

PITCOMBE NEWS

APRIL



A Royal Easter:

Fabergé egg belonging to George V & Queen Mary

2011

APRIL AT A GLANCE

Friday 1	Refuse & Recycling Collection Farmers' Market	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe Wincanton, Memorial Hall 9am-12pm
Sunday 3	9.30 am Mothering Sunday	St Leonard's, Pitcombe
Tuesday 5	Hadspen Lecture	Hadspen Village Hall
Friday 8	Recycling Collection	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe
Saturday 9	Farmers' Market	Frome, Cheese & Grain 9am-1pm
Sunday 10	11.00 am Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Pitcombe
Tuesday 12	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	Hadspen Village Hall
Friday 15	Refuse & Recycling collec- tion	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe
Sunday 17	9.30 am Cluster Service 11.00 am All Age Service	St Leonard's, Pitcombe St Mary's, Bruton
Friday 22	Good Friday No Recycling Collection	
Saturday 23	Easter Saturday Farmers' Market	Glastonbury St John's Car park 9am-1pm
Sunday 24	Easter Sunday 11.00 Easter Service	St Leonard's, Pitcombe
Friday 29	Royal Wedding! No Refuse Collection	

Pitcombe News

Informative, Invaluable in Cole, Hadspen & Pitcombe

hadspencottage@btinternet.com

The month promises more chocolate and bank holidays than are strictly necessary. Thanks to His (and soon-to-be Her) Royal Highness it seems the school holidays are set to end when May half-term is only days away. As the garden races away with the unseasonal warmth, already it may be time to wield the weed-killer. Maybe it can also keep at bay the sugar-crazy children and the in-laws, now circling, with the expectation of holiday hospitality in their eyes.

To channel those chocolate endorphins we should all commit ourselves to David Jury's circuit, in Dunstan's footsteps, around Baltonsborough, the first of a series of historical tours offered by the parish's expert in riverside routes (pp. 8-9). Alternatively, a calming influence may be offered by the yoga classes soon to begin at Hadspen Village Hall, as advertised here by Jim Linden (pp. 6, 13)

We may be glad of such relaxation techniques, as we work frantically to meet the rigid efficiency of the weekly recycling collection: now in Hadspen Valley every Friday at 7am sharp and not a milli-second later. Of course, we should not carp, since it will soon be more difficult to dispose of more substantial waste, as well as to make our way from A to B (or, if you prefer, from Shepton to Wells) by public transport (see p. 5).

Next month we will be busy with elections— don't forget to select your parish councillors — and that time-honoured augury of summer, the Hadspen Plant Sale. In the meantime, if you are in need of a diversion during those bleak bank-holiday hours, please do put finger to keyboard and send us your responses to our searching questionnaire for *Pitcombe People*. It will be the ideal antidote to your unvaried diet of cocoa solids and royal glamour.

Pitcombe People

We know that you long to step into the spotlight so be sure to beat the rush and call or email to contribute your own answers to our searching questions and you will be known for ever after as one of the Pitcome People!

PERSONAL PROFILE

Name: Kathryn Moon

Age (or 'vintage' if you prefer): early 60s

Place of Birth: Tredegar, Monmouthshire

Family members: husband Peter, sons David and Chris, daughters-in-law Frances and Susan, daughter Sian and grandson Dylan

Occupation: retired teacher

PITCOMBE AND YOU

How long have you lived in the parish? About 24 years

What brought you to Pitcombe?

We liked the house and the children didn't want to move too far from Bruton

Do you have a favourite place (e.g. building, view-point, walk) in the parish?

We like it all, there's always somewhere to go depending on the energy levels at the time.

Do you have a favourite hostelry, restaurant, or shop in the vicinity of the parish?

I spend a morning every week helping at "Brainwave" which I enjoy very much

And my best story of the recent snow and ice was... just glad it's behind me!

Any particular plans or projects for 2011? De-cluttering

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

Please state your preferences from each of the following options:

Bath or shower? Shower

Luxury chocolates or selection of local cheeses? Tasty cheddar followed by dark chocolate

Ipod or paperback? Paperback

Cat or dog (or neither)? Cat

Bruton or Castle Cary? Bruton

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Pitcombe Parish Council met on 8 March at Hadspen Village Hall.

Planning application

The council considered an application from the governors of Sexey's school for the creation of a new 32-space car-park and connecting service road on its site adjoining Cole Road (A359). Councillors agreed the application (11/00373/FUL) could not be supported because it brought further development to an already crowded site, represented significant intrusion upon neighbouring Lisbury Cottage and adversely affected the public footpath that crosses the site.

Traffic management

Councillor John Knight reported that equipment to monitor traffic speeds on the lane from Hadspen to Cole will shortly be installed.

County Council Cuts

The county continues to wield its austerity scythe:

Bus Services: Details of the changes to bus services as a consequence of budgetary cuts for 2011/12 are now available on the SCC website. To access this information go to the SCC homepage (<http://www.somerset.gov.uk/irj/public/home>) and enter into the search box: *bus service changes*.

Recycling Centre: Budgetary cuts will also bring changes to the services provided by Somerset's recycling centres. Our own facility at Dimmer will now be open at the following times:

Mon: 8am-7pm; Tues/Wed: 8am-4pm; Thurs/Fri: Closed; Sat: 8am-4pm; Sun: 8am-1pm

For further information visit the Pitcombe parish webpages: <http://www.pitcombepc.org.uk/>

James Clark

Hadspen Village Hall

With the spring bulbs fading we await the magnificent display of apple blossom in and around the Hall car park and Hadspen valley. A steady month of activities:

The Italian Renaissance Art Course Part II completed its final session. Although this course was well supported it only attracted a few local residents, so Part III will be presented at a different venue in the autumn. All regular activities continue.



A very social and successful Bridge Club day was held and a three course lunch served. Whilst Tuesday evening's keep fit class is still hoping for some new joiners, a new Friday morning Yoga class is due to commence on 29 April. We have been successful with our application to Viridor Waste Management for a major grant towards the hall acoustics project i.e. fitting of sound absorbent ceiling tiles. Money was also donated by the Parish Council and matched by the District Council. The Hall will fund the remainder of the costs and the project will be managed by the Hall trustees. The installation will commence on 31 May and take five days to complete. The Hall will be closed during this period. On completion of the work a noticeable improvement in audio quality is anticipated. Encouraged by good local support shown on the Somerset Rivers presentation, we will invite a Somerset and Dorset railway enthusiast to give a presentation on the old S&D line that passed through the parish. Subject to availability this will take place early September. Future events:

Thursday 5 May - The Hall has been booked for use as a Polling Station for the Local Council Election & UK Referendum.

Saturday 7th May - Annual Hadspen Plant Sale

Saturday 11 June - Art Workshop

Starting Tuesday 27 September - 10 week Painting and Drawing Course.

If you are interested in supporting your local hall, or joining the committee, please contact me or visit our web site haspenvillagehall.org for further information.

Jim Linden
6 *Chairman Trustees 01749 813145*

Hadspen & Shepton Montague Women's Institute

The annual February birthday celebration was held at the Stag's Head at Yarlinton this year where members enjoyed an excellent lunch. March 14th saw a return to the usual second Monday of the month evening meetings, the first one taking place at Shepton Montague Village Hall at 7.30pm. The Secretary read the minutes of the afternoon January meeting when Mrs Hiro Tatabashi gave a fascinating demonstration of Origami. After running through County News the President reminded members about the Group Meeting to be held on Thursday, 19th May at 7.30pm at Hadspen Village Hall when the speaker will be Mr Terry Stanford who will be talking about advances in forensic science entitled 'Who do you think they were?'. Members were asked to bring 1 plate of savoury and 1 plate of sweet food each. Other diary dates are 20th August - Coffee morning at the Market House, Castle Cary and Thursday, 29th September - Group social evening entitled 'Poetry, Prose and Puds'. The president then asked members to remember to support the trading stall to help WI branch funds. She then introduced Mrs Sheena Holloway who gave a most interesting account of her life working and living in Saudi Arabia. Sheena married her American husband in 1980 and immediately moved with him to the Lockheed compound in Saudi Arabia where they lived until 1986. In addition to the normal visa requirement, women also had to have an additional one to show who they 'belonged' to! On leaving Saudi they also needed an exit visa. Life was very different, the temperature was sweltering by day and freezing cold at night. When she left the compound she was required to wear a black gown to cover up and also to cover her head. There were no international telephones so to ring home she had to travel to the airport. Driving was horrendous but shopping amazing! At that time women weren't allowed to drive or work (the only exception being nursing or teaching) however she was eventually able to work for the American Embassy in the Consulate carrying out the first interviews for people wanting visas to go to the States. During her time there she was privileged to be able to visit Medina and the Nabatean tombs which were quite incredible. Sheena concluded by showing a beautiful Saudi wedding dress she had been given which was embossed in gold and a stunning gown again embossed with gold filigree work. She has many happy memories of her life there despite the culture differences. A most interesting evening concluded with tea and biscuits. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 26th April at 7.15pm and is a joint meeting with Castle Cary WI to be held in Castle Cary.

Carole Wyatt

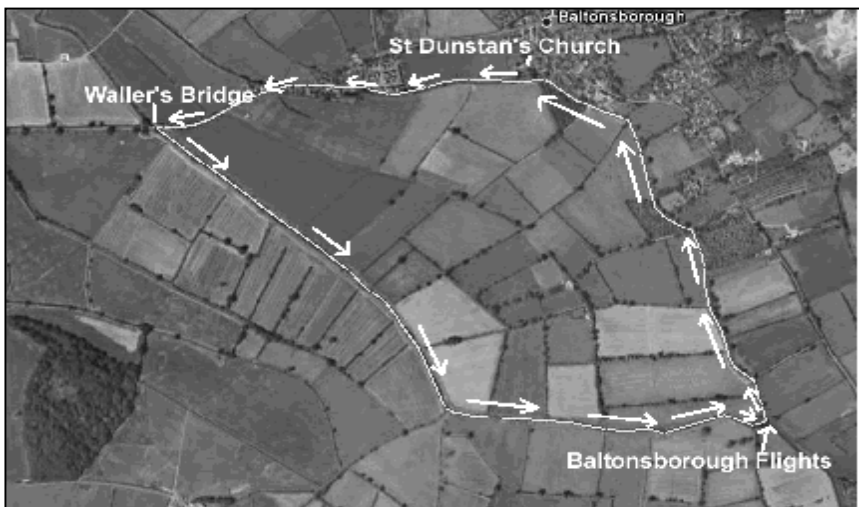
SOMERSET RIVER WALKS

The River Brue and the Baltonsborough Mill Stream

This is a relatively easy circular walk of close to 2.5 miles, mostly on level ground. The start point for the walk is Waller's Bridge (there are a couple of pull ins for parking the car). To find Waller's Bridge by car follow Church Lane from the crossroads in the centre of Baltonsborough.

From the south side of Waller's Bridge cross over the stile for the restricted byway on the east bank of the river Brue. The first part of the walk takes you along the bank of the river Brue, in a generally southerly direction, to reach a small weir after a distance of close to 1 kilometre (0.7 miles). Still following the river bank, the path turns to the east to reach Baltonsborough Flights, the walk will now have covered close to 2 kilometres (1.2 miles).

Take a rest here to view Baltonsborough Flights. This weir was originally constructed in the 13th century to take water from the river Brue for a mill stream to provide water to power Baltonsborough Mill. The weir was rebuilt in 1840.



From the weir, the path turns to the north to follow the west bank of the Baltonsborough Mill Stream to reach St. Dunstan's Church after a further 1.3 kilometres (0.8 miles). On the journey to the church note the delightful stone bridges that cross the mill stream and also the old apple orchard on the east bank of the mill stream.

Cross the stone bridge opposite St Dunstans Church. St Dunstan was born in Baltonsborough in 909 and became Abbot of Glastonbury and then Archbishop of Canterbury. He was an important monastic reformer and was responsible for changing the coronation by making it a sacred act similar to the consecration of priests and this ceremony still forms the basis of today's royal coronations. Pevsner describes the church as being of no particular architectural interest. But do take the time to note the weather vane on the tower constructed by a local blacksmith in the early part of the 19th century, and the unusual gateway into the church.

Once across the bridge the path follows the north bank of the mill stream to pass behind the gardens of residential housing estate where once stood a tannery and then cider mill. The footpath exits on to Mill Street, turn left and follow Mill Street past Baltonsborough Mill, now a private dwelling, continuing over Nogger's Bridge which carries Mill Street over the mill stream, and then on to Waller's Bridge to complete the walk. This last section of the walk from the church back to Waller's Bridge is just under 1 kilometre (0.5 miles).

Waller's bridge was known as Baltonsborough bridge in 1686 and as Wallgate bridge in the 18th century, was rebuilt in 1723, again in 1799 and in 1972 was replaced by the existing stone, concrete, and iron road bridge.

David Jury

Advance notice

There will be an open garden (with cream teas) at Honeywick House on 25 June 2011 to raise funds for the parish celebrations planned for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. *Camilla Carter*

It's a fact that one in three people in the UK develops cancer or other potentially life-limiting illnesses, so it's wonderful to know that when you or a loved one needs specialist palliative care in Somerset, it's here – free of charge.

At St. Margaret's Hospice we aim to help people get the most out of the time they have. We often describe our work as 'putting life into days'. In fact, most of the 8,000 people we help each year don't face imminent death but are helped to improve their quality of life while living with illness. We help their families too, by providing a wide range of assistance from money management advice to bereavement counselling.

So, it's not difficult to understand the tremendous value of the care that St. Margaret's provides to the people of Somerset, but this extraordinary level of care is highly dependent on the generosity of local people like you. Many are surprised when they realise that less than 20% of St. Margaret's income comes from the NHS.

I would like to invite you to become a 'Sunflower Supporter' by donating from as little as £5 each month to St. Margaret's to help bring hope to local people in your area who really need it. The Sunflower, a bright ambitious flower, is the inspiration for hospices all across the UK as we strive to bring light into what could otherwise be dark times. I'd be delighted if you would **complete the donation form on the opposite page and return it to me**. I will take care of the rest and even send you a sunflower lapel badge to wear with pride!

I look forward with anticipation to your response.

Yours faithfully



Dave Mann
Fundraising Development Manager

PS. If you are unable to commit to a regular donation but would like to make a one-off gift you can donate £3 now from your mobile phone! Simply text **HAPPY** to **70300**.



Standing Order Mandate

Please complete and return to: St. Margaret's Sunflower Supporters, Heron Drive, Bishops Hull, Taunton TA1 5HA

(Please print clearly)

I wish to donate £5 £10 £15 Other £..... by Standing Order each month.

Starting on the day of (month) 20..... until further notice.

Name of Bank Bank address.....

Account No.

Sort code - -

Signature

My title (Mr. Mrs. Dr.)

Name

Address

..... Post Code

Telephone No. Mobile No

Email

Official use only

Pay to: St. Margaret's Somerset Hospice
Barclays Bank plc, 46 North Street
Taunton, TA1 1LZ
Account No. 40773883
Sort Code. 20-85-26

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK taxpayer and would like to make your donation worth an extra 28p for every £1, at no extra cost, please sign and date the declaration below.

I am a UK taxpayer and I would like St. Margaret's Hospice (Charity No. 279473) to treat all donations I made for the four years prior to this year, and all donations I make in the future, as Gift Aid until I notify you otherwise.

For St. Margaret's to collect the tax, you must pay the equivalent of UK Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax equal to the tax being reclaimed in the appropriate year and inform the charity if you no longer do so, or if you change your name or home address.

Declaration

Please treat gifts of money that I make to St. Margaret's Hospice today and in the future as Gift Aid donations:

Title Initial(s) Name

Date Signature

Please notify St. Margaret's Hospice if you:

1. Want to cancel this declaration. 2. Change your name or address. 3. No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay income tax at the higher rate, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return if you want to receive the additional tax relief due to you.

Thank you.

Your support is greatly appreciated by all the patients, families and staff at St. Margaret's Hospice.

St. Margaret's
HOSPICE

Charity No. 279473

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Doing the rounds at the moment, according to the police, is a company calling itself CIS. Representatives are making telephone calls to arrange an appointment to visit and discuss home security at a cost of £1. Too good to be true? Of course. Beware. Should you be contacted by them or receive any phone call that does not ring true, phone the police on 0845 456 7000 or you can call anonymously the independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111.



*Susan Chamberlain
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator*

Young Pitcombe

The sponsored skip on 19 March was great fun. It was a lovely afternoon. The skipping was quite hard work so we did bouncing on the trampoline as well. Thank you to James, Adam and Rose Beedle for helping. We raised £35 for the Haiti appeal.

Eleanor Clark

Hadspen plant sale

plants
plants
and even more plants
are needed for the hadspen plant sale

What with early snow, late frost and even later warmth we need as many plants as we can get our hands on for the sale. **SO**, if you are dividing or even buy something that doesn't quite fit after all, think of us.

Put them in clean pots (it increases saleability no end) and bring them to HVH on Friday May 6. A label or note as to what it actually is, would *be good*.

Local services

Hartnell & Son Ltd

Building Contractors

Cole, Nr. Bruton

Tel: 01749 812996

Mobile: 07733 321280

All building works undertaken, extensions, re-furbishments, repairs and maintenance.

Contact Neville Hartnell for a quotation.

"No job is too small"

IVENGAR YOGA

I am starting a new weekly yoga class in the hall on Fridays commencing on April 29th, 10 - 11.30 pm. If you think this might interest you, for an excellent summary of what characterizes Iyengar Yoga and what its benefits are, have a look at www.yoganetwork.co.uk This new class will be suitable for beginners or those who already have some experience of yoga and men and women of all ages are welcome. If you would like to come, please wear comfortable clothing such as leggings or shorts which leave ankles and feet free and bring your own sticky yoga mat and a wool or cotton blanket if possible. The cost is £5 per class if paying half - termly or £6 if paying weekly. Please contact me, Barbara Saunders, on 01749 812980 to book a place or if you would like more information or advice.

inspiration

Below is Bishop Peter's letter to the parish. We are conscious that there are many sources of inspiration...and also acutely aware that some of our own (red wine, chocolate) are not especially deep. If you have suggestions for a rousing or restorative text, image, or something else that might raise our spirits do let us know.

Let us take up God's invitation to live life courageously

When my children were much younger they couldn't work out why it wasn't possible to have Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday all in the same week! I have to say there were moments in my time as a Parish Priest when I wished that could have been the case. But think what I might have missed. Those forty days of Lent are when we're invited to pay attention to the things of God within us and around us because so often in the rest of the year we don't.

We are all familiar with the story of Moses and the burning bush, but reflect on it again just for a moment. The bush wasn't right in front of Moses. It was over to the side somewhere, because when Moses saw it, he said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight'. Because he turned aside and didn't rush on, he saw God. I hope that, during these forty days, we try to find some time to turn aside and pay attention to the God who is at work in us, at work in the people we meet and at work in the communities where we live and work and serve.

If all these days were compressed together, I'd have also missed the experience of Holy Week. I often wonder whether 'holy' is too religious a word for this deeply significant week in our faith story. Perhaps it would be better described as 'courage week', because we all need courage to be steadfast in the face of suffering and death, in the face of disappointment, heartache or lack of hope. Much of the time we struggle to do it, but courage, writes Kierkegaard, 'is not the absence of despair and fear, but the capacity to move ahead in spite of them.' Courage is what the resurrection calls us to; the courage to insist that even in the midst of suffering, or conflict, or despair, not all is lost; the courage to hold to the hope we have in Christ no matter what. What I don't want to miss is God's invitation to me and to you to live more courageously, standing up for what is life-giving in our world, and standing against all that brings death, destruction and despair. Will the joyous conclusion to Holy Week that is Easter Day encourage us to live more in kindness and compassion, more in hope than in fear, resisting safety and security and embracing the risk of the adventure of life that God is inviting us to make?

+Peter Taunton

The **PITCOMBE NEWS** welcomes, and relies upon, contributions
from its readers

Articles for publication should be sent to the

EDITORS: James Clark and Katherine Lloyd Clark
hadspencottage@btinternet.com

Advertisements submitted by parish residents for local
businesses, services and events are welcomed.

Contact the editors for details of suggested donations.

**The DEADLINE for the MAY issue is
Wednesday 20 April**

Keep up to date at

www.pitcombepc.org.uk

THE PITCOMBE WEB SITE

for details of the Parish Council, Minutes etc.

details and bookings of Hadspen Village Hall

The PITCOMBE NEWS regrets any errors or omissions that may occur and will do its best to avoid them. The information contained within the NEWS is published in good faith. The views expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily endorsed by the PITCOMBE NEWS.



the
**hadspen
plant sale
is back**
saturday 7th may

10 am - 1 pm

and

FREE ADVICE

FROM OUR LOCAL GARDENING

EXPERTS

hadspen village hall

16

admission £1

tea/coffee/cakes