

# *Pitcombe News*



*June 2007*

**The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its  
readers.**



**Articles for publication should be sent to the  
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**with a copy to  
CONSTANCE EARL      01749 - 813894  
conearl@btinternet.com (Please note new address)  
The DEADLINE for the July/August issue  
Sunday 17 June**

**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.**

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# *PITCOMBE NEWS*

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We do our best to help!

With summer around the corner and with swimsuits and shorts to fit into, cake recipes are OUT and salad recipes are IN. Maria Samuel has two for you to try.

That extremely well travelled duo, Kathleen Apperly and Camilla Carter, researched Libya earlier this year on your behalf. Who needs travel agents or a website when we have such travellers? It seems to me that we could set up our very own valley travel information service and forum. Between us, we must have been to a huge number of places, both at home and abroad and amassed a wealth of advice. In fact, if you want to know anything about anywhere, why don't you ask the PITCOMBE NEWS first and we'll try to put you in touch with someone who has been there, done that. Everyone loves to hear about holidays and see the photographs. We'd love to hear from you.

Camilla went above and beyond the call of duty to find a subject for her garden column this month. She writes a fascinating column about the gardens she saw in Iran.

Welcome to the new Parish Council under the chairmanship of Mike Taylor with Jenny Elliot as Deputy. We hope to bring you more details of the new Councillors next month.

*Susan Chamberlain*



## Pitcombe Parish Councillors - 2007

Name		Telephone E-mail Portfolio
<b>BEECH</b>	<b>Michael J</b>	<b>01749 812335</b> <b><u>mikeambeeche.wanadoo.co.uk</u></b> <b>*Portfolio to be allocated</b>
<b>CARTER</b>	<b>Camilla G</b>	<b>01963 351106</b> <b><u>cchoneywick@hotmail.co.uk</u></b> <b>Parish footpaths</b>
<b>ELLIOTT (Vice Chairman)</b>	<b>Jenny R</b>	<b>01963 350999</b> <b><u>kenelliott@tiscali.co.uk</u></b> <b>Environment, Primary healthcare</b>
<b>HARTNELL</b>	<b>Neville</b>	<b>01749 812996</b> <b><u>hartnellneville2@aol.com</u></b> <b>Portfolio to be allocated</b>
<b>JURY</b>	<b>David</b>	<b>01749 812149</b> <b><u>david@pitcombe.org</u></b> <b>Highways</b>
<b>TAYLOR (Chairman)</b>	<b>Michael L J</b>	<b>01963 351863</b> <b><u>mikeofhadspen@aol.com</u></b> <b>Finance, PR</b>
<b>WHITTAKER</b>	<b>Ann M</b>	<b>01963 359222</b> <b><u>aawhittak@waitrose.com</u></b> <b>Parish tidiness, recycling, litter, grass cutting.</b>

## PARISH COUNCIL

The new Pitcombe Parish Council met for the first time on Tuesday 15 May. A list of the portfolio holders is on the previous page.

I am pleased to report that although no longer a Parish Councillor, Martin Jennings is willing to remain as Tree Warden. Telephone:- 01749 812397.

The Council decided to continue to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m. and the councillors would be delighted to see as many parishioners as possible attend. I can promise you that your support will be appreciated.

The minutes of the meetings will be available on the Pitcombe Parish Council website - and on the Parish notice boards.

We will also endeavour, by the efforts of Jean Linden - our Parish Clerk, to ensure that all planning application/consultation notices will be posted on the notice boards.

Should you have any concerns or require any information regarding any parish matter, please don't hesitate to call or email me, I will do my best to help.

*Cllr. Mike Taylor.*

Yesterday is history,  
Tomorrow is a mystery,  
Today is a gift,  
That's why it's called The Present.

## HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

At last some positive news, we have just been awarded a grant of £20,000 from Viridor Credits — Somerset (Dimmer) towards our rebuilding project. This news, following the decision by the Joint County & District Councils Grants Committee to allow us to carry over the proportion of our grant put at risk by our failed Lottery Bid, has given us the impetus we need to tackle the final furlong!

You may be interested to know that 'now you see it now you don't' is the story of the Big Lottery Community Building Fund. It closed its doors for applications on 30th April after just 9 months (it should have closed when all the Lottery programmes end in 2009) There is now no national capital fund for larger community projects that need funding.

In order to make the hall rebuilding project more viable as far as fund raising is concerned, on the advice of the County & District Grants Advisers, the Committee made the decision to split the work into two phases. Phase 1 to rebuild the hall and Phase 2 to create the new entrance and car park. This will give us the opportunity to apply to the District Council and Viridor Credits again for help with the second phase towards the end of building the actual hall.

We are anxiously awaiting the outcome of our grant application to the Garfield Weston Foundation but unfortunately it will be a couple of months before we are notified. However in the meantime we have some smaller grant applications to make — every bit helps!

In order to help fund raising, Susanna Stanford, who is a professional photographer and lectures on the subject at Millfield School, has very kindly offered to talk to us about 'Photography' and to share her knowledge on how to get the best results from our cameras and subjects. This will be held on **Thursday, 5 July at 7.30pm** in the Village Hall. (Further details on page 9)

On a personal note, Susanna lives in the parish and her husband, Geoffrey, enthralled us with his talk on his ascent of Everest earlier in the year.

Our thanks to everyone in the Community for all their encouragement, lobbying on our behalf, help and support. *Peter Wyatt, Chairman*

## Coffee with Gadaffi

Well — No. We did not meet the General, but we were soon introduced to him, as on the road from the airport into Tripoli, at about every hundred yards, huge hoardings proclaim his 37 years of rule in Libya. We considered joining his elite female bodyguard, but decided we might not be up to it.

We found Tripoli a pleasant city with lots of palm trees, not too many high rise blocks and reasonable hotels and restaurants. There were no beggars on the streets and no hassle in the Medina or Souk.

We visited Sabratha and Leptis Magna, two cities dating from 1st and 2nd century AD, both are wonderfully preserved and have been carefully part restored. In its heyday, Leptis Magna equalled Rome in importance and has Temples, Baths, a Forum, Theatre and an Amphitheatre which could seat 16,000 people. We also saw a charming villa, overlooking the sea, with marvelous mosaics and a fresco of swans which was 1,800 years old but looked as if it had been painted quite recently.

Later we went southwest out of Tripoli to see Berber fortified granaries and old mud walled cities which had once been part of the great camel caravan routes across the Sahara.

Then to the Acacus Mountains, six hundred miles south and on the edge of the Sahara. We camped there for four days to see the paintings and carvings on the rocks which date from 8,000 BC to the 1st century AD. They show elephants, giraffe and antelope from the time when the desert was a fertile plain rather like much of the rest of Africa. The tents were rather small. Some chose to sleep outside under the stars, but at about 4.0 am it was very nearly freezing. So that was only for the really brave -- a grandson's sleeping bag and a thick blanket were very welcome. Four days with water only for drinking or a quick hand wash made us very grateful for the amenities of civilisation such as a hot shower, etc!

But, it was a great experience and much to be recommended.

*Kathleen Apperly and Camilla Carter*

## COMPUTER BYTES

### Identity Theft:

Where does one go for help: The first step is to contact the bank or credit card issuer that has processed a transaction you believe is fraudulent. Also contact one of the three credit agencies: Experian ([www.experian.co.uk](http://www.experian.co.uk)), Call Credit ([www.callcredit.co.uk](http://www.callcredit.co.uk)) or Equifax ([www.equifax.co.uk](http://www.equifax.co.uk)).

The Royal Mail ([www.royalmail.co.uk](http://www.royalmail.co.uk)) will help with post that appears to have gone missing and numerous other agencies will offer further information.

([www.identlytheft.org.uk/who-can-heip.htm](http://www.identlytheft.org.uk/who-can-heip.htm)) is a Government resource full of pointers to other organisations that will help.

The Metropolitan Police Economic and Specialist Crime Unit at ([www.met.police.uk/fraudalert!contact.htm](http://www.met.police.uk/fraudalert!contact.htm)) is also worth visiting.

Other handy sites include CIFAS, the Fraud Prevential Service, at ([www.cifas.org.uk](http://www.cifas.org.uk))

if you are unsure of an email, don't click on it and check ([www.fraudwatchInternational.com/phishing](http://www.fraudwatchInternational.com/phishing)) to see if the email is already up on the site, which collects phishing emails.

### 'Personal Finance Sites'

([www.swtchwlthwhich.co.uk](http://www.swtchwlthwhich.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.dotheightthing.com](http://www.dotheightthing.com))

Ethical consumers can find it difficult to figure out how to live without harming other people or the environment. Do The Right Thing makes it easier by explaining how ethical companies are. Users decide *which* companies are recognised for 'doing the right thing!'

### Small Images!

Emailing full size digital photos to family and friends who still have dial-up Internet connection can cause problems, as downloading can take too long. To limit such frustration, Windows XP (with Outlook Express) will allow you to send smaller versions that are still perfectly acceptable for viewing.

To make use of this, go to the 'My Pictures' folder (or wherever your photos are stored) and select a photo, or photos, that you wish to email. Right click on the selected photos, choose SEND TO from the pop-up menu and then click MAIL RECIPIENT. A window will pop up asking if you want to make the pictures smaller; select this option and then Outlook Express will open automatically with the shrunken photos as attachments.

*Maria Samuel (woodcott13@bfintemet.com)*

**SUSANNA STANFORD**  
on  
**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**at Hadspen Village Hall**  
**Friday, 5th July at 7.30 pm**

**A professional photographer, Susanna will show us how to get the best results from our cameras and the subjects we photograph**

**TICKETS £5.00 ADULTS**  
**£2.50 CHILDREN**

**NIBBLES**  
**OPEN BAR**

## NOTES FROM A HADSPEN GARDEN

Imagine, driving across the desert and coming across acres of asphodels by the side of the road for as far as the eye can see. They are the charming blush pink *Eremurus persica* standing at about 18 inches high. Or driving in the desert past a snow capped mountain and coming upon a walled garden full of trees and water. I was on the central plateau of Iran at a height of 3000/ 4000 metres and I went to look at Persian gardens.

The beauty of these gardens is in the contrast between light and shade, the cold of winter at -20c and the heat of summer at +45c, the drought of the desert and the overflowing abundance of water. For inside protecting walls cypress, *pinus eldarica*, and plane trees are planted. A canal of running water passes through the middle with kiosks or pavilions built either end. Each side are rills that can be used to flood areas of fruit, pomegranates, quince, citrus, pistachio and walnuts. Often there is a cross axis of more water dancing and bubbling with fountains and cascades and beside are quantities of bedding, wallflowers, sweet williams, stock, *ranunculus asiaticus*, pot marigolds and pansies with roses and *syringa persica* behind. Along the pathways are pots of petunias, virginia stock and other delights to promote relaxation and give pleasure to all the senses.

The Persians have been creating similar gardens since 550BC. At Pasardagae, we saw the garden area of Cyrus the Great's palace, with stonework for the rills still in place. It is the engineering genius of the qanat that enables these gardens to be built. These are underground water tunnels, the height of a man, that can run for miles from the source of an aquifer at the foot of a snow covered mountain. They are enormously expensive to build and for a merchant the cost of a qanat will be more than a luxurious home. As they need regular maintenance, service openings can be seen in the desert - holes in the ground surrounded by a circle of earth to try to prevent unwary travellers from dropping into them!

The modern Iranian still delights in gardens and friends and families can be seen picnicking, taking tea and ices, talking and lounging on carpet covered divans with the sound of birdsong in the air. *Camilla Carter*

## THANK YOU

Our thanks to the following readers who have made donations to the PITCOMBE NEWS recently.

Jackie Bowring

Andrew Drysdale

Jenny Mellor

and the 2 anonymous donors who left donations in my letter box

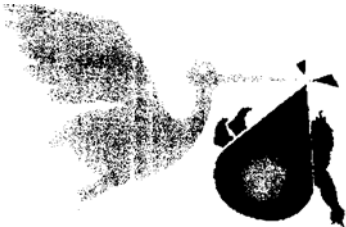
We rely entirely on readers making donations.

They can be sent to me at Orchard Stables, Higher Hadspen, Castle Cary, BA7 7LX or left in the mail box at the front door next time you are passing.

If it is more convenient then please leave one with Connie Earl, at 4 Old Station Lane, Cole.

Cheques should be made payable to the PITCOMBE NEWS.

*Susan Chamberlain*



**IT'S A GIRL**

On Monday, 7 May 2007 born to Helen and Ian Adlam of Alders, Lancombe Lane, Pitcombe, a daughter, Elli - May, a sister for Bradley.

She weighed 8 lbs 13 ozs at birth. Grandmother Celia Jennings describes her as a poppet, perfectly behaved, and waking up only to feed. That must please Helen enormously too.



## St Leonard's Church

### St Leonard's Church Services for June 2007

Date	Service/Time	Readings	Readers
3 June	No Service		
10 June	Holy Communion	Galatians 1:11-end	Ken or Jenny
	9.30am		Elliott
	1st Sunday after Trinity	Luke 7:11-17	Clergy
17 June	Morning Prayer	2 Samuel 11:26-	Constance Earl
	9.30am	12:10 & 13-15	
	2nd Sunday after Trinity	Luke 7:36-8:3	TBA
24 June	Holy Communion	Acts 13:14-26	Peter or Carole
	11.00am		Wyatt
	3rd Sunday after Trinity	Luke 1:57-66 & 80	Clergy

## CHURCHWARDENS NOTES

As I sit here and write to you, we have just celebrated Ascension Day, the day we remember that Jesus ascended into heaven to be at God's right hand. We now look forward to Whit Sunday (27 May) or the day of Pentecost when the Disciples of Christ were empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Another important event during May was the Archdeacon's visitation. At this time churchwardens are sworn in and take their oaths of allegiance to maintain the upkeep of the church in their parish. By this we do not just mean the physical upkeep of the church building, but also to continue to offer spiritual encouragement to all those who live within our parish.

'Lord, be merciful and gracious to me; heal my inner self, for I have sinned against You' Psalm 41:4

Don't obsess over your faults, or you will never enjoy life. Only God can change you, so talk to Him about you desires.

During June we celebrate two Patronal Festivals at neighbouring parishes — 3 June at 6.30pm at Wyke Champflower and 24 June at 9.30am at Shepton Montague.

God bless

*Wendy Crane, Churchwarden*



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CAMELOT AREA

If you are retired & a U3A member you can:-

**LEARN** a new skill in Art, Bridge, calligraphy,  
Needlework, Mah-Jong, Painting, Patchwork  
Photography. Recorder or Scottish Dancing.

**STUDY** a new topic in Creative Writing, History.  
Family Tree, Literature. Music or Poetry.

**MEET** and make new friends at the Monthly  
Meetings, & the Lunch Club.

**ENJOY** the fresh air with the Ramblers or the Nature  
Walkers

**EXPLOR** further afield with travel group

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**COME & FIND OUT MORE**

**OPEN DAY**

THURSDAY 7<sup>01</sup> JUNE

**PRESENTATION**

**to & from Durset/Stmterset Air Ambulance**

**Constitutional Club, Castle Can 2.30pm.**

For more information Phonee : 01963 350626

## Carrot and Courgette Salad

5 carrots, peeled and coarsely grated  
5 courgettes, coarsely grated  
A bunch of fresh coriander, chopped  
(reserve a sprig for garnish)  
4 tbsp French dressing (approx)  
1 dsp roasted pumpkin seeds/1 dsp poppy seeds  
Juice of 1 orange/grated zest of 2 oranges

Put the grated carrots and courgettes in a bowl and mix with the coriander, French dressing, seeds, orange juice and most of the grated zest. Season to taste. Garnish with the remaining orange zest and a sprig of coriander!

Will keep in fridge for a couple of days! Broad Bean Salad

1 kg broad beans  
salt, pepper, 1 clove garlic,  
bunch of coriander, 1 tbsp chopped parsley  
2 tbsp olive oil, 2 tbsp lemon juice (or balsamic vinegar) 1  
small stick celery  
1 small onion or a few spring onions

Shell beans, boil or steam in usual way for about 10 minutes until just tender\*\* (the outside husk of the shelled bean can be removed after cooking). Place drained hot beans in basin, season with salt, add crushed garlic, oil and lemon juice (or balsamic vinegar), toss lightly, cool to room temperature. Add finely chopped celery, peeled and sliced onion, parsley and coriander, season with pepper.

\*\* Frozen baby broad beans may be used.  
Lentils can also be added!

*Maria Samuel*

## THE FALKLANDS REMEMBERED

The month of June brings the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands War. As Chaplain to the Regulating Branch Association for the Royal Navy. I attended the Defence College of Police and Guarding (DCPG), at Southwick Park, on Wednesday 2nd May.

On this day a parade was held to mark the Anniversary of the War and a Memorial Service acknowledged the death of Master at Arms Brian Welsh, the only service policeman to be killed in that war. Brian was killed onboard HMS Sheffield.

The Service was held in the Chapel of the DCPG. On first entering I noticed the memorials to the Royal Military Policeman, the Royal Marines Police and the ordinary soldiers killed in support of Police missions abroad. There were so many of them it was quite surprising. When I joined the navy, I didn't think about going to war, we'd already had that war in the war to end all wars, the Second World War; so I planned on enjoying myself and seeing the world. I didn't think for one minute that I might end up in any real danger. All really changed from 1982 onwards.

Today's servicemen and women, have it quite different! When they join up they do so knowing about the Falklands and the Gulf Wars, and of the continuing troubles in the Middle East and Afghanistan. They know, because of the media, that they are to be involved in conflict, fighting terrorism. We owe them our thanks.

Life is precious; it's only perhaps when we are seriously ill, if not involved in conflict, that we actually appreciate life's value. Living as we do in deepest darkest Somerset, we can and do become complacent. We live a life of peace and we take a lot for granted. We should be praying for peace, as we appreciate our circumstances. It's our responsibility, just as much as it's the responsibility of those on the front line, and those who send them, to pray and seek peace for all. After all, it could be our turn today or tomorrow.

Pray for peace, seek the good that is in everyone and encourage it, know that evil feeds evil, and without a fertile ground, evil can and will be defeated.

We must be strong and we must fight evil, and we can do this with prayer. We must seek peace and justice for our world, and we can do this with prayer. It's our world and we must ensure that it's a safe place for our children, families, friends and neighbours to grow and live in. It's up to all of us to make it a better place, not just the few on the front line.

Accept your responsibility and pray always.

Best wishes

*Fr Michael (Senior Assistant Priest)*

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## **FREDA ELLIOTT**

It is with regret we announce the passing of Freda Elliott.

Born in the cottage next to St. Leonard's Church on 1st April 1914, Miss Elliott died suddenly in hospital on 8th April 2007 at the age of ninety three.

She lived for many years in Pitcombe before moving to Sundown at Sunny Hill. Len Bright of Hadspen remembers that every morning for ten years he would stop and give her a lift to Wincanton where she worked for the Rural District Council. Not once, in those ten years, was she not waiting for him. She was an active member of the community and served on Pitcombe Parish Council. Always concerned about local issues, she was a regular correspondent to the letter pages of the Western Gazette.

In the early nineties she moved to sheltered accommodation at St. Catherine's Close in Castle Cary, but still took an interest in the parish.

Len and Gwen Bright regularly visited her for tea and once a month took a copy of the PITCOMBE NEWS to her.

A funeral service was held at St. Leonard's Church, Pitcombe where she is buried in the churchyard.

## NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

here have been reports recently from neighbouring villages of telephone calls from the Fire Brigade offering Home Fire Safety checks, The Yeovil Brigade has been contacted and has no knowledge of these calls. Other enquiries to the fire brigade have also proved negative. Until any cold call is proven to be genuine all such calls should be treated with caution and the necessary precautions taken before giving any personal details and before letting unannounced visitors into your property. All such suspicious calls should be reported to the police immediately on 0845 456 7000.

There are other reports of phone calls from representatives of a company called E.T. Security. They are currently phoning and arranging meetings in the Yeovil and surrounding areas but could well move on to other areas. They say they are working for or in conjunction with the Fire Brigade and are offering surveys for fire safety and security devices in the home. The intention is to arrange a meeting and then hard sell their products. This company is not working with the Fire Brigade and calls should be treated with caution.

This is probably as good a time as any, to remind you to close doors and windows when not at home or when out in the garden where doors and windows cannot be seen. And one other thing, do keep car and house keys in a safe place and not near the door or on a window ledge.

As the Neighbourhood watch coordinator for Hadspen I am really embarrassed to say that my keys were stolen from the key box next to the back door. It was also expensive.

*Susan Chamberlain*

**The Garden at Cole Manor**  
**will be open for exploring and Cream Teas**  
**on Father's Day, Sunday 17th June 2007**  
**from 2 pm - 5.30 pm**

**The Garden will be open to raise funds for**  
**St. Margaret's Hospice Yeovil**  
**and**  
**Great Lakes Outreach Burundi**

**(Great Lakes Outreach, or GLO**  
**is a registered UK charity**  
**supporting the work of**  
**Simon Guillebaud in Burundi).**

**For more information about the work of GLO**

**visit - [www.greatlakesoutreach.org](http://www.greatlakesoutreach.org)**

## 10 THINGS TO DO IN JUNE

1. Eat all the wonderful English asparagus you can until 15 June . And then forget asparagus until May next year, if you can.
2. Follow with strawberries, either out of your garden or beautiful juicy ones from Cheddar.
3. Pick salads and veggies from your own garden. Taste the difference.
4. Take the family to train days at Yeovil Junction Station. A family ticket (2 adults and 4 children 5-15) costs £10. ([www.yeovilexpress.co.uk](http://www.yeovilexpress.co.uk) ) for details.
5. Take the family to watch cricket at Taunton [www.somersetccc.co.uk](http://www.somersetccc.co.uk) for the fixture list or just watch cricket down the road at Sparkford.
6. Choose a fine day and take a picnic to Dorset's Jurassic Coast, a World Heritage Site.
7. Or take a picnic to watch the Ironman UK event centred on Dulverton in Exmoor National Park on 17 June . ([www.exmoorevents.co.uk](http://www.exmoorevents.co.uk)) for details.
8. Clean the kitchen sink if you must. According to the Times, housework can make you happy. It can?
9. Sit in the garden instead. We KNOW that makes us happy.
10. But first, make a pot of tea or pour yourself something long and cool.