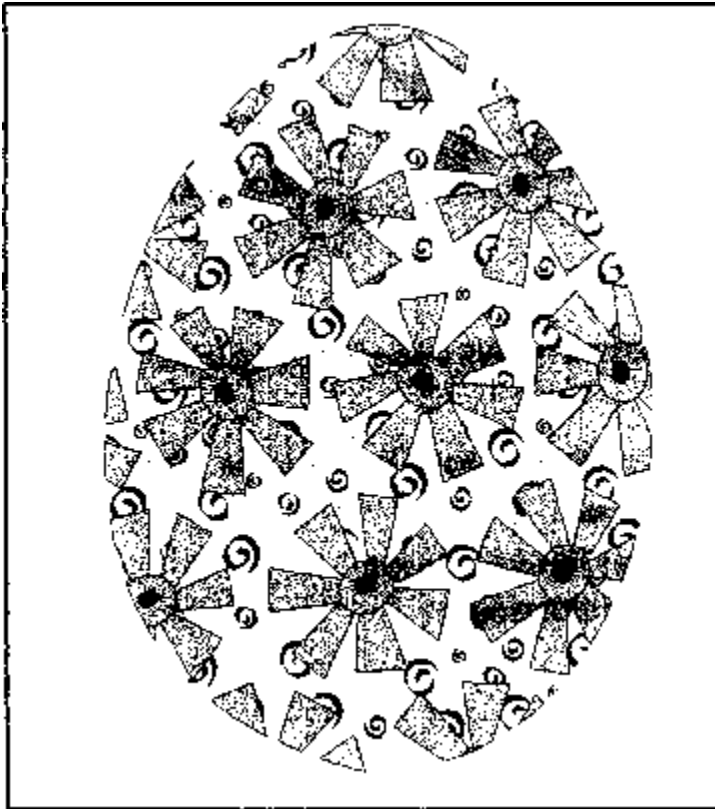


Pitcombe News



Easter Day Sunday 8 April

April 2007



Copy deadline for May Edition
Monday 16 April

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its readers.

Articles for publication should be sent to the Editor

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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

Never mind "oh to be in England now that April's there", oh to be young enough to have a mid life crisis is more to the point, as you will discover when you read Jennie Jones' account of hers. Start planning yours now and if it involves selling your house, you might let Sarah Maude know as she would like to live in the parish again. Maria Samuel's well researched Computer Bytes article might well be of help too in planning your self induced crisis.

Thanks to David Jury you can now find the PITCOMBE NEWS on the Pitcombe Parish web site along with a lot of other very interesting information, Parish Council Minutes, history of Pitcombe, local issues etc. Go to www.pitcombepc.org.uk and bookmark it for future, regular reference.

The other thing you might be tempted to do this month is to join the Prayer Book Society at the service in East Coker Church on Sunday 29th April. If you haven't been there it is a lovely little church with memorials to William Dampier and T S Elliot. It's well worth a visit and this would be a very good opportunity to see it.

But first, come to your own church, St Leonard's on Easter Sunday, 8 April. The place will have been really spiffed up, you will probably be able to smell the polish still. And the flowers are always wonderful.

Don't be in too much of a hurry to buy any plants for your garden this month. We may well have some late frosts, and if you plant early, you KNOW we will, it's always the way. Between them, the plant sale at Yarlinton and the one here in Hadspen will take care of all your needs and, at much better prices than any garden centre. So just be patient. It will be worth your while, we promise you.

Susan Chamberlain

PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

CALLING, CALLING RESIDENTS OF COLE, AND PITCOMBE: please will you consider standing for election to the Parish Council. The load is not excessive (one meeting per month at present) but the task is needed if we are to have a say over our future.

Of the Councillors who have served you this year, five of seven come from Hadspen — and yet you are not backward in coming forward with your comments and complaints. The necessary papers can be downloaded from the parish or district council websites or can be obtained from the Clerk at 3 Old Station Lane, Cole. All the details are also on the parish notice boards, so pleading ignorance of the process is not an option. Your help is needed.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 10 April** in the Village Hall, Hadspen at 7.30 p.m. followed by the last meeting of the present Council. Refreshments will be provided and a large turn out would be appreciated.

Please try to make an appearance.

Charles Brook

LOOKING FOR A COTTAGE

I am about to sell my house and would be interested to know of any period two bedroom cottage with garden and away from main roads that might be coming up for sale in the near future — if you know of anything, please call 01749 850 574, or email me on . Thank you.

HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

During the past month we have met with the County and District Council advisers to ascertain the possibility of carrying over the proportion of our grant put at risk by our failed Lottery Bid. They were very supportive and as this edition goes to press will be putting our case to the Joint County & District Councils Grants Committee for consideration. They feel we have a reasonably good case as the Committee are actively fund raising themselves and have two other fairly substantial grant applications to pursue.

The Committee are also investigating any small grants which may be available. The Secretary has drawn up a list of thirty possible charitable grant giving bodies which members are contacting and where applicable making applications for funding.

This summer it is hoped to organise some interesting talks/lectures in the Village Hall. We hope we can rely on your support.

Our next big event is the Annual Plant Sale on Monday, 28th May, a wonderful opportunity to stock your garden and enjoy coffee with friends.

Peter Wyatt

Don't forget to put this date in your diary
Hadspen Plant Sale - in aid of the New Village Hall

Bank Holiday Monday 28 May
More details on page 17



MID-LIFE CRISIS

In my 50th year I realised my life-long dream to travel to the Far East. I sold my home, put my most precious possessions in my best friend's attic - (they only amounted to a dozen boxes or so – most of them contained books, photo's, sentimental paraphernalia) and palmed off my furniture to friends and family. With just a medium sized backpack (the bigger the pack, the more you carry, the heavier it becomes) I set off on my adventure amidst voices of doom and gloom; 'you're too old to go off on your own', 'you'll be robbed and raped', 'where are you going to live when you come back?' etc this was from friends and my parents. My two adult children, who were both settled in good jobs and married, believed their mother had gone senile and were very worried for my safety.

Needless to say I survived 18 months without 'losing' a single item (apart from 2 stone in weight) and although it would be true to say I quite often found myself in 'different & difficult' situations.....a smile and a few local coins always saw me through. In fact my age often worked for me, I rarely carried my backpack.

I started my trip in Hong Kong then spent 2 months in Thailand, 2 months in Malaysia & Singapore, and 4 months in Indonesia – Java, Bali, Lombok, Sumatra. I stayed in local 'losman's' very cheap and basic but great places to meet other travellers. I enjoyed the company of people of all ages, and from all walks of life. At no time did I feel aged although I did tend to mother the young ones.

I was lucky enough when in the Cameroon Highlands, to meet up with Carina, a Swede, and we travelled together for the next four months. It's safer and cheaper to travel in pairs and sometimes when I was feeling a little homesick (mostly for my kids or a hot bath) it was good to have someone to laugh and joke with.....or play a game of cards, whatever.

From the Far East to Perth, Australia where I stayed with friends for 3 weeks while I sorted out where and what I wanted to go/do. Eventually I took a bus to Meekathara an Aboriginal settlement to stay with a friend who taught in the local school - very interesting.

From there to Broome where I joined an overland venture (3 weeks under canvas across the 'top end' to Darwin with 17 other like-minded travellers plus two drivers/guides). I am still in contact with friends I made during that time. In those three weeks I only had two hot showers (huge luxury), otherwise it was streams/billabongs or not at all, depending where we were. We took it in turns to sleep on the roof of the 4-wheel drive vehicles – the skies at night out in the bush are totally awesome.

From Darwin we made our way to Townsville (32 hours by bus). I spent my 50th birthday on a catamaran on the Barrier Reef - deep joy! I then journeyed down the coast to friends who lived on the Gold Coast and eventually to Sydney, again to stay with friends. I love Sydney, it's a very cosmopolitan city with great restaurants, but best was using the ferries to visit the different bays and beaches.

I went back to Indonesia for a further 6 weeks, then on to New Zealand, I loved NZ I could use every superlative in the book but it still wouldn't cover it. I took a backpackers coach and travelled both Islands experiencing some amazing things: black water rafting (wow!) glacier walking, pony trekking through the bush, high speed jets, a 4 seater plane over the Southern Alps to Milford Sound to watch the seals etc, I saw king penguins, albatross nesting, and sailed up in the Bay of Islands ...the list is endless – two months of pure bliss.

And finally I stayed with friends and family in Texas, Florida, Michigan, New England and New York. So many memories, literally hundreds of photo's, many new friends, and still I have itchy feet !!!!

It was lovely to see my children again, especially my granddaughter, and old friends, but the odd thing is most people hadn't realised just how long I had been away and unless they had actually travelled themselves were not interested in the slightest. I found it hard to equate 'did you have a nice time' with the amazing trip I had experienced. I'm so glad I did what I did in my 50th year, I'm not sure that I want to go backpacking for that length of time now, but even so given the slightest opportunity, I'm off and travelling again.

Jennifer Jones

COMPUTER BYTES

Online Visa (www.thevisacompany.com)

Holidaymakers can cut the time and costs involved in getting a travel visa using a new online information and application service. The Visa Company site gives free up-to-the-minute information on specific visa requirements for all nationalities to all destinations. This is indispensable because visa requirements can change very quickly – sometimes even on a daily basis – because of countries' differing requirements or changing security alerts.

Comprehensive checking procedures can be carried out online and will show would-be-travellers what documentation is needed, maximising the chances of an application being accepted. People can then use this information to apply for a visa in person, and there are some cases where this is necessary. But whenever possible, the company will obtain the visa for the consumer, saving them the time that would have been spent in a queue and the money on general expenses.

The £35 cost, which excludes an Embassy/High Commission fee, will often work out to be less than the cost of travel to the Embassy/HC in question.

The documents that consumers will need to send will depend on the requirements of the Embassy/HC and which type of visa is required. The company handles more than a million possible visa requirements. Anyone worried about the security of the process will be reassured to hear that the company processes more than 6,000 visa applications a month for business travellers, without any problems. Those who are not happy to rely on Royal Mail, can make use of the courier service the company offers.

'Personal Finance Sites'

www.switchwithwhich.co.uk Several sites compare energy prices and suppliers, but this one is truly independent because it doesn't take any form of advertising. The site generates revenue when you switch supplier, but the money goes towards Which's consumer campaigns.
www.moneyfacts.co.uk This site provides a comprehensive comparison of credit cards, mortgages, savings and bank accounts – and weeds out savings firms that bump up their rates with a short term bonus.

There are ads on the website, but Moneyfacts doesn't make money from 'clicks', so it cannot be tempted to manipulate results.

www.insurancewide.com Gets quotes from almost every insurer — including Tesco and Direct Line, which rarely appear on other comparison sites. It also generates revenue only from successful 'clicks', so there is no incentive to post ludicrously cheap quotes that will never translate into genuine premiums.

Maria Samuel (woodcott13@btinternet.com)

YARLINGTON SPECIALIST PLANT SALE

But direct from the growers and get advice and good value.

For the 6th year running,
the Count and Countess de Salis
have arranged
a Charity Specialist Plant Sale
at Yarlington House

on **Saturday 19 May, 2007.**

There will be 16 specialist stands in the courtyard

*The two acre gardens
(with pleached limes, Italian and kitchen gardens)
are included in the entrance fee.*

Refreshments. provided by the Supporters
of the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Yarlington.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and hot bacon rolls
available all day.

The proceeds to go towards the church.

NOTES FROM A HADSPEN GARDEN

Two rhododendrons and one camellia were growing here when I moved in and on the strength of that and a not very convincing soil test I planted more camellias. That was four years ago. I was having a few days holiday in Cornwall just before Easter visiting gardens, admiring the magnolias and choosing camellias and returned home with my car stuffed full of shrubs. They were in the boot, and strapped in on the front and back seats until there was only just room for the driver, me. The car looked a sight and must have made people laugh to see it hurrying back to Somerset with its booty.

This year, free from frost the blooms have been perfect for picking. They have graced the dining room table for a week or so now and have given me great pleasure. Camellias have few faults but one is a tendency to hold onto flowers once dead. The williamsii group shed their flowers as they fade and it makes for an overall more attractive appearance. My camellias are happy planted on one of the banks under trees, even a newly planted camellia from my father's garden which looked sickly with yellowing leaves has made a complete recovery. I look forward to them growing huge and flowering every spring.

Mine were purchased from Trewithen Nurseries, Truro and Burncoose Nurseries, Redruth.

Camilla Carter

Though April showers may come your way,
They bring the flowers that bloom in May.
So if it's raining, have no regrets,

Because it isn't raining rain,
you know, (It's raining violets,)



| Arjunson

THE OLD SPOT, Wells

Chef Ian Bates worked in many famous London restaurants and in Bristol before opening his own restaurant in Wells last year. It is very well situated in the centre of the town and, if you can book one of the tables on the dais at the back of the restaurant; then half of the party will have a view of the west front of the cathedral during dinner.

The menu is satisfactorily short and good value at £26.50 for three courses or £21.50 for two — and they don't mind older and stouter persons sharing. Its lunchtime menus are amazingly good value.

Starters did not augur well: ballotine of duck was delicious but the grilled squid was somewhat tough and chewy though the dressing was good. Deep fried lambs balls were perhaps a little dull.

However, the main courses made up for it, Blanquette of Old Spot pork was excellent but the sorrel promised with it was understated; saffron and mozzarella risotto and grilled bream with lentils were respectively satisfyingly rich and perfectly cooked.

Boiled orange cake with citrus fruit and mascarpone rounded off a meal we thoroughly enjoyed. The service was attentive and courteous: the Old Spot vaut le voyage.

The wine list is probably too long for a bistro-style restaurant which does not attempt to be pretentious, so we were not overly surprised to find that the only bottle of Irouleguy (Basque) had been drunk at lunchtime but the Pineau de Charentes ought to have been there.

WAJD

2 Sadler Street, Wells, Tel: 01749 689099

Tues 6.30 pm to 10.30 pm, Wed — Sat noon to 2.30 pm, 6.30 pm to 10.30 pm, Sun noon to 2.30 pm.



St Leonard's Church

Services for April 2007

Date	Service/Time	Readies	Readers
April 01	No Service Palm Sunday		
Tuesday April 3	Compline 7.00pm		
April 08	Holy Communion 9.30am Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 John 20:19-31	Charles Brook Clergy,
April 15	Morning Prayer 9.30am 2nd Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:27-32 Revelation 1:4-8	Carole Wyatt Peter Wyatt
April 22	Holy Communion 11.00am 3rd Sunday of Easter	Acts 9:1-6 John 21:1-19	Bruton School for Girls' Clergy
April 29	Evening Prayer 6.30pm 4th Sunday of Easter	Acts 9:1-6 Revelation 5:11-14	Ken Elliott Jenny Elliott

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MAR 2007

A brave dozen souls attended the AGM of the PCC. Proposals for churchwardens were accepted and Charles Brook and Wendy Crane agreed to stand for the year 2007/8. Peter Wyatt agreed to remain as treasurer with Ken Elliott as lay-chairman. Dr Bates has agreed to sit on the PCC along with the existing committee members.

Attendance is up and steady. In the past year, 2472 have attended church with 554 people receiving communion. It is a delight always to welcome new parishioners especially at the Carol service and the regular attendees throughout the year.

There has been 1 baptism, 1 wedding, 1 marriage blessing, 1 funeral and 3 interments and finally a flower festival.

A full fire assessment has taken place, though a few things need to be put in place before the next one is due. An access ramp for wheelchairs has been purchased for use at various services and the flower festival. Parking remains a difficulty but if everyone could please park at right angles to the hedge, more cars could park.

Although the church accounts look healthy we are facing major expenditure for the repairs to the roof and underground drainage which hopefully, with the second part of the English Heritage grant, work can begin on the roof at the beginning of September.

The future does not look bleak, with Local Ministry Groups beginning to take place in the Benefice. We hope to incorporate 'Changing lives' as directed by Bishop Peter and rise to the challenge.

On Sunday 29th July our new Archdeacon, Nicola Sullivan, will be taking Matins at Shepton Montague at 09.30 and Holy Communion at Bruton at 11.00. It would be nice if most of our congregation could make it to see and listen to her at one of the services.

Wendy Crane

PRAYER BOOK SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

St George's Day Service Sunday 22nd April 2007.

Christ Church, Broad Street, Bristol

Bath & Wells PBS members are invited to join Bristol members for Choral Communion at 11.00am.

Following lunch at the Thistle Hotel next door, there will be a guided tour of St. Thomas and the Lord Mayor's Chapel and then tea at the Marriott Royal

Spring Service - Sunday 29th April 2007.

St Michael & All Angels, East Coker. Mattins at 10am

Rt Revd Michael Ball, our Ecclesiastical Patron, will preach. After the service the Rev Roger Burt, the Vicar, will show us around All Saints, Sutton Bingham, a small church notable for its 13th-Cent. wall-paintings.

"In the nave a fine large Death of the Virgin. In the chancel, crudely retraced, a large Coronation of the Virgin" – Pevsner. Lunch at the Helyar Arms, East Coker, after which Simon Heneage will talk about his family, the Helyars who came to Coker Court in 1614

"A Rallying Cry"

As time passes churchfolk will grow accustomed to their loss of the Prayer Book and to the new services, but those made of sterner stuff will continue to use the Prayer Book privately at home and go many miles to find a church that still uses it for Sunday worship, reluctantly forsaking their own parish church. They will do battle-on the Parochial Church Council and will find "mutual society, help and comfort" as members of the Prayer Book Society.

Philip Larkin "Required Writing" (1983)

GOOD FRIDAY PILGRIMAGE

This year Batcombe, Brewham, Lamyatt and Upton Noble, are joining with Evercreech, Milton Clevedon and Chesterblade, for a Good Friday Pilgrimage Walk. This walk is already established for the Evercreech group, but has been extended to welcome those of us in the Benefice of Bruton & District who would like to take part. There will be three different routes for the first stage of the Pilgrimage Walk; starting at Chesterblade, Batcombe and Lamyatt Churches at 12 midday, where short services will take place. Then the three groups will set out and head for Milton Clevedon Church, where we will meet at approx. 1.30 pm, for a mug of soup and a roll. provided by Milton Clevedon parishioners and then we will travel together to Evercreech for the final act of worship at around 3.00 pm. This will be followed by a cup of tea and a hot cross bun, provided by the people of Evercreech.

Because of the weather all the stages of the Pilgrimage walk are likely to be quite muddy; please make sure you wear appropriate footwear such as walking boots or wellies, and please bring any refreshments that you may need on the walk.

People taking part on all or part of the Pilgrimage are invited to carry their Palm Cross (we shall have some spares hopefully). We shall also carry a larger wooden cross on our journey between Milton Clevedon and Evercreech.

I acknowledge that this does present some local logistical difficulties, but perhaps we might be able to overcome these, by arranging our cars for our own convenience. I doubt very much we will want to walk home afterwards. Lists will be placed in all of our churches just in case you would like to take part. Numbers will be required as a matter of courtesy, for Milton Clevedon and Evercreech Churches for catering purposes.

For more information contact Fr Michael (850671). If it rains on Good Friday – there is no wet-weather plan! The Pilgrimage will take place regardless ... so bring waterproof clothing! Dogs (and any other four-legged pilgrims) are welcome. *Fr Michael*

TREACLE SPICE TRAYBAKE

This month's brilliantly simple cake comes from Liz Thomas. The hardest part is weighing the treacle and the easiest way is to warm it slightly ahead of time and then weigh it on top of the sugar adding the two weights together.

225g (8 oz) soft baking margarine ICING
175g (6 oz) caster sugar 75g (8 oz) icing sugar sieved
225g (8 oz) black treacle about 2TBS stem ginger syrup
300 g (11 oz) self raising flour 2 bulbs stem ginger,
2 tsp baking powder finely chopped 1
tsp ground mixed spice
1 tsp ground allspice
4 eggs
4Tbs milk
3 bulbs stem ginger from a jar,
finely chopped

Preheat the oven to 180C/350F/gas mark 4.

Line a small roasting tin about 30 x23 cm (12x9 in) with foil and grease well.

Measure all the ingredients for the cake into a large bowl and beat well for about 2 mins until well blended. Pour into the tin and bake for about 40 mins.

Cool and ice, or even simpler, dust with sieved icing sugar.

Cut into 15 - 20 squares.

To freeze, leave whole. Thaw for about 6 hours at room temperature and then ice.

the 3rd annual
hadspen plant sale

bank holiday monday

may 28th

10 am - 1.00 pm

hadspen village hall

with

free advice from our local
gardening experts

in aid of the new village hall

admission 50p

tea/coffee/cakes

30 YEARS IN THE FILM INDUSTRY

Saturday 5th May

6.30 for 7.00 pm

Jubilee Hall, Batcombe

Come and join Sarah Maude as she talks about her career in films

Listen to stories about the stars

Hear about the highs and lows of filming

Look through a display of memorabilia

TICKETS £5

in aid of the Jubilee Hall Trust and the Batcombe Film Society

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SARAH

01749 850 574

PLANT SALES

Following my notice in the last News I have received quite a few orders for this year. If you require baskets or containers, please contact me as soon as possible so that I can grow the necessary plants. The times for casual sales will be given next month.

As I write we have just had a night when temperatures went down to -4C and this could easily happen again in May. I am not rushing to get plants ready too early..

As usual the profits from this enterprise will go to charity.

Ken Elliott (01963-350999)

kenp.elliott@btintemet.com





Jubilee Hall, Batcombe
doors open 7.15pm - Screening 7.45pm

Friday 13th April

TRANSAMERICA

(dir. Duncan Tucker)
2005 / 103 mins / 15

Our season finishes with the story of Bree, a male to female transsexual who is just about to undergo final surgery to complete her sex-change. Discovering she has a son resulting from a sexual encounter years ago when she was a man, Bree flies to New York to get Toby released from jail. Not revealing her true identity, she pretends to be a representative of a Christian missionary organisation and persuades him to drive back with her to Los Angeles whilst secretly planning to return him to his mother and stepfather en route. Oscar-nominated Felicity Huffman is splendid as Bree in this funny and touching film.

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

This is the last film in our 2006 -2007 season: our thanks to all who supported us. We look forward to seeing you, and receiving any suggestions of films you would like to see at our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 10th July at 7.30pm - more details in the July edition of the parish magazine.

It's that time of year. You've spent the last thirty minutes trying to start the lawn mower, it's going to rain tomorrow, the edging shears are still gummed up with last years clippings what to do? Just one thing, find the can of WD-40 of course. It's probably where you left it last year, somewhere in the shed. Established as a rust preventative solvent and de-greaser, researchers in the 50s, after 40 trials, came up with the ideal 'water displacement solvent'--hence-WD-40

10 OTHER USES FOR WD-40

Here are some uses you may or may not have thought about.

1. Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill
2. Removes tomato stains from clothing.
3. Gives a children's play gym slide a shine for a super fast slide.
4. Untangles jewelry chains.
5. Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
6. Spray an umbrella stem to make it easier to open and close.
7. Keeps a bathroom mirror from fogging.
8. Protects the Statue of Liberty from the elements or so they say in New York State
9. Removes all traces of duct tape.
AND FINALLY
10. It keeps flies off cows, but first, find your new, improved giant, supersized can.

PS The basic ingredient is Fish Oil.