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Contact Page.

Emergency Contact Numbers.

Ambulance, Fire, Police	999
Police non-emergency	101
NHS non-emergency	111
Flood line	0345 9881188
Fire Non – emergency	0800 0502999

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

Incumbent	Rev. 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 - Chair
Awliscombe Village Hall	Liz Gillingham	07811 675800 - Booking Secretary
		01404 43551
	Kevin Coxon	07796 132238 - Chair
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. There is also one on the wall as you enter Heron Farm in Weston, directly ahead of you.

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 November.**

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 or the committee room in 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 -	2 nd Thursday in month

Fridays -	Slot car racing	7 pm - 10pm
	Honiton WI Art	1 pm – 4pm 2 nd & 4 th Friday

SAVE THE DATE.

Monday 26 th August	Whist Drive in the village hall.
Sunday 8 th September	Cream Tea in the Church Yard.
Sunday 22 nd September	Harvest Festival in the church.
Monday 23 rd September	Whist Drive in the village hall.
Friday 27 th September	Harvest Supper in village Hall.
Saturday 12 th October	Pub Night in village Hall.
Monday 28 th October	Whist Drive in the village Hall.
Saturday 30 th November	Village Quiz in village Hall.
Monday 25 th November	Christmas Bingo. Eyes down 8.00
Tuesday 26 th November	Whist Drive in the village Hall.
Saturday 7 th December	Christmas Market in the village Hall.
Saturday 7 th December	Jim Causley Concert in the Church.
Monday 23 rd December	Whist Drive in the village Hall.

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.





Arliscombe And Weston Harvest Supper 2024

Friday, 27th September

Adults, £10

Children, £5

Please book tickets in advance

Call or text Sharon Thwaites

077489 66436 or email

nick.sharon.thwaites@mac.com

*Donations of produce for
the auction welcome!*

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

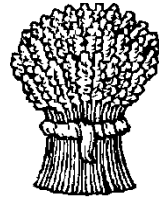
AWLISCOMBE AND WESTON TIMES

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Account No: 03166260

Caroline 07775 931735

awliscombeandwestontimes@gmail.com



Editorial.

This is the 16th and final edition of the magazine in this format.

Four years ago we were in the midst of the pandemic. I was invited with my husband to take part in a zoom quiz (remember them)? This was a quiz between a group of people who were all connected through their computers. So there we were, peering at our computer screen seeing faces of people, many of whom we had never met, having only recently arrived in the village. One familiar face was that of Allison, my former co- editor.

After the quiz, Gel, who previously produced the magazine with Timandra, was saying that they were now ready to pass on the task. Allison said that she would love to take on the responsibility but added that she needed help. Emboldened by a couple of glasses of wine, I offered to help her and so the magazine in its current format was started. Having lived in the village and brought her family up here, Allison had many contacts and firm ideas of how she wished to proceed.

Many of you know already that tragically Allison fell ill during the summer and passed away during the first week of August. Such a shock and a huge loss to her family and the wider community. Even now it is still very hard to really take it in. It all happened so quickly and just as she was winding down work and looking forward to a happy (much deserved) retirement.

Much of what made her such an exceptional and unusual person has been reflected in our magazines over the years. We shared a love of poetry and she had a poetic way with words. Many snippets of poetry made their way into the magazines. In her last editorial she wrote, "I love the unravelling of a morning." As someone who worked night shifts as a nurse for years, she saw many early mornings. While wending her way home after a night shift, she took to wondering who else was up and about at 5.30 or 6.00 a.m. This led to her articles where she spoke to many local farmers who, of course, are up at the crack of dawn come rain or shine to take care of their animals. She wanted to shine a light on unappreciated parts of life in our communities.

She had a wonderful way with people of all sorts and a wisdom about what makes people and communities tick. She wanted to speak to locals and get them to share their ideas and memories with the other villagers and that is what we read about in many articles. From the oldest to the youngest she wanted to include something for everyone and was always full of ideas. Sometimes after a night shift she would head down to Beer beach, where one can get a cup of tea and breakfast at 8.15. She could unwind while looking out to sea. A moment of quiet stillness which we sometimes shared with her. Ideas seemed to come easily.

She had a great eye for detail and would get very impatient with my computer when it would not put the text or an image exactly where she wanted it to go. Sometimes we got to version 6 or 7 of the magazine before it went off to the very patient printers in Axminster. We also shared a love of nature; woods, headlands, hedgerows, beaches – all of these are reflected in the front and back covers, largely designed by Allison, for the magazines.

She played djembe drums and loved music; from the rhythms of Santana, the poetry of Leonard Cohen, the riffs of Eric Clapton or James Blunt and many others, hymns in church or the chanting of medieval monks – the range was eclectic. She was struggling to put together her own Desert Island Discs for the Christmas edition but sadly never got it finished.

Over the past year, Allison took to musing about the surnames of many of the villagers in Awliscombe and Weston. She looked up where these names originated and put together clues to them. The idea was to create a huge crossword, however this defeated us so we printed the list of clues in the summer edition last June. I hope many of you enjoyed trying to solve them. In this edition I have had the task of printing the solutions and here Allison has had the last laugh ... There are a couple that are not clear to me !!! I never got around to sitting down with her for a final run through of the more recent clues. It is great to think of her chuckling away as we struggle.

In last winter's edition Allison and I announced that we wanted this to be our final year of producing the magazine and we put out an appeal for helpers to step forward. Only one valiant lady has stepped up so far and is willing and able to help with the continuation of a magazine in some form. Thank you so much Kaz, I will introduce you more fully next time. We could do with more helpers on the team, do get in touch if you feel you could get involved. We need help in many ways; we have a fabulous team of distributors who cheerfully deliver the magazine to you all. However we need more, particularly at the Weston end of the villages. Could you deliver magazines while you walk your dog? I also need volunteers to take charge of some of the regular contributions. This is meant to be an outlet for the people of the villages so it would be great to hear from you about your thoughts and ideas concerning local events. It is always good to have a variety of people contributing, whether it is writing up village activities like the fête or the Harvest Supper, sharing a review of a good book enjoyed over the summer, or just sharing a photo. Please get in touch if you can help, even in a small way.

After a cool rainy spring and early summer, where nothing seemed to want to germinate or grow, we did eventually get some warmer drier summer days. The weather held up (just) for the fête. And so, as many are starting new terms or new schools, we move to Autumn, we look forward to Harvest. The Harvest Supper on the 27th is a wonderful experience and such a fun way of celebrating this bountiful season, for which we are so fortunate. Bring along any produce, cordials, jams, pies, vegetables, fruit, cakes and join in the fun of having it all auctioned off to the highest bidder. The Harvest Festival service is early this year – 22nd September. This festival is always so special, especially in an area where we have so many farmers and fishermen, as we realise more than ever how lucky we are to have enough to eat. Please note that the quiz has moved to the 30th November.

As in the past, we are very grateful to our wonderful team of distributors, you are stars! Thank you as well to everyone who has supported me and contributed to this edition. Last but not least, a big thank you to those of you who have contributed to our printing costs with generous donations.



And so, with these poignant pictures of Allison greeting the sunrise at 4.50 a.m. on the summer solstice on Beer Head, I leave you with her words from this time last year.

“That leaves us to say ‘Happy Autumn’, enjoy this beautiful, wistful time – before the Winter greets us again, all too soon.”



We are very excited to announce that we have achieved our target of raising £15 000 for the church Eco Loo Project!

After the article in the Summer edition of the Awliscombe and Weston Times, we were offered a significant and extremely generous donation to cover the shortfall and all of us would like to say a huge thank you for your generosity, we really appreciate it.

This means we are now really able to get things moving. Preliminary plans have been submitted to the local Church authorities for their initial agreement and we have just heard from them to say that they are fully supportive which is fantastic news. We can now proceed with the next step which involves drawing up the official detailed plans and submitting them to the various authorities. Fingers crossed we won't have to wait too long for their agreement.

We have a Jim Causley evening booked at the church on 7th December at 7.30. He is such a talented performer and when he visited us last year, we all had a very enjoyable and entertaining evening listening to his songs and tales both old and new. He has a large fan base who come from all over and we will be advertising this as widely as possible. As it is open to everyone, regardless of whether you are a member or not, it would be lovely to have as many people as possible joining us for the evening. There will be a bar with beer, cider, wine and soft drinks available and we would love to see you there.

We would also like to mention Allison who was a very dedicated and supportive member of FoSM and the committee. She was such a huge part of us, always going the extra mile to help with our events even if she was unable to attend on the day and coming up with many ideas and suggestions including introducing us to Jim Causley. We will all miss her friendship, enthusiasm and encouragement very much.



Church Matters.



The Harvest Service at St Michael's is confirmed for Sunday, 22 September at 9.30 am. The church will be filled with flowers and harvest goodies and there will be tea/coffee, squash and cake! Unusually, the Harvest Service this year is the Sunday before the Harvest Supper because the Sunday after the Harvest Supper is a 5th Sunday and we do not have a service at St Michael's on 5th Sundays.



Remembrance Sunday.



As always, there will be a short Remembrance ceremony at the War Memorial in Awliscombe, starting shortly before 11.00 am on Sunday, 10 November. There is no service at St. Michael's that day.



The Knit and Stitch group are coordinating a Poppy Net for the village.



In addition to the traditional red poppy, the symbol of remembrance and hope for a peaceful future, we would like to include purple and white poppies.

The purple poppy is a symbol of remembrance in the UK for animals that served during wartime.

The white poppy represents remembrance for all victims of war, both military and civilian.

If you would like to contribute to the Poppy net, you can:

1. Crochet or knit poppies. You can find a pattern on the Royal British Legion website [RBL - Knit or crochet a poppy \(britishlegion.org.uk\)](http://britishlegion.org.uk). If you would like to have a pattern but are unable to access the website, please let me know.
2. Donate red, white or purple wool.

If you have any spare wool or have any questions, please contact Sarah Dent on 07540110965 or sarahdent72@gmail.com.

News from the University of the 3rd age.

Honiton u3a is launching its Autumn programme with an illustrated talk at The Beehive on Wednesday September 18th at 2 p.m. The talk is being given by Alex Leger, who was for many years a producer and director on the iconic children's TV programme Blue Peter.

Alex will be explaining how he worked closely with the military during his time on the programme. This led to some of its most famous moments, for instance when presenters John Noakes and Janet Ellis learned to sky-dive with the RAF Falcons parachute team, breaking altitude records along the way. Alex will illustrate his talk with a wide range of fascinating video clips.

Doors open at 1.30 p.m. and visitors are welcome to attend this event for a donation of £2.

As well as the monthly lectures, Honiton u3a offers its members 36 different Interest Groups. This Summer, u3a is introducing new groups including French and Spanish, Art for Fun, Local History, Genealogy, Photography and Cribbage. Honiton u3a hopes to introduce further new groups in the Autumn. (The History one takes place in Awliscombe)

Research shows that groups like u3a provide friendship and the sharing of experiences which improve wellbeing, and help older people to live a more fulfilled third age. Honiton u3a encourages its members to develop and share their interests, to try something new and to socialise with like-minded people.

Further information about Honiton u3a and how to join is available on their website: u3asites.org.uk/Honiton

Village Hall News.

We have been through various plans over the last couple of years to refurbish the main hall and stage area to bring them up to modern standards. After much effort and no little bureaucracy, the committee has concluded that rather than go for the



'ultimate' and seemingly unaffordable plan to open up the roof space, we will focus on reaping the benefits now with our limited funds. The cash available came mostly from grants received during the Covid period and also the Mullins trust. The hall itself makes just about enough to cover its costs. We hope to improve the position with this project to allow us to make further improvements in future.

The back wall of the hall has recently been repointed to stop damp coming through the wall. Thank you to Trish and Alan for allowing the builder to trample through your garden for access. He says thanks for the coffees and chats.

The main project will include

- Replacing the suspended ceiling in the hall and over the stage.
- Installing new dimmable and emergency lighting, including relocating switches.
- Insulating and plastering the walls (hall and stage).
- Installation of a new fixed projector and 3m screen over the stage.

We will of course contact regular users to give them notice but subject to the contractor's availability, the plan is to carry this work out in January and only the committee room will be available for use.

The projector and screen should bring the hall up to standard for visiting speakers and potential hall users. We are looking into screening attractions such as T.V. (Sports, special events or even Strictly Come Dancing finals have been suggested). Maybe even films however, these need extra licences so we will see how far the funds can extend.



Awli Pub Night @ Village Hall on Saturday 12th October

Following the sad and seemingly permanent demise of the pub, there has been much discussion of having a monthly 'Awli Pub Night @ Village Hall'.

The first of these is on Saturday 12th October. An opportunity to get together with a bar and plenty of chat. Hopefully ideas and especially volunteers to run the bar for future nights will also be forthcoming.



Quiz Night on Saturday 30th November

7pm for a 7:30 start

Teams of 4 - £7 per person

Includes delicious homemade Lasagne supper (Veg. Option)

Cash bar, raffle and team prizes.

Starring Paddy as the quiz master!

Contact Liz Gillingham to book your team at threshays@btinternet.com



As you can see from the photos, the Fête this year was another wonderful day, bringing together the Awliscombe & Weston community. It definitely takes a village to make a successful Fête and there are many, many people to thank for organising, setting up, running and dismantling the Fête. Apologies in advance if anyone is missed out - you are not forgotten.



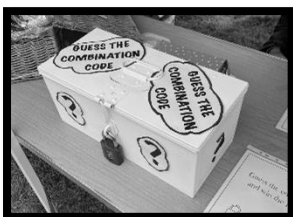
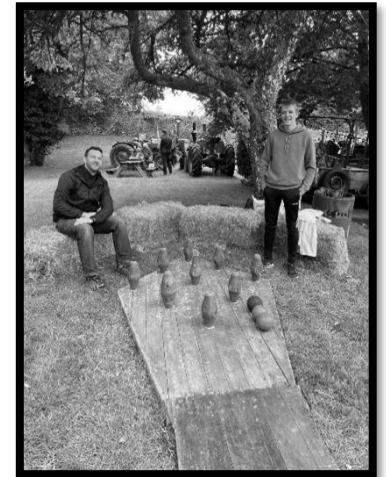
Thank you to the Otter Inn, Mandy and her team for hosting us and for all your help. Thank you to Andy Summers (and his glamorous assistant) for lending a sparkling new Land Rover for the Guess the Number of Balloons game and donating the amazing Land Rover Experience prize! Thanks so much to the Coxon, Burford, Empson, Willmington and Lucas families, Ann Gentry's sterling efforts, the football team and the parking and gate team. Thank you to all the lovely people making and/or selling cakes, to the fabulous Cream Tea Ladies, to the helpers on the plant stall, the book and the Bric a Brac and other stalls. To the parents from Little Otters and Awliscombe School and all the other people who helped on games or to run the Duck Race. To the folk who parked up their pride and joy (vintage cars, tractors and bikes) and to Gittisham Forge and Devon Freewheelers. To Martin for being our MC, to Don our guest of honour and to Rosemary for the incredibly difficult job of judging the art competition. Thank you to Belle & Sue Harvey for the amazing sound system and Pete for the skittle alley and marquee. Thank you to the school for the choir - you were brilliant - and for their amazing Art work. Before space runs out, to the Fête Committee, take a bow team!



Just how hard can it be to get two duvet covers full of balloons into a Range Rover?



We can't sign off without remembering Allison who was a long standing member of the Fête Committee. We will miss her cracking ideas, her energy and enthusiasm and her bacon butties! Really though, we just miss you Allison.



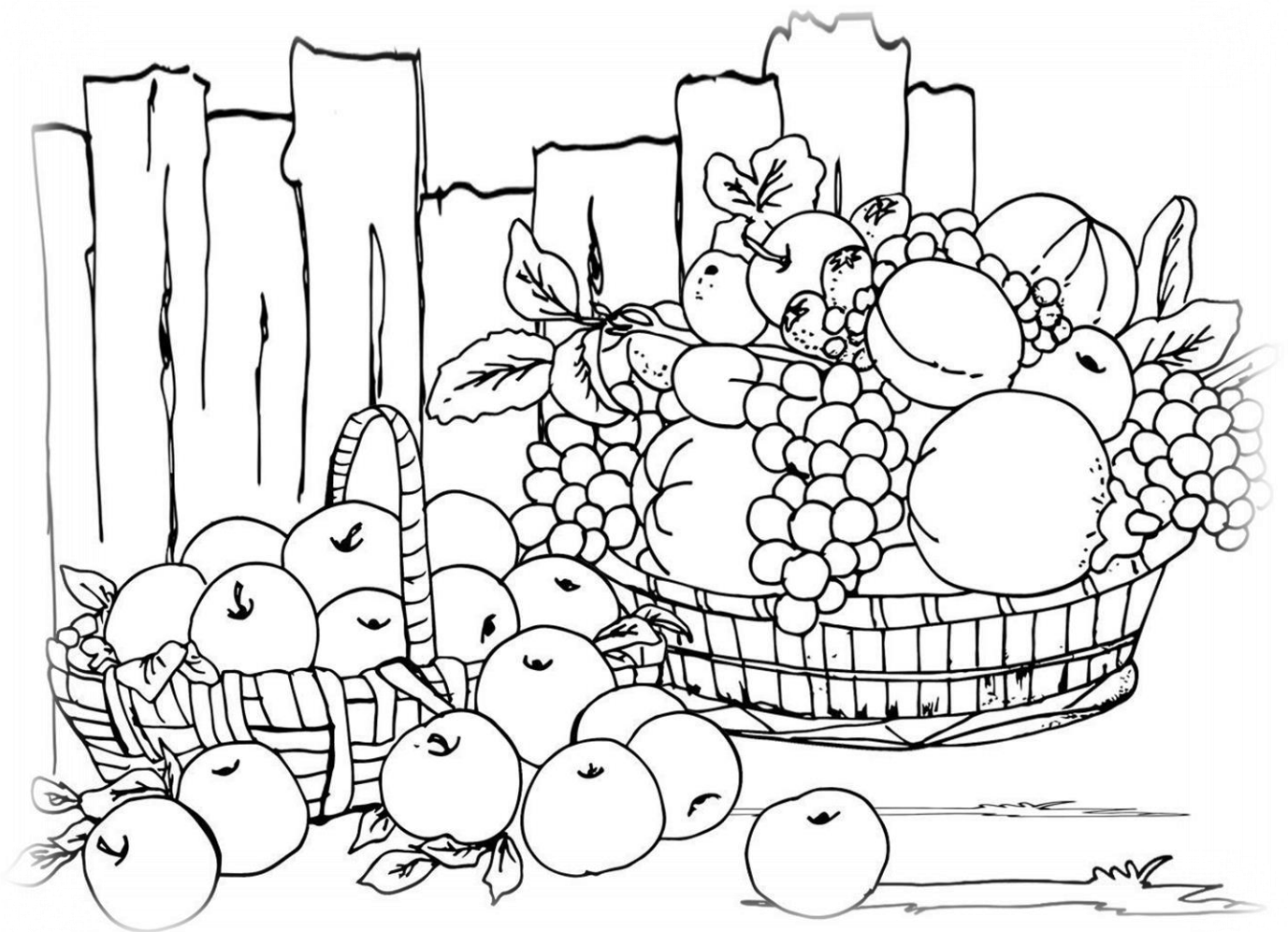


The date for next year's Fête is **Saturday, 14th June 2025 at the Otter Inn**. Do get in touch if you would like to be involved. It doesn't matter if you are new to A&W, everyone is welcome!

The profits from the Fête go to St Michael's and this year the Fête raised £2,766. Thank you to everyone who did so much to make it such a happy and successful event: it really is appreciated.

Sharon



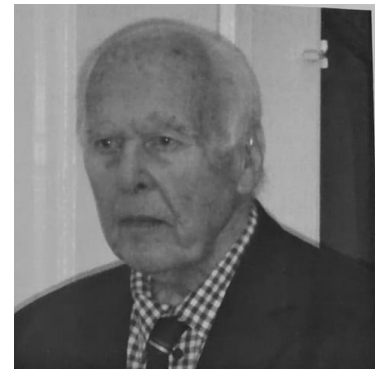


Dedication plaque for Awliscombe Resident.

A few months ago a new plaque was put up in St. Michael's church in Awliscombe and was duly dedicated and blessed.

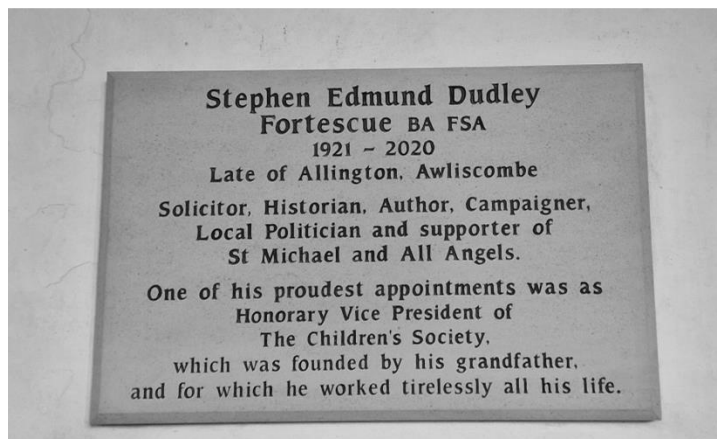
Stephen Fortescue passed away during the pandemic at almost 100 years old.

He had lived and worked as a solicitor in Leatherhead and Bookham for 40 years before moving to Allington in Awliscombe. He was interested in history and archeology and was an author as well as being a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries. He was instrumental in buying and setting up the museum in Leatherhead in an old building called Hampton Cottage and wrote many books on local history, as well as establishing a society for those interested in history in the area. While in Leatherhead he was actively involved in local government and



politics and was chairman of Leatherhead District Council. In addition he supported local organisations and charities both in Surrey and here in Devon.

As it says on the plaque his grandfather founded The Children's Society and he was pleased to support them. Their aim is to fight for the hope and happiness of young people when it's threatened by abuse, exploitation and neglect.



An Evening with Jim Causley

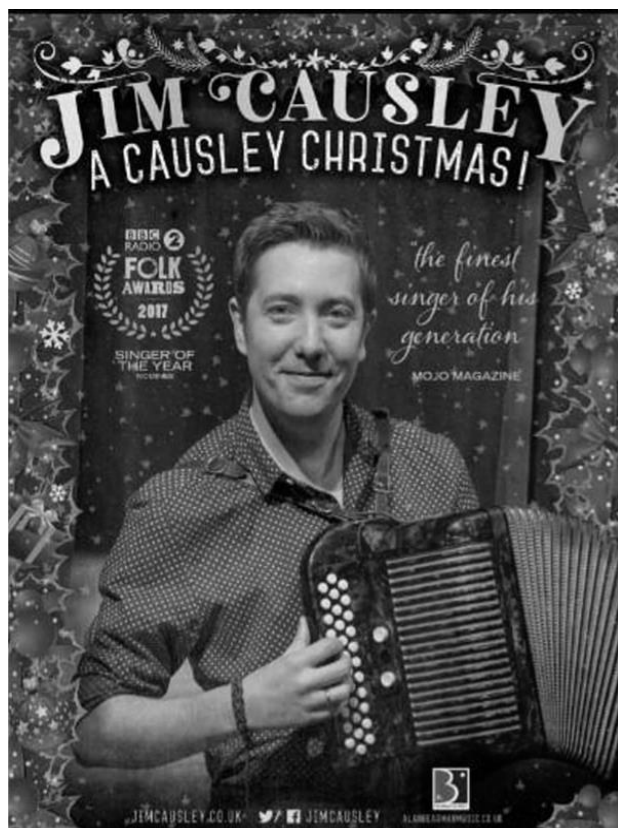
Saturday 7th December, 7.30PM

In St. Michael's church.

Come and join us at St Michael's Church for a lively evening with the very talented and multi award winning folk singer-songwriter and musician, Jim Causley.

Jim is a superb all round entertainer and storyteller with plenty of music and songs both old and new, providing lots of fun and laughter. Together with a well-stocked bar selling beer, cider, wine and soft drinks (yes we can have a bar in a church!), you can be assured of a very enjoyable evening.

The event is open to everyone with tickets available to book via stmichaelfriends@gmail.com or on the door £12 (£10 Friends of St Michaels and U18)



SOLUTIONS TO THE NAME QUIZ.....

In the last edition we printed a series of clues, which when solved led to surnames of people in the village. These were all as a result of Allison musing about the origins of surnames over many many months. Well it turns out that she fell ill before I had the chance to have a chat with her about the ones that I could not solve. She got the last laugh there! A few of us put our heads together and here is a best guess of what the names could be. Some erratic spellings!!! There are a few with different possibilities and two I am not at all sure about, so if you want to suggest different solutions then do email the magazine with your ideas. I will print them next time.

1. It would be ironic to prang your car in this Cumbrian village. - DENT
2. Lady Chatterly's creator. - LAWRENCE
3. McLaren's loss after this step down. - This could be HAMILTON, thinking of Lewis Hamilton, but I actually think it more likely to be FLEWITT. If you look it up, Mike Flewitt left McLaren in 2021.
(I can remember Allison laughing when I guessed Hamilton, which made me think again)
4. Good levels of Vitamin D will solve this. - RICKETTS
5. The middle name of this liberal, radical British PM. - LLOYD from David Lloyd George.
6. He steers, not rows. - COXON from coxswain
7. A village between Axminster and Honiton. - WILLMINGTON (different spelling)
8. Italians say poca/o - LITTLE
9. A very masculine name. - MANLEY
10. Gateway to the Cotswolds. - BURFORD
11. Our own local palaeontologist. - ANNING (From Mary Anning)
12. A Kent town first recorded in the 10th century - GILLINGHAM
13. No woodwind instrument will work without this - REED
14. In Wales and Brythonic Britain – you would be on fire with inspiration. - HUGHES.
(This one had a few of us bemused; look it up...)
15. Son of David, or beloved. - DAVIES
16. It takes more than one swallow to make one, or even two. - SUMMERS
17. A meat dish cooked long and slow in Andalusia. - PRING (strange but true!)
18. A certain nobility. - This could be EARL but I believe it to be GENTRY.
19. Sharp tasting leafy herb, can be cooked like spinach. - SORRELL
20. This source of water is not hot. - This could be TAPP, but I believe it to be CALDWELL and CAUDWELL. (As in a cold well)
21. A little flowering twig. - SPRIGG
22. Your original ton was chev/chopp in Suffolk/Northumberland. - CHIPPINGTON.
23. A French hermit's cell. - LAYZELL
24. Emma's son. - EMPSON
25. Derived from beautiful mountain, brought to England by the Normans. - BEAUMONT
26. A strong and hardy name. - This could be GILLARD but bizarrely it could also be MAYNARD. Take your pick.

27. A stranger first found in Kilkenny Ireland – famous for not paying their dues. – This one I am not at all sure about – if anyone knows please email the magazine and let me know. Our best guess is CARR. John Carr wrote a book called ‘A Stranger in Ireland.’ There is no mention of not paying any dues however.
It could be a reference to YATES. One poet Allison loved was W.B. Yeats and he is often quoted as saying “There are no strangers here, only friends you haven’t met yet.” Again, no link to Kilkenny or not paying dues. ?????
28. This clearing could be a meadow or paddock. - THWAITES
29. Your profession was originally a shepherd or dairyman. – DYMOND & DIMOND
30. Pat-a-Cake relies on this man. - BAKER
31. A well-respected gentleman in Germany, here a topographic name if you have one or two at the bottom of your garden. - Here is another I am not at all sure about. Our best guess is PRINSLOW. Although the name is Dutch, not German. She may have been thinking of Prinz and low and sloes (at the bottom of your garden). Not sure. Please email in your suggestions.
32. Buying and selling in Weston. – MARCHANT from Merchant.
33. This refers to many deeds and acts of kindness, not bad for Weston too. - GOODES
34. A rapid and plentiful stream of ... ? water, blood, enthusiasm! - GUSH
35. Most likely a nickname, meaning sharp and keen. – This had us puzzled. We may have a family in the village called EDGE ? However on further searching we discovered that it leads to SNELL. !!
36. A Carp family member. – BREAM
37. Eager, passionate and determined. – KEEN (or Keane, Kean, etc)

I do know that she was working on more. How about these? (Answers at the bottom of page)

38. One who is fleet – footed as he departs.
39. A fair and handsome person.
40. You came from a meadow in Ayrshire.
41. Your ancestors were lock keepers or curly haired... or both!
42. Were your ancestors from Wales?
43. A bringer of light.
44. Many a good painting from here, including a girl with a pearl earring.
45. A dwelling house or hall in the enclosure, maybe in Derbyshire.
46. A stony ford in Yorkshire.

44. Holland	45. Boulton	46. Stanforth
41. Locke	42. Welch	43. Lucas
38. Leaver	39. Beale	40. Dalrymple

This is another of the articles written originally by Valerie Cann. This one is all about a history of mining in the area.

History of Awliscombe and Weston

In the 18th and 19th centuries an important industry in East Devon was the mining of whetstones on the Blackdowns. (A whetstone is a fine grained stone used for sharpening cutting tools).

At the beginning of the 19th century the Devon historian Richard Polwhele wrote that “out of Hembury Hill are dug the best sort of whetstones”. Blackborough was the centre of activity but the white spoil heaps from the diggings could be seen along the escarpment from Hembury as far as Uffculme. In the days of scythes and sickles the high quality porous fine grained sandstone “Devonshire Batts” (as they were known), were much in demand all over the country.

The mines were dug on both sides of Hembury and the tunnels probably meet at Witness Moor. (Witness Moor is just south of the car park by Hembury Fort). These tunnels were supposed to have been collapsed when they were worked out but I (Valerie) met a lady, when walking my dog on Hembury Fort, who was convinced her small dog went down a hole on one side and came out the other!

At Blackborough two prominent mining families were called Radford and Baker, the Radfords date from the C18th. At the time of the Tithe Map (1840) two tiny cottages are recorded on the side of the valley going up towards Wolverstone. They were occupied by families named Radford and Baker, who had no doubt come to try their luck on the Awliscombe side of the hill. By the time of the 1851 census Edward Radford’s cottage had gone, replaced by Hembury Fort cottages plus two more – ‘Radford’s cottage under the hill’. By the 1863 census the cottage occupied by Elias Baker had disappeared and been replaced by a pair of cottages called Stoneacre.



The picture of the miner sitting outside an adit (horizontal tunnel leading into a mine), with his shaping tool, a “basing axe”, was sketched in 1854 by Peter Hutchinson, the Sidmouth antiquarian and historian.

He was told the tunnel went some 300 yards into the hill. It is still possible to see the remains of the diggings on Hembury and at Blackborough. During the period 1840 to the Ordnance Survey of 1903, 10 small cottages were built and then demolished. For the miners and their families digging out and then shaping the whetstones, it was a hard life; they worked the mines in the winter months and sold the batts at the Scythstone Fair in Exeter, before the start of haymaking. They then spent the summer working on local farms.

The only cottage remaining is Cherry Trees, which predates the Tithe Map. It is described on the 1881 OS map as Hill Cottages. This probably had connections with the Hembury estate and not mining.

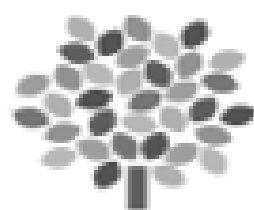
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