GRATIS

The HONITON Flyer

SPRING 2022

THE FREE AREA GUIDE ABOUT HONITON FOR HONITON

PRODUCED QUARTERLY: SPRING • SUMMER • AUTUMN • WINTER

LOCAL NEWS & PHOTOS

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Home Instead.

Welcome to our latest edition of the Honiton Flyer, for Spring 2022. This, our 4th edition, is packed full of articles and local service providers.

Please find our INDEX on **Page 4**. This is an opportunity for readers to find local businesses. Then we have an update from East Devon District Council on RECYCLING. The ever-popular Beehive Multi-Arts Venue have a feature on **Pages 10 & 11**. We bring you a walk around the delightful village of Offwell on **Pages 16 & 17**.

Across the centre-spread you will find the area map of EX14, and a Honiton Town map, for your easy reference. On **Page 20**, Honiton Lions Club announce their latest "mole screening day". And local historian Terry Darrant has an Easter tale for you all on **Page 24**.

We explore some of the "Mysteries and Histories" of Offwell on **Page 30**. And we have a new readers' quiz – a Wordsearch, on **Page 32**. Information on our next edition for Summer 2022 also appear on **Page 32**.

We want to highlight the dramatic events in Ukraine. It is remarkable how our Nation has shown such support and solidarity for the plight of Ukrainians, fleeing for their lives. It is also remarkable that so many initiatives to provide aid have sprung-up, not just from recognised organisations, but from spontaneous, grass-roots groups. Without hesitation local people, Eastern Europeans now living here, and established fundraising groups have all joined forces with local businesses in a remarkable combined project to despatch aid to the Ukrainian border. All without delay, with cheerful faces, and unhindered by bureaucracy.

Please if you have an interesting, heart-warming story about relief to Ukraine, we would love to hear from you, and feature it in the next edition of The Honiton Flyer.

Anthony Bucke **Editor. Wednesday 23 March 2022.**

Email: honiton@theantiquestourist.com.

"Solidarity with Ukraine at Copper Castle"

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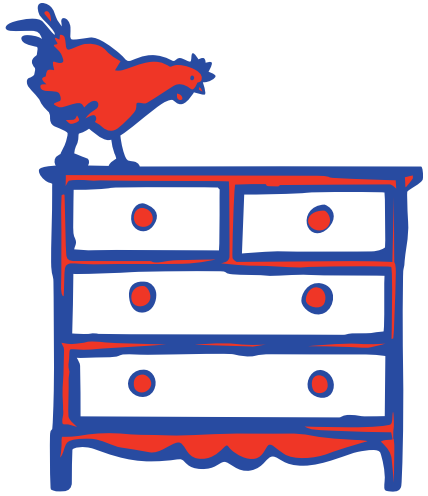

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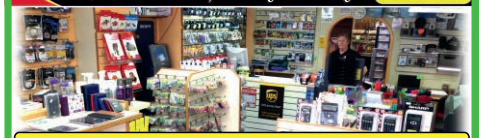

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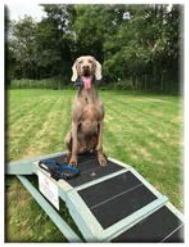

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THE BEEHIVE MULTI-ARTS COMMUNITY VENUE

The Beehive offers a diverse range of arts and community events and activities for the benefit of local people and visitors to the region.

The venue consists of a 300-seat auditorium and cinema, a function/rehearsal room, community café and bar, meeting rooms, offices, gallery space, green rooms, a reception and box office. The Beehive is a designated Safe space, accessible, with a 'changing places' facility for visitors with disabilities.

In 2017, The Beehive was named Community Centre of the Year in the Devon Community Honours and in 2018 won the award for Best Venue in the 373 Group awards. Both accolades resulted from public nominations.

The pandemic has proved challenging for everyone. As a small independent charity-run venue, the Beehive has provided events and opportunities for the community whenever possible - practically and financially. Moving forward, there's all sorts of activities and events on offer so please give your continued support.

If you're looking for activities for young/emerging talent there are some great performing-arts groups like the Honiton Community Theatre Co. who will be recruiting for their summer show. Theatre Kidz have classes every Saturday and there's a friendly Folk café and Acoustic night in the café bar on 3rd Wednesday of each month plus dance classes for adults and young people with East Devon Dance Academy. There are monthly dementia-friendly, relaxed screenings of Nostalgic cinema, with subtitles and tea, biscuits and chat afterwards in the café. Many local organisations use the Beehive for events and fundraisers too.

There are some fab films coming up; Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren star in a comedy, based on a true story, about a Taxi driver who pinched a Goya painting from the National Portrait Gallery 'The Duke'(12A), then there's 'Ali and Ava'(15) Bradford's pitch perfect love story. The brilliant Mark Rylance and Sally Hawkins star in 'Phantom of the Open'(12A), a golf comedy with an unlikely hero that will make you laugh and cry. Then look out for the Downton and Fisherman's Friends sequels, plus National Theatre Live and Royal Opera House screenings.

Upcoming live music includes awesome young bands like Captain Accident & The Disasters - an energetic mix of ska, reggae and soul, Cornish Bluegrass with Flats & Sharps and the fabulous Noble Jacks hailed as the finest purveyors of folk-influenced Americana. In May, Cable Street Collective mix African-influenced guitars and beats with soulful female vocals, socially conscious lyrics and western melodies, creating an idiosyncratic alt-pop sound. Their sets are guaranteed to get everyone to their feet! The Beehive is an ideal safe venue for first forays to see young festival bands at standing gigs for young people who haven't had the chance to get out much over the last two years. There's always a friendly welcome!

In addition, you can see big folk favourites such as Show of Hands, Fairport Convention, St Agnes Fountain and local lads, Joe and Cole in India Electric Co. Tony Christie is coming in June with his full band as a warm up prior to playing Glastonbury - Is this the way to Amarillo? I hear you say!

There's also some excellent tribute bands playing. Get your dancing shoes on for Take a Chance on Us - Abba tribute, Genesis Visible Touch, The Darkside of Pink Floyd, Voodoo Room-Hendrix & Cream tribute, The Alter Eagles and Unravelling Wilburys.

Over the summer, there are plans for 'Meet me at the Beehive' afternoons to restart along with children's workshops and a return of the science and arts 'Festival of Imagination' on July 15th and 16th. A Young Creatives scheme and Beehive youth takeover are planned for October.

Pop in for a flyer, check out the website www.beehivehoniton.co.uk and sign up for the monthly email newsletter and most of all, enjoy your community venue!

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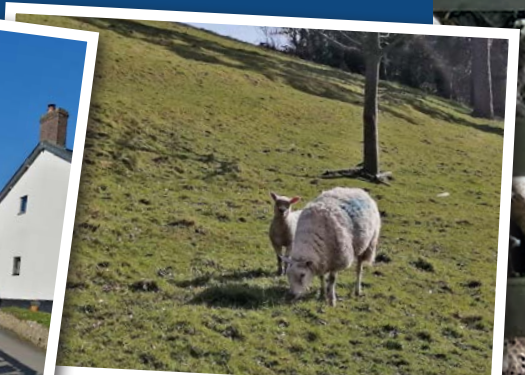
THE HONITON FLYER VISITS OFFWELL.

On a gorgeous, sunny Spring afternoon we set off from Colyton Cross on the eastern edge of Offwell. We took the "unmetalled" section of Featherbed Lane, northwest. This is rough underfoot with evidence of a stream running along its course. High banks and hedges either side, but a real feeling of age and antiquity. Emerging at the top at a crossroads, it is best to turn left onto Fern Lane. (Continuing straight ahead leads to the main A35).

Fern Lane quickly takes you into the village centre, with the school and church. We turned right at the school to explore the village. On the corner is a replica Saxon cross erected in 1830 by Reverend Edward Copleston, Bishop of Llandaff, and Dean of St Pauls, who lived at Offwell House. Continue along the village street, keeping the churchyard on your left. Soon the lodge and entrance to Offwell House appears on the left. Built by The Copleston family, whose historic association with Offwell goes back 100s of years. Bearing right and climbing through the village, you soon arrive at the second lodge to Offwell House, on the left, and a charming haycart on the right, welcoming visitors to Offwell from the direction of Honiton.



We then retraced our steps to the church of St Mary The Virgin. This is worthy of a 10 minute detour, and has more information on the Copleston family. Of particular note, records in the church show that the Copleston family had an unbroken succession of Rectors at Offwell from 1773 until 1954 – 0ne hundred and eighty one years!

We turned down the lane beside the church, stopping to admire the ancient steps leading from the churchyard lytch-gate. This lane descends past the original vicarage (built by the Coplestons), and soon we encountered a footpath on the left. We followed this up, diagonally across some parkland to a clump of trees. Looking back from here, there are wonderful views of the village of Offwell. The footpath led through a copse, emerging into a field on the otherside. We followed the contour, and crossed 2 more fields before encountering 2 stiles which took us down into an ancient lane. This had been improved recently with the insertion of a concrete channel. Algae was growing beneath the water in places, making this potentially very slippery. The track descended gradually to a lane, emerging opposite a house called "Kenhill". We followed the lane ahead to Colwell Barton, turning left at the crossroads into North Combe Road. This is a tarmac road, taking us past farm buildings, with far-reaching views to the south towards Colyton.

After 2 stiff climbs, we were back on Colyton Road.

Distance? 3.5 miles

Duration? 2 hours.

Difficulty? Medium.

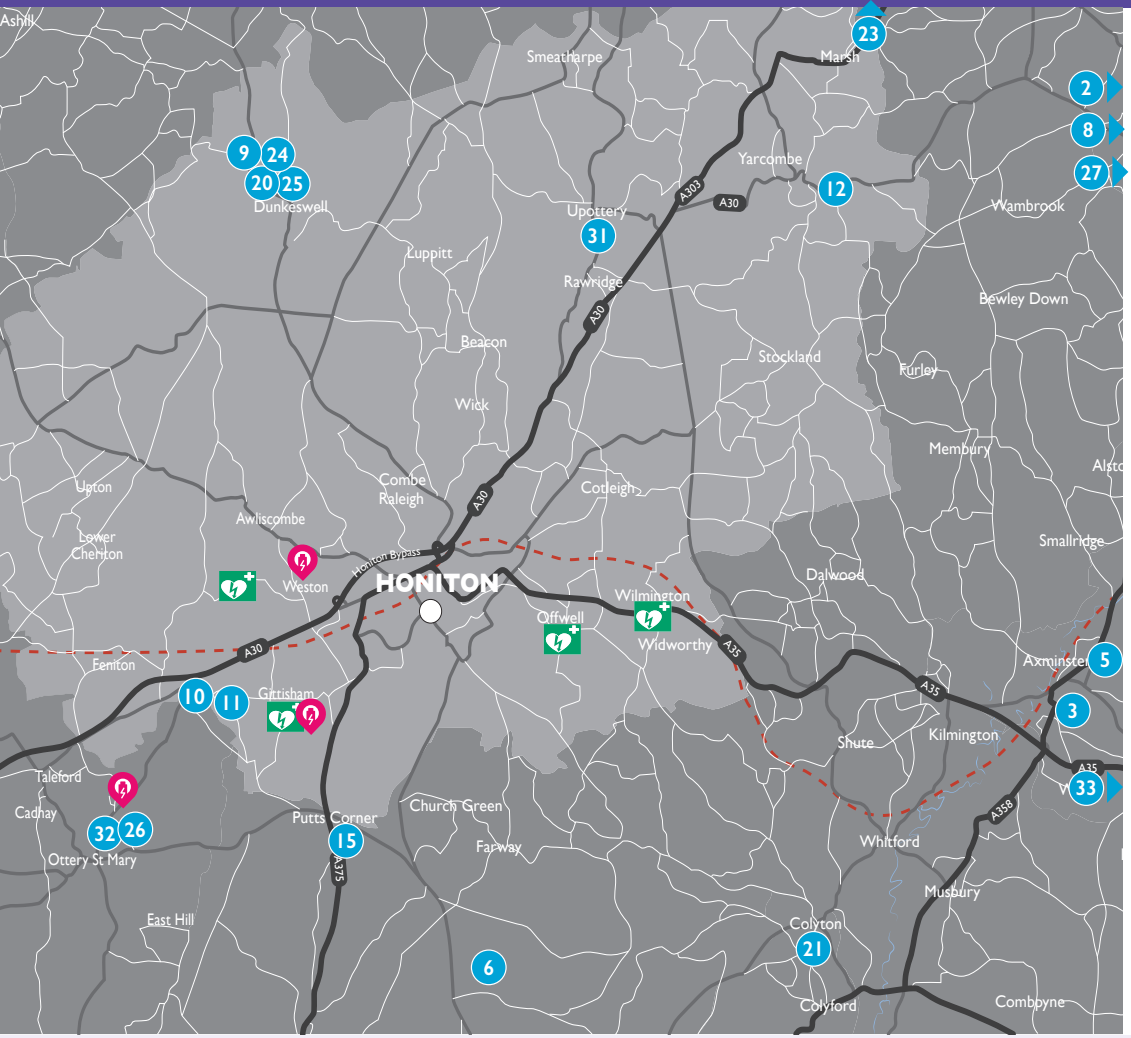
Footwear? Good walking boots.

Dogs? Always on leads.

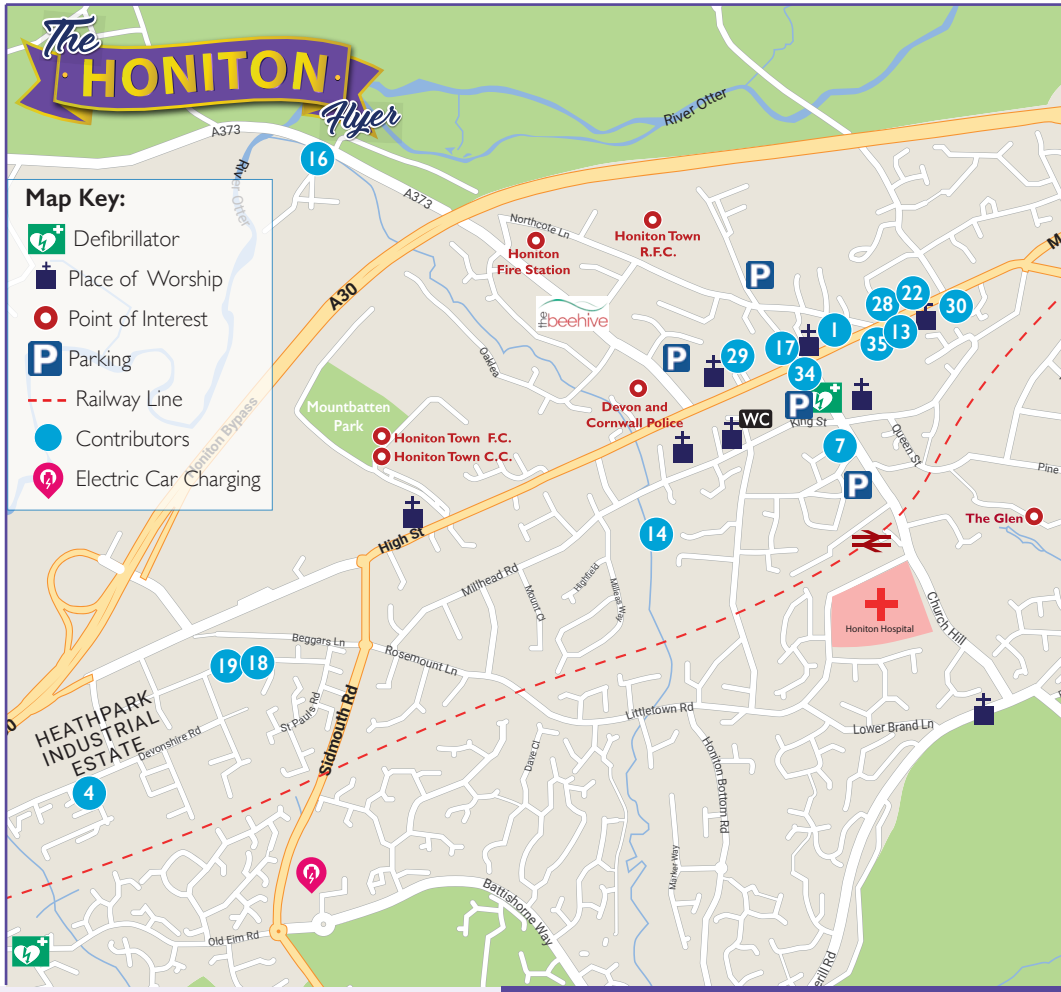
Map? Not necessary if you follow these directions.

Getting to Offwell. By public transport, there is a bus stop on the A35 at Mount Pleasant. There is no public carpark in the village of Offwell, which is why we parked in Colyton Road.

EX14 AREA MAP



HONITON TOWN MAP



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HONITON LIONS CLUB MOLE SCREENING DAY

May 21st 2022 from 9:00am - 1:00pm

At the Mackarness Hall (beside St. Pauls Church) in Honiton

Cost to each patient £5, Lions will match this donation and all proceeds will be split equally and donated to Cancer Research UK and Hospiscare

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Honiton Lions have held three very successful mole screening days during the last few years. As they have been so popular, and well attended, the Lions have decided to arrange a further screening day, in Honiton, on Saturday May 21st, 2022.

The event will take place, between 9am and 1pm at the Mackarness hall and the medical examinations will be undertaken by Dr Tony Downs a consultant dermatologist and doctors from Honiton Surgery,

Examination's cost £10 but those who take part only pay £5 each, the other £5 will be met from the Lions. All the proceeds from the event will be shared by Hospiscare and Cancer Research UK.

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Fowler's offer a free weekly delivery service of their tasty eggs to pubs/ restaurants, cafes, residential homes etc all over East Devon and as far as Exeter. As well as this, Fowler's currently deliver their famous eggs to over 600 domestic houses in these areas too and have done since the first lockdown hit.

Fowler's quirky farm shop has recently been renovated and inside you can find chutneys, cakes, cheeses, veg, logs and more! All locally sourced of course!

If you're lucky enough to attend Honiton Street Market, Fowler's proudly hold a stall there every Tuesday and Saturday outside Costa where you can buy their 'day old' eggs and browse the other local produce.

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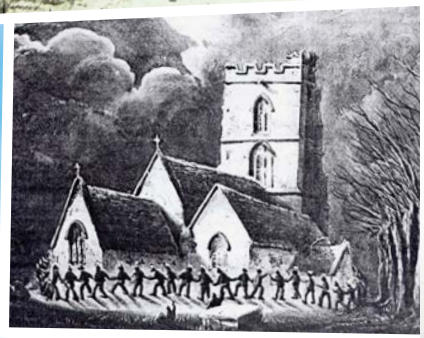

As Easter fast approaches we may all be looking forward to hunting around the garden for eggs hidden by the famous bunny, and then gorging ourselves on the copious amounts of chocolate housed within. Yet in Honiton's past the religious, and maybe more so, the superstitious elements of the festival were practised. Many of the religious days of the year were marked by feasting or parties in a time when the church had much more influence over people's lives.

At Easter a special cake was also prepared. During Lent, the run up to Easter, the women of the town were expected to attend church in black. On Easter Monday children mounted Church Hill to 'clip' the parish church of St Michael's. This was done by everyone holding hands until an unbroken circle was formed around the church.

"The ceremony was performed amid crowds of people and shouts of joy, by the children of the different charity schools who, at a certain hour flocked together for the purpose, the first comers placed themselves hand in hand with their backs against the church and were joined by their companions who gradually increased in number till at last the chain was of significant length to completely surround the edifice as soon as the hand of the first had touched that of the first the party broke up and walked in procession to the next church where the ceremony was repeated."

The term 'clipping' comes from the Anglo-Saxon 'clippen' meaning 'embrace fondly'. If this ceremony was not performed it was believed the whole parish would have 12 months of bad luck.

Work by candle light was also suspended at Easter time as an old rhyme stated "be the Easter high or low, out the candle we must blow."

Easter Monday would also have seen the once popular attraction of a bull being baited in the High Street. That said, maybe it is a good thing that on Easter Monday today we simply enjoy chocolate eggs!

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Steve's son Andy now heads up the showroom, with expert help from their team of advisors, designers and installers.

A recent addition to the portfolio of products are spas and hot tubs. The showroom for these is in an adjoining unit, with fully working spas on display for customers to try.

All projects are completely customer-led. Firstly the team meet the client and establish their requirements. Much inspiration comes from the variety of displays in the showroom at Honiton Tiles and Bathrooms. Then a site visit by Steve, followed by a fairly intense session deciding the most appropriate layout and materials, and fittings. Then comes the presentation to the client, which may result in amendments and revisions. Hopefully the next stage is supply and installation, followed up by aftersales service and guidance.

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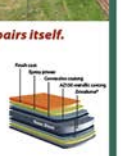

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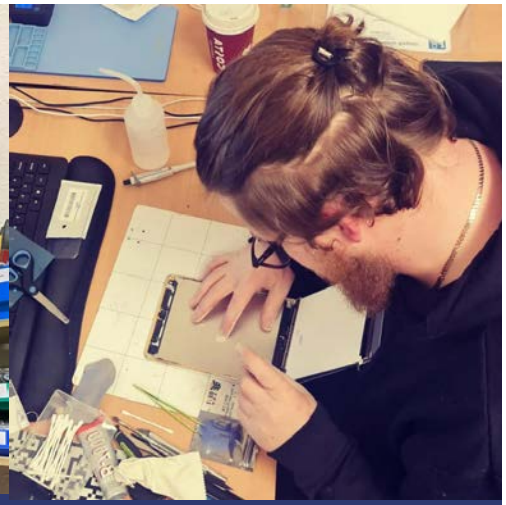

Somerset Media Solutions was first established on the 30th of September 2013 as a small family run business along Holyrood Street.

The current Managing Director, **Will Smith**, started off doing ad-hoc web design work and computer repairs. As business picked up SMS moved to their current High Street location at number 2.

Since then, SMS has grown rapidly and has quickly become a multi-award-winning computer and phone repair company, and a staple of the community.

Tyler Rose has been with SMS since 2018 and in early 2022, became the Managing Director of SMS iPhone Repairs. Tyler is an expert in his field and can repair almost any phone, tablet and console. He only uses high-quality parts, ensuring all his repairs are of the best quality.

SMS prides itself on contributing as much as it can to the community and provides reliable, friendly and professional services for all. They are proud to be well-known for their excellent customer service and a business that always keeps their customer in the loop.

As well as providing services for the people of Chard, SMS offers discounts for local businesses and they work closely with charities such as SPAEDA, Action Aid and Chard Museum.

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MYSTERIES & HISTORIES AROUND OFFWELL

The unmetalled Featherbed Lane

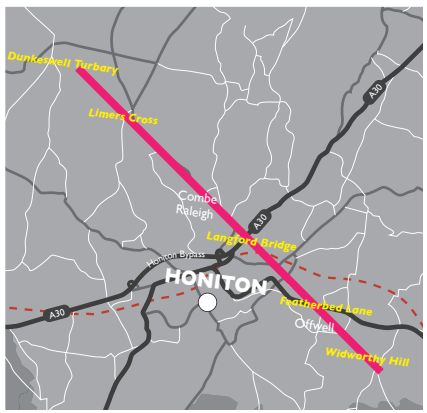
From where did the delightful village of Offwell receive it's name? Romantic history suggests the name was derived from the well adjacent to Offwell School, historically named Offa's Well. Offa was the Anglo-Saxon king of Mercia from AD 757 until 796. Offa's Dyke - a series of earthworks and defences dating from that era - broadly follows the boundary between England and Wales.

On the corner of Offwell School playground stands the 19th century reproduction Celtic pinnacle, erected by Rev Edward Copleston in 1830 to commemorate the murder of Bishop Putta of Tawton, in 910 ad at Copplestone, Mid-Devon. Hence the long association with village benefactors the Coplestons.

The Copleston family arrived in the parish in the late 18th Century and provided an unbroken succession of its Rectors from 1773 to 1954, with notable Rectors including The Reverend John Copleston, and The Reverend Edward Copleston. During their lengthy period in the village, generation after generation of Coplestons improved and modernised, investing considerable sums of money for the benefit of the village and parish. The current village school, the former rectory and the tower (the latter visible from the A35) all form part of the Copleston "vision" for Offwell.

Offwell House was built in 1830, and soon became the home of Rev Edward Copleston, the village benefactor at the time.

The network of lanes in and around Offwell are quite fascinating. From Colyton Cross, Featherbed Lane heads northwest as an "unmetalled road". The raised stoney/paved area on the right hand side suggests this was originally constructed for use by packhorses.
An extension of this lane crosses the A35 at Mount Pleasant, and viewing this on an Ordnance Survey map, there is an alignment with the ancient crossing over the River Otter at Langford Bridge, past Combe Hill towards Dunkeswell and Limers Cross. Then on the same alignment near Wolford Chapel, there is a tumulus and row barrow at Dunkeswell Turbary.



In the other direction from Colyton Cross, the general straightness of Colyton Road to the south again indicates its age, and it terminates on Widworthy Hill – the site of ancient earthworks.

So is this a very early "straight-track", linking Widworthy Hill with the plateau at Dunkeswell Turbary?

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