

Pitcombe News



"OK! Joke over! Who's stolen the grass?"

March 2009

The PITCOMBE NEWS welcomes contributions from its
readers

**THIS MONTH'S COVER
BY SUE SMITH**

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**The DEADLINE for the APRIL issue is
Friday 20 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 by the PITCOMBE NEWS

PITCOMBE NEWS

No green shoots in the economy yet and not too many in the garden either, which is both good and bad for the plant sale in May.

Good because we should get a lot of customers, bad because will we be able to provide enough plants? We will need all the help we can get this year. And so, as the green shoots grow, think about dividing them on the lines of one for you and one, or even two if you can, for us. Pop them into pots, label them immediately, (it's a bit like putting food in the freezer, you'll never remember a month or so later) and nurture them with your lives until May 9. Thank you.

There are at least two avid collectors in the valley, both of whom write in this month's *NEWS*. George Bunting's passion is for diaries. It was the recollection of something he read in Parson Woodforde's one wet day in Norfolk that set him off on a slightly different trail. See page 5.

David Jury's passion is Rudyard Kipling and all things Kipling. He writes about an extraordinary man, an early balloonist and parachutist, on page 8.

Sue Smith writes about how the recent snow changed the valley, its people and landscape and how it might have been in the Victorian era on page 10.

There are some more extracts from the Pitcombe and Wyke Parish magazine of 1915/6 on page 14. February was not a good month that year either. As was usual school holidays were arranged around the harvest, young and old had to pitch in, but the children did get a holiday and a special treat, later.

From food directly to exercise strangely and "Stretch 'n Flex" classes at Hadspen Village Hall on Tuesdays. at 5.0pm. The classes are designed for everyone. The floor of the hall is "sprung" so it should be just perfect for exercising. Get svelte for summer, or even just feel better for a good stretch.

Susan Chamberlain

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

To pre-empt the increased activity in Spring and Summer of ROGUE TRADERS the police would like to remind you of the following

The Website below contains a list of all companies currently vetted and sanctioned by Trading Standards as approved traders:

www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

All residents are strongly advised that before allowing any work to be carried out, they or a member of their family check this site. All traders that call at your door, or post flyers through your letterbox etc are obliged under law to provide details to you. These details are:

Proof of Name & Address
A full written quotation for works
Business Telephone number

They also **MUST** give you a 7 day cooling off period until work is started. (You are allowed to waver this 7 day rule, but must understand that you also waver your rights with relation to this specific part of the act).

Please ensure that before you allow any work to be carried out you check your rights and insist on the law above being adhered to - any doubts please contact Trading Standards or your local Police Station.

Protect YOURSELF, YOUR property and YOUR money!





HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

At the Committee meeting held on the 29th January it was agreed that Helen Spratling, Sarah Waller and David Bates should be co-opted onto the Management Committee. It is hoped that they will be able to attend the next meeting on Thursday, 30th April.

After much discussion it was agreed to purchase 80 new upholstered chairs from Alpha Furniture. A grant of £750 has already been obtained by the Treasurer towards the purchase and it was agreed that we should apply for further grant from Viridor Credits.

The audio/visual system is still being looked into and professional advice is being sought.

Visitors to the hall may also have noticed that it now has its own post box and the official address is Hadspen Village Hall, Hadspen, Castle Cary, BA7 7LX.

I am pleased to report that the hall is being booked on a consistent basis and we welcome a keep fit class called '**Stretch & Flex**' which is starting on Tuesday afternoons from 5.00 to 6.00 pm. The next major village hall event will be the **Annual Plant Sale** on Saturday, 9th May.

Peter Wyatt, Chairman

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE
PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL
WILL BE HELD ON
TUESDAY 10 MARCH AT 7.30 PM
IN HADSPEN VILLAGE HALL

HADSPEN WINE CLUB



The AGM preceded the January wine tasting. The members decided to keep the format for the meetings very much as it had been in the last year ie five tastings a year with the gala dinner in November. In accordance with the Constitution, 3 members of the Committee resigned on completing their terms of office. All were willing to stand again and were unanimously re elected. Ken Chamberlain remains as Chairman, Ken Elliott and John Knight as Committee members.

While David Bates introduced us to his selection of wines from Northern Spain we sipped, as seems to have become customary, a glass of “fizz”, in this instance, a Cava.

David had started his research with the Spanish Trade Commission and had a wealth of background information to pass on to us. Did you realise, for instance, that Spain has the world’s largest area under vines? No, nor did we.

As well as the Cava, we sampled two whites an Albarino and a white Rioja. Only about 6% of the 252 million litres of rioja sold last year was white. Can’t think why, the Cune Monopole 2006 Viura was a very elegant, delightful wine.

Then on to taste 3 riojas from different years as we learnt how long they are matured in oak, in bottle and the new ways that some winemakers are blending rioja with other varietals. The Chivite Gran Feudo 2003 Reserva from the up and coming region of Navarra was a spicy, complex blend with cabernet sauvignon that would accompany game very pleasingly.

The final wine, from Catalunya was a Gran Sangre de Toro 2004 Reserva by Torres a robust, but easy drinking blend of granacha, cariñena and syrah, a good wine to end a very, very good evening. The wines tasted ranged in price from £7.59 to £11.99. Our thanks to David and his assistant Barbara for the most enjoyable and incredibly informative evening. We learned, we talked. we laughed. What more do you want? Oh yes, bread and Manchego cheese. between sips. Perfect.

SERENDIPITY

I had never intended to collect them, the fact that it was raining is what started it all. I was in Aylsham, Norfolk, strolling through the town on a July day when a summer shower came on. Coatless and without an umbrella I looked for shelter. I spotted a placard advertising an auction in a nearby hall and made my way in.

The place was crowded so I stood at the back where I could see very little but could hear quite plainly. I watched with mild interest at first, a carpet was sold followed by a picture and an old wind-up gramophone. The next item which I could not really see was announced as a silver toddy ladle. Having read that Parson Woodforde, the diarist, had bought such an item for twelve shillings in 1776, my interest was aroused. There was very little enthusiasm from the floor so, hardly knowing why, I raised my hand.

Much to my surprise the item was knocked down to me for £10. Bought unseen I had to wait an age before laying eyes upon the thing and discovered that it consisted of a circular silver bowl some 2 inches in diameter with a silver coin bearing the head of Queen Anne and dated 1708.. The handle of barley twisted whalebone was tipped with a silver cap. It struck me as rather elegant and I was well pleased with the purchase although not sure what to do with it. It languished in a drawer for months.

Much later, at the Bath & West antiques fair I spotted another, this time with an oval shaped bowl with the coin showing the head of George III and dated 1787. On impulse I acquired it. .Fortuitously, or was it destiny, I came across a small display table, baize lined and glass topped. It seemed ideal but my two ladles looked distressingly forlorn ensconced therein.

A third was desirable if not essential and I hit upon this in a shop in Cary. No coin this time but a bowl with a delicately scalloped rim, which didn't really do much to fill the gap in the table.

My fourth acquisition came in the form of a birthday present, another oval bowl with a decorated rim and the initials of the original owner engraved on the base. Laid carefully alongside the others it was obvious that a space remained. I was determined now to fill it and an active search developed. Success came in the form of a pear-shaped bowl with beaded rim and a pouring lip whilst the silver part of the handle was nicely engraved.

So, my display, although never planned is now complete. My dilemma now is, what shall I do if I hit upon a really attractive specimen.

George Bunting



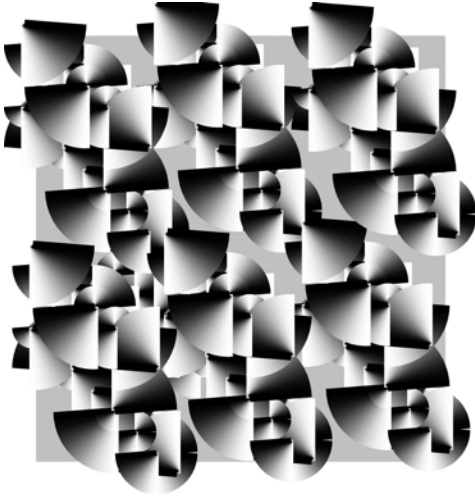
COMPUTER BYTES

SHADOW ME: If you have ever worked for days on an important document only to accidentally overwrite it with an earlier version, you will know how frustrating this can be. If you have a copy of Windows Vista Ultimate or Vista Business, all is not lost. A tool called SHADOW COPY keeps hidden copies of files as you work on them, so that you can access old versions of almost any document with ease. To make use of SHADOW COPY, all you need to do is right-click the file in question and select RESTORE PREVIOUS VERSIONS. You will be presented with a list of all the copies that Vista has stored, allowing you to locate the one that you want!

SUPPORT GROUP: I thought I would bring you 'up to date' on the WINDOWS XP issue! Standard support for Windows XP is due to end in APRIL 2009, BUT the company has announced that 'extended support' will continue until APRIL 2014. The important thing about this extended support period is that Microsoft will continue to create free security fixes for WINDOWS XP, so as long as you use suitable security software your PC should be safe on the internet. With care, your current computer could survive until 2014 (so say 'the gurus'). The new version of Windows – WINDOWS 7 – is due to be launched in late 2009 or early 2010, so Microsoft should have had four years to iron out any problems!!! Here's hoping
Maria Samuel (woodcott13@btinternet.com)

"The computer is a bicycle for the mind." — Steve Jobs

"The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say you cannot do." — Walter Bagehot



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

THANK YOU

We are delighted to have received a very generous grant from Pitcombe Parish Council.

Our very grateful thanks are due not only to the Council but also to the following readers who have donated to the PITCOMBE NEWS recently

Jackie Bowring
Biddy Coghill Smith
Edward Hobhouse

Cathie Brook
Mary Harcourt Smith
Giles Shingler

These donations mean that the magazine now has a firm financial footing which is more than can be said for a number of rather more important institutions.

Susan Chamberlain

Kipling Connections

A while back I wrote an article about my Kipling collection and I would like to expand this a little and tell you about some of the people I have been introduced to through my collecting. A serious collector collects not only those books written by the author but also books by other writers which include for example the first printing of a letter by the collected author. It is through collecting these books that I found remarkable people whom I would probably not otherwise have known.

Edward Maitland Maitland was born in London in 1880. His father, a farmer, and later, a barrister, was Arthur Gee and his mother was Margaretha Marianne Maitland. Unusually the family assumed the mother's surname in the early 1900's. He was educated at Haileybury and Trinity College, Cambridge, and volunteered for service in the South African War while still at Cambridge. He gained his commission in the Essex Regiment and served in the Orange River Colony during the Boer War.

Remaining in the army he took up ballooning in 1907 and in 1908 he made, with two colleagues a record 1171-mile voyage to Russia. He went on to command the airship company for the air battalion of the Royal Engineers, and in 1912 when the Royal Flying Corps was formed, he became commander of the No.1 squadron (airships). When in 1913 airships came under naval control, he transferred to the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). It was around this time that he made his first parachute jump from an airship.

At the start of the First World War he was sent to Belgium in charge of a balloon detachment for artillery spotting. Whilst there he concluded that the kite-balloons used by the French were superior to the British spherical type, He persuaded the Admiralty to let him return to England to set up training for the kite-balloon and to help with balloon design. It was then that he made a parachute jump from a balloon at 10,500 feet to investigate 'swinging'.

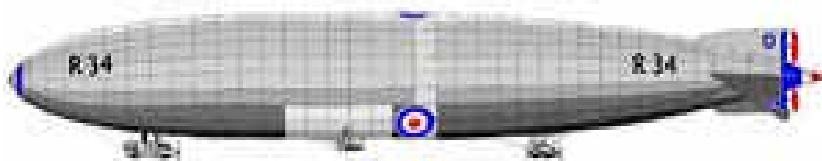
In 1917 he was awarded the DSO for 'extremely valuable and gallant work in connection with airships and parachutes' and was appointed Captain-Superintendent, Lighter-than-Air, and took charge of the airships headquarters staff. During this time the airship service

became a major weapon in the war at sea helping convoy escorts with its ability to spot U-boats and via wireless, direct destroyers, to the U-boat location. As a result of this service he was appointed as CMG and awarded the AFC.

After the war he continued to help with airship design and in 1919 he was a member of the team that became part of aviation history. He was the chief observer of the R34 a rigid airship, which made the first transatlantic flight by an airship. It is the log of that journey published in 1919 that I have in my collection. In a letter included in the publication, Kipling tells Maitland, “I always fancied the dirigible against the aeroplane for the overhead haulage for years to come” and “It’s curious to think that R34’s work has been, relatively, no more than young James Watt’s brooding over the kettle on his mother’s hob. Watt, I expect, didn’t realize the steam-loco (indeed, I believe he objected to it), but you, and every one aboard R34, must have felt that you stood at the opening verse of an opening chapter of endless possibilities, and – I Know what my own interest and pride were in seeing a dream shape itself and come true!”

Sadly Maitland, who never married, died in 1921 whilst carrying out trials of the newly built R38, which at that time was the largest airship built. The airship broke up over the Humber killing all 42 on board.

David Jury



I have known today a magnificent intoxication. I have learnt how it feels to be a bird. I have flown. Yes I have flown. I am still astonished at it, still deeply moved.

— Le Figaro, 1908

Was it better back then?

The recent snowfall, which reinforced just how beautiful the valley is, coincided with me watching my programme of the year so far! The last 6 Thursday nights on BBC 2 at 9pm have shown a series called "The Victorian Farm". Three people, a historian, an archaeologist and a lady who is hooked on cooking and all things Victorian, redid a small farm in Shropshire and spent a year living and farming the Victorian way.

How on earth is that relevant to our recent snowfall I hear you ask?

Well, in my eyes, for a 48 hour period, the valley slowed down – driving at speed to some appointment, a little bit of road rage on Honeywick Hill (!), never "having time to smell the roses" as the saying goes, all changed.

Unable to drive safely down into the valley, I had to do the unthinkable. ... And walk – 4 times in fact – lovely going down, slightly more difficult coming up, but the animals needed to be fed. So that is all I had to achieve for two days – making sure the animals were fed and watered, and due to the snow they were hungry. For once I had actually taken note of the forecast and brought the sheep "back home"!

So on my treks down to Hadspen; I met Erica Holt coming up, and Maurice and Fran Madelin going down! I took a photo of Camilla Carter taking a photo of me, and passed the time of day with Jenny Mellor - none of those things would have happened in our "normal" lives of rush, rush, rush, and it was a rather pleasant couple of days.

My very roundabout point here, is that everything was more appreciated, and more valued – something I think we have lost in today's times.

In the Victorian series, nothing was wasted, livestock were valued because they were the absolute source of income, and people sat round tables for meals and talked to each other! A hard life it certainly was, the workhouse was never very far away for farmers suffering a bad harvest, but they valued what they had.

I learned that the “Rag and Bone Man” actually did pick up rags and bones – all of which were crushed to use as fertilisers on the fields – the phrases Upper Case and Lower Case came from the cases of printers letters, and so it went on.....

I often feel that I was born in the “wrong” period of time. (No comments from the floor please!), but wouldn’t it be nice if we could get back to a bit of both? Not to throw anything and everything away and then buy new. Taking time to be a community – looking after and talking to each other – basically just slowing down and actually appreciating how rich we are.

Maybe the credit crunch will not be such a bad thing if it makes us value what we have a bit more.
Sue Smith



PITCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the monthly meetings of the Pitcombe Parish Council are posted on the website once they have been approved at the next meeting of the Council.

That means that the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 13 January were posted shortly after they were approved at the meeting on February 10. To keep up to date with what is happening in the Parish go to

www.pitcombepc.org.uk

St. Leonard's Church



Services for March 2009

1 Mar 9.30am	Mirning Prayer First Sunday of Lent	Old Testament Genesis 9 v 8 - 17 Gospel Mark1 v 9-15 <i>Psalm 25 v 1-9</i>	Willie Constantine Philip Pidsley
8 Mar 11.0am	Holy Communion Second Sunday of Lent	Epistle Paul to the Romans 4 v 13 - 25 Gospel Mark 8 v 31 - 38	George Bunting Clergy
15 Mar 9.00am	Holy Communion WYKE Third Sunday of Lent	tba	Charles Ducane
22 Mar 9.00am	Family Service WYKE Fourth Sunday of Lent		
24 Feb 6.30pm	Evening Prayer Cluster Service PITCOMBE Fifth Sunday of Lent	Old Testament Jeremiah 31 v 31-34 Gospel John 12 v 20-33 <i>Psalm 51 v 1-13</i>	Reader from Wyke Reader from Lamyatt

CHURCHWARDEN'S NOTES

The 'lent' season is upon us. What does this mean? You can find out more by attending a 'Lent lecture'. These will take place on March 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd at 6.30pm in various churches around the Bruton and Evercreech district. Please call me if you need any more information.

Women's World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 6th March at 2.30pm in St Peter's church, Evercreech. The speaker, Mrs Louise Chalmers, will take as her the theme 'In Christ there are many members yet one body'. Everyone is welcome – young and old, male and female.

Would you love to see our nation both blessed by God and living in more godly ways? A nation living by the Ten Commandments, where love for God and one's neighbour is the norm rather than the exception? If your answer is Yes, then ask yourself how often do you pray for our nation and our government (whatever political party you support)?

In praying for blessing on our own nation, we want people to experience more of God and so have the opportunity to turn to Him. That's what Jeremiah did, he encouraged his compatriots in exile. He didn't tell them to retreat into their own little enclaves, leaving Babylon to its own godless ways. Since it was destined for destruction one day; he told them to pray for it and to do all they could to bless it.

'Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you will prosper too.'(Jeremiah 29:7)

May we all walk in peace. *Wendy Crane.*

Collop Monday – the day before Shrove Tuesday, –
was a day for using up fresh or salted meat,
which was traditionally eaten with eggs.

PITCOMBE SCHOOL

From the Pitcombe & Wyke Parish Magazine

March 1915

Owing to the large amount of illness, and the small number of children present, the School was closed for a fortnight from Feb 1st. Influenza and chicken pox have been prevalent, and when the School was reopened on the 15th, the attendance was not much better. The extremely wet winter has not been a healthy one. Let us hope for a dry and not too cold March.

Diocesan Inspector's Report of Pitcombe School Sept 1915

This is an "excellent" school. Both classes have been most carefully taught. Bright and intelligent answers were given to my questions, showing that there is throughout the school a clear and definite knowledge of the syllabus.

Trevor Griffiths

School Holidays July 1916

The children of Pitcombe School began their summer holidays in June, instead of August, this year, and they are to have the first fortnight in July, as it is felt that they can be useful in the hay field, and everybody will be wanted to do what he or she can. It is hoped that there will be another holiday of about a fortnight in September, so that the term shall not be too long.

School Holidays September 1916

Pitcombe School will close on September 1st, and re open on Monday, the 18th, at 9.30. The Rt. Hon. Hobhouse is kindly giving a Treat at Hadspen House on Sept 5th.





Grilled Goat's Cheese with Sautéed Leeks and Walnuts

250gr goat's cheese
1 baguette (wider sort)
2 tbsp walnut oil plus
1 tbsp for the toast

75gr walnuts, roughly chopped
salt and pepper
1 tbsp finely chopped parsley
1 garlic clove skinned

6 medium leeks, washed trimmed and diagonally sliced in roughly 1 inch chunks

Slice the goat's cheese into 6 evenly sized pieces. Cut 6 slices from the baguette, each about 1 inch thick. Heat the oil in a wide shallow saucepan or a frying pan. Add the prepared leeks and sauté gently for 5 minutes, turning them from time to time so that they cook evenly. Cook the leeks on a low heat so that they retain their greenness – the end result is so much more attractive. Then add the walnuts, season with salt and pepper and cook for a further 5 minutes. Meanwhile brush the slices of bread for toasting with walnut oil and rub with the cut garlic clove. Toast the slices of bread on both sides. Put a slice of goat's cheese on each slice of toasted bread, and toast until golden brown and puffy – 1 ½ mins. Put a slice of toast and cheese on each serving plate, arrange a spoonful of sautéed leeks and walnuts beside it, sprinkle with finely chopped parsley to garnish and serve.

(Serves 6)

(Courtesy of 'More Seasonal Cooking' by Claire Macdonald of Macdonald)

As well as leeks, all the cabbages, celeriac, citrus fruits and delicious, but expensive rhubarb are in season this month



FAVOURITE THINGS

Questions from Sue Smith
Responses from Martin Atkins of Cole

What are your three favourite places?

Hamburg, New Jersey
Austria
The old railway station of Midsommer Norton South

What are your three favourite foods?

Roast Lamb
Fish and Chips
American cheesecake

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

Donald Beal — renowned expert on steam engines of the Somerset and Dorset Railway.

Gordon Brown — i would like a few answers to a few questions!

Robert Thick — My grandfather. To converse with as an adult rather than a child.

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

That's simple, Hamburg, New Jersey.

I have relatives there and it would be a great place in which to run a business.



CELEBRATING OUR TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Screenings and events in the Jubilee Hall, Batcombe

**FOR MARCH WE HAVE THE MONTHLY SCREENING
AND OUR THEMED EVENING, THIS YEAR FROM IRAN!**

Doors open 7.15pm - Screening 7.45pm

Friday 13th March

***THE ASSASSINATION OF JESSE JAMES BY THE
COWARD ROBERT FORD***

(dir. Andrew Dominik – 2007 – 160 mins – Cert. 15)

Robert Ford (Oscar-nominated Casey Affleck) idolises Jesse James (Brad Pitt) and joins his gang. Set in 1880s' Missouri, the film covers James' final year and his feelings of potential betrayal or capture. Full of period detail and beautifully photographed, this is a gripping psychological study

Doors open 6.00pm for 6.30pm - our popular Themed Evening

Saturday 28th March

PERSEPOLIS

(dir. Vincent Paronnaud & Marjane Satrapi – 2007 – 95 mins – Cert. 12A)

An enthralling animated film, based on Franco-Iranian artist Marjane Satrapi's comic books: the story of her life as a young girl growing up in 1970s Iran with her family, the revolution and her coming of age in Europe. You will be subtly drawn into this entertaining, optimistic and engaging tale. *French with subtitles*

**COME AND JOIN US IN IRAN – SEE THE FILM AND EAT THE
FOOD!**

Places are limited, so please book early: Members £6, non-members £9

Contact Rob Sage on 01749 850 934 or robsage@uwclub.co.uk

Licensed bar - Soft refreshments



Hadspen Village Hall

Stretch 'n' Flex

Tuesdays 5.00pm - 6.00pm

* Designed for **ANYONE & EVERYONE**
at **EVERY** fitness level!

* Increase **STRENGTH, BODY TONE,**
FLEXIBILITY & ENDURANCE!



* Combine **YOGA, TAI CHI & PILATES TOGETHER**
for a **GREAT FULL BODY WORKOUT!!**

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