

PITCOMBE NEWS

MARCH



The train now departed: Cole (for Bruton), Summer, 1967

2011

MARCH AT A GLANCE

Friday 4	Refuse & Recycling Collec- tion	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe
	Farmers' Market	Wincanton, Memorial Hall 9am-12pm
Sunday 6	9.30 am Matins	St Leonard's, Pitcombe
Tuesday 8	Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm	Hadspen Village Hall
Friday 11	Recycling Collection Including <i>Sort It Plus</i>	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe
Saturday 12	Farmers' Market	Frome, Cheese & Grain 9am-1pm
Sunday 13	11.00 am Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Pitcombe
Friday 18	Refuse & Recycling collec- tion	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe
Saturday 19	Sponsored Skip 2.00pm in aid of Save the Children	Hadspen Cottage
Sunday 20	9.30 am Cluster Service 11.00 am All Age Service	Wyke St Mary's, Bruton
Tuesday 22	Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting 7.00pm	Hadspen Village Hall
Friday 25	Recycling Collection	Cole, Hadspen, Pitcombe
Saturday 26	Farmers' Market	Glastonbury St John's Car park 9am-1pm
Sunday 27	11.00 Holy Communion	St Leonard's, Pitcombe

Pitcombe News

Informative, Invaluable in Cole, Hadspen & Pitcombe

hadspencottage@btinternet.com

Warmer, wetter (much) and the garden awakes. One benefit of those blankets of snow is the instant make-over they offer outside. Now, a wasteland is uncovered, as well as the trowel, secateurs, doll's buggy and wine glass which we did not quite manage to retrieve before the winter advanced. Now also we can appreciate fully the achievement of assorted - no, let's be clear about this - teams of badgers and moles in removing every bulb and rotivating every inch of lawn. For a happier hint of spring fortunately we have the display at Hadspen Village Hall (p. 6) where there are also to be found welcome distractions from the garden toil; as Jim Linden reminds us, we can look forward to the plant sale on 9 May. The Hall will also be the venue for the Annual Meeting for the parishioners of St Leonard's: as Ken Elliott reports here (p. 12) this is an opportunity for members of the electoral roll to select a committee to carry the church community forward for another year. Of course, it is not only the winter weeds that are currently being cut. The Parish Council brings us news of the reduction of library services in our market towns (p. 9); while Bishop Peter offers his reflections on the priorities that must not be obscured as the state withdraws (p. 14). Still we must welcome - and remember (Friday March 11, 7am, black box-in-hand) - the monthly plastic bottle and card collection which now begins. We can also be glad at the generous re-instatement of a long lost landmark of our parish boundary, the Bruton Hundred Stone which Mr Hickley has promised to donate (p. 7). The features of our past have aroused wide interest following February's announcement of Caroline Donald's project; so wide in fact that she now proposes (p. 10) to extend researches to Pitcombe as a whole. To spur us into action - or at least on to the 'net - John Knight (pp. 10-11) reminds us of the parish's unusually rich railway heritage, part of which he is the proud owner. To connect past and present: Sunday 27 is Census day (p. 13), when we will provide those details of our life that will prove so fascinating for future generations. At least it remains a written record - we would not want generations-to-come to catch a glimpse of the state of the garden.

Pitcombe People

For a small, rural community, Pitcombe is quite diverse: for some it has always been home, for others still a recent, happy discovery; some of us enjoy it in retirement, for some it is also a place of work, while some of us see it all too briefly between long tours of duty on commuter train, '303 or the dreary A37. We would like to take the opportunity each month to get to know one another better. Thank you to Camilla Carter for her responses this month. We look forward to many more volunteers finding their way to our inbox. Sharing your chocolate habit with your neighbours can only be therapeutic!

Name: Camilla Carter

Age (or 'vintage' if you prefer): Late sixties

Place of Birth: Peterborough - I was a war baby, my father was in the RAF

Family Members: Me, three children, six grandchildren

Occupation: Housewife

How long have you lived here? I bought this house in 2002.

What brought you to Pitcombe?

My husband and I first bought a house in Pitcombe in 1966, Lisbury House. We always admired Honeywick House, but moved to a very beautiful house in Batcombe in 1978. I moved back after the death of my husband.

Do you have a favourite place in the parish?

I love walking with Alfred's Tower and Creech Hill in view.

Do you have a favourite hostelry, restaurant, or shop in the vicinity of the parish?

My favourite restaurant is At the Chapel, because it is so light in the middle of winter.

And my best story of the recent snow and ice was...

Shocking to say feeling slightly smug over the purchase of the New Land Rover, that motor really came into its own in the snow.

Any particular plans or projects for 2011?

I have just given a large lunch party in memory of my husband on the tenth anniversary of his death. Stopping the pool in the garden from leaking. Tidying the garage and getting the photos organised.

Please state your preferences from each of the following options:

Bath or shower?

Bath in scented water

Luxury chocolates or a selection of local cheeses?

Plain Chocolates with high cocoa content

Cat or dog (or neither)?

Dog

Ipod or Paperback?

Paperback

Bruton or Castle Cary?

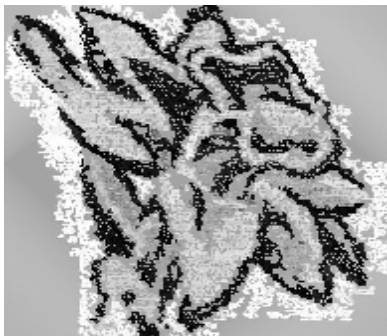
Bruton and Castle Cary.

I love them both for different reasons!

Daffodil

by

Giles Shingler



Hadspen Village Hall

Our spring bulbs planted last year are multiplying and providing a colourful display of crocus and daffodils around the Hall car park. The snowdrops that were buried deep during the hall re-build are also starting to find their way up.



Regular activities continue with Part II of the highly praised Italian Renaissance Art course. Tuesday evening's keep fit class is still hoping for some new joiners. The U3A History Group, Short Mat Bowls Club and Wine Club are all up and running. The new Wednesday U3A Scottish Dancing and Bridge Club meetings are attracting a good turn out. Other events included a children's party with disco and another Highfield House residents bowling afternoon was much enjoyed.

The results of an application to Viridor Waste Management for a grant towards the hall acoustics project i.e. fitting of sound absorbent ceiling tiles, is expected within the next week. Once the project is complete it will improve the audio quality of public meetings, presentations and lectures at the Hall. Some minor hall defects have become evident and are in hand by the committee for attention. The heating system failed recently but was quickly rectified keeping cancellation of events and compensation to a minimum.

David Jury gave an excellent presentation on Somerset Rivers on 18 February. During this well attended evening he explained how water-courses in Somerset had been changed and developed over the last thousand years. His photomontage of rivers, canals, bridges and wild life illustrated what a wonderful landscape exists within 20 miles of our doorstep. From the support shown in this subject, we will endeavour to present a series of local heritage themed presentations in the autumn.

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

Future planned events at the Village Hall:

A musical themed evening is still under consideration. However, due to committee members being away, or having other commitments, a firm date has yet to be set. It is anticipated that the evening would take the form of a Palm Court Music and Buffet Supper evening in early April. The Hall has been booked for use as a Polling Station for the Local Council Election & UK Referendum on Thursday 5 May.

Annual Hadspen Plant Sale on Saturday 7th May - All types of plants, flowers/fruit/ vegetables will be on sale, and local experts will be on hand to advise on looking after your purchases. This is a very popular and social event with refreshments being served.

Jim Linden Chairman Trustees - 01749 813145
www.hadspenvillagehall.org

Bruton hundred Stone

The Bruton Hundred Stone inscribed with the words ' Here ends Bruton'



is to be re-instated in local stone thanks to the very kind sponsorship of Mr. Hickley of Bruton. The Stone sat at Grove Cross before a road accident removed it from its position on the boundary of the Parish of Pitcombe some years ago. It is deemed to be of historic interest to the area going back to between 400 - 600 AD and therefore worthy of preservation at the same location.

Once a license is granted and notices posted locally, arrangements will be put in place to go forward with the project . Watch this space for progress reports.

Rosie Morgan
Clerk to Pitcombe Parish Council

HADSPEN WINE CLUB

The Wine Club celebrated its fifth birthday in January. If the Club were a new world wine, it would be very drinkable now, but no doubt the French would want to consider keeping it in the bottle for a few more years. As the Chairman reported at the AGM, we had a lot to celebrate. It had been a particularly good year with 3 member led evenings; a very special evening led by a Master of Wine; a delightful morning at Wraxall Vineyards and an excellent Gala dinner in the Village Hall to round off the year. It's not a bad life, is it?



Papers were replaced by glasses and the main business of the evening, tasting wine, got underway surprisingly quickly. In charge were Ken and Jenny Elliott. Their remit for the evening was to compare different vintages from the same Château or producer. So, off to France they went to visit the Châteaux and seek out the wines.

Ken began by describing the geography and geology of the Saumur area before we blind tasted two Saumur Blancs of 2007 and 2009 from Château de Villeneuve. Made of 80% Chenin Blanc, it was difficult to distinguish which year was which as 2009 had been so tremendous throughout the region. The second pair of whites both 2009 were from the House of Ackerman, one of the famous caves of the region. We decided easily enough which was a Chardonnay and which was a Sauvignon Blanc. After all, we are now four!

On to the reds and to the Saumur Champagne appellation. There are just eight communes qualifying for Champagne, closely concentrated to the southeast of Saumur. The appellation permits only red wines made from Cabernet Franc, Cabernet Sauvignon and Pineau d'Aunis, although many are pulling up this latter variety, in favour of the two Cabernets. Finally, the Elliotts made a stop at their favourite wine merchant to choose two bottles from the south. The selection was a wine called Cabalié from a small village called Maury, in Roussillon almost on the Spanish/French border, where vines have been growing since Roman times. A deep flavored Shiraz from 2007 and 2008 the wine was an extremely good choice on which to end the evening and finish off the excellent local cheeses. Our thanks to the Elliotts not only for a very educational evening but also for one that kept the cost of the wines to a very reasonable level. By buying the wines in France we saved a great deal of duty.

Susan Chamberlain

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Pitcombe Parish Council met on 8 February. **Planning Applications Pending:** The focus of the meeting was two pending planning applications: 11/00135/FUL concerns the construction of two agricultural buildings with associated access and yard area at Shatwell Lane. Representatives of the applicant and residents living close by attended the meeting and there was a very full discussion of the development and its implications. The Parish Council determined there were no grounds for objection in respect of planning criteria but underlined the concerns over vehicular access, particularly during the construction period, drainage, and the general condition of the site, all of which would be communicated to the Local Authority. 11/00373/FUL - concerns the provision of additional parking for Sexey's School. An initial assessment of the application raised concerns over the location of the car park, which appears to compromise nearby Liscombe House, and the apparent damage to the adjoining footpath, which appears to have occurred as a result of preparatory work on site. The council deferred its response to the Local Authority pending further investigation both of the application and the site.

Future of Library Services

The meeting also reported on further cuts to Local Authority services. Somerset County Council has made a 25% reduction in the budget to the Libraries Service across 3 years starting in April 2011. There will be continued funding for four hub libraries, and for all market town libraries (Wincanton among them) and four communities libraries, including Castle Cary. However the opening hours in these libraries will be reduced by 20% and funding for Bruton library will cease after 30 September 2011. Library users may respond to the proposals via LibrariesFeedback@somerset.gov.uk.

New Councillor: The meeting also co-opted Caroline Donald (Hadspen) as a councillor.

Parish Council Election 5 May 2011: An election for seven councillors for Pitcombe Parish Council will be held on 5 May 2011. Nomination papers may be obtained from the Returning Officer, Council offices, Byrington Way, Yeovil, from Churchfields, Wincanton, or from the Parish Clerk. If you would like to find out more about the role, please contact a current parish councillor whose details may be found on the Pitcombe Parish webpage: <http://www.pitcombepc.org.uk/>

James Clark

THE PITCOMBE PROJECT

As you can see, we've changed the name of the project, as researches have already widened the net. Lucy Comer has been doing great work gathering together information from the historic censuses and George Bunting has kindly lent me the fruits of his many hours of (pre-internet) labour, including records of births, marriages and deaths in the parish. Below we have John Knight's fascinating account of the Old Station at Cole - there is much to be discovered about the coming of the railway and how it affected the population. Please do get in touch if you know anything about the history of your house and the people who lived in it before you, or the parish in general. And articles are always welcome.

Caroline Donald (pitcombeproject@pacets.co.uk, 01963 351954)

THE OLD STATION AT COLE

The station at Cole was built circa 1861 and opened to passengers on 3 February 1862, forming the connection between the Somerset Central and Dorset Central Railways when they amalgamated that year to form the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway. Interestingly, although located in Somerset, the building was erected by the Dorset Central and, with high gables and tall chimneys, is similar to other stations southwards, including Wincanton (with canopy), Henstridge, Stalbridge, Shillingstone and so on.



Sadly the high chimneys were a casualty of the 1977 conversion to a private dwelling. The station, COLE FOR BRUTON, so named to differentiate it from BRUTON on the rival GWR line, was closed on March 7 1966 and lay derelict and deteriorating [see cover image, c.1967] until 1976, when the building and track bed were purchased from the British Railways Board for £7,500 by Feodora Showering of the Babycham family. Conversion to a dwelling was carried out in typical 1970s style - all internal, original features and fittings have been previously removed or discarded. This work included adding a lounge extension from the north gable; a bedroom extension from the south gable - replacing the original "GENTLEMEN" - and a garage built on to the east elevation, which we subsequently converted to a bedroom in 2003.

It would appear that the building then remained unoccupied until May 1984, owing to the fact that Mrs Showering was unwilling to sell the empty property until eventually conveying it to trustees acting for Madge Long, who occupied the house until 2002 when she moved to Teignmouth. Madge passed away about 4 years later. It is thanks to her skill as a horticulturist and her perseverance with a hostile site - a track bed in-filled with rubble and little top soil - that we inherited a mature garden comprising a variety of specimen trees and shrubs when we moved to the property in 2002. It was not the 1970s interior that attracted us but the location and the view, plus, for John at least, the building's historical significance.

Our own work on the house sought to restore, if only in a small way, the railway atmosphere. The rear greenhouse/conservatory was demolished and replaced with a more substantial design inspired by the style of the COLE signal box, which stood approximately at the end of the garden of 2 Old Station Lane and of which a good photograph was available. This room contains the only surviving piece of original railway equipment, in the form a 6ft x 2ft enamel running-in sign, "COLE FOR BRUTON" (its partner sign is on loan at Bruton museum). The UPVC windows in the house were, we felt, out of place within the lovely high-relief stone walls with sandstone quoins and were replaced with wooden, sash-style frames. The 1970s interior was not preserved - not even the "Sun King bath suite with gold tiling behind" (estate agent speak!)

John Knight



FAMILY NEWS

New arrival

Congratulations to Katherine and Peter Moon who are thrilled to have become grandparents for the first time with the birth of Dylan Joseph Moon on 3 February. Baby Dylan weighed in at 7lb 2oz and Katherine tell us "He's absolutely beautiful, and has his daddy's eyes!"



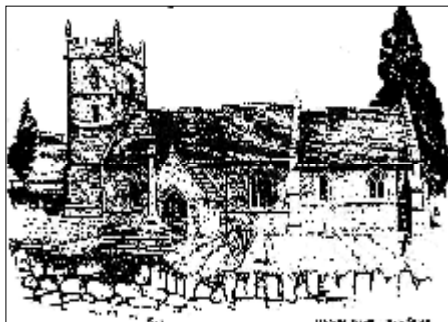
Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Eleanor Clark who was 8 years old on 19 February. Eleanor celebrated with a Curry and Film party and a bright orange birthday cake!

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH

Annual Parochial Church Meeting and Vestry Meeting

The APCM will take place on Tuesday 22 March 2011 at 7.00 p.m. at Hadspen Village Hall. There are two meetings. Firstly the Vestry Meeting. The purpose



of this meeting is to elect Churchwardens. This is then followed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting at which the main business is to hear the report on the accounts and to elect those members of the Council who are retiring but eligible for re-election.

From this year the PCC are adopting the requirement for one third of the Council to retire annually. The PCC is elected by the members of the Parish who are on the Electoral Roll. Members of the Parish who are not on the Church Electoral Roll can still come to the meeting but may not vote.

Ken Elliott Lay Vice-Chairman

UK Census 2011

On 27 March 2011 all residential households in the United Kingdom will be taking part in a national census. The census provides an excellent source of information about our population and enables central and local government, health authorities and many other organisations to plan housing, education, health and transport services for years to come. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for running the census in England & Wales and we are now working closely with Mr Norman Burton who is our Area Manager at the ONS to ensure the 2011 census in South Somerset is a success. Additional information about the 2011 Census can also be found at: www.census.gov.uk



Good news! The remaining phase of SORT IT PLUS - the addition of cardboard and plastic bottles to the kerbside recycling is about to be completed in South Somerset. This is a service people have been telling us they want for many years and so it is excellent news that we have been able to progress it to completion.

Residents will be delivered an additional green recycling box which they will use for paper, glass bottles and jars, aluminium foil, clothes and shoes. The existing black box will be used for cardboard, plastic bottles and food and drinks cans.

inspiration

Below is Bishop Peter's letter to the parish. We are conscious that there are many sources of inspiration...and also acutely aware that some of our own (red wine, chocolate) are not especially deep. If you have suggestions for a rousing or restorative text, image, or something else that might raise our spirits do let us know.

Government must recognise impact of cuts on the most vulnerable

As the Bishop of Taunton and I are out and about in the communities that we serve, what has affected us most on recent visits is the widespread concern over government cuts. Many people fear for their jobs. Farmers are concerned about issues of food security, human and animal welfare. On a visit to Locking Deanery last month, a college principal spoke about the removal of the Education Maintenance Allowance. 82% of his students can only afford to study because of the grant. Students themselves spoke of anxieties over debt and no longer being able to contemplate university or college unless they lived at home. The Citizens Advice Bureau is worried about funding cuts, as is a lawyer who is concerned about the substantial removal of Legal Aid and cuts to funding for victims of domestic violence. The threatened closure of libraries and the decision to stop funding to much local authority youth work are also matters of deep concern. The cutting of rural bus services, coupled with the increase in fuel prices and the overall cost of travel, will further isolate those in rural communities. The impact of many of the proposed cuts is felt most immediately by the poorest and most vulnerable. The call for a Big Society will be hollow if national and local governments do not recognise this. If government programmes require sacrifices of people, the people need to trust that the result will be a better future for everyone. If that trust is absent then people will see such cuts as unfair and punitive. A Big Society calls for a commitment to the common good by government and people alike. The society of God's Kingdom calls for priority to be given to the poor, lonely, isolated and vulnerable. In society we do together what we cannot do alone. Nurturing and encouraging volunteering in the community is good. But it is not something that can be done without resources, anymore than the Hebrews could make bricks without straw. Can we as church communities look at the impact of the cuts upon our communities and seek out ways of not only encouraging, supporting and helping those affected, but, where there is real suffering, hardship or deprivation, drawing this to the attention of national and local government? Jesus observed in Matthew 25 that those who served the needs of the vulnerable served him. Such a possibility should both inspire and encourage us to love of neighbour and love of Christ.

+Peter Bath and Wells

Young pit combe

We would like to offer a space for the younger generation to present their news, views, and creativity. From time-to-time we hope to incorporate news from the schools. Please email with your contributions!

Sponsored Skip: Don't forget to join in on Saturday 19 March at 2.00pm in our garden. If you would like a sponsor form please email hadspencottage@btinternet.com. Older ones can skip and should be sponsored per minute. For little ones, there will be a jumping activity. Drinks and cake afterwards. We'll go ahead anyway if it rains and just dodge the showers.

Film Review: The Wolves of Willoughby Chase

(PG DVD 2011) Willoughby Chase is a big house surrounded by forests where lots of wolves live. It is the nineteenth century. Bonnie is the main character. She has a cousin called Sylvia who is coming to visit while Bonnie's parents go away. A governess comes to look after them. She is called Miss Slightcarp and when she arrives the girls don't like



her. She locks Bonnie in the nursery cupboard and sends all the servants away. She has a plan to get rid of Bonnie's parents and steal the family house and money but none of her plans succeed. In the end, she sends the girls to an orphanage and leaves them there. It is very hard for Bonnie and Sylvia and quite sad because one of their friends from the orphanage drowns in a huge washing up tub! The owner of the orphanage gets so fed up with Bonnie and Sylvia that she locks them in the coal cellar. But they are rescued by a nice young friend from home. He takes them back to Willoughby Chase. Bonnie's father and mother arrive home and Miss Slightcarp is chased away and possibly eaten by the wolves. This is a must-watch for all lovers of a good mystery.

Eleanor Clark

The *PITCOMBE NEWS* welcomes, and relies upon, contributions
from its readers

Articles for publication should be sent to the
EDITORS: James Clark and Katherine Lloyd Clark
hadspencottage@btinternet.com

Deadline for next issue March 23rd



Friday 11th March 2011

Doors open 7.15pm Screening 7.45pm

A SINGLE MAN (dir. Tom Ford) 2009 / 101 mins / 12A

Saturday 26th March 2011

THE CONCERT (dir. Radhu Milaileanu) French with subtitles 2009
119m / 15

Doors open 6pm Meal 6.30pm

TICKETS IN ADVANCE £5 members £9 non-members
from *Rob Sage*

Membership and advance reservations:

ROB SAGE 01749 850934

Information on our films:

ELIZABETH HUNT 01749 850304