

**Our last Parish council meeting was held on Wednesday September 10<sup>th</sup> at the Village Hall.**

**Following requests from parishioners, we had an agenda item to discuss weed control in the village.**

**In 2023 we had agreed to suspend the use of Glyphosate and look at alternative methods, and to contact Cotford St Luke Parish Council and Somerset County Council to get information on their tactics. We found that manual removal is cost prohibitive and other chemicals are just not effective, and it appears that Somerset Council and most of our neighbouring Parish Councils use Glyphosate.**

**We need to decide if we are going to reinstate the use of Glyphosate, and if so, how often and where would it be used. The Clerk will produce a policy document for the next meeting.**

**The Parish Council will soon be looking to recruit an assistant Clerk, to work alongside our current clerk, David.**

**Initially for 12 hours per week, no previous experience necessary as full training is available, if you would like more information, please email [clerk@bishopslydeardparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bishopslydeardparishcouncil.gov.uk).**

**The agendas and minutes from all of the meetings are on our website, all members of the public are welcome to attend the meetings, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at The Village Hall.**

**I noticed on Facebook someone had been interested in the Fives Wall and I have discovered some interesting info about it...**

Pubs often spawned various rowdy games. Here in the car park of the Lethbridge Arms is a tall, brick wall or tower - used for the game of Fives a type of hand tennis.

There are several reports that such games took place against churches and were ordered away due to damage to the church and “much



wickedness, swearing, quarrelling and fighting in the churchyard”. The players made use of other walls and some were specifically made for play, such as this one. Sir Thomas Lethbridge (1778-1849) arranged for this one to be built, close to the beer.

**The Lethbridge Arms** was originally called the Gore Inn, named after Gore Square on which it stands. By the late eighteenth century, it was known by locals simply as the Ale House.

Sir Thomas Lethbridge built a fives court there and was a frequent visitor for a game and for the spectacle of cock fighting and wrestling.

Before the end of the nineteenth century, after Sir Wroth Ackland Lethbridge had returned to Sandhill, it became the Lethbridge Arms and has remained this ever since.

The Inn also housed Bishops Lydeard's first library from 1808 - 1860. Gentlemen subscribed to buy books which were then lent out to members.

The Inn also served as the monthly Magistrates Court up to the middle of the 1800's.

‘During its time as a courthouse, the guilty were hung outside and taken onto the Quantocks by horse and cart. It was rumoured that you could hear the ghost cart traveling up the lane behind Cothelstone manor. Dr Woodgate-jones senior heard it when riding back from the hunt, his horse bolted and didn't stop until they reached the church.

