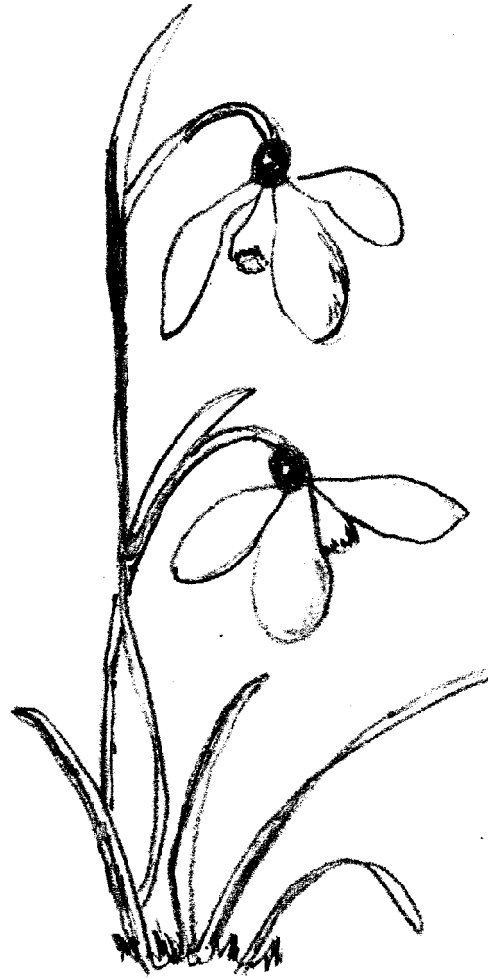


Pitcombe



Spring is just around the corner

February 2010

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its readers

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www.pitcombepc.org.uk/news

**The DEADLINE for the MARCH issue is
MONDAY 15 FEBRUARY**

The PITCOMBE NEWS regrets any errors or omissions that may occur, we do our best to avoid them. The information contained within this publications is published in good faith, the views expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily endorsed by the PITCOMBE NEWS.

Pitcombe News

I knew it was the wrong thing to do, but the 2010 diary was closer at hand than the old one. And so, I filled in the lunch date in pen, even though it was distinctly “iffy”. Sure enough, a day later it was cancelled. Not a good omen for 2010 I thought. And, it wasn’t.

Then the snow came, making the valley look so pretty and beautiful. After a few days of cabin fever it was time to take just a short walk down the lane just to see if the snow was as bad on the C125 as it was in the lane. We didn’t quite make it to the road though as underneath the snow was ice. In an flash my foot discovered it and before I knew what was happening I was lying on the ground melting it.

It could have happened to anyone but it happened to me. Annoyingly my hip will take sometime to mend. Meanwhile life is interesting, sometimes boring and has what you might call its ups and downs.

Sitting at the computer is not easy and so Connie Earl has emerged from retirement and very kindly offered to put this edition together. It is not easy for her either, but would we knowingly miss a deadline?

Many thanks to everyone else who has rallied around particularly Maria Samuel who is a rock in these circumstances.

So join me, with you feet up and read on. As usual there is quite a variety of article.

Next month we’ll be back up to speed.
Susan Chamberlain

*Sue sat (uncomfortably) at her computer to send off most of the items to me, so I am now busy at mine setting them up and printing them ready for publication. I had forgotten how much work it entails!
Get well soon , Sue.
Constance Earl*

News from the Parish Council – January 2009

At the council meeting on the 8th December the outstanding issues regarding the precept budget were discussed and agreed by the members. A copy of the budget is available on the Parish Council website..

The members confirmed that all parish notice boards were intended for notices associated with parish and community matters and were for the benefit of the whole community. The members agreed the notice boards will be kept locked to prevent the removal of parish documents and fly posting. If parishioners would like to display notices please contact Jenny Elliott for the Hadspen, John Knight for Cole and David Jury for Pitcombe.

The Parish Council have recently made available via the Parish Council website, www.pitcombepc.org.uk the following documentation: Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct and the Precept Budget. In addition a search facility is now available for searching the council minutes back to the year 2002.

Due to the resignation of Neville Hartnell a vacancy exists on the council. If any resident is interested in joining the council please contact Mrs Rosie Morgan, Parish Clerk on 01747 840305 between the hours of 10.00 and 21.00. or via email pitcombeclerk@trezemper.freeserve.co.uk.

**The next council meeting will be at the Hadspen Village hall
on Tuesday 9th February at 7.30pm**

Hadspen Village Hall December / January 2010

The AGM was held on the 26th November with the full committee and a good turn out of local residents in attendance. Peter Wyatt, The Chairman gave his annual report and stated that after the excitement of the previous year, this year had been one of consolidation and we were pleased to welcome three co-opted residents onto the committee. He thanked everyone who had helped at events during the year. Peter then announced his retirement from the committee saying that it had been a rewarding and interesting experience during his 9 years as Chairman. For his outstanding dedication during his tenure as Chairman, Peter was presented with a gift from the Hall Committee, and a tree from the Trustees as a permanent reminder of our appreciation.

Also stepping down were Jenny Elliott and Ken Chamberlain both long standing members of the committee who have given a great deal of support over the years. The evening concluded with a small cheese and wine reception.

Following the AGM the Committee met in the adjacent room and new office holders were elected – see details on our web site. We have several vacancies on the committee and welcome new members. If you would like to support your local community and bring fresh ideas to the table please let me know. We meet five times a year and new ideas/initiatives would be most welcome.

The end of the year was packed with events and parties. In late November a Christmas Market was held. This was very successful and well supported charity event. The Wine Club Gala Dinner followed this with the Bridge Club, Bowling Club and WI Christmas parties in early December. The Annual Village Hall Christmas Party fund raise was held on 12th December and very well attended, with traditional carol singing led by Ken accompanied by Roy at the organ. Sue Smith kindly donated some local lamb for one of the main dishes, which was deliciously prepared by the Catering Committee. A very good time was had by all.

The next day saw a five star birthday luncheon party for 76 guests. A splendid party with the hall beautifully decorated and set out making full use of its facilities - demonstrating how well the hall can look and operate.

The final event of the year was held by a local walking group who, on completion of a six mile circuit of the parish, held a light luncheon party. This was followed by more carol singing.

Extreme weather conditions at the start of the New Year curtailed some of the regular events. Treacherous roads surrounding the hall have prevented the Bowling Club and Keep Fit classes from meeting. These will continue as conditions improve.

Over the last year we have improved catering facilities at the hall which are now of a high standard. We are planning the installation of a public address and hearing loop system, which will improve the audio quality of public meetings, presentations and lectures. Initial quotations for the work exceed our budget and therefore more fund raising will be required before we can proceed. Other capital projects that require addressing and funding are, reduction of the water logging in the car park, provision of additional on site storage space and improving hall acoustics by the fitting of sound absorbent ceiling tiles.

A local resident has offered a most exciting opportunity. We are exploring the acquisition of several rare old land estate maps of Pitcombe Parish with the intention of mounting them around the hall. A large-scale map measuring 9 x 5 ft and dating from 1865 is being looked at in detail, with the expectation of permanently displaying the map on the end wall. It will be interesting to see how the parish has developed over the years. We have also been fortunate in that another resident has kindly offered to make a most attractive wall hanging which will be a bright eye catching display to be hung at the kitchen end of the hall.

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

Jim Linden
Chairman Trustees – 01749 813145

HADSPEN ARTS GROUP

It has been suggested that an `Arts Group` be formed as an activity in the Village Hall.

Now that we have a nice new hall that is warm and inviting the idea seems quite attractive!

Listed below are a few ideas for activities that could be included under this heading.

Suggested Activities:

Music, all types-performed in the Hall (DVD• fs etc) or organized outside visits to Concert halls etc

Poetry and Play reading and outside visits to Theatres.

Book and publications reading and Reviews

Art, classes, Drawing , Painting, & Photographic work, talks and outside visits to Galleries etc

Needlework, Patchwork, Tapestry, knitting etc.

Singing, Acting and Dancing.

If you have any ideas or suggestions regarding this proposal please e-mail or contact me.

Willie Constantine e-mail: wjcon@onetel.com Tel: 01749 813103

Camelot U3A

Members meet on the last Thursday of each month at 2.30pm at the Constitutional Club, Castle Cary, when there is an interesting speaker a free cup of tea and a biscuit (Members can bring guests for £1.00)

Future Meetings

Thursday 25 March Speaker: Mr Deane, the surgeon who pioneered knee operations in 1974.. He will talk about the history of knee replacement surgery.

Thursday 21 April Speaker: Mr Peter Harrison - An introduction to clay masonry

Thursday 27 May Speaker: Mr Richard Grundy - The islands of Tristan da Cunha.



St Leonard's Church

Services for February

Date	Service/Time	Readings	Readers
07 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	Lay Led Morning Prayer 9.30am	Isaiah 6:1-8 Luke 5: 1-11	Charles Brook WillieConstantine
14 February Next before Lent	Holy Communion 11.00am	Exodus 34:29-35 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36 Clergy	George Bunting Philip Pidsley
21 February Lent 1	Cluster Service Lamyatt 9.30am		
28 February Lent 2	Holy Communion 11.00am	Genesis 15:1-12 & 17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35	Philip Pidsley Pupil from BSG Clergy

The Eighth Pitcombe Address

On 3 January, Sir Al Aynsley-Green gave the first Pitcombe address of 2010, looking back at the experience of his five-year term as Children's Commissioner for England. Travelling round the country, he had found that, despite the denigration of children by some sections of the press, the majority were healthy, happy, optimistic, committed and fulfilled. When asked to attribute their good fortune, 9 year olds cited love as their predominant privilege, even if they found defining love a challenge.

The love of parents for their children and of children for their parents was striking and again, contrary to common prejudice, parenting was alive and well and taken very seriously. Nevertheless, one in ten children has a diagnosable mental health disorder, with less than a quarter of those most vulnerable being able to access services appropriate to their needs.

The Children's Commission has had some success in highlighting the challenges faced by children and families seeking asylum, young offenders in prison, young carers, children in care, those with disability and hidden harm in families from drugs, alcohol and domestic violence. However, the Commissioner had come to realize that the impact of bereavement in childhood is a largely taboo subject.

One child in the UK loses a parent from death every 30 minutes, with around 20,000 newly bereaved children every year. Each year, up to 5% of children experience the death of a family member or close friend. There will be a newly bereaved child around Bruton and Castle Cary every couple of weeks or so but to whom can they turn? An interview on this topic published by The Independent on 9 June brought that newspaper its biggest postbag ever on a topic of community interest, indicating the under-recognition and poor management of a huge problem.

Bereaved children have more illness, more mental health problems and lower self esteem than their peers. They may be bullied and underachieve at school and may not, as in Sir Al's own case, come to terms with their loss for many years. They are more at risk from sexual and physical abuse and prone to substance abuse and a criminal record. They are more likely to be taken into care and the risk of teenage pregnancy increases sixfold. Raising awareness of the issue and seeking help is this Commissioner's last campaign.

Information (e.g. books by Atle Dyregrov) and access to support through the Child Bereavement Network is available but patchy across the country. Children need someone to talk to - witness the staggering success of Childline, to which many callers still fail to get access. They need to understand that it is normal to grieve. We need to listen to them and hear what they say. Counselling from trained professionals using evidence-based techniques needs to become widely available.

If love is what children value most, grief is, as HM Queen said at the service in New York for the victims of 9/11, the price they pay for it. There was hardly a dry eye in the church.

St Leonard's Pitcombe

At our Carol Service on 18 December, a strictly trad 9 lessons and carols as you would expect at Pitcombe, the bells of St Leonard's were rung by the parishioners of St Leonard's for the first time in more than 40 years. Our bell captain, Brian Shingler, with help of Charles Dowding, has been teaching 6 of us to ring since October with the aim of ringing at Christmas, which we just achieved. We only broke two stays (the bits of wood that stop the bells going full circle, which they did on two occasions) and most of a little finger but one of us achieved what Brian has never seen – falling over backwards. Bells are wayward things.

The PCC has come to a momentous decision – to refurbish our existing bells and, hopefully, to augment the peal of 3 to a ring of 5 or 6, depending on how it works out. We obtained three quotations and, after careful scrutiny, we have chosen the Whitechapel Bell Foundry to undertake the work. Getting this far has opened a new world to me and, to a lesser extent, the other novices. Being present at the tower and bell surveys (two of each) was interesting, not only to see the different approaches of the different experts but also to learn something about bells: did you know, for example, that every company that hangs bells has its individual ratio between the diameter of the bell and the diameter of the wheel round which the rope goes? If you know what you are doing, you can tell just with a tape measure who did your original installation.

Ours were installed in 1910 by Taylors of Loughborough, a firm which, alas, went into administration in 2009, so we have a substantial centenary project on our hands. We shall need lots of help and encouragement in finding funds to complete this undertaking and I hope that we can count on you, dear reader, for support, moral or otherwise.

Charles Brook, Churchwarden

From the Bishop - February 2010

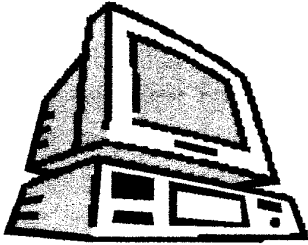
Keeping in touch

I am not sure I would call myself a Luddite when it comes to embracing new technology, but I certainly don't take to it like a duck to water! However, with an eldest son now teaching in Cairo, a daughter living and working in London, and a youngest son away at university I have become more adept at using emails and manipulating my fingers to compose and send a text message on my mobile phone. It is a good way of making sure that we can all keep in touch with what's happening in our lives as a family, its joys and its sorrows. I have also incidentally threatened to go on their facebook as a friend, but for those familiar with it, I'm sure you'll agree that for good reason they have persuaded me otherwise!

You may wonder why this is the first time that a bishop has offered a letter into your parish or community magazine. As many of you know, the last edition of Grapevine, the Diocesan Newspaper, has now been published and we await the launch of a new journal later in 2010. What we don't want to do is to lose touch with the great variety of Christian life and witness that is going on in the different communities that make up this diverse diocese.

We want people to continue to be in touch with each other. Consequently, through a monthly bishop's letter, we'll be offering a thought or two to share in your parish publications and we're working with your editors to ensure they know all about news, events and happenings around the diocese. In return I hope you will keep us in touch with what you are doing through your magazines or directly, so that we can continue to get a taste of the wonderful ways that God is enriching the life of our communities.

+Peter Taunton



COMPUTER BYTES

Protection from Potentially Dangerous Phishing: Windows Mail has been improved with regard to phishing emails and spam. To view and change your settings, click on **TOOLS**, then **JUNK E-mail OPTIONS**. Use the **OPTIONS** tab to specify the overall junk email policy. There are four settings available, starting with **NO AUTOMATIC FILTERING**, which allows all emails through except those that come from blocked senders (addresses can be added to this list via the **Blocked Senders** tab). The highest setting, **SAFE LIST ONLY**, only allows emails from predefined addresses. It is recommended that one should start with the **LOW** setting. If junk email still gets through, try the **HIGH** setting, regularly check the **JUNK EMAIL** folder for genuine mail misidentified as junk.

More Security Settings: Windows Mail also features built-in protection from phishing emails. To check the current setting, click on **TOOLS**, then **JUNK E-mail OPTIONS**, then **PHISHING**. If the '**PROTECT MY INBOX FROM**' box is ticked, any suspected phishing emails will be flagged as such. However, they will still appear in the email Inbox. To stop them from reaching the **INBOX**, tick the '**MOVE PHISHING E-mail TO THE JUNK MAIL FOLDER**' option as well. Click **OK** when finished.

NB: Microsoft has issued a patch for the well-documented vulnerability in the Internet Explorer browser; the fix has been issued after it was revealed that a flaw in the browser was exploited by Chinese hackers to access the of human rights activists:

Once applied, customers are protected against the known attacks that have been widely publicised. Do update your computers promptly!

Maria Samuel (woodcott13@btinternet.com)

PORK STROGANOFF with THREE MUSTARDS

350gr pork tenderloin	10gr butter
110gr small open cap mushrooms	1 dessertspoon groundnut oil
1 level tsp mustard powder	1 small onion (thinly sliced)
1 heaped tsp wholegrain mustard	75ml dry white wine
1 heaped tsp Dijon mustard	Salt and pepper
1 x 200ml tub creme fraiche	

First of all prepare the pork by trimming it and cutting it into little strips, 3 inches long and 1/4 inch wide.

Prepare the mushrooms by slicing them through the stalk into thin slices. In a small bowl mix the 3 mustards with the creme fraiche.

When you are ready to cook the pork, take a 9-inch (23cm) solid frying pan and heat the butter and oil together over a medium heat, add the onion slices and fry them gently for about 2-3 minutes until they are soft. Then, using a draining spoon, remove the onion to a plate, turn the heat up to its highest setting and when it is smoking hot, add the strips of pork and fry them quickly, keeping them on the move all the time so they cook evenly without burning. After that add the mushrooms and toss these around to cook very briefly until their juices start to run. Next, return the onion slices to the pan and stir them in. Season well with salt and pepper then add the wine and let it bubble and reduce slightly before adding the creme fraiche. Now stir the whole lot together and let the sauce bubble and reduce to half its original volume. Serve the stroganoff immediately spooned over plain basmati rice (or rice pasta).

Courtesy of Delia Smith (Winter Collection)

Hadspen Christmas Market

The Hadspen Christmas Market took place on November 25th 2009 in the Village Hall and was well attended. The sum raised for the charity MOTIVATION was in excess of • '1300. On behalf of MOTIVATION, Jean & Willie Constantine would like to thank everyone for their generous support for this event and hope to see you all again next year



Smiling

Smiling is infectious
You can catch it like the flu
When someone smiled at me today
I started smiling too.

I walked around the corner
And someone saw my grin
When they smiled I realised
I'd passed it on to them.

I thought about the smile
Then I realised its worth
A single smile like mine
Could travel round the earth.

If you feel a smile begin
Don't leave it undetected
Let's start an epidemic quick
And get the world infected.

 **BATCOMBE FILM SOCIETY**

FRI DAY 12TH FEBRUARY

Batcombe Jubilee Hall
Doors open 7.15pm, film starts 7.45pm

LAST CHANCE HARVEY

(dir. Joel Hopkins) 2008 / 92 mins / 12A

Harvey Shine (Dustin Hoffman) flies to London for the weekend to attend his daughter's wedding but plans to return on Monday in a desperate bid to save his career as a jingle writer. Having left the wedding before the reception, Harvey is unable to get an earlier flight then learns he has been sacked. Whilst drowning his sorrows in a bar, he meets Kate (Emma Thompson), a slightly prickly market researcher at the airport whose life revolves around work and her overbearing mother (Eileen Atkins). Both leads are excellent in this predictable but very enjoyable romantic comedy.

AND DON'T FORGET, 27th March for our themed evening ...

This year Greece is the location for our film and food – and the film is MAMMA MIA! – we have already had an enthusiastic response so put Saturday 27th March in your diary now – for further details and tickets: contact Rob Sage on 01749 850 934 or robsage@uwclub.net

Free parking - Licensed bar & soft refreshments -
Wheelchair access - Hearing loop

*Your magazine will give details each month but for more details,
contact Elizabeth Hunt on 01749 850 304 or
ehunt@mbzonline.net*