

Awliscombe



&

Weston Times



Winter 2023





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24 hour Emergency service at Honiton

Contact Page.

If anyone would like to contribute to our printing costs, then you may do so on line, our bank details are: **AWLISCOMBE AND WESTON TIMES**

Bank Sort Code: 20 – 87 – 94

Account Number: 03166260

- Thank you.

To contact us at Awliscombe and Weston Times, send an email to awliscombeandwestontimes@gmail.com

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	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	Sally Maynard	07810 442355 - Clerk
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 **15th February.**

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 - 7pm & 7pm - 9pm
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 November	Bingo Night. Eyes down 8 pm
Tuesday 28 th November	Whist Drive in the Village Hall.
Saturday 2 nd December	Awliscombe Christmas Market.
Sunday 17 th December	Carols by candlelight
Sunday 24 th December	Christingle service for children
Monday 25 th December	Christmas Day Service 10am
Saturday 6 th January	Free Tree Spree
Monday 22 nd January	Whist Drive in Village Hall
Thursday 25 th January	Friends of St. Michael's AGM
Saturday 4 th February	Curry Night Village Hall
Saturday 17 th February	Valentine's Disco Village Hall
Monday 26 th February	Whist Drive in the Village Hall

Church Matters.

Services at St. Michael's are on the first and third 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.



We would like to pass on a huge Thank You to **Ann Gentry** for all the work she does to enhance things for our children; preparing soft toys for the village fête and compiling little gifts for the Lucky Dip at the Fair.





Come along and support our



Christmas Market

Awliscombe Village Hall

Saturday 2nd December

10am - 12.00am



Many craft stalls



. . . buy your Christmas gifts!

Children's lucky dip

Festive goodies



Children's Christmas Choir



enjoy a cup of tea, mince pie and catch up with friends



see you there!

THANK YOU to Pete Snell for the Christmas trees at the school and in the Church.

THANK YOU also to Anna Beard for the Christmas tree at the Village Hall.

Allison – 07507949412 Caroline - 07775931735

Well, here we are ... another year has flown! We've had quite a few events to cover, the churchyard clean-up was so successful, showing what can be done as team work! The village quiz was very successful, write ups on following pages. The 'what's on' page is full – the Christmas market firstly, this Saturday. Christmas services, a curry night whist drives and a night to boogie! All good fun.



I have found it hard sometimes, finding the right words to use, when writing these editorials. It seems there have been few issues printed, since we started, that have not been without tragic worldly events happening in the background. We are so removed in one sense but it is surprising how, if like me, our thoughts are drawn back to the unfolding sadness - during our, in comparison, very normal day. Wars are always so brutal, the innocent ones on both sides suffer so, but the Israel/Palestine war is so very complex and ancient in its roots, it almost seems impossible to see a way through. Enjoying nature around, our family and friends, spreading kindness to our neighbours and to strangers we meet – all sounds a bit 'preachy' but what would YOU say? How do you deal with

these sad and complicated issues. Perhaps you could send your thoughts, it would be really interesting to hear.

Caroline and I both enjoy poetry and prose, we are often drawn to the similar reflections of nature and ones of peace – so we hope you enjoy (the back cover) this very old 'part poem' which still rings true, as do many of the spiritual writers gone before .. Gibran and Rumi to name but a few, of course the Child who was born in Bethlehem – for some of us, His teachings were/are nothing short of wonderful. These teachers can speak to us, when our words are hard to find.



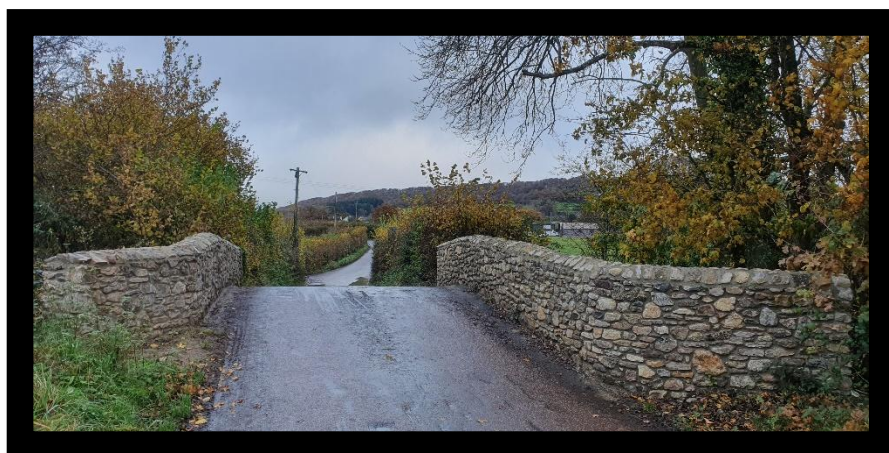
Going now, into our fourth year, we feel like we may have done our bit by the end of 2024. So ... some lovely folk are needed to take over from us!! We can be there to help, it really is good fun, a tad stressful in the last week before printing but all is very doable! Any offers? Any questions, please call one of us, numbers above.



The normal message is of course ... to thank those who have contributed to this issue with photos and bits of info for us all to enjoy. Thank you to Nick/Sharon and to Rob for your kind donations. Without our steadfast distributors who deliver rain or shine, we would, for sure, be stuck – so thank you very much!

We wish you a peaceful time as we launch into this winter period, stay warm, well and safe.

Merry Christmas!



Many people in Weston were very pleased to enjoy a few weeks of no traffic. However despite someone's best efforts we have our beautiful Cherry Bridge back. Let's see if we can keep it this time !!

The Annual Village Quiz

On Saturday 18th November a crowd of 80 people gathered to test their wits against the 17 teams playing. Hosted expertly by Paddy who, as always, kept the motley crew in hand ... (almost)!

Sharon and Sarah bravely took on the challenge of deciphering handwriting and totting up scores. Simon and Harriet, the gatherers of answers on flying bits of paper. Liz and her organising of cottage pies and the kitchen crew - Helen and Charlie. For all kind people that made the pies ... yum! thank you. Jack and Milly for sorting the raffle. Sarah and Marty for selling the tickets. For Anna and James behind the bar, Kevin and the Village Hall team and others that we may not have mentioned. An amazing total of approx. £800 for Village Hall funds. What a brilliant and at times, hilarious evening!



The winning team





Come and join us

Carols by Candlelight

Awliscombe Church - 7pm

Sunday 17th December

A wonderful hour of Carols and Readings

Followed by Mulled Wine and a Mince Pie

Everyone welcome

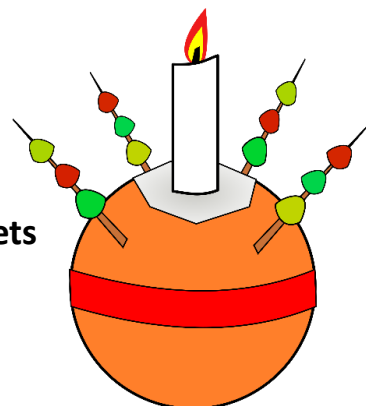
Especially children

Christingle Service

Carry your lit 'candle of the world' with fruits and sweets

Come and see the Christmas stable and crib,

... representing hope in darkness ...



Christmas Eve 3pm

Come and Celebrate

Christmas Morning

Awliscombe Church

10am



Eucharist Service

all welcome

Awliscombe Young Wives

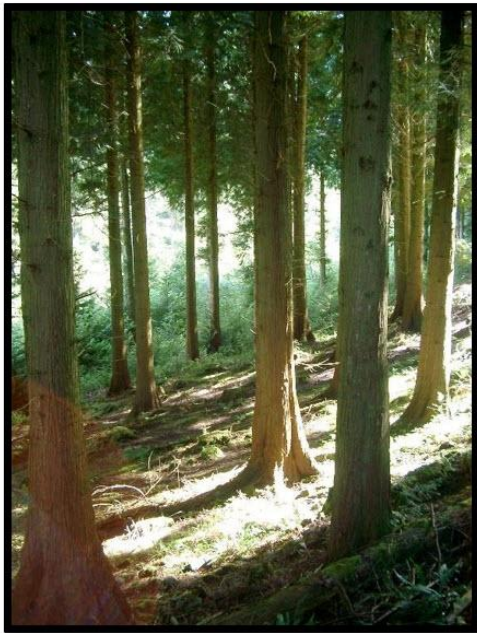


In **September**, we were entertained and informed of the curious and little understood, ancient skill of dowsing. Charlie had endless tales to tell, including his understanding that many many years ago a chapel stood where the village hall stands now! If anyone knows of this ... let us know. Dowsing has been used in attempts to locate ground water, metals, gemstones, archaeological remains and 'earth vibrations', without the use of scientific apparatus. Believers and sceptics listened with interest, and a good evening was had by all. Thank you Charlie.

In **October**, a group of us left from Broadhembury and headed to Hembury Fort, here we were led by David and his wife Leo. Together they reminded and helped us identify those mushrooms which were edible and those we should avoid. They shared, as before, their incredible knowledge and passion for all fungi growing in wood, field and hedgerow. After a happy couple of hours strolling and learning, we returned to the Drew Arms where we were treated to samples of 3 edible mushrooms, kindly cooked by the chef. A wonderful morning, thank you Carole.

In **November**, we gathered in the village hall for a craft evening. The theme was to use pre-loved beads to form the sparkly array of the tree decorations you can see here. Testing dexterity and eyesight! Catching up with chat and a cuppa, proved to be a really enjoyable evening, thank you Sally.





Winter Healing



It's that time of year again, when we may be tempted to curl up and slip into hibernation mode. Whilst this is sometimes a lovely deserved option – taking a stroll in a pine wooded area, breathing in the scent of pine, will bring many surprising benefits too.

If you have recently read Raynor Winn's 'Landlines', you would have noticed her and husband Moth talking of the 'blue haze' which we know can appear when the sun shines over a heavily planted pine forest. A fascinating, almost magical sight caused by the release of isoprene/ terpenoids scattering the sunshine.

Carefully avoiding Yew and Cypress, which can be mistaken for pine, the pine needles are said to have the same anti-inflammatory properties to ease pain associated with arthritis and other inflammatory conditions. They have for centuries been used to ease swellings and scrapes. (Check with your doctor if worried about any contra-indications to existing drugs you may be taking).

Below are a few seasonal treats, some not for internal use, if you should feel unsure. A warm place in front of heaters, fires and wood-burners or boiling on the hob, will give you a feeling of wellbeing and fill your home with that uplifting 'woodland walk' feel.

Herbal tea from pine needles has long been thought to bring relief to sinus and lung conditions, a remedy for coughs, colds allergies, urinary tract and sinus infections. Also a cloth pouch (to avoid blocked drains) filled with fresh shoots in a warm bath will spread the benefits to you by taking a luxury soak ...



Seeping in an unscented/lightly scented carrier oil, such as Jojoba, Argan or Sweet Almond oil - can create a soothing foot rub ... encouraging restful sleep or a relaxing shoulder massage. Check on small area of arm to avoid any possible allergic reaction. Not to be used if pregnant.

Another use - for boosting plants growing in

acidic environments (blueberries, rhododendron or azaleas) by spreading a mulch of pine needles around the base of plant. A pile of pine cones in the garden provides an excellent place for bugs to nest and hibernate, ladybirds settle well in pine cones for example. 🐞 Enjoy experimenting!



Friends of St. Michael's

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who turned up on Sunday 29th October to help clear the churchyard. It was an early start for a Sunday (9am) so it was amazing to have so many willing volunteers, especially when the weather on the previous day had been so dispiriting.



Thankfully even the sun came out for us and with high spirits and considerable efforts from everyone a huge list of tasks was completed, from removal of dead wood and ivy, planting of hundreds of bulbs, to cleaning of the pathways and a clean inside of some of the less used areas.

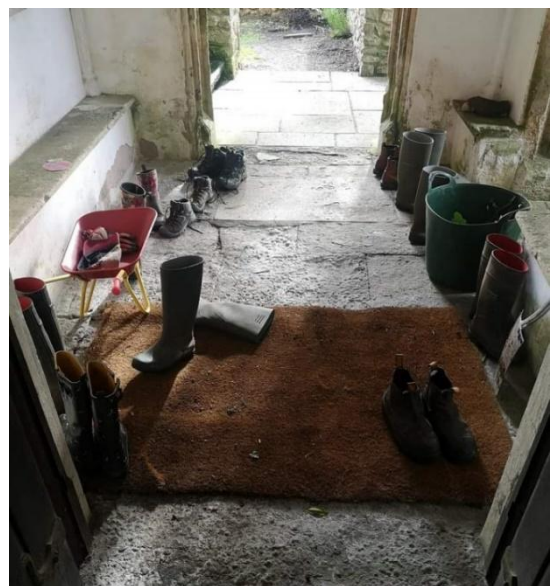
Thank you to Mandy and Janet for the cleaning of the vestry in the tower.

A big thank you must also go to those volunteers who turned up earlier in the week to clear all the guttering and flat roof. The churchyard is back to looking its very best.



A special mention must also go to **Allison** for keeping all the volunteers fed and watered! The chilli was delicious and well worth all the effort to earn it.

It just goes to show what can be achieved with so much good will from all those involved.



Awliscombe United Football Club ... are back for another season! As you can see from the photo, we have a great squad of players for this season – many you will have seen before and some fresh faces new for this year.



The squad have started another season in Division 5 of the Devon and Exeter Football League, a little later than usual due to a small division containing just nine teams.

We have started strongly with three wins in our first five games and plenty of goals, we hope to keep that performance level up with the remaining games before the Christmas break. It was lovely to see some familiar faces at Greenway Lane for our early home games and hope we can entertain again when the weather relents.

Results

16th Sept Awliscombe 1 – 2 Starcross

30th Sept Awliscombe 4 – 0 Millway Rise

14th Oct Awliscombe 3 – 4 St Martins (2^{nds})

21st Oct Awliscombe 1 – 0 Topsham

11th Nov Awliscombe 5 – 2 Millway Rise

Fixtures

18th Nov St Martins 2nds vs Awliscombe

14.15 Kick off

25th Nov Awliscombe vs Otterton (Football Express Cup)

14.00 Kick off

2nd Dec Awliscombe vs Exeter United

14.15 Kick off

9th Dec Starcross vs Awliscombe

14.15 Kick off



As before, we have asked the children from **Awliscombe School** a couple questions typical to the season. We hope their answers will make you smile.



From the mouths of children

Which season do you enjoy the most? and can you tell us why.

- * Autumn because it looks really pretty and brings good feelings - Anna
- * Summer because all the plants grow so it's colourful and it's mostly sunny days. - Esme
- * Christmas as you get to decorate the Christmas tree and there's snow. - Louis
- * Autumn because the leaves change colour - Primrose
- * Autumn because I like the leaves falling and it's fun to step on crunchy leaves. - Matilda
- * I like Easter because we eat chocolate eggs. - Ted
- * Spring because I like flowers. - Molly
- * Halloween – I like dressing up! and we get sweeties! - Ella and Reuben
- * Christmas, because it snows – Daisy Mae

What present would you have given to baby Jesus?

- * A baby toy teddy - Molly
- * An aeroplane for him to play with. - Ella
- * A crown to wear when he is King. - Reuben
- * A baby bottle. - Louis
- * I think he'd need a cot. - Esme
- * Baby milk and clothes that will keep him warm. - Primrose
- * Clothes because he was cold. - Matilda
- * Bring him an angel to protect him. - Daisy Mae
- * A dummy to help him sleep and a cuddly toy. - Ted
- * A teddy bear. - Anna



We thought it would be a nice idea to get some ideas about books worth reading from some of the young readers at Awliscombe Primary School.

Quite a number of the pupils were enjoying books by David Walliams.

These books appear quite zany with titles such as 'Mr Stink', 'Gangsta Granny', 'Billionaire Boy', 'Ratburger', 'The Midnight Gang', 'Bad Dad', 'Demon Dentist' and 'Awful Auntie' to name a few. The writing is very exciting with a humungous range of unusual vocabulary and implausible story lines to entertain. There is often more to them than meets the eye.

"He uses a lot of onomatopoeia and is a creative writer. His books are really funny" – Bo

"His books all contain something new and different and there is always something surprising." – Phoebe

"His books are very funny with lots of pictures and big words." – Lily



George was enjoying 'Goodnight Mr. Tom' by Michelle Magorian.

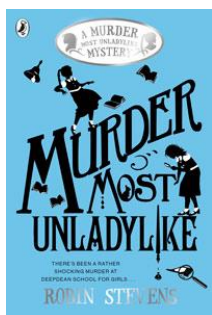
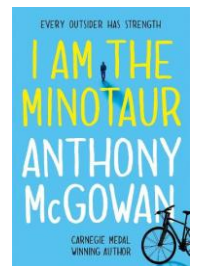
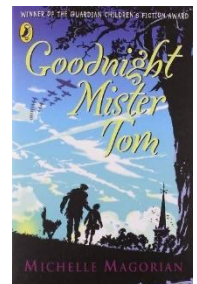
This book is set in Devon in the days of WW2. Some of the writing is tricky as it is a little old fashioned. The story though is very heartwarming; about a relationship between an elderly man and a lonely young evacuee. It tells the reader all about living in those times in an exciting way.

"I am really enjoying the story. It really made me think on Poppy Day."

William was reading 'I am the Minotaur' by Anthony McGowan.

In this story, Matthew is struggling to fit in at school – he is weighed down by having to care for his mum and is being teased by other children in his class. Matthew's journey will show him that true friends can be found in unlikely places. The story is written from Matthew's point of view.

"I've only just started but I like it so far. I feel sorry for him."



Sophie was enjoying 'Murder most Unladylike' by Robin Stevens.

This book is set in a girls' boarding school and is part of a series of murder mysteries for young readers. It follows the antics of a group of young detectives who are trying to solve the mystery before the police do.

"I like it because you have to look for clues. It's exciting."

Other suggestions could be 'Where have you been Little Cat?' by Richard Jones (3+), 'Einstein the Penguin' by Iona Rangeley (7+), 'My Especially Weird Week with Tess' by Anna Woltz (10+), 'The Boy who made Monsters' by Jenny Pearson (9+), 'I am Oliver the Otter' by Pan Ayers and Nicola O'Byrne (4+), 'My Heart was a Tree' by Michael Morpurgo and Yuval Zommer (6+).

If you buy books online, try to use Bookshop.org. They donate a percentage to Independent bookshops.

The 'Curry Guys' Return!

After last year's successful evening, we would like to invite you once again to enjoy an Indian meal.



Saturday, 4th February

7pm for 7.30pm

Starter:

Freshly cooked large samosa, chutneys and poppadum.

Choice of 3 Main dishes:

Mild Chicken

Medium Beef

Medium Vegetarian

Including Naan bread.

And finally a sweet to follow.

We will help with dietary requirements, if advance notice given.

There will be a cash bar with wines, Indian beers
and non-alcoholic drinks available.

The price for this 3 course meal will be £15 a head. With the proceeds shared equally between a charity (yet to be decided) ... and towards repair work on our beautiful church building here in Awliscombe - St Michael and All Angels.

Please be sure to book your place ...

07900 041174



Any raffle prize with an Indian connection will be very much appreciated. Please call 07507 949412 as to dropping off of donations. Thank you!

LEST WE FORGET.

Many local residents will remember Valerie and John Cann who lived in Awliscombe for many years. Valerie wrote a number articles on local history. We will be reproducing some of these in the future as a reminder to some and of interest for all the new arrivals to the villages. John Cann lived in Awliscombe during the last war and here is an article Valerie wrote recording his recollections of those tough times.

During the summer of 1939, all the children at Awliscombe school were measured for gas masks. Someone came into the school with a selection for fitting.

All households were assessed for their suitability for taking in evacuees. Later that summer the ARP (Air Raid Precautions) was formed. Mr. Robin Bishop was the Chief Warden. He later took a more senior post in the area. Mr. William Cann and Mr. Burroughs (chauffeur at Three Corners, now Merryfield) were appointed air raid wardens. The Air Raid Wardens' Post was at the Old Post Office (now the Granary). Behind the hedge of the war memorial a post was erected with a flat piece of wood measuring about 15" square fixed to the top. This was painted with a special substance to detect gas.

Happily the country was spared a gas attack so this device was not put to the test!

Once war was declared imported animal feed and grain became rationed and Poultry Farmers were particularly hard hit as they relied on processed feed for their stock. Mr. Cann's flock of egg laying hens was reduced to one eighth of its pre-war level.

Soon all military reservists, members of RNVR (Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve), Territorials and RAFVR (RAF volunteer Reserve) were 'called up'. Petrol became rationed unless you could prove special needs. Blackout regulations were introduced which meant that no light could be shown after dark. The police were responsible for checking the regulations were carried out. All motor vehicle had to have headlights fitted with a special hood-like mask to prevent light shining upwards. Bicycle lights also required this fitting. Cycling back from The King's School in the summer of 1940 John Cann saw some men painting a white line down the middle of the main road (old A30) by hand. Cats' eyes arrived later but only on corners; just in time for them to be torn up by a convoy of US light tanks!



When the evacuees came they arrived in Honiton. These were families from the East End of London and some were dispersed to the villages. Mothers with children came to Awliscombe. This was an eye opener for all concerned! Children who thought milk came from bottles and didn't know about stinging nettles and village children who were ignorant about film stars, football teams and fish and chip shops at the end of the road. Some of the evacuees settled in well but some went home after a short time. The village was scandalized when women went to the pub on their own. The evacuee party was joined by one teacher who joined the staff at Awliscombe School.

When it became evident that the German army was over-running Holland, Belgium and France the Local Defence Volunteers were formed nationally, known colloquially as Look, Duck and Vanish. We are of course talking about Dad's Army; they started with arm bands and shotguns. This became the Home Guard with proper uniforms and .303 rifles. These rifles were ex-Canadian but, though of the same calibre as the British rifles, the ammunition was not interchangeable! Mr. Wilfred Baker was the CO, Mr. Frank Mullins, 2nd Lieutenant, was second in command and Mr. Tom Summers, Sergeant. Other NCO's were mainly WW1 veterans, supported by younger reserved occupation men, mainly farmers and Awliscombe Home Guard, members of the AFS and ARP farm workers. They carried out weekly training.

All men over the age of 16 were required to do some kind of service. Three men in the village became Auxiliary Firemen, Mr. C Agar, Mr. F Channon and Mr. Stocker. They were issued with blue overalls, tin hats and rubber boots. Young people were encouraged to join pre-service cadet units. In January 1943 three cadets from the Honiton ATC were seconded to the 19th (Seaton) Battalion of the Devon Home Guard to act as wireless operators. There were various 'exercises' for the AFS and ARP, some of which involved the Fire Brigade from Honiton. On one occasion John was asked to go upstairs at 1, Hillside (now Nap View) and jump out of a window to be caught in a canvas sheet with handles held by the firemen! By this time Honiton had a modern engine with pneumatic tyres, the old Merry-weather with solid tyres and a van with a trailer pump. They used Mr. Pring's Ham field opposite Nap View for practices. On one occasion the Honiton Brigade were sent to provide 'back up' at Bath. On the way back, as this was not an enclosed appliance, the uniforms of those riding on the back froze as they came over Brown Down!

The Exeter Blitz (a Baedeker raid) took place in May 1942. The Noise and fires could be heard, seen and felt in Awliscombe. John remembers his mother's dressing table mirror swinging vigorously from the vibrations and actually turning over. The next day three ladies from Awliscombe, Mrs Joan Bishop, Mrs Diana Wordsworth and Miss Hannah Monteath (all members of the WVS) decided to drive to Exeter to offer help but they were turned back. The WVS and VAD (Voluntary Aid Detachment) took over the Rectory coach house, now used by the school. It was equipped with 3 camp beds and volunteer 'casualties' (among them Brian Chambers and John Cann) lay down to be bandaged. Another WVS duty was to sort clothing sent by Canada for displaced persons. The Home Guard took part in manoeuvres with the Regular Army. On one occasion the HG was based in the Parish Hall and patrols went out for 48 hours. The WVS provided hot food for the men during the weekend.

Valerie Cann.



Our Act of Remembrance was lead by Nigel Boulton this year and again a good number attended. Interesting to see our War Memorial then and now and to think how many have stood before it over the years.

We have been chatting to people from Awliscombe and Weston and asking them about their memories of living in the area many years ago. Here is the first of these conversations.

Roger Sprigg's memories: 1961-1967

In 'Her Majesty's Army'

Some may know, but a few may not, that once there stood an Army camp at Heathfield in Honiton (where the Honiton Industrial Estate stands now). This is where at the age of 17, Roger 'signed up', to join the Army.

Roger remembers catching the train from Gloucester to Exeter St.David's, where he was met by an Army vehicle, transporting him to the Camp in Honiton. This Camp was a training centre for the Wessex Brigade., then became home for the 'Glosters'. With many memories of this time, he particularly remembers the one stove – their only source of heat, this stood in the middle of the billet, he remembers it taking so long to create enough heat to keep them warm, not good in winter!

After joining, training began immediately, with marching on both parade squares and rifle practice being carried out on the Round Ball ranges, (which you can see just above Honiton Bottom Road).

Our Honiton Council Office now stands where the 'Guard Room' stood. Here, equipment was checked, with the high expectations of all being absolutely spotlessly clean.

Following the initial two weeks of training, the soldiers were allowed to walk into Honiton town to explore and visit the public houses, then being – The Black Lion, The White Lion, The Angel Hotel, the Dolphin Hotel and the Royal British Legion, to name just a few. Roger talked of the weekly dances in the Mackarness Hall and the regular presence of the Military Police! - this being due to the scuffles which regularly broke out between the local lads and Army lads. Despite this, many local girls found their future husbands here.

Briefly, back to Awliscombe, in 1962, a Valentine's dance was held by the local youth club ... and this is where Roger met Rosemary (née Lovering).

After finishing the 12 weeks of training in Honiton, Roger was transferred to the Duke of Edinburgh Royal Regiment which was stationed at Tidworth, Hampshire, to finish his training.

When weekend passes were issued, Roger always returned to see Rosemary.

In the late summer of 1962, the regiment was posted to Malta for 3 years, he sailed from Southampton on the last troop ship to sail from England – SS Oxfordshire.

Roger and Rosemary married on the 10th December 1926, in St. Michaels Church, Awliscombe, followed by a reception in the village hall, where a week previously Rosemary's grandparents, Mr and Mrs Stamp celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary.

After their marriage Roger was posted to Minden in Germany, where he stayed until leaving the Army and making his home back in Awliscombe.

This year Roger and Rosemary will have been married for 57 years.



Free Tree Spree!

Free trees available from the DWT / Creative Beings Tree Hub event

The Old Rectory, Awliscombe

Saturday 6th January 10am – noon
(refreshments available)

Since the last Awliscombe Free Tree Hub in 2021, we have been busy growing native trees in the Food Forest, from seed collected within Devon (mostly Awliscombe). Creative Beings is supporting the Devon Wildlife Trust, *Saving Devon's Treescapes* project, which is aiming to plant 250,000 in Devon by 2025, replacing some of the trees that we are losing due to Ash Die Back disease.

Here's our tree nursery where we are growing trees from seed.



In January 2024, we will have approximately 300 bareroot tree whips to give away to people who have some space

to plant and grow a few trees. We have the following species to give away, along with some simple rabbit-proof tubes and bamboo stakes (first come, first served with these):

- Rowan
- Elder
- Crab apple
- Hawthorn
- Hazel
- Common Oak
- Hawthorn
- Spindle
- Alder
- Dogwood
- Hornbeam
- Wych Elm

Please get in touch via email

sue@creativebeings.uk or phone 01404 47322 if you'd like to reserve up to 10 trees.



Devon
Wildlife Trust

When Santa got stuck up the chimney,
He began to shout
'You girls and boys, won't get any toys,
If you don't pull me out!
My beard is black
There's soot in my sack,
My nose is tickly too.



When Santa got stuck up the chimney ... ATCHOO, ATCHOO, ATCHOOO.

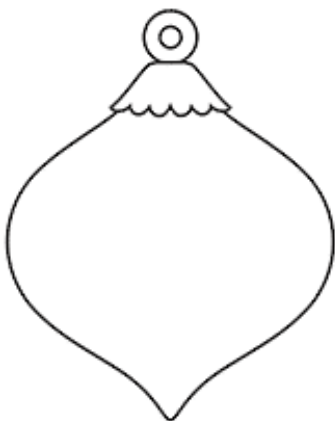
.....



Design a Christmas jumper



what would you like to find in your Christmas Sack?



*What do you call a snowman having a temper tantrum? ... A meltdown

*How do polar bears make their beds? ... With sheets of ice and blankets of snow

*What do snowmen eat for supper? ... Iceburger

*How does a penguin build a home? ... Igloos it together

Christmas Biscuits to make and decorate.

Baking a batch of these easy Christmas biscuits is a fun way to get into the festive spirit. They can be made into tree decorations, be given as gifts or popped into the treat tin at home.

Equipment and preparation: You will need Christmas-themed biscuit cutters and two flat baking trays lined with non-stick baking paper.

Ingredients

- 100g/3½oz **butter**, at room temperature
- 50g/1¾oz **caster sugar**
- ½ tsp ground **cinnamon**
- ½ tsp **ground ginger**
- 150g/5½oz **plain flour**, plus extra for rolling
- 1 tbsp **cornflour**

For the icing

- 150g/5½oz **icing sugar**, sifted
- 2–3 tbsp **lemon juice**

To decorate (all optional)

- edible sprinkles
- **icing pens**

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4.
2. In a bowl, whisk together the butter, sugar, cinnamon and ginger for a couple of minutes until light and fluffy. Using a wooden spoon, mix in the flour and cornflour. Stir until the mixture resembles breadcrumbs, then use your hands to form a ball of dough.
3. Lightly dust your work surface and rolling pin with a little plain flour and roll the dough out to a thickness of about 5mm/¼in. Cut out shapes using the biscuit cutters, re-rolling the leftover dough as you go. Spread the shapes out on the lined baking trays.
4. Bake for 14–16 minutes, swapping the trays round half way through cooking (to ensure the biscuits cook evenly). The biscuits should still be pale, but cooked. If making tree decorations, punch a small hole in the biscuit using a wooden skewer as soon as they come out of the oven. Leave on the tray to cool completely.
5. In a small bowl stir together the icing sugar with 2 tablespoons lemon juice, adding a little extra if the mixture is very thick.
6. Once the biscuits are cool, pipe or spoon the icing over each biscuit and top with your choice of edible decorations. If you're making tree decorations, leave the icing to set before tying a piece of ribbon or string through the hole.



SPECIAL OFFERS AT HERON FARM THIS CHRISTMAS.

Christmas menu runs 1st December to 24th December: – link to Christmas menu and details (£25 for 2 courses, £29.5 for 3 courses): <https://heron-farm.co.uk/christmas-menu/>

If you're seeking something a little bit special to celebrate with family & friends or thank your team this year, our Vineyard Kitchen is a cosy and candlelit spot, where love for good food meets the essence of the season.

Nestled overlooking our breath-taking walled gardens, we're embracing change just like the vibrant colours transforming around us. Immerse yourself in the warmth of our kitchen restaurant and indulge in the culinary delights, prepared with passion and creativity.

We're taking bookings for your Christmas dining, lunch or dinner (minimum 40 people for an evening booking) with seasonal menus, our award-winning Heron Wines and seasonal cocktails.

A daily set-menu available noon to 3 p.m. every day.

Group bookings for 40+ can be taken for evenings and then for smaller groups we have an exclusive evening event on the 23rd December.



Christmas Supper evening – 23rd December, for families, small corporate groups, couples an exclusive & intimate evening in the vineyard kitchen: <https://heron-farm.co.uk/product/christmas-supper-evening-devon/> choosing from our Christmas menu.



We also have an **Elf Trail 16-24 December**. £5 per child with a seasonal prize for completing the trail. Christmas and seasonal food will be available, bookings highly recommended at what will be a very busy time. The link to book is <https://heron-farm.co.uk/product/elf-trail-devon-heron-farm-vineyard/>

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Santa has retired from Otter Garden Centre but is making an appearance in **Buckerell** at the Christmas Fayre on

Sunday 3rd December at Doug's Shed EX14 3QD 2pm -4pm.

Children will be able to make some eco-friendly reindeer food, meet Santa and receive a small gift, all for a donation to Open Arms, our charity for this year.

There will be lots of other things happening too.

Honiton – Broadhembury via Awliscombe.

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Including journeys on service 694

Monday to Saturday (Except Public Holidays)

	368	694	368	694	694	368	368
	SD	TFS	TFS	TS	F	TFS	SD
Honiton Congregational Church	-	-	10.20	-	-	13.50	-
Honiton High St. Job Centre	-	-	10.21	-	-	13.51	-
Honiton Community College	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.10
Honiton Dowell Street	-	08.45	-	-	-	-	-
Awliscombe Nap View	-	08.50	10.27	-	-	13.57	15.17
Awliscombe Godford Cross	-	-	-	-	-	-	15.18
Broadhembury Square	08.00	-	10.40	-	-	14.10	15.30
Awliscombe Nap View	08.13	-	10.53	13.35	13.40	14.23	-
Honiton Community College	08.20	-	-	-	-	-	-
Honiton High St. Lace Walk	-	-	11.00	13.40	13.45	14.30	-

SD – Schooldays only

TS – Tuesday and Saturday only

TFS - Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays only.

F – Fridays only

Blackdown Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty has a new name – from today we are Blackdown Hills National Landscape.



Blackdown Hills National Landscape

Along with all other designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales we are today becoming a National Landscape.

The new name reflects the national importance of the landscapes and the vital contribution we are making to protect the nation from the threats of climate change, nature depletion and the wellbeing crisis. The name

change will also help us to create greater understanding and awareness for the work that we do.

Becoming Blackdown Hills National Landscape reflects a step change in our work to protect and regenerate our landscape, with a focus on nature, climate, heritage, culture, and people. The care of the Blackdown Hills Natural Landscape is entrusted to local authorities, organisations, community groups and the people who live and work within them. We help bring these people together, working collaboratively to conserve and enhance these special landscapes.

National Landscapes across England and Wales

The change to National Landscapes is a significant milestone for the UK, and the next step in fully realising the National Landscapes' vision to be the leading exemplars of how thriving, diverse communities can work with and for nature in the UK: restoring ecosystems, providing food, storing carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change, safeguarding against drought and flooding, whilst also nurturing people's health and wellbeing.

National Landscapes teams have been at the forefront of delivering natural solutions to the main challenges facing the nation for many years. The new brand underscores our commitment to redoubling our efforts and engaging with a wider audience. In 2019, we collectively set ourselves the most ambitious targets for nature in the sector and we continue to work to meet them.

By 2030, it is our aim that, within National Landscape boundaries: at least 200,000 hectares of the most valuable natural areas (Sites of Special Scientific Interest or SSSIs), which equates to 1¼ times the size of London, will be in favourable condition; 100,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside of SSSIs will be created or restored, which is roughly nine times the size of Manchester; and 36,000 hectares of woodland, which is a little smaller than the Isle of Wight, will have been planted or allowed to regenerate. National Landscapes Partnerships will also focus on habitat restoration to ensure the protection of some of our most endangered species and increase their work to help more people to enjoy time spent in beautiful places.

Farming in Protected Landscapes

Through the [Farming in Protected Landscapes](#) programme, farmers and land managers are being supported to carry out projects that support nature recovery, mitigate the impacts of climate change, provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and cultural heritage, or support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses. In the Blackdown Hills, we have already awarded funding to 57 projects totalling £343k up to March 2023, with a further £315k in the pipeline to fund projects.

Nature Recovery Plan

National Landscapes across the country have signed up to the Colchester Declaration – an ambitious plan to recover nature in and beyond protected landscapes, build climate resilience and enhance engagement with people. To fulfil our contribution to the Colchester Declaration and address the biodiversity crisis we have worked with landowners, conservation organisations, neighbouring National Landscapes, community interest groups and other stakeholders to produce a [Nature Recovery Plan](#) for the Blackdown Hills.

To find out more about what this all means have a look on this website:
<https://blackdownhillsaonb.org.uk/news/blackdown-hills-national-landscape>

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Chard (Shop) – Unit 2, Leach Road, Chard Business Park,
Chard, Somerset, TA20 1FA – 01460 67664

Awliscombe (workshop) – Wolverstone Hill, Awliscombe,
Honiton, Devon, EX14 3PU – 01404 841237



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