

Pitcombe News



May 2010

The **PITCOMBE NEWS** welcomes contributions
from its readers

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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 DEADLINE for the June issue is
Friday March 21st**

The PITCOMBE NEWS regrets any errors or omissions that may occur; we do our best to avoid them. The information contained within this publications 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, are we all present and correct? Or has someone opted to stay on a remote desert island? it's one way of avoiding election debates. School children are the other winners as so many school teachers had gone away for Easter and were missing for the first day or even days of term.

However, a trip tearing across Europe to get back to a Channel port is as nothing compared to Geoffrey Stanford's journey. He took part in the gruelling Marathon des Sables, a 250Km run over six days in the Sahara. Read about it on page 12. Carole Wyatt on the other hand, spent part of January luxuriating on the Eastern and Oriental Express from Singapore to Bangkok. See page 13 and drool.

Closer to home we now have a London correspondent to keep us up to date with exhibitions etc. The column will appear from time to time giving details of exhibitions both large and small, but mostly small, the ones you might miss. This month it's about some at the Victoria and Albert and you will find it on page 13.

It is also the first annual Somerset Heritage Month. It is amazing just how much you can find to do around here to improve your mind and, this will surprise the children, enjoy at the same time. The blurb is on page 12, so check that and the website that is mentioned.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells writes a very interesting article on our responsibilities to society. It is required reading this month and you will find it on page 9.

Crab is in season now and this month's recipe manages to use just a little. It is quite a scrumptious recipe and dead easy. Turn to page 8 and then check your shopping list.

Parish Council chairman Mike Beech who was one of those who had to hare across France to get back chooses his favourite things on Page 16. He also had to get back as he is standing for election as a South Somerset District Councillor for this ward.

Finally. May 6 is approaching all too rapidly. It looks as if every vote will count this year this year, however you cast it, so visit the Village Hall and use it.

Susan Chamberlain

News from the Parish Council – May 2010

At the 13th April council meeting the members welcomed James Clark to the meeting and agreed to co-opt him to fill the vacant seat.

Following a question from the public regarding Planning Application 09/04954/FUL the Chairman stated that the Parish Council made its decision on this application at the last meeting and would not be discussing the matter further. The Clerk had been advised by the Planning Dept. that it hoped this application would be discussed at the May meeting (May 12th) of the Area East Committee when a decision might be made. You can view the Parish Council's decision in the minutes of the March meeting available on the Parish Council website at <http://www.pitcombepc.org.uk/minutes/2010/March2010.pdf>

The general public were advised that they would be able to speak on the application at this meeting if they so wished. Also if there were any complaints as to how the applicant had handled the application then a letter should be sent to Ian Clarke of the Standards Committee.

Councillor Elliott stated she had been pressing Street Scene for action regarding various piles of rubbish (fly tipping) in the green lanes and Pitcombe Hill. This was now in hand and collection of the rubbish was expected shortly.

Not discussed at the meeting but worthy of note is the garden waste collection service provided by South Somerset District Council. It's a fortnightly collection service and costs just £42.50 per year for a wheelie bin or you can purchase ten capacious bags for £15. For further details visit <http://www.somersetwaste.gov.uk> To subscribe to the garden waste collection service contact South Somerset District Council customer services on 01935 462462.

The May council meeting will be Tuesday 9 May at 7.30pm.

The police are getting tough on illegal parking in Cary. They are enforcing parking regulations, ie do not park on yellow lines, or inconsiderately, and do your best to park close to the curb. In many cases they will be kind and "advise" your parking habits BUT they are ticketing too.



HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

With spring underway and daffodils fading, the wild flowers have found their way up from the disturbed ground around the hall. The apple trees in the orchard have been uniformly pruned and are about to blossom — this together with the wild life in the orchard make it a wonderful setting for the hall's day time events.

Regular activities continue: The Annual Hadspen Lecture on the Dissolution of the Monasteries attracted a record turn out of over ninety people. The eight part series of live model art classes has completed and a short series of two day landscape art classes is underway — both well attended. We have managed to attract a ten part series of lectures on the History of Art scheduled for the autumn — see details of this highly recommended series enclosed in this month's edition of the Pitcombe News, an early response is recommended to secure a place if you are interested. The hall will be used as a polling station for the election, two more children's parties and yoga classes are scheduled for May.

We have agreed with PPC to hold a Hadspen Open Gardens event on 12 June. This should help recover some of the lost revenue from the cancellation of the Plant Sale. The Village Hall will be the central location point with catering facilities. We anticipate a few stalls selling plants.

On 10 April the MG Classic Car club rally passed through Pitcombe and Hadspen. At least 40 vehicles were involved, taking the route through Hadspen and up Nettlecombe Lane. But, several drivers failed to turn left into the lane and ended up in the Village Hall car park looking lost and confused. This proved to be an excellent viewing opportunity for sightseers.

Feedback on the Hall and facilities remains good and other Village Halls seek our advice on how to go about fundraising and refurbishments.

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

Jim Linden

Chairman Trustees 01749 813 145

Hadspen Wine Club



It was Peter Wyatt's turn to inform, amuse and generally increase the knowledge of the HWC members which he did most successfully with his enjoyable and informative talk "Comparison of Wines". The Wine Society of which Peter is a member puts together a case of different wines with tasting notes etc, so that they can be compared and contrasted and this he shared with us.

We began with the sauvignon blanc grape, tasting a crisp Menetou-Salon from the Loire against the more vibrant fruitier tasting wine produced from grapes grown in Marlborough. The New Zealand wine won that contest in our opinion.

Then on to chardonnay, a bottle from Macon-Villages in Burgundy matured in stainless steel vats which we compared with one from the Casablanca Valley of which a third was matured in oak barrels. It was hard to tell on that one, but for value for money the Chilean chardonnay at £5.75 a bottle was a winner.

Next two quite different grapes. A delightful floral, fruity beaujolais and set alongside it was a wine from Cahors made with the malbec grape and a little merlot. It was good to taste a malbec from France for a change as the grape grows so well in Argentina that wine from that country seems to dominate the market.

Finally the age old question – Claret or Burgundy? Well, what can one say? An awful lot. We tasted a lovely pinot noir against a Claret from a vineyard bordering Saint Julien. A classic cabernet/merlot blend with a dash of petit verdot made this a wine we all approved of. At £13.50 a bottle, somewhat on the expensive side, but with its slightly smoky taste, lovely colour and ripe fruit flavours, worth it.

The last bottle of wine came from a small, south facing estate of 40 hectares just north east of Saint Emilion, an area dominated by the merlot grape. We tasted a very impressive 2004. At £13.95 again expensive, but then we're worth it!

Peter had bought some French cheeses to complement the wines. Wife Carole came along to enjoy the evening too, and to help Peter, pour the wines. Our thanks to both of them for another very good evening.
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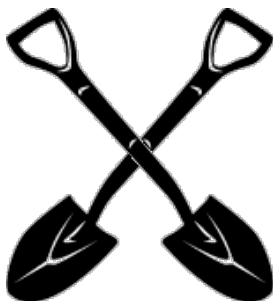
PS Since you undoubtedly wonder 1 hectare = 2.47105381 acres

PUT THIS IN YOUR DIARY NOW

**seven gardens of hadspen
will be open
saturday, 12th june from 2.0 pm 'til 6.0 pm**

**in aid of new facilities
for St. Leonard's and the Village Hall**

**tickets are £5 and children free
afternoon tea at the Village Hall from 3 o'clock
where plants will also be on sale**



You cannot fail to have noticed the masses of dandelions invading not only gardens but roadsides, fields etc this year. As pretty as they look from a distance, it is your civic duty to make dandelion wine to help get rid of them, a whole bucketful can go into a bottle of wine. How effective is that? If you'd rather not, then there is dandelion cordial. No takers for that either? Would someone care to get cracking on dandelion bio fuel? Anything.

COMPUTER BYTES



AVG offers free rescue tool: AVG Technologies has released a free Rescue tool for all its customers, including people using the free version of its security software. The software can recover computers that are not able to start up or are infected in a way that will not allow normal operation. It can be downloaded to any CD or USB memory key and then used to recover the PC if it won't start. The software, suitable for all Windows operating systems contains tools that can help the system recover from malicious software attacks. On starting the Rescue tool will scan all drives for malicious software and it also includes tools for advanced users. www.snipca.com/x1221

Add secret text: A special feature in Word lets you have secret messages in your document. Press Ctrl, Shift and H. When you start typing the text will not appear on screen. To see it, select the HOME tab in the Ribbon of Word (later versions of Word) at the top of your screen and look in the Paragraph section for the Show/Hide Formatting button (it looks like a back to front P - top right of this section). Click it and your text will appear. This icon is also in the Standard toolbar in earlier versions of Word. Hold down Shift, Ctrl and the 8 key to alter the view.

Bust dust from your computer fan: I noticed, the other day, that the fan on my computer seemed to be working excessively and rather noisily: I also noticed that when this occurred it slowed down the computer too - hmmm! Looking closely at my 'tower unit' I noticed the fan ducts were blocked with dust. A little blowing and a little brushing was all it took to restore computer speed.....and of course, it is also much quieter now - the fan does not spin as it did before!
Maria Samuel (woodcott13@btinternet.com)

"Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't."

— Erica Jong (1942-) U.S. author and poet - novels include Fear of Flying (1973), Parachutes and Kisses (1984) and Any Woman's Blues (1990)

AT THE V AND A

Horace Walpole and Strawberry Hill

London is awash with enjoyable exhibitions for those who want to avoid the crowds at the latest blockbuster. The Victoria & Albert Museum is showing 'Horace Walpole and Strawberry Hill' to coincide with the re-opening in September of Strawberry Hill. Closes 4 July

Horace Walpole, who lived through most of the eighteenth century, was the son of Sir Robert Walpole, Britain's first prime minister. He was a Member of Parliament and wrote books, but his main interest was in building his country villa beside the Thames at Twickenham in the Gothic style, filling it with art, antiquities and curiosities of every kind and entertaining his many friends.

Although the collection was dispersed at auction in 1842, some fifty years after his death, the organisers have managed to put together a large number of items that include something for all tastes. There are paintings, miniatures, furniture, stained glass, china and pottery and the gallery is designed to evoke the atmosphere of the house Walpole built.

Quilts

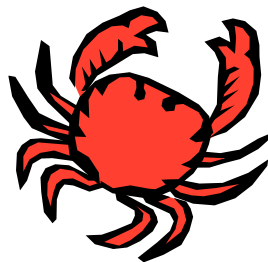
The V&A is also showing an interesting exhibition of quilts. Many of them are from its own collection, some are loaned by other museums and some are by contemporary artists. They include the Rajah quilt, made by women convicts on board HMS Rajah on their voyage to what is now Tasmania and one made by women prisoners in Changi Jail in Malaya during the Second World War. Closes 4 July

Grace Kelly: Style Icon

If you are a fashion maven you will appreciate this newly opened exhibition of the spectacular wardrobe of Grace Kelly. Tracing the evolution of her style from her days as one of Hollywood's most popular actresses in the 1950s and as Princess Grace of Monaco, over 50 of Grace Kelly's outfits together with hats, jewellery and the original Hermès Kelly bag are on display. Dresses from her films, including High Society are included too. These will be accompanied by film clips and posters, photographs and her Oscar statuette. The display also includes the lace ensemble worn by Grace Kelly for her civil marriage ceremony to Prince Rainier in 1956 and 35 gowns from the 1960s and 70s by her favourite couturiers Dior, Balenciaga, Givenchy, and Yves St Laurent. Closes 26 Sept.

POTTED SEAFOOD

500 gr shrimps (or prawns)
4 shallots
170gr canned crab
4 ozs butter
Juice of ½ lemon
Pinch of ground mace
Salt and pepper
185 gr (6 ozs) clarified butter
1 bunch watercress



Shell prawns, remove black vein; drain crab. Combine in bowl, prawns, crab, finely chopped shallots, lemon juice, salt and pepper. Pack prawn and crab mixture firmly into 4 greased individual dishes (ramekins). Dot 2 tsp of butter on top of prawn mixture in each dish. Put dishes on oven tray, put in moderate oven for 10 minutes. Put remaining butter in saucepan, melt over gentle heat until white sediment comes to the top, skim of white sediment and discard. Remove dishes from oven, pour the clarified butter over top of prawn and crab mixture, refrigerate until set. Turn out on to individual serving plates, serve with toast triangles or Melba toast. (I must admit that I don't usually turn them out - I leave them in the ramekins and serve them with a small bunch of watercress on top.)



SHEPTON MONTAGUE PLANT SALE

At Lily Farm, home of Richard and Clare Reed
Saturday 29th May 2.30-4pm

All kinds of plants
vegetables, annuals, herbaceous, shrubs
AND a raffle and teas

Entrance £2.50 includes tea and cake
In aid of St Peters

Responsibilities build society, not rights

The coming election will be held at the end of a series of the most intense legislative parliaments in history, with some four thousand new laws entering the statute books. Many of these new laws placed responsibility for clearing up society upon educationalists, doctors and health workers, social services, the police and other institutions and structures. The notion of individual responsibility barely featured - if at all - yet, paradoxically as individuals, we have more rights than ever before.

There is always someone or something to blame, whether it is background, social status or environment. Fault and accountability for one's own actions has been significantly diminished. Rights are no longer an individual's defence against the state; they have become a claim by the individual on the state.

Much of what creates community lies in the practice of social virtues, common good: giving to people in need, visiting the sick, comforting the bereaved, offering solace and such help as one can to a neighbour who has lost a job, respecting the dignity of the 'other.' Such actions are best not done alone, historically, churches, synagogues, mosques and gurdwaras provided places where simple human virtues of support, care, conversation, shared standards, civility and politeness were practiced.

A culture of suspicion, accompanied by a climate of fear that to engage with strangers, even those in desperate need, is stultifying both innate social virtues and common good. The outcome of this is the denial of responsibility, and as in the Adam and Eve story, such denial leads to the loss of paradise.

Regardless of creed or faith, few could disagree that a society without a community of ideas, shared values on politics, morals and ethics, with agreement about good and evil, can only disintegrate and fragment.

To create a society, we must embrace values that are often spoken of in religious story as covenant. Covenants belong to families, communities, charities, to the arena of cooperation, mutual trust, not doing alone what can be done together, shared lives, and interests. Covenant is about identity. Covenant restores the language of cooperation in a world of competition. It focuses on responsibilities, not just on rights. Social covenant creates a society.

In the new Parliament, may we seek the signs of covenant over contract; society over state, cooperation over competition, responsibility over rights. There is a role here for us all, people of faith, and of no faith. We do not have to complete the task, but neither are we free to stand aside from it. *+Peter B Price, Bishop of Bath and Wells*



St. Leonard's Church

Services for May 2010

2 May 9.30am	Lay lead Morning Prayer Easter 5	First Lesson Acts 11 v 1 - 18 Gospel John 13 v 31 - 35	Willie Constantine Agneta Hinckley
9 May 11.0am	Holy Communion BCP Easter 6	Epistle Revelation 21 v 10 - 22 v 5 Gospel John v 14 v 23 -29	Ken Elliott Clergy
16 May 9.30am	Cluster Service LAMYATT Easter 7 Rogation		
23 May 11.0am	Holy Communion BCP Pentecost	Epistle Romans 8 v 14 - 17 Gospel John 14 v 8 - 17	Jenny Elliott Clergy
30 May 6.0pm	Cluster Service WYKE Patronal Trinity		

Dear All,

This missive comes from a member of the Parochial Church Council, who is no longer a churchwarden or secretary to the PCC.

On Monday 12th April at the annual meeting of Pitcombe Parochial Council, Professor Charles Brook and Mr Phillip Pidsley were nominated and accepted as churchwardens of St Leonard's Pitcombe. Reports were given showing the state of our finances, church attendances and the current maintenance of the church.

After an election the following were elected to represent YOU on the I church council:

Lady Tina Harley, Mrs Biddy Coghill-Smith, Mr Peter Wyatt, Mrs Jenny Elliott, Mrs Wendy Crane, Mr Ken Elliott, Mr Alan Whittaker, Dr David Bates, and Mrs Connie Earl.

Trust is a rare commodity these days. Can we trust politicians, newspapers, our employers, our pension company, our friends? It can sometimes be hard to know, and often we look at their track record as an indicator to see if they have been trustworthy in the past to guide us in the future. God is certainly not afraid of looking at the track record of how He has acted and how He has kept His promises. Therefore let it strengthen our resolve to step out with God today into whatever He brings before us as we take hold of His promises.

'Build yourself up in your most holy faith' Jude 20

Regards

Wendy Crane

Camelot U3A

The next meeting will be on Thursday 27 May at 2.30pm at the Constitutional Club, Castle Cary.

Speaker: Mr Richard Grundy - "The Splendid Isolation of Tristan da Cunha."
- An introduction to the island's wildlife, history and its people.

A date for your diary.

Thursday 3 June - OPEN DAY at the Caryford Hall, Maggs Lane, Castle Cary from 2.00pm to 4.30pm when you can see the work achieved by the leisure and learning groups during the 2009/2010 year. *C E Earl*

A week in the life of . . .

Do you remember Geoffrey Stanford? He and wife Susanna lived here for a year or two when Geoffrey taught at Millfield. In that short time, they became very involved in the community and even helped raise money for the new Village Hall. Geoffrey gave a sold out illustrated talk on his Ascent of Everest. Susanna gave a talk on her subject which was photography and baby Tarquin, not to be outdone, was christened at St. Leonard's and was the first to road test the nappy changing facilities when the new hall opened. Anyway, they moved on when Geoffrey was appointed to a post at Pangbourne College.

He's still raising money for charity though. He has just completed the Marathon des Sables, run in the Moroccan Sahara in temperatures reaching 40 degrees in the shade. The course covered a mixture of sand dunes, rocky wadis (valley floors), dried out lake beds and steep jebels (ridges). As it was the 25th anniversary of the event this year the distance was increased to 250kms (155 miles) to make it the longest MdS ever. Each day he managed to run for the first fifteen to twenty kilometres before it got too hot and then he resorted to speed marching. Overall it took him about 42½ hours to complete the six stages and he came in 317th out of more than 1000 starters (around 90 people did not complete the course). And he had never even run a proper marathon before!

This gruelling effort was to raise money for the charity Combat Stress, a dedicated, trauma-focused service for Veterans whose condition is often complex, chronic and long term. If you would like to contribute, please click on the link: <http://www.justgiving.com/GeoffreyStanford>

SOMERSET HERITAGE MONTH

Over 30 museums, historical societies and heritage sites have joined forces to make May the month to explore Somerset's heritage. With over 70 events and counting, there's something for everyone to enjoy at this year's Somerset Heritage Month from May 1 – June 6.

www.visitsomerset.co.uk/heritage-month is the place to go to find out what's on.

There are so many things to do locally, a Heritage walk around Frome, stunt driving at Sparkford Museum, train rides at East Cranmore for starters. Check Facebook too for daily events

Singapore to Bangkok aboard the Eastern & Oriental Express

Last January we raced the snow to Heathrow Airport to spend a night in Singapore before boarding the Eastern & Oriental Express at Keppel Station the following morning. The Eastern & Oriental, known as the E & O was launched in 1993 and follows the tradition of its sister train, the Venice Simplon-Orient Express which operates between London, Paris and Venice. The train's stainless steel bodied carriages were originally built in 1971 in Japan for the New Zealand Railways then in 1991 the carriages were brought to Singapore where the rolling stock was totally transformed with the interiors remodelled and rebuilt. The inner walls are exquisitely panelled and decorated in elm, cherry, teak and rosewoods and the diamond shaped marquetry was hand cut by local craftsmen. There is richly coloured upholstery and carpets, distinctive lamps and brass overhead racks. This luxurious train has twenty two carriages and has a Bar Car, an open Observation Car, three Restaurant cars, a Saloon and Pullman and State compartments and Presidential Suites for passengers. In addition of course there are staff quarters and kitchens etc.

Day 1- We checked in at Keppel Station which is in Singapore but the station and the actual railway track are owned by Malaysia. We opted for second sitting meals i.e. lunch at 1.30 ish and dinner at 9.15 ish and confirmed that we were happy to eat in company. Our compartment which was beautifully wood panelled was rather small but very functional with an en suite shower room. (There were of course larger compartments available at great expense!) The train left at 11.00am. After unpacking we enjoyed cocktails before an excellent three course lunch in the dining car, but we were so tired and jet lagged having been awake since 4.00 am we had a siesta during the afternoon!

It was fascinating watching the scenery - lots of palm oil plantations, but fewer coffee and rubber plantations and children running out shouting and waving as we passed their houses. We were surprised to see a few very modern looking new housing estates. Modes of transport were always of interest, family outings by moped were the most amazing, the largest group we saw comprised father, mother, two children and grandma clinging on the back - all on one moped! Pickup trucks were the other favourite, often with surprising cargo in the back. (Later in our trip in Southern Thailand we spied one transporting a baby elephant.) At 4.30pm afternoon tea arrived, silver service, naturally, with a selection of six delicious cakes between us - well what can you do but eat them!

The train drew into Kuala Lumpur before dinner and so we walked around the station which is built rather like a mosque. The Petronas Towers were all lit up - but of course they are no longer the tallest in the world.

At meal times we were introduced to and sat with other guests which can be very interesting. Following cocktails in the bar where the resident pianist entertains, we had dinner with an Australian chef who manages several Thai restaurants in Dublin and recruits his chefs in Thailand. Dinner was absolutely wonderful. Thank goodness we opted for the second sittings, we needed the meals spaced out as much as possible in order to enjoy the wonderful gourmet food to the full. On returning to our cabin it had been prepared for the night - guess who had the top bunk - but I was very comfortable!

Carole Wyatt

Yarlington Specialist Plant Sale
Saturday 15th May 10am to 4pm
at Yarlington House, Yarlington

Proceeds in aid of the refurbishment
of Ss Luke & Teresa, Wincanton.

For the 9th year running the Count & Countess de Salis
are opening the beautiful gardens of Yarlington House
to the public and to many Specialist Plant Growers
from all over the South West.

It is a great opportunity to buy from a wide variety
of plants and to stroll through the gardens.

St Luke's parish will be providing teas, coffees and
bacon butties as well as selling cakes and running a tombola.

A good day out for both gardeners
and those who like to view gardens

ITALIAN RENAISSANCE ART, 1350-1500 Hadspen Village Hall

Mondays, Oct 11th – Dec 13th, 2 – 3.30pm, £75
Tutor: Hendrika Foster MA

The main focus of the course is art created in Florence, however, the architecture and painting of 14th century in Padua and Siena will form the introduction. Brunelleschi, Donatello and Masaccio are the artists who were true innovators in Florence, creating styles in architecture, sculpture and painting that were at the cutting edge of the avant-garde, 15th century fashion. The creation of art of course always needs money and fortunately for posterity, the banking family of the Medici needed to assuage their sin of usury and present a large part of their fortune to the church. They set a precedent for others to follow, creating visually beautiful and functional art for their churches and their city.

The second course, in January 2011 will continue with study of art in Rome, Urbino, Mantua and Venice, culminating with paintings by Botticelli and Filippino Lippi in Florence.

The Renaissance was not a sudden break from the past, rather an experience for the people of a sense of progress which was characteristic of Florentine artistic life. To study art history is not merely to learn to recognise or identify a painting with an artist and a date. It is an attempt to place the work of art within the context of its production, and then study how it was made and attempt to discover why it looks the way it does.

Hendrika Foster has lectured for the past 15 years for the University of Bristol, Cont Ed., NADFAS and The National Trust. She has also organised and tutored over 35 foreign study tours in Italy, Holland and Belgium. This course will be taught to under graduate level. No prior knowledge will be assumed. Study notes will be provided.

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST IN THIS COURSE, PLEASE TELEPHONE
Hendrika Foster - 01963.32172. NOW.

Booking forms will be sent out in July, payment will be required by Sept. 1st. 15 people are needed to make the class viable.

FAVOURITE THINGS

Questions from Sue Smith

Responses from Mike Beech, Chairman ,Pitcombe Parish Council

What are your three favourite places?

Istanbul
Paris
Carcassonne

What are your three favourite foods?

Lamb
Bacon
Black Pudding

If you could invite three people to dinner (dead or alive!) who would you choose and why?

Winston Churchill because he inspires me
Michael Portillo because he's an honest man
Arthur C Clarke because he made reading a pleasure

If you could pick just one of your favourite things, which would it be and why?

Istanbul because it's an example of how people of different races and creeds can get along

"Perhaps travel cannot prevent bigotry, but by demonstrating that all peoples cry, laugh, eat, worry, and die, it can introduce the idea that if we try and understand each other, we may even become friends". Maya Angelou



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and funky felines
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