



*Awliscombe
& Weston Times*

Spring 2024





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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 **15th May.**

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.

Saturday 16 th March	Fish and Chips in the Church. (yum!)
Saturday 23 rd March	'Meet The Neighbours' in Village Hall
Monday 25 th March	Bingo Night. Eyes down 8 pm in Village Hall
Tuesday 26 th March	Whist Drive in the Village Hall
Sunday 31 st March	Easter Sunday. Activities at the church
Monday April	Whist Drive in the Village Hall
Saturday 11 th May)	Display of wedding dresses belonging to local
Sunday 12 th May)	residents 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.



Happy 80th Birthday! Roger Spriggs - 21st March





MEET THE NEIGHBOURS

COFFEE MORNING @ AWLISCOMBE PARISH HALL

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2024

10:30 – 12:00 NOON



FREE ENTRANCE

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

THIS IS A CHANCE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE TO MEET REPRESENTATIVES OF
MANY OF OUR VILLAGE CLUBS, ORGANISATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS
AS WELL AS ENJOY COFFEE, TEA & CAKES

AWLISCOMBE HAS A LOT TO OFFER

WHY NOT COME AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS

ALL 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

Bank Sort Code 20-87-94

Account No: 03166360

awliscombeandwestontimes@gmail.com

Allison 07507949412



Caroline 07775931735

There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains
of nature – the assurance that dawn comes after night, and
spring after winter.

Rachel Carson

We hope this finds you well. As this will be our last spring issue, we'd like to imagine that some kind soul will have taken over our editorial posts by the time 2025 pops its head around the corner. Even if it were only to throw a 'What's On' couple of pages together, that would be so helpful. We will possibly see you at the 'meet the neighbours' morning? Or please give either of us a call, on the numbers above, we'd love to chat.

So here it is again ... a time to ponder on the first grass cut, early spring pruning and maybe to prepare those seed and vegetable beds. A busy time for many but for some, a welcome calmness and perhaps a time of reflection. The first moment when the warm sun is felt on the back of your neck ... simply wonderful! Of course we may have a few March winds and April showers to endure in the meantime!

The next few months are busy in the village, you will see all dates and times on the 'what's on page'. The Fish and Chip supper being the first event in a week or two, Meet the Neighbours and then Easter Bingo – it's all happening! Then our lovely Easter Service with the much anticipated Easter egg hunt! See you there?

So for now, we wish you a good few months, enjoy and take care. HAPPY EASTER, HAPPY SPRINGTIME!



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the peaceful passing on Sunday 25th February of David Chippington. Known to many as 'Old Chips', he was for sure, a well known and well loved character in our village.

We will write more at a later date. For now we send so much love to Doreen. It will be strange to not see her long loved husband, by her side. Doreen, you are supported by friends, stay strong and call us anytime.

Come and enjoy a ...

Fish and Chip Supper!



with ... live music
and a cash bar...
£13



St. Michael's, Awliscombe

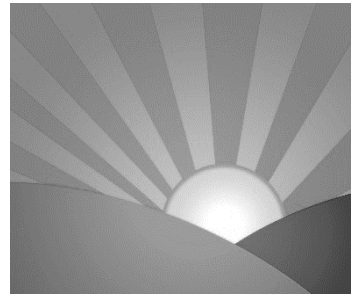
7pm. Saturday 16th March

Contact Kathryn stmichaelfriends@gmail.com 07979697487



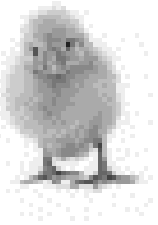
Easter at St Michael's

Sunday 31 March: 9.30am



If you're reading this soon after the magazine landed on your doormat, we will be firmly in the church season of Lent, famous as a time for giving up chocolate, alcohol, or any of the other things you feel should play a smaller part in your life.

In the church year Lent is seen as a period of penitence and fasting in preparation for Easter, linked also to the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert before embarking on his three years of ministry. But however we view it, most of us find that when Easter comes along, just as Spring is getting going, the sense of excitement is all the greater if, in the weeks leading up to it, we've given some thought to setting our house in order, whether spiritually, domestically, or in our relations with others.



At St Michael's, we always make our Easter Sunday service a celebratory, family-orientated affair. The bells will be rung, we'll have activities for children - including the all-important churchyard Easter egg hunt after the service - posies for Mums, and perhaps even a scratch choir. Please do come along.



The Easter service will be taken by John Rawlings, an old friend of our church and one of several retired clergy on whom the Honiton parishes are so dependant.

This is a good time to mention some new clergy appointments. Many will have met Revd. Tracey Voisey, who joined the Mission Community in the Autumn to assist Revd. Sue. From June, Sue and Tracey will be joined by a curate, the wonderfully named Scott Angell. As a bonus, Scott is also a musician, so I'm hoping that music at all our services will go from strength to strength.

Revision of St. Michael's Electoral Roll.

The St. Michael's Church Electoral Roll is due for its annual review in April. A copy of the current Electoral Roll and qualifications for inclusion on the Roll are on the notice board in the Church porch.

For new entries on the Roll, amendments or deletions please contact Mary Boulton at mary.boulton@btinternet.com .

Honiton Mission Community - Holy Week and Easter Services

Monday 25 March	10am 7pm	Guided Meditation at St Paul's Eucharist at <u>Awliscombe</u>
Tuesday 26 th March	10am 7pm	Guided Meditation at St Paul's Eucharist at Buckerell
Wednesday 27 th March	10am 7pm	Guided Meditation at St Paul's Eucharist at Combe Raleigh
Thursday 28 th March	10am 7.30pm	<u>Maundy Thursday</u> Guided Meditation at St Paul's Liturgy of the Lord's Supper followed by Watch at the Altar of Repose
Friday 29 th March	10am 10am 2pm	<u>Good Friday</u> Childrens Activities in the Mackarness Hall Guided Meditation at St Paul's Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
Saturday 30 th March	8pm	Holy Saturday Easter Ceremonies, Vigil, and First Eucharist of Easter
Sunday 31 st March	9.30am 9.30am 10am 11am 11am 11.15am	<u>Easter Day</u> Easter Eucharist at <u>Awliscombe</u> Easter Eucharist at Cotleigh Easter Eucharist at Buckerell Easter Eucharist at Gittisham Easter Eucharist, St Pauls Honiton Easter Eucharist, Coombe Raleigh

Easter SONrise Service and Easter Trail at St Michael's Church – Details in due course.

Whist Drives.



Many of you will have seen the board outside the village hall over the past year advertising the monthly Whist Drive which may also have brought back memories of attending Drives in the past when they were very popular events with nearly every village holding them. Some continued but in other places they were dropped as they became less and less popular. However this seems to be changing and once again some local pubs and villages and even Young Farmers clubs, are holding Whist evenings, attracting players both young and old.

In Autumn 2022 after trying a couple of local Drives and finding them a lot of fun and more relaxed and informal than people may remember them, Mandy Reed together with Sandy Burrough, Val Maynard and Sarah Ricketts, had the idea of starting one in the village hall and our first was held in December 2022. It has proved to be very popular, beginning fairly quietly with about 30 people attending the first couple of months but has gone from strength to strength with numbers now running around 40/45, with quite a few people coming from outside the village.

There are many cash prizes to be won together with the chance of winning some excellent raffle prizes, including various hampers containing a chicken dinner, cooked breakfast, cream tea and a cheese and biscuit selection as well as many other generously donated prizes. It has proved to be so successful that over the course of the year, £700 has been raised to share between two local charities. Dementia Friendly Honiton, which supports the local Admiral Nurses and runs the Memory Café in Honiton (<https://www.dementiahoniton.org.uk>) and Friends of St Michael's Awliscombe, our local group dedicated to using and improving the church as a village building and venue for community events, independently of its religious purpose. (<https://www.awliscombeparishcouncil.co.uk/friends-of-st-michaels>) A donation of £350 was presented to each charity at the November Drive.

If you have ever considered playing, don't be shy, come along and give it a go, we would love to see you! Our Whist Drive, which is usually held on the fourth Monday of every month, is a very friendly and welcoming evening for all ages and abilities, from beginners to advanced and you don't need a partner.

If anyone who has never played before but would like to learn or like a refresher please contact me at sarahjricketts@gmail.com.

Sarah Ricketts.

The Valentines 70s and 80s Disco.



Saturday 17th February was a rainy horrid night but that didn't stop anybody coming out to dance the night away in Awliscombe Village to DJ Mike Dent formally of Ace Disco.

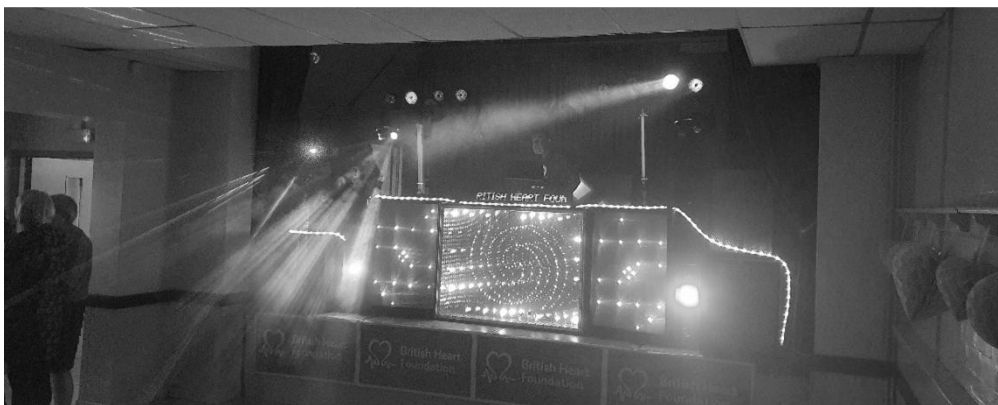
A great night was enjoyed by all with many sore feet, legs and heads on Sunday – a night to be talked about for a while.

The final count is £1126.78 made for The British Heart Foundation. So much more than we thought we'd be able to raise.



There are so many people to thank - Belle and Sue Harvey for providing the disco and supporting Mike throughout the evening,. Jane, Martin and Dave for arranging and running the bar and family and friends that sold raffle tickets, helped with decorating the hall and clearing up afterwards and last but definitely not least everyone that bought tickets.

Will there be another one next year???????



It was a great evening, hope there is another next year.

Memories of Weston



While delving into the memories of people who have lived in this area for a long time, we have tended to focus on Awliscombe, so we decided that it was time to have a chat with someone from Weston. Here are some of the recollections of Gerald Merchant who has lived in the area all his life.

Gerald's mum was a Salter by name and his grandfather Henry Salter lived at a farm in Weston up until 1900. It was demolished in the 1960s to make way for the new A30. Peter Edward's family owned the farm and property across the river Otter at Hamlet. The houses between the River Otter and the A30 are known as The Hamlet and are technically in the parish of Gittisham. Gerald's mother and father bought no. 2 Hamlet Cottages in 1940 and two years later Gerald was born there. One of his earliest

memories was a huge bonfire on the land down by the River Otter where everyone turned out to celebrate the end of WW2.

Back in the early days, the A30 ran right past his front door. One pastime he enjoyed as a lad was to note the registration numbers and makes of passing cars and see where they came from using a small book he had been given. The children of Weston all went to school together in Honiton on a bus.

In those days, the Otter Inn was a Cider House, there was no shop or post office. Gerald can remember the post office vans coming along to the ford on Winneford Lane to be washed. In 1949 electricity arrived in Weston which must have been a great bonus for everyone.

At the age of 14, while still at school, he got a job at a butcher's shop which was situated where Dowell Street meets the High Street. This shop was demolished when they widened Dowell Street. He worked there after school and on Saturdays for £1 a week – better than the 12s he was offered in a local grocery store. Part of his job there was making sausages and he was good at it; they named him the 'Sausage King'. On leaving school he had an offer of working there or at the slaughterhouse. However he also had the offer of working with his father who was a builder, learning all those trades. He chose this path and remembers his first pay packet was 52 shillings !! (two pounds and 60p)

As Honiton had a military camp at Heathfield, there were busy dance halls and pubs in Honiton. Now and then there were parties at Gittisham as well. There was also a Darts League and they played darts in local pubs and clubs, including at the Officer's Mess. On one occasion he was asked to stand in at a darts competition in the British Legion, to play against a team from The Star Inn. It turned out to be a lucky match because Dawn, who is now his wife, was on the Star Inn team. Around 1957 Bill Davis bought the Otter Inn and it became a pub under Heavitree Brewery.

In 1962 there was the great snow. This happened all over the country. Around here the only viable form of transport was a tractor and everyone walked everywhere for 3 weeks. People looked after each other and got by.

Some of the soldiers visiting the Otter Inn had been on motor bikes and Gerald was fascinated by them. He bought his first bike in 1959 – a James. (these were made in Birmingham). He remembers passing his test in the pouring rain – not ideal on a bike. Not long after passing his test, he bought a Velocette from someone in Ottery St. Mary. (Despite the name, these bikes were also made in Birmingham). In 1968 someone introduced him to the Hillclimb Competition. He had a go and quite liked it. In fact he proved to be pretty good at the Hill climbs and won the National Championship for 350cc class in 1970 and 1971 !!

Later he bought another Velocette – a 500 cc -- this one was in bits and he did it up. He travelled all over Europe on that bike, which was quite adventurous for those times.

Everyone in Awliscombe and Weston in 1968 remembers the big flood. There was a huge thunder storm over the Blackdown Hills and the Royston dams overtopped to break the earth dam. It was summer time and there was a great deal of cut hay lying on the fields. This was picked up by the tidal wave of water and carried down stream creating blockages at the bridges. Between the dam and the sea 6 bridges were taken out. The bridge in Weston, (I now discover it is known as Trafalgar Bridge because it was built soon after 1805, the year of the battle of Trafalgar) withstood the onslaught. The water flowed through the pub up to the top of the counter! It must have been tricky getting about as a bridge was down in Uppottery, a footbridge between Gittisham and Buckerell went, the A30 bridge at Fenny Bridges was demolished as well as a footbridge, as was another at Tipton St. John and a footbridge below Otterton.

The person running the Otter Inn at this time was Steve Stevenson. He had been a champion boxer and was also formerly in the Met. Police. Steve decided to organise a group trip to Spain. The idea was that if he could get 20 people in the group then he would go for free. If he could get 40 people, then his wife would also go for free! He managed to get a group of 40 together. He organised a week in Estartit in north east Spain, north of Barcelona. In those days, the flights from Bristol (by Cambrian Airways), the hotel and meals for a week cost £25.

Closer to home, Les Layzell had started up the football club in Awliscombe. Many local people supported this venture. Gerald helped out as a linesman for many years. He can remember one occasion when he was walking the lines, with his eyes on the match, when he inadvertently kicked the walking stick of an elderly onlooker who promptly fell over. He paid the price for straying too close to the lines.

The army camp at Heathfield was closed in 1970. This must have had a rather sad effect on the area in some ways. The huts were used to house refugees who were fleeing the tyranny of Idi Amin in Uganda at that time.



Gerald meanwhile had honed his skills in the building trade and had bought a nice plot of land in Weston. It had been an orchard and a cider press selling apple juice to Whiteways cider makers in Whimple. When they closed in 1985 the orchard and apple juice were no longer needed. Gerald has retained many of the features of the old cider barn in part of the house. The round window visible

in the photo was open years ago for a pigeon loft. There is an old Benchmark on the wall below the window inscribed by the Ordnance Survey team between 1850 and 1880. This is for mapping the height above sea level. This mark is about 300 foot above sea level.

One thing Gerald's father always used to say to him was, " if you want something, save for it." This has served him well over time. His first bike cost £50.00 and saving £1 a week, it took him almost a year to buy it! It is not so easy to live by this motto today.

Thank you Gerald for sharing those memories with us.

Awliscombe & Weston Christmas Market, 2 December 2023

The 2023 A&W Christmas Market was held, as usual, on the first Saturday in December and got the Christmas season off to a festive start. With many locals in attendance (it's the perfect opportunity to hand deliver Christmas cards), numbers were boosted by the arrival of the Awliscombe school choir and their attendant fan club (aka parents). The choir was fantastic and sang all our favourite carols as well as a couple of new songs!



The stalls were small in number but big on eco credentials with most



items on sale locally made, from Awliscombe apple juice and Weston honey to jewellery handmade in

Awliscombe. We also had stalls selling fabulous hand made decorations and cards. The cafe was bustling and the cake stall sold out!

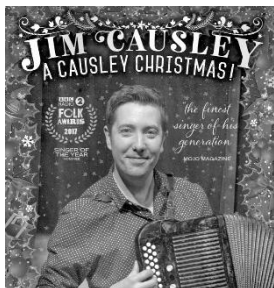
It was really great to see three local young entrepreneurs selling their hand made jewellery.



The profit from the Market was £371.10, which was shared between St Michael's and Operation Rudolph Honiton (<https://inspiring-connections.org/operation-rudolph/>). Operation Rudolph aims to support families and individuals who find the Christmas season difficult, financially or socially. This includes providing a Christmas Day lunch and Christmas presents to people and families who might otherwise miss out. The A&W Christmas Market was delighted to support the team at Operation Rudolph

Thanks to all the people who helped run the market, to the school choir and to everyone who came along. It was a great morning and, as always, showed the wonderful Awliscombe and Weston community spirit.

Sharon Thwaites



So far ahead!

but **'save the date'** in your diaries ...

7th December, 2024 - Awliscombe Church

the promise of a very special FoSM evening.

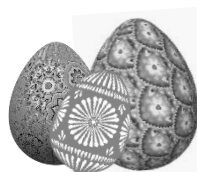


Awliscombe Ladies Group

BINGO

Monday 25th March

Awliscombe Village Hall



Doors open 7pm - Eyes down 8pm

Excellent Prizes!

Easter egg, chicken dinners, cash

Look forward to seeing you all there!



AWLISCOMBE SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

AFFILIATED TO THE DEVON SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Run for the benefit of Awliscombe Parish Hall

JUST 1½ MILES FROM HONITON
ON A373 CULLOMPTON ROAD

WE PLAY EVERY WEDNESDAY, 2 TO 5 PM & 7 TO 10 PM

**COST: £3.50 including refreshments – FIRST TIME FREE
BOWLS PROVIDED AT NO EXTRA COST**

**NO SPECIAL CLOTHES REQUIRED EXCEPT FOOTWEAR
– EITHER BOWLING SHOES OR OTHER SMOOTH
SOLED FOOTWEAR**

**VERY RELAXED ATMOSPHERE –
NO COMMITTEES TO WORRY ABOUT**

**JUST COME AND HAVE A GOOD TIME!
SAVE ON HEATING COSTS !!!**

**NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME
BEGINNERS AND EXPERIENCED PLAYERS**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE TELEPHONE
BRIAN HOLLAND 01404 45487**



YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT

YOUR PARISH HALL

BY JOINING THE SHORT MAT

BOWLING CLUB

NEARLY 100% OF ALL THE MONEY

RAISED BY THE BOWLS CLUB GOES

DIRECTLY TO THE HALL, ENABLING

FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS

*Thank you for your
interest*

We have been asking a person or a couple to be cast away on the infamous desert island, asking them for the eight tracks they would choose to take, a book, a luxury and all the reasons why.



DESERT ISLAND DISCS



Our next castaway is: **Kevin Coxon**

Little did I know just how difficult it would be to pare down a lifetime of musical obsession into 8 tracks. Aside from a few which would always have to be included, I listed my favourite bands and soon had a list of around 20 and to this I would need to add a few classical pieces too.

Could my island luxury perhaps be to have 28 tracks? It was soon apparent that I needed to approach this from another angle choosing not my favourite pieces of music but selecting those which invoke special memories. I play all of the selected tracks regularly and anyone who knows me will be accustomed to me playing music all the time.

Born in 1957, I inherited my love of music at an early age from my mother who in the mid-sixties introduced me to a wide variety of popular classical, Sinatra, Motown, Beatles, early rock and pop all played as loudly as possible on her beloved Dynatron stereogram. Think G Plan or Ercol sideboard with attitude!

Living in Hertfordshire on the Metropolitan Line, we were blessed with easy access to London with regular visits to the Royal Albert Hall for classical concerts. There is still nothing quite like the drama of an event at the RAH. In 1969 my first contemporary 'gig' was to see Stevie Wonder at the Hammersmith Odeon. Now The Apollo, this went on to become a much-loved venue for gigs over decades.

My brother Paul, 5 years my senior, started me young listening to many bands including Colosseum, Rolling Stones, Jimi Hendrix, Cream, The Who, Jethro Tull, Moody Blues, King Crimson, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath most of whom I have seen live.

I feel I must give a mention to some of the other bands I listen to frequently that didn't make the cut. Emerson Lake & Palmer, Caravan, Dire Straits, Coldplay, Elbow, Muse, The Beatles, Steven Wilson, Porcupine Tree, George Michael, David Bowie, Nick Drake, Eric Clapton etc, etc, etc.

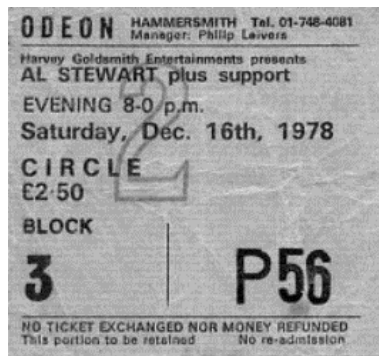
Disc 1: Aram Ilyich Khachaturian (1939) - Gayane's Adagio Used in 2001: A Space Odyssey – 1968 - I remember well a friend's birthday treat in 1968 when we saw this ground breaking Stanley Kubrick film in Cinerama wide screen using 70mm film in London. CGI was not invented, the Oscar Winning special effects still hold up pretty well today. The audience were in complete awe and some confusion, at the genius of this film. This particular piece uniquely invokes a sense of the total emptiness of infinite space. I note that other films have put it to the same use.

Disc 2: Sergei Rachmaninoff (1901) - Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor This well-known piece has been present in my life from a very early age and is always a staple of piano competitions. My mother and grandmother would always cry when I played this and it moves me in the same way.

Disc 3: Fotheringay (1970) - The Sea The beautiful voice of Sandy Denny of Fairport Convention fame. Bizarrely, she was obsessed with throwing herself down stairs and sadly this killed her in 1978 at the age of only 31.

Disc 4: Al Stewart (1976) - Year of the Cat

My first date with Caroline (wife).



Disc 5: Elton John (1974) - Ticking I picked this track from his album Caribou with lyrics from the brilliant Bernie Taupin because it is one of our shared favourites and is much less well known than most. I could have picked many tracks from Elton John whose music has been a constant throughout my life. He is an entertainer and composer of extraordinary talent who can key tunes to lyrics in seconds. He has to be included because he has always bridged the generations. Three generations of my family saw him live at the Watford Football ground in 1998 on the Face-to-Face tour with Billy Joel. Billy had laryngitis so Elton just played for 3 hours! The whole family can really belt it out singing with Elton!

Disc 6: Genesis (1973) - Firth of Fifth Genesis has to be in my top 3 favourite bands. So difficult to choose. This is from the album Selling England by the Pound when Peter Gabriel was lead vocalist and a very clever lyricist. Phil Collins took over lead vocals from 1975 – 1991 In my view this line-up had mixed success and of course Phil had a very successful solo career. They were always brilliant live. I first saw them at a small hall in Watford in 1971 and I saw them last with our kids in 2007 at Twickenham. This was up there with the best I've seen.

Disc 7: Pink Floyd (1973) - Us and Them Pink Floyd has to be in my top 3 favourite bands. Again, so difficult to choose. This is from the album Dark Side of the Moon which is one of the best-selling albums of all time. I was lucky enough to see them at Earls Court when this was first released, again at Wembley Arena 1977 and then again at Earls Court in 1994 which was recorded and released as Pulse. Also up there with the best I've seen.

Disc 8: The Who (1971) - Won't Get Fooled Again Always makes me think of my brother, it's our track and will always get us on the dance floor where we will gladly demonstrate our 'Dad' dancing!

Spotify Link <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/6wohHVYAltB8T29srg7mCA?si=c577adbf9930490f>

* Having The Bible and Complete Works of Shakespeare, which **BOOK** would you choose to take with you? As these would probably be my last resort in terms of reading material, I would choose

'The Complete Works of Harry Potter' because this is very clever writing and I never tire of it's intricacy.

* **LUXURY ITEM** - The item I would take would have to be my **Hi-Fi and a life subscription to Spotify.**

* And finally, which track would you **SAVE FROM THE WAVES?**

Since I would be on an island, I would rush to save **The Sea by Fotheringay.**

- Thank you Kevin, for sharing your Desert Island Discs with us -

We have had a very busy and successful year which culminated in supplying mulled wine and mince pies, at the Christmas Carol Concert. There was a tremendous festive atmosphere and groundswell of good cheer which I hope was enjoyed by all who attended. We plan to organise the mulled wine and mince pies again this coming year and promise not to run out of wine this time!

Our second AGM was held on 25th January in the village hall, where Sian Dalrymple presented a chair's report outlining our 3-year plan. Given the repair work that the PCC have already successfully completed on the church roof and guttering, it was agreed by all attending the meeting, that the Friends of St Michael's priority now should be to build toilet facilities at the church.

The most affordable, and therefore attainable, option is to build a toilet in the churchyard. Visits to similar toilets installed in Combe Raliegh and Luppitt churchyards, showed how modern, clean, and comfortable the design is. The next step is to apply for planning permission, as well as a 'faculty' from the church. While these processes are underway, we will also start investigating options for grant funding to help assist us with the cost.

Further plans for the Friends of St Michael's to undertake, include considering how to ensure the church is a flexible, usable space for all. We would like to attract much greater usage of the church from the school and wider community. Work is also required on the bells in the belfry, which are overdue a retuning / rehanging, but this will be expensive (suspected to be a minimum £30,00) so we are unable to commit to this work at present. Redecoration of the church walls damaged by the damp is also required but this needs to wait until the walls have fully dried out.

At the time of the AGM we had successfully raised £7,339 (of which £1,350 has specifically been donated for the toilet fund). This is an amazing effort, and we are overwhelmed and exceedingly grateful to every single person who has contributed to this in whatever way, so far.

We have a full programme of events for the year ahead. On Saturday 16th March, at 6pm, we are organising a fish'n'chip supper, in the church with entertainment.. We will be holding a stall on 23rd March in the village hall as part of 'Meet The Neighbours' - a perfect opportunity for everyone to find out more about becoming a member.

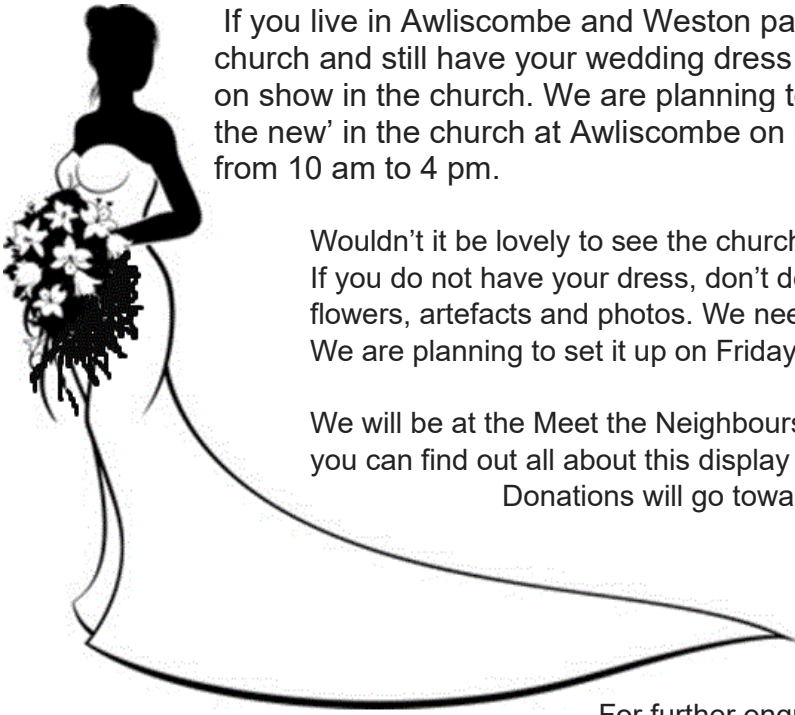
The Congregation of Wedding Dresses, on 11th/12th May, is being held in the church (it is advertised elsewhere in the magazine in more detail) and is specifically being organised to raise money for the new loo fund. Our especial thanks goes to Mandy Reed and everyone in her team of organisers, we are incredibly grateful for their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment to the cause.

There will be our annual summer cream tea in the churchyard, autumn church yard clean up and refreshments after the Carol Concert in December, dates to be released nearer to the time.

The Jim Causley concert was so well received by all who attended this year, that we plan to hold this again on the 7th December.

To find out more about Friends of St Michaels, give us your feedback or to become a member please speak to anyone on the committee (Sian Dalrymple – Chair, Kath Empson – Secretary, Julie Hawkins -Treasurer, Sarah and Simon Ricketts, Harriet Willmington, Nick Thwaites, Allison Bryant or Lou Beeken) or email the group at stmichaelfriends@gmail.com .

A CONGREGATION OF WEDDING DRESSES.



If you live in Awliscombe and Weston parish, or if you were married at Awliscombe church and still have your wedding dress hiding in the loft ... we would love to see it on show in the church. We are planning to display wedding dresses from 'the old to the new' in the church at Awliscombe on Saturday 11th May and Sunday 12th May from 10 am to 4 pm.

Wouldn't it be lovely to see the church decorated and full of wedding dresses? If you do not have your dress, don't despair, we also need help with decorations and flowers, artefacts and photos. We need mannequins as well please. We are planning to set it up on Friday 10th in the afternoon and evening.

We will be at the Meet the Neighbours event in the village hall on the 23rd. March so you can find out all about this display there and get a form.

Donations will go towards the new loo in the church.

For further enquiries, offers of a dress or help with decoration ideas, contact Mandy Reed on 07918685428 or mandyreed28@icloud.com



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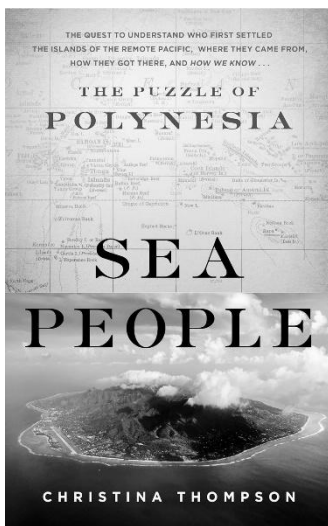
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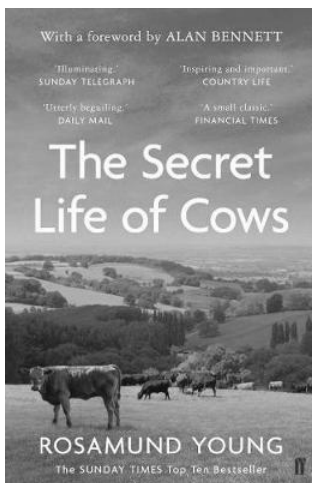
Thank you to Axminster Printing
for printing this magazine.



Christina Thompson. Sea People: The Puzzle of Polynesia. From £13

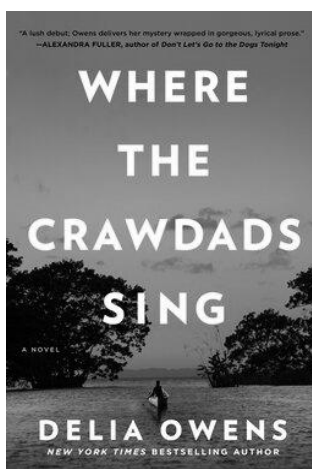
What a fascinating book!. Have you ever wondered where the Maoris, and numerous other remote islanders in the Polynesian Triangle came from in this, the largest ocean in the world reaching from Hawaii to New Zealand to Easter Island? Well, not from South America as previously thought as modern research including DNA analysis, has shown. It's a factually accurate and historical story of people in small wood and rope canoe type boats sailing between islands up to 7000km apart amidst 800,000 square miles, unaided by any navigation aids other than the sun, southern stars, winds and their patterns, and the subtle differences in ocean swells. So, why and how did prehistoric men all with the same genetic, cultural attributes and language do it in the first place? In the 1970's an expedition in a similarly constructed boat sailed from Hawaii to

Tahiti, navigated by a Caroline Islander called Pius Piailug hired as one of the last men who could navigate in the traditional way of the early Polynesians – whose techniques are still not fully understood. As to why, the reason seems to have been simply because they could! This a very interesting and highly readable book, but with a great deal of historical fact, overturning our misconceptions/thoughts emanating from the 18th Century onwards as to the origins of these people...which becomes apparent, but you will have to read the book to find out.



Rosamund Young. The Secret Life of Cows. From £10

How now brown cow? Well, on Rosamund Young's toy farm (It doesn't seem she makes a living rearing/milking cows like the farmers in our parish), her cows play hide & seek behind trees (not very successfully of course), fight trees and hedgerows, babysit calves, pick blackberries, love smelling the fumes from a car exhaust, eat certain plants and herbs when they are out of sorts, moo back at you if you moo to them and more. However, cows can be amiable, even affectionate, highly intelligent with good memories – recognising individual humans when they are not doing anything other than eating grass. They recognise colours and can be proud, shy, affectionate even, ingenious to get what they want. As Alan Bennett says in his forward: *'Delightful - it alters the way one looks at the world. A lovely, thoughtful little book about the intelligence of cows'*. It is certainly an interesting, indeed informative, read on a subject I've never given a moment's thought to outside of a butcher's shop, until I came to live in Devon....



Delia Owens. Where the Crawdads Sing. From £8

The story of young girl named Kya growing up near Greenville on the vast, isolated marshes or pocosins on the east coast of North Carolina, one of the most critically endangered wetlands in the USA. Dubbed 'the marsh girl' by the populace, her parents and siblings abandon her one after the other, until she is alone in their wooden shack, with no food, money, friends, or education. She revels in the flora and fauna, survives by foraging and fishing, selling to a kindly man running a lakeside shop, to buy 'grits' (cornmeal) and other basics, to cook enough to eat. Shy of people, she eschews the local, bigoted, townsfolk, but meets a boy who teaches her to read, then another boy who is mysteriously murdered and the blame

falls on her. The novel has that 'must read the next chapter' quality, as different themes and surprises emerge. Superbly descriptive, hugely readable, undoubtedly, one of the best modern novels ... and now a film

Thanks so much Mark ... you've been busy! They look an interesting read!

Saturday 3rd February 2024 saw

the ... **RETURN OF THE CURRY GUYS**



Awliscombe Village Hall was once again transformed into a vibrant space, where music, chatter and the aroma of Indian spices filled the air.

The undeniable amount of hard work which brought the evening together cannot be ignored - so although huge thanks have already been received by the team, here is the list of the lovely people involved:

Caroline, Kevin, Karen, Helen, Stephen,

Timandra, Nick, Sharon, Mark, Sarah, Lucy, Martin, Rick, Harriet, Carole and Millie. Then of course, the stars of the show: DUNCAN, PAULO, MARTY, JACK, KEVIN, SIMON AND MARTIN – an amazing crew.

The aim of the evening was to raise funds for St Michael's, Awliscombe and for 'Doctors Without Borders' (Médecins Sans Frontières). Once expenses were deducted, a grand and wonderful total of **£1,259.62** had been raised, giving the two beneficiaries a sum of £629.81 each.

Of course, this would not have happened without the generous folk who came and bought tickets for the evening, raffle tickets and drinks from the bar. THANK YOU!



St. Michael's, Awliscombe



Huge Thanks to Allison.

Memories of Awliscombe Bells and Bell Ringing

by Roger Sprigg (present Bell Captain)



I started bell ringing over 45 years ago. It was in talking with (the late) John Manley, who lived at no 2, Church Hill, Awliscombe, when he offered to teach us, if we could gather enough keen people. We asked around and found (the late) Frank Letten, plus his Daughter Eileen, Helen Derryman (now Mathews), Allison Crawshaw, John and myself. This gave him 5 people willing to learn the ropes, literally!

We started by learning that rushing was not the way! It took time to learn how each bell sounded when rang. We needed to understand the weights of each bell - the Treble (or no. 1 bell) being 9cwt - up to the Tenor being over 19cwt. One by one, we had a go until we could ring all 6 bells together.

Over the years, if anything needed doing, like Stays and One Sliders, as I can recall, you would, just by ringing, recognise which bells they were ... then Frank and myself would try to get it done, with no charge to the church. This has changed over the years. Whereas then, we got things done, costing us little money. In later years we have had the casing around the headstock on No. 2 bell, break ... and that cost a lot of money - over £ 4,000. We also had new bell ropes in 2004 – which was paid for from the Bell fund.

I became Captain in the spring of 1995 and still am. Over the years we have had 8 ringers who belong to the Devon Guild of Ringers. We have rung for many weddings, plus ringing for the Centenary of the Awliscombe Ex Service Men and Women's Association, also for the late Queen Elizabeth II Reign and for her funeral, which was an honour. We have had quite a few bell ringing outings, visiting other church towers. We have been to many towers in Devon, Dorset, Somerset and down to Cornwall - with our friends from the Buckerell, Offwell and Gittisham Bell Towers. When looking at churches to ring, I was asked by the bell ringers to find somewhere for cream teas etc. which after our day of ringing, was always an enjoyable way to end the day. Happy memories.

In 2003, the striking competition took place and our team won. The Edward Summers trophy was presented by Mrs Kath Summers to the Awliscombe/Buckerell combined team. There have been many bell ringers over the years who learnt to ring at Awliscombe. One of our ringers was Kirstin Hawkins who is at Cambridge University. She said that she and 9 other young ringers from the university would like to come to St Michael and All Angels, Awliscombe to 'ring the Old Year Out', 2023 and 'ring the New Year In', 2024. Which they did and it was a pleasure to go to the church, meet them all before they rang and to hear our wonderful bells ring out over the village!



The photo above was taken many year ago, of the Awliscombe Bell ringers. You might recognise a few?

Here, all the
present
ringers stand
together
from
Awliscombe
Offwell
Buckerell and
Gittisham



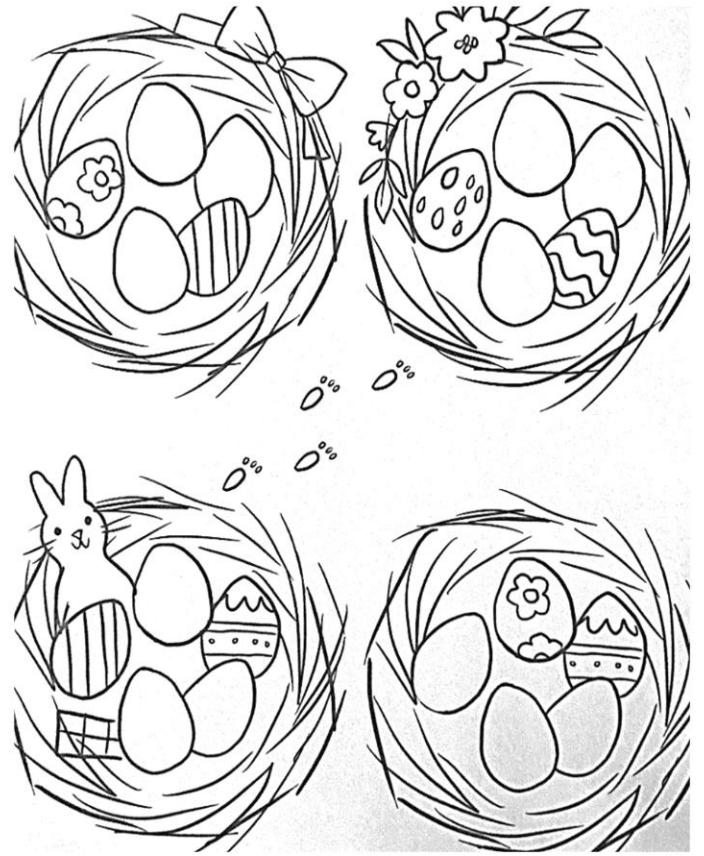
To the left, you
Will see Kirsten
and her university
friends who came
to ring at
St. Michael's
Awliscombe
Dec 23/Jan 24.



We now ring on a Tuesday evening, alternating between Buckerell, Gittisham and Offwell.
We would welcome new ringers - please don't hesitate to contact myself, Roger Sprigg. Tel
no: 07542154832.



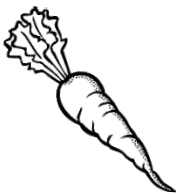
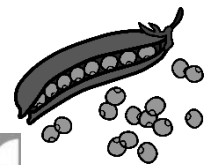
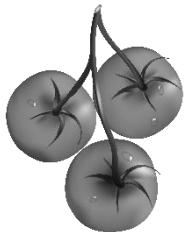
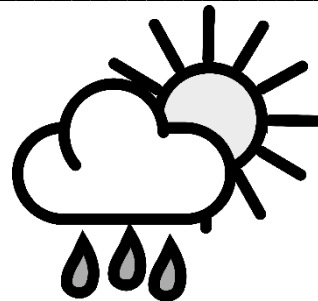
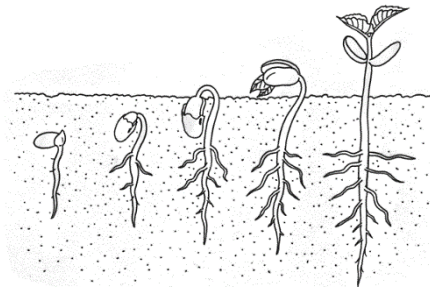
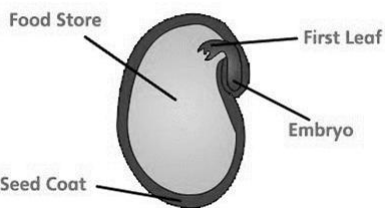
Colour me, using beautiful
Spring colours.



Can you make these nests have the
same 5 patterned eggs in each

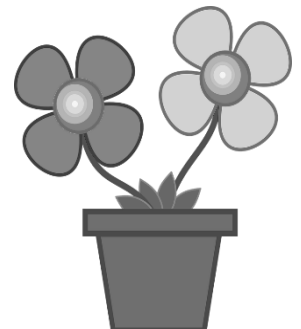


Parts Of Seed



A Little Seed

A little seed for me to sow
A little soil to make it grow
A little hole, a little pat,
A little wish, and that is that.
A little sun, a little shower.
A little while-
And then, a flower!





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