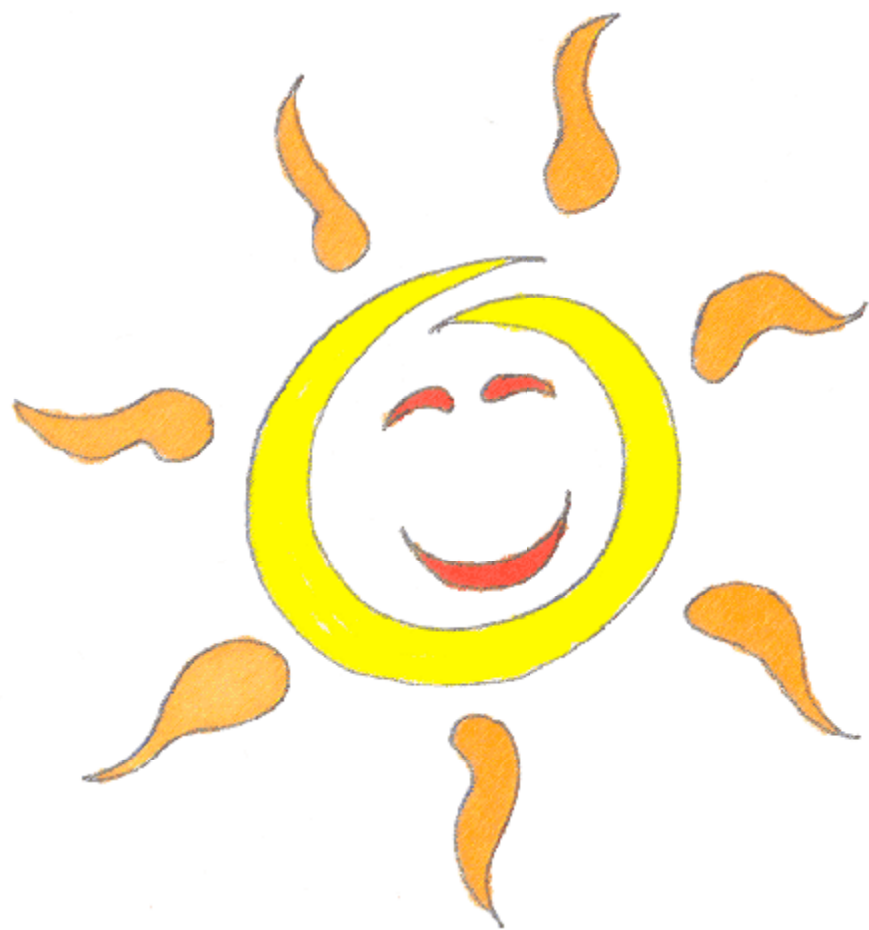


Pitcombe News



July/August 2009

The *PITCOMBE NEWS* welcomes contributions
from its readers

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keep up to date
www.pitcombepc.org.uk
THE PITCOMBE WEB SITE
for details of the Parish Council, Minutes etc.
details and bookings of Hadspen Village Hall

The **DEADLINE** for the September issue is
Monday 17 August

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

Summer, and holidays at last, unless you are of a certain age when you can take holidays pretty much whenever you like, as long as you avoid school holiday time. It is one of the compensations of growing old, but frankly I can't think of many others.

Alan Billenness, whose name I manage to spell differently in every issue, but, trust me, this is the correct version writes about the children that he remembers as an evacuee. We have managed to trace a couple of people through the ***PITCOMBE NEWS*** and the web site. It would be tremendous if we can help trace some of these children, who must be in their 70's now at least. You can find the names on page 8.

The recipe this month features elderflower. You have just about got time to make some cordial IF you can find any citric acid. It seems that everyone had the same idea this year. Rhubarb makes a good cordial too if you have a surplus ... and it's a pretty colour.

David Jury continues his walk tracing the River Brue. He starts again at Glastonbury where, back in the twelve century, the monks turned their hands to engineering. See page 6.

The Churchwardens have instituted a series of talks, known as the Pitcombe Addresses on the first Sunday of each month. Topics are varied as you can see from the list of upcoming ones on page 11.

Don't forget croquet at Hadspen House on Sunday afternoon July 26. The perfect summer sporting event, leisurely and friendly.

Time to kick back, inspect the weeds, pull up a chair and find a not too demanding book or, turn on TV and watch tennis at Wimbledon. Will it or won't it rain? Not with the new sliding roof it won't. It just may never rain again during Wimbledon fortnight. And can Glastonbury ever be the same without mud?

Enjoy the summer. Back in September.
Susan Chamberlain

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Following the County Council Election on 4 June, we have a new County Councillor, Anna Groskop whom many people already know.

So what does a County Councillor do exactly?

There are 58 of them who are responsible for

- Deciding the democratic arrangements for the Council, including detailed decision-making arrangements;
- Agreeing the policy framework for the Council and each year's budget;
- In addition, the Council has a wider responsibility to consider any matter affecting Somerset or us.

The Council meets four times a year in Taunton and members of the public are welcome to attend and speak (subject to certain restrictions). Two full Council events are also held each year, focussing on specific issues and the Council's community leadership responsibilities.

SCC is responsible for and provide

- Education services
- Social services
- Streets and roads
- Libraries
- Waste disposal
- Local transport

10 members including the Leader and Deputy Leader form the Executive Board which meets every four weeks.

The Regulation Committee has 12 members who meet once a month. The Scrutiny Committee also has 12 members, and the Scrutiny Sub-Committees, of which there are 2, have between 6 and 8 members each.

And there are more committees than there is space to list. Do go to www.somerset.gov.uk. You can spend a day there following links, it's fascinating.

I still do not know exactly what all County Councillors do except sit on Committees, but Somerset County Council is the biggest employer in the County with 17,000 employees.

Anna will attend PPC meetings held in the Village Hall and you can meet her there. Check the website for the date of the next meeting.
sec



HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

There is still some work being carried out in the Village Hall and driveway. However, it is not interfering with any activities at all and should be finished shortly.

If you are having a party in the garden or in your house and need extra tables and chairs, we have some for rental. We kept 38 of the chairs that were in the Village hall because so many people have found them useful as extra chairs for use at summer parties etc. Call Peter Wyatt 01963 350 222 for more details.

For details of renting the hall, call the Bookings Secretary Jim Linden 01749 813 145.

Check the website for availability www.pitcombepc.org.uk and follow the links.

Coming up . . .

Monday, 28th September

Thursday, 26th November

Saturday, 12th December

Harvest Supper

Hall Annual General Meeting

Christmas Party

More details of the Harvest Supper in the September issue.

BUT put the date in your diary now.

It's always a sell-out.





COMPUTER BYTES

LEOPARD leaps into APPLE World: Apple has released the latest version of its Leopard Operating System which fixes a number of security problems. The OSX 10.5.7 update includes 67 fixes including one for a severe security problem in the browser which could pave the way for malicious attacks when visiting a website.
www.apple.com/uk

Annoying features of Microsoft software: Whenever a program fails (XP), it pops a message that you are forced to respond to, asking if you want to report the error to Microsoft. As there is no chance of a personal reply to fix the problem, why not disable these annoying messages? Hold down the 'Windows' key and press the 'Pause' key to open the 'System Properties' dialogue box. Select the 'Advanced' tab and then click the 'Error Reporting' button. Select 'Disable' error reporting and then click OK twice to close the dialogue box.

Annoying Paperclip? The paperclip (or one of the other Office Assistants) pops up every time the Help system is used. Although these Assistants can be temporarily disabled using the 'Hide the Office Assistant' option on the Help menu, they have a habit of coming back. To keep them more permanently at bay, right click on the offending Assistant and click 'Options'. In the 'Office Assistant' dialogue box, click the 'Options' tab and then remove the tick from 'Use the Office Assistant'. Should you want an Assistant back, click 'Show the Office Assistant' on the Help Menu.

New Windows: Sometimes it can be useful to open folders in a window of their own rather than the same one. This is helpful when organising a large number of files into folders. Click on the 'Start' button and then 'My Computer' to open Windows Explorer. Click on the 'Tools' menu and then on 'Folder Options'. Make sure the 'General' tab is selected and click on the option 'Open each folder in its own window'. Click on OK to save the changes and close the window. Courtesy - Computeractive Forum.

Maria Samuel (woodcott13@btinternet.com)





HADSPEN WINE CLUB

We were on our fifth, maybe sixth glass of wine and the light was beginning to fade, when someone looked up and pointing to the end of the Village Hall asked, 'is that a rabbit?' All heads turned to look, and we all agreed, that it was indeed a rabbit crouched against the far wall. The noise made it panic and it tried hard to find the way out. It became obvious that the poor creature had myxomatosis and in fact, was blind.

Summing up the situation, Kathleen Apperly rose to her feet and walked purposefully towards the poor animal, picked it easily by the scruff of its neck and, followed closely by Bidy Coghill-Smith, carried it out of the hall. Ten minutes later they returned, announced that they had washed their hands, picked up their glasses and we all carried on doing what we do best on these Friday evenings, — tasting wines.

The wines, selected by Paul Hallam and Liz Thomas, were the reasonably priced ones on offer at four local markets that week, Martins, Morrisons, Sainsburys and Waitrose. It took Liz days, not to mention a few nights, to put together the extremely useful lists of the forty wines they had found and provide tasting notes for each.

History does not reveal whether they tried all of them before choosing the seven we tasted, but we did understand that great care was taken when making their selection. Of the whites, a Waitrose own bottling of a Marlborough Sauvignon blanc found great favour.

The surprise of the evening was from Martins. A Tarrango, a light red and uniquely Australian, bottled by Brown Bros designed to be drunk chilled and when young. One up on a rosé we felt and just right for this time of year. On offer it was £4.79 now it's £6.49. As usual we had a very good evening, with the wine accompanied by a selection of bread and cheese. All you need really, bread, cheese a glass of wine and very good company.

In case you think that we were all "seeing rabbits" a glass of wine is 1/20 of a bottle which amounts to 37½ cts or 2 tablespoonfuls and a wobbly teaspoon. *sec*

River Walks – The River Brue at Glastonbury

My recent walks have taken in the section of the river Brue that flows through the Glastonbury Levels. Much of this part of the river was changed and engineered in medieval times by the monks of Glastonbury Abbey to improve navigation and to provide water power for grist mills. Such works are still much in evidence today, A good example can be seen at Cow Bridge on the Butleigh Road out of Glastonbury where a new embanked river channel was constructed to provide flow for Glastonbury Mill.

Constructed circa C12 by Glastonbury Abbey, the mill stream, which is approximately 2.6 miles in length, breaks from the Brue at Clyse Hole or Prior's Weir as it is known locally. The flow of the stream from the River Brue is today controlled by a throttle pipe.

From Prior's Weir the stream, which at this point is 9 metres higher than the Brue, runs in generally a western direction for a distance of approximately 750 metres to Northover Mill House. During this part of its journey the stream is crossed by three bridges, the first a single stone arch bridge which carries The Roman Way, the second bridge is also a single stone arch bridge which carries a cul de sac, and the third is Northover Bridge which carries the main A39. This bridge, an early 20th century concrete reinforced structure, was once called Bumbaley Bridge¹.

Northover Mill is a late medieval mill built circa 1517 during the tenure of Richard Beere (1493 - 1524) the last but one Abbot of Glastonbury. At that time the fulling mill had an annual income of £10 of which 100 shillings was used to support the poor women in the hospital also built by Abbot Richard. Latterly the mill was used by Morlands but has been empty for 20 years. The existing grade II listed building retains certain C16 features mainly to the south east gable including the parapets, kneelers, chimney stack and two mullion windows.

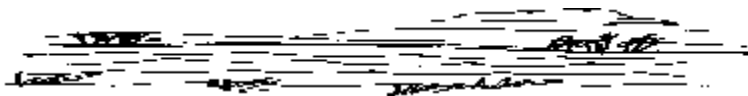
After a short distance the mill stream turns in a north easterly direction and runs for a distance of approximately 500 metres. It passes on its eastern side a derelict 1930's factory built in the Bauhaus style (probably one of the earliest Bauhaus-style building in England) and on through the now cleared industrial area that was

once the home of Morlands Tannery, to Beckery Mill. Beckery Mill is also the site of a medieval mill linked to the abbey². It later became Baily's Flour Mill and the existing tannery buildings were constructed during the 19th century for Baily's sheepskin, rugs, and glove manufacture. These buildings are now listed structures. This section of the stream, between Northover Mill and Beckery Mill, is crossed by two modern flat arched bridges, the second of which is known as Beckery Bridge.

From Beckery Mill the stream continues in a north easterly direction for a distance of approximately 600 metres, following the line of Beckery Old Road, first passing behind a row of 19th century factory cottages and then a modern industrial estate on its eastern side and a timber yard on the western side until it reaches the bridge which carries Porchestall Drove. At this, or close to this point the stream begins to follow the course of the old River Brue. After approximately 300 metres on this course the stream is crossed by an unusual iron girder bridge which carries Dyehouse Lane. After a further 500 metres, passing a balancing pond on its western side, it reaches Northload Bridge. A short distance past the bridge the stream turns west and travels for a further 400 metres approximately to Cooks Corner where there is a single arch stone bridge close to collapse.

The final part of the streams journey is a 1200 metre stretch between Cooks Corner and Cold Harbour Bridge where it rejoins the river Brue. Just before its join with the Brue, the stream is crossed by a single arch stone bridge providing access to Coldharbour Farm.

References: ¹ John Morland - The Brue at Glastonbury 1922, ² The History & Antiquities of the County of Somerset by Revd. John Collinson 1791 Vol II page 268



An evacuee remembers

I can well remember my first day back at Pitcombe School. As soon as I entered the playground with my haversack containing my gas mask, I was besieged by a crowd of children with cries of "Ave 'e got any pops". This time I knew what they meant, and I was more readily accepted - or could it have been that I did have a good supply of sweets.

My journey to school, whether on foot or on my bike, was really a delight. In the mornings I would often follow the cows as they were turned out to pasture from Cannon's Farm. Sometimes I was entrusted to take them out myself as the farm workers were glad to get to their breakfasts, but usually there was a large group of children by the time we reached the school as we crossed the fields together. We often played in those fields rather than within the walls of the playground. That was until the time when sadly another young lad lost the sight of an eye when a friendly battle was going on between two groups of us. We were hurling chunks of bark from some dead trees lying in the field at one another. It was a sad time for us all and led to our freedom to play in the fields being restricted from that moment on. Thankfully we could still play conkers but sliding on the ice in wintertime was forbidden.

I can never pass near Pitcombe without stopping Strider's Hill to look down on the old school and the church with the old coach house nearby where we used to leave our bikes. It has changed very little.

The state of the war after the retreat from Dunkirk, meant that more evacuees had arrived mostly from Southampton and from London. Quite a few travelled from Hadspen across the fields regardless of the weather. The distance that many of the children travelled either on foot or on their bikes and often alone, by today's standards it is quite amazing. No 4X4's dedicated to school travel in those days!

Evacuees made a big impact upon the school at the time. Where are they now? I wonder if they ever look back on their time there in the same way as I do. I lived with relatives but most of the others were not that lucky. I can still remember a number of them. From Southampton came Keith Pearce and his brother, who travelled each day from Hadspen, Pat Thorpe, Joyce Terry, Marie Alder who I believe were billeted at Hadspen House and the two Hayward girls billeted at Cannon's Farm in Pitcombe. From London there were Jean Petts billeted with Rose and Reg Elliot in the village, Jimmy Moss billeted with Mr. and Mrs. A'Court and Peter Elms who stayed with Mr. And Mrs. Russ. Among the local children were, Bob Russ, Raymond James and his brothers, Eric and Michael Shean, Ivor, Mickey and Rosemary Elliot, Edith and Iris Pitt, and Phillip and David

Stokes to name but a few. Then there was Jim, Peggy, Stan and David Thick who lived in the Railway Hotel and later Mary, Fred and Rhona who came when the other family moved on. Jim, Peggy, Stan and David came most evenings to milk their cow Polly that grazed in the orchard opposite Laburnum Cottages. They were often joined by a few more friends for a crafty cigarette or two that always seemed to appear. I reckon they must have come from behind the bar in the pub. We never asked! I am sure the milk provided by Polly, must often have tasted of smoke.

Yet when we were in school, we were really quite well behaved (well relatively!). Miss Beck the head teacher, supported by Miss Thomas and Miss Muir who came with the evacuees from Southampton, ran a very efficient little school with very few resources. They were all referred to by the pupils as "Fanny", it seems they didn't have much imagination at the time. Classes always commenced with prayers and every Friday, we were usually graced by the presence of Lady Hobhouse herself. Naturally we all stood up when she entered the classroom and wished her "good morning". On occasion we all trooped across to the Church for a service.

Miss Beck who taught me, probably provided the real basis for my further education. She taught children of varying ages and ability, yet seemed to have the knack of bringing out the best in all of them. I have much to thank her for. She was firm but kind and always seemed to make whatever she was teaching, interesting and still found time to explain things to individual children.

I gave her a terrible shock on one occasion when I took an incendiary bomb to school. My father often sent me local wartime souvenirs which I kept in a box under my bed. All quite harmless really - pieces of shrapnel, the odd bullet case, pieces of aircraft shot down near my home. The incendiary bomb was a bit different, a complete bomb with the fin which could be removed and the base that could be unscrewed. Naturally it had been emptied of all explosive material and had been used for demonstration purposes. That was the general purpose behind my taking it to school so that if we ever came across one, it was something that should not be touched. However Miss Beck immediately took fright when I revealed it in front of the class. I was immediately packed off home before I could explain anything. So I had to put it back in my saddlebag and pedal off home with it bouncing around before being able to put it back in the box under my bed. I missed one or two lessons, but by the sound of Miss Beck's screams at the time, I doubt if she thought she would see me again.

Alan Billenness

St. Leonard's Church



Services for July 2009

5 July 9.30am	Matins BCP Trinity 4	Old Testament Ezekiel 2 v 1 - 5 Gospel Mark 6 v 1 -13	Charles Brook Willie Constantine
12 July 11.0am	Holy Communion BCP Trinity 5	Epistle Paul to Ephesians 1 v 3 -14 Gospel Mark 6 v 14 - 29	Alan Whittaker Clergy
19 July 9.30am	CLUSTER SERVICE LAMYATT Trinity 6		Andrew/Merida Drysedale (if required)
26 July 11.0am	Holy Communion BCP Trinity 7	Epistle Paul to Ephesians v 1 - 14 Gospel John 6 v 1 - 21	Philip Pidsley Clergy

CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

On Sunday 7 June, Michael Balfour, resident of Bruton, erstwhile accountant, publisher, journalist and author, gave the first of a series of addresses (see below) which I grandly call the Pitcombe Addresses. These will form a major focus for the service of matins at 9.30 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month. The Parochial Church Council hopes that they may attract attention from people of all beliefs and no beliefs. We hope that some unfamiliar faces may be attracted.

Charles Brook

Further addresses scheduled are:

- 5 July **Malcolm Hord** (Bruton resident, army/auctioneer/CEO antique dealers association) "Table d'hote or a la carte?"
- 2 Aug **George Bunting** (no introduction needed) "Parson Woodforde and all that".
- 6 Sept **James Clark** (Hadspen resident, Reader in late medieval-history, Bristol University) "The Augustinian Priory of Bruton".
- 4 Oct **Charles Dowding** (organic gardener, author and broadcaster) "Personal Faith".

AUGUST SERVICES

2nd	9.30 am	Matins BCP
9th	11.0 am	Holy Communion BCP
16th	9.30 am	Cluster Service (Church TBA)
23rd	11.0 am	Holy Communion BCP
30th	6.30 am	Evensong

THE MEDIUM IS THE MESSAGE - OR IS IT

Pitcombe address by Michael Balfour Esq 7 June 2009

'The Medium is the Message' is a commonly quoted phrase but what does it mean? If a news item is printed in a reputable newspaper, our presumption is to believe it as fact but really only because of the reputation of the paper. We are inclined (and want) to believe a major news item from the BBC. That 'want' is important and I suggest that the phrase 'The Medium is the Message' has no meaning. Journalists rely on feeds, newscasters on backroom suppliers - and even Mummy could never know best in all things. Society has, I suggest, been shaped and reshaped by the nature or form of communication rather than by its content.

The English mathematician and idealist philosopher A N Whitehead (died 1947) wrote: 'Major advances in civilisation are processes that all but wreck the societies in which they occur. It is the business of the future to be dangerous'. Cultural changes are due to changes in the use of media, from speaking to writing and printing, from linear processes to electronic and spatial ones now that we live in a global village.

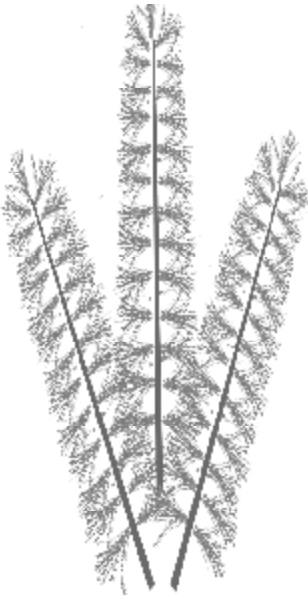
For an infant, 'hearing is believing' and this gives way to 'seeing is believing', which is enabled by print. Socrates considered that the alphabet would 'create forgetfulness in the learners' souls because they will not use their memories'. The Internet has caused the walls of economic, political, psychic and social parochialism to tumble. Civic, regional and national groups are becoming unworkable, as the recent scandals and elections here and abroad have shown.

Resisting the Internet is futile. The monthly traffic on You Tube in March this year surpassed the total traffic on the Internet in 2000 . Whether such sites isolate people by preventing conversation remains to be seen but Orwell predicted telescreens installed by the state to monitor its citizens; CCTV cameras might alarm Citizen Smith. Your movements are trackable by your mobile phone registering with successive networks.

The size of the Internet and its potential should by now I hope be leading you to understand that 'The Medium is the Message' is a

wrong statement. It is quoted daily and thought to recall the title of a 1967 book by Marshall McLuhan, a Canadian professor of English. His book was actually called 'The Medium is the Massage'.

Society has always been shaped more by the nature of communication than by its content. A medium massages and urges into existence attitudes, beliefs, lifestyles and relationships. Thus, in advertising you no longer start with the product, you start with the human beings, where they are, how they learn and how they entertain themselves: what else is market research?



**Draw
gorgeous
patterns
on the
computer
Giles
01749
812393**



ELDERFLOWER AND PEACH JELLIES

6 ripe peaches, peeled and cut into 1cm cubes
25gr golden caster sugar
5 gelatine sheets*
75cl bottle Bottlegreen elderflower presse
Grenadine syrup to serve

1. Put the peaches into a pan with the sugar and 25ml water. Bring to a simmer, then cover and cook gently for 3 - 5 mins until the fruit is soft but still holding its shape. Strain.
2. Meanwhile, cover the gelatine sheets with cold water and set aside. Puree half the softened peach mixture until smooth. Set aside to cool.
3. In a small pan, gently heat 100mls elderflower presse until just simmering. Take off heat. Using your hands, lift the gelatine out of the cold water and squeeze to get rid of excess moisture. Add the gelatine to the pan and whisk to dissolve. Pour into a wide-necked jug and add remaining presse. Stir in peach puree.
4. Divide cooled peach pieces among eight champagne glasses. Carefully pour the peach and elderflower liquid on top. Chill for at least 3 hours or preferably overnight.
5. Just before serving, pour 1 tsp grenadine over each jelly. Serve immediately.

* If you can't find leaf gelatine, use 2½ tsp powdered gelatine.

Courtesy - Good Housekeeping Magazine



**BATCOMBE
BANK HOLIDAY
FÊTE**

Monday 31st August 2009
2.00pm - 6pm

PLAYING FIELD OPPOSITE CHURCH

Don't forget to put the date for this popular event in your diary! Fun for all the family at a traditional village fête - a vintage tractor display; dog show with a difference; bale tossing competition; a variety of stalls and games for all; children's races; raffles & tombolas; teas, barbeque & licensed bar; and lots more.

Full details and programme to be published in the August magazine and on posters locally.

All offers of help and contributions to stalls,
please contact Anne Page on 01749 850 37

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH


We have a new Police Community Support Officer Daniel Arthur 7377 who will be looking after Pitcombe parish although PCSO Tim Russell will still be in Tower ward.

To contact the team responsible for this area
call 0845 456 7000

SOME PLACES TO VISIT THIS SUMMER


1. The Helicopter Museum, Weston Super Mare
Just off JCT 21 of the M5, this is the only helicopter collection in the country and the largest in the world. Over 70 full size aircraft on display ranging from an impressive Russian gunship to a massive Super Frelon 36 seat helicopter. Open Wed - Sun. It's expensive but wouldn't it make a wonderful birthday present for a small or not so small boy?
www.helicoptermuseum.co.uk
2. The Tank Museum, Bovington - another for boys. The Queen officially opened the new wing on June 11. You will discover how tanks work, how they developed and how they are used on the battlefield. Tank Action displays take place at 1pm, weekdays only, lasting around 30 minutes.
www.tankmuseum.org.uk
3. Abbotsbury Swannery for the aaaaah factor. Over 600 swans with baby swans hatching between mid May and the end of June. There are two mass feedings a day, at noon and again at 4.0 pm. Off the main A35 on the B3157 between Weymouth & Bridport. New Swan Maze opened last month www.abbotsbury-tourism.co.uk
4. Go to www.visitbristol.co.uk - a wonderful website. There is so much going on in Bristol, it would be perfect for a non sunny day. Go by train. Shuttle buses from Temple Meads around the City.
5. Frome Festival 180 events in 10 days 3 July 10 July www.fromefestival.co.uk and take a walk around Frome if you never have. More listed buildings than any other town in Somerset. Some real gems to be found. Good coffee houses too.
6. Visit one of the World Heritage Sites we have within a reasonable distance of here. Join the tourists in Bath, why not? They can't all be wrong. There's a huge variety of attractions. Take a picnic to Charmouth and search for fossils, hike along Dorset's stunning Jurassic Coast. And then there's always Stonehenge, up the road, except at weekends. www.jurassiccoast.com www.stonehenge.co.uk
7. The back garden. Plant lettuce and watch it grow.
www.stayathomewhynot.co.uk

WHO'S FOR CROQUET?



on
Sunday 26 July 1.00 pm
at
HADSPEN HOUSE

Make up teams of four,
invent a name for yourself
and come along
no experience necessary



Tickets are £20 a team and will
include a glass of Pimms
or soft drink **and** a cream tea.

No charge for children under 16 but all
must be accompanied by adults. If there are enough
children, special teams will be organised

You are most welcome to bring a picnic lunch.

Each match will take about 15 minutes and
each team will play at least twice.

Tickets from Tina Harley 01749 813 262

This will be a fun afternoon run by
The Friends of St. Leonard's