

Pitcombe News



March 21 - First Day of Spring

March 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

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The **DEADLINE** for the next issue is **Friday 16 March**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 the **PITCOMBE NEWS**.

PITCOMBE NEWS

It is, of course, disappointing that we will not get a grant from the Lottery fund to rebuild the Village Hall, particularly for Peter and Carole Wyatt who worked so hard to put the bid together and to secure the necessary matching grants etc. But it is not to be.

We can't possibly not have a Village Hall, what sort of community would we be without one? We may as well live in a City and is that a prospect that thrills you? Me neither. Turn over the page to read the report from Peter and where we go from here.

The good news is that the Bridge Tournament later this month is set to be a sellout. Next month we'll bring you details of the Plant Sale at the end of May. In the meantime, if you are dividing a plant could you possibly break it into three? Two for you and one for the Village Hall. and at the same hope that the old adage "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers" has some truth to it.

Elsewhere Malcolm Snow writes on Solar Energy, and of course there are with the usual articles.

Please note that any future notices or items should be sent to my new email address sechamberlain@btinternet.com.

It's been a bit of a struggle with a new computer and new software the past month, but at least with **broadband** there is quicker access to the "help" pages.

Susan Chamberlain

PARISH COUNCIL

At its meeting on 13 February, the Parish Councillors considered what they had learned from the meeting about generating electricity from a wind turbine which was held on 30 January. They decided that, in the absence of a planning application, it was premature to take any action.

The timetable for the Parish Council elections has now been issued. The Clerk holds booklets entitled "Becoming a District Councillor".

Nomination forms will be available from the Elections Office or can be downloaded from **Monday 12 March** from the South Somerset District Council's website (www.southsomerset.gov.uk)

(HYPERLINK " <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/> ")

They have to be returned by noon on **Wednesday 4 April**. The election will take place on **Thursday 3 May**.

Please consider standing.

If you are going to be away on 3 May and want a postal vote, you need to apply to the SSDC by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday 18 April**.

Details of how to do this will be posted on the Notice Boards or you can email elections@southsomerset.gov.uk or consult the website.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 10 April at 7.30pm**, before the last meeting of the present Council, so it would be encouraging for those to be elected on 3 May to have a large turn out.

Charles Brook

LOOKING FOR A COTTAGE

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



New Village Hall

HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

On 15 February we finally heard from the Big Lottery Fund and I am sorry to say it was very disappointing news. They decided not to offer us a grant for the following reasons:

'Although the committee considered that your application had many good qualities, we received more good applications than we could fund. In deciding which applications to fund, the committee considered factors such as the range of projects in relation to our programme aims, outcomes and target beneficiaries and the geographic spread of projects. Unfortunately, the competition for our funds and the need to ensure that a good range of projects was funded meant that the committee decided not to offer you a grant.' So where does this leave us now? The old adage 'if at first you don't succeed try, try and try again' springs to mind! We are however unable to go back to the Lottery as organisations are only allowed one bite at the cherry, so we must look elsewhere.

Unfortunately the Big Lottery decision now puts a proportion of our grants from the joint County & District Councils at risk as these were for a project start date before 31st March 2007 with building continuing through 2007/08 and meetings have now been arranged with County and District Council advisers to try to find a way forward. You may wonder how this situation came about, but the whole grant giving process is unbelievably slow. The long awaited Lottery Community Projects fund eventually came on stream in July 2006 and we applied in August and had to wait until yesterday for their decision

The Committee however are determined to find the funds for a new hall, maybe not on such a grand scale as the Big Lottery required, but our tenders have shown that one builder is very competitive and we are now in consultation with the Project Manager to make sure that all essential requirements will be met. However, we will still need support from grant giving bodies and these will be approached as soon as possible. We are presently in the process of preparing a grant application to Viridor who operate the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme for projects near to the Dimmer landfill site.

Unfortunately, it now means that we will need even more financial support from the Community and we will all need to pull together to achieve our aims.

Peter Wyatt

HANGING BASKETS AND PLANT SALES 2007



The time is rapidly approaching to think about the summer displays once again. Last year my resources were a bit stretched because I made over fifty baskets and had several large orders, one amounting to 800 plants. I need, to plan so that I am not growing plants that are not wanted or too few of other varieties that are.

I would be grateful if you would make known your requirements as soon as possible as the growing season starts in the middle of March.

Hanging Baskets to fill a sixteen inch basket
 £14.00 to fill a fourteen inch
 basket £12.00.

Add £1.50 to the above if you wish me to produce a basket. Other sizes by negotiation.

Ken Elliott 01963 350999

WIND TURBINES – Are they winding us up?

During the meeting at Hadspen village hall on Jan 30th I was asked to write something for the Parish news. I too would like to provoke thought and debate so that people can make informed decisions. I agreed with much of what was said, especially about reducing carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. However, wind power has drawbacks and alternatives are in various stages of development.

Wind turbines may deliver high peak power when the wind is blowing, but the power is a function of wind speed cubed. Thus when the wind speed drops by half, the power output drops to one eighth of its original. For this reason, in addition to the inconsistent nature of wind, it is difficult for the power companies to reduce conventional output due to a single wind turbine. It is important to measure the *energy* output of a wind turbine (energy = power x time), then conventional power supply companies can predict the extra energy supplied and reduce output accordingly - otherwise there is no reduction in CO₂ emissions.

If wind turbines were the only source of renewable electricity then there would not and never have been any argument, or at least then the only issues would be which type, how many and where they should be sited. If the eventual decision for this community is for wind turbine electricity then there are still issues to resolve, not least the issue of a second hand turbine that is using technology 10-15 years old — wouldn't you want the best available?

No renewable energy is economically viable without grants. Wind turbines have enjoyed much of the available research grants over the last 20 years or so which is why they are now popular.

If the same level of funding had been put into photo voltaic (PV) solar panels which generate electricity then the cost of electricity produced by these would be a lot lower. PV panels have improved in both design (almost any shape) and efficiency in the last few years and if the prices follow the pattern of semiconductors for the computing industry, then costs should fall (the working part of a PV panel is a semiconductor).

Government grants of up to 50% are currently available for solar panels and for an outlay of £4000 (£8000 less grant of £4000) up to 60% of a household's hot water and 40% of electricity needs could be provided for a house with a south facing roof. Installation costs are minimal and panels can be added piecemeal, one panel will generate half the power of two, one third that of three and so on.

There are no moving parts in a PV system (hot water solar panels usually need a pump) hence virtually maintenance free, so if the Government reduces funding/subsidies the economics don't change as there are no running and distributions costs.

Solar energy has all the advantages of wind power and shares only one of the disadvantages, that being intermittent supply. However, to generate electricity from PV panel daylight is sufficient (although more is generated when the sun is out). Thus the only down time is at night which means it is easier for power companies to calculate the minimum contribution by PV panels hence can reduce their output accordingly.

If every community had a wind turbine there wouldn't be an issue, but with research ongoing into solar, geothermal, bio fuel, fuel cells and others, wouldn't it be better in the medium term, to invest in ways that have little or no environment impact and do not affect peoples' lives in the way a wind turbine will (rotor noise from a large turbine is low frequency and can travel a long way at night). If, in say 3 years time large wind turbines are superseded and we are one of the few communities with one, then there is a definite negative effect on the market value of property in the area.

This community should look to lead the way with alternative energy but, and a big but, the simplest things are the most cost effective, and will reduce CO2 emissions, like low energy appliances/bulbs, modern condensing boilers, effective insulation, turning down the thermostat a little etc.

Malcolm Snow MSc CEng M/MechE, Cole

WIND TURBINE AT HADSPEN

A public Meeting will be held in the Village Hall, Hadspen on Friday
9 March 2007 at 7pm
to further debate the proposed erection of a wind turbine
above Hadspen.

Representatives from the Cucklington village Action Group will talk
about their experiences in recently defeating a proposal to erect a
turbine at Cucklington.

All are invited to attend this informative meeting.

MUM'S SULTANA LOAF

A very quickly made loaf which freezes well

This month's recipe comes from Carole Wyatt,

1 lb sultanas

8 ozs butter (or margarine) 3 eggs

1 teaspoon almond essence 10 ozs sugar

12 ozs sifted SR flour

Put sultanas in pan, cover with cold water, bring to boil and
simmer for 5 mins.

Pour off the water and add butter to sultanas in hot pan
and stir until melted.

Beat eggs well and add sugar and almond essence. Mix together
sultana and egg mixtures and add to flour.

Mix well.

Turn into 2 greased loaf tins and bake for 35 mins at 160 (fan
oven) then a further 35 mins at 150C. (For conventional ovens
add 10 degrees). .Serve cold, sliced, buttered and enjoy

RICKSHAW Chinese Restaurant Bruton

As the Year of the Pig is about to commence it is appropriate that readers are aware of a remarkably fine Chinese Restaurant right on the doorstep.

Situated at the West End of Bruton, the Rickshaw is in premises occupied for very many years by a well-known garage. It is an odd experience for some to sit in these very elegant surroundings and remember that our cars were once serviced there.

However, a visit is definitely recommended, both for those who frequent oriental restaurants and those who may be plucking up the courage to try. There are over 150 dishes to choose from ranging from crispy aromatic duck and crispy won ton (pastry packets of minced prawn and chicken deeply fried and served with sweet and sour sauce) to many dishes of duck, chicken, beef, pork and prawns.

These are all beautifully cooked and presented. For those who may find the choice a bit daunting there is the alternative of set meals for two, three or four people. The restaurant also keeps a good stock of wines from the world as well as British and Chinese beers.

There are special events at the Rickshaw and the next one is soon upon us. On Mothering Sunday March 18th the restaurant will be open all day serving a buffet meal. Children will be especially welcome. Chop sticks are provided, but they also have knives and forks.

Lunch	Thurs/Sun	noon – 2.0 pm
Dinner	Wed/Mon	5.0 pm – 11.0 pm
Sunday		5.30 pm – 10.30 pm
Closed Tuesday		Takeaway menu
Phone 01749 812599		
<i>Trencherman</i>		



NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

We really would welcome a couple of extra people to help with the neighbourhood watch scheme.

It is not in the least bit onerous, takes just a little of your time and only very occasionally at that, but it is a very worthwhile job to do to help your community. And, your neighbours will love you as it helps to keep insurance premiums down. Please contact any of the people below if you can help.

As most of you will know, there was a burglary in the valley last month and some rather valuable equipment was stolen from a garage. As the property owner called a Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator pretty smartly, a notice could be e mailed or hand delivered very quickly and telephone calls made so that other people could be extra careful knowing that burglars were operating in the area. It did, in fact, unearth another attempted break in at a garage, which possibly was related.

97% of burglaries are opportunistic and if you make it as hard as possible for them to enter your house and outbuildings then you can help stop it happening to you.

When you go away, do let your neighbours know. It is sensible to use timers to switch on lights and radios at different times during the day and evening.

If you are out all day, then perhaps it would be a good idea to find a neighbour who would be kind enough to take in your recycling and rubbish bins.

The Coordinators are

Cole	Moira Knight	01749 813 635
Pitcombe	Gill Craig	01749 812 491
Hadspen	Sue Chamberlain	01963 350 616



St Leonard's Church

Services for March 2007

Date	Service/Time	Readings	Readers
March 04	No Service		
March 11	Holy Communion	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Philip Pidsley
	9.30am 3rd Sunday of Lent	Luke 13:1-9	Clergy
March 18	Family Service	Exodus 2:1-10	Merida Drysdale
	9.30am Mothering Sunday 4th Sunday of Lent	John 19 25-27	Wendy Crane
March 25	Holy Communion	Philippians 3:4-14	Andrew Drysdale
	11.00am 5th Sunday of Lent	John 12:1-8	Clergy

CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

Suddenly we are into Lent. Ash Wednesday was on 21 February. So what are you giving up? Or is it more to do with what are you going to do in Lent? By the time this goes to print we will have started the Lent Lunches in the Benefice, with Pitcombe parish taking its turn on Wednesday 28 February. These are frugal lunches so that everyone can enjoy each other's company and hopefully enter into lively discussions.

March brings a celebration of ALL Mothers, especially remembering those who have lost children or had miscarriages. We are still God's children and He will care for us. Mothering Sunday service is at 9.30 am on 18 March with Father Justin Bailey.

On Saturday 31 March, the annual spring clean will take place commencing at 10.00 am. Don't forget to bring dusters, mops and buckets as well as secateurs, pruners and other garden equipment, and, of course, yourselves.

Jenny Elliott is in the process of compiling the flower rota for the year, and if you feel you can help out please contact her. Everyone has a talent, it's just finding it, so come and give it a go.

'The people curse him who holds back grain (when the public needs it) but a blessing from God and man is upon the head of him who sells it'
Proverbs 11:26

I believe strongly in living a giving lifestyle. You will get joyful when you begin to think about how you can bless somebody else . Consecrate your gift to God, 'Lord, I give myself to You. I want to stay strong in You, so I seek Your face. Bless me, and make me a blessing to others'

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Parochial Church Council for their help during the last two years. I would like to thank Harriet Reed for her loyalty to St Leonard's in playing the organ each week; to Jenny Elliott for organising the flower and cleaning rota, to Constance Earl for organising the reading rota, to Peter Wyatt for dealing with the finances, and to Charles Brook for making sure that things run smoothly.

I shall be standing down as Churchwarden from the AGM, which is on **Monday 19 March** at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Hadspen. All are welcome to attend.

Wendy Crane, Churchwarden

MOTHERING SUNDAY 18 MARCH

Mothering Sunday is the first 'big' service of the year and will be at 9.30 a.m. Children, of all ages, please bring your Mums to this service (Dads too!) This is a family service which will be conducted by Priest in Charge, Justin Bailey. Children are asked to bring small bunches of flowers, if possible, for distribution. Some will be provided but it is the tradition at this service to give a posy of flowers to every lady in the church.

REPAIRS TO THE CHURCH

Since this subject was last reported in the Pitcombe News there has been much activity. You will recall that, apart from the many generous donations from the parish, it has been necessary to try to secure a large English Heritage grant. This requires detailed surveys of all manner of things including reports about the bats (not just in the belfry). This work is largely complete and the work has gone out to tender. If all goes well then it is anticipated that the roof will be completely removed and replaced in September of this year.

One of the reasons why English Heritage is prepared to support the work is because of the active nature of the Church in the parish and the significantly large congregations that attend on a regular basis. It has been very encouraging to report that the congregations this year have been larger than any in the winter months for many years.

Ken Elliott

www.asaphworship.co.uk

**The Asaph Worship Trust presents
A clay of worship and refreshment
led by David Edwards**

**When: Saturday 31 March 2007
10am - 3.30pm**

**Where: Cole Manor, *Cole*, Bruton,
Somerset BA10 OPJ
Bring: Packed lunch
(tea and coffee provided)**

**For more information, please contact:
Diana Scott on
email: diana54@onetel.net
Tel: 01749 813676**

WINCANTON SS Luke & Teresa RC Church

The telephone number listed last month 01963 34 408 is correct, however Fr. Barnabas Page has retired. The Parish Priest is now Rev. Louis Beasley-Suffolk. He also serves St. Andrews, Castle Cary and St. Mary

NOTES FROM A HADSPEN GARDEN



Tempted by an article in Gardens Illustrated magazine I ventured up to Birmingham to see for myself the world famous hellebores at Ashwood nursery. Building on the work done by Helen Ballard and Elizabeth Strangman, John Massey has concentrated for the last sixteen years on improving his Ashwood Garden Hybrids with many double and anemone flowered forms, largely propagated from seed.

More to my taste are the beautiful singles of perfect shape and form, which hold their heads up high without drooping. These come in a range of lovely colours, pure white with black nectaries, apricot and primrose yellow, yellows with a red flush, picotees and primrose picotees, slate grey with darker spots, blacks, neon, white blotch, yellows with yellow nectaries, a vast range.

It is well advised to do some research before visiting because the nursery produces some 7.000 or more plants each year and some are more special than others. Costing more than double the hellebores to be found in the High Street in Cary you will want to make sure that you choose only the choicest and not be sidetracked by pretty but less worthy plants. If you want something special you can always ask a member of staff to go and find it for you.

Of course I fell into conversation with other hellebore fanciers, some who go every year and they all said that the Ashwood hellebores never fail to grow. Certainly I was impressed by the number of roots on each plant. Maybe I shall go to one of the hellebore weekends next year with a lecture and guided tour of the propagation area and glasshouses. Anyone want to join me? Ashwood Nurseries, Ashwood, Kingswinford, West Midlands.DY6 0AE Tel:01384 401996
www.ashwood-nurseries.co.uk
Camilla Carter

COMPUTER BYTES

Hackers open Word 2000.

Attackers have started exploiting a weakness in Microsoft's Word 2000 so they can remotely hijack PCs. The software giant is warning users that the program responsible could be delivered as an email attachment or file transfer. Other versions of Word and Office are not affected.

Microsoft is offering free support to users who have fallen victim to the attacks, and has recommended that users avoid opening Office documents they don't trust. It also suggests that users install and update security software on their machines. While this will not stop an attack, anti-virus software can filter out the infected attachments.

AVG Users who don't upgrade will be left in limbo!

AVG believes that about 20 million users of its free anti-virus software will lose their protection on 18 February because they have not downloaded the next version.

This could have major repercussions for home users whose PCs will not longer be protected by the latest anti-virus updates. With increased threats from virus writers and hackers, it may not take long for their PCs to be hijacked.

Last November, Grisoft, the company behind the software, warned users of its free anti-virus package, that the software was being upgraded. Users need to download the new Version 7.5: But although support for version 7.1 of the free software will stop on 18 February, (the cut-off date set by Grisoft), many users have failed to upgrade. Unlike normal upgrades, which are installed by the program, the new edition requires a complete reinstallation. The new version includes big files, and therefore it is advisable to download it from the website (www.grisoft.com). Users can upgrade to the free version 7.5 or the 'paid-for' edition, which includes technical support and additional features such as a firewall.

Useful websites:

www.recyclethis.co.uk

A 'blog' on the subject of recycling. How interesting can that be, we hear you cry! Well, it is actually a very interesting and informative site, listing all sorts of ways to constructively re-use household items

from spare pieces of electronics that can't be fixed, to paper, potatoes and popped bubble wrap (and that's only the letter p). *Maria Samuel* (woodcott13@btintemet.com)

DANCE CLASSES IN CASTLE CARY

On January 10th 2007, Riviera LeRoc opened their 4th dance venue, this one at Caryford Hall, Castle Cary.

The opening night proved to be a huge success with 96 people attending, ready and eager to learn LeRoc.

Subsequent weeks have seen a regular number of 50+ and with Spring just around the corner, hopefully this will encourage more people to "give it a go".

LeRoc is a mixture of Latin, Jive, and Dirty Dancing, you don't need to bring a partner (but it's OK to do so if you wish) and they specialise in people with "two left feet".

Holly teaches at this venue with her brother, Paul, and together with Colin & JJ make a dedicated team, ensuring your evening is fun and informative.

The evening begins at 8pm every Wednesday, last dance 10.45pm, £5 on the door (£3 for Students over 16). Come and join us, you are assured of a warm welcome.

For further information call: JJ 01963 351412; Holly 07970 289108 or visit the website: www.rivieraleroc.co.uk

Jubilee Hall, Batcombe

**Friday 9 March - Film of the month
doors open 7.15pm - Screening 7.45pm**

THE SQUID AND THE WHALE

(dir. Noah Baumbach) 2005 / 88 mins / 15

It is New York City, 1986, Bernard Berkman, his wife Joan and their two adolescent sons are playing tennis. But this is no happy family occasion and the match reflects all the tensions which are about to cause the break-up of the marriage. We see how the different family members try to deal with the emotional and practical effects divorce has on them and the discoveries they consequently make about each other. An occasionally painful but satisfying, bitter-sweet comedy and all four family members (Jeff Daniels, Laura Linney, Jesse Eisenberg and Owen Kline) give excellent performances.

**Saturday 24 March - Welcome to Italy!
Our themed evening of food and film, 6.00 for 6.30pm**

This is always a very popular event and places are limited so please book your tickets with Rob Sage (850 934) soon - Members £5 Non-members £8

BREAD AND TULIPS

(dir. Silvio Soldini) 2000 / 114 mins / 12A

A romantic comedy as light as Lambrusco! Unfulfilled, fortysomething housewife, Rosalba (Licia Maglietta), goes on a tourist bus trip but after being accidentally left behind at a rest-stop, she takes off for Venice. There she meets several eccentric characters, including Icelandic waiter, Fernando (Bruno Ganz), who learnt his Italian from a 19th century butler's **handbook**. The film's title comes from a slogan used by striking American textile workers: "Souls, just like bodies, can die of hunger. Give us bread, but give us roses too!"
(Italian with subtitles)

Ten important and not so important dates in March

- March 1 Today is Whuppity Scoorie Day, at least it is in Lanark. Not everyone will know that.
- March 8 International Women's Day and you knew that. But did you know that this year is its 97th Anniversary?
- March 16 England play their first match, in, the World Cricket Cup One Day Championships against New Zealand. Nail biting time again.
- March 17 The Irish get their day in the sun. It's St. Patrick's day.
- March 18 It's Gold Cup Day at the Cheltenham Festival. Could be another nail biting day.
- March 21 Wake up to spring. It will be sprung at 00.07 am precisely.
- March 23 World Meteorological Day. This year's theme is Polar meteorology: Understanding Global Impacts.
- March 25 On this day, fifty years ago, the Treaty of Rome was signed giving birth to the European Economic Community. The name was amended to the European Union by the Treaty of Maastricht on February 7 1992.
- March 29 The April edition of the PITCOMBE NEWS will be ready for distribution. Can you wait ... don't answer that, unless,you would like to fill the ten things page in May.

And from March 1 to March 31 it is National Peanut Month!