once was*". Some reviewers noticed this.

The decision in 2013 to produce a revised and enlarged edition of *Iconic Dorset* proved a step too far for some; especially Mr Seoul who was, by then, "*struggling to pick up a cheque never mind a brush*" and after much Seoul searching, the ever decisive Mr Ian, supported by his helpmeet Ms Cocksedge, decided to look elsewhere. After rejecting several suggestions [Tracy Eminently-Unsuitable was one] they turned instead to an old reliable of the business Evadne Trellis, whose "*sketchily architectural style*" was particularly well suited to the task. That said, there is no mistaking the two contributions. Some readers found the contrast disconcerting and regretted the decision not to force Mr Seoul's hand into one last spasm. Anyone viewing his work at this time will harbour no such regrets.





# IV | PUBLIC FACILITIES

*"I never use a public facility but rather "tie a knot in it" until I get home".*

MRS AMANDA J THREADBONE



# 1 | ALTON PANCRAS RAILWAY STATION & HOTEL

## [*Home of the Tom Collier*]

Once the flagship station of the Great Dorset Railway Company [GDR] the Alton Pancras terminus is a triumph of architecture over gravity, seeming, according to Railway Historian Sir John Betcha-Fancimee "*to soar upwards like a gothic-fuelled roman candle into the azure skies of Victorian optimism*". It, together with its iconic Hotel, dominated both the local landscape and the local social scene from its construction in 1864 until its closure, courtesy of Dr Beeching, in 1965.

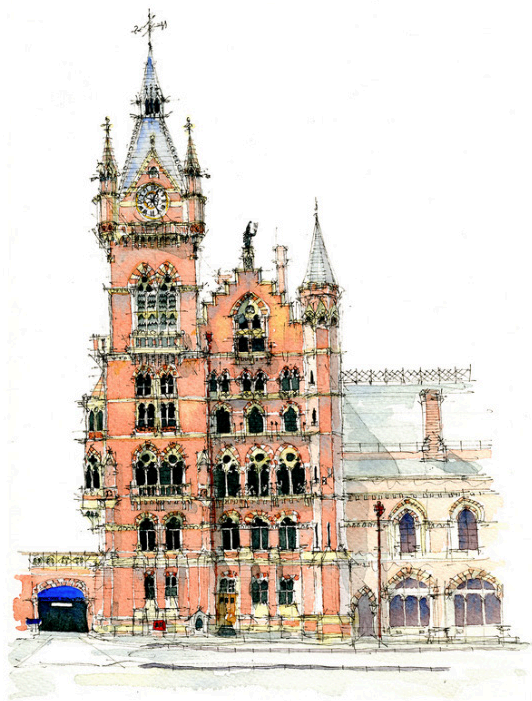
Almost as famous as the terminus itself, the Hotel's restaurant was once considered the finest in Dorset. It is home to the *Alton Pancras Tom Collier* ["*the cocktail to watch*"] which was invented here in 1924 by sommelier and cocktail guru Sam Ellier. [The world famous drink features in the 1926 Noel Hero play "*Future Tears*".

[CELIA: Do you love me Laurence?; LAURENCE: [to a passing waiter] Get me an *Alton Pancras Tom Collier* old bean; WAITER: Right away sir; CELIA: I said do you love me Laurance? LAURENCE: Sorry darling you'll have to speak up, I've got a slice of melon and a small decorative umbrella in my ear].

Situated at the wrong end of the old Alton Pancras branchline, the Station was recently re-opened as a guided bus-stop serving the Alton Pancras Business Park. Alas busy executives have little time to pause for a *Tom Collier even for old time's sake*.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Automatic barrier [Station]; Revolving door [Hotel]*

CHARGES: *Day Pass £8; Alton Pancras Tom Collier £7 [3 for 2 during Happy Hour]*





## 2 | PLUSH COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL & SCOUT HUT

*[A Surprisingly Accessible Substantial Superstore Facility]*

Plush County Primary School was established in 1871 following the passage of the Dorset Education Act which made provision for the elementary education for all 5-11 year olds free of charge [plus dinner money]. It moved into its present building in 1932 having outgrown the one room schoolhouse in which it was first established once a - recognisably genetic - ancestor of Mrs Brenda Oats joined the class. Under pioneering Educationalist and Headmistress, Miss Lernbyrote it was the first school in the region to introduce compulsory Freemasonry for girls in 1936.

Famous pupils include: Mr Jermyn Street [DHRA Opposition Leader], Emma Roid [author], publisher Allen Ian and Daniel Ratface [star of the *Harry Rowling* films] as well as rock star Ziggy Osmington [absent presumed snookering]. Reduced class sizes in the 1970s threatened the viability of the school and it was briefly faced with closure before an agreement was made with the 12th Regiment 34th Foot of the West Dorset Boy Scouts troop to take up nightly residence in the School's Assembly Hall. The cost of fitting out the Hall for nut-tightening practice was met by an increasingly arthritic Mr Threadbone whose awareness of the need was stimulated by the late arrival of Enriqu  de los Chicos Perdidos. Since 2016 the Hall has also been used for supervised Junior Discos following Mr Threadbonbe's demise and its its designation as a "safe zone".

ACCESSIBILITY: *Most child protection measures observed.*

CHARGES: *Nothing yet proven.*







### 3 | THE COTTAGE HOSPITAL, GODMANSTONE

*[Accident and Emergency Free Medical Facility]*

Prior to the 1880s, medical provision in the Dorset region was rudimentary, the census of 1871 having recorded that there was 1 doctor per 2,000 patients, only 1 surgery per 12 doctors and only 1 receptionist per 8 surgeries. [Pending the arrival of Ms Hattie Jacques, there were no matrons at all.]

The present Cottage Hospital was established in 1882 following a public subscription and it has served the population "*adequately but not that well*" [Dorset Hospital Review 2016] ever since. The hospital has no Accident and Emergency facility, no maternity unit, no pharmaceutical dispensary and no regular clinics, being instead "*more of a place to put up posters advertising alarming medical conditions best treated elsewhere*". It operates a super-market style "*take a numbered ticket*" system for the snack-foods machine [cash only]. Hard seats discourage visitors from lingering as does the electronic news board which permanently signals that "*Clinics are running approximately 2 days late*".

In a recent survey, participants expressed a 90% approval rate for the hospital and its services, though the figure dropped to 2% amongst those who had actually used its facilities in the last 12 months.

The building is constructed from Ashmore brick [exterior] and cracked wipe-down formica [interior].

ACCESSIBILITY: *Patients 9-5, Visitors, not so much*

CHARGES: *Services free; Parking Fees £35 per hour*





## 4 | SUNNYVALE RETIREMENT FACILITY, SWYRE

*[An Unsurprisingly Expensive Place to Deposit an Elderly Relation]*

A home-from-home for the "*bewildered, bemused, disoriented and frail*", the Sunnyvale Retirement Facility stands in half an acre of exquisite gardens just beyond the *cordon sanitaire* of Greater Swyre. Modernised throughout in 2017, it boasts the finest array of card-readers, cash-points and online payment facilities of any rest home in the county, making parting with the life-savings and even the entire estates of a once-loved-one easier than ever before.

Those who have passed through Sunnyvale's gates [with varying degrees of awareness] include Sid Sodd, Billy Grantham, Jack Archer, Mr Pastry and Jimmy Clitherow. In 2018, Sunnyvale received a commendation at the *Retirement Facility of the Year Awards* sponsored by the Threadbank Group which also named it "*Debit Portal of the Year 2018*" in recognition of its "*outstanding contribution to cashflow and human recycling*".

The Sunnyvale Retirement Facility is operated by Threadbone Health [*"Caring for your unwanted relatives is our business"*]. It enjoys a close working relationship with *Threadburials* which maintains a permanently-staffed office next to Reception.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Credit or Debit Card operated locks*

CHARGES: *Life savings on arrival, Entire estate on departure.*





## 4 | SWYRE CREMATORIUM & BURIAL GROUND

*[The One-stop solution for the Disposal of a Once Loved-one]*

Operating just a memorial stone's throw from the Sunnyvale Retirement Facility and operating a "no questions asked" policy, the Swyre Crematorium & Burial Ground is the ideal place in which to dispose of the unwanted remains of a once-rich and once-loved one.

Formerly the burial ground of the Parish of the Ascension, Swyre, the de-comissioned cemetary was acquired in 2004 by Threadbone Health as it sought to extend its money-making remit beyond the living, to embrace the needs of the recently and soon-to-be departed be they buried or crisped.

Approached by a paved causeway reminiscent of the Theatral Steps of the ancient Minoan Palaces of Crete, the high-vaulted entrance references Berlin's Brandenburg Gate and is in the Biedermeier style; its substantiality reinforced by its use of unusual materials [local Puncknowle stone]. Plantings, borders and occasional shrubs break up the otherwise regimented plots [1 metre by 3 metres - prices on inquiry] giving the grounds a relaxed feel despite the moratorium on *"personalised grave tributes"*. Visitors should look out for the resting places of the rich and famous, though, to discourage casual prurience, no guide is provided. The largest single grave, which predates the present regime, is that of Sir Roger de Coverlet, inventor of the Dorset embroidered variable-tog duvet. His wife is elsewhere.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Through the high-vaulted the Biedermeier style Gateway*

CHARGES: £3,000 per square foot. Memorials extra







## 5 | THE UNIVERSITY OF OAKFORD FITZPAINE [*Dorset's "Other" University*]

Those new to the University scene and conscious only of the University of Affpuddle's relentless drive towards degree streamlining and commercial modernisation might be forgiven for thinking it is the only august stool of learning in the Dorset region. *Not so*, those in the know, will cry. What about the far more ancient and, many would argue, far more distinguished University of Oakford Fitzpaine?

Founded in 1870, the Victorian foundation gained a solid reputation for scientific achievement in the late twentieth century under the thoughtful stewardship of former colleague of Professor Thrupiece and distinguished Culinary Bio-moralist, Vice-Chancellor Ms Audrey Badminton-Court. This was all the more remarkable given that its laboratories and research facilities were not updated until the admission of women in 2016.

Designed by High Church architect Augustus Pugilist, the University's neo-gothic old court is a masterpiece of overstatement. According to Sir Niklas Preventer it is a "*riot of competing ornamentation in which each excessive and self-indulgent element seeks to outdo its neighbour - the perfect metaphor for academia*". The Great Hall and Chapel are available for alumni weddings. No commercial hire.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Unfashionably, on merit*

CHARGES: *Maintaining traditional values in the face of overwhelming odds.*







## 6 | THE CROWN COURT, CANFORD MAGNA

### [*Scene of the Famous Oscar Smallbore Trial*]

Before the arrival of a properly-founded judicial system, the Dorset Assizes were renowned throughout the West Country as the epitome of summary justice. However, the imposition of uniform legal regulation in the 1770s significantly reduced the ability of any given judge to exercise his centuries-old right to arbitrary decision-making and prejudiced sentencing, with the result that those found innocent could now expect to escape a long spell in jail. The adoption of the "*new-fangled*" jury system in 1946 helped.

Nowhere was this sense of regulation and order more clearly embodied than in the building of the Crown Court, Cranford Magna in 1806. Its imposing tower stands upright to this day - a symbol of rectitude and propriety in a sometimes lawless landscape. Witness to many famous trials, perhaps the most notorious is that of Oscar Smallbore, playwright and well-known "*player of the pink oboe*", whose ill-judge decision to sue the Marquis of Queensway led eventually to his own arrest, prosecution and incarceration. Readers of the poems "*De incertarum vada*" and "*The Ballad of Reading Groups*" will know the full story. Less famous, but perhaps more intriguing, is the case of *The Phantom Crapper*, a man convicted only after local police found the wherewithal to purchase surgical gloves and were able to sift through the evidence in greater depth.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Public front entrance, criminals rear*

CHARGES: *The usual stuff up to and including murder.*







# V | PALACES OF ENTERTAINMENT

*"I firmly believe in public entertainment, without it poor people just stay at home and play with themselves".*

MRS AMANDA J THREADBONE



# 1 | HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, EAST CREECH

*[Hester-Stol's Second Best Theatre in the West Country]*

*Her Majesty's Theatre* is without question one of the top 25 theatres in the Dorset region and is a popular destination for lovers of the theatre as well as those who just enjoy an interval ice cream. With a seating capacity of 1,800 all of which - due to the more than 7,000 supporting pillars - have semi-restricted views, it is one of distinguished theatre architect Orc Hester-Stol's most problematical designs. However, its deep apron and wide stage mean that it is capable of hosting the largest touring productions be they opera, pantomime, musicals, ballet or (in extremis) straight drama.

A theatre of some kind has stood on the present site since late medieval times when, records suggest, William Boneshakes and Anne Hathnodrawers's domestic farce "*Whoops There Goes My Codpiece*" was presented for a record 8 nights. The present building - most likely the fifth incarnation - is built in the French Second Empire style [ie has shaky foundations and little support], its predecessor having been destroyed by an indoor firework injudiciously lit during a performance of Quaker Oats' "*The Scottish Play*" in 1878. *Her Majesty's* construction was financed by theatre impresario Oscar Threadbone and his business partner Siegfried Oats. Home at various points in its history to the DRO, the DRB, the DSC, the DG&S Society and the Threadbone Players, the Theatre remains one of East Creech's most significant attractions. It is now part of the portfolio owned and administered by *thetrulyuseless Group*.

ACCESSIBILITY: *What you would expect in a Victorian Theatre with 7,000 supporting pillars*

CHARGES: *Ticket prices vary depending on the popularity of a show. Generally cheap.*





## 2 | THE PALACE OF VARIETIES, RYALL

*[Home to Working Class Entertainment for over a Century]*

The arrival of the railways in the West Country brought great prosperity to the region as local rhubarb growers, taking advantage of the milder climate and earlier season, suddenly found themselves able to reach the London Markets several weeks ahead of their rival suppliers in the north. A rise in workers' wages [12s a year gross] meant greater disposable income which, allied to a taste for leisure [Sunday afternoons were work-free after 1868], encouraged those in the leisure industry to "*seek the out the worker shilling*". Of no place was this more true than Ryall, where the City Council voted by 10 votes to 9 to "*build an edifice worthy of our several achievements*"; but when plans for a public toilet facility fell through, a municipal competition selected instead a theatre design by Guglielmo Trappe-Dour and *The Palace of Varieties* was born. Said, by some, to exist "*only exists to keep the rif-raff out of The Theatre Royal*", the RPoV has always offered resolutely "*lower class*" entertainment: popular touring shows, variety acts, comedic turns and, more recently, tribute band and juke-box style musicals.

Disaster was narrowly averted in 2007 when part of the ornate ceiling fell into the auditorium as leading tenor Alfie Bow-Legges hit a High C during rehearsals for Andre Coutts-Webding's *Jose and the Amazing Technicolour Milk Float* [*"Any Cream Will Do"*]. Closure was averted thanks to quick thinking, several back-handers and twenty-seven tubes of Gorilla Glue.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Self-selective filtering*

CHARGES: *Reasonable for what you get. What you get is what you see.*







### 3 | THE THREADMECCA BALLROOM, PENTRIDGE [*A Physical Manifestation of an Enduring Passion*]

The appetite for dancing - inexplicable as it might be to those who don't enjoy public humiliation - did not begin with the success of thrupiecetv's '*Strictly Gone Jivin on Roller Skates*'. Rather, as any terpsichorologist knows, its origins lie in classical ballet, olympian gymnastics and the several routines devised by Ms Audrey Badminton-Court for the *fitnessthethreadboneway* exercise programme. It's heydays came, perhaps, during the First and Second World Wars when the impending threat of Johnny Foreigner's boot, the need to raise spirits and the soaring price of heavy munitions forced housewives of all descriptions to seek alternative forms of entertainment.

The *Threadmecca Ballroom*, Pentridge was but one of several dozen establishments catering to this new-found, if curious, interest. [ "*Why jog vertically, when the horizontal is available*" [Professor Brian Thrupiece].] Like many similar establishments, it took up residence in an existing facility - in this case [after a quick rubdown with borax and wire wool] the recently-defunct Pentridge Plague Doctors Guild.

The *Threadmecca Ballroom* offers afternoon classes free to Over-60s on Wednesdays as part of a general health campaign to halt the spread of STDs amongst the "*elderly but still active*".

ACCESSIBILITY: *Up several flights of stairs and round the corner*

CHARGES: *Lessons £10, Hire of dance pumps £10, Tea 55p*





## 4 | THE GAUMONT ELECTRIC CINEMA, MORDEN [*A "Handy" Place to Try Your Luck*]

Widespread belief in the baseless rumour that the flickering light associated with the projection of talking pictures caused trench foot in males and premature reflux in females delayed the popularity of "*the pictures*" in many parts of the the West County and its widespread diffusion did not properly occur until the early 1930s. When, however, the movies finally made it across the Hampshire border, strongholds were soon established in Arne, Chickerell, Ibberton and Morden. The most important - and largest - of these was the Gaumont Electrical Cinema in Morden [1936]; its longterm commercial viability secured by the decision of manager Roxy Curzon to screen Frank Krappa's Easter masterpiece *She's a Wonderful Wife [When She's Home]* for 758 days consecutively. It is estimated that the entire population of Morden each saw it at least 138 times.

Since then business has been more variable, but it remains the place to go for couples in the early stages of a relationship who have nothing to say to each other, have issues with eye-contact and find five finger exercises easier to practice in the dark. A recent showing of "*Mary Queen of Sorts*" filled the cinema, though the film-themed *Salty-porridge and Elizabethan buckwheat flavoured Popcorn* was not the success the management had hoped for, the clean-up costing almost as much as the total sales.

ACCESSIBILITY: *At Manager's discretion, Condom inspection on entry, Pensioners half price Mondays*  
CHARGES: *Showing a film without distributor's permission, flouting ratings guidance*





## 5 | WILLIE THORNEBONE'S SNOOKER CLUB, PULHAM [*A Low Dive Where Ziggy Osmington Learnt His Crafty*]

Thanks to the popularity of billiards in the 1920s, a number of Billiard Halls sprung up in the Dorset region, though such was the low reputation of the "*sport*" that - unlike today - many parents did not consider it an appropriate pastime for their feckless adolescent school-absentee, work-shy offspring. "*The current obsession with three balls and a flat surface amongst boys of a certain age is close to unfathomable and quite possibly dangerous*", thundered *Dorset Genteel Pastimes and Polite Recreations* in a 1924 editorial.

All this was changed following a rise in female interest in the game once more and better balls were introduced and cues were lengthened. [Queues too were lengthened.]. Snooker had arrived. First to the start line in 1949 was *Willie Thornebone's* - a small club in Pulham established by billiard legend William "*No Balls*" Thornebone. Initially uptake was poor due in part to Willie's decision not to buy a snooker table until 1950. By the mid 1950s, however, it was popular with layabouts across the county; its most famous patron being a young Ziggy Osmington and other occasional Bellends.

Briefly resident at the Cheselbourne Empire, *Willie Thornbone's* returned to its Pulham home in 2006 upon the establishment of a franchise by Threadbone Leisure/Crown Magna Spa in 2005.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Ask for Willie*

CHARGES: *£10 per hour. Alcoholic drinks premium price*





## 6 | BOOKHAM PUBLIC REFERENCE LIBRARY

*[A Haven of Tranquility in this Busy Neighbourhood]*

The Bookham Public Reference Library is well-known amongst bibliothecaphiles as a model of its kind. One of the earliest public lending libraries in the region [it was founded by Sir Humphrey Bookham on his death in 1528] it moved to its present premises in 1849 having acquired the extensive collections of Sir Launcelot Feckless of nearby Bookham Hall as part of an Estates Tax settlement agreed with the yet-to-be established Inland Revenue.

One of its most famous users was a youthful Professor Brian Thrupiece who spent as much time in the Library as his already busy international schedule would allow. Records show that he borrowed many volumes from the *Science* section [A Booster's "*Rocket Science for Prodigies*"] as well as two manuals from the Adolescent Health shelves, neither of which were returned in a useable condition.

Today the Library is - like so many of its kind - under threat of closure as video games, water colouring and internet pornography compete for young people's 3 minute attention span. The installation of a coffee vending machine in the foyer has provided a stay of execution as those queueing outside for a Number 74 seek both refreshment and distraction. A book reading by Ms Rowena Westlake scheduled for the Autumn 2009 has been postponed indefinitely due to "*patchy demand*".

ACCESSIBILITY: *Opposite the Number 74 bus stop*

CHARGES: *£1 per week per overdue book*







## 7 | THE GREEN, SHAPWICK

### [*A Site of Significant Antiquity*]

According to *Old Bore's Almanack*, there has been a Shrovetide Fair on the Green, Shapwick since 1086, and a Currywurst Stall since at least 2015. Continuity is the secret of the Fair's success, says Town Clerk Lincoln Greene, though castrating criminals is no longer the popular spectacle it once was. History records that in 1635 more than 40 criminals were castrated in a "*twang off*" between Guy de Testeur de Testicule and local hero Richard Coeur de Balsac. Richard won 20:18, with two "*boulettes de viande*" in dispute following an *eitherway slice* which might have been dealt by either contestant. History further implies that few of the criminals volunteered and none left as they had arrived.

More recently the event has been run by Threadbone Open-Air Entertainments Ltd and has taken on many of the characteristics of what is known idiomatically but inaccurately as a "*fun fair*". Residents of the nearby *Hotel Majestic* may not like it, but the locals seem to think that screaming children, lost wallets, sickly confectionary and vomit-inducing rides "*doth a summur make*", so the tradition looks set to survive provided, of course that Drexit does not cut off the supply of imported castratable criminals.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Open Air*

CHARGES: *Don't turn up if you're on one*





## 8 | THE THREADBONE STADIUM, TODBER [*Home of Todber United*]

Scene of epic battles since 1888, the *Todber Stadium* [now, following a lucrative sponsorship deal, the *Threadbone Stadium, Todber*] is home to Dorset Premiere League Club Todber United [ "*The Todgers*" ]. Once a dominant force in the division, "*The Todgers*" have seen better days; as loyal fans and burger concession operators Eunice and Densley Fry-Uppe can attest [ "*We've seen better days*" ]. This year, however, under charismatic manager and winner of *I'm A Catastrophe Get Me Out of Here* - Barry Brednife, they are enjoying their best season since 2008 when they were relegated in a dramatic final day grudge match - going down to fellow strugglers Alderholt Academicals 0-17.

The Allington Road ground was purchased by the Club [then The Todber Tinworkers XI] in 1886, though the North Stand [Thrupiece End] was not finished until 1888. Once captained by legendary England star Billy Bonewright, it was also the Club at which Professor Brian Thrupiece briefly made his professional debut before opting for a shot at the F1 World Drivers Championship in 1956.

These days, the sporting achievements of Todber United rarely feature on the back pages of the local newspaper, though the antics of owner Vladimir Puni are frequently reported nearer to the front. The Club controversially changed its insignia [ "*Soviet Realism at its most propagandist*" ] in 2018.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Through the turnstiles [if working]*

CHARGES: *Season Tickets £50, Single entry £10*





## 9 | ALL DORSET ARENA, TOLLER WHELMES [*Spiritual Home of Bob "Tiger" Twelvetrees*]

Few who have witnessed the atmosphere of the All Dorset Arena when 12 times World Singles Champion, 8 times World Doubles Champion, 4 times World Mixed Doubles Champion and serial All Dorset Championship winner Bob "Tiger" Twelvetrees is firing on all quoits, will ever forget the noise, the tension or the overpowering BO. If ever an arena was built for a sport, then this one wasn't, having been commissioned in 1884 for the *Toller Whelme Folk-Dancing & Jug Blowing Festival*.

Falling into almost immediate post-event disrepair, the Arena looked like going the way of most festival-based infrastructure, when the All Dorset Quoits and Conker Club found itself locked out of its Morecombelake home courtesy of a "*misunderstanding about rent*" [the landlord wanted some, the Club didn't have any]. Push came to shove as opportunity met need and cox boxed with box. The Club moved into the Arena in 1886 since when it has remained the premier venue for top quality quoits. The style of the containing perimeter wall and entrance is unapologetically neo-classical with a nod towards the Capitoline Hill [Roma]. American visitors frequently mistake it for Buckingham Palace and ask for the Queen. A natural error given the visitors' average SAT scores.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Open during Championship Events*

CHARGES: *£10 single competitors, £15 single and mixed sex doubles. Binary prices on application*





## 10 | HALSTOCK INDUSTRIAL MUSEUM EXPERIENCE [*Home of Todber United*]

The *Thremploy False Teeth, Prosthetics and Surgical Webbing Company* opened its gates in 1816 to capitalise on the high demand for false limbs following the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. [The delayed surge was the result of poor transport facilities for returning soldiers, logistical difficulties in ascertaining the number of right and left hand parts required and supply chains issues in the webbing arena]. The factory saw increased sales during the Crimean, Boer and First World Wars and even a brief export-led peak in the 1870s thanks to the Franco-Prussian conflict, though the re-jigging required to convert to French-style pre-molars eroded much of the profit. The factory finally closed in 1948, having failed to see that the future lay in bakelite and rubberised gromits - "*a schoolboy error*".

After a period of neglect and dereliction, it was purchased by Threadbone Liesure, though plans to turn it into a ice-rink were thwarted by a local council decision to deny permission to demolish the chimnies. Instead, Threadbone Liesure dusted off parts of the building, repaired several locks and installed a gift shop before declaring the building open as the *Halstock Industrial Museum Experience*. The "*experience*" receives mixed comments on Trip Advisor.

ACCESSIBILITY: *Through the shop on both entrance and egress*

CHARGES: "*Quite a lot for what it is*" Trip Advisor", *Gifts expensive eg pencil rubber £12*



