

# PITCOMBE NEWS

OCTOber



2011

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## october AT A GLANCE

Sunday 2	Morning Prayer 9.30am	St Leonard's, Pitcombe
Friday 7	Recycling Collection Farmers' Market 9.00-12noon	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe Memorial Hall, Wincanton
Saturday 8	Farmers' Market 9.00am - 1.00pm	Frome, Cheese and Grain
Sunday 9	Holy Communion 11.00am	St Leonard's, Pitcombe
Friday 14	Refuse and Recycling Collection	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe
Sunday 16	All-Age Service 11.00am	St Mary's, Bruton
Friday 21	Recycling Collection	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe
Saturday 22	Farmers' Market 9.00am -1.00pm	Glastonbury, St John's Car Park
Sunday 23	Holy Communion 11.00am	St Leonard's, Pitcombe
Friday 28	Refuse and Recycling Collection	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe
Sunday 30	Evensong 6.00pm	St Leonard's, Pitcombe

# Pitcombe News

**Infor mat ive, Inval uable in Cole, Hadspen & Pitcombe**

With the rare promise of Indian Summer sunshine, there may be a natural inclination to recline in that old steamer-chair, summon up Carson (or is it Soames?) with the Bombay Sapphire, and contemplate once more just what you are going to do with all those apples!

But on the contrary, our friends and neighbours of the parish have permitted themselves scarcely a moment's respite: Willie Constantine leads the field with his admirable bicycling effort on behalf of the Friends of Somerset Churches, for the thirteenth year and for a cumulative sum of no less than £4000; also in the interest of the parish church, the PCC have presided over another successful harvest season, both at St Leonard's itself and also at the always popular supper in the Village Hall. Meanwhile, there is further activity afoot, as preparations are made for the annual charity Christmas Fair. Of course, we must beware not to over-exert ourselves, given the constraints which the PCC reports on eternal resting-places.

This month we may also mark the generous efforts of a neighbour which have now borne fruit: the Hundred Stone provided by Mr Hickley stands again at Grove Cross as a reminder that for (much, much) more than a millennium these coombes and valleys of ours have been a hive of life.

Can we take this opportunity to thank the residents who responded to September's appeal for donations to support the *Pitcombe News*. We are very grateful to you for your generosity. We hope the *News* will continue to act as a communicative focus for the parish and if you can offer assistance, please do contact us at the usual address.

## BRUTON HUNDRED



Those passing the Grove Cross crossroads on the A371/A359 a mile or so south of Castle Cary will have noticed a smart new stone on the grass verge. On it is inscribed "Here ends Bruton", which may be something of a surprise to those heading to Bruton four miles on.

The sign, carved from local Cary stone, refers to the boundary of the Bruton "hundred", an early medieval - or even earlier - administrative unit, much like a parish, or district is today. It replaces one that stood for many hundreds of years near the spot.

That we now have a new reminder of this ancient boundary is thanks to the efforts of David Hickley, who lives in Bruton and financed the project. For many years he was the bursar at Kings' School and would regularly pass the old stone on the way to Hazlegrove prep school at Sparkford. Then, in the 1950s, the stone was smashed in a car crash and was never replaced. "It seemed a great pity that this relic should be allowed to disappear," says Mr Hickley, 85. "I made up my mind that I must do something to replace it. It has taken me more than 50 years to do so." He is most grateful to Anna Groskop, Wincanton & Bruton's district representative on the Somerset County Council [IS THIS CORRECT?], and Rosie Morgan, until recently the clerk of Pitcombe Parish Council, as well as Rob Comer of Hadspen Quarry, who provided the stone and inscription [CORRECT?]. "They were all very helpful. All I had to do was foot the bill, which I was glad to do," says Mr Hickley.

As the crossroads were later staggered, in order to try and prevent the frequent accidents on the crossroad, the stone is not quite in its original spot but it is only a matter of a few feet - and the stump of the old one is still there in the grass. "The hundred was there long before the Norman conquest," says Mr Hickley. "That's why it shouldn't be allowed to drift away."

*Caroline Donald*

# Recipe: Baked APPLES



## Ingredients

80g/3oz mixed dried exotic fruit (such as mango, papaya, banana, fig, golden raisins), chopped

55ml/2floz brandy

30g/1oz soft light brown sugar

½ tsp allspice

100g/3½oz butter, plus extra for spreading

6 eating apples, cored

200g/7oz Greek yoghurt, to serve

Preheat the oven to 150C/300F/Gas 2.

## Method

Place the mixed dried fruit and the brandy into a bowl and leave to soak for at least two hours, but ideally overnight.

After soaking, add the sugar, allspice and butter to the brandy-soaked fruit.

Spoon the fruit mixture into the holes in the cored apples, pressing in to fill well and spread some more butter over the apples.

Place the stuffed apples into an ovenproof dish, cover with aluminium foil and transfer to the oven to bake for 40 minutes.

Remove the foil and cook 15-20 minutes more, until the apples are soft, but not collapsing.

Place onto plates and serve with a dollop of Greek yoghurt.

## HADSPEN & SHEPTON MONTAGUE WI

The summer programme started in May with a group meeting held at Hadspen Village Hall when Mr Terry Stanford gave a most interesting talk entitled 'Who do you think they were' illustrating the problems of identification. The evening ended with an excellent buffet supper provided by the WI branches.

Again in June we had a most interesting speaker in Caroline Donald, the Gardening Correspondent for the Sunday Times who told the 'stories' behind many of the wonderful gardens she had visited illustrated with beautiful photographs. This set the scene for our July meeting when we visited the Bishop's Palace & Gardens in Wells. For once it was a lovely sunny day and our guide made the afternoon visit most interesting as he took us back through the centuries. We visited some parts of the garden which were new to many of us and enjoyed seeing the modern sculptures as well as the diverse collection of flowers and plants. Cream teas in the Bishop's Palace completed our visit as well as singing Happy Birthday to two members who were celebrating birthdays that day!

In August, our President, Sylvia Reed, hosted the meeting with afternoon tea at her home in Stoney Stoke. We were not quite so fortunate with the weather this time, but an entertaining afternoon finishing with tea and delicious cake made up for it. Sylvia was pleased to report that our branch quiz team came first in the WI Group Quiz - no mean feat as they needed a vast cornucopia of knowledge to be successful. Congratulations to Sylvia Reed, Julie West, Lyn Jury and Jenny Elliott who made up the team.

September's meeting was held at Hadspen Village Hall and was a joint meeting with Castle Cary WI. Following the business of the day the President introduced the speaker, Rev. Mary Teed, who delighted us with her talk entitled 'Here we go a Vicaring'. Mary is a retired Methodist Minister who was originally a Music Teacher in the East End of London and a Lay Preacher before being ordained. It was most interesting to learn about her very full life as she moved around the country to join different Team Ministries, the problems involved moving into an assortment of Methodist Manses and the amusing stories of her Ministry. The October meeting will be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm at Shepton Montague Village Hall which will be the Branch Annual Meeting.

*Carole Wyatt*



*The Jubilee Hall, Batcombe*

*Doors open 7.15pm*

*Screening 7.45pm*

**Friday 14 October 2011**

***ORANGES AND SUNSHINE***

(dir. Jim Loach)

2011 / 105 mins / 15

This film tells the true story of Margaret Humphreys (Emily Watson), a Nottingham social worker who one day in 1986 is approached by a young Australian looking for her roots. Margaret investigates Charlotte's account of being one of thousands of 'orphans' forcibly sent to Australia in the 1950s with the promise of 'oranges and sunshine'. She uncovers a shocking trail of emotional and physical abuse but a wall of silence from the authorities. Emily Watson is excellent as the dedicated and determined Humphreys.

***Licensed Bar ~ Soft Refreshments***

***Free Parking ~ Wheelchair Access ~ Hearing Loop***

**Membership and advance reservations:**

**ROB SAGE 01749 850934**

**Information on our films:**

**ELIZABETH HUNT 01749 850304**

# Somerset Community Oil Scheme



**Want to save money on the cost of your heating oil?  
So do we!**

**Join our new community-based  
countywide oil buying scheme  
and see how easy it is.**



**Community Council for Somerset**  
Supporting Action in Your Community

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**Email [oil@somersetcc.org.uk](mailto:oil@somersetcc.org.uk)**  
**[www.somersetcc.org.uk/oil](http://www.somersetcc.org.uk/oil)**



Victoria House, Victoria Street, Taunton, TA1 3JZ  
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## **Parish Council News**

The Parish council met on 6 September. This was the inaugural meeting for the new Parish Clerk, John McParland.

### **Reports from County and District Councillors**

County Councillor Anna Groskop reported that the proposed changes to nationwide electoral boundaries will affect our own County Council constituency and in the interests of equalising constituencies, Pitcombe Parish Council is to be invited to consider the parish being placed not with Bruton but with Castle Cary. The proposal will be considered at the Parish Council meeting in October. District councillor Mike Beech reported that the outcome of Planning Application 11/01533/COU Land at OS 5955 Green Lane Pitcombe was still to be determined, at a timescale that remained unclear.

### **The Bruton Hundred Stone**

Councillors welcomed the opportunity to thank in person Mr Hickley for his efforts to ensure the stone, which had for centuries marked the end of Bruton Hundred, was replaced. For further details see also the back page of this issue.

### **Pitcombe News**

In the light of the cost of production and wide circulation of the Pitcombe News, and its role as a channel of communication in the parish, the council agreed to review the level of support it may offer in the coming financial year.

The next meeting of the parish council will take place on 11 October 2011.

*James Clark*

# FRIENDS OF SOMERSET CHURCHES & CHAPELS: SPONSORED RIDE and STRIDE

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011

This ride, on Saturday 10 September, was my 13<sup>th</sup> bike ride for the FSCC. As I had just had my 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday I thought I might be 'pushing my luck' a bit if I was to attempt this on my own, so I invited my younger son Michael to join me. Michael had been instrumental in selecting my birthday present from the family which was a new bicycle, a real racing machine, with 20 gears!

We set off at 0950 and did my customary group of Churches in Bruton arriving at Pitcombe Parish Church, for whom we were riding, at 1020. The Church was being prepared for a wedding but we received a very warm welcome from Tina Harley and Ken and Jenny Elliott some of my greatest supporters over the years.

After calling at St. Peters in Shepton Montague we headed for Wincanton which took about 20 minutes. Starting with the Baptist Church we called on 5 more churches including the Society of Friends which is tucked away behind a vegetable shop in the High Street where we received a great welcome.

It took us 20 minutes to get to St. Nicholas, Holton and then on to the beautifully set churches of St. John, North Cheriton, SS Peter and Paul at Maperton, St. Michael, Blackford, and St Mary, Compton Pouncefoot whose beautiful stained glass windows raised much admiration from Michael. At 1247 we were at St. Thomas -a-Beckett in S. Cadbury and with 14 more Churches to visit to reach our target. Up to this time the weather had been kind to us but we had increasingly louring clouds and a brief shower but it was mild and we soon dried off.



By 2 p.m. We were at All Saints, West Camel having called at Sutton Montis, Weston Bampfylde, Sparkford and Queen Camel Parish Churches and with 8 more to go to complete our list.

We now took our lives in our hands and crossed the busy A303 to get to Babcary, Charlton Adam and Mackrel and St Mary Magdalene, Keinton Mandeville, arriving at the beautifully situated church of St Peter, West Lydford at 3.30.

We now had only 2 Churches left to visit which were St. Thomas-a-Beckett, at Lovington and All Saints at Alford which we reached at 4.15.

From there the last leg of our ride home took us through Ansford and Hadspen and we arrived back home in Cole at 4.45 p.m.

A long day but a lovely and scenic ride with beautiful Churches to visit to make it all worth while.

We are hoping to reach about £320 from our generous sponsors and which will bring the grand total of my 13 years cycling for the FSCC to just over £4,000 half of which will go to St. Leonard, Pitcombe.

So I must give a very big THANK YOU to all my sponsors and to all the good people who manned the Churches and supplied us with sustenance for the journey.

*Willie Constantine*

## FLOWERS FOR ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

Do you enjoy flower arranging? How about joining the Flower Rota. Even if you can only commit to one or two dates in the year or just want to see what is involved by joining in with helping to fill the church with flowers for Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festival you will be very welcome. If you are willing to donate flowers but not arrange them that would be helpful too. Contact : Tina Harley 01749 813262

## FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to Harold and Evelyn Miller who celebrated their Sapphire Wedding anniversary - 65 years - last month. Mr & Mrs Miller were married on 18th September 1946 in Pitcombe Church, they celebrated with family and friends at their home in Chirton, Wiltshire.

## Local businesses

**Sue Smith — Painter & Decorator**

Reliable, Quality Work. Free Estimates

Mobile 07796 616791 Home 01963 359001

**Hartnell & Son Ltd**

Building Contractors

Tel: 01749 812996 Mobile: 07733 321280

All building works undertaken, extensions, refurbishments, repairs and maintenance.

*"No job is too small"*

# St. Leonard's Church Pitcombe



## Dates for the Diary

Sunday November 6th Patronal Festival  
Evensong at 6 p.m. This is the feast day of the patron saint of the church at Pitcombe and many will remember that the Bishop of Bath and Wells came to this service last year.

Sunday 13th November - Remembrance Sunday. The service is at 10.50 a.m. Please note the time. More details will appear in the November magazine.

## Services for October

Sunday 2nd October - Morning Prayer at 9.30 am  
Sunday 9th October - Holy Communion 11 am  
Sunday 16th October - No service at Pitcombe  
Sunday 23rd October - Holy Communion 11 am  
Sunday 30th October - Evensong 6 pm

## The Churchyard and Burial Ground

The Parochial Church Council have decided that this is an appropriate time to re-state the policy concerning burials etc. There is nothing new in this and simply states what has been the situation for many years.

There will be no new burials in the area that surrounds the church. The exception to this is where there is an existing double grave or where there is a private plot which has not been completely used. Cremated remains may be interred in this area. All new burials will take place in the burial ground on the other side of the road.

*Ken Elliott Lay Vice-Chairman Pitcombe PCC*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Home Farm Trust**

The Home Farm Trust Christmas Fair will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November at The Memorial Hall, Wincanton. I am collecting now for the Trash and Treasure Stall, if you have anything suitable I would be most grateful for any contributions.

*Tina Harley 01749 - 813262*

### **Hadspen Christmas Market**

**Saturday 19th November 2011  
10.00am in Hadspen Village Hall**

This will be the 4th annual event in support of MOTIVATION - a charity that enhances the quality of life for disabled people in developing countries. The regular popular traders will be in attendance plus some fresh faces and our usual supply of tasty refreshments. There will be a homemade cake stall and any contributions will be most welcome. I would also welcome any second-hand books in good condition. Cakes and books can be delivered to (or collected by) Jean Constantine and you can ring 01749 813103 if you would like me to collect either item.

*Jean Constantine*

### **Diamond Jubilee Events**

Unfortunately the 50/50 Auction has had to be postponed but there will be a future fund raising event.

PLEASE KEEP THE AFTERNOON OF MONDAY JUNE 4TH 2012 FREE FOR A CHILDRENS' PARTY AND THE EVENING FOR A BARN DANCE, SUPPER AND FIREWORKS.

*Camilla Carter*

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](mailto: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 November issue is  
Wednesday 19 October**

Keep up to date at

[www.pitcombepc.org.uk](http://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.*

# **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

**You can now contact Avon and  
Somerset Police by calling**

## **101**

**As part of a national programme to make it easier  
for you to contact your local police, 101 will be  
used for non emergencies  
such as:**

**reporting a crime  
contacting local officers  
getting crime prevention advice  
policing issues in your local area  
making an appointment with a police officer for  
any other non-emergency**

### **101 will not replace 999**

**999 should be used for an emergency, when a crime  
is happening, someone suspected of a crime is  
nearby, someone is injured, being threatened or in  
danger**

**101 will replace the existing 0845 number, al-  
though there will be a 3-month period when both  
numbers will be available.**

**If you are deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired,  
textphone 18001 101**

**Calls to 101 from landlines and mobiles cost 15  
pence per call, no matter what time of day you call  
or how long your call lasts.**