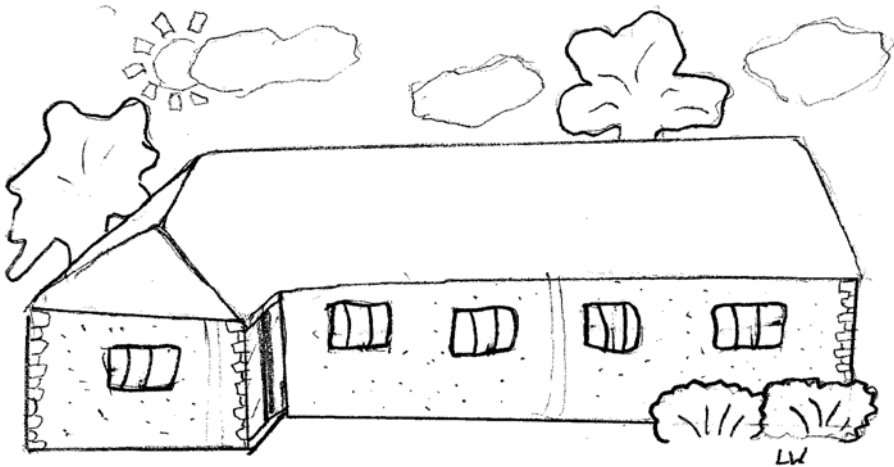


Pitcombe News

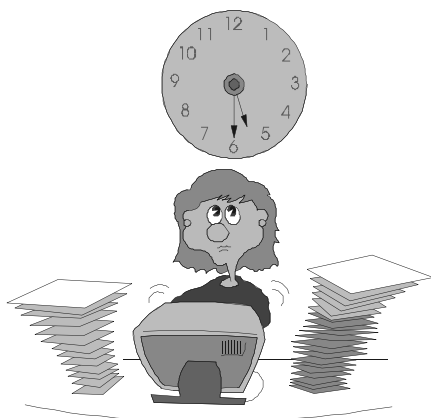
YES



The New Village Hall
(Artist's impression by Lottie Wynn)

September 2007

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its readers.



Articles for publication should be sent to the
EDITOR: SUSAN CHAMBERLAIN 01963- 350 616
sechamberlain@btinternet.com

with a copy to
CONSTANCE EARL 01749 - 813894
conearl@btinternet.com

The DEADLINE for the October issue is
Thursday 20 September

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

This month's cover, a pencil sketch of the new Village Hall was specially commissioned for the PITCOMBE NEWS. Our thanks to twelve year old Lottie Wynn, a pupil at Bruton School for Girls.

She's just a bit younger than Frank Trevett was when the present village hall was built in 1937/8. Now living in a retirement home in Amesbury, he remembers helping dig out the footings when a lad of thirteen. There were quite a few youngsters helping he recalls, his two brothers, the Clothier boys, the Spratling boys, and several other young lads, all of whom had a rollicking good time. What would OSHA have made of it!

Peter Wyatt details on page 6 what will be happening between now and next spring as the old village hall disappears to be replaced by the spanking new one. The amount of money we have raised within the community, is amazing. We are not quite there yet, there is still the bigger and better car park to go, but the response throughout the parish has been truly wonderful.

One final fundraising fling, the Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce will be held on **Monday October 1**. It's always a sellout, so do make sure you get your tickets early. And this, will be one to remember.

Now, could you please turn your largesse to the PITCOMBE NEWS? We don't need money, in fact, thanks to generous donations to us as well, we are in good shape. What we need is help in producing and distributing the magazine. But above all we need new ideas and new writers. What would you like to read about? What do you think that this community magazine of ours should be about? Some of us have been associated with it for a very long time and we would really like some fresh air around the place. Waft your ideas to me via e mail or telephone, the details are opposite. I really, really want to hear from you.

Susan Chamberlain

PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

It was mentioned that litter has become a nuisance in the Parish; I think most of it is ejected from vehicles passing through, so please do what you can if you see this happening. We have yet to recruit a volunteer to be Parish Environment Warden so please call me with any information which I may pass on to the relevant department at SSDC.

I am pleased to announce that Councillor Mike Beech has agreed to hold the Police Liaison Portfolio, so if you have any issues regarding local policing please contact him and I'm sure he will be able to help you.

District Councillor Felton reminded us that the Unitary Council bid for Somerset had not been approved by the Secretary of State, she also told us that the Police Office at Somerton would be moving to Wincanton Area East Offices.

Sadly our Clerk, Jean Linden, is leaving us at the end of August and I would like to thank her for helping me so much during my first faltering steps as Chairman. We will all miss her friendly efficiency and kindness.

Cathy Brook thanked Jean on behalf of Charles during the Public Participation for her fine work during his time as Chairman.

Councillor Neville Hartnell and I will carry out the duties of the Proper Officer until we are able to recruit a new Clerk.

There is, therefore, a vacancy for a new Clerk and I urge anyone who is interested in the position to contact myself or Jenny Elliott for further details. The position does benefit from a salary and would involve approximately 4 hours per week.

Finally, Councillor Elliott mentioned that the PPC would have to find a new venue from October because, if all goes to plan, the existing Village Hall will be no more and the new hall will be on its way. Congratulations to all involved, past and present.

Cllr Mike Taylor, Chairman

The contact details for the councillors are as follows :-

Mike Taylor – Chairman 01963 351863
mikeofhadspen@aol.com

Jenny Elliott – Vice Chairman 01963 350999
kenp.elliott@btinternet.com

Mike Beech 01749 812335
mike@mbeech.wanadoo.co.uk

Camilla Carter 01963 351106
cchoneywick@hotmail.co.uk

Neville Hartnell 01749 812996
hartnellneville2@aol.com

David Jury 01749812149
david@pitcombe.org

Ann Whittaker 01963 359222
aawhittak@waitrose.com

**THE NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE HELD
ON TUESDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER AT 7.30 PM IN
HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL**

Sally's Garden Services.
General Maintenance, design and clear-ups.
Refs. available from existing clients in Cole and Hadspen.
Phone: 07737 827570.

HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

I am pleased to be able to report that the hall rebuilding project is well on course due to the very generous response to our gift aid appeal.

To date residents and friends of the parish have donated £38,000 which together with reclaimed tax of £10,640 will make a total of £48,640. A generous donation of £1,000 has also been received from Hadspen Short Mat Bowls Club. This means that our funds including grants have now reached a grand total of £190,640.

Rob Comer of Hadspen Quarry has kindly donated the quantity of natural stone needed to face the west elevation of the new hall and we have been promised the amount needed to build this by the 'Country Gentlemen's Association'. Justin Robinson, our County Councillor, has also kindly offered to fund the installation of the hearing loop in the new hall which will be of great help to the hard of hearing.

The whole project will be split into two phases, phase 1- building the village hall and phase 2 - creating a new entrance and car park. Phase 2 will cost approximately £21,400 and we are now applying for grants to help fund this.

The fact that the community has raised approximately 40% of the cost of building the hall through fund raising and gift aid appeal donations is helping enormously with grant applications. These have been submitted to 'Awards for All' who are funded by the Lottery and to the South Somerset District Council Community Grants Scheme. Some time ago an application was sent to Hall & Woodhouse, through the scheme they administer with the Blackmore Vale Magazine, and Fanny Charles who is editor of the BV Magazine recently visited the hall to look around as we have been 'shortlisted' for a grant. We have also been shortlisted by the Leonard Laity Foundation who are meeting again in October when they finally decide whom they will support.

However, the full cost of the whole project is unlikely to be less than £210,000 so if anyone is still thinking about giving a donation, the gift aid scheme is still open and any further contributions will be very much appreciated.

Demolition is due to start on **8 October** with a build time of approximately 28 weeks and the project will be carried out by R B Snook Ltd of Sturminster Newton in accordance with their tender. A letter of intent has been sent to the builder and contracts are being prepared by our Contract Administrator, Mike Priddle of the Slade Parry Partnership.

On 2 August, to help with the fund raising, a few of the Catering Committee ladies provided lunch for Mark WI before they visited Gants Mill for a guided tour of the mill and the gardens during the afternoon. I hear a lovely day was had by all and lunch was much appreciated.

This year's harvest supper on **Monday 1 October** will be the last event to be held in the old hall. Tickets will be £7.50 and sold on a first come first served basis.

I would also like to remind you about the Travelogue on **Friday, 31 August** with Colin Anthony, and on **Friday, 14 September** Hamish Craig's talk on his Expedition to South Georgia. Tickets are available from the usual people.

The support for the village hall project has been truly amazing and is very much appreciated by the Village Hall Committee who will endeavour to ensure that we have a hall that the community can be proud of.

Peter Wyatt, Chairman, Hadspen Village Hall Trustees

**'Expedition to South Georgia'.
A talk by Hamish Craig at the Village Hall, Hadspen
Friday, 14th September at 7.30**

Very topical this summer on the 25th anniversary of the Falklands War and will prove most interesting as Hamish was the Science Director for the Joint Services Mountaineering and Scientific Expedition to the islands from November 81 until March 82.

Entry at the door — adults £5.00, children £2.50 including nibbles. There will be a bar available.

All proceeds will go towards the Village Hall rebuilding fund.

www.allegrias.co.uk

*You are invited to an Allegrias Sale
French & Italian Jewellery,
Accessories & Clothing*

***at the Village Hall, Hadspen
Thursday 6th September
10.30 until 12.30***

*A percentage of all sales and the proceeds of the
raffle will be donated to the Village Hall*

*Refreshments available
For further information contact
Jean Constantine
01749-81303*

HADSPEN AND SHEPTON MONTAGUE W.I.

Our annual garden visit this year was to East Lambrook Manor Gardens which were designed by Margery Fish and home to the national geranium collection. Despite a grey afternoon we enjoyed strolling round the garden and partaking of a cream tea in the excellent cafe.

At the August meeting Mrs. Beryl Griffiths, from Woolavington, gave us an inspired talk about her Granny Trek from Lowestoft to St. David's Head in Pembrokeshire. She took 6 weeks to cover the 413 miles along footpaths and bridleways with her two dogs and in so doing she raised over £37000 for the Children's Hospice at Wraxall.

The September meeting will be on **Tuesday 25 September** jointly with Castle Cary W.I. For details please contact Mrs. Sylvia Reed on **01749 812768**.

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Come to the last event
at
The Village Hall, Hadspen

Monday 1 October
7.00pm

Supper First drink free
Raffle Produce Auction

Entry by ticket only £7.50

First come first served
from

Peter Wyatt 01963-350222
Willie Constantine 01749-813103
Ken Chamberlain 01963-350616

COMPUTER BYTES

Google that Library:

Google has reached an agreement with another library as it pushes forward it's bid to create an online database of books from around the world. The company's recent agreement with the University of Texas Libraries will add more than one million books to the Google Books Library Project.

The Library Project's aim is simple: make it easier for people to find relevant books – specifically, books they wouldn't find any other way such as those that are out of print – while carefully respecting authors' and publishers' copyrights. Their ultimate goal is to work with publishers and libraries to create a comprehensive, searchable, virtual card catalogue of all books in all languages that helps users discover new books and publishers discover new readers.

Each book on the database includes an 'About this Book' page with basic data such as author and title. For some books, additional information including a list of related books will be available. Each book shows links directing the searcher to bookstores or libraries where it is available. <http://books.google.com/googlebooks/library.html>.

Site Seeing:

www.stately-homes.com This website is comprehensive and crams in a huge amount of information. A map of the UK is a quick way to find houses by location, or you can search by name.

www.hha.org.uk Not all the stately homes in England are in the hands of the National Trust or English Heritage. Many are still privately owned but that doesn't mean the public cannot visit. The Historic Houses Association has information on these houses, for individual visits or even weddings and receptions.

Useful Tip: In Excel, if you want to enter today's date into a cell in a worksheet, simply use the keyboard shortcut - **Ctrl** and ; (semi-colon) today's date will be instantly inserted!

Maria Samuel (woodcott13@btinternet.com)

NOTES FROM A HADSPEN GARDEN

Out of the blue I received a telephone call from a lady who was raised at Honeywick in the 20's and 30's. She left the area on marriage. Commiserating with her over an austerity wedding she said that it wasn't too bad but that one guest had complained that the wedding cake tasted of cocoa.

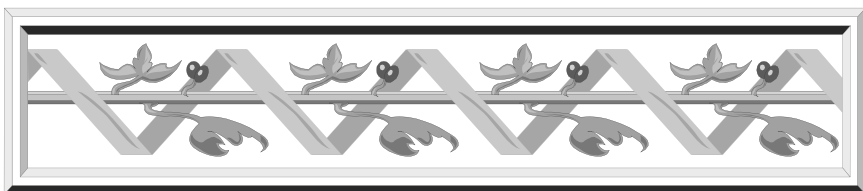
Her daughter drove her over for tea shortly afterwards and we were able to reminisce about the old days. She brought some photographs with her of my garden because the then owner Mrs Parker Rhodes was generous in allowing her opposite neighbours frequent use of the garden especially when they had guests. The garden was much more open in those days but I could see terracing, a pond, a rose pergola and even recognise a few of the trees.

There was also a photograph of Mrs Parker Rhodes herself. She looked attractive, perhaps in her forties and good fun sitting in her motor car. While she lived in the house with a cook, chauffeur/gardener and housemaid her husband lived in Yorkshire visiting from time to time and sending presents of salmon and pheasants. There was a son.

Suddenly my friend asked if the summer house was still there. Where had the summer house been I asked? As she told me I realised that a few lumps of old concrete had been found but it left me wondering why a summer house had been built in such an unlikely position.

Later that evening I explored the area and realised immediately that the spot received the last of the day's sun. Clever Mrs Parker Rhodes had taken her friends for their evening drinks to watch the sun go down while cook (I hope) rustled up a delicious dinner.

Camilla Carter



OPERA RECITAL

The International English Soprano, Kate Radmilovic will be performing a concert of the great 'religious operatic' Diva arias at St. Mary's Church in Bruton on **Friday 28 September at 7.30 pm.**

Winner of the Robert Stolz Operetta Competition in 2001 and the International Vissi d'Arte Opera Singing Competition, Kate has had an international career in Germany, Italy and Switzerland. With over 30 major Soprano roles in her repertoire she is versatile in both opera and operetta. Recently she was critically acclaimed and given a five star rating in The Times and The Independent for her performance in the new production of Wagner's Ring " Kate Radmilovic's performance of Freia at the Longborough Opera Festival was memorably characterised ... touched hearts"

Kate trained at the reputable Royal Northern College of Music and has won the Elizabeth Harwood Award for Best Singer of the Year, and as a Scholar of the Peter Moores Foundation went on to train at the Zurich International Opera Studio.

Kate recently stayed with her sister in Bruton and after visiting St Mary's Church, knew that it would be an ideal setting for a concert, and hopes that it will contribute to supporting the Church and bringing to Bruton its first major Opera Recital.

Accompanied by pianist Sandra Smith, from Vienna Mozarteum and now Professor of Lied at the Guildhall School of Music, she will perform arias by Gluck, Mozart, Wagner, Strauss, Verdi and Puccini with a touch of Ivor Novello and Gershwin.

Concert **7.30 pm on 28 September** at St Mary's Church, Bruton

To pre-book tickets contact Church office **01749 813080**

(Tickets £10.00; and £8 concessions)

<http://www.kateradmilovic.com>"

Maria Samuel

CAMELOT U3A

The University of the Third Age (U3A) was founded in 1982 and this year celebrates its 25th Anniversary. It is a unique and exciting self help educational and leisure movement for retired people. Not only does it offer the opportunity to learn for enjoyment, but encourages shared learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and the added prospect of new friendships.

Camelot U3A was launched on 11 September 1992, so this year it will be celebrating its 15th Anniversary. There are 23 available programmes which reflect the members wishes and resources. There is plenty of choice in the arts, crafts, languages, music, history, literature, poetry, photography, creative writing, rambling and theatre groups.

The Travel group has an interesting programme.

March A day out in Cirencester. Visit the Corinium Museum or just go shopping.

May A visit to the Savill Garden, Windsor Great Park.

September An outing on the steam train at Bishops Lydeard.

October A visit to Tyntesfield House, the Victorian country house and estate at Wraxall, North Somerset.

There is also a regular general meeting held on the last Thursday of each month, when members can meet for a cup of tea and listen to an interesting speaker.

Thursday 27 September A.G.M. & Speaker: David Andrews 'Glimpses of History'.

Thursday 25 October Speaker: Janet Laurence 'Culinary Crime'

Thursday 29 November Speakers: Mr & Mrs Peet 'Mercy Ships'

If you are interested in joining the 2007/2008 session, come along to ENROLMENT DAY on **Thursday 6 September**, and sign up for the group or groups of your choice. This meeting and the monthly meetings are in the **Constitutional Hall, Castle Cary at 2.30pm**. Membership is **£15.00 per annum** for as many activities as you have time for and includes the monthly meetings, a free cup of tea and a biscuit and a monthly newsletter.

For further information ring the Membership Secretary,
Margaret Dickinson **01963-350626**

St Leonard's Church

Services for September 2007

Date	Service/Time	Readings	Readers
Sept 02	No Service		
Sept 09	Holy Communion 9.30am 14th Sunday after Trinity	Philemon:1-20 Luke 14:25-33	Philip Pidsley Clergy
Sept 16	Morning Prayer 9.30am 15th Sunday after Trinity	Exodus 32:7-14 Luke 15:1-10	Wendy Crane George Bunting
Sept 23	Holy Communion 11.00am 16th Sunday after Trinity	1 Timothy 6:3-16 Luke 8:4-15	A Whittaker Clergy
Sept 30	Harvest Thanksgiving 6.30pm	Service Sheet	Andrew & Merida Drysdale

CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

Whew, what a summer! But enough of the weather, other things have been happening. During August we welcomed Ellie-May Louise Adlam and Celestine Emma Hervey into the church through baptism.

In July a meeting was held at Sexey's school, to discuss the big issue of LMG's (Local Ministry Groups) and the possible implications to our parish. The general idea is for the laity – you and me – to take on more responsibility for our own church. Our benefice already consists of 9 churches, and we MAY be amalgamated with the Evercreech Benefice, including Milton Clevedon and Chesterblade. A pooling of resources or a dilution of ministry? Time will tell. The problems will not go away and we must protect and nurture the things in which we believe and hold dear.

We need to find our voices as followers of Christ. God is already present in ALL human beings and what we do, we do in response to God's talents within us, OR do you feel that there is a crisis of hope in our parish, our country, our world?

Wendy Crane, Churchwarden.

**2007 SPONSORED BIKE RIDE AND
WALK
IN AID OF
THE FRIENDS OF SOMERSET
CHURCHES AND CHAPELS
SATURDAY 8 SEPT 2007**

Half the money raised is returned by the FSCC to the Church or Chapel nominated by the riders or walkers on their Sponsorship Form..



If you wish to take part please contact
The Church representative for St. Leonard's Parish
Church, Pitcombe

Willie Constantine Tel. No. 01749 813103
For more details and advice.

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH PITCOMBE

Although it is almost impossible to believe we are rapidly approaching Autumn and the busiest time of the year at St. Leonard's. Here, then, is a list of dates for the important services that will take place from September until Christmas. Some of these will have more details given in subsequent issues.

Harvest Festival

As usual this is a joint effort with the Village Hall which makes this years Festival unusual and special. The Harvest Festival service will be at **6.30 p.m. on Sunday 30 September**. As usual I am appealing for gifts of fruit, flowers and vegetables as well as jam, preserves and any other items with a harvest flavour on **Saturday 29 September**, preferably in the morning. If anyone would like produce etc. to be collected contact me on **01963 350999**. I have been making this appeal for many years as it is the desire of the PCC to keep these special rural festivals.

Elsewhere there will be details of the Harvest Supper which will be the last before the Hall is razed and a new Hall if built. Let us make this Harvest and the Supper on **Monday 1 October** memorable.

St. Leonard's Patronal Festival will be on **Sunday 4 November** when we shall sing Evensong at 6..30pm. The Bruton Choir will be in attendance. This is an important day being the festival of our Saint, even if he is rather obscure. Refreshments will be available after the service.

Other dates coming up for your diary:

Sunday 11 November - Remembrance Sunday - at 10.50 a.m.

Friday 21 December - Carol Service at 6.30 p.m.

Sunday 23 December - No service

Christmas Day - Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday 30 December - Evensong at 6.30pm.

Ken Elliott

Footnote: The repairs to the Church will commence in early autumn. Services will continue as usual during these works.

T'AI CHI

As from **1 October 2007** the Monday class will be held at Shepton Montague Village Hall from **1000-1100 am.**

On completion of the new Village Hall the class will return to Hadspen.

Following on from the above class it is hoped to start a new Beginners Class at **1130 am until 1230 pm.**

Anyone interested in joining the new class, please contact: Lynda Williams on 01963 441124

THANK YOU

Our thanks are due to Pitcombe Parish Council who made a generous grant to the Pitcombe News in July. We are both pleased and delighted to be supported so generously by all the "institutions" of the parish.

Our thanks are due also to the following readers who have made donations to the PITCOMBE NEWS recently

Gordon Fry
Mrs Lowry
Sue Smith

John Griffin
Harriet Reed

We rely entirely on your donations. They can be sent to me at Orchard Stables, Higher Hadspen, Castle Cary, BA7 7LX or left in the mail box at the front door next time you are passing. If it is more convenient then please leave one with Connie Earl at 4 Old Station Lane, Cole.

Cheques should be made payable to the PITCOMBE NEWS.

Susan Chamberlain

HADSPEN WINE CLUB

Just about everyone is familiar with good old Chilean Merlot. It's easy drinking and one of the best value wines around. At the July meeting, Peter Wyatt sought to educate the Club on the other wines of Chile, but first he had to educate us about Chile. Only one member had visited the country (no prizes for guessing who that is) but with the help of maps and charts from the Chilean Embassy the rest of us got a quick intro to this country that is over 2,600 miles long, yet only 80 miles wide, stretching from the Atacama desert in the north to Antarctica in the south.

We began the tasting as is our custom with the white wines, including a Gerwurtraminer, redolent of rose petals, from the Casablanca Valley. One member thought it would be ideal summer drinking, sitting on the lawn in the sunshine, or even lying in a hammock. Not one for this year maybe, but certainly one to remember.

We went on to taste the reds, for which the country is better known. With 14 or so main wine growing valleys, Peter had assembled a varied selection for us. We started with the familiar, a Merlot from the Rapel Valley, part of the Cachapoal Valley in the Andean foothills (see how much we learnt). A Bordeaux like blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Merlot from the same valley at £6.95 was one that most of us enjoyed and found good value.

We ended with a wine made from the signature grape of Chile, Carmenere from a single vineyard, De Martino, in the Maipo Valley, just about in the centre of the country and not far from Santiago. At £10.95 it was the most expensive wine tasted and its silky tannins met with great favour.

Carole Wyatt provided cheese and wine. It was an evening just like the wines we tasted; easy, and extremely pleasant.

sec

COMMUNITY PRAISE

Informal Christian worship with a friendly welcome
7.00 pm in the Community Hall, BRUTON

We are a group of Christians who draw our support from a wide range of local churches. We regularly meet on the 1st and 3rd SUNDAYS of every month.

Our aim is to provide a meeting point and support for people of all ages who may be interested in exploring and developing the Christian Faith.

The style of worship is varied and inclusive with a strong emphasis on worship through music and biblical truths.

We conclude with time for a chat over refreshments.

We need your support to ensure that we continue.....

Sept 2 BBQ at Cole Manor - Funds to Joybells Orphanage in
India

Sept 1 Andrew Wilson -the lad with the tartan vocals

Oct 7 Rev. Nigel Wilson-Brown

Oct 21 Mike and Flick Streatfield

Nov 4 Rev. Tony Parfitt

Nov 18 Rev Peter Bennett - our local Methodist Minister

Dec 2 Rex Waller —Theme The Messengers

Dec 16 Carol Service. Held either in the Community Hall or
St. Mary's

For further details contact **Gordon Fry 01749 813 312**

10 THINGS TO DO THIS MONTH

if the weather does not improve

1. Find your winter woollies before the moths do.
2. Clean and put away the garden furniture, or at least, tie it down.
3. Don't put the lawn mower away though, it still looks like a corner of ould Ireland around here.
4. Give the garden its autumn tidy up.
5. Get ahead of yourself and make warming soups, stews
6. If you don't already, learn how to play bridge, chess, solitaire, even computer games
7. Get some good old fashioned holiday brochures, study them intently.
8. Then, run away to the sun.
9. Would the last person to leave, please turn out the lights and clear the drains.
10. And, if we do have a couple of sunny days, whatever else you may do, DON'T clean the windows.

If we ALL do the above, summer is sure to finally arrive this month, well maybe, October.

HADSPEN VALLEY LAMB

Local lamb for sale. Slowly reared for flavour and tenderness.
Legs, shoulders, liver and lamb and mint sausages.
Contact: Sue Smith on 07796 616791