

# *Pitcombe News*



HAPPY EASTER

*April 2009*

The *PITCOMBE NEWS* welcomes contributions  
from its readers

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

for Easter eggs in glorious colour

**The DEADLINE for the MAY issue is  
Saturday April 18**

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

In February, Alan Billeness appealed for help in finding someone who had been a schoolboy with him at Sexey's with over sixty years ago. He thought, but could not be sure, that he had caught a glimpse of him in the lanes around Pitcombe. The chances of finding him through an article in the Pitcombe News with its circulation of 175 were "needle in a haystack" slim. But ... as you will so rightly have surmised, Alan found his friend. Somewhat ironically the person he had seen in the lanes turned out not to be the friend at all.

A couple in Sunny Hills remembered Alan's relatives very well, but unfortunately could not shed any light on the school chum. The name rang a bell with a solicitor in Cary, (now how did he read the article?) and he put the pair in touch with each other. One lives in Cambridgeshire now, the other in Hampshire, so where they will eventually meet is anyone's guess. The perfect ending would be for them to meet in the lanes of Pitcombe one sunny day.

The benefice has only one rector and he cannot be in ten places at once on a Sunday. And so, a lay person takes the occasional service at St. Leonard's, Andrew Drysdale was one of the first to be volunteered. Excerpts from his address start on page 13.

Jan Jeffries of Pitcombe has come up with some interesting people she would like to have dinner with. Turn to the last page for her choices.

There are a lot of notices of one kind or another in this month's mag, so it might behoove (isn't that a lovely word?) you to look through them. On the other hand you could turn to page 8 and make a big bowl of lemon curd and yoghurt fool first. It's quick and easy and depending how much you eat, not all that fattening. Enjoy!

*Susan Chamberlain*

## PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

### Pitcombe Flooding

A community flood meeting was held in Hadspen Village Hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> February which was attended by 27 residents from the hamlets of Cole and Pitcombe. It was organised to provide a discussion forum for a range of issues and to look at ways of combating the effects of future flooding incidents.

The meeting was chaired by Parish Cllr David Jury and started with a presentation of photographic images demonstrating the extent of the flooding in the Pitcombe valley between the A359 Bruton Road and the River Pitt's join with the River Brue at Cole. (The projection equipment was kindly provided by Bruton School for Girls and was the first presentation of this kind held in the new village hall).

The chairman opened the meeting with a summary of the events leading up to the flooding of the 13<sup>th</sup> December and the action already undertaken by the parish council. The meeting went on to discuss number of topics including Cole Manor, the bridges at Cole and Pitcombe, the river channel and riparian owner responsibilities, an upstream flood protection scheme, property level flood protection and the formation of a community action group. The discussions were frank and open and a number of issues were resolved. Minutes of the meeting have been circulated and will also be available on the website noted below.

Since the meeting a community action flood group has been formed and held its inaugural meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> March. A website for the group is currently being built and will reside at the following address: [www.cafg.org.uk](http://www.cafg.org.uk)

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE  
PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL  
WILL BE HELD ON  
TUESDAY 14 APRIL AT 7.30 PM  
IN HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL



## HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

I am pleased to report that we have obtained a further grant of £2,500 from Viridor Credits towards the purchase of new upholstered chairs for the hall. This is in addition to the £750 received from the County

Council Community Chest at the discretion of County Councillor Justin Robinson. This means that we have just under £500 to find from our own resources.

We are most grateful to Viridor Credits for their financial support. They would like it to be more widely known that they have funds available for community projects within ten miles of their landfill sites. Last year of course they also generously supported the major building project to create the new hall.

Last week we were visited by Charlton Musgrove Village Hall Committee who are in the process of contemplating major work on their own hall. Jim Linden and I were able to explain the processes and pitfalls of major construction during their conducted tour.

They were also keen to try their hands at short mat bowls which they duly did under the guidance of Willie Constantine, Stephen, Nigel and Celia Wheadon. A good time was had by all and coffee and biscuits were provided by Carole Wyatt at the end of the evening.

The 'Stretch & Flex' classes on Tuesday afternoons are proving very popular and I am informed gentlemen are also welcome, Apparently you can exercise at your own pace!

The new chairs are expected to be delivered in the middle of April so will be available for general use and inspection at the Plant Sale on 9<sup>th</sup> May. By the way, the gentlemen of the Committee had very little influence on the choice of fabric colour!!

*Peter Wyatt, Chairman*

## HADSPEN SHORT-MAT BOWLS CLUB

"The Ball no Question makes of `AYES' or `NOES',  
But Right or Left as strikes the Player goes:"  
*Omar Khayyam, c1100AD*

We all know that Bowls are biased so that when bowled to the right the bowl will veer to the left. The `biased' side of the bowl comes into increasing effect as the bowl slows towards the end of its run.

This is where skill comes in, judging just how much to bowl to the right or left to end up close to the `Jack'. The distance of the `Jack' from the bowler can change from game to game and the speed of the bowl is also a very important factor.

Bowling Mats can vary from Slow to Medium or even Fast. Oddly enough a Fast Mat will mean that one has to bowl slowly! The very first Mat the Club bought in 2002 was a Fast mat which we bought second hand from Templecombe for £100. Thanks to a Grant from SSDC, within weeks of that we were able to purchase another Mat, a brand new one of Medium speed. But our Fast mat was our `Secret Weapon'. No other Club had a mat as fast as ours which meant that it took our opponents a while to adjust. The camber of the floor in the old Village Hall was another factor in our favour.

However, things are now very different with our new Hall floor. We decided to dispense with our old Fast mat and purchase a new Medium speed Mat, costing £800. This we did with the aid of a Grant of £200 from Cllr Justin Robinson of SSDC and £100 from Hadspen Village Hall Committee. Luckily we received a good offer for the old Fast mat which meant that the Club only had to `cough-up' £450.

In competition in the Yeovil Winter League, Hadspen is currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> place with 3 more matches to play. We are considering competing in the Summer League as well.

Hadspen Short Mat Bowls Club is always happy to welcome new members and has `club' bowls available for guests to use. If you would like to try your hand at bowling please contact either myself, Willie Constantine on 01749 813103 or the secretary, Carole Wyatt on 01963 350222. WGC

## HADSPEN & SHEPTON MONTAGUE WI

March was the last of the winter's afternoon meetings before reverting to the usual evening meetings. Members met at Shepton Montague Village Hall and were very pleased to welcome two guests, Moira Knight and Celia Wheadon.

After the business of the day the President welcomed Eileen Hurd who demonstrated the art of making greeting cards. She provided copious amounts of craft material and cards and invited the members to try their hand. We used Iris folding shapes as a template to build up the main design on the front of the card, and by the time the inside of the card and the envelope were lined we actually had a card we could use! I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that I was amazed at what we produced with Eileen's guidance. A very enjoyable afternoon concluded with tea and biscuits.

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with Castle Cary WI and in Castle Cary on Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> April at 7.15pm

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Not all criminals are bad guys

There have been a couple of recent incidents where vehicles (4x4s) have been stolen using keys taken from unlocked premises.

Just in case, these guys revert to type and look to stealing smaller vehicles and oobjects, remember to keep both house doors and car doors locked and keys out of sight. It is particularly important during the summer months when everyone is out in the garden. You should also make sure that garden equipment is locked up securely when not in use.

Should you see any suspicious vehicles in our area, call 999 or 0845 456 7000.

*Susan Chamberlain*

*Neighbourhood Watch, Hadspen*

## Gwen Bright

You will be saddened to hear that Gwen Bright passed away last month following two years of ill health. She and husband Len moved to Hadspen in 1967 and as such were the “senior incomers” of the village.

Born in 1925 in Finsbury Park, London she won a scholarship to Skinner’s School in Stamford Hill. but when World War II broke out, the children were evacuated to Welwyn Garden City. It was there that Gwen passed her matriculation exam which was to lead to a job with the Civil Service.

She and Len, (who is just 17 days her senior) were both 17 when they met in 1942 at a Youth Club in Upper Clapton. Len was shortly to join the Navy for three years and see service in the Far East.

Gwen worked all through the war and for some time after at the Air Ministry. Her job there involved posting aircrew. At one stage, she very proudly delivered a message for Sir Winston himself to Number 10 and sat down inside while waiting for the answer. The end of the war saw her working at the Secretary of State for Air’s office. The Secretary at the time was Lord Stansgate, Anthony Wedgewood Benn’s father.

Len came back from the war in 1946 and he and Gwen set about saving to get married which they did in 1951, and bought their first house in Hameringham Essex. Her two sons, Keith and Ian were both born there.

But a visit to a colleague who was living in Hadspen made them think seriously of moving to this area and when they heard that Hon-eyesuckle Cottage was for sale, they jumped at the opportunity to move here. Neither was close to retirement age, so Gwen, who by this time had trained as a Primary School teacher, taught for many years at West Lydford. She was delighted when she met up again with Rob Comer (Hadspen Quarry) who was one of the many students fortunate enough to be taught by Mrs Bright.

Gwen quickly settled into Hadspen life, serving on the Village Hall Committee for at least 10 years. But it was when she retired from

teaching that Gwen really had time for her beloved garden and spent many, many, long days making it beautiful with flowers while Len grew the “veggies”. She excelled at making “cuttings” grow. She quite probably never bought a plant, relying on cuttings from her own and friends’ gardens.

As well as gardening Gwen was brilliant with her needle. She crocheted all her life. Even as a young woman, sitting in a bus going to the Air Ministry, her fingers would be busy. She made some absolutely exquisite table cloths, both crocheted and embroidered; knitted the most complicated patterns which she herself composed and sewed too. She was a woman of many, many talents. She set herself a very high standard and kept to it and made sure that others too lived up to the same high standards. She will be much missed. Our sympathies go to husband Len and sons Keith and Ian.  
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## Current Climate

I was pleasantly surprised to receive some agreement to the fact that the current credit crunch could result in "better things" to come.

However, I have moved on, and decided that the best thing for me to do, to have a better life, is to give up working hard! I shall instead take my small amount of toxic debt, solve that and my future with a bit of quantitative easing, and thereafter live a prosperous life with my monthly dividends from all the banks in which I am now a shareholder!!!

I've never had it so good!  
*Sue Smith*



## Lemon Curd and Yoghurt Fool

Jar of Lemon Curd (try Duchy Originals Traditional Lemon Curd)  
500gr tub TOTAL Greek yoghurt  
Punnet raspberries – 200gr  
Icing sugar – 1 tbsp  
Shortbread – to serve

How quick and easy is this? Put the lemon curd and yoghurt into a bowl and gently fold together for a rippled effect. Divide the mixture between four glasses and chill.

Mix raspberries and icing sugar together and gently crush, then spoon with their juices over the chilled mix and serve with slice of shortbread.

This dessert looks 'extra good' when served in large wineglasses or any other unusual crystal you may have!  
Serves 4



## JOHN O'GROATS TO LANDS END CHARITY RUN

As we last did in 2003, about 40 classic bikes will ride on May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> from John o' Groats to Lands End in aid of Parkinsons Disease. We raised about £15,000 then and hope to raise the same or more this time. If anyone would like to help by sponsoring me for this worthy cause please ring DAVE WEST on 01963 3505





## COMPUTER BYTES

This is an article I found in Home and Antiques Magazine and as it is 'somewhat' related to computer matters; I found it rather interesting and so decided to share it.

London marriage info put online: The latest genealogical information put online by [www.Ancestry.co.uk](http://www.Ancestry.co.uk) are the London Marriage Licences 1521-1896. More than 25,000 weddings, spanning over 350 years are documented, but many people may be surprised to find that some of their ancestors were never legally married. This is because until the Marriage Act of 1753, 'legal' marriages were generally the preserve of the aristocracy – as well as being very different to the traditional marriage of today.

Marriage licences were made obligatory under the Act in order to abolish the so-called 'common law' marriages. These were rife in the Britain's slums and inner cities during the Restoration period. Usually performed by bogus priests, it meant that bigamy, under-age marriage and secret ceremonies were common.

The collection also shows the stark differences between a typical 18<sup>th</sup> century wedding and today's 'traditional' wedding. Typically, bridal gowns were multi-coloured or blue and early wedding cakes were made of savoury meat or sweet mince!

Useful Hints for Searching online: (from the [techie@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:techie@thetimes.co.uk))

1. Search within a site. Type 'site' and then a web address after your regular search term – ie 'credit crunch site: [www.timesonline.co.uk](http://www.timesonline.co.uk)' – and Google will search only for that term on that site.
2. Quick references: Type 'weather Birmingham' and Google will give you a forecast. Type 'Films M20' (or any postal area) and you will get film showing times there.
3. Similar sites: If you find a travel site that you like and you want to find others like it, just type 'related' and the site's address, ie, 'related:skyscanner.net' (no spaces) into Google and it will show you other sites like it. (If you have a tech problem, email the [techie@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:techie@thetimes.co.uk)). Maria Samuel ([woodcott13@btinternet.com](mailto:woodcott13@btinternet.com))

## CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

In accordance with the grant that we received from English Heritage, St Leonard's, Pitcombe will be open to the public every Saturday from the beginning of April to the end of October. The opening times will be from 10.00am until 4.00pm.

Even if you do not worship with us, this is an ideal time to come and look at our beautiful church in the valley. There is available a short history of the church, in the form of a small booklet which Mr George Bunting put together at a price of £2.50.

April brings us Easter, and there are many services in the Benefice available to everyone during Holy Week – 6-10<sup>th</sup> April. These are all advertised on the parish notice boards.

**Palm Sunday** will be celebrated at Matins at 09.30, this will be a lay-led service on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

**Easter Sunday** 11.00 on April 12<sup>th</sup> will be celebrated as a Family Service led by Rev Trevor Cook.

The last Sunday of April – 26<sup>th</sup> – will be Holy Communion led by Rev Dan Richards.

Easter Sunday also sees Father Michael Brown leading his last service in the Benefice, as he prepares to travel to Plymouth to serve in a different parish. We wish him well and trust that God goes with him.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,  
Deep peace of the Son of peace to you

*From Celtic Blessing from the Iona Community*

There has to be time to stand and stare.

*Wendy Crane, Churchwarden*

# St. Leonard's Church



## Services for April 2009

5 April	Morning Prayer	Old Testament Isaiah 50 v 4 - 9	Agneta Hickley
9.30am	<b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	Gospel Mark 11 v 1-11  Psalm 118 v 19-24	Ken Elliott
12 April	Holy Communion FAMILY SERVICE	Epistle Corinthians 15 v 1-11	Peter Wyatt
11.0am	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	Gospel John 20 v 1-18	Clergy
19 April	Cluster Service		
9.30am	<b>LAMYATT</b>  Second Sunday after Easter		
26 April	Holy Communion	Epistle 1st Letter of John 3 v 1-7	Ann Whittaker
11.0am	Third Sunday after Easter	Gospel Luke 24 v 36-48	Clergy

An exciting idea:  
how about a bit of optimism in our lives?

The Parochial Church Council is installing a device to make ringing the bells at St Leonard's easier and safer (a bell rope guide frame). But we only have three bells which ring in a minor key – not much fun to ring and not much fun to hear. The mechanism dates from 1910 and is in a bit of a mess.

We could soldier on but the PCC wants to explore the feasibility of updating the system and adding three bells to bring the peal to 6 in a major key. This would inevitably involve finding new money but I am told that there are grants available for such a purpose and ... nothing ventured, nothing gained. It's not a do or die business.

Brian Shingler, our Bell Captain, points out, however, that there is not much point in embarking on such a project unless there are people willing and able to ring the bells when they are hung. So I want to set up a list of people, say 8-12, committed to exploring the mysteries of bell ringing, which could be great fun. Bell ringers go all over the place to try other people's bells! If you would like to give it a whirl and/or know more about the idea and/or be on the list – nothing necessarily to do with going to church – give me a ring or send me an email. I have seven people so far: what about you?

*Charles Brook* 01963351492 [c.brook@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:c.brook@ucl.ac.uk)

Church cleaning  
Saturday 10 am 4th April

Roll up your sleeves with Tina Harley to get St.  
Leonard's looking beautiful for Easter.  
Just bring gloves and elbow grease.  
You'll be very welcome

## St. Leonard's Pitcombe, March 1, 2009

I am standing here, not of my own free will, but because I have been press ganged by our Churchwarden, Charles Brook. I am consoled by the thought that next time it will be your turns!

But don't worry. I don't intend to preach. There is no sermon hiding in my hip pocket. Rather I shall recall a few episodes connected, sometimes rather remotely, with my Church life.

My mother was Welsh. As beautiful as the wild welsh hills. A fine pianist and a pupil of Myra Hess. She was a rather fey, reflective person who enjoyed poetry. In fact the opposite of my father.

He was a Lowland Scot whose family had emigrated to London. My father was a big man in every sense of the word; physically, morally, a leader. Formidable but fun, but you just had to be a bit careful. One impertinence too many and a goodly clip over the ear was likely to result.

They were both religious. A religious family was usual then. Unusual however was their form of practicing it.

My mother was a dedicated Christian Scientist, and a faithful one. If ever mother became unwell, she, as my father put it, took it to the Lord in prayer. The dilemma was awful to behold. If prayer could not remove her problem, was that a criticism of her as a Christian of insufficient faith or of a life led too far from the ideals of Christ?

My father was an equally strong Christian, but of a very different ilk. He was a committed member of the Catholic Apostolic Church. This sect originated in 1835. They were frequently called Irvingites after Edward Irving, a charismatic minister in the Church of Scotland in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. He could draw many thousands to hear him preach. They all seemed to have been convinced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of our Lord was nigh. The Eucharist was central to their worship which had a High Church flavour. Incense was popular.

I was born near Guildford for there was a beautiful Catholic Apostolic Chapel nearby in Albury on the Duke of Northumberland's estate.

Later my father rented a house in Oxfordshire for the War. He was given dispensation by the Bishop of Oxford to worship in the Church of England.

He spent the week in London and the weekend with us. Friday night was sacred for Choir practise-- quite a business. All guests staying had to put

on a surplice on Sundays, because we sang Matins and Evensong every Sunday. That sounds extraordinary today but it was the same at school Compulsory Matins and Evensong every Sunday and. Holy Communion at 8 o'clock for the enthusiasts.

Our Vicar was a classic misfit. The Revd West, a little dapper townsman stuck in a rural parish, was proud of his tenor voice. On arrival he told the Choir they sounded like a running down gramophone record. That did it. They resigned in a body. Hence the Drysdale Gospel Singers.

I used to enjoy Church Parade when I was in the Army. There is something quite ineffable about a military band playing in the open air evocative hymns like 'Abide with Me' and 'For Those in Peril on the Sea'.

Merida and I were married at St Bartholomew's the Great in Smithfield. A wonderful church with a fine choir. "Nothing after Thomas Tallis (1505-1585)" Dr Steinitz, the Organist told me. That was not my style. My doctor was one of the 4 Dykes Bower brothers, all distinguished men, one of whom was organist at St Paul's. I told him my problem. "Oh" he said "I know Steinitz. Only sings Bach in German. Ask him to play Bach's 4<sup>th</sup> harpsichord concerto. No one has ever transposed it successfully for the organ. Schweitzer tried for 20 years in the jungle and even he failed. And so it turned out! Wesley's Lead me Lord it was and no Tallis!

I love going to Wells Cathedral. One of the paradoxes of musical life is that if you want to hear contemporary music you have to go to the oldest buildings in the land, our Cathedrals. Ancient and Modern in true perfection. Matthew Owens, the Master of the Choristers at Wells, initiated a New Commissions Scheme last year with a week of newly composed services sung during June ending with an Evensong composed by Sir Maxwell Davies. It was magnificent.

It is not surprising that I am a member of the Prayer Book Society. I am so grateful that St Leonard's is a Corporate Member also. North Cadbury had an auction for their Church last year and I managed to buy a Quarter Peel of their bells. It lasts 50 minutes. So the PBS will be joining their Matins on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Hear their bells and join us for lunch afterwards at the Ca-tash Inn.

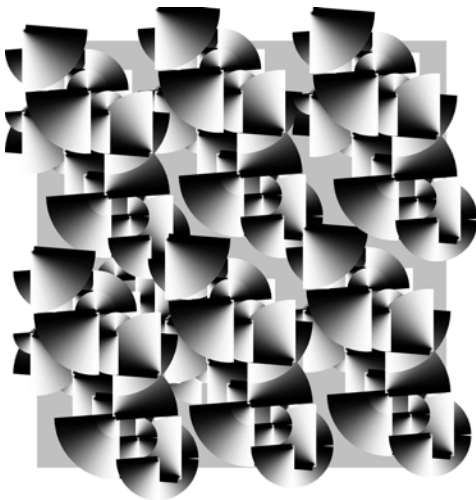
*Andrew Drysdale*

## YARLINGTON SPECIALIST PLANT SALE 2009

For the 8<sup>th</sup> Year running Count and Countess de Salis will host the charity Specialist Plant Sale at Yarlington House on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 10am – 4pm.

There will be approx 16 specialist stands in the courtyard and the two acre gardens (with pleached limes, Italian garden and kitchen garden) are included in the entrance fee. Buy direct from the growers and get advice and good value

Supporters of St Luke & St Teresa, Wincanton will provide refreshments throughout the day day.  
The proceeds will go towards church repairs.



**Poster collages,  
computer art  
tuition, visual  
identification of  
mathematical  
forms from  
topologies, knots,  
animation to *matte*  
reflections. Giles  
(01749) 812393**

## FAVOURITE THINGS

Questions from Sue Smith  
Responses from Jan Jeffries of Pitcombe

What are your three favourite places?

The Scilly Isles  
River Dart  
Salcombe

What are your three favourite foods?

Freshly boiled crab  
Homegrown vegetables  
Good Fish and Chips

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

Ian Hislop - Editor of Private Eye - exposé of hypocrisy and wrongdoing by those in power. He might have things to disclose which the government, with our severe libel laws, prevent being published!

Dorothy Brooke - Founder of the Brooke Hospital for Animals. An indomitable woman whose love of horses I share. Her battle to found the hospital in 1934, for ex-cavalry horses would be a great tale to hear.

Sir Charles Wheeler - A journalist and broadcaster who always retained his compassion. He chronicled many important events worldwide. With such a wealth of experience, his conversation would be fascinating.

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

None of the above! Cats, what else!



CELEBRATING OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Jubilee Hall, Batcombe

Doors open 7.15pm - Screening 7.45pm

Welcome to the last film of this season - thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you in September for the 2009/2010 season!

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April

***LEMON TREE***

(dir. Eran Riklis)      2008 / 106 mins / PG

We end the season with a gentle, touching film set in modern-day Palestine. Lonely widow Salma Zidane (Hiam Abbass) makes her living from her beloved lemon grove planted decades ago by her father. However, her world is turned upside down when Israel's new Defence Minister, Israel Navon (Doron Tavory), and his wife Mira (Rona Lipaz-Michael) move in next door and the lemon grove is deemed a threat to national security. Enlisting the help of a young lawyer (Ali Suliman), Salma takes on the Israeli authorities and discovers an unexpected ally in her battle.

*(Hebrew and Arabic with subtitles)*

**Licensed bar - Soft refreshments**

**Free parking - Wheelchair access - Hearing loop**

For more on our films/special events: ELIZABETH HUNT

01749 850 304 or [ehunt@mbzonline.net](mailto:ehunt@mbzonline.net)

For membership enquiries: ROB SAGE

01749 850 934 or [robsage@uwclub.co.uk](mailto:robsage@uwclub.co.uk)



**5th annual  
hadspen  
plant sale  
saturday 9th may  
10 am – 1 pm**

**with**

**FREE ADVICE FROM OUR LOCAL GARDENING EXPERTS**

**and**

**perennials, vegetables, annuals**

**HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL**

**ADMISSION £1**

**TEA/COFFEE/CAKES**