

Pitcombe News

We wish you a Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year

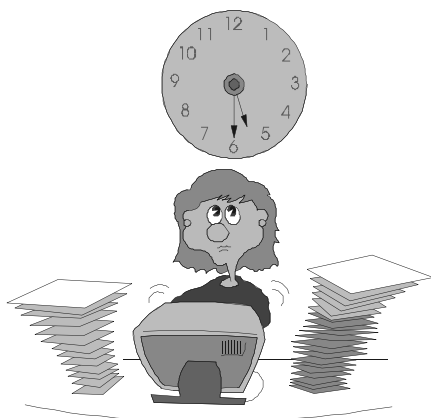


*Carol Service Friday 21 December 6.30pm
at St Leonard's Church, Pitcombe.*

December 2007

January 2008

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its readers.



Articles for publication should be sent to the
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**The DEADLINE for the February issue is
Friday 18 January 2008**



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

PITCOMBE NEWS

THANKS CONNIE

This is a sad day ... Connie Earl is retiring from the PITCOMBE NEWS. Ken Elliott and Connie started the Pitcombe Parish News, as it was originally called, in November 2000. For the first couple of months, the staff at Sexey's School set up the magazine and copied it, but by February 01, Connie had learnt how to set it up ready for copying. And she has been doing precisely that for the last 7 years which means she has put together 70 or so editions. In that time the magazine has grown from 8 to 20 (with an occasional burst to 24) pages — no mean achievement. It dropped "Parish" from its title in 2005 and has since become a more community based magazine.

Connie managed it on her own for a considerable time and not just the production either. There was the cajoling of various people to send articles and reports to her on time so that it could all be put together. And in the bad old days of course they were not e mailed, some were written by hand and so had to be deciphered and typed. Then there were the covers to be found, not only appropriate ones, but ones that would copy well. It all took time. Time away from other activities. And that is what Connie is going to do ... other things. She is not going to break her computer habit completely, that would be too much to expect after their twenty something years together. She will back from time to time with an article or to help at holiday time, so she is not gone and certainly will not be forgotten. So a huge thanks to Connie and our best wishes for a Happy Retirement ... again.

We reproduce this month, an article from one of the first editions of the PITCOMBE NEWS. You'll find it on page 6.

MORE PAEANS OF PRAISE ...

to those who write for us every month, particularly Maria Samuel, who is a great support, Carole Wyatt for keeping us up to date with the Village Hall, Mike Taylor for the Parish Council and Wendy Crane for the Churchwarden's notes. We've had a number of different contributors over the year, which is wonderful, thank you all so much,

please do keep the articles coming to make the magazine as varied as possible and by extension, a more interesting read. A few of the more regular writers include Ken and Jenny Elliott, Charles Brook, Camilla Carter, Andrew Drysdale, Willie Constantine — thank you all but please don't stop now!

Our grateful thanks to the Headmaster, Bursar and Liz McComish, in particular, for providing the cover page and copying the magazine for us at very reasonable rates and so willingly as well. Again they have been involved for seven years.

And many thanks to the stalwarts who deliver the magazine each month Kevin and Daniel Spratling, Georgina Hartnell, Wendy Crane, Ken and Jenny Elliott, Peter Wyatt and the newest member of the team Kathryn Moon.

A special thanks, or even a virtual thanks, must go to David Drury who includes the PITCOMBE NEWS on the excellent Parish Website he has put together. www.pitcombepc.org.uk.

Thank you all so muchyou may take December off. But don't be late in January!
Susan Chamberlain

Merry Christmas Everyone



MOTIVATION CHRISTMAS CARDS

Good quality Christmas cards for 2007 and 2006 (reduced to £2.50 for pack of 10) are now available from Jean Constantine (01749 813103)
1, Old Staton Lane, Cole.

PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

As the result of a grant application in 2005, Pitcombe Parish Council has made payments to The Hadspen Village Hall Rebuilding Fund from the precept over the past two years.

The council was approached in October by The Trustees of Hadspen Village Hall for a new grant for The Hadspen Village Hall Rebuilding Fund - Phase 2 (The Car Park). This requirement has arisen, Peter Wyatt explained in his application letter and presentation, because after the Big Lottery had turned down a bid for a grant the Trustees were advised to split the rebuilding project into two phases and then re-apply to SSDC, among others, for funding. It is a requisite of SSDC that, before a grant is considered, it must be backed by the local Parish Council.

At the PPC meeting on 13 November and after much deliberation during the previous PPC meeting and many discussions between the meetings (both verbally & by email) the council decided to grant a sum of £3100 towards The Hadspen Village Hall Rebuilding Fund (Phase 2). The decision was decided by a majority vote (5 to 1 with one abstention due to declaration of interest).

There are 185 adjusted band D equivalent dwellings in the parish. This will mean a donation of £16.75 per household via the precept for the financial year 2008/9. The council will not be paying the normal £460 maintenance grant to the hall this year so the extra cost per household for Hadspen Village Hall will be £14.27.

The council did not take this decision lightly and realise that this is an imposed donation. However, it was felt by the majority of the councillors that the parish should support the application, particularly after the fund-raising had come so far.

On behalf of Pitcombe Parish Council, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 11th December**
at The Centenary Room, Bruton School for Girls.

Councillor Mike Taylor, Chairman

THE PARISH OF PITCOMBE

When I was delivering the first issue (November 2000) a parishoner stopped me and asked me why I was delivering a Pitcombe magazine to someone who lived in Bruton. I spent several minutes convincing this person that their house was well within the boundaries of Pitcombe. I remember also at the last General Electuion, standing outside the polling station at Hadspen being asked why Bruiton people had to vote there. Again I had to convince them that they were residents in the electoral area of Pitcombe.

As there are several new residents here, it might be an idea to define the area of the Parish. It is, of course, an unusual Parish. On the Cole Road, the Parish commences as soon as the main buildings of Sexey's School are passed and continues right through to Hadspen House and along the Wincanton Road to Shatwell, which adjoins Yarlington. Coming from Castle Cary, the Parish commences very close to the Wagon and Horses and includes Lower and Higher Hadspen and through to Cole.

The Parish therefore consists of the hamlets of Pitcombe, Cole and Hadspen, the Cole Road including the Bruton School for Girls and two boarding houses of Sexey's School, Hadspen House and the houses around it, Shatwell going towards Yarlington, the eastern side of the Wyke Road between Castle Cary and Wyke, Grove, including Grove Farm, Gant's Mill and Godminster.

When the 1945 war ended the Parish had a school, a railway station, two shops, a Village Hall at Hadspen, a Meeting Hall in Pitcombe, a Church and a Chapel and a Church Room in Hadspen. Over the last century all of these have disappeared, with the exception of the Church of St. Leonard and the Village Hall at Hadspen. The Church is currently thriving and readers will be aware that moves are afoot to build a new Village Hall.

There is in the Parish a fine mix of people from all sorts of backgrounds and experiences. There are some residents who have lived here all or most of their lives. Many who have lived or have come to live in this Parish, which is more than a thousand years old, feel that despite the strains of modern living and the desire to centralise everything, it is still worth preserving the atmosphere of an indepedent village Parish.

Ken Elliott (December 200)

GOURMET RAFFLE

Saturday, 8 December 10.30 am — 12.30 pm
Shepton Montague Village Hall

(In Aid of Hadspen Village Hall Car Park Fund)

Items for inclusion should be of a culinary nature - Christmas cakes, mince pies, cooked/frozen dishes (preferably in a tin foil container), preserves, recipe books or even a brace of pheasants – nothing will be turned away. Wines, whisky, chocolates would add Christmas cheer in fact any festive fare is most welcome. If you would like advice ring

Jean Constantine (01749 813103)
or Carole Wyatt (01963 350222).

The donated items will be displayed on a long table and beside each will be a small empty receptacle. You buy a raffle ticket(s) and KEEP the stub. Choose the goodies you would like to win and put one half of the raffle ticket in the receptacle next to that item.

After about an hour the raffle will be closed. Then the fun begins! Each lot will draw separately and the winner will claim his or her prize. You can only win the items you choose to win.

There is no entry fee and refreshments will be available.
Do come along with or without a 'gourmet' donation.
A sociable morning is guaranteed.



OURS NOT TO REASON WHY, MERELY TO COMPLY

If your refuse collection day is normally TUESDAY,
then it will behove you to remember
to put out the "wheelie" bin on
Monday evening, or, at least, before 7.0 am
as collection now takes place at crack of dawn
otherwise it is a long month before the next collection.

If your refuse is collected on another day
you too, might put out the bin the night before,
just in case.....

HADSPEN SHORT-MAT BOWLING CLUB

At the fourth Annual General Meeting of the Club held in August, the Chairman recorded his thanks to the members of the Club for their consistent support which had resulted in fulfilling the aims of the Club to their utmost.

The aims were to provide a useful Community activity of interest to all age groups and in addition a regular income for the Village Hall.

The Club has provided over £2,000 in rental for the Village Hall over the past four years and in addition donated a generous £1,000 towards the new Village Hall.

The Chairman paid tribute to past members of the Club in particular to Mike Taylor and Vicki Boyd whose new venture has made it impossible for them to continue to give their full commitment to the Club. Mike and Vicki were 'founder' members with Mike as our first Club Captain and Vicki as Treasurer.

Nigel and Stephen Wheadon and John Knight have joined the Committee and Stephen has taken on the Club Captaincy.

Prior to the demolition of the Old Hall, contact had been made with North Barrow Village Hall Secretary Julian Ruthven and arrangements made to accommodate all our Bowls equipment and to hire their Hall for the duration of the rebuild of the new Hadspen Village Hall.

Membership has fallen slightly but we were pleased to welcome one new member from North Barrow, Frank Fanthorpe an experienced player.

Although presently at the bottom of the Yeovil Winter League, the Club has won their first two matches of this Winters League by beating Milbourne Port and Sherborne .

During the summer months members of our Club played with distinction in Dorset and Somerset County Championships and reached the Semi-finals on one occasion.

'Hadspen Short Mat Bowls Club has now become a Club to be reckoned with' - according to a very reliable source in Short Mat Bowling circles. This is remarkable because we only have 12 playing members from which to choose a team of 8 to play in matches and we are competing with Clubs with memberships of 50 plus and who practice at least twice a week!

But we do need MORE MEMBERS!

If you are between 10 and 90 plus years old you are welcome to join and you will have expert FREE tuition and we can supply you with Bowls to get you started.

Please contact Carole Wyatt on 01963 350222 or Willie Constantine on 01749 813103 for more information.

WGC. Cole.

FMD/BTV and (just in time for Christmas) BF!

No, it's not Maria Samuel's techie page, just the diseases that have hit UK farming in 2007!

Farming is always an "up and down" industry, but this year has exceeded most of those past as far as diseases and restrictions are concerned.

We start with FMD – Foot and Mouth Disease – or as a DEFRA vet put it, this strain seems to be more Mouth and no foot! As if we haven't enough to deal with, the 2007 FMD outbreak was down to HMG – leaky pipes from Pirbright caused an outbreak of the 1967 strain, so there couldn't be much argument where it came from.

That was the start of the farming industry having to learn about PZ's, SZ's and IZ's – protection zones, surveillance zones and inspection zones. Fortunately the virus was held at bay within a reasonably small area, but for a while the whole country was on a standstill, reduced to a 20 day-movement standstill, and then back to a 6-day standstill. At least it was, ... until along came BTV ... Bluetongue virus.

BTV is a midge borne virus, which has decimated herds in Western Europe since 2006. This year, once the total number of cases had passed 4000, they stopped counting. It seemed only a matter of time until the easterly winds sent it over the water, and between August 3-5 the winds blew, and we had our first case ever in the UK. We now total 63 cases, and it is 99.9% certain that it has infected our own midge population and will be back with a vengeance next spring. At the moment, around 60% of England are in a PZ, excluding only Somerset, Devon and Cornwall in the SW, and that is as far as our local stock can currently move. We can go up north, if we cross the Severn Bridge and go up through Hereford, but we cannot cross Cheltenham/Gloucester, and certainly nowhere east!

There have been lots of arguments over vaccination. Personally I agreed over not vaccinating for FMD. It would mean that we accepted we had it in the UK. Vaccination for BTV is a different argument and **MUST** be done – we could still export to Europe as they have it too, but other importing countries would need proof of vaccination. But here's the irony – we are relying on the very labs which leaked FMD to produce

enough BTV vaccine (at least 20 million doses) by next spring before the midges come back. Some organisations just never lose, do they!!

As farmers were dealing with these worries and restrictions, we had a very wet summer, leading to grain and hay/straw shortages. Up shot the price of animal feeds by up to 40%, more than swallowing the slight increase that dairy farmers had just received in milk prices.

And just when we were coming to terms with all that ... Bird Flu – just in time for Christmas!!

Have a good one!
Sue Smith



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

You've read it before, undoubtedly you will read it again, but it's worth repeating. Do be careful over the Christmas period, remember to lock your car, you don't want it stolen nor would you want the Christmas gifts inside stolen.

The police warn of scams connected with parcels and in particular a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a premium rate number) for it to be delivered. **DO NOT** call this number, as this is a mail scam originating in Belize. And it is not a cheap call to Belize.

At the same time, be alert for any strangers or strange cars in the neighbourhood and if you at all worried call the police dial 999 or 0845 456 7000.

SO YOU WANT TO BE A BOOK COLLECTOR

It says in Proverbs(12;12) that, “of the making of many books there is no end”. I can vouch for the fact that the collecting of books is not dissimilar. It can be an intriguing business altogether, how and what to collect? To some a decision is easy, a special interest or a particular author can trigger the addiction. The serious collector will know precisely what he’s after. If he favours an individual writer then he will seek out whatever he or she has produced. If he’s really keen then nothing but first editions will satisfy. Other collectors will have a special subject in mind, eg. astronomy, history, old porcelain to 18th century sermons. Beware, such choices can lead to very large collections.

Some may fancy more esoteric material, fine bindings or the delights of fore-edge paintings, where the page edges of a closed volume are not merely gilded but adorned with water-colours of country scenes or of architectural marvels. Such collections have the advantage of being fewer in number. If your tastes run that way a collection of bibles can be rewarding although, if you want to include a Gutenberg, you’ll need to be a multi-millionaire. Another expensive collection could be made up of incunabula, books printed before 1456. The word comes from the Latin for swaddling clothes. Perhaps you might prefer miniature books. My elder daughter collects these, anything around 2 inches or under in height is right. The Queen’s dolls house has a whole library of them. Or how about books with odd titles? Here’s a few to start you off, all actually published

“Buddhism in Fifteen Minutes”

“Tasty Dishes from Waste”

“Having Fun with Rats”

“The Madam as Entrepreneur”

“Gut Reaction - How to live with Your Intestines”

If, so far, nothing appeals you could try books on royalty, illustrated volumes, early dictionaries, children's books. It’s hard to believe but there are collectors of books on pop stars. Here are some more suggestions. How about all the editions of a single title? Gilbert White’s Selbourne for example runs to over two hundred separate editions. If you are so minded you may acquire volumes covered in doeskin, sharkskin, goatskin, monkey skin and yes, even human skin although you’ll have to search around a bit. Books with the author's signature are worth acquiring. But, after all, your own tastes and

imagination will be the best guide. Remember, that whatever you can think of, there'll be a book on it, that I can guarantee.

Before you make up your mind, a tip or two. If funds are limited, try to think of something that no one else wants. Not so long ago I could have tipped trade catalogues or church guides. Alas, both have been seized upon. Next, try not to get completely hooked. It was once said that 5000 books are enough for any man. Obviously, whoever said that wasn't a real collector, it would be truer to say that there has never been a serious collector who has as many as he wanted; so beware before you start. Before you do begin remember Heber's words "death is the only cure". I was early hooked and have acquired all manner of books at various times. Now I stick to British diaries and diaries, both published and in manuscript, over 2500 of them and requiring some 250 feet of shelving; and that's a lot of dusting!

George Bunting



BUTTERED APPLES from **ELIZABETH DAVID**

One of the best and simplest way of cooking "cooking" apples, Bramleys for preference, but any old "cooker" will do.

Put peeled, cored and sliced apples into a buttered oven dish.

Add a slice or two of lemon peel, if you wish.

For roughly 1 lb. of apples, scatter 1 oz of butter, cut into pieces and 2 TBS of brown sugar on top.

Put the dish uncovered and without any water on the top shelf of a medium oven for about 30 mins. Turn over fruit once or twice so that the pieces cook evenly.

Delicious, hot or cold, with or without cream, yoghurt or creme fraiche,

Digestive biscuits make a particularly good accompaniment.

Enjoy!

L'amoureuse de pommes

REID/FRY WEDDING 27 OCTOBER 2007

Rosalyn Fry married Stuart Reid at St Leonard's on Saturday October 27. Stuart is a New Zealander, whom Rosalyn met whilst on a trekking holiday in the South Island Mountains of New Zealand.

Although living in North Wales, Rosalyn desperately wanted her Grandpa (Gilbert Shingler) at her wedding. He is now 98 and unable to travel distances and so St. Leonard's was the obvious choice as it is the Shingler family church. Her father was also christened and married at St. Leonard's to Janet.

Grateful thanks are due to Ken Elliott and Wendy Crane for all their help with the arrangements. Thankfully the roof had not yet been removed as the weather mizzled all day!

Bravely arriving in an open top car, Rosalyn wore a stunning white dress complete with full length cape and hood – ideal for the conditions! Her bridesmaid Carolyn wore a full burgundy dress. She was attended by (or did she have to attend to?) Rosalyn's 2 young nephews, Thomas and James as page boys.

The Service was led by Tony Parfitt and the address was given by a friend of the bride, Sean Dogherty. Music was by a Christian group from Street. Bells were rung and the service was particularly moving being just the right balance of a commitment before God and a lively celebration.

Rosalyn laid a bouquet on her Granny's grave before leaving for the reception in Gants Mill. The conversion of the Mill to a wedding reception venue was a resounding success thanks to all the hard work of the entire family.

Gilbert Shingler was in great good humour and gave a brilliant speech without the aid of notes. It was a really memorable Family Occasion kept simple as per the original wish of the happy couple: think "far from the Madding Crowd." Saturday afternoon off work; best suits on; marry in the local church, a good meal and party afterwards for family and friends – and it worked!

The couple honeymooned in Southern Spain and much appreciated everyone's help and thoughts.

St. Leonard's Church



Services for December & January

02 December	No Service		
09 December	Holy Communion 9.30am	Romans 15:4-13	Ken Elliott
16 December	Morning Prayer 9.30am	Isaiah 35:1-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Jenny Elliott
Friday	Carol Service	Service Sheet	Alan & Ann
21 December	6.30pm		Whittaker
23 December	No Service		
25 December	Christmas Day Holy Communion 9.30am		
30 December	Evening Prayer 6.30pm	Isaiah 63:7-9 Matthew 2:13-23	Charles Brook Annabel Bainbridge
06 January	No Service		
13 January	Holy Communion 9.30am	Acts 10:34-43	
20 January	Morning Prayer 9.30am	Isaiah 49:1-7 John 1:29-42	
27 January	Holy Communion 11.00am	1 Corinthians 1: 10-18	

CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

Almost every part of our daily lives involves a mix of waiting, planning and anticipation. From the simplicity involved in waiting for a kettle to boil or a bus to arrive, to the emotion wrapped around the wait for a much-loved friend to step on the platform from a cross country train or for a phone call that might contain the news we dread.....

As we embark on the waiting period that is the Advent season, stretching to Christmas and a few days beyond, we hope to discover why we are asked to wait and what we should do while we wait. God wants us to use this time in quiet contemplation of the meaning of Christmas and why He came to us in the form of a baby. Let us be more sensitive to the experience of others, and be ready to rejoice in their sunshine and stand beside them in the shadows of life.

May God be with you and your families during the Advent and Christmas Season.

Wendy Crane, Churchwarden

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT PITCOMBE 2007

CAROL SERVICE — Friday 21 December at 6.30 p.m. This will be the traditional service of carols and lessons by candlelight. Afterwards the congregation will be invited to stay for mulled wine and mince pies. As always this will be an atmospheric service and children are particularly welcome.

Sunday 23 December — There will not be a service on this day.

CHRISTMAS DAY — Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday 30 December — Evensong at 6.30 p.m.

The PCC hope that the usual large numbers will attend these services.

Car Parking — The Car Parking situation has improved recently as a result of the activities of the Highway Authority. There are now a further six or so places in a newly constructed lay-by in the Church Lane. This will ease the congestion and with other arrangements there should be less of a problem.

Ken Elliott PCC Vice-chairman



The Cranmer Awards 2007

On November 13th Bruton School for Girls hosted this year's competition for the Cranmer Awards, when children, Juniors, aged 14 and under, and Seniors beyond that, recite passages they have selected from Cranmer's immortal Book of Common Prayer. The competition was held in their magnificent new theatre, so appropriately called the Hobhouse Theatre.

A large audience sat round the spot lit stage; competitors from the two participating schools, Sexeys School and Bruton School for Girls itself, apprehensively waiting their turns, parents bravely supporting daughters, staff agonising over pupils performance, members of the Prayer Book Society, hoping to be moved by the recitations, and seated in the very middle, presiding over all, the benign figure of this year's examiner, Bishop Neville Chamberlain.

It was a wonderful competition, of an especially high standard. It was clear immediately how well competitors had been prepared. It showed in the confidence with which nearly all delivered their passages faultlessly, word perfect. The audience received not just the sense of the words, but also, as Bishop Neville remarked, the emotion behind the words as well.

St Leonard's will be delighted with the winner of the Juniors, Mair Mills. She sang in the choir at our Patronal Festival service; her father is Harry Mills, the choirmaster of St Mary's Bruton.

It was a mystery to me how Bishop Neville found the winner of the Senior competition. I had made 6 of the 7 competitors all equal! But nothing is beyond an examiner, and Cordelia Francis was a really worthy winner.

Thank you all who were involved, the schools who nurtured such talented girls, the parents who encouraged them and the girls themselves who took so much trouble to memorise their pieces. We, their fortunate audience, left afterwards truly nourished and with feelings of awe and wonderment.

Andrew Drysdale



Daphne Horsfall 1926-2007

Daphne was seven years old when she moved to Hadspen where she lived for most of her life, settling finally in Rodge Cottage. She attended Pitcombe School and walked up Nettlecombe Hill past the Village Hall and down the lane to the school behind the Church, in all winds and weathers, from the age of five until she left aged fourteen.

After leaving school Daphne was employed at Boyd's horsehair factory in North Street, Castle Cary. She learnt to operate eight looms simultaneously, which wove cotton and horsehair to make top quality upholstery, some of which is in the White House , Washington D.C.

War was declared and the army arrived at Dimmer Camp. Daphne met Alan Horsfall, from Halifax, and they were married at Pitcombe Church on July 19, 1947. Alan and Daphne had three children, Carol, Bobbie and Alvin; Bobbie sadly died twelve years ago. They were both very proud of their nine grandchildren and Daphne of her three great grand children.

Daphne's hobbies were many and various but taking part in, and writing, some of the sketches for the Hadspen Players was one she enjoyed most. Crosswords and puzzles were her forte and she always managed to do the WI Christmas quiz which usually defeated the rest of us. For over twenty years, she was a valued member of the WI committee. Daphne made marmalade, much sought after at village sales, knitted lovely children's jumpers and cardigans and gardened with enthusiasm. She loved her flowers and had a very special talent for flower arranging. She made Pitcombe Church look wonderful on very many occasions, including Sarah Elliott's wedding.

Probably her greatest contribution to the community was the love and care she and her mother, Mrs Paul, lavished on the Village Hall.. Between them they looked after the hall for over sixty years, lighting the solid fuel tortoise stove four hours before any event, and keeping it spick and span.

She was modest, totally reliable and a very good friend. It was a privilege to have known Daphne for nearly thirty years and to have her as a neighbour.

Jenny Elliott

COMPUTER BYTES

Rename Pain: The ability to rename files and folders is useful for managing the ever-growing collection of information on your computer. The traditional method of doing this in Windows is to click once on the filename and pause briefly before clicking again. However, this can be infuriating particularly if you want to rename several files on the trot. Spare yourself the frustration by clicking once on the file or folder and then pressing F2.

Bells and Whistles: Word and the other Microsoft Office applications are 'bristling' with buttons that perform important functions; but what if they aren't the ones you want? In Word, click on the TOOLS menu, then on CUSTOMISE. When the dialogue box appears, make sure the Commands tab is selected. In the left-hand pane, the menus under which the tools are grouped are listed; the tools under the specific heading appear in the right-hand pane. You may need to hunt around to find the function you need. When you have found the correct one, click and drag it onto the toolbar at the top of the screen and the tool will appear as a button.

Useful Websites:

www.xe.net/ucc - (Foreign Exchange Rates) Round the clock rates, conversion calculators and 'intraday' charts on pretty close to the full set of currencies.

www.find.co.uk - The Financial Information Net Directory houses some 6000 links to UK financial sites, organised into categories such as investment insurance, information services, advice and dealing, banking and savings, mortgages and loans, business services and life and pensions.

www.foodsubs.com - Look no further if you want to find substitutes for fatty, expensive or hard to find ingredients.

www.epicurious.com - The best food website there is. Online 'marriage' of Conde Nast's Gourmet, Bon Appetit, and Traveller magazines, crammed with recipes, culinary forums (fora?) and advice on dining out worldwide.

Maria Samuel (woodcott13@btinternet.com)





Jubilee Hall, Batcombe
Doors open 7.15pm – Screening 7.45pm

Friday 7th December

*Come and help us celebrate the holidays with
a complimentary glass of mulled wine and mince pie
followed by our film for this month:*

LITTLE MISS SUNSHINE

(directed by Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris)

2006 / 102 mins / 15

Join the dysfunctional Hoover family on a zany road trip from New Mexico to California! Success-obsessed Richard (Greg Kinnear) discovers his seven year old daughter Olive (Abigail Breslin) has been accepted as a contestant in a beauty pageant and, with varying degrees of reluctance, the whole family sets off in a decrepit VW minibus. Along the way they learn a great deal about themselves and each other in this engaging, sometimes poignant, oscar-winning comedy drama.

Licensed bar – Soft refreshments
Free parking - Wheelchair access - Hearing loop

For more on our films: ELIZABETH HUNT
01749 850 304

For membership enquiries: ROB SAGE
01749 850 934

TEN QUOTES FROM THE BOOK OF SUPERSTITIONS

1. If you are born on Christmas Day you will be neither drowned nor hanged.
2. “My missus won’t have a bit of holly in the house before Christmas morning, and I shouldn’t think there’s anyone in Harwood Dale who would”.
3. It is proper to take down decorations at Candlemas, but they ought to be kept till Shrove Tuesday, and then burnt in the fire over which the pancakes are fried.
4. To thrash chilblains with holly is an old-fashioned cure, but only efficacious if the feet are crossed during the painful operation.
5. But, on the other foot, prick your chilblains with holly and walk through the snow to cure them.
6. It depends on the kind of holly that comes into a house at Christmas which shall be master during the coming year. If the holly is smooth, the wife will be the master; if the holly is prickly, the husband will be the master.
7. My father visiting my mother in the nursing home said “Get that ivy out of here or she’ll never recover”.
8. In 1857, in Worcester they said that if the first carol singer on New Year’s morning is admitted at the front door, conducted all through the house, and let out at the back door, you will have good luck all through the year.
9. But by 1875 they said that the orthodox plan was for man or boy to enter at the back door, go through the rooms on the ground floor, and go out by the front door.
10. Never throw anything out on New Year’s Day.

& a Happy New Year

