

# *Pitcombe News*



**lily flowered tulips**

*May 2008*

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions  
from its readers

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**The DEADLINE for the JUNE issue is  
TUESDAY 20 MAY**

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

Well, it's almost all over bar the shouting. The new village hall is close to completion as I write and the shouting will begin on Saturday 10 May. If you have not already looked at the back cover (and doesn't everyone look at the back cover before opening the mag) then you have permission to do so now.

Right, see you there.

Ken Elliott has been a mainstay of this community for some thirty years and we have all, for one reason or another, got cause to be thankful. Without Ken a lot of things would not have happened. St. Leonard's would have closed, very possibly there wouldn't have been an "old village hall" to rebuild and there certainly wouldn't have been a Pitcombe News for Bidy Coghill Smith to write an appreciation on page 2.

Carole and Peter Wyatt ran away to South America last winter, an eminently sensible thing to do. Carol keeps a diary when she is away and will be sharing extracts from it over the next couple of issues. She starts with that most famous of famous places Macchu Picchu. Turn to page 5.

Still in holiday mode, Maria Samuel has been researching some websites and on page 11 details some sites that you should check out before finalising holiday arrangements. I am told that the main reason that people hoard the PN is because of Maria's useful tips. It does not take up a lot of room and is very handy to have near the computer. So we do have our uses!

A number of people have contributed to this month's issue which is really pleasing. I hope everyone finds something of particular interest. No prizes though for solving the brain teasers on page 16.

**DON'T FORGET THE PLANT SALE ON THE MORNING OF SATURDAY 10 MAY.**

*Susan Chamberlain, Editor*

## KEN ELLIOTT

Many have commented to me that Pitcombe Parish is such a friendly, welcoming place. How many of you, I wonder, realise that this emanates directly from Ken Elliott, supported by his wife, Jenny.

When I first knew Ken we were all busy bringing up our families, caring for our elderly relatives and working. With the threatened closure of the Church, St Leonard's, Ken rallied a number of us and became our Church Warden. I served with him for over ten years and am therefore in a position to know that he was a very diligent Church Warden; caring not only for parishioners, undertakers and those with diverse problems welcoming all into his home but also being a support and fund of information for a succession of Clergy whom he befriended. Many times during interregnums he would take a service for us and 'give us something to think about!'

Ken's boundless enthusiasm carried us on into Harvest Suppers (ham and turkey cooked by Ken) and Christmas Carols at our Christmas Dinner in the Village Hall.

Ken, along with Jenny, has added so much to the quality of our lives in this Parish so I felt I must put pen to paper and say how very much they are appreciated and say a very big '**THANK YOU KEN,**' as he and Jenny relinquish their duties on the Parochial Council. They will be greatly missed.

*EA C-S*



The Annual General Meeting  
of the Friends of St. Leonard's  
will be held at 6.30 pm on Friday 9 May  
at the Church.

Members are asked to attend

## HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

I am delighted to be able to tell you that the new hall is nearing completion and due to be handed over to the Trustees on Saturday, 3 May.

As I write the wooden floor is being laid, the plumbing and electrics are well under way. The final measurements have been made by Harpers of Bath who are making the curtains, and the kitchen equipment has been ordered and hopefully it will all come together by 3 May!

As I mentioned last month, we will be holding an Open Evening with Cheese & Wine for all residents and supporters on Saturday, 10 May from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm so please do come along and see your new village hall.

I cannot guarantee that everything will be in place as we will be fitting some items ourselves which may be difficult during that first week.

However I look forward to seeing as many people as possible on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May both at the Plant sale in the morning and at the Cheese & Wine Party in the evening.

*Peter Wyatt, Chairman*

nearly there!



## HADSPEN WINE CLUB

At the last meeting of the Wine Club. the assembled company tasted sparkling wines and wines from Italy in the company of Ed Hay of the Mendip Bottle in Wedmore.



We started with a delicious Prosecco, a wine a number of us had not tasted for a very long time. It was an excellent wine with which to raise our glasses in memory of Philip Mellor.

From Italy to the Loire valley and a Blanc de Blancs from Saumur before tasting the real thing and a champagne from Jacques Picard. There is really nothing like a glass of champagne even if it only a teensy taste (1/20th of a bottle is the wine club ration, but we do taste 6 or 7 wines usually so don't feel too sorry for us). A number of members were much taken with the Prosecco for a summer day's drinking. Now if only summer would arrive!

Then Ed, who was a delightful and knowledgeable guide, took us around Italy to sample wines made from grapes with which we were relatively unfamiliar. A Tamellini Soave from the Veneto area made from the Garganega grape, proved too be a dry refreshing wine. We enjoyed a Primitivo from Castellani in Puglia a spicy wine with a hint of vanilla. The primitivo grape has been known for a 1,000 years and is the grape known as Zinfandel in California.

And so to Abruzzo for the Montepulciano of that region which is not in any way to be confused with the Montepulciano of Tuscany. This accompanied the cheese and bread we were all tucking into very pleasantly indeed.

And finally a Chianti Classico Riserva DOCG at £14.95 a bottle, not at all the Chianti we remembered from our misspent youth. Like us, Chianti has come a long way.

It was a delightful and convivial evening and in the company of Ed we did learn a lot. Our thanks to Camilla Carter who arranged it and who provided the bread and cheese.  
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## A SECOND SOMERSET DIARIST

John Skinner was born at Claverton in 1772. Trained originally as a lawyer he later took holy orders and became a priest in 1799. A year later he obtained the living of Camerton and there began his diary keeping. The parish, in a coal mining area numbered many miners amongst its population and was hardly representative of idyllic English village life. An educated man, order and discipline personified Skinner's study, book filled, was his refuge. He left it to find outside much drunkenness and immorality. He was a censorious man of bigoted moral judgements and hardly the ideal clergyman to lead such a flock. He found his work both difficult and unrewarding. Skinner was confronted with indifference and positive hostility. For a few years he did enjoy some domestic felicity, he had married Anna Holmes and children were born to them.

It was not to last, Anna died in 1812 in childbirth, the infant too and Skinner, much depressed began to exhibit signs of paranoia. His difficulties were to increase with time his two sons, as they grew older, were a source of constant concern eventually turning against their father altogether. He sought relief in an interest in antiquities and wrote volumes on the subject. He became convinced that Camerton was the ancient site of Camulodunum where King Arthur had fought. Rare visits to Stourhead where he was befriended by Sir Thomas Hoare consoled him until even his host warned him not to become too fanciful.

It is difficult to give more than a hint of Skinner's diary style but the following entry is not untypical. "Some practical joker sent me yesterday an old rusty nail wrapped up in cotton and silver paper, with as many envelopes as a mummy, in order, I presume to laugh at the Antiquary." Poor Skinner's troubles pursued him. In 1820 his beloved daughter died followed later by his son John, both of tuberculosis. The latter event affected him badly, his mental state grew worse. One bright morning he walked into the beech wood near his home and shot himself dead. *George Bunting*

## Highlights of South America - Peru

The very thought of this vast continent conjures up a myriad of sights, sounds and surprises and we were certainly not disappointed when we were there in February.

Our tour started in Lima, Peru, the 'City of the Kings' with a population of about 8 million. There is an atmosphere of bygone colonial opulence in the historic Plaza Mayor where the Government Palace, City Hall, the Cathedral and the Archbishop's Palace are situated. But one doesn't have to look far to see the 'shanty towns' surrounding the city and the fact is that most houses are surrounded by security fencing and the wealthy live in gated communities. Despite this we felt quite at ease wandering through the suburbs. It was interesting to see in the streets that rubbish bins were divided into sections for recycling - something we could surely learn from.

We flew into Cusco, where the airport is at 11,500 feet and the air is noticeably thin. From there we headed off to the Sacred Valley of the Incas, so called because of its amazing fertility and where the famous giant white corn is cultivated – though I must confess it is not to my taste! The sides of the valley form cultivation terraces dating back to Inca times, but the highest ones, although still clearly visible, are no longer worked. We have now come down to an altitude of a more comfortable 6,500 feet. The River Urumbamba flows through this lush green valley with its spectacular flora and fauna to eventually join the Amazon. It is a wonderful place to see humming birds.

The day we visited Pisac coincided with carnival celebrations to give thanks for the harvest. En route, all the villages were preparing with bunting and balloons. Most people were dressed in traditional brightly coloured clothes, apart from the teenagers. The highlight of their day were water fights when they armed themselves with water filled balloons or pumps and buckets and drenched each other and anyone else in the vicinity. It is definitely a day to keep all vehicle windows, including those of our bus, tightly closed.

Arriving at Pisac the celebrations were in full swing. On a large stage in the square, each village performed its special traditional harvest dance to its own music. While this was happening the baker was roasting the local delicacy, guinea pigs, in his large bread oven which were for eating later!

Ollantaytambo where the road finishes and the Inca Trail begins is the site of an Inca fortress. It is where 4 ton boulders had been slotted together perfectly, some with perfect right angles smoothed by rubbing with handfuls of sand and a maze of irrigation channels some cut in almost vertical rocks. Huge grain stores can be seen clinging to the sides of the mountains, evi-

dently positioned to catch the sun and the right amount of air to dry the grain, but how the Incas managed to get the grain up the mountain to store it is almost unimaginable.

From here it is about a two hour train ride to Machu Picchu village and as the train winds through the valley into the cloud forest, the mountain sides become steeper, the valley narrows and the river becomes a raging torrent. However, this is the easy option, the other option is to walk the Inca trail with a guide and camp for 3 nights!

To visit the 'Lost City' itself you catch one of the shuttle buses that zig zag up the mountain. We then opted to climb the steep steps to join the high Inca trail entrance to Machu Picchu to see it in its full glory for our first view. Wow! It was worth every step. We were there in the afternoon and found it very quiet, just a few tourists and llamas wandering about.

There have been many archaeological interpretations on the origins of Machu Picchu over the 90 years since the American explorer Hiram Bingham III discovered it, but whichever theory you choose to believe there is no escaping the fact that it is an amazing engineering achievement. The Incas not only terraced the slopes for agriculture, hauling up fine sand and top soil from the valley to do so, erected stone retaining walls that have survived more than 500 years, but they also took an uneven ridge surface and transformed it to the flat surface you can see today. Before any building could start the site was levelled with loose rock and stabilised with immense walls deep beneath the surface and down the mountain sides.

It is awe-inspiring to wander through the ruins of the Main Square, the Royal Quarters and the Temple of the Three Windows, and to see the sacred Sun Dial, the Burial Grounds and the agricultural terraces.

From Machu Picchu village there is a marvellous guided tour exploring parts of the cloud forest with its many orchid species, ferns, butterflies and one of the largest concentrations of hummingbird species in the world.

After leaving Machu Picchu by train, we drove up the mountains to 13,000 feet past fields of potatoes, maize and beans on the plateau - they claim to have 300 different varieties of potatoes - and down off the plateau to Cusco, the ancient capital of the Inca Empire, where Spanish churches and mansions rub shoulders with Inca ruins. The Inca masonry, colonial churches, arcaded plazas and cobbled lanes make Cusco a delightful place to explore albeit at rather a slow walking pace due to the high altitude.

The day of our departure turned into quite an adventure. But more of that next time. *Carole Wyatt*



**4th annual  
hadspen  
plant sale  
saturday 10th may  
10 am – 1 pm**

**with FREE ADVICE FROM OUR  
LOCAL GARDENING EXPERTS**

**HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL**

**ADMISSION 50P**

**TEA/COFFEE/CAKES**

**IN AID OF THE VILLAGE HALL CAR PARK FUND**

## OPERA RECITAL



The English Soprano, Kate Radmilovic, will be giving a recital at St Mary's Bruton on Friday 23 May, 2008 at 7.30pm.

Kate trained at the University of Birmingham and began her singing studies in 1990 at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester; then in 1994 went on to study at the International Opera Studio in Zurich. She has won many prizes including the Elizabeth Harwood Award for Best Singer of the Year at the RNCM, and Scholarships from the Wingate Foundation, the Wolfson and Countess of Muster Foundations. She was also a scholar of the Peter Moores Foundation throughout her studies and early career. In 2001 she was awarded 3rd place and Best Public Vote in Hamburg at the Robert Stolz International Operetta Competition and 2nd place in Italy at the International Vissi d'Arte Opera Singing Competition. Kate has performed over 30 major Soprano roles showing her versatility in both Opera and Operetta.

Accompanied by Claire Pasquier Wilson (from Switzerland), who is a renowned European pianist, they will perform dramatic lyric operatic arias by Verdi, Mozart, Puccini, Wagner, and Dvorak with songs by J Strauss, Rogers and Hammerstein, Gershwin, Sondheim and Bernstein.

Claire Pasquier-Wilson and Kate met at the International Zurich Opera Studio: Claire trained in Australia and then at the National Opera Studio London, took on a full time post as 'repetiteur' at the St Gallen Theatre and performs in Europe with Orchestras, Chamber Ensembles and Opera companies. They have been close friends for many years and are now setting up a duo "I want to be a Prima Donna" - and will perform in Switzerland and the UK.

Kate will also run a 'fun and exciting' vocal workshop on 24th May from 2pm to 5pm at The John Davie Room, King's School Bruton. (details from Festival Office or Harry Mills).

Tickets will be on sale at Bruton Pharmacy and other shops around Bruton or contact Harry Mills 01749 812100 [h.mills@opendium.com](mailto:h.mills@opendium.com) to reserve tickets! £10 and £7 concessions.

## OUT OF STOCK

I know it'll be delivered in  
It's been there every day  
And time to run and chase will come  
To do some things that I've not done  
Time to care some more will be an infinite priority  
Should have spent more time I know  
Not living life against the clock  
But sorry Sir we really are, but life's just out of stock

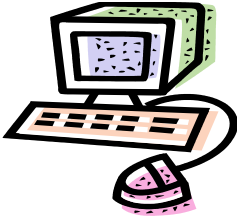
I know some will be coming in  
It's been there every day  
I'll go to church and help someone  
And ask God how to pray  
Much easier now with lots less work  
To slow things down and take the time  
To smell life's roses will be nice and stroll around the block  
But sorry Sir we really are, but life's just out of stock

I know it must be on its way  
It's been there every day  
I've squandered some and wasted lots  
'Cos no-one said that I would face  
A shortage of what's always been so readily in place  
So I'll relax and he'll provide another chance I bet  
Give it time, don't turn that lock  
But sorry Sir it's like we said, your life's just out of stock

It will turn up it always does  
It's been there every day  
But time is short, its darker now and getting very late  
To change things now at this late stage  
I'll have to hurry fast  
I need the time I wasted now, but lost it to the past  
I hear it now the calls just come  
It's sure to beat the clock  
But Sir we're awfully sorry but, your life's just out of stock.

RJC

## COMPUTER BYTES



### **ADOBE exposes ACROBAT flaws:**

Security researchers are warning people to upgrade their version of ADOBE's ACROBAT READER following reports of new vulnerabilities. A flaw in the way Acrobat handles PDF files within Internet Explorer could be used to download TROJAN files, which an attacker could use to control a PC remotely or steal personal information. Users are advised to upgrade to ADOBE ACROBAT READER version 8.1.2 (download is free).

**Automatic Scrolling:** When reading long documents, one can scroll automatically through a document, controlling the speed with the mouse. Left click on a blank area near line 1 and click on the wheel on the mouse. The cursor will change to a dot surrounded by two or four arrows. Two arrows means the document will scroll up and down, four means it can scroll side to side as well. Move the mouse and the symbol will move leaving a 'grey' duplicate where the scroll wheel was clicked. The page will scroll in that direction.

### **Useful Websites:**

[www.travelsupermarket.com](http://www.travelsupermarket.com): This site sifts through 'thousands of quotes, hotels and insurance' in a matter of seconds. It is helpful but not totally comprehensive because companies that have not paid to be featured don't appear.

[www.laterooms.com](http://www.laterooms.com): This fantastic site is where hoteliers offload unsold rooms at 'rock bottom rates.' One can find excellent bargains and the selection is vast.

[www.simplyparking.co.uk](http://www.simplyparking.co.uk): This site lets one search for the best and cheapest parking deals at 24 UK airports. It also finds deals on airport hotels, lounges and valet parkers.

[www.tripadvisor.co.uk](http://www.tripadvisor.co.uk): Before you book a hotel, look it up on Trip Advisor and find out what other guests thought. The ratings 'tend to be reliable indicators'.

*Maria Samuel*

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# St. Leonard's Church



## Services for May 2008

Date	Service/Time	Readings	Readers
04 May	<b>NO SERVICE</b>		
11 May	<b>Holy Communion 9.30 am Whit Sunday</b>	Acts 2:1-21  John 20: 19-23	Agneta Hickley  Clergy
18 May	<b>Morning Prayer 9.30 am Trinity Sunday</b>	Isaiah 40:12-17  Matthew 28: 16-20	George Bunting  Andrew or Merida Drysdale
25 May	<b>Holy Communion 9.30 am 1st Sunday after Trinity</b>	1 Corinthians 3: 10-11 & 16- 23  Matthew 5: 38-48	Willie Constantine  Clergy

### Dates for your diary:

**Tuesday 27 May** – a tidy and polish up of the inside of the church, please help and bring your duster and polish.

**Saturday 21 June** – Rededication service with Archdeacon Nicola Sullivan at 6pm. Please let a member of the PCC know that you intend to come, as there will be a party afterwards courtesy of Mr and Mrs Andrew Drysdale.

## CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

The vestry and AGM meeting took place on Monday 14 April 2008, in St Leonard's Church. Attendance numbers are down for the year, but there have been 3 weddings and 2 baptisms. Charles Brook and I are willing to stand as churchwardens for the coming year however, both Ken and Jenny Elliott have decided to step down from the Parochial Church Council.

A heart felt thanks to Ken and Jenny for all the work they have put in over the years, especially during the bleak time almost 12 years ago when the diocese thought it would be better to close St Leonard's . Without their commitment then, there would be no church services today. THANK YOU.

At the same time it is useful to remember that St Leonard's thrives because we adhere to the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) for our services of Holy Communion and Matins and our church is a member of The Prayer Book Society.

Peter Wyatt, the treasurer, presented the accounts, although it is difficult to get an accurate account as bills are still coming in for the building works, with some funds from gift aid still outstanding. Charles Brook stated that the building works are now complete, but the porch will be repainted in the near future.

If you are anything like me, I often feel that I fail in my life of discipleship. Sometimes through some act of disobedience or fear, or perhaps not being as radical as we should be, or perhaps through trying to serve two masters (Matthew 6:24) and having seen once again that it doesn't work. We all fail to hit the target at times. So when we do, it is encouraging to remember that we are in good company. Consider those first disciples of Jesus, the Gospels show us that they didn't always understand what Jesus said, they didn't always use the power that was theirs, they failed Jesus at the crucial moment by fleeing at Gethsemane. But we need to remember that discipleship is a process or apprenticeship, and that we need tuition along the way.

See you at Church for some input!! It Is after all YOUR CHURCH.  
*Wendy Crane, Churchwarden*

## QUICK AND EASY RECIPES

### BOODLES FOOL



8 sponge fingers  
4 oranges  
Icing sugar  
2 lemons  
1 pint thick cream

Grate the outside skin (zest) of 2 oranges and 1 lemon into a bowl. Add the sieved juice of the 2 fruits. Sweeten to taste and add to the juice, the lightly beaten cream.

Fill a soufflé dish with sponge fingers that you have cut into two or three pieces and pour the orange cream over them. Chill in the fridge for several hours. (Serves 4?)

Courtesy of La Comtesse de Lesseps

### CHERRY MERINGUE

Take one large tin of black cherries (in heavy syrup). Pour into a soufflé dish and chill. Fifteen minutes before meal, cover them with a good inch of vanilla ice cream and cover this with a meringue mixture, as made for apple meringue. Put under the grill for about 8 minutes to bake meringue. (Serves 4?)

Courtesy of Lady Caroline Somerset

These are a couple of rather 'old fashioned' recipes which have withstood the test of time!



## Sponsored Bike Ride 2007

I have just received the results of the "Friends of Somerset Churches and Chapels" Sponsored Bike Ride 2007.

The total including Gift Aid Tax refund, was £22,408.

89 Somerset Churches were sponsored out of which St. Leonard's received the 13th highest amount in donations with £370. (The highest sponsorship was All Saints Martock at £931).

The date of the 2008 FSCC Bike Ride is Saturday 6 Sept. when I hope to represent St. Leonard's, Pitcombe again. This will be my 10th Bike Ride. Would anyone like to join me?

*Willie Constantine*

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Many longtime residents of the parish, particularly those living in Cole, will remember Madge Long who lived at The Old Station for many years. She was particularly kind to newcomers always making a point of welcoming them to the area. In 2002 she moved to Teignmouth to be closer to her daughter. It was with great sadness we heard of her death on 21 March 2008.

## BRAIN TEASER

This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so plain you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is unusual though. Study it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out.

## ANAGRAMS

1. ELECTION RESULTS
2. ELEVEN PLUS TWO
3. DORMITORY
4. A DECIMAL POINT
5. MOTHER-IN-LAW

The letter "e", which is the most common letter in the English language, does not appear once in the long paragraph.

1. LIES - LET'S RECOUNT
2. TWELVE PLUS ONE
3. DIRTY ROOM
4. I'M A DOT IN PLACE
5. WOMAN HITLER



## AVON AND SOMERSET CONSTABULARY

[www.avonandsomerset.police.uk](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk)

The way we work to reduce crime in your neighbourhood has changed.

We recognise that you want more say in the issues the police deal with and how they deal with these issues. We also recognise that if we are going to make your neighbourhood safer and stronger, your help is vital.

From April 2008, every community in England and Wales will benefit from a new approach to reducing crime and the fear of crime in our communities to build safer, stronger neighbourhoods.

You will now have a dedicated Neighbourhood Team comprising police officers, [Police Community Support Officers](#) (PCSOs) and [Special Constables](#) (volunteers).

Your Neighbourhood Team will work closely with council services, key local agencies, volunteers such as [Neighbourhood Watches](#), and the community itself to identify the issues and the best solutions that matter most to you.

This new approach called Partners and Communities Together ([PACT](#)) gives you the chance to meet the team and influence priorities in your neighbourhood.

To find out more about your Neighbourhood Team, read the latest news in your area, or, to get the details of forthcoming meetings, [visit the In Your Area pages](#).

*Should you be interested in becoming a Special Constable then follow the links in this page for further information.*

# **HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL**

**YOU ARE INVITED TO**

**AN  
OPEN EVENING  
with Cheese & Wine**

**Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008  
from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm**

**All residents and hall supporters are  
cordially invited to come and see  
their new Village Hall**

*‘Built by the Community for the Community’*