



*Awlíscombe &
Weston Times*

Summer 2024



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Contact Page.

Emergency Contact Numbers.

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St. Michael's Church, Awliscombe school, Parish Council , Village Hall, and club contacts.

Incumbent	Revd. Sue Roberts	Email: sue41260@gmail.com
Honiton Team Office	01404 44035	office@honitoncofe.org
The Honiton Mission Community website, on honiton.org, has information about services in Awliscombe.		
Church Wardens	Nick Thwaites	01404 548467 / 07900 041174
PCC Secretary	Sharon Thwaites	01404 548467
Bell Captain	Roger Sprigg	01404 43814
Awliscombe School	Penny Hammett	01404 42031 – Executive headteacher, Fort Federation.
Awliscombe School	Vicky Morris	Head of School
Awliscombe Parish Council	Nigel Boulton	07730926809 - Chairman
Awliscombe Village Hall	Liz Gillingham	07811 675800 - Booking Secretary
		01404 43551
	Kevin Coxon	07796 132238 - Chairman
Young Wives	Sally Lawrence	01404 42825
Garden Club	Pat Hughes	01404 841170
Short Mat Bowls	Kelvin Briscoe	01404 549047
Awliscombe Ladies	Rosemary Sprigg	01404 43814
Knit and Stitch	Sarah Dent	07540 110965
Friends of St. Michael's	Kathryn Empson	07979697487

Defibrillator Unit

As most people know, we have a defibrillator in Awliscombe. It is situated on the wall of the village hall, to the right of the entrance.

This comes as a gentle reminder of what to do in an emergency situation.

If someone collapses with a cardiac arrest near you, then **speed of response is paramount. So ring 999 without delay.**

If someone was able to fetch the defib unit, instructions will be very clearly heard once the unit is opened. There will be a repeat of training in the new year.

Next Issue: The deadline for the next issue will be **18th August.**

Send your article to awliscombeandwestontimes@gmail.com

What's On.

To help everyone keep their diaries up to date, you can now go onto the Awliscombe Parish Council website, click on What's On and see all of the public events for the village. If anyone has an event which they would like advertised on this calendar, then please let Sally know on lawrencesally@hotmail.com

For any people who are new to the area, they should know that new members are always welcome to any of the various clubs and events mentioned in the magazine. Details of people to contact are on the contact page at the beginning of this magazine.

Monthly

regular dates in the Village Hall

Mondays - Garden Club 7.30pm – 10pm 2nd Monday in month

Tuesdays –

Wednesdays - Short mat bowls 2 pm - 5pm & 7pm - 10pm
 Knit and Stitch 7.30 – 9.30 alt. Wednesdays

Thursdays - Honiton U3A Hist. 8 am – 1pm last Thursday in month
 Awliscombe Ladies 7.30 pm - 2nd Thursday in month

Fridays - Drama Tots 8am – 1pm.
 Slot car racing 7 pm - 10pm
 Honiton WI Art 1 pm – 4pm 2nd & 4th Friday

SAVE THE DATE.

Monday 27 th May	Whist Drive in the village hall
Saturday 15 th June	Village Fête at the Otter Inn, Weston
Monday 24 th June	Whist Drive in the village hall
Monday 22 nd July	Whist Drive in the village hall
Monday 26 th August	Whist Drive in the village hall
Sunday 8 th September	Cream Tea in the church yard.
Friday 27 th September	Harvest Supper in Village Hall
Saturday 23 rd November	Quiz night in Village Hall
Saturday 7 th December	Jim Causley Concert in the Church.

Church Matters.

Services at St. Michael's are on the first, third and fourth Sundays of each month. Everyone is welcome. Information about these services is on honiton.org in a newsletter called Around The Parishes.

The group of people who like **classic cars** that used to meet at The Honiton Inn now meet on the first Thursday of each month at **The Otter Inn** in Weston. Anyone welcome.



AWLISCOMBE & WESTON
VILLAGE

FETE

BRIC-A-BRAC

BOUNCY CASTLE

CREAM TEAS

CAKES, TOYS, BOOKS

TOMBOLA, SKITTLES etc etc

DUCK RACE STARTS 3 PM



THE OTTER INN
SATURDAY 15TH JUNE

FREE
ENTRY

BIG
CASH
PRIZES

WACKY GAMES

HOW MANY BALLOONS



IN THE CAR?

VINTAGE
+ CLASSIC
VEHICLES

MUSIC

EAST DEVON
SLOT CAR
RACING

and LOTS more!!

OPEN
from 1 PM

If anyone would like to contribute to our printing costs, then you may do so online; our bank details are:

AWLISCOMBE AND WESTON TIMES

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Account No: 03166260



awliscombeandwestontimes@gmail.com

Allison

Caroline

07507949412

07775931735



Looking for a quiet place to sit and scribble a few lines, I made my way, after a night duty, to the lovely village of Beer. At 7.30am it is indeed that; quiet. Driving slowly through, I observed the start of a day, the opening of doors, early morning yawns, waves to neighbours and walking of dogs. A community coming together for another day.

I love the unravelling of a morning, our villages are much the same with that coming together and planning of the day. None so evident as last week when Awliscombe came alive with the Wedding Dress Festival at St. Michael's. Many hands and generous giving of time, turned Mandy's idea into such a successful weekend. The funds raised were quite amazing, being used to benefit us all.

The soon to be Awliscombe and Weston Fête, again requiring the 'coming together'. Our villages really do have a heart and soul –to be celebrated.

This leads me on to our plea ... for a couple of lovely souls to take on this village magazine.

It is not as daunting as you may imagine, mainly because it will become 'your' magazine, created in 'your' style, not ours. It could simply be a two or four page 'what's on', keeping our community in touch with events ahead. No rules or obligations and definitely no worries of buttercups, daisies and poetry!

Christmas will be our last issue. Leading up to that time we can help/guide you, if needed, then it will become yours!

So in the meantime, this leaves us to say ... a very big THANK YOU to all the people who have contributed to this issue, whether writing an article or sending us a donation. Of course, to our distributors, you are all amazing! Thank you to the people who advertise also, helping us stay afloat. Have a wonderful summer! Enjoy the warm rays, have fun and stay safe.

.....

A few words of thanks -

It has been a great comfort to me and my family, since the death of our beloved David, my husband, their father, and grandfather to receive your kind messages of condolence.

I am so grateful and so happy that David and I chose Awliscombe as our retirement home.

Thank you for all the affectionate support.

David would be happy to know that I am among friends, as I face the rest of my life without him.

Doreen.



Fish and Chip Supper

The Friends of St Michael's held a very novel fish and chip supper in the church on Saturday 16th March.

It was a cold and miserable night outside but with the heaters on, very warm and cosy inside. Some careful planning ensured 40 portions of fish and chips from Chippee! in the high street, arrived freshly cooked and piping hot.

With everyone sitting at long tables or in nearby pews, we had a very sociable evening - with a well-stocked bar and music very kindly provided by a local band 'Nearly Over The Hill', - wonderful.

Thank you to everyone who came, we had a lot of fun and laughter, whilst raising a further **£231** towards the Eco Loo Project for the churchyard.





Meet The Neighbours.

This event was organised by volunteers from the Garden Club, ably led by Pat and Don. It was a chance for local people to meet representatives from all the various clubs and groups which meet up in the village and it was well attended and a great success.

There was also tea or coffee and fabulous cake.

Although it was not run as a fund raiser, they made £340.00 for the Friends of St. Michael's which was a welcome bonus. Thank you, Garden Club.

We were there from A&W Times, looking for someone to take over!



The many outings and activities of the Young Wives.

Garden Club & church flowers.



A taste of slot car racing.

An introduction to ringing church bells.

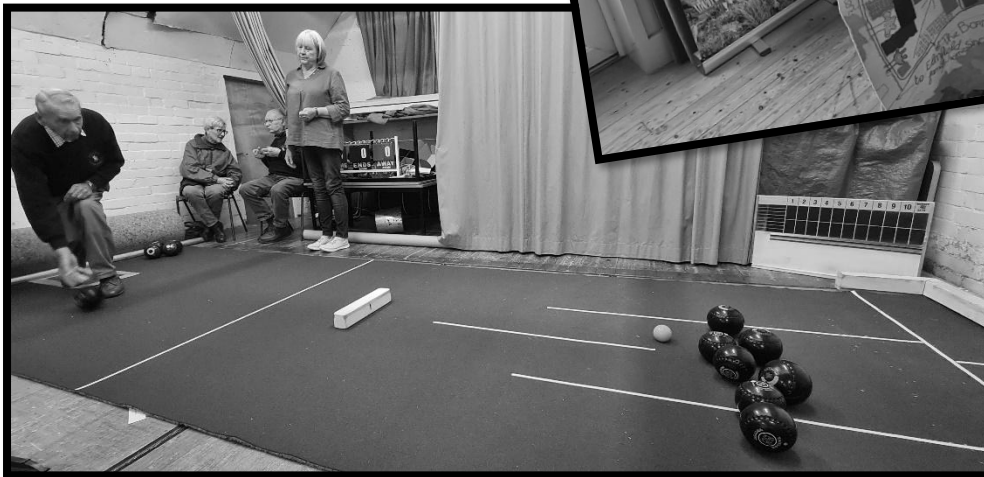


The Awliscombe Ladies.

Creative Beings.



A chance to play short mat bowls.



The clever people who knit and stitch.



There is so much going on! Contact numbers for these clubs are on the Contact page, new members always welcome.

Winged Wonder
found in the church yard wildflower meadow

Managing part of the church yard to rediscover a wildflower meadow is starting to show successes with an increase in bees, butterflies, and other invertebrates.

Last summer a rare, **winged Roesel's Bush Cricket** was spotted in the grasses of the uncut, managed areas.

The winged form makes up to 1% of the wider population, usually in areas where the bush-cricket's range has recently expanded, so it is testament to the new plan that we are making discoveries like this. Once the Roesel's Bush Cricket has established itself in its new habitat, the local population reverts back to the wingless form.



We look forward to seeing what other new visitors we may meet this summer as the wildflower meadow areas mature and become more diverse in all nature's beauty.

Thanks to Lou and Mark for sharing

Just a few questions to be answered ... using surnames from the villages. Your name may be amongst the answers but of course it would be impossible to include everyone, so apologies. Answers ... next issue.

1. It would be ironic to prang your car in this Cumbrian village.
2. Lady Chatterley's creator.
3. McLaren's loss after this step down.
4. Good levels of Vit.D will solve this.
5. The middle name of this Liberal, radical British PM.
6. He steers, not rows.
7. A village between Axminster and Honiton.
8. Italians say poca/o
9. A very masculine name.
10. Gateway to the Cotswolds.
11. Our own local palaeontologist.
12. A Kent town first recorded in the 10th century
13. No woodwind instrument will work without this
14. In Wales and Brythonic Britain – you would be on fire with inspiration
15. Son of David, or beloved.
16. It takes more than one swallow to make one, or even two
17. A meat dish cooked long and slow in Andalusia.
18. A certain nobility
19. Sharp tasting leafy herb, can be cooked like spinach
20. This source of water is not hot
21. A little flowering twig
22. Your original ton was chev/chopp in Suffolk/Northumberland
23. A French hermit's cell
24. Emma's son
25. Derived from beautiful mountain, brought to England by the Normans
26. A strong and hardy name.
27. A stranger first found in Kilkenny Ireland – famous for not paying their dues.
28. This clearing could be a meadow or paddock.
29. Your profession was originally a shepherd or dairyman.
30. Pat-a-Cake relies on this man.
31. A well respected gentleman in Germany, here a topographic name if you have one or two at the bottom of your garden.
32. Buying and selling in Weston.
33. This refers to many deeds and acts of kindness, not bad for Weston too.
34. A rapid and plentiful stream of ... ? water, blood, enthusiasm!
35. Most likely a nickname, meaning sharp and keen.
36. A Carp family member.
37. Eager, passionate and determined.

A CONGREGATION OF WEDDING DRESSES

On Saturday 11th May at 10am, the church doors opened for the Congregation of Wedding Dresses Weekend and what an incredible weekend it was!



Forty dresses had been loaned for the occasion, spanning 100 years of bridal fashions, with most arranged on mannequins and all set amongst an absolutely glorious display of flowers and greenery both inside and out – created by some very artistic and talented people. With the dresses displayed to perfection, the effect was truly spectacular and made an impressive sight for our visitors as they came through the door.



Many people had chosen to display photographs and other momentos with their dresses. These, and the schoolchildren's contribution of poems provided extra interest and much discussion for our visitors.

For two whole days we had warm sunshine and blue skies. The refreshment stand did brisk business with many people staying on for a relaxed hour or so sitting in the sun and catching up with friends and family.

We were also lucky that the bells were rung on both days - we would like to thank the ringers for giving up their time and giving us such a lovely treat. Sitting outside and listening to the bells was a real delight for all of us.



So many people contributed so much in many many ways, from dresses to time, to flowers and other decorations and it could not have been the huge success it was without this team or you, our visitors, with your very generous donations.

Our village can feel very proud of creating such a special weekend which gave so much pleasure and happiness to so many people – raising **£1554** towards the Eco Loo Project for the churchyard, was the icing on the cake!



Thank you to everyone who shared this weekend with us and I know it's a memory that will stay for many years to come.

Apologies if we have not managed to fit everyone's dress in, without doubt, they were all so beautifully unique.

Mandy, this was your idea!

THANK YOU



Tucked away, behind the barn walls and orchards of Awliscombe

Here are a few photos for you to enjoy, of the children who are lucky enough to spend their day being cared for by Karen in her day nursery.

Part of their time has been spent joining Karen and Tony in watching the lambs and to their delight, bottle feeding the ones that need a little extra help, being born as triplets. Altogether, 33 Texel lambs were born, how lucky the children have been to experience this first hand.



Albert



Oscar and Phoebe



Jasmine



Daisy
Molly
Archie

Across the field, as the crow flies, not too far away, Kathryn and Rick have also been busy with their lambs. Kathryn says they have got to that lovely podgy stage now - still wonderful for us to see.

Here they are enjoying the warm weather in the orchard. Having the same father as Karen's lambs, Texel – then crossed with Suffolk Mule. 90 were born. As we know, a farmer's work is never done! So thank you to both Karen and Kathryn, for letting us have a peep into your very busy day.



Many of you will have sampled the delicious apple juice, which comes from Kathryn and Rick's orchard pictured here. They deliver every Monday. £3.50 per bottle, £6.00 for 2 bottles and £18 for 6. Tel: 01404 548840 or email: wadhayesfarm@outlook.com



A little over two and a half years ago a questionnaire was included with the Awliscombe and Weston Times asking for people's views on the church and if there were people who would be willing to find new, non religious ways of using it as well as providing support for the building. Following this a meeting was held with the idea of forming a group to help in achieving these aims.

At the meeting we learnt that all churches have to support themselves from the income they generate locally, with no money coming from the Church of England for repairs and maintenance, on top of which each church has to pay an annual charge regardless of their own need. We thought as most people do, that the Church of England, being a wealthy landlord, was more than capable of maintaining its buildings but a church is considered the property of its local community and their responsibility. Previously plenty of money was raised from congregations, but their numbers are falling which means local income is shrinking, leaving little leftover for anything other than basic maintenance. Added to this, the age, size and scale of churches makes everything that much harder and more expensive. To help provide the help these buildings need, churches are having to find new ways to support themselves and create alternative uses which appeal to everyone, alongside the usual traditional services.

Responses to the questionnaire had shown many people felt it would be a shame to watch it continue to dwindle and decay to the point where it would be locked up and unusable and completely lost to all of us. There was a dedicated core of support for action in the village so the decision was made to formally create a Friends of St Michael (FoSM) group which would run legally separated from the Church of England and entirely removed from the religious purposes of the church, with membership open to everyone regardless of where you live.



We had to consider how any new uses would impact other village organisations and the school particularly who regularly use it for assemblies, plays and other activities. It was also very important that we did not compete with the Village Hall which is well used and itself in the process of being upgraded and updated. The Hall is a brilliant and much more obvious venue but we felt there is an opportunity for the church to be used in a complementary way for other events and activities which wouldn't impact the Hall, a perfect example being the recent Congregation of Wedding Dresses. The church was an ideal venue for this large event having ample space for both the exhibits and incredible floral decorations which together created such a stunning impact.

FoSM was formally launched in July 2022 with an open day and Teddy zip wire event and many people signed up as members. Our income is from members' subscriptions (people have complete freedom to choose how much they pay, important in these financially difficult times and we appreciate every penny) and from other fundraising events open to everyone regardless of membership. All our income is our own and with our members' approval, we decide how and where it is spent. We have our own plans and ambitions to help preserve and enhance this historic building and although we do have to respect that it is Grade 1 listed and there will need to be plenty of collaboration with church and other relevant authorities with our projects, it doesn't mean we can't gently shake things up a bit if needed!

During our early discussions it became very obvious that the first thing needed was a loo, which will allow fuller use of the church and it makes sense to have it in the grounds in a separate building rather than inside as this will allow the widest access. It will be a benefit not just to church visitors and the schoolchildren when they are using the church, but also during school sports days (the school field is up the hill next to the church) as well as our own events. It has become even more critical since the closure of the Pub, especially when people arrive for weddings and funerals, so it was a unanimous decision that this would be our first fundraising goal.



The biggest problem is the lack of water and whilst we would like to eventually get it connected, the most practical solution currently is to install an Eco loo. This isn't as strange or as grim as it sounds and many churches and other off grid buildings already have this type of facility, including Luppitt and Combe Raleigh nearby. What exactly is an Eco loo you may be asking? It looks like a chunky version of the toilets we have in our houses except it is powered by electricity and waste is dealt with differently. It is a biological system and for those who are familiar with septic tanks, it is based on similar principles in that waste is broken down naturally but the process is slightly different and much faster and all that has to be taken away is a completely safe, dry, crumbly product. They are also equipped with very efficient fans which constantly draw air in so they are completely odour free.

The new facilities will be housed in the top right hand corner of the churchyard where there is currently an existing poor quality block built shed. Unfortunately to use this it would need to be completely rebuilt so it makes sense to replace it with a fully insulated, simple wooden building. This will have electricity to

power the loo and provide lighting as well as a heater, baby changing facilities and hand sanitising. With a fully sealed resin floor and laminate finish to the walls, it will provide modern, clean and hygienic facilities.

The initial quotes we received are around £12 000 so allowing for unforeseen problems and inflation, we would need approximately £15 000 to be on the safe side. In just under two years since our launch, we have raised £11 000 towards this thanks to the wonderful support of our members and the many generous donations we have received. This is an incredible amount and we're delighted that so many people want to protect this ancient building which is so desperately in need of our help.

As we are now in such a strong financial position, we can begin the necessary paperwork which even we can't hurry along! As it is Grade 1 listed we have to apply both to the local council and the Church for permission to build and install the facilities but once it has been received we can apply for grant funding which will allow us to start work more quickly. So please bear with us while we dot i's, cross t's and jump through hoops to reach the point where we can actually start work and achieve our first goal!

Thank you for your continuing support and if you are interested in joining us or would simply like to know more, please contact stmichaelfriends@gmail.com



See you at the cream tea on the 8th September.

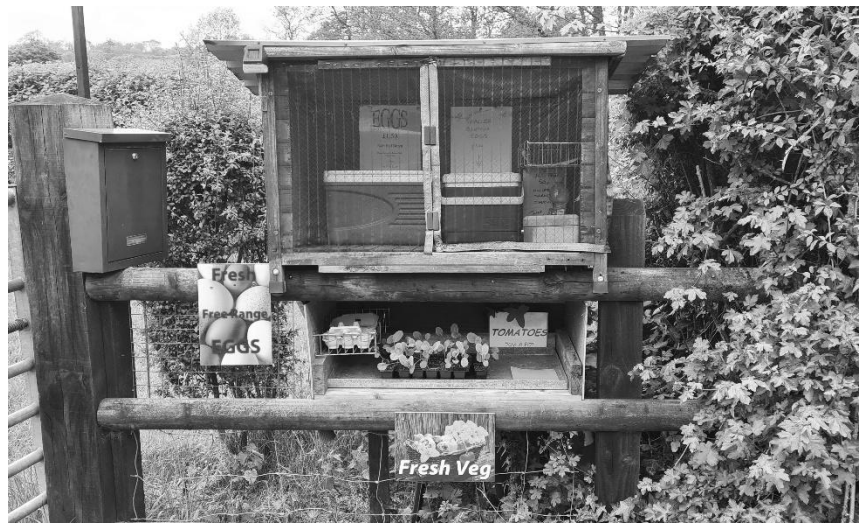


Use it or Lose it.

I'm sure many people in the villages enjoy the fresh produce we are offered literally from the farm gate.

It could be eggs, vegetables and other produce, or beef and lamb in a pop up farm shop in Buckerell. It is all delicious.

It does mean that we need to go for walks carrying a wallet!



I wonder how many of you have followed a sign like this... and found yourselves here, in Mary's Meadow.



At The Mini Farm, one can get eggs, jams, chutneys, home made soaps and plants. Of course all of the produce is seasonal and there are times when the hens or ducks just don't feel like laying! I was treated to a little tour around Mary's Meadow and there are all sorts of surprising plants growing in there which could result in some very unusual produce if they continue to thrive.

I wonder how many of you have eaten Yacon? National vegetable of Peru, it is part of the Asteraceae family (daisies, sunflowers etc) and the root is the edible part. It looks like a thin sweet potato but it is crunchy. It can be eaten in salads or cooked in a curry, where it remains crunchy and juicy.

As soon as I went through the gate I saw a banana passion fruit, growing happily beside a sea buckthorn and behind them towers a beef and onion tree! My head was spinning already. Passing the florida key lime tree and two lemon trees (one sporting 2 lemons) we made our way to the polytunnel. Some strawberry guavas are growing in there along with some dragon fruit. These are like a cactus.



Guava on the Left and prickly dragon fruit on the right.



There are seedlings of all sorts coming on. Some are familiar; herbs, tomatoes, peppers, chillies & aubergines. Others have names such as cinnamon basil or peacock lily. At Mary's Meadow they enjoy trying to grow plants from other parts of the world. There are different varieties of melon and all sorts of berries; kiwi berry, Japanese wineberry, goji berry and choke berry.

In this long cool wet spring we have been enduring, these plants are growing slowly, but with love and care they are growing.



In other areas, there are purple cauliflowers, young apple and pear trees, blackcurrant bushes (for the hens' consumption in their run), a cape gooseberry, an avocado tree, an olive tree, a finger lime, a custard apple tree, hops and a blueberry.

We keep being told that the way to help nature to be sustainable and healthy is by having a diversity of plants. It would seem that Devon can support quite a range. Many of these plants do need more sun however. (I think we all do!)



The hens and ducks are divided into groups and live happily. There are a few wounded or vulnerable rescue birds here as well. The goose to the left of the photo has a wounded wing. There is also Ollie, a tawny owl which was found by a lady in Ottery and handed to the Small Animal Clinic in Honiton. They knew that he would be given a loving home here.

This corner of Devon is a refuge for an eccentric mix of plants and wildlife and a lovely spot for a chat. A little bit of paradise in our beautiful county.

**SO LONG,
FAREWELL ...**



With a mix of excitement and sadness, the 9 leavers will soon take their next steps, leaving Awliscombe School behind and moving on to new schools. We asked them a couple of questions and they have agreed to share their heartfelt answers with us. We send GOOD LUCK!! and very best wishes to you all ... for the next step of your journey.

1. What special thing has Awliscombe taught you to take to your next school and into life?

Daisy-Mae – It has taught me to make friends and be kind to everybody, showing our PARCH values.

Sophie – No matter what happens you will always be OK.

Bo – It's taught me how to be kind to others.

Mabel – It's taught me how to be brave and take risks.

George – The thing I think that is most incredible about this school is not just the education but also the life skills we'll take with us – like the values of PARCH.

Morgan – I'm going to treasure my leaver's jumper and the memories of the Exmoor Challenge.

Oliver – I've really enjoyed the maths there, I get to challenge myself.

Phoebe – I'll take away that kindness is always the best way to treat people and help them.

P - Perseverance

A - Acceptance

R - Respect

C - Care

H – Honesty

2. What will you miss the most?

Daisy-Mae – There's lots of loving people here that you can go to if you are feeling sad.

Sophie – I'll miss the teachers and my class mates.

William – I will miss all the teachers and not having so much homework.

Bo – I am going to miss Mrs Burford's funny quirks!

Mabel – I'll miss Mrs Morris.

Phoebe – I'm going to miss all the teachers and all the friends I have made since I joined in Year 4. I've enjoyed school here a lot more than my last school!

George – The thing I'll miss the most is the kind and loving staff, that go above and beyond to deliver.

Morgan – I'm going to miss all the teachers and TA's.



History of Awliscombe and Weston.

As I mentioned in the last issue, we have received copies of the historical articles which were printed in earlier editions of the magazine written by Valerie Cann. Here is one all about the locals taking on the powers of the land in **The Queen versus the Overseers of Awliscombe.**

On 24th March 1869 the customary Easter Vestry was called in the church and adjoined The Honiton Inn Pub (no doubt more convivial than the cold church where the vestry was too small to hold a meeting). The vicar, the Reverend FTB Willesford was in the chair. It was the annual meeting to appoint the Overseers of the Poor, usually the Churchwardens, who carried out both functions: set the Poor Rate, appoint a way warden to supervise the upkeep of the roads and appoint 10 men 'qualified and liable to serve as Parish Constables in the Parish of Awliscombe all in the next 12 months'. The assembled parishioners decided to make a stand against this order from the magistrates and passed a resolution 'in as much as the parishes throughout the County are now saddled with a very heavy expense for the payment of the police, that nomination of such constables is not necessary and that the parishioners empower the overseers to call the attention of the magistrates to the hardship in the parishes for the purpose of remedying that above'. On the 30th April a second Vestry Meeting was held and the overseers reported that the resolution passed on the 24th March had been presented to the magistrates at the Petty Sessions who rejected it and immediately issued a summons to be served on the overseers.

The Exeter & Plymouth Gazette for the 7th May reported the Petty Sessions where Messrs. William Tuck and John Madge were summoned. They were represented in court by Mr. Tweed, solicitor of Honiton. Mr. Tweed contended that no offence had been proved and the vicar was called to prove that the required Vestry Meeting had been called but the meeting refused to comply and no list of constables had been made. The Chairman of the magistrates held Mr. Tweed's objection to be good and dismissed the case, intimating that in all probability a writ of Mandamus would be applied for. (a writ of mandamus is a command ordering a person to perform a statutory duty)

On 19th May the office of the Queen's Bench in London issued instruction to apply for a writ of mandamus, which was granted by the office of the Queen's Bench on the 26th May. On the 28th May a copy of the Rule Nisi was served on Mr. Tuck and on Mr. Madge on the 29th May (he being from home the previous day). (Nisi is a rule or decree becoming solid).

On 4th June the Prosecutors briefed a council to make the Rule Nisi absolute and on 7th June the Defence asked for an adjournment, which was granted.



The vestry minutes record that the parish officers had incurred legal expenses employing Mr. Tweed as their advisor, who had found it necessary to engage counsel for the defendants. It was resolved that the expense be paid by a Rate made according to the Poor Rate set at the Easter Vestry.

This is a photo held by Allhallows Museum of the Honiton Police Station, which was built in 1860. To the left of the photo is The Volunteer Inn.

Following the writ of mandamus being served on the overseers, a Vestry Meeting was convened on the 6th July by Public Notice for the appointment of Parish Constables. Ten persons were returned as qualified to serve. They were Henry Toogood, John Clapp, Charles Connett, Hayman Collings, Albion Dyer, Owen Dare, William Cole, Richard Tuck, Francis Wilmington and William Lacendon.



On 13th July The Western Times advertised “a public meeting to be held on Saturday at The Dolphin Inn at 3.00 in the afternoon to consider the appointment of parish constables annually at great expense to the taxpayers, and for the purpose of expressing sympathy with the parish of Awliscombe in consequence of the mandamus which has been served on the overseers, and take steps towards defraying the legal expenses incurred.” (Dolphin Inn on the left)

The following edition on the 20th July contained a full report of the meeting held in the Dolphin Assembly Rooms. The Vicar of Awliscombe, the reverend FTB Willesford took the chair and present were representatives from Upottery, Dunkeswell, Northleigh, Sheldon, Feniton, Widworthy, Buckerell, Farway, Cotleigh, Combe Raleigh and Gittesham.

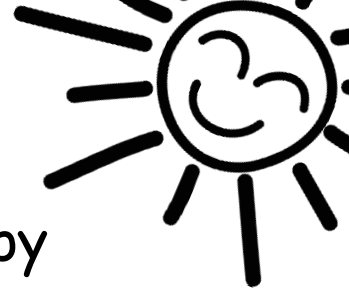
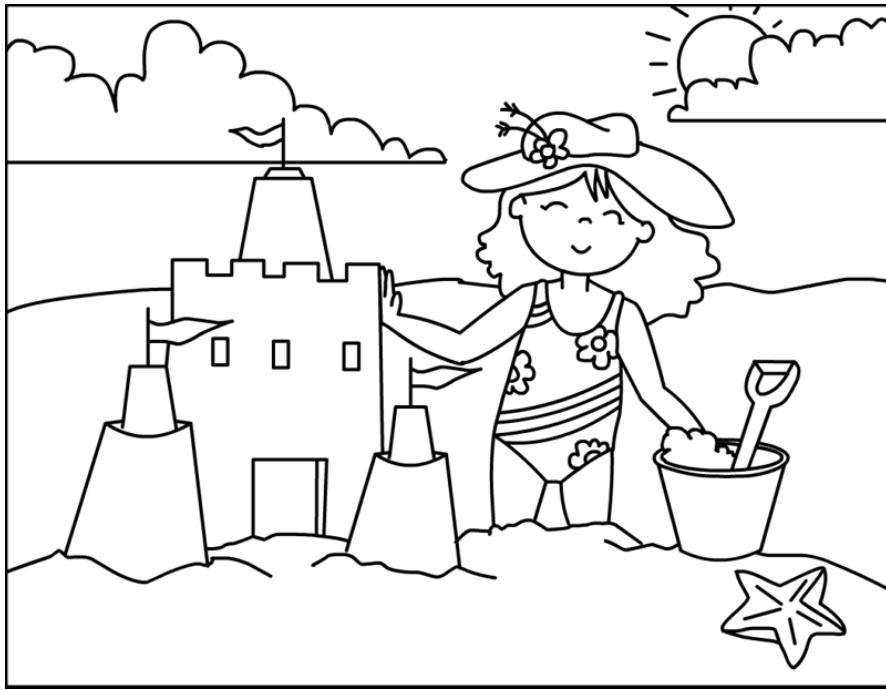
Rev Willesford opened the meeting by thanking those present assembled for coming to support Awliscombe. He explained that in a small country parish there was very little public disturbance and no need for ‘parish constables’. He further explained that a memorial had been passed at a Vestry meeting requesting the magistrates to consider that this was no longer required. However a mandamus was served on the overseers and they appointed a solicitor. Mr. Tweed, who in turn appointed a Counsel. Rev. Willesford told the meeting that on the 19th May the Prosecutors issued instructions for a writ of Mandamus to be served on Mr. Tuck and Mr. Madge. This was passed by the office of the Queen’s Bench in London.

The meeting then passed a resolution of support for the parish of Awliscombe who were entitled to sympathies and the guardians of each parish in the Honiton Union be requested to collect subscriptions. Following the meeting Rev. Willesford sent letters to other parishes in the area requesting help and these were returned to the vicar with the names of those contributing. Some of these letters are preserved in the Devon Record Office. The list for Honiton includes many prominent people in the town: John Murch, ironmonger and manufacturer, the Rev. John Mackarness, Headmaster of Allhallows School, Matthew’s Bros. ironmongers trading well into the 20th century, Dr. Jerrard, whose family provided several generations of doctors for the area, farmers, plumbers, carpenters, shopkeepers and innkeepers.

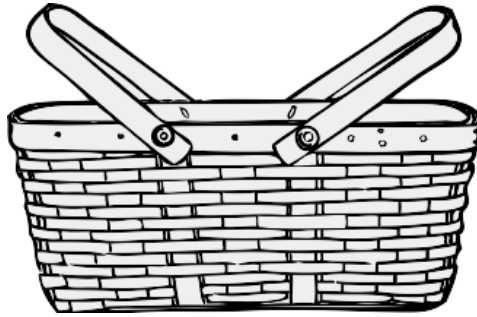
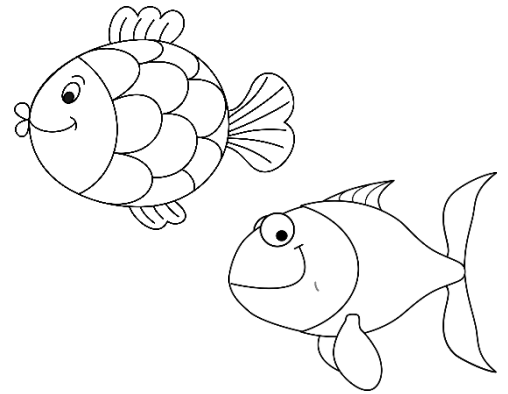
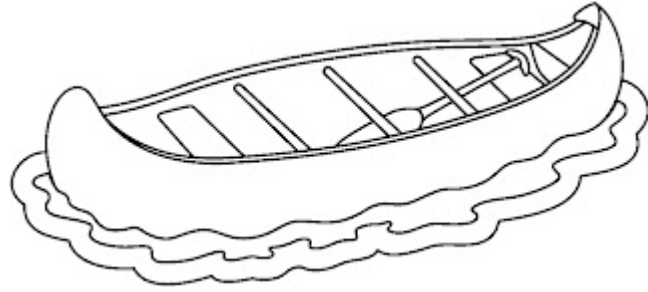
Unfortunately there is no recorded way of knowing when the practice of appointing parish constables finally ceased. There is no further mention of it in the Vestry minutes.

On 2nd November 1869 a demand was received from Messrs. Tweed & Stamp and their account for £39 16s was paid. Into today’s terms this would be well over £3,000 if not more, which puts the affair into perspective.

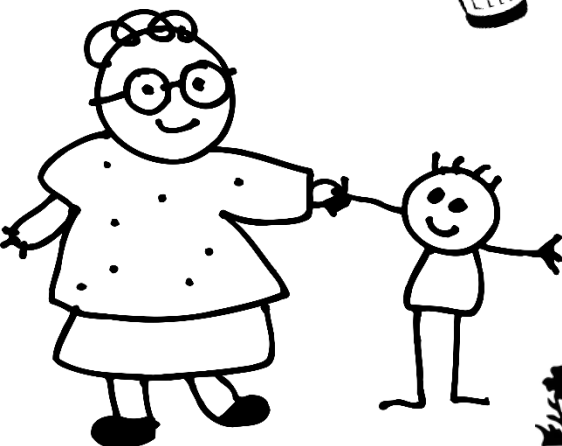
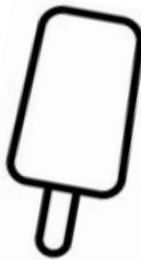
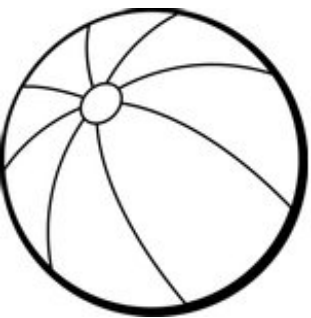
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